



Think European – Be European

Europe without borders

Summary



Linking cultures in Europe!

Today, the home and working lives of well over 500 million people within geographic Europe are organised and influenced far beyond their country boundaries by pan-European initiatives. A Europe that consists of countries that act in harmony is the prerequisite for the competitiveness, and thus the sustainability, of all individual European societies.

And yet the values of the European ideal and joint initiatives are not sufficiently recognised or appreciated by many of the continent's citizens. National interests, habits and languages are still too diverse. There is too great a distance between Europe's doers, and the direct results and effects of a united Europe on the individual citizen are too unclear. For many people, Europe is a synonym for bureaucracy and a weakening of national interests.

In order to include Europe's citizens more closely in designing their future and achieving their acceptance, Europe must step out of its anonymity and become something that its citizens can understand, experience and touch.

Only someone who understands the great whole as opposed to the tiny isolated, who understands the different cultures and languages as an enrichment that aids progress and thus the future, can be infected by the European idea and become the bearer of an enthusiasm that promises a safe and successful future for all its citizens.

To achieve this, Europe must step out of its anonymity and become something that every citizen can directly understand, experience and feel. Only someone who continuously reabsorbs and is inspired by the idea of Europe will understand the many and diverse benefits of the great whole as opposed to the tiny isolated; who understands the different cultures and languages as an enrichment that aids progress and thus the future, can be infected by the idea and become the bearer of an enthusiasm that promises a safe and successful future for all its citizens.



We are Europeans by conviction!

And as such we founded the “**Think European – Be European**” initiative. We want to offer Europe’s citizens platforms for spiritual and cultural exchanges, for information and dialogue, for a trans-frontier community, for European identification.

Our mission

We want to develop permanent platforms for mutual understanding, for our lives together and for communicating within Europe.

We want to offer opportunities that enable the values of all European cultures and societies to be experienced and support the European institutions in developing awareness and acceptance for all kinds of European initiatives and activities.

Our projects:

With this in mind, we have developed a whole package of measures in which every single building block contributes towards the understanding and growing together of European cultures – building blocks that bind.



Each of the 5 building blocks performs a particular task to encourage and promote communication between Europe's doers and the citizens of the continent, and permanently maintain it.

1. Euro Points are the visible signs of the Think European locally initiative.

The Euro Points are a communication point for all interested Europeans. We offer easy access to all information on the European Union, either as a link to the EU and the Think European portal on communal Internet sites or as a PC terminal Euro Point that will be set up inside or in front of the town halls of the towns and municipalities of the countries in the European Union. Users really can login to the EU here. Not only can users call up information first hand, but they can also play an entertaining game – the Euro Game.

2. Euro Game

The Euro Game is a general knowledge game. (Give a brief description.) Questions on Europe are used to provide, entertainingly, detailed information on the Union, and attractive prizes are awarded at regular intervals. This playful access to Europe is intended in particular as an interesting start for children in all countries, who can take part in a kind of pan-European competition.



1. Euro Claim Box

The Euro Claim Box is the tool that Europe's citizens can use to enter into dialogue with the decision-makers. We challenge all citizens to ask questions and give ideas to encourage debate with other citizens in Europe. We create actual proximity.

2. Euro trucks are rolling advertisements of the Think European – Be European logo.

They are a visible element in a recognisable look, and help to keep the European idea constantly visible as they travel through Europe. This is made possible by the system partners: forwarding agents and the advertising industry.

3. Eurofountain

At the heart of the Think European – Be European concept, though, is the Eurofountain. We are currently in the process of creating unique and highly symbolic fountains with the same architecture in every member country of the EU.

These fountains consist of 27 cuboids made of a stone that is typical to each country and one solid "European" stone square, with clear water bubbling over them. The unique architecture makes each fountain a sparkling symbol of the great European community. The clear symbol: each keeps its identity, and yet is an important equal part of a great entity. The Eurofountains will be built and used as centres for cultural exchanges, understanding and communication beyond country boundaries.

Eurofountains will be sites for meetings in the sign of Europe. Places where people meet, think European, dance, sing, celebrate and talk to each other.



The Eurofountain:

a symbol of solidarity!

The Eurofountains are identification points that can be touched

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The Eurofountains provide a stage for the concept of community. We want to use the strong symbolism of a fountain to gain entry to the thoughts and hearts of Europe’s citizens. We want the value and need for a united Europe that is borne by all its citizens to be internalised by them and become something that is constantly experienced anew.

The implementation of the idea of the “Eurofountain” and the communication of it brings proximity to the citizens, sustainability, a broad openness, tremendous benefits, and is stable and convincing beyond time and boundaries.

