



## Catalonia working with Europe

Supporting the active participation of Catalan institutions and citizens in European cooperation

#CATALONIA WORKING WITH EUROPE COMMENT#

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# GLOOMY WINDS ACROSS EUROPE

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History teaches us that economic and social crisis are always accompanied by reactionary and defensive nationalistic mentality and actions.

This is what is happening in Europe today.

At the very heart of Europeanness, collaborative projects bringing together a wide range of countries, people and institutions engaging in joint missions to find new ways for unemployed and young people, we now witness gloomy nationalistic mentality on the rise.

National agencies, national coordinators, national languages...

The shift from the Lifelong Learning Program to Erasmus minus might turn out to be a disaster for what we call “The European Project” - creating trust, interest and engagement in European collaboration and European innovation. It’s about people, not nations.

And this is precisely happening in times where the Commission is increasingly worried about the lack of trust in European policy.

Frankly, I don’t care about the reasons for this nationalistic uprising. Someone might very well invent various forms of justifications.

And of course it is technically possible to translate an application created in English to any national language.

That’s not the issue.

The issue is that these nationalistic tendencies step by step create distrust in Europe, disengagement and frustration, and represent values and principles directly contradicting what European collaboration is all about.

Gloomy winds are blowing across Europe, my friends.

Let’s make the architects behind all this and the people playing this game clear that we don’t want that.

*Jan Gejel*  
European