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 1049 Brussels  
 BELGIUM

YPPPEEE!!!

**Let's build the European Union together!**  
 How can we live together? What's our shared history?  
 How do the European Union institutions work?  
 Find out about all of these topics and more with the help of the three illustrated brochures, quizzes, games and map of Europe in this pack.  
 Have fun reading about and (re)discovering the European Union.  
**(It's OK — you can write and draw in the booklets.)**  
 Manuscript updated on March 2023 by the

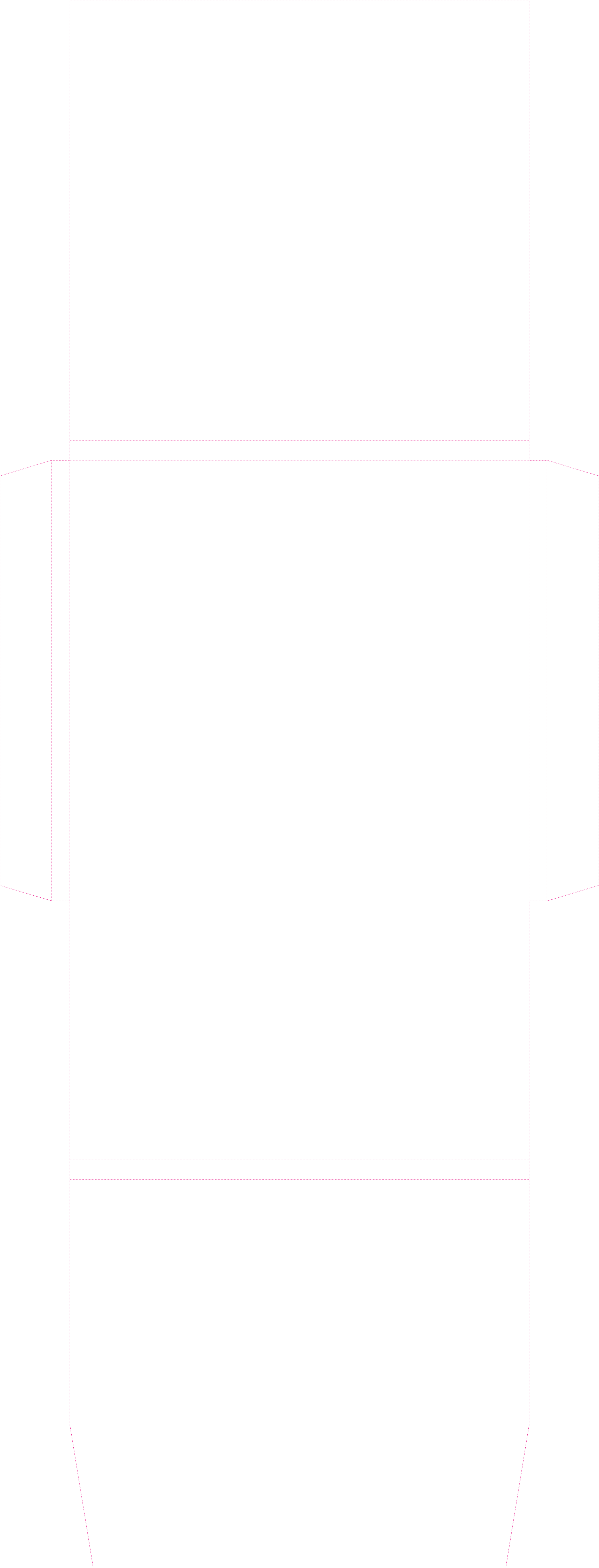
FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_



EUROPE  
**Better together!**

OPEN HERE







## NOTE TO READERS

Our publisher tells us that some funny little drawings have appeared in our *Europe – Better together!* brochures. It seems that a boy called Gordon sneaked into the print shop and scribbled on some of the pages.

We hope they won't bother you while you read.

Enjoy!

Editorial Service & Targeted Outreach team, European Commission

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European Commission  
Directorate-General for Communication  
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# TEACHER'S GUIDE / AN EXPLANATORY LEAFLET

## *Europe Better together!*

### **A tool to raise awareness about Europe for pupils over the age of 10**

**Europe — Better together!** will help you to talk about Europe in class. The teaching kit contains three brochures and a map of the European Union.

#### **Using the *Europe — Better together!* Teaching Kit in class**

Depending on your interests and the questions from your pupils, you can choose to look at the European Union from three different angles. The brochures are not in any particular order. They complement one another but each of them can also be used as a stand-alone resource.

#### **Suggestions for using the brochures.**

You could focus on the history and geography of the European Union in order to talk about European integration. In this case, you would use the **Europe — Building together!** brochure and/or the map. The map shows pupils the location of the countries in the European Union and the countries in the euro area.



You could focus on current affairs (e.g. a European summit or the euro) in order to talk about the functioning of the institutions and EU citizenship. In this case, you would use the **Europe — Organising together!** brochure.



You could focus on the children's daily lives (e.g. the quality of water and food, child protection on social networks, etc.). In this case, you would use the **Europe — Living together!** brochure.





## **Our approach**

We wanted to create a teaching environment that was both **rich in content and full of fun** to open young people's eyes to their European future.

The main aim is to **make pupils aware that they are part of the European Union and that they can shape the Europe of tomorrow**. In order to emphasise their role, for each topic we have used an action verb (living, organising, remembering, protecting, etc.).

The vocabulary, games and playful hints allow pupils to **build up their knowledge themselves by following Gordon**, the imaginary character who has scribbled on the brochures. The presence of a character who is the same age as them makes the content more accessible. Throughout the brochures open questions also encourage the pupils to **participate actively**. Enjoy!

## GETTING IN TOUCH WITH THE EU

### In person

All over the European Union there are hundreds of Europe Direct centres. You can find the address of the centre nearest you online ([european-union.europa.eu/contact-eu/meet-us\\_en](https://european-union.europa.eu/contact-eu/meet-us_en)).

### On the phone or in writing

Europe Direct is a service that answers your questions about the European Union. You can contact this service:

- by freephone: 00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11 (certain operators may charge for these calls),
- at the following standard number: +32 22999696,
- via the following form: [european-union.europa.eu/contact-eu/write-us\\_en](https://european-union.europa.eu/contact-eu/write-us_en).

## FINDING INFORMATION ABOUT THE EU

### Online

Information about the European Union in all the official languages of the EU is available on the Europa website ([european-union.europa.eu](https://european-union.europa.eu)).

### EU publications

You can view or order EU publications at [op.europa.eu/en/publications](https://op.europa.eu/en/publications). Multiple copies of free publications can be obtained by contacting Europe Direct or your local documentation centre ([european-union.europa.eu/contact-eu/meet-us\\_en](https://european-union.europa.eu/contact-eu/meet-us_en)).

### EU law and related documents

For access to legal information from the EU, including all EU law since 1951 in all the official language versions, go to EUR-Lex ([eur-lex.europa.eu](https://eur-lex.europa.eu)).

### EU open data

The portal [data.europa.eu](https://data.europa.eu) provides access to open datasets from the EU institutions, bodies and agencies. These can be downloaded and reused for free, for both commercial and non-commercial purposes. The portal also provides access to a wealth of datasets from European countries.



# EUROPE **Building** together!



EN





## CONTENTS

### HISTORY OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

**Remembering our roots** ..... 4

### EUROPEAN TREATIES

**Signing agreements** ..... 11

### EUROPEAN SYMBOLS

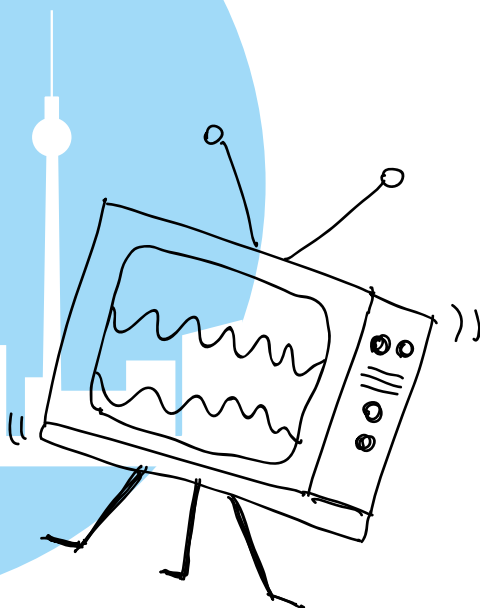
**Affirming our diversity** ..... 12

### GEOGRAPHY OF EUROPE

**Understanding our common area** ..... 13

### FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

**Looking to the future** ..... 14



# HISTORY OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

## Remembering our roots

The origins of the Europe we know today go way, way back.

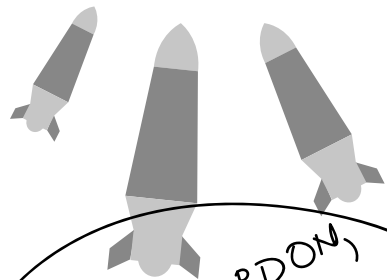
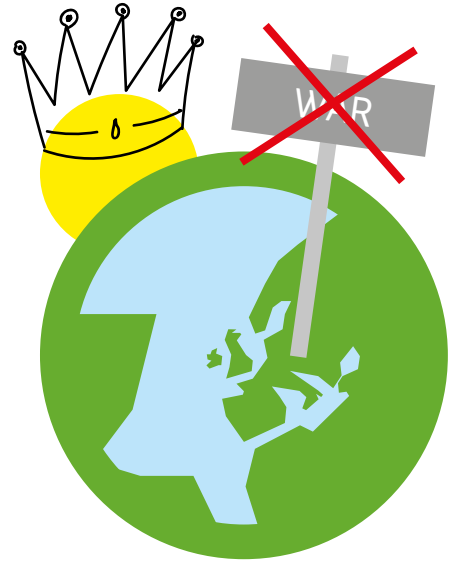
To understand what Europe does for us today, **it's important to know how it began.**

### The first attempts ...

Some people, like Charlemagne and Napoleon, tried to combine all the countries of Europe into a single nation. But back then Europe was mostly formed as a result of bloody wars.

In the 20th century two wars broke out on the continent of Europe and then spread to the whole world. That's why they are called **world wars.**

The First World War took place between 1914 and 1918, and around 20 years later the Second World War began.



### Did you know that the name 'Europe' comes from Greek mythology?

Europa was a beautiful princess who lived in Tyre, on the Asian coast of the Mediterranean (Lebanon). Zeus, the king of the gods, fell in love with her. He seduced her and took her to Greece. They had three children and it was from the princess that the continent got its name: Europe.



Charlemagne

742

Napoleon

1769



## The Second World War

After the Second World War, in 1945, Europe was in ruins.

Because of that awful war, which lasted for six years, 20 million children were orphaned, roads were completely destroyed, and people died of hunger and fled their countries. It was complete devastation. **Everything had to be rebuilt.**

## Two blocs in disagreement

After 1945 peace returned to Europe, but Europe was divided into two blocs: eastern Europe and western Europe. The dividing line ran through Germany.

So Germany was divided into two countries: East Germany and West Germany.

The lives of the people on either side were very different.

