



ORGANISER'S GUIDE

Thank you for helping to Wake Up Europe! by debating what has gone wrong and what should be done about it. The Great European Disaster Movie will give you and your audience plenty of food for thought. But it is your ideas, reactions, feelings and proposals that matter most. Our aim is to stimulate that debate, as well as providing a means by which you can share your ideas and conclusions with the rest of the Wake Up Europe! community. The ideal outcome for us is to help the development of a wider, transnational, informed European public opinion.

We want you in particular to contribute to our collective answer to the following questions, by holding a vote amongst your audience by show of hands during the debate and by inviting people to share their thoughts on social media using the hashtag #wakeupeurope:

a) Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the future of Europe?

(Encourage each section of the audience to give reasons why they feel optimistic or pessimistic and keep a note of the examples given.)

b) Is the European Union worth saving?

(Encourage each section of the audience to give reasons why the EU is or is not worth saving and keep a note of the examples given.)

c) If you could make it happen tomorrow what change would you most like to see in the EU ?

(Please keep a note of some of the suggestions)

d) Do you feel European?

For all of these questions, please send us the data (including "don't knows"). We will analyse and publicise the results, but of course will not associate them with individuals.

To help you organise your post-screening debate, whether large or small, here are some ideas and suggestions for how to do it:

Kicking off the debate

Before: It is important to introduce the film as an interactive experience, so that the audience knows that they are convened not to be a passive audience, but to pick up ideas and thoughts during the film in order to develop the debate at the end and contribute with their views.

After: once the film has been screened (it lasts 90 minutes), you can either simply lead an open discussion yourself with your audience, drawing out people's opinions and reactions, or you can line up in advance a small panel of people to begin the discussion by offering their views. The larger the audience, the more helpful it is to have a panel and a moderator who can keep the debate focused.

It is up to you, but in our experience the best panels have between three and five people. And what we typically do is to warn those panellists (chosen for their different areas of interest, expertise and national backgrounds) in advance that we will want them to speak or answer questions for a maximum of three minutes per answer.

The debate

We suggest that you allow 40-60 minutes for the post-film debate, though it can work with just 30 minutes if you are particularly crisp and well-organised.

The discussion will work best if you give it some structure and do your best to make it fun. Thus, a good moderator is essential, either yourself or a friend who you know will be good at guiding the discussion smartly, at providing a bit of discipline so as to prevent any one speaker from dominating things too much, but also providing the necessary energy, momentum and narrative thread. Finally, it is the moderator's job to keep an eye on the clock.

Possible structures for the debate

While of course you are welcome to discuss the merits or otherwise of the film itself (and to tell us, if you'd like to!), it is more important to Wake Up Europe! by focusing on what is going wrong in the European Union, on what can and should be done about it, and on the basic issues of European values and identity that the film raises.

We can suggest three different ways in which you could organise your debate, although of course we hope you will come up with even better ideas.

Our three potential approaches are:

A. Focus on what has happened in the news since *The Great European Disaster Movie* was completed in January 2015: the Grexit crisis, the refugee crisis, the war in Ukraine, Britain's EU referendum, the rise of populist anti-EU parties in many member states.

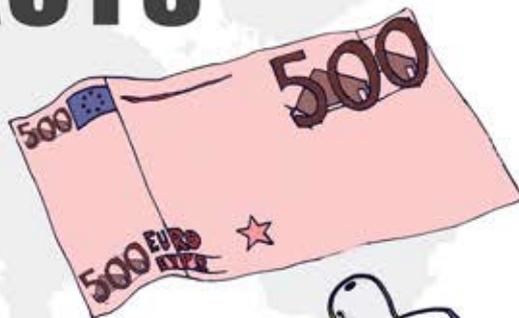
Your questions for the panel and audience could then be – Is the *Great European Disaster* becoming closer or more likely? Was the film alarmist or prescient? What do you expect to happen next in these various crises and pressures, and what might be done about them? What role do you see for Germany and German leadership in Europe in the future? Would you care if the EU were to disappear? What would be lost and gained from a collapse or demise of the EU? How might a collapse or demise happen?

B. Use the five values and artefacts shown in the film to structure your debate, posing questions in turn about each one to the panel and the audience. The five values/artefacts and some questions related to each one can be found below. The five values/artefacts were meant to focus viewers on 5 achievements of European society which are currently undergoing profound changes.

C. Invent something more fun yourself, such as a word-association game about Europe and European identity. This could also be based around the film's five values, but could go beyond those values if you wish. You could, for example, put up on a screen or board the word "welfare" and ask panellists or audience-members to say what it means to them. Or put up a selection of phrases -- eg, welfare, immigrant, Germany, European, ageing, sovereign debt, Greece, equality -- ask panellists to pick one of them, and have a question prepared that corresponds to whichever they pick. The question could be based on a quotation from a famous thinker or politician, or a statistic, or simply a question such as whether the particular value or topic chosen is sustainable. Can Europe sustain its welfare state? Can Europe sustain its level of immigration? Can Europe sustain itself as its population ages? Is Germany's role within Europe sustainable? But we feel sure you will come up with a formula that is much more fun than this...

