**EUROPEAN *DEMOS* – HANDOUT**

- there is a wide understanding that EU lacks democratic legitimacy – and one partial cause can be the lack of a *European demos*

**What means *demos?***

- group of people for political purposes (a democratic system need citizens to be connected to each other by a feeling of common identity)

- a more complex definition of demos

2 dimensions:

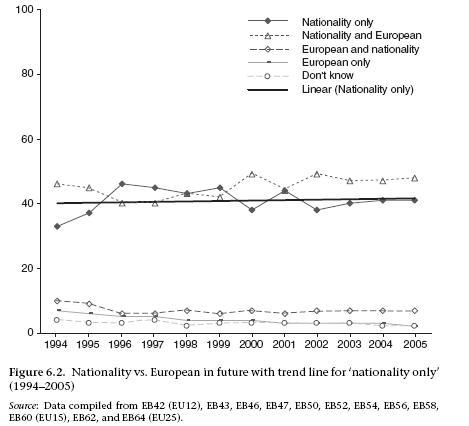
1. **Social** – a common history, language, identity and solidarity
2. **Legal** – can be created from the top through the formation of institutions, including rights and citizenship
3. **Social dimension of *demos***

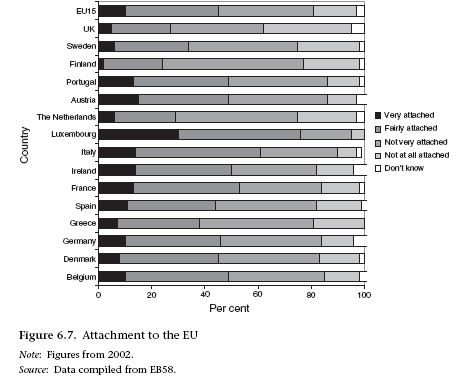
There are 2 categories of properties that constitute the social demos:

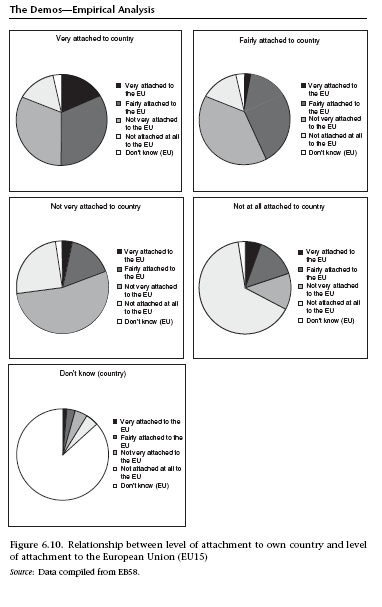
1. **Ethno-cultural** – language, history, political habits, ethnic origin, religion, knowledge and awareness but some authors include also civic and democratic values (democracy, tolerance, appreciation for diversity..etc) or even common under
2. **Subjective emotional** – solidarity, common identity or a common vision of the future

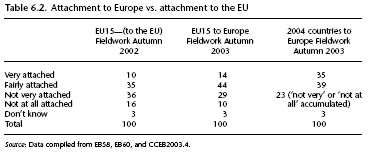
Empirical analysis:

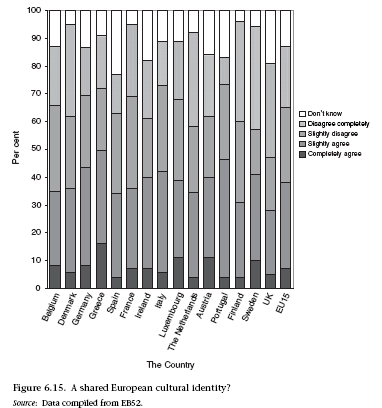
***Indicator 1 – identification and attachment to EU***

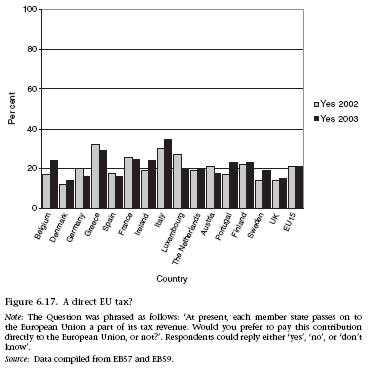




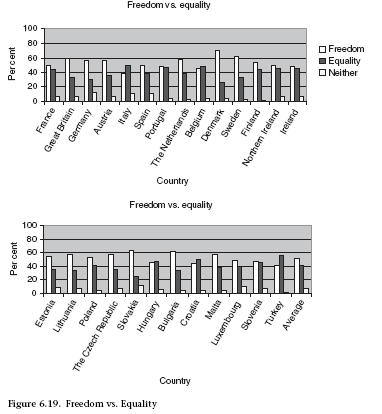


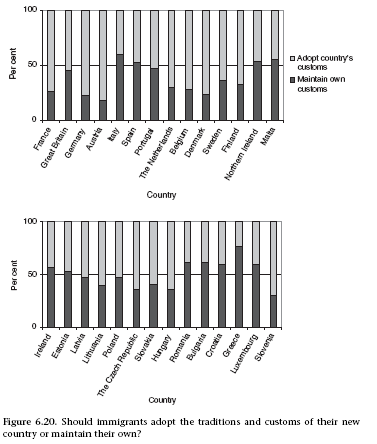






***Indicator 2 – Shared democratic values***









***Indicator 3 – a desire to shape a common future***







***Indicator 4 – Public awareness of the Transnational Process***





Conclusion:

* People feel much stronger attachment to their country than to the EU – The pb is that continued membership of the EU does not make people feel more European
* Younger generations are more optimist about EU
* Even though there is no feeling of any common identity –there is a strong commitment to democratic values and very substantial support for democracy (with very small exceptions) \

1. **Legal dimension of *demos***

* Several attempts for creating the European citizenship and the European demos
* These attempts are rather recent (eg.: flag, national anthem, European languages, specific rights drove from the EU policies)
* There were also several attempts in constructing European public sphere – with a focus on improving the **communication deficit**
* Within EU institutions – the communication deficit was tackled through several initiatives:
  + In 2005 – the Council moved towards greater transparency by allowing the public to follow some of its deliberations
  + In 2001 – the Commission started to grant access to its records
  + See also the topic on Influencing policy-making in EU
* Another possibility is that of focusing on creating the European space through mass-media – due to the recent technologies and the use of the internet there are greater chances for creating this space. Still, it is not sufficiently exploited and used. In addition, it is rather an elitist approach and filtered mostly through national mass-media -> there is no European mass-media (except Euronews TV channel)