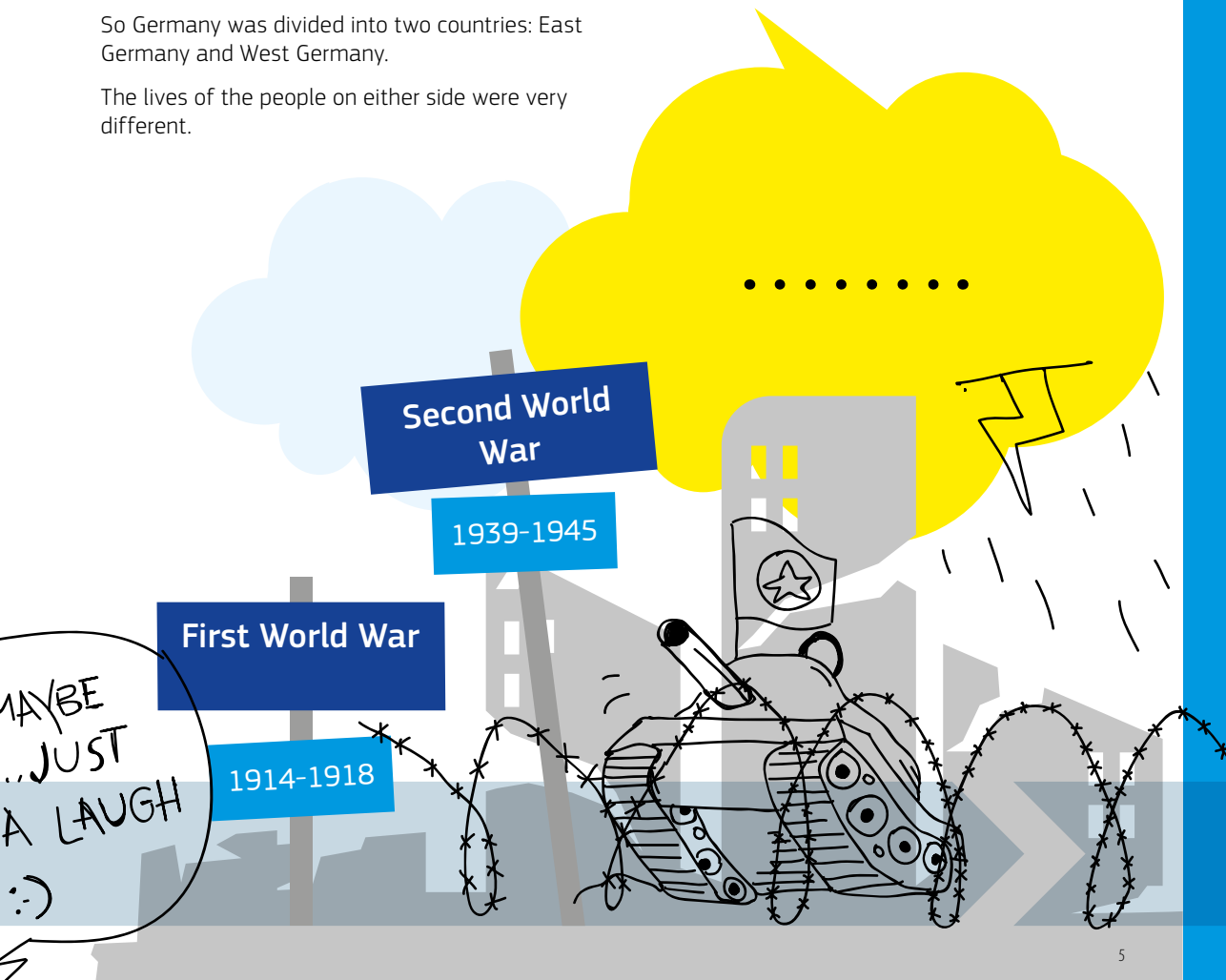
## How did people live peacefully in the West in spite of everything?

And what does this have to do with the European Union, you might ask?

On 9 May 1950 a French statesman, Robert Schuman, had an ingenious idea: West Germany and France would work together in the coal and steel industries. That meant that **they would never again think of going to war against each other.**

Western Europe began to rebuild itself in peace.

**Without drawing them, name some objects that can be made from steel.**



## The European Coal and Steel Community

Very soon other countries got involved in the coal and steel project: Belgium, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

On 18 April 1951 these six countries signed a text called a 'treaty' establishing the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC). Another step towards peace!

## The EU pioneers

But building a united Europe wasn't going to be easy. It needed truly committed visionary leaders – both men and women – to support the idea and turn it into a real common project. Today when we talk about them we call them the **'EU pioneers'**. Who are they?

► Match the countries to the **'EU pioneers'**.

- |                   |    |   |              |
|-------------------|----|---|--------------|
| Konrad Adenauer   | 1  | A | WEST GERMANY |
| Alcide De Gasperi | 2  | B | LUXEMBOURG   |
| Robert Schuman    | 3  | C | NETHERLANDS  |
| Joseph Bech       | 4  | D | ITALY        |
| Jean Monnet       | 5  | E | FRANCE       |
| Paul-Henri Spaak  | 6  | F | BELGIUM      |
| Marga Klompé      | 7  |   |              |
| Ursula Hirschmann | 8  |   |              |
| Nilde Iotti       | 9  |   |              |
| Simone Veil       | 10 |   |              |

► Answers

1A - 2D - 3E - 4B - 5C - 6F - 7C - 8A - 9D - 10E

European Coal  
and Steel  
Community

1951



## The European Economic Community (EEC)

Following on from coal and steel, the six countries decided to set up **a large market without borders**. In 1957 they created the European Economic Community (EEC). 'Economic' means that it relates to money, business, work and trade.

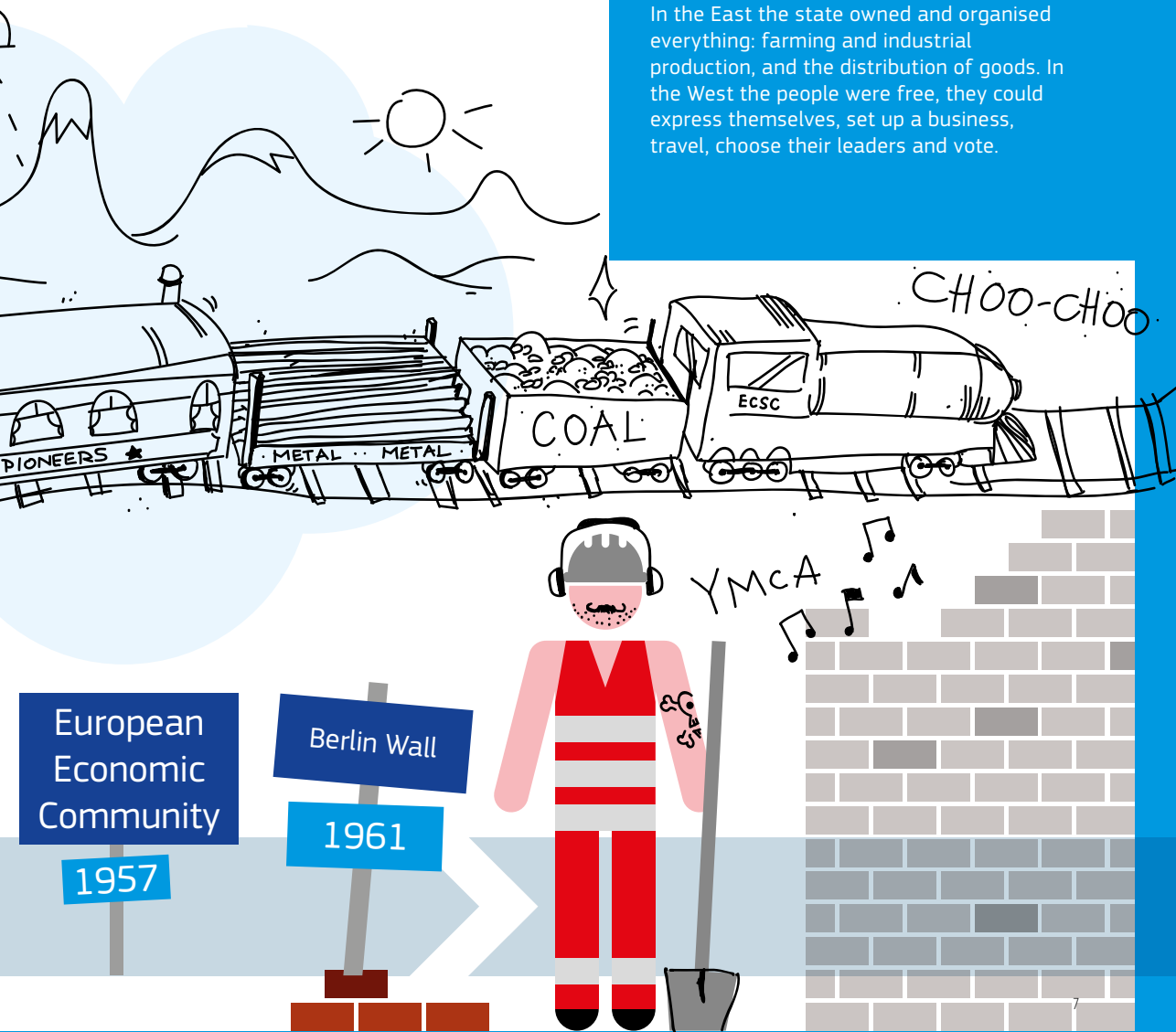
The economy got back on track. The war seemed very far away. Western Europe was at peace.

## The Berlin Wall (see map on p. 9)

**Do you remember how, after the Second World War, Europe was divided into two blocs that couldn't get along?**

In 1961 East Germany built a wall that divided the city of Berlin into East Berlin and West Berlin. The people living there could no longer get from the East to the West. The Berlin Wall was the symbol of the Cold War, the separation between the East (communist) and the West (capitalist).

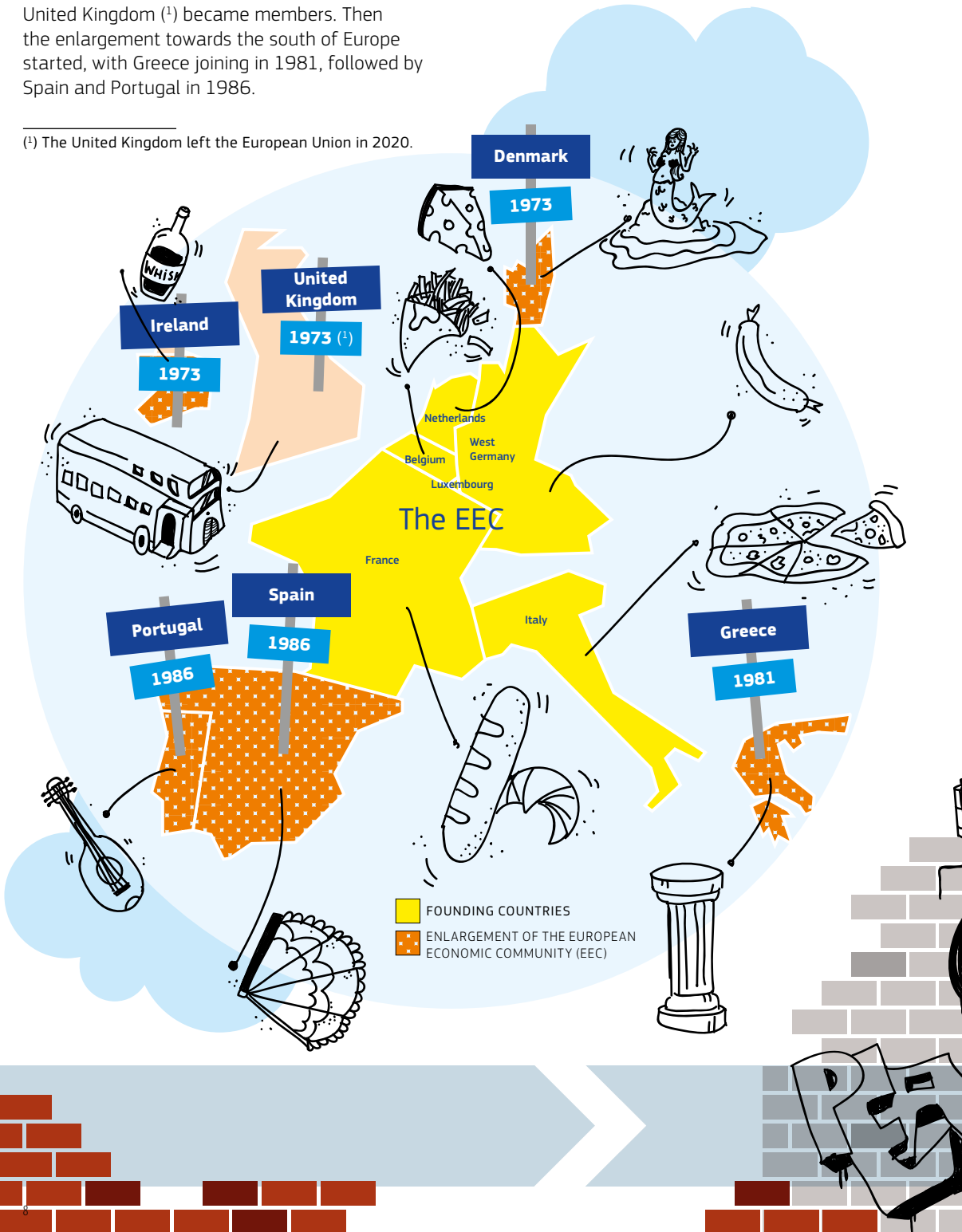
In the East the state owned and organised everything: farming and industrial production, and the distribution of goods. In the West the people were free, they could express themselves, set up a business, travel, choose their leaders and vote.