THE FILM'S FIVE VALUES AND THEIR ASSOCIATED ARTIFACTS

1. Economic integration -- the 500 euro note



2. The European social model/welfare -- the baby's bottle



3. Freedom of movement -- the European passport



4. Equality and democracy -- Conchita Wurst's beard



5. Peace and war -- the Nobel Peace Prize



1. Economic integration -- the 500 euro note



The film argues that a fundamental value of the European Union has come from the prosperity it could deliver to its citizens. The connections between national economies, the many bridges between them, and the resulting size and scope of the European economy and its single market have undeniably benefited the Europeans and made the EU the first trading block in the world. The 500 euro note is used to symbolise this value and aim, but also how the current economic and political crisis in the Eurozone has eroded that value and become a source of discord and mutual misunderstanding – in effect, the trouble that ensues when families start arguing about money.

Possible questions that could be asked about economic integration and the euro are:

- a) Who/what is to blame for the economic crisis of Europe? Bankers, national politicians, the EU as a whole, or something else?
- b) In the euro's sovereign debt crisis, should borrowers bear the brunt of repair and adjustment, or should lenders?
- c) Borrowers who get deep into debt always need to tighten their belts. But what is the future of that fiscal austerity, and should it apply to everyone? Could there, should there, be a new Marshall Plan for Europe, as the film proposes? What should it contain? The US from which the 2008 financial crisis originated and the UK, where the City played a big part, have both recovered faster than the Eurozone. Why?
- d) What is the appropriate economic role of Germany in today's Europe?
- e) What is the value of economic integration among the 28 EU member states? What would be lost if we returned to separate national economies?
- f) Would Europeans be better off if the influence of the EU as a single market block was to be lost?

2. The European social model/welfare -- the baby's bottle



The film argues that the essence of Europe's social, economic and political success has lain in its combination of prosperity and economic growth with a welfare and social model, one that acts as a safety net for the less fortunate while also creating social trust. Our changing demographics, along with rising expectations, economic stagnation and public debt are putting this social model, and the values it represents, under huge pressure. The social model needs to be reinvented in all our countries, but how to retain the "European Dream" of welfare, fairness and solidarity?

Possible questions include:

- a) Why are welfare systems that seemed so triumphant and helpful 20 years ago now under so much strain?
- b) How can we adjust to an ageing population?
- c) What impact do refugees and other migrants have on welfare costs and provision?
- d) What might a modern health, education and welfare system for the 21st century look like, and how can we afford it?

3. Freedom of movement -- the European passport



The film shows how one of the great achievements of Europe, borderless travel and the chance to visit, live in and work in other European countries has turned from something about which people feel positive into a great bone of contention.

Possible questions include:

- a) What are the real, underlying issues raised by today's immigration, given that all EU countries have during history been shaped and changed by immigration many times in the past?
- b) Is the refugee crisis best handled by national governments, as it is now, or could there be a better European-level, common approach? If so, what would it be? What is Frontex, the agency that oversees the common EU borders? And apart from policing our borders, what can we do to increase integration with the refugees that we are welcoming in numbers bigger than ever before in our history?
- c) What are the pluses and minuses of the right to live and work in other European countries?
- d) What would be the impact of Brexit on the EU, if it were to happen? and welfare system for the 21st century look like, and how can we afford it?
- e) What would Britain gain and lose from leaving the EU?

4. Equality and democracy – Conchita Wurst's beard



The film depicts equal rights and equality of voice in European democracy as fundamental human rights which have been central to European societies. They should be cherished, but also need more effort if they are to truly be exercised and expressed in our modern times. The vote for a transvestite singer in the 2014 Eurovision song contest, against lobbying from Russia, was one example of this tolerance and respect that lies deep in European culture. Our national democracies, however, suffer from alienation from political decision-making and political elites, and low participation in voting by the young. Above all, decision-making at the European Union level suffers from a big shortage of democratic legitimacy and especially of the sense of involvement or engagement of ordinary citizens.

Possible questions could include:

- a) Why are so many citizens alienated from or frustrated by mainstream democratic politics?
- b) What is the likely future of new, insurgent parties in Europe, such as Syriza in Greece, Podemos and Ciudadanos in Spain, Five Star Movement in Italy, UKIP in Britain?
- c) Our systems of representative government through Parliaments are designed to provide accountability to citizens but leave detailed decision-making to politicians. How could this idea be modernised for the information age, of social media and smartphones?
- d) Are referendums part of the answer, or a dangerous populist tool?
- e) Would the option of voting electronically increase younger voters participation?
- f) What does the EU's "democratic deficit" mean to you? Do you feel that the decisions taken in the EU reflect your choices? What could be done about it?

