



THE  
**LUSATIA GLOW**  
EUROPEAN INTEGRATION INITIATIVE

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BRUSSELS





# The European Union - Values

- **The founding values**

- Democracy
- Civil Rights
- Rule of Law
- Cultural and Linguistic Diversity (no “melting pot”)

- **The basic operating principles**

- Balancing of Interests in Mutual Respect
- Burden sharing and support between Member States
- Common legal principles and control of legality
- Stimulation of transnational cohesion





# The European Union – Challenges

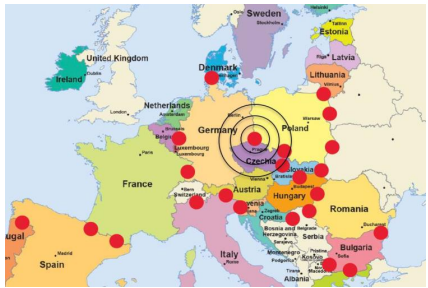
- **Nationalist policies attacking the EU**
  - Inside the EU (“Brexit”)
  - Outside the EU or at its borders
- **Mentality Differences complicating Communication**
  - Seasoned vs. more recently established National States
  - Western vs. Eastern European
  - Southern vs. Northern European
- **Distance of Policy-making to the EU Civil Society**
  - Access to EU funding is mostly channeled through member states
  - Lack of awareness of EU contributions to everyday life in member states



# The EU Regional Cultures – a hidden treasure

- **Language Continua fostering Cohesion**
  - Reflect joint European history
  - Are basis to trans-national regional identities
  - Should be used for cross-border integration
- **Intercultural Mediation of Mentalities**
  - Mastering multiple mentalities (Romanic - Germanic, Slavonic – Germanic, etc.) supports cooperative non-confrontative solutions
- **Driven by Civil Society**
  - Since not a priority to national states
  - Strongly supported by private commitment





# EU Regional Cultures – Advocats of Cohesion

- **40 – 50 million EU citizens speak a Regional Language<sup>1</sup>**
  - In addition to official Member State language
  - Naturally bi- or multi-cultural
  - Familiar with different perspectives (minority vs. national)
  - Understanding different mentalities (neighbouring & resident country, minority)
  - Often inhabiting border regions, interested to minimize separation
- **Predestined as Pathfinders for Cross-Border Problem-Solving**
  - Between member states
  - Between EU and Non-EU countries



<sup>1</sup> EP briefing 2016 PE 589.794



# EU Regional Cultures – Allies for Democracy

- **EU committed to safeguard & enhance cultural and linguistic diversity**
  - TEU art. 3(3) - *Treaty on the EU*
  - CFREU art. 22 - *Charter on the Fundamental Rights of the European Union*
- **Regional Cultures are natural supporters of a successful EU**
  - To ensure democracy, rule of law, and human rights in the Member States
  - To act as transnational reference level, where interests of Regional Cultures
    - Are traditionally disregarded by individual Member States, or
    - Conditions deteriorate as a result of political changes (e.g. elections)
  - To antagonize nationalistic threats to Regional Cultures or the EU itself

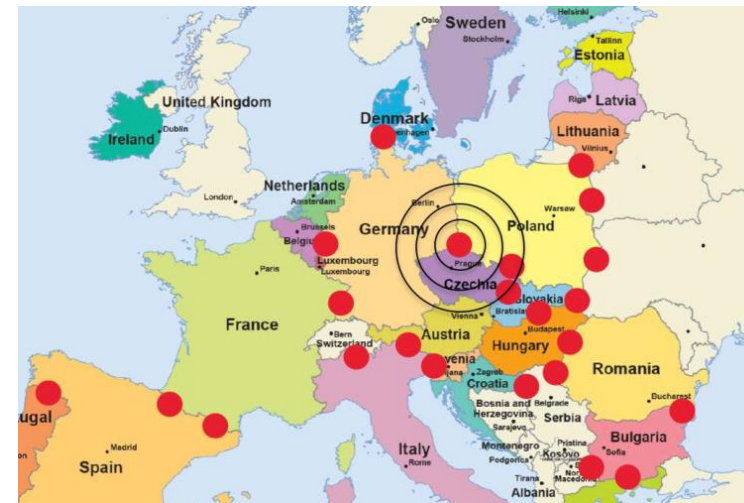


# The **LUSATIA GLOW**

## European Integration Initiative

- **Proposes to systematically strengthen and use EU Regional Cultures**
  - As cross-border Cohesion Factors for European Integration (“Synapses”)
  - As Allies for the Defense of Democracy, Rule of Law and Civil Rights (“Democrats”)
  - As pathfinders for collaborative cross-border problem solving inside and outside the EU (“Diplomats”)
  - As EU-friendly counterbalance to aggressive nationalist concepts (“EU-Loyalists”)
  - As the EU’s direct access to the emerging transnational EU Civil Society (“Citizens”)
  - As investment into Europe’s cultural diversity and history (“EU Identity”, TEU art. 3(3))
  - As Refreshment of the EU as a Citizens’ Project with global exemplary function for collaborative problem solving in transnational structures (“Future of Europe”)





Thank you for attention & consideration