## The first enlargements

Western Europe was growing and other countries wanted to join the original six members of the EEC. In 1973 Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom (†) became members. Then the enlargement towards the south of Europe started, with Greece joining in 1981, followed by Spain and Portugal in 1986.

(†) The United Kingdom left the European Union in 2020.

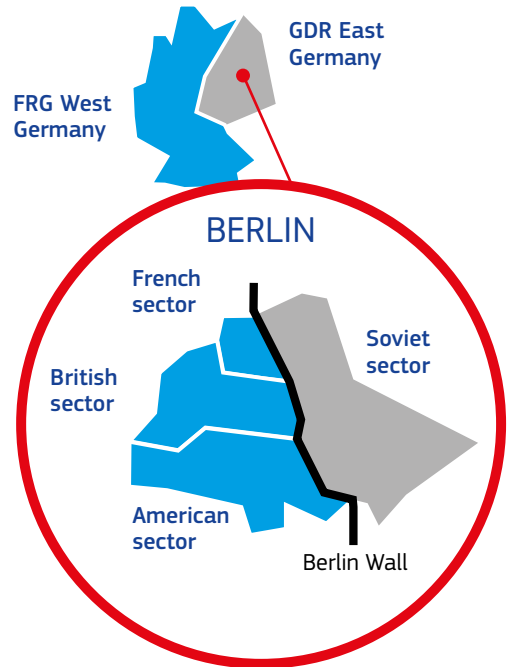


## The fall of the Wall

In 1989 a very important event took place at the heart of the European continent: **East Europeans were reunited with west Europeans.**

The Berlin Wall that had separated them both physically and politically was gone. Thousands of Berliners tore down the Wall and joined their fellow compatriots: Germany was reunified. There was a huge celebration among the people of Europe.

This event marked the end of communism in Germany and, over the years, many east European countries gradually joined the European Union.



## Birth of the European Union

In 1992, through the Maastricht Treaty, the European Economic Community became the European Union (EU).

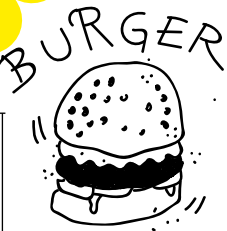
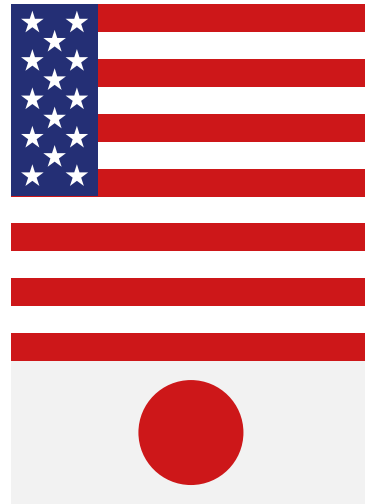
## The successive enlargements

Between 1995 and 2013, 16 countries joined the European Union. With the departure of the United Kingdom from the European Union in 2020, there are now 27 Member States.



Today the European Union has around 447 million inhabitants, about the same population as the United States and Japan combined!

± 447 MILLION INHABITANTS



± 329 MILLION INHABITANTS



± 126 MILLION INHABITANTS

Maastricht Treaty

1992

Austria

Finland

Sweden

1995

# EUROPEAN TREATIES

## Signing agreements

### The treaties

Whether in a playground or in Europe itself, the more people there are, the harder it is to agree on something. And everyone wants to defend their own ideas.

So we have to talk in order to find solutions. These solutions are set out in 'treaties'.

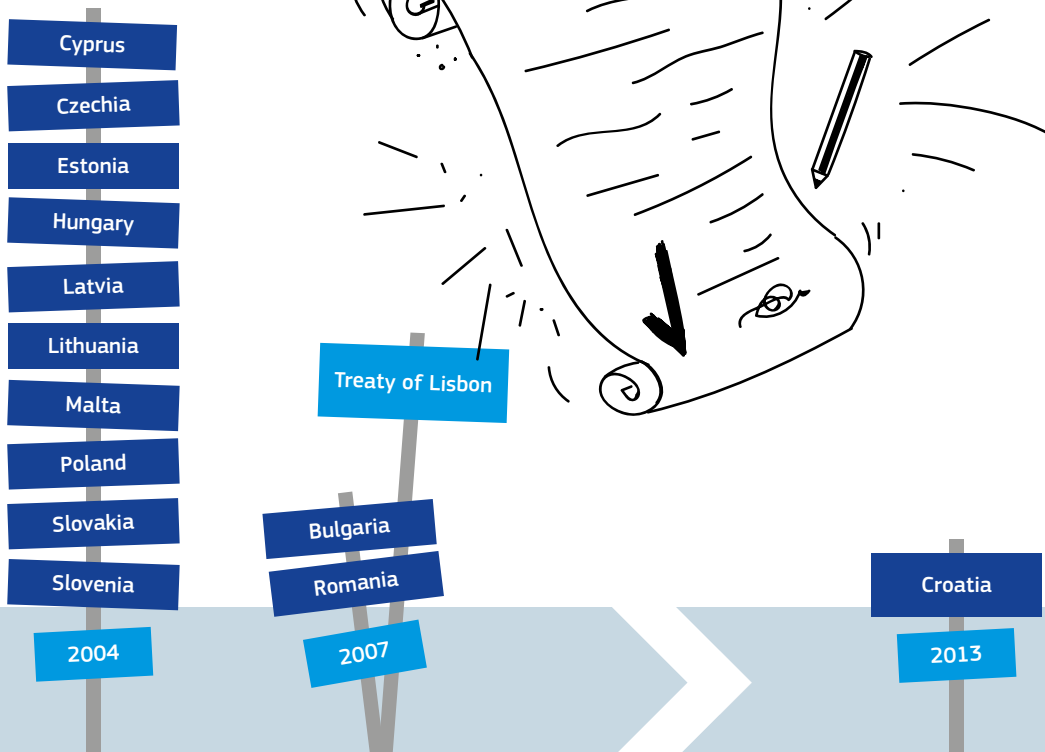
**A treaty is an agreement** concluded and signed by the Heads of State or Government of the EU's Member States. In some ways it's like the EU's operating instructions.

Seven major treaties have been agreed so far. In general, they're named after the city in which they were signed. The most recent was the **Treaty of Lisbon**.

### How to join the European Union

Any European country can ask to join the European Union, but there are some conditions:

- the country must be a democracy — the leaders must be elected by the people through a vote;
- the country must respect human rights, freedom of the press and freedom of expression;
- the country's economy must be performing well;
- the country must respect all European decisions and laws.



# EUROPEAN SYMBOLS

## Affirming our diversity

### The EU flag

The European Union's flag is blue with a circle of 12 gold stars.



### The EU anthem

The European anthem is 'Ode to joy', taken from the ninth symphony of the famous German composer Ludwig van Beethoven.

It has no words but evokes the **ideals of freedom, peace and solidarity the EU represents.**

### The EU motto

**'In varietate concordia'**

The European Union's motto, first adopted in 2000, means **'United in diversity'**.

This motto reflects the way in which the European Union has been formed, enriching itself through the continent's diverse cultures, traditions and languages.

On this [map of Europe](#), discover little pictures that illustrate some landmarks, personalities, food and other national characteristics and traditions of each EU country.

### 9 May — Europe Day

Europe Day is celebrated on 9 May and commemorates the Schuman Declaration of 1950, which is when European integration truly began. Around this date, the EU institutions open their doors to the public.



Europe Day

9 May

my  
birthday!

20  
DECEMBER



## GEOGRAPHY OF EUROPE

# Understanding our common area

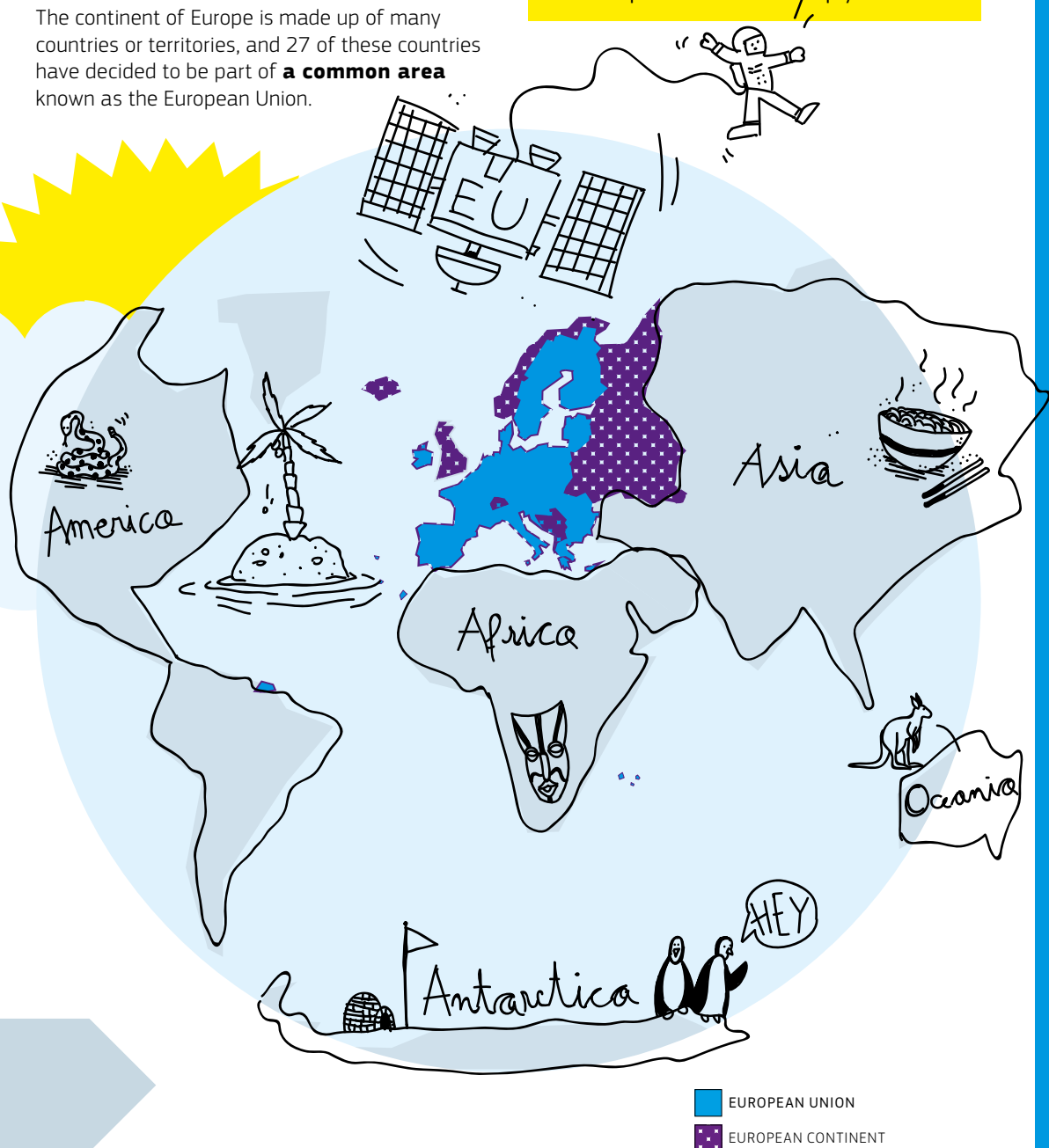
When we talk about Europe, we can mean different things.

Europe is first and foremost **a continent**. Continents are large expanses of land sometimes separated by oceans.

The continent of Europe is made up of many countries or territories, and 27 of these countries have decided to be part of **a common area** known as the European Union.

