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Imagining Europe: A Social Media Gallery of Images About the EU

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Article text:

As part of the Imagine Europe project, **Clare Llewellyn** and **Laura Cram** reflect on the initiative's progress and the images which people have contributed to represent what they think of the European Union. They present the results of the project competition and call for additional images reflecting views on the UK's future relationship with the EU.

At <u>NRLabs</u> at the University of Edinburgh, we are investigating which images of the European Union predominate in popular imagination and how these images shift. In particular we wanted to see what the public view was in the lead-up to the UK's EU referendum.

Message from the Prime Minister	
I an delighted that <i>The Illustrate London News</i> is producing this special issue to coincide with "Fanfare for Europe", and to mark our entry into the European Community. The Community which we are joining is far more than a common market. It is a community in the true sense of that term. It is concerned not only with the establishment of free trade, economic and monetary union and other major economic issues—important though these are—but also, as the Paris Summit meeting has demonstrated, with social issues which affect us all—environmental questions, working conditions in industry, consumer protection, and to development areas and vocational training. It is, in brief, concerned with improving the quality of life of the peoples of Western Europe. It is also concerned, as an outward-looking Commutiv, with breaking down the barriers between North and South, rich and poor, in the wider world, with maintaining good relations between the industrialized countries which is vital for the prosperity of the whole world, and with working for an improvement in	relations between East and West. Above all, the European Community is a community of peoples, and in joining this new association of nations we are committing ourselves not only to a series of policies or institutions but to a close partnership with our western European neighbours in which we will all work together rather than separately. The people of Britain have always given their best in response to external challenges. Membership of the European Community is at once a new challenge and a new opportunity. Britain has much to contribute to, as well as much to gain from, the new Europe which is being created. We can look forward with excitement to the venture on which we are embarking.
The informal portrait of the Prime Minister, above, which is here pub- lahed for the first time, was painted	special feature devoted to Britain's which are taking place throughout entry into the Common Market Britain to mark this historic and to the official celebrations occasion.
We set the set of the	- Providence
@jolliffe_mark	Sellow
#myimageoftheEU	
1:58 PM - 13 Jun 2016	
★ 174 ♥ 3	

We have been asking members of the public to share their images of the EU on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram using the hashtag <u>#myimageoftheEU</u>. The response to this call has been large and diverse – depicting various issues of interest across both the Leave and Remain camps.

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Up to this point, we have received over 120 images. The content has varied from photographs and cartoons to quotes, videos and even a painting. We have had many pictures concerning travel and food. The images are available in our <u>online gallery</u>.



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We also turned some of the images into a mobile gallery, which we displayed at the National Library of Scotland in Edinburgh and the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in London. The project was also featured on the BBC's *Daily Politics* show.



At the National Library of Scotland event, we asked the public to vote for their favourite image. These are the top three images.

Joint third place:

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Second place:



First place:



At this point, we would like to thank everyone who has sent in their image. The support has been much appreciated! We would also like to ask you to keep sending us your images! We are very interested in reactions to the result of the EU referendum and the UK's future relationship with the EU.

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Our <u>#ImagineEurope</u> project is part of the Economic and Social Research Council's <u>The UK in a Changing Europe</u> programme. Look out for our regular updates as the project tracks developments in the debate on the UK's membership of the EU and follow us on Twitter <u>@myimageoftheEU</u> for more information on this and other projects.

Laura Cram is Senior Fellow, The UK in a Changing Europe, investigating The European Union in the Public Imagination: Maximising the Impact of Transdisciplinary Insights (*ESRC/ES/No03985/1*).

This article was originally published on the *ImagineEurope Storify*.

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Additional information:

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