We are all Europeans. We all share the same history. We were all created from the great cultures of the past, cultures whose values such as freedom, democracy and human rights are our foundation. They are the sources of all European societies. We can only become one because we share the same sources.

A river that knows no boundaries springs forth from its source to embark on its journey across countries, cultures, societies and languages, symbolically transporting life onwards.

So what is more obvious than to build a fountain in every country in Europe as the symbol of these shared sources? And what is more obvious than making these “Eurofountains” centres of community, of life in an international community, of celebrations, contemplation and learning, making them public places in Europe and permanent symbols of the “flow of things” that bind us and strengthen us for the future?

Eurofountains make Europe's cultural variety visible

Once completed, there will be a festive ceremony with media to mark the opening of the fountain. Every opening celebration will bring people closer together and be a symbol of the citizens' continued identification with and within Europe.

This will be followed by cheerful fountain festivals in seasonal colours with folklore presentations and culinary specialities, habits and customs from all over Europe. Appropriate occasions in every season for citizens of every age and generation to experience the limitless variety of the others openly, relaxed and in a festive mood.

Thus Europe will become visible to all as a permanent, present and unmissable sign of the integration of all European societies and cultures.





Linking countries with each other!

The Eurofountains are tangible points of identification built from solid stone cuboids that come from every member country of the European Union. A further stone is added to these cuboids to symbolise Europe itself, installed as a column in the basin of the fountain and visible from great distances.

Assembled as a solid column that is surrounded by clear, sparkling water, every fountain becomes a shining symbol of the great European community. And what is instantly clear: each keeps its own identity, and yet is an important part of a great entity.

The Eurofountain is most definitely not a memorial. It is not a place to kneel down, but somewhere to meet up; it's a place where people think European, where they dance, sing, celebrate and talk to each other.

The first two such fountains were built in Austria in 1997 and Spain in 2002. The response by the citizens confirmed the suitability and sustainability of the idea. People want to see their Europe; to understand it and be able to touch it. They seek and welcome the space for debate, and honour the development of proximity not only between the individual nations, but also between themselves and the representatives of the European Union.

Which is why, over time, we want to build more of them all over the continent and use the events that will accompany them as opportunities to bring people even closer together. Every new fountain will be celebrated with a fabulous opening event with dancing and folklore that encourages cultural exchange and creates a relaxed and open atmosphere for the people. The actual location is not so important. What does matter is the size of the event and its effect on the public. Every opening will bring people closer together, and thus be a symbol of the citizens' continued identification with Europe. As a consequence, we are planning colourful summer fountain festivals with folklore performances and culinary delights from all over Europe, and winter fountain festivals with traditional features on lively European customs at Christmas and New Year. Appropriate occasions for citizens of every age and generation to create the borderless Occident in a relaxed and festive ambience.

There are no limits to the uses for these new European sites. But for the communities they are proof of their participation in the development of Europe, the catalyst for the preservation of a general public, and thus also of financial importance. And they actively encourage a collective awareness in citizens and make Europe visible to all.





The advantages at a glance:

1. The Eurofountains are a high-profile platform from which the citizens of Europe can address the European idea and thus strengthen the community structure between various societies and cultures on the one hand, and European institutions on the other.
2. The Eurofountains create identification and integration, and reduce the gap between Europeans and their hitherto abstract construct of Europe. Thus they can become the 'crib' for a new spirit and the starting point for a united Europe.
3. The Eurofountains are not a short-lived attraction, but can be used as the permanent and sustainable symbols and catalysts for community experiences.
4. Their constructive idea gives them a high level of symbolism for the theme of a stable and reliable European unit on the one hand, and the symbolism of water as the giver of life and thus of the future on the other.
5. Those communities that declare their willingness to build a fountain will find long-lasting popularity and enjoy economic effects that will anchor them firmly in the structure of a European unit and entitle them to financial benefits through grants.
6. The costs for participating communities are generally quite clear. In the first instance, they include the provision of a suitable site with a good infrastructure, the operating costs (water, cleaning) and the financing of events. The building costs for the fountains are financed by the European Union
7. The broadest possible decision to introduce the fountains in as many countries and as concurrently as possible provides additional and considerable PR and cost effects. Graduated funds can be invested in communal projects to benefit the citizens of the communities.
8. Once the fountains have been installed in as many European towns and cities as possible, there could be a shared day of fountain festivals that would then become a strong sign for all European citizens of further progress in achieving unity and strength in Europe. So Europe Day could come true.



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Do you have any questions or suggestions, or would you like to receive further information? Then do not hesitate to contact us:

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