And some of those EU countries have decided to use **a single currency**: the euro. They are part of the 'euro area'.

- Draw a small cross on your country. Use the map in the annex to help you.



# FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

## Looking to the future

The European Union has gradually been formed by the ideas of brave men and women who have fought for peace. It's the fruit of a long history in which we have all played a part.

Of course it's not completely perfect yet: it's **a project that evolves every day**. And tomorrow it will be the young people of today who move it forward.

There are still major problems that will only be solved if all the countries work together.

But who will build this Europe of tomorrow? Your generation will **BUILD it together!**

► Imagine you are in the future. What does the Europe of tomorrow look like to you?







**If you want to learn how Europe is organised and operates on a daily basis, have a look at these two brochures:**



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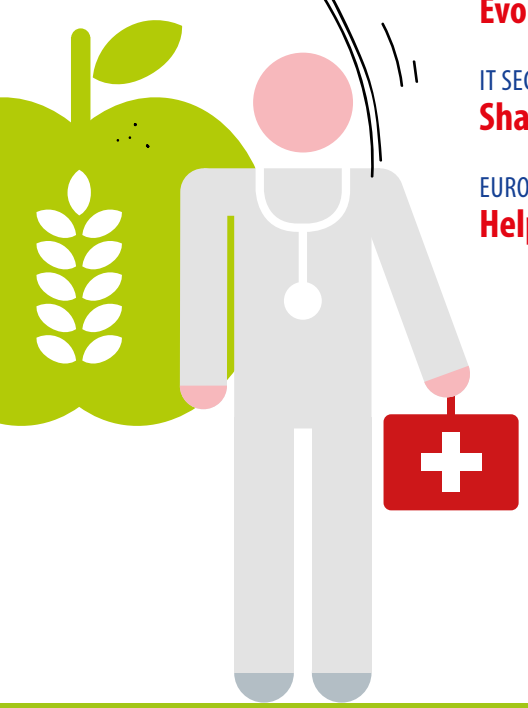
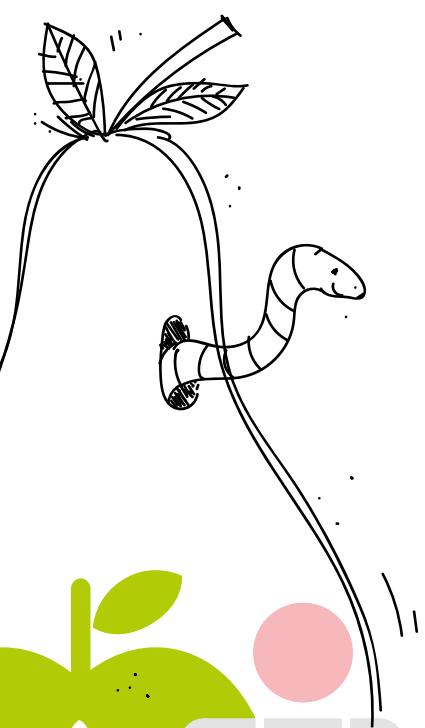
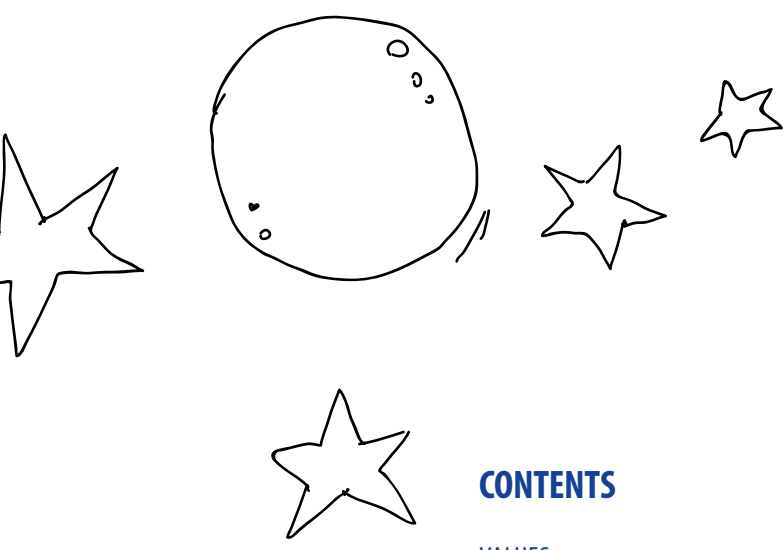
# EUROPE **Living together!**



**EN**

Go!  
Go!





## CONTENTS

### VALUES

**Belonging** to the European project ..... 4

### ECO-CONSUMPTION

**Being** responsible ..... 5

### ENVIRONMENT

**Protecting** nature ..... 6

### ENERGY AND CLIMATE

**Producing** renewable energies ..... 7

### FARMING AND FOOD

**Eating** well ..... 8

### CULTURE

**Evoking** emotions ..... 11

### IT SECURITY

**Sharing** safely ..... 12

### EUROPE IN THE WORLD

**Helping** poor countries ..... 14

## VALUES

# Belonging to the European project

The European Union is first and foremost a set of **values that allow us to live together**, despite our different languages, cultures, religions and customs.

It's not easy for the approximately half a billion people who live in the EU to understand the people in their neighbouring countries or countries that are further away.

The values of **solidarity, tolerance, freedom, equality** and **respect** are important if we want to live as a society.

Showing solidarity means being willing to help one another; being tolerant means recognising that people can **live and think in different ways**.

These **common human values** allow us to come together and feel part of the common project that is the European Union.

## Solidarity in practice

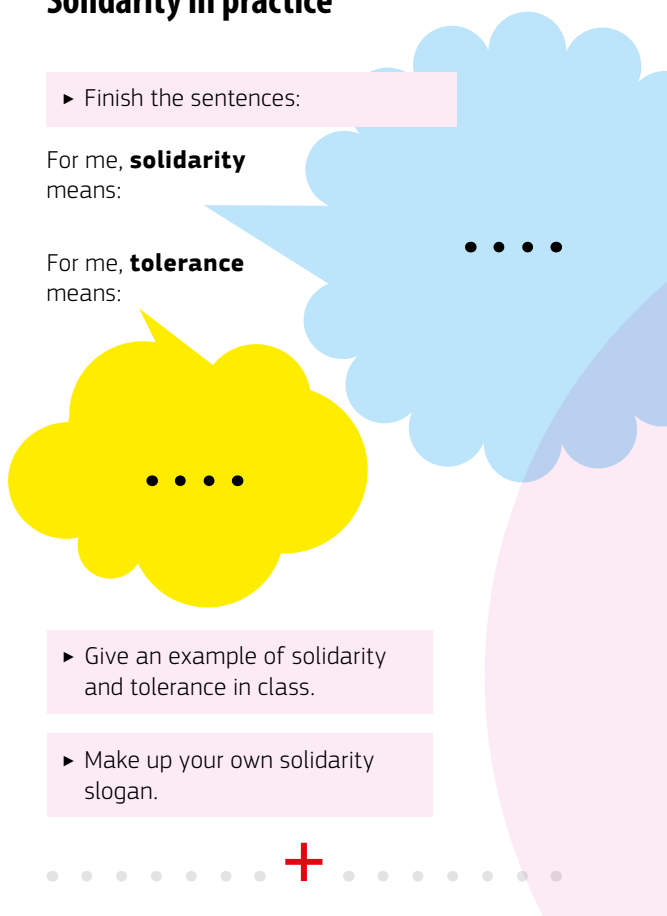
► Finish the sentences:

For me, **solidarity** means:

For me, **tolerance** means:

► Give an example of solidarity and tolerance in class.

► Make up your own solidarity slogan.



## Long live peace!

In 2012 the European Union was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. It decided to use the prize fund to help children who haven't had the chance to grow up in peace. So far, thousands of disadvantaged children have benefited from educational programmes.

# ECO-CONSUMPTION

## Being responsible

EU citizens are also consumers who buy all sorts of products and services for their basic needs or for pleasure.

We are all responsible for looking at what we're using and how we're travelling. When we make good choices and carry out small eco-friendly actions in our daily lives we are supporting sustainable development.

The European Union uses many different actions to encourage the 27 EU countries to apply sustainable policies that benefit all the people of Europe and of the world.

- ▶ Do you think that these small gestures are good for sustainable development?

### WATER

It rains all the time! So I don't worry about it and I leave the taps running.

YES  NO *That's silly!*

### FOOD

I would rather eat fresh food and local produce than buy strawberries in the middle of winter.

YES  NO

### ENERGY

I always leave the lights on: they create a nice atmosphere in the house.

YES  NO

### TRANSPORT

When possible, I travel by bike rather than by car.

YES  NO

## What is sustainable development?

Sustainable development is a more respectful way of consuming: we meet our current needs but think about those who will come after us. It's important to leave behind a clean planet for our children. Sustainable development takes into account the environment, the economy and life as a society.



# ENVIRONMENT

## Protecting nature

In order to live happily together, it's important to **take care of our environment**: water, air, plants and animals. Human activities sometimes upset the balance of nature. So we have to change some of our behaviour. The European Union works to prevent pollution and global warming.

### Global warming

On average, every person in the EU throws more than a kilo of rubbish in the bin every day. And there are around 447 million of us!

Thankfully, we have been recycling lots of products for years: plastic bottles, cans, glass, paper and cardboard. Many single-use plastic products such as straws, cutlery and plates are no longer allowed in the EU. Through this simple action we are helping to fight pollution.

► What would you put in each of these bins?

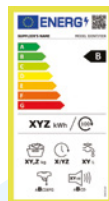


### Do you recognise these labels?

This one guarantees that a product is environmentally-friendly

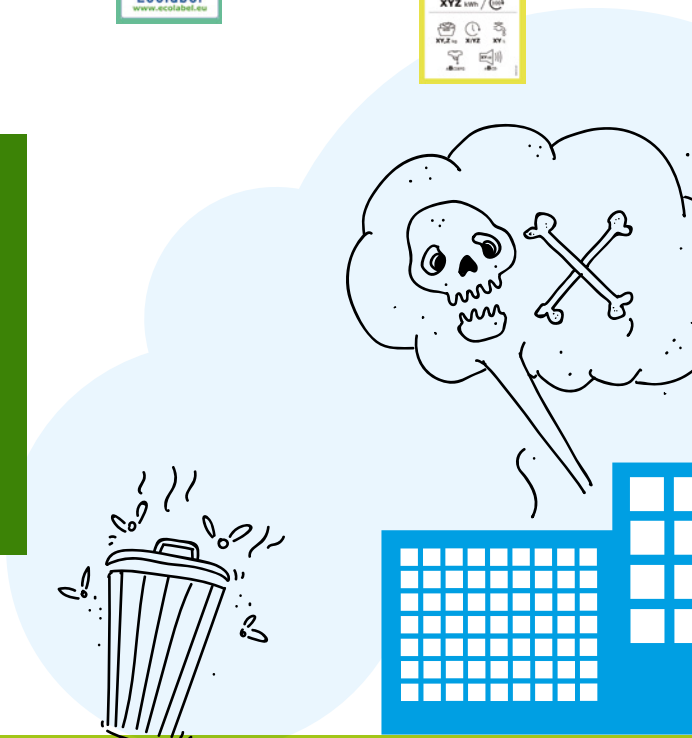


That one shows how much energy an electronic appliance uses.



### CE Marking

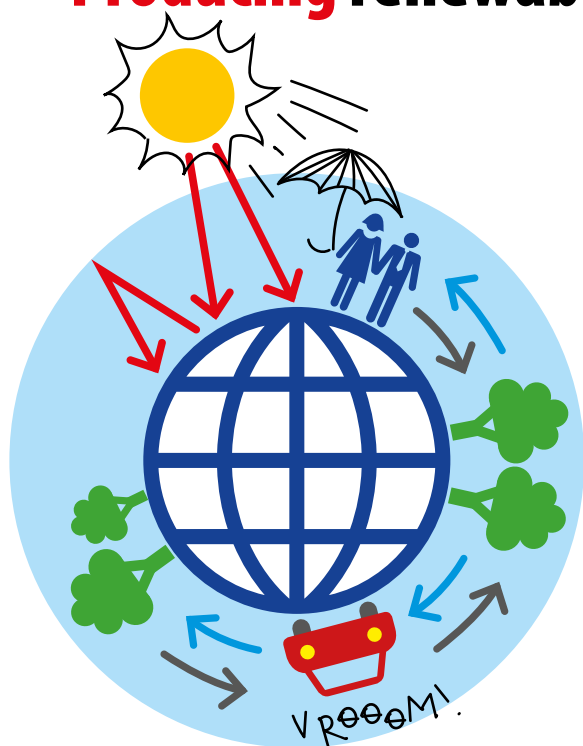
Do you recognise the CE mark? It's compulsory for many products. It means that the product meets the EU's safety, health and **environmental protection** requirements. You'll find it on many objects in your house, including toys. Have a look!





