



To be European in Russia: pro and contra

More than twenty years ago a famous politician and a former president of the European Commission Jacques Delors said *'We won't succeed with Europe solely on the basis of legal expertise or economic know-how. If in the next ten years we haven't managed to give a soul to Europe, to give it spirituality and meaning, the game will be up'*. It happened in 1992, which was the Golden Age of the European Union, when the common European market was created and preparations for the transition to the common currency were at full swing. What is more, plans for expanding the Union were set. All in all, the whole idea of the 'European project' seemed to be outstandingly successful.

Nowadays the European Union, European civilisation and the continent face a number of both external and internal challenges. The European civilisation is undergoing watershed moment, namely crisis. The word crisis, which is of the Greek origin, is translated as 'judgment'. What feasible solutions to economic, scientific, and industrial problems can we achieve when it comes to the core of European Civilisation?

Such crisis moments make us look back to our roots or, as Jacques Delors said, 'give a soul to Europe'.

The research is aimed at analyzing the phenomenon of European identity in EU countries and different regions of Russia with the aim to contribute to development of mutual understanding between the EU and Russian societies, to overcoming difficulties and contradictions in perception "to be a European". The questions which are discussed concern the current vision of Europe, the boundaries of the European Civilisation on the contemporary geopolitical map and values which Europeans stand on nowadays.

SURVEY FOR EXPERTS

Name, surname	
Nationality	
Country of residence	
Age	
Sex	
Occupation sphere	<input type="checkbox"/> civil service <input type="checkbox"/> business <input type="checkbox"/> science, education <input type="checkbox"/> other (write down, please) _____ _____
Position	<input type="checkbox"/> director <input type="checkbox"/> businessman <input type="checkbox"/> employee <input type="checkbox"/> student, postgraduate student <input type="checkbox"/> other (write down, please) _____

1. What does the word 'Europe' mean to you?

(Please rate (scale of 1-5) how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements)

		Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
a)	European Continent					
b)	European Civilisation					
c)	European Union					
d)	European economy, Eurozone					

2. Define the geographical boundaries of Europe.

- a) the countries of the Old World
- b) the European boundary lies along the Oder river, the Eastern territories do not belong to Europe
- c) the Eastern and Southern boundaries of the European Union
- d) the boundary crosses the basin of the Volga river
- e) the territory stretches from Gibraltar to the Ural mountain range
- f) other (write in, please) _____

3. What forms the basis of the European civilisation?

(Please rate (scale of 1-5) how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements)

		Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
a)	Christianity					
b)	ancient heritage					
c)	achievements in science and technology					

d)	the principles of freedom, democracy and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms					
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4. What values do you regard as the most important for the European civilisation? *(Please rate (scale of 1-5) how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements)*

		Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
a)	Christian values					
b)	European cultural heritage					
c)	European solidarity					
d)	Liberal and democratic principles					
e)	European popular culture					

5. Is the concept of the 'European civilisation' identical to the one of the 'Western civilisation'?

- a) Yes. The Northern and Southern American countries also belong to the European civilisation.
- b) Yes. The culture of the Northern and Southern American countries was influenced by the culture of the European civilisation.
- c) No. The Western civilisation is associated with American civilisation, whose characteristic features distinguish it from Europe/the European one
- d) other (write in, please) _____

6. If we look at the European civilisation in the framework of the European continent, we might say that it is represented by a number of core cultures, i.e. French, German, British, Italian. Could you add any other cultures in the list? *(Please rate (scale of 1-5) how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements)*

		Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
a)	Scandinavian					
b)	Slavonic					
c)	Russian					
d)	Turkish					

7. Which language is most closely associated with the concept of the 'European Civilisation'? *(Please rate (scale of 1-5) how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements)*

		Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
a)	English					
b)	French					
c)	German					
d)	Greek					

e)	Latin					
f)	Russian					

8. What do you think about the influence of migration on the social and economic situation in different countries? (choose from 1 to 3 options, please)

- a) migration is a vital source of labour force
- b) 'import of taxpayers' eases the financial burden of the European countries where there is a high percentage of citizens of incapacitated age
- c) migration helps to tackle demographic problems
- d) migration leads to the increase of unemployment and smaller wages
- e) migration increases genetic diversity of the population
- f) migration affects social stability in the country
- g) migration is a threat to national security
- h) other (write in, please) _____

9. Can you say 'I am European' about yourself?

- a) No, I am a citizen of my country
- b) Yes, I am European
- c) I am a citizen of the European country, which means that I am European

10. What does being European mean to you? (Please rate (scale of 1-5) how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements)

		Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
a)	live on the territory of the European continent					
b)	be the citizen of one of the EU countries					
c)	share European values					
d)	speak European languages					

11. The fluent knowledge of which language is highly appreciated in the modern society?

- a) English
- b) German
- c) French
- d) Spanish
- e) Russian
- f) The knowledge of any foreign language is necessary for being a successful person in the modern world
- g) Languages do not play role in being in-demand in a society nowadays
- h) other (write in, please) _____

12. What does the concept 'Russian World' mean to you?

- a) the Russian Empire before 1918
- b) the post-Soviet world
- c) the Russian Federation

- d) all Slavic countries
- e) other (write in, please) _____

13. Do you find the statement ‘Europe consists of two parts, namely Eastern European and Western one, which differ in a number of ways, but are connected genetically’ right?

- a) Yes, the European civilisation is comprised of Byzantium and its descendants where Russia is one of them
- b) Yes, the European civilisation was influenced by Christianity; differences in the ways of development occurred later in particular moments of historical process
- c) No, it is not possible to equal ‘Western World’ and ‘Russian World’ as ‘they differ in cultural heritage
- d) No, Russia is a different type of civilisation, which contrasts both Eastern and Western world
- e) other (write in, please) _____

14. Do you agree with the statement that ‘Russia is an integral part of the European Civilisation’?

- a) Yes, I fully agree
- b) Yes, I quite agree
- c) No, I find this statement controversial
- d) No, I completely disagree

15. How would you characterise the current stage of development of the European civilisation?

- a) decline of traditional European values
- b) post-Christian civilisation
- c) part of a global world
- d) other (write in, please) _____

16. Russia and the EU countries are mostly ...

- a) strategic partners
- b) rivalries for the dominance in the European geopolitical space
- c) representatives of the European civilisation and allies in the face of external threat
- d) territories which share common boundaries
- e) other (write in, please) _____

17. What in your opinion helps to develop mutual understanding between countries? (Please rate (scale of 1-5) how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements)

		Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
a)	common security strategies aimed at getting coordinative reaction to tackle modern challenges and threats					
b)	close cooperation in science and education					

c)	close cooperation in economy					
d)	shared cultural and moral values					