COHESIFY
The Impact of EU Cohesion Policy
on European Identification

Participant Information Sheet

Title of the study: The Impact of EU Cohesion policy on European Identification

Introduction
You have been invited to take part in a research study coordinated by Professor John Bachtler and Dr. Carlos Mendez at the University of Strathclyde (UK) and involving nine other research organisations. The study is funded by the EU's Horizon 2020 programme. This sheet provides information about the project and the role of participants. Please ask any questions if you are unsure about what is written here.

What is the purpose of this investigation?
This study aims to explore the different views and attitudes of people to the European Union. We are particularly interested in understanding whether and how the EU's Cohesion policy for regional development influences citizens' support for and identification with the EU and what is needed to improve communication about EU policies to citizens.

Do you have to take part?
You are being invited to participate voluntarily in the project. You will be asked a series of questions about your views of the EU. You can refuse to participate or withdraw at any time without any consequences.

What will you do in the project?
You will be asked to respond to questions verbally or by completing a questionnaire or by participating in a focus group. The study was launched in February 2016 and will be completed in June 2018.

Why have you been invited to take part?
We are interested in the views of adult citizens about the EU and Cohesion policy. We are undertaking interviews, surveys and focus groups with citizens in 12 countries across the EU (Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, United Kingdom).

What are the potential risks to you in taking part?
There are no foreseen risks, burdens or specific preparatory requirements for you.

What are the benefits to you taking part?
It is likely that you will not receive any personal benefit for your participation in this study besides possibly learning more about the EU. With your participation, you will make a substantial contribution to our understanding of how the EU is perceived by citizens in different EU countries and regions.

What happens to the information in the project?
Responses you give in the questionnaires, interviews, focus groups will be kept confidential. Recorded data will not include any personal identification so it will not be possible to identify you afterwards. The data will go into an archive stored securely at the University of Strathclyde so that people in the future will be able to understand people's attitudes to the European Union. Your identity will be protected at all times. The University of Strathclyde is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office who implements the Data Protection Act 1998. All personal data on participants will be processed in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998.

What happens next?
You will be able to obtain the main results of the study after the investigation is complete by contacting us or by visiting our project website (www.cohesfiy.eu). The website will provide downloadable publications and links to external publications.

Who do I ask if I have any questions or concerns?
In case of any issue involving you in your role of participant of this research study, you are invited to inform the project manager or chief investigator at the University of Strathclyde:

Dr. Carlos Mendez
Tel: +44 141 548 3334
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Professor John Bachtler
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This investigation was granted ethical approval by the University of Strathclyde Ethics Committee.

If you have any questions/concerns, during or after the investigation, or wish to contact an independent person to whom any questions may be directed or further information may be sought from, please contact:

Secretary to the University Ethics Committee
Telephone: 0141 548 3707
Email: ethics@strath.ac.uk