## ENERGY AND CLIMATE

# Producing renewable energies



Pollution has no borders. Every second on our planet a patch of forest the size of a football pitch is destroyed to make wood or paper. This pollution is destroying the earth's 'green lungs' and producing too many greenhouse gases.

### Greenhouse effect

The sun's rays travel through our atmosphere and heat our planet. But, like in a greenhouse where we grow plants or vegetables, some of the sun's rays don't leave the earth. This natural phenomenon is called the greenhouse effect.

### Green lungs

Thanks to chlorophyll, green plants absorb greenhouse gases and release oxygen. Humans, like cars, do the opposite: they take in oxygen and expel  $\text{CO}_2$ , or carbon dioxide. **It's this gas that is most to blame for the greenhouse effect and global warming.** So we do the opposite of plants. And when we destroy these plants we're destroying the green lungs that give us oxygen to live.

## Protecting nature

The entire world is affected by the environment and the climate. The EU works hard to stop climate change. By 2050, it aims to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent in the world. To do so, the EU countries have agreed that by 2030 they will for instance:

- reduce greenhouse gases by **55 %**;
- reduce energy use by **32.5 %**;
- produce at least **32 %** of their energy from renewable sources (wind, solar or marine energy, etc.);
- have at least 30 million zero-emission cars on European roads;
- plant 3 billion trees.



## FARMING AND FOOD

# Eating well

Eating well means eating a little of everything to satisfy our hunger, no more and no less. So ideally our farmers and breeders would produce **a large range of foods, and enough to feed everyone.**

### Brief history of the common agricultural policy

In 1957 the six founding countries — Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands — decided that there would be no more hunger in Europe. In 1962 they launched the **CAP — the common agricultural policy.**

The aim was to produce enough food for everyone and to ensure that farmers could make a living off their land. European farmers received financial aid and could produce as much as they wanted. But because they produced so much, there were thousands of tonnes of food that nobody wanted to buy. What a waste!

### Better farming since the 1980s

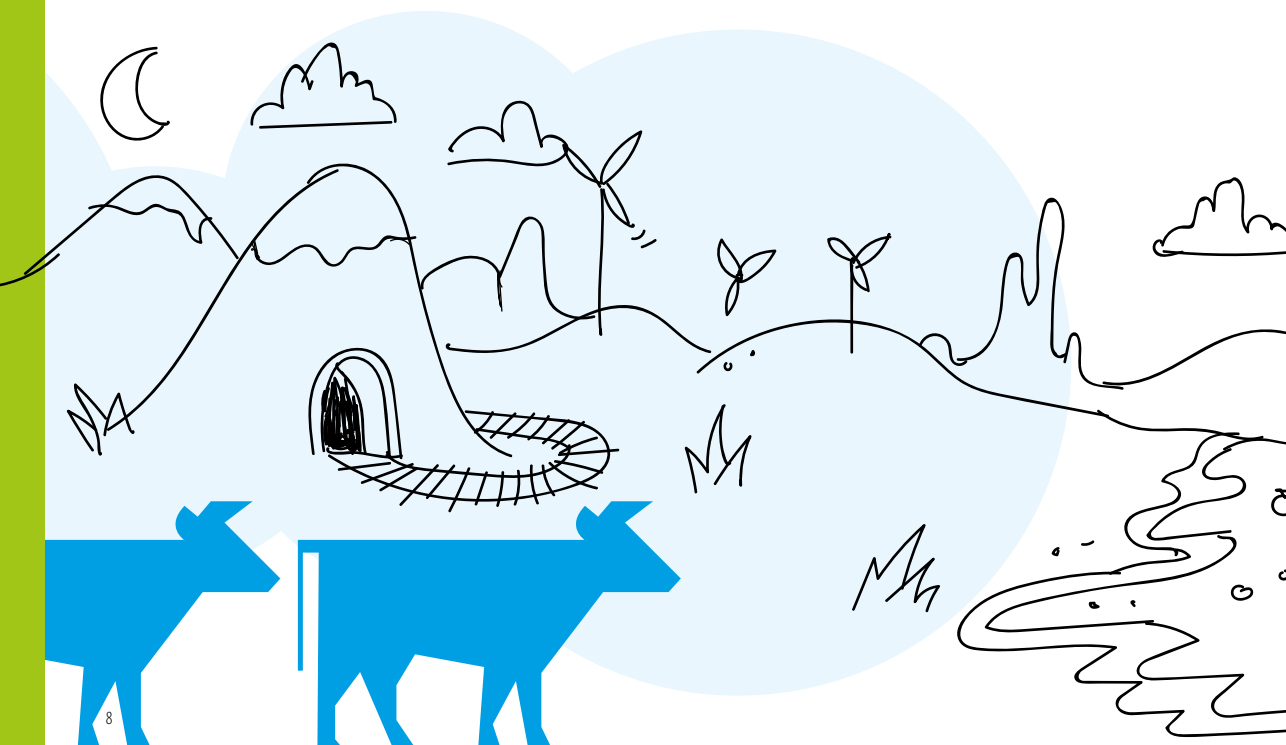
Since the 1980s farmers haven't been able to just produce whatever they want, however they want. High-quality food is the rule now. There are also **rules** to ensure that animals are better treated. Europe encourages its farmers to get involved in other activities. For example:

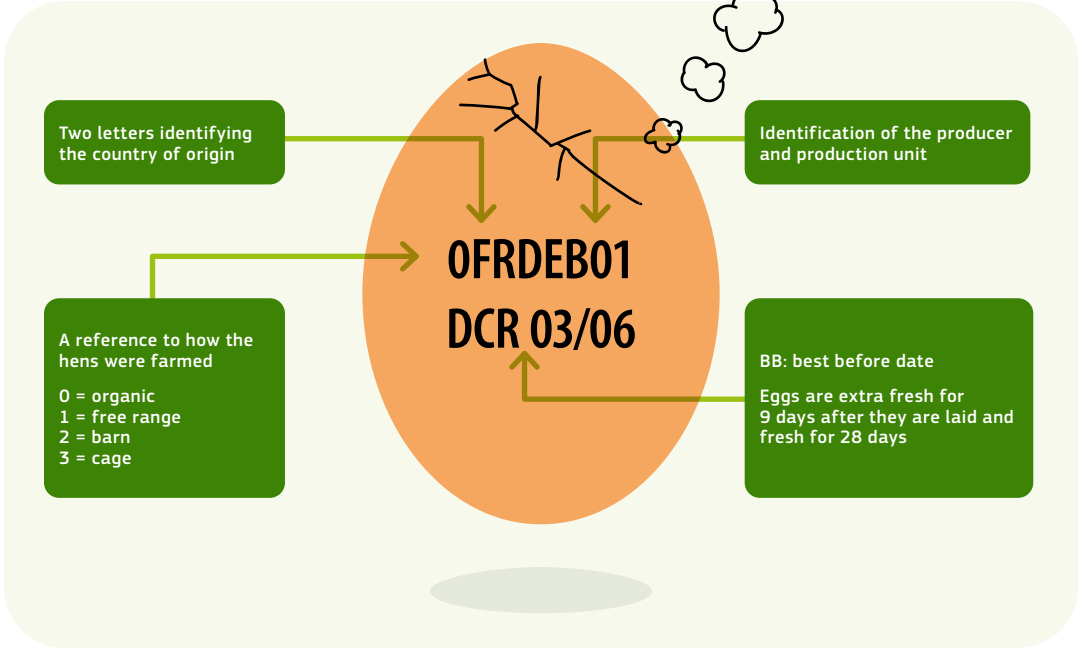
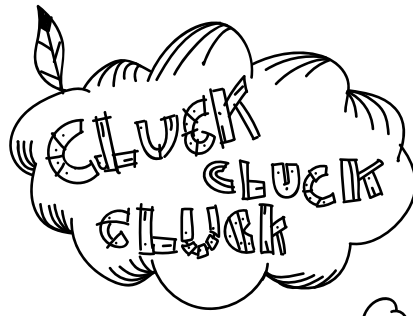
- ▶ Have you heard of agritourism?
- ▶ Have you ever visited a farm?
- ▶ Have you ever bought food directly from a farm?

### Today we have a varied and high-quality diet

Nowadays farmers and food shops have to put logos and labels on the packaging of 'farm to fork' foods. The labels tell us how the food is made, show its 'use by' date, etc.

For example, eggs always have a code that tells you the country where they were laid and whether the hens lived outdoors or in a cage.





Many products also have European logos that **certify their quality or origin**.

► Look for some in your fridge or kitchen cupboards.



The 'Protected Designation of Origin' logo means that the product has to be made, processed and prepared in a specific place or region.

Examples are: *Kalamata* olive oil (Greece), *Mel do Alentejo* honey (Portugal), *Herve* cheese (Belgium) and *Stupavské zelé* sauerkraut (Slovakia).



The 'Protected Geographical Indication' logo means that at least one of the stages in making the product (production, processing or preparation) has taken place in a specific place or region.

Examples are: *Kiełbasa piaszczańska* pork sausage (Poland) and *Asparago di Cantello* asparagus (Italy).



This logo guarantees that 95 % of the ingredients are made organically and gives the name of the producer or seller.



## NO MORE JUNK FOOD!

More than half of all adults in the EU are overweight. If nothing is done, Europe will face a real epidemic by 2030. Children and young people are also affected: in 2019 one young person out of five in the EU was overweight or obese.

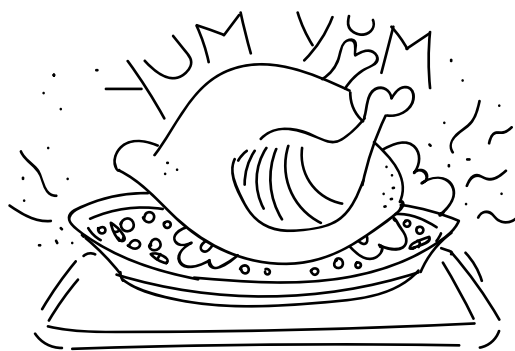
### How can we get rid of junk food?

Some schools have decided to ban hamburgers, chips, pizzas and fizzy drinks. Under the European school fruit scheme, pupils are given free fruit and vegetables, and are encouraged to adopt healthy eating habits.

### To eat healthily we need five portions of fruit and vegetables a day.

It might seem like a lot, but it is possible!

- It's your birthday soon! Describe or draw your dream meal ... and do not forget to include the five portions of fruit and vegetables you need for a healthy diet.



# CULTURE

## Evoking emotions



### Do you know what 'culture' is?

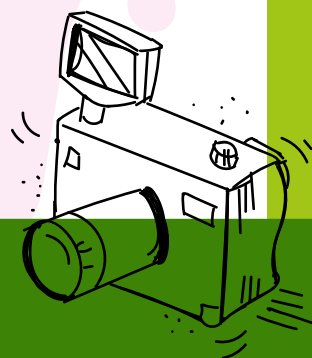
Culture is the expression of our way of life. Culture reflects the diversity of our traditions, our customs and our values. It encompasses the languages we speak, arts and arts venues, the architecture of our buildings, education and a whole range of other things.

Discovering our own culture and the culture of others allows us to better understand one another and better live together.

### Creative Europe

The European Union supports the development of many cultural and audiovisual sectors in the 27 EU countries. Its aim is to raise awareness of talented creators in EU countries and to create numerous jobs in every cultural sector: cinema, TV, computer games, museums, music, books, etc.

- Reveal your inner artist! Think of all the cultural sectors you are aware of and draw your favourite.