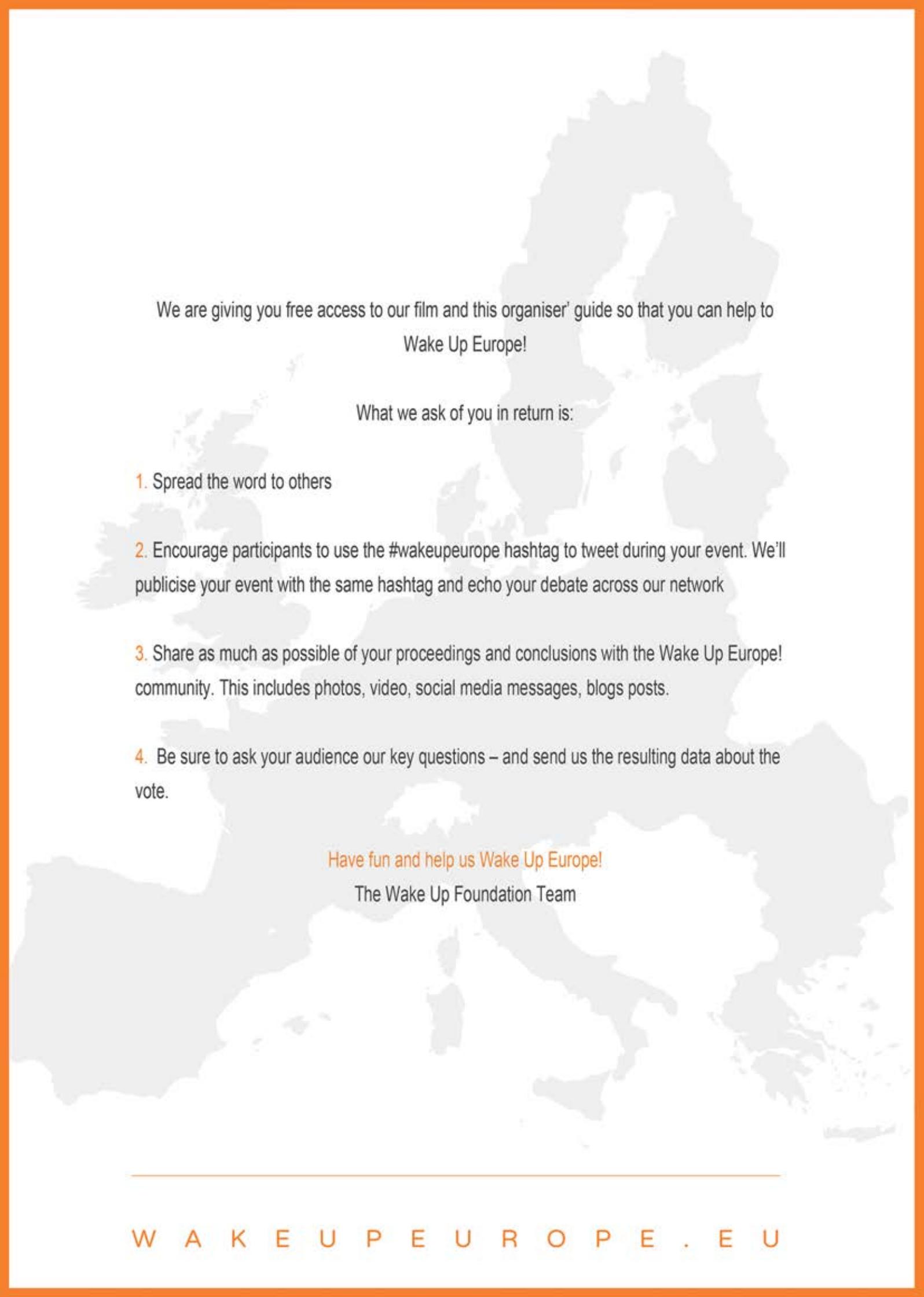
5. Peace and war -- the Nobel Peace Prize



The film shows the role of the European Union and its precursors since 1945 in bringing to an end Europe's centuries of conflict, in building big barriers against a resumption of conflict, and in providing an alternative means to resolve issues and collaborate. It focuses in particular on Germany, its 20th century history and Germans' view of the role of Europe in preserving peace, but also of the continued risk of conflict, given wars in the Balkans in the 1990s and now in Ukraine, very close to Germany's eastern borders.

Possible questions include:

- a) What can and should Europe do about the conflicts that are surrounding its borders, in Ukraine, North Africa, the Middle East?
- b) Should European countries spend more on defence, or less?
- c) What lessons can be drawn from the Balkan wars of the 1990s for the future of Europe, in terms of conflict, foreign affairs or refugees?
- d) What would be lost, in terms of the prevention of war, if the EU were to collapse?



We are giving you free access to our film and this organiser' guide so that you can help to
Wake Up Europe!

What we ask of you in return is:

1. Spread the word to others
2. Encourage participants to use the #wakeupeurope hashtag to tweet during your event. We'll publicise your event with the same hashtag and echo your debate across our network
3. Share as much as possible of your proceedings and conclusions with the Wake Up Europe! community. This includes photos, video, social media messages, blogs posts.
4. Be sure to ask your audience our key questions – and send us the resulting data about the vote.

Have fun and help us Wake Up Europe!

The Wake Up Foundation Team