

## Finalizing Essay Contest 2011-2013

### Comenius Partnership: In Search of Identity – Cultural Travels across Europe

#### Essay from Norway

##### **ARE WE EUROPEANS?**

Norwegians are superior, rude, selfish human beings. Unlike other Europeans we don't say "please", "I'm sorry" or "excuse me". But are we really that different from other teens in Europe?

Are we European? Are the Norwegian population Europeans?  
In many ways Norway is quite different from other countries.

When it comes to music, we have both differences and similarities. Likewise all the other Europeans we all like music. When we from the Comenius project met, we found out that one of the things we had in common was music. We all listen to music, and we all enjoy music, just different types. On the other hand music is something that is different from every person. It makes us different, but it also bids us together.

Our sense of humour wasn't that different either, it was pretty much the same. We laughed a lot, had a great time and made memories that will last forever. They all got some similarly humour that we do, and they got the same kind of interests that we do. Even though you're Norwegian or German you still like the same sports and have a correspondingly same culture however some of it can be typical culture for these countries.

At school we do a lot of things differently. Other places in Europe I've experienced that they act in a total different way around their teachers than we do. They are less personal with their teacher, like we are. We have a relaxed relationship to our teachers and make jokes with them. They don't call their teacher by first name either, like we do in Norway. They use different titles such as Mr. & Ms./Miss. Norwegian students have less respect for both our teachers and the school's rules. Most teenagers here live by the motto "Rules are made so you can break them". The other schools are more strict and I feel like that there the rules are taken more seriously.

We don't care that much about school and education. We take school less serious, we are more relaxed about school, while the other countries take school way more serious than we do. Norwegians care a lot about sports and being active. We use more time exercising and different types of activities in Norway than they do elsewhere. In that way we can socialise and at the same time be active. We don't have that much school either, our days are much shorter than other European teens' schooldays. However they use more time studying than we do. In my opinion they also have more homework than we do, and they don't even complain. After all we all care about getting educated so we can work and make a lot of money.

There's also important to say that we're best in English except all the British students of course. It seems like they don't care so much about learning English there. In Norway we start learning English in a age of 6 years old so that makes us pretty good at both talking and writing English. Maybe that's something that makes us different from other Europeans?

Something I noticed were that they all like pizza and pasta, but there can be quite different what kind of food they eat. The breakfasts was quite different because in some of the countries they eat cakes or biscuits for breakfast, but we use to eat bread instead. However they eat more often and less food for every meal there though. As far as I'm concerned it's not such a good thing that they eat so unhealthy, but on the other hand it's good that they eat less and more often than we do.

They also eat a lot more food at school, than us. We have a lunch, one meal and that's it, while in some of the other countries they have several meals each day.

Norwegians are known for being very rude and selfish, and that may be the truth, cause if you look at the rest of the world they are much more accommodating.

The others are more social than we're because we use to much time on the internet, our cellphones and other kinds of social networks. When we're together we all sit there with a phone each.

We all care about how we look, some more than others, but looking good is important, that's something you can't deny. In a way Norwegians cares a bit more about looking good than other Europeans, we use a lot more makeup and dress a lot more embellished. That may have something too do with schooluniforms and dress codes, we've never had anything like that and can dress up in whatever we want to.

After all even though we're quite different from the others we still are Europeans. We have many things that are alike as well and there's lots of things typical for all the different countries. So even though we're different from each other we're also quite the same and we can all be proud to say that we all are Europeans.

**Who?**