### Did you know?

Every year certain European cities are chosen to be the European Capitals of Culture. Has a city in your region already held the title?

# IT SECURITY

## Sharing safely



Thanks to the internet you can play online, listen to music and search for videos and information to help with your homework. It's also great to be able to chat with your friends or share your photos.

Social networks such as Instagram or Snapchat allow you to stay in touch with friends, keep up to date with family, take funny photos and sometimes make new friends. People often think that the more friends they have, the more 'popular' they are.

### Popularity or privacy?

It's important to follow one rule of caution at all times: never give out very personal information to new 'friends', and especially not to people you hardly know. You have to protect what is known as your 'privacy'. And **the privacy of your close friends and family**, too.





## Watch out for fake friends!

When you use the internet, social networks or text messaging, certain malicious people may try to con you or intrude on your privacy.

The EU has set up the 'Safer internet' programme to protect young people from the risks and challenges of the internet and make them more responsible.

- ▶ Have a look at the website [www.betterinternetforkids.eu/sic](http://www.betterinternetforkids.eu/sic) with an adult, and you will find some tips and tricks for safe surfing. Click on the map to find resources in your country.

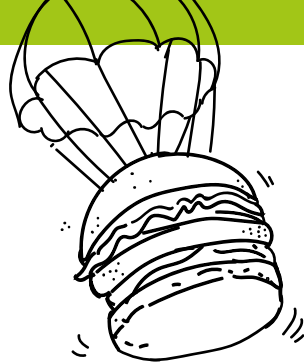
## And beware of spam!

Spam, or junk mail, is a message from someone who pretends to know you. Usually they want to sell you something or ask you for money.



# EUROPE IN THE WORLD

## Helping poor countries



### Aid for poor countries

As we've seen, one of the European Union's key values is **solidarity**. One example of this is the fight against poverty, which still affected one out of every five Europeans in 2019.

And we're not the only ones in the world. Did you know that more than 700 million people live on around 1.5 euro per day? Many countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America suffer from this kind of poverty. There are still too many people on our planet who don't have access to drinking water, healthcare or education. **It's our duty to act!**

Together, the EU and its members provide more than half of all global aid.

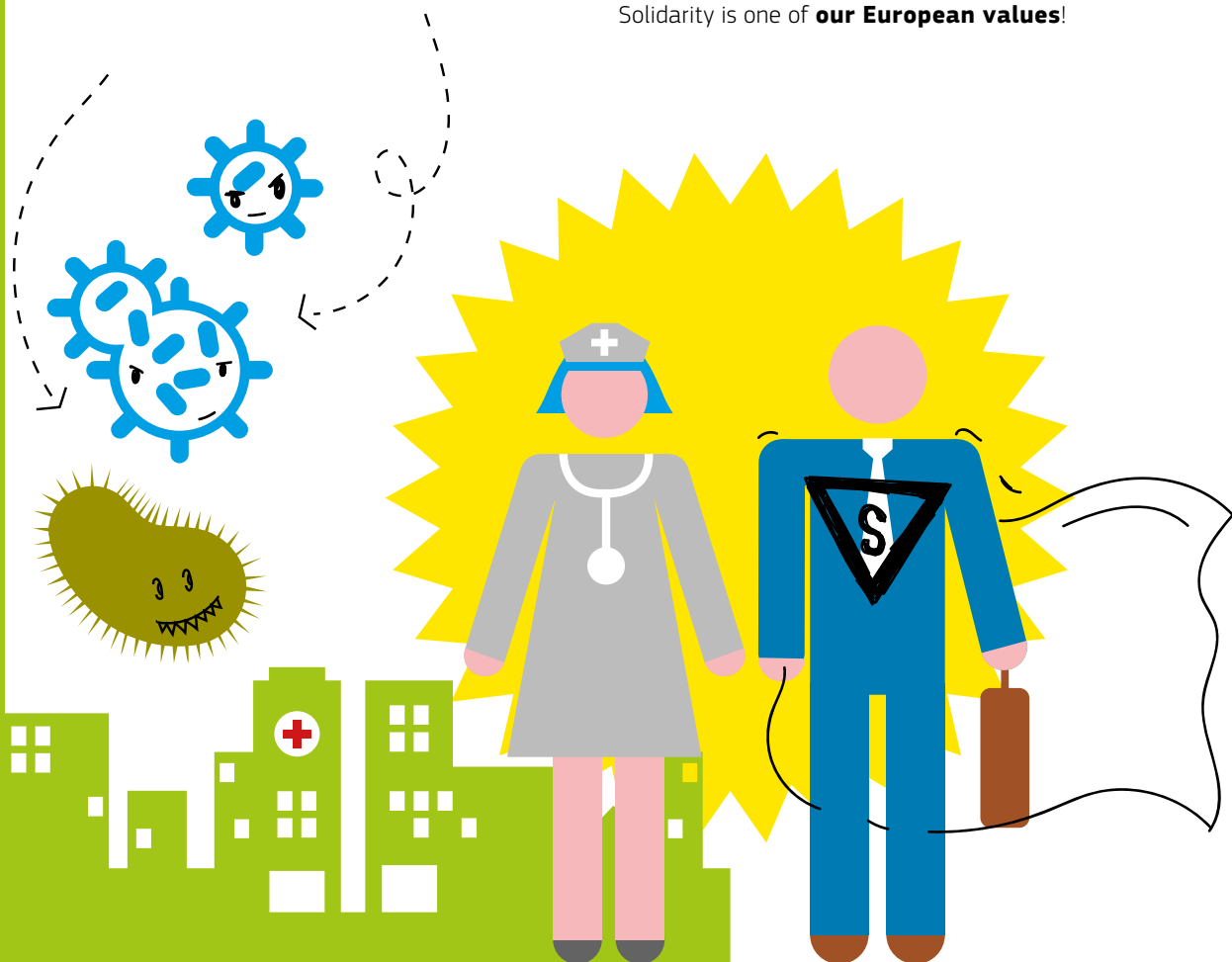
### Humanitarian aid

Every year around the world, millions of people are affected by natural disasters, conflicts and wars.

The EU's humanitarian aid **saves lives** and provides food, shelter, medicine and drinking water to people in need. It is used to support families who have to leave war-torn countries and to rebuild buildings that have been destroyed.

### Why is this important?

Living together means sharing times of joy but also showing concern for the small and large misfortunes of our neighbours, near and far. Solidarity is one of **our European values!**





► What can you do to help us

## **better live together?**

What could you do in your daily life to improve life in your community, in your family, in your school or in your street?

A large grid of small grey dots arranged in 15 columns and 20 rows, intended for writing answers to the question above.

**If you want to learn how Europe is organised and operates on a daily basis, have a look at these two brochures:**



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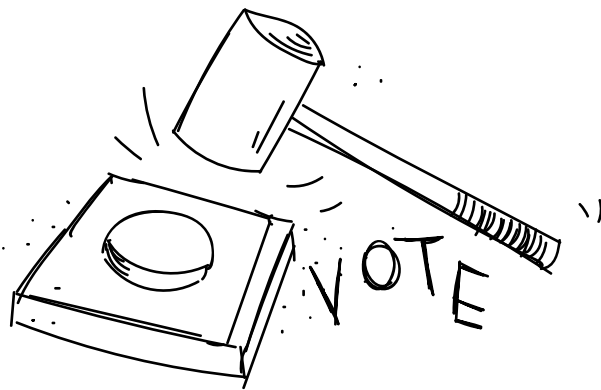
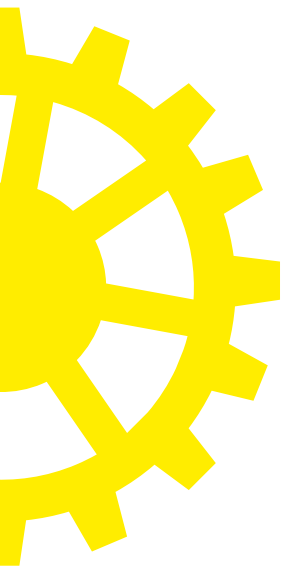
# EUROPE Organising together!



EN



HAMBURGER PLEASE



## CONTENTS

### EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

**Taking decisions together** ..... 4

### RIGHTS AND CITIZENSHIP

**Respecting our differences** ..... 6

### YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

**Listening to our young people** ..... 7

### SINGLE MARKET

**Cooperating with our neighbours** ..... 8

### THE SINGLE CURRENCY AND THE EURO AREA

**Making it easy to trade** ..... 9

### EU BUDGET

**Investing in our future** ..... 11

### TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

**Quiz time!** ..... 14

# EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

## Taking decisions together

The European Union isn't a state like Bulgaria, Italy or Spain. It's a voluntary association of European countries that have decided to **carry out projects together**.

It has strong institutions to which the European countries have transferred some of their powers. Each institution has a role and is led by a president.

### How does the European Union work?

#### The European Council ①: the meeting of the leaders of the European countries

The European Council brings together the Heads of State or Government of the EU Member States. In principle, they meet four times a year. These meetings are called '**European summits**' and are used to discuss everything that is happening in Europe and to decide on the EU's broad political guidelines.

The Council is based in Brussels (Belgium).

#### The European Commission ②

The Commission is the European Union's government. It proposes new laws and ensures that they are respected.

It consists of 27 **Commissioners** (one per country), and each Commissioner is responsible for one or more issues (e.g. environment, transport, education).

It is based in Brussels.

#### The European Parliament ③

The European Parliament is the voice of the European people. Its Members are elected by the people in European elections.

It adopts the EU's laws and budget along with the Council of the European Union.

It is based in Strasbourg (France), Brussels and Luxembourg.

#### The Council of the European Union, or Council of Ministers ①

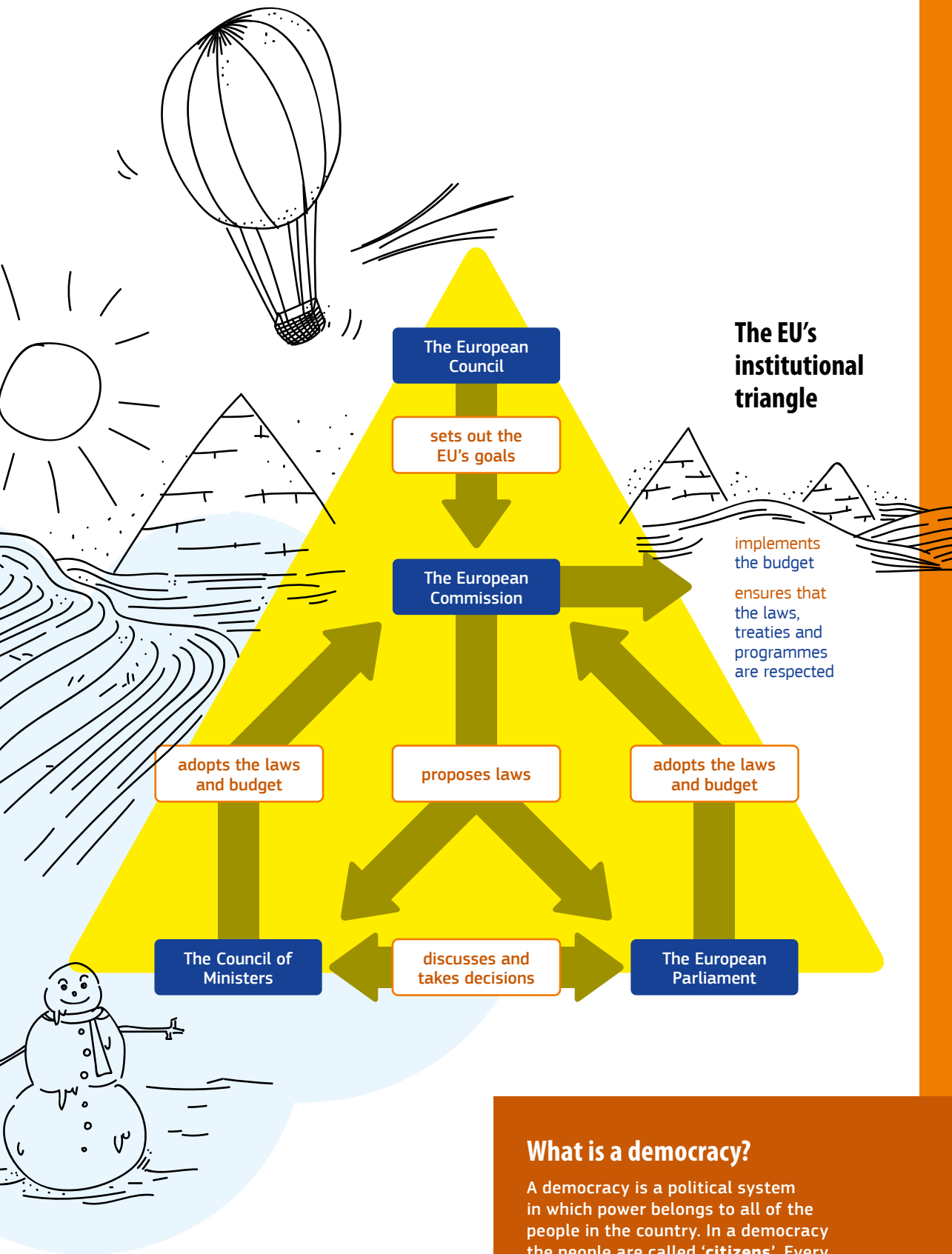
The Council is composed of ministers from the EU Member States. There is one minister per country. But it's not always the same minister as it depends on the issue being discussed.

