

University of Malta
Faculty of Media and Knowledge Sciences
Department of Cognitive Science

Informed Consent form for the research project:

Between Nation and Europe: Framing Effects, Cognitive Flexibility, and Self-Stereotypes in Malta and Poland

Aim of the research: This study examines how individuals understand and represent national and regional identities within Europe. Specifically, the research explores how people from different European countries mentally organize Europe into regions and how they describe the typical characteristics of their own national group. The findings will contribute to a better understanding of national self-stereotyping and identity representations in a European context.

Procedure: If you agree to participate in this study, you will be asked to complete the following tasks:

- You will be asked to describe the “typical” member of your own national group by generating a list of traits or characteristics that you associate with this group.
- You will be presented with a blank map of Europe and asked to divide European countries into regions (e.g., Northern) according to your own understanding.

The study will be completed in a single session and is expected to take approximately 5-7 minutes.

Voluntary nature of the research: Participation in this research is entirely voluntary. You may withdraw from the study at any time without providing a reason, and without any negative consequences.

Confidentiality: All information collected during this study will remain confidential and be coded using a unique participant ID. The data will be used solely for research purposes and may be reported in academic publications or presentations in aggregated form only. You have the right to request access to or deletion of your data in accordance with data protection regulations.

Risks and benefits for participants: There are no risks associated with participating in this study. While there is no direct personal benefit from participation, your contribution will help advance scientific understanding of identity, stereotyping, and social perception in Europe.

Contact:

In case of additional questions, you can contact Wiktoria Szot (wiktoria.szot.24@um.edu.mt).

Consent

When you click the “Continue” button, you confirm that:

- You have read and understood the information provided above.
- You are at least 18 years old.
- You voluntarily agree to take part in this study.

Thanks for your participation!