The EU in a nutshell
What is Europe?
What does the EU mean to you?

What makes you feel European?
The Basics

WHAT IS EUROPE?

Europe:
1 of 7 continents
44 countries
Over 700 million people

EU:
27 countries
447 million people
European culture and diversity have been shaped by:

- Ancient Greece and Rome
- Reformation and Enlightenment
- Parliamentarism and social rights
Over the centuries, new styles of music, architecture and literature have inspired artists throughout Europe.

For example:

1. Pablo Picasso  5. Stefan Zweig
2. Ludwig van Beethoven  6. Wisława Szymborska
3. Alfons Mucha  7. Simone de Beauvoir
European Values

1. Human dignity
2. Freedom
3. Democracy
4. Equality
5. Rule of law
6. Human rights
24 Official EU Languages
# EU Language Families

## 24 Official EU Languages

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Germanic</th>
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<th>Slavic</th>
<th>Other</th>
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<td>Swedish</td>
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Hungarian

Maltese
The European Project
Which countries created the EU and why?
From war to peace

1914

1918

1939

1945
Peace was one of the aims that led to the creation of the European Union.

The EU received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2012.
The creation of the European Union

1945 End of WWII

1950 Schuman Declaration

1951 European Coal and Steel Community

1957 Rome Treaty

1952 Maastricht Treaty

1992 Single Market

1993 Schengen Agreement

1995 Euro currency

2002 Eastern enlargement

2004 Lisbon Treaty

2007 NextGeneration EU

2020 THE EUROPEAN PROJECT
EU Countries

1951 Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands
1973 Denmark, Ireland, United Kingdom (the UK left the EU in 2020)
1981 Greece
1986 Spain, Portugal
1995 Austria, Finland, Sweden
2004 Czechia, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia
2007 Bulgaria, Romania
2013 Croatia
Schengen Area

Did you know?
You can travel freely between the 27 countries of the Schengen area without showing your passport.
20 EU countries now use the euro as their official currency.
What does the EU do?
What do you think the EU does for you?
Study, Work and Volunteering

- Youth Guarantee Scheme
- EURES
- ERASMUS+
- European Solidarity Corps
...and much more!

- Participation
- Environmental protection
- Consumer rights and safety
- EU-funded projects
- EU in the world
EU Priorities

Green Deal

NextGenerationEU

Digitalisation

Equality
Continuing EU Solidarity with Ukraine

#StandWithUkraine
Which topics do you think should be prioritised by the European Institutions?
How does the EU work?
The European Commission

- represents the EU common interests
- is made up of one President and a Commissioner from each EU country responsible for a specific topic
- proposes new laws and programmes
- is elected by the European Parliament for five years
- manages the EU policies and budget
- is the guardian of the EU Treaties
- is located in Brussels and Luxembourg
The European Council

- brings together the heads of state or government of each EU country
- sets the EU’s main priorities and policy directions
- does not adopt EU laws
- meets at least four times a year in Brussels (Belgium) or Luxembourg (Luxembourg) for European Summits
The Council of the EU

- represents the governments of the EU countries
- brings together ministers of EU countries who meet to discuss EU matters (agriculture, foreign affairs, justice, etc.)
- takes decisions and passes laws together with the European Parliament
- has a rotating Presidency – every six months another EU country takes the lead
- meets in Brussels or Luxembourg
The European Parliament

- is the voice of European citizens
- has Members from all EU countries directly elected by citizens every five years
- discusses new laws proposed by the European Commission
- modifies (if necessary) and decides these laws together with the Council
- elects the President of the European Commission
- approves the EU budget
- holds at least six sessions per year in Brussels (Belgium) and 12 in Strasbourg (France)
EU Laws: who does what?

European Commission

Proposes a law

European Parliament

Adopt, amend or reject the proposed law

Council of the European Union

If agreed

New EU Law
The European Court of Justice

- keeps track of EU laws
- makes sure that EU countries respect EU laws
- advises national courts on the interpretation of these laws
- fines countries if they do not respect EU laws
- checks if the laws respect fundamental rights (e.g. freedom of speech, freedom of the press)
- consists of one judge per EU country
- is located in Luxembourg
checks whether the EU’s budget has been correctly spent

advises EU policymakers on how to best spend the budget

reports fraud, corruption or other illegal activity

has Members appointed by the Council for six-year terms
leads EU economic and monetary policy

manages the European currency – the ‘euro’

is responsible for keeping the euro and prices stable

fixes interest rates for the euro area

works with the national central banks of EU countries

has six Members appointed by the Council for an eight-year term that cannot be renewed

is located in Frankfurt (Germany)
How YOU can shape Europe
How you can shape Europe

Citizen's Initiatives

European Youth Week

European Youth Event (EYE)

Your Europe, Your Say (YEYS)
Learn more about the EU

Europa website
europa.eu

Learning Corner website
europa.eu/learning-corner

Learning Corner newsletter
ec.europa.eu/newsroom/comm/user-subscriptions/1595/create

What Europe does for me
what-europe-does-for-me.eu

Publications Office
publications.europa.eu
Stay in touch

In person:

Questions about the EU? **Europe Direct** can help.

Freephone: **00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11**

Find an **EU centre near you** to meet, ask about and discuss the EU.

[europa.eu/european-union/contact/](europa.eu/european-union/contact_en)

Via social media:

Use the **search tool** to find the EU’s social media accounts.

[europa.eu/european-union/contact/social-networks](europa.eu/european-union/contact/social-networks_en)
Thank you!

europa.eu/learning-corner

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