For example, if it is the Agriculture Council the agriculture minister will take part.

It adopts the EU's laws and budget along with the European Parliament.

The Council of the European Union is based in Brussels.





## What is a democracy?

A democracy is a political system in which power belongs to all of the people in the country. In a democracy the people are called 'citizens'. Every citizen of voting age has the right to vote in elections.

## RIGHTS AND CITIZENSHIP

# Respecting our differences

In the European Union every citizen of voting age has the right to vote for politicians who stand in elections. **The citizens' right to vote is an essential feature of any democracy.**

**The right to vote ... and to be protected.**

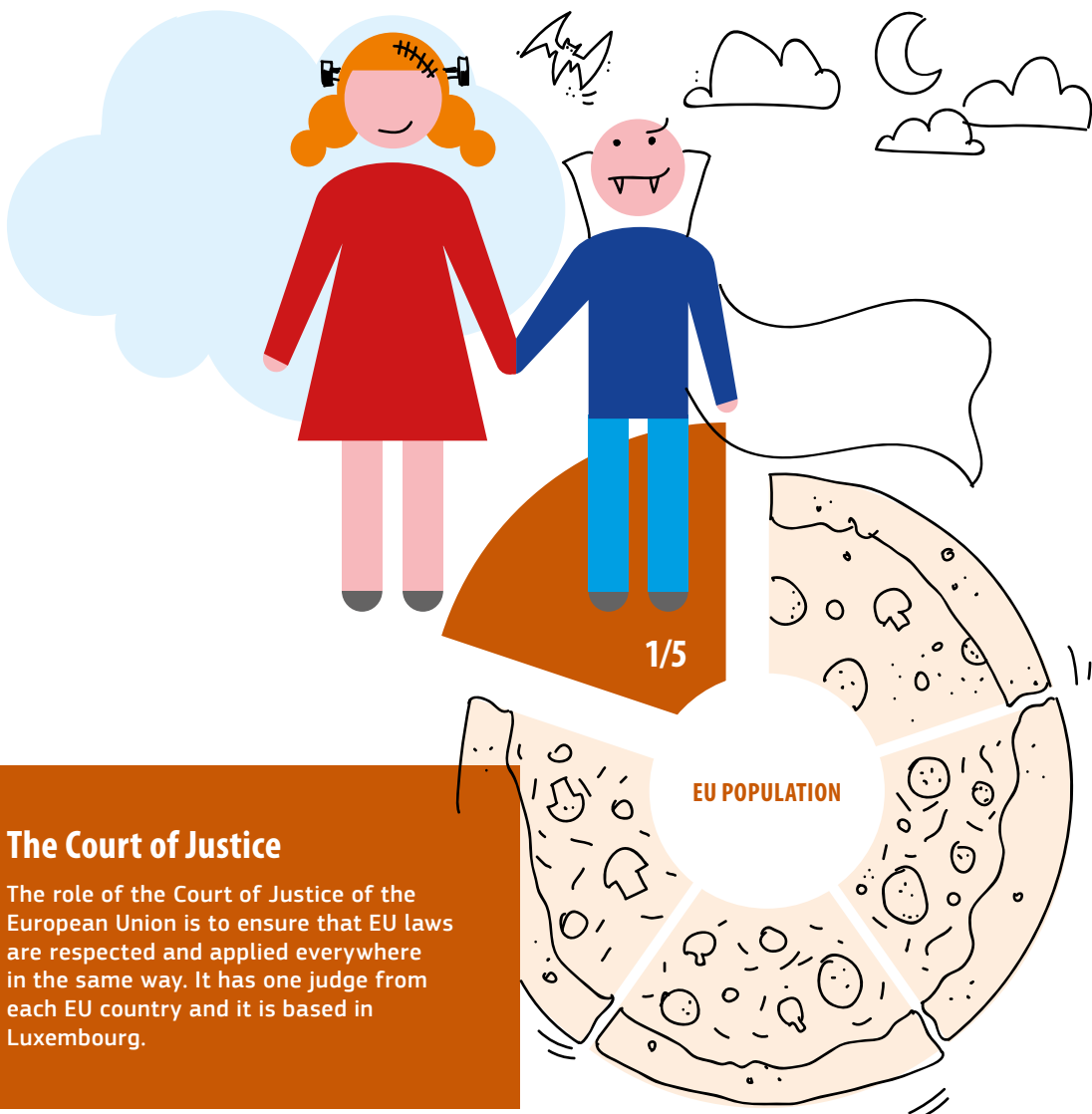
All EU citizens have rights and freedoms. These rights and freedoms are gathered together in a single document called the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. Everyone has to respect this charter.

## Specific rights of the child

Children are EU citizens in their own right. They represent almost **a fifth of the population of the European Union.**

The Charter of Fundamental Rights is essential because it gives children a whole range of specific rights: the right to go to school, the right to express themselves, the right to protection and to healthcare, etc.

You can read about your rights here:  
The European Union's plan for children's rights  
(<https://europa.eu/ljmqwc/>)



## The Court of Justice

The role of the Court of Justice of the European Union is to ensure that EU laws are respected and applied everywhere in the same way. It has one judge from each EU country and it is based in Luxembourg.



# YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

## Listening to our young people

Because young Europeans are citizens in their own right, they have the right to express themselves. And they do! In many EU countries young people can make their voices heard through, for example, a national youth parliament. The EU institutions also ask the opinions of young people and youth organisations on topics of interest to them through the EU Youth Dialogue (<https://europa.eu/J3PfDR>).

► What do you want to say?

Set up a mini-parliament in your class and talk about issues that directly affect you. For example:

- Better ways of living together in our day-to-day lives;
- Better ways of applying and protecting children's rights.



# SINGLE MARKET

## Cooperating with our neighbours

The EU is a vast territory of almost 4 million km<sup>2</sup> in which different cultures exist side by side. To make the lives of Europeans easier, most EU countries have done away with passport checks at their borders. So everyone who lives in an EU country is free to move, live and find work in any other EU country.

### Young people too!

Young people can also move around Europe thanks to a programme called [Erasmus+](#). This programme allows students and young people to go to another country and study, volunteer or train there.

Travelling allows us to learn more languages. One of the main assets of our European Union is the **large number of languages** spoken here. The more we talk, the more we **understand one another and the better organised we are**.

- ▶ Do you know how many official languages there are in the European Union?

### Did you know?

The Schengen area is an **area of free movement of people** between the countries that have signed the Schengen Agreement (Schengen is a town in Luxembourg). The Schengen area covers 27 countries: 23 EU countries and four non-EU countries. Within the Schengen area any person from the European Union (or anywhere else) can cross the borders of the other Schengen countries without having to show their passport.

- ▶ Can you name any of the EU's official languages? <sup>(1)</sup>

— 12?  
— 24?  
— 60?



<sup>(1)</sup> See the table on page 15 for the answers.

# THE SINGLE CURRENCY AND THE EURO AREA

## Making it easy to trade

### A single currency

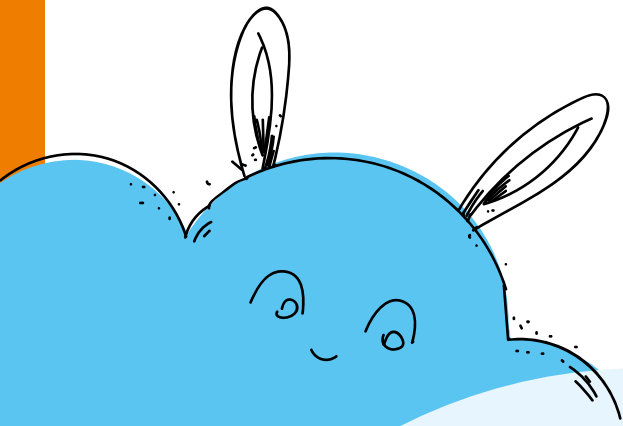
Since 1 January 2002, following on from the 1992 Maastricht Treaty, some EU countries have shared a common currency: the euro. Currently, 20 countries use the euro: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain.

Together they form the euro area. The other countries - Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Sweden - still use their national currencies.

### Did you know?

The euro sign (€) was inspired by the Greek letter epsilon and refers to the first letter of the word 'Europe'. The parallel lines crossing it are similar to the lines used in the symbols of two other well-known currencies: the dollar and the yen.





► Which countries do these coins come from?

1		<input type="radio"/> ESTONIA	5
2		<input type="radio"/> FINLAND	
3		<input type="radio"/> GERMANY	6
4		<input type="radio"/> GREECE	
		<input type="radio"/> ITALY	
		<input type="radio"/> MALTA	7
		<input type="radio"/> SLOVENIA	
		<input type="radio"/> SPAIN	8

► Answers

1 Estonia – 2 Malta – 3 Italy – 4 Slovenia – 5 Estonia – 6 Germany – 7 Greece – 8 Spain

## The European Central Bank

The European Central Bank (ECB) ensures that the euro is working properly and authorises the production of euro notes by the euro area countries. The ECB is based in Frankfurt (Germany).

► Do you recognise this famous composer? Do you know his name and which country he comes from?



► Answer  
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Austria.

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## EU BUDGET

# Investing in our future

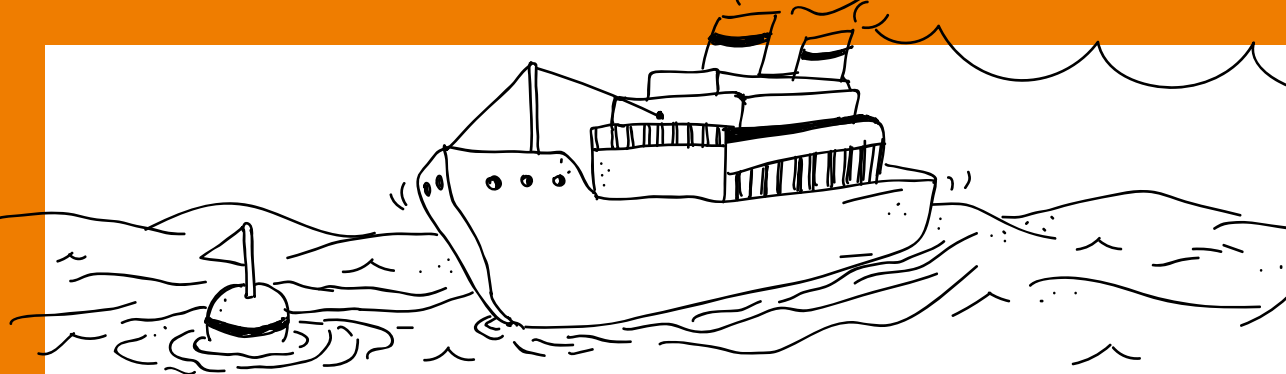
The European Union invests in many areas: education, the environment, research into new technologies, agriculture, etc. But in order to invest it needs money. And it also needs to organise how that money is divided up: that's what we call a **'budget'**.

## Where does the EU's money come from?

Most of the EU's budget comes from the EU countries.

It's used to **finance numerous projects throughout Europe** (building roads and bridges, schools and universities, scientific research centres, museums, hospitals, factories) but also to promote exchanges of young people, jobs in Europe, and to protect the environment.





## Projects supported by the European Union

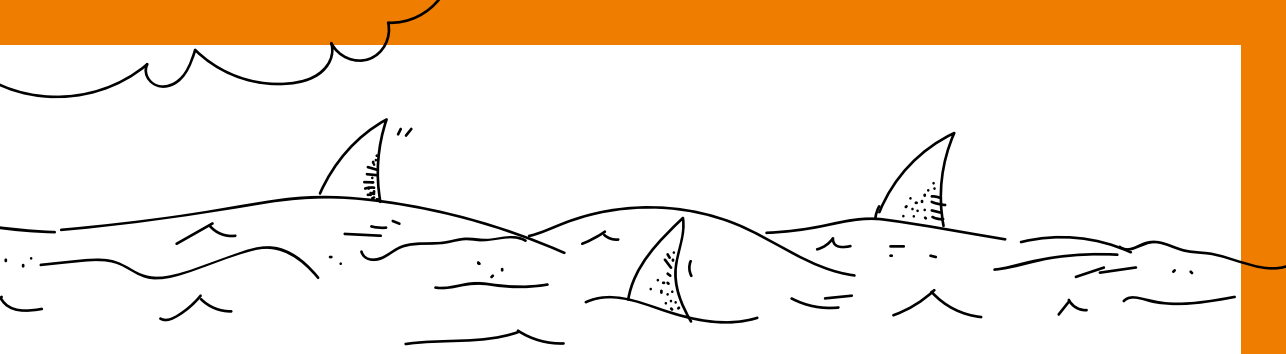
Hundreds of thousands of projects have received EU investment over the years. Here are some examples and you can find others at:

<https://kohesio.ec.europa.eu/en/>

## Improve energy efficiency in schools

Many schools in Europe consume a lot of energy. The Energy@School project has helped over 40 primary and secondary schools in seven EU countries – Austria, Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland and Slovenia – to save energy. It has trained pupils and teachers to become 'energy guardians', in order to get them involved in creating 'energy smart' schools.





## Fighting childhood cancers

Austrian biotech firm Apeiron Biologics develops medicines to treat cancer, especially rare forms that mainly affect children. An EU loan is helping the company to expand its research and develop new ways of fighting the disease.

## Smart playgrounds for children

Children are increasingly playing on electronic devices at home rather than having fun in playgrounds. Lack of exercise and poor diet mean that more and more of them are becoming obese. Thanks to EU funding, the Bulgarian company Playground Energy has developed playgrounds that transform kinetic energy into sound and light, encouraging children to move more and live healthier lives.

► What about where you live? Do you know of any actions supported by the EU in your country, your region or your town?



## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

# Quiz time!

There are 24 EU official languages. Although English is often used, the EU is committed to preserving the richness of each language and encourages everyone living in the EU to learn several languages so that they can better understand one another. To organise ourselves we have to understand each other better!



**Hello**

**I don't understand - Un helado**

**Danke - ¡Hola! - Bitte - Entschuldigung**

**Tschüss - Thank you - Ein Eis**

**No entiendo - Sorry - Por favor - Hallo**

**Goodbye - Tengo hambre - Das verstehe ich nicht**

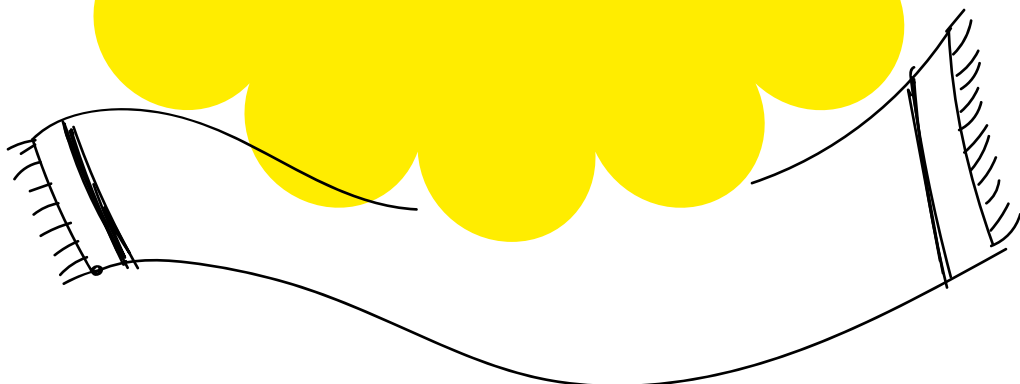
**Perdón - Please - Ich habe Hunger**

**How are you? - ¡Hasta pronto! - See you**

**Adiós - An ice cream - Bis bald**

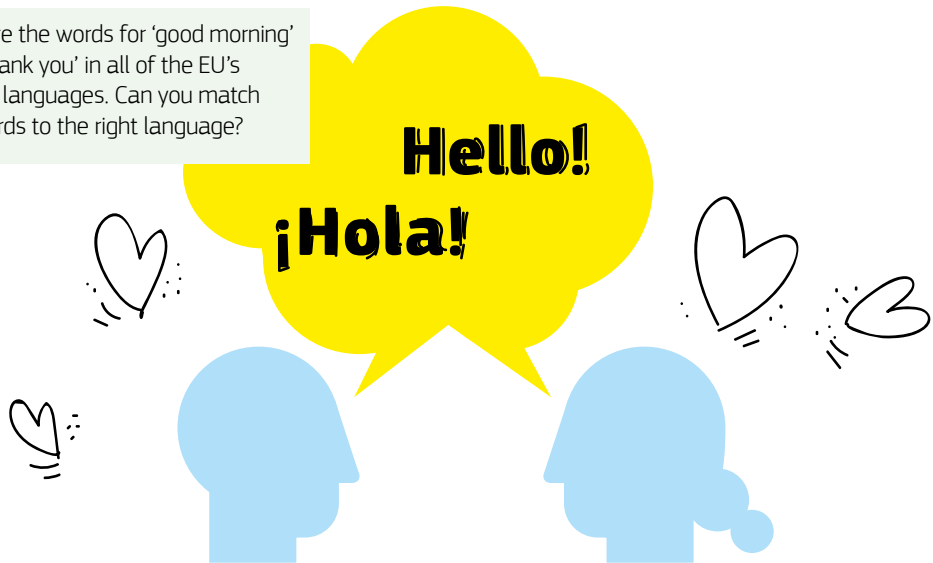
**Gracias - Wie geht's? - I am hungry**

**¿Cómo estás?**





► Here are the words for 'good morning' and 'thank you' in all of the EU's official languages. Can you match the words to the right language?



Greeting	Language	Appreciation
Dobro utro - добро утро	<b>Bulgarian</b>	Obrigado
Bună dimineața	<b>Croatian</b>	Efkaristo - ευχαριστώ
L-Għodwa t-Tajba	<b>Czech</b>	Blagodarya - Благодаря
Labrīt	<b>Danish</b>	Gracias
Guten Tag	<b>Dutch</b>	Merci
God morgon	<b>English</b>	Hvala
Dia dhuit	<b>Estonian</b>	Tack
Bom dia	<b>Finnish</b>	Hvala
Goedemorgen	<b>French</b>	Grazie
Dobré ráno	<b>German</b>	Ačiū
Labas Rytas	<b>Greek</b>	Bedankt
God morgen	<b>Hungarian</b>	Dziękuję
Tere hommikust	<b>Irish</b>	Paldies
Buenos días	<b>Italian</b>	Danke
Bonjour	<b>Latvian</b>	Tak
Buongiorno	<b>Lithuanian</b>	Thank you
Dzień dobry	<b>Maltese</b>	Děkuji
Good morning	<b>Polish</b>	Ďakujem
Hyvää huomenta	<b>Portuguese</b>	Go raibh maith agat
Dobro jutro	<b>Romanian</b>	Grazzi
Kalimera - Καλημέρα	<b>Slovak</b>	Aitäh
Jó reggelt	<b>Slovenian</b>	Köszönöm
Dobré ráno	<b>Spanish</b>	Kiitos
Dobro jutro	<b>Swedish</b>	Mulțumesc

► Answers:

Bulgarian: Dobro utro - добро утро, Blagodarya - Благодаря; Croatian: Efkaristo - ευχαριστώ; Czech: Dobré ráno, Hvala; Danish: God morgen, Tack; Dutch: Goedemorgen, Bedankt; English: Good morning, Thank you; Estonian: Tere hommikust, Aitäh; Finnish: Hyvää huomenta, Kiitos; French: Bonjour, Merci; German: Guten Tag, Danke; Greek: Kalimera - Καλημέρα; Hungarian: Jó reggelt, Köszönöm; Italian: Buon giorno, Grazie; Latvian: Labrīt, Paldies; Lithuanian: Labas rytas, Ačiū; Maltese: Labas Rytas, Grazzi; Polish: Dzień dobry, Dziękuję; Portuguese: Bom dia, Obrigado; Romanian: Bună dimineața, Mulțumesc; Slovak: Dobré ráno, Ďakujem; Slovenian: Dobro jutro, Hvala; Spanish: Buenos días, Gracias; Swedish: God morgon, Tack.

**If you want to learn where Europe comes from and how it operates on a daily basis, have a look at these two brochures:**



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**In person**

**GETTING IN TOUCH WITH THE EU**

**EUROPE Better together!**

EN

**EUROPE Building together!**

The European Union has only existed for a few decades. Yet the story of how it was built goes back several centuries.

Today we are united in diversity. But this common project could only come about because of the will of the men and women who went before and who truly believed in it. The European Union is much more than a dream: it's a shared space built around friendship so that our continent never again has to experience hunger or war.

No matter how old we are, we have to remember our roots in order to build our future. Now we all have a role to play in building Europe.

**The main stages of European integration**

- 1945: End of the Second World War
- 1951: European Coal and Steel Community
- 1957: Treaty of Rome — European Economic Community
- 1989: Fall of the Berlin Wall
- 1992: Maastricht Treaty — European Union
- 2002: Single currency
- 2007: Treaty of Lisbon

**EUROPE Organising together!**

With around 447 million inhabitants, the European Union (EU) is made up of 27 countries, in which one or more of the EU's 24 official languages are spoken.

To enable all of these people to coexist and continue to build a common project, the countries agreed on a way of working based on treaties and institutions.

It means that they can take decisions together on issues such as free movement, the single market, identical rights for all and the single currency.

The EU's laws and treaties protect and guide its inhabitants. If we can increasingly organise together, we will create a common area where prosperity goes hand in hand with justice and freedom.

**Hello**

- I don't understand - Un helado
- Danke - ¡Hola! - Bitte - Entschuldigung
- Tschüss - Thank you - Ein Eis
- No entiendo - Sorry - Por favor - Hallo
- Goodbye - Tengo hambre
- Das verstehe ich nicht - Gracias
- Perdón - Please - Ich habe Hunger
- How are you? - ¡Hasta pronto! - See you
- Adiós - An ice cream - Bis bald
- Wie geht's? - I am hungry
- ¿Cómo estás?

**EUROPE Living together!**

One of the strengths of our vast shared territory is the diversity of the cultures and behaviours that we adopt help us to live together.

Safe food, protection of the environment, IT security, humanitarian aid and solidarity: these are some of the issues that the EU is concerned about and is working to improve.

Let's be brave and reach out to others: our choices as citizens, the small and big gestures we make in our daily lives, are what make Europe so wonderful.

**To really be together, we have to be united**

Children, teenagers, adults: we all shape the Europe of tomorrow in our own way.

Building, organising and living together more successfully: that's the challenge facing us all if we want to build a peaceful and prosperous Europe.

- Respecting our differences
- Listening to our young people
- Investing in our future
- Affirming our diversity
- Remembering our roots
- Looking to the future
- Protecting nature
- Eating well
- Evoking emotions
- Etc.

**What is Europe?**

**Why?**

**CONTENTS**

**Since when?**

**I LOVE DRAWING ON EUROPE!**

**LET'S GO!**

**#Hi GORDON ITS ME, GORDON**

**EUROPE Do you want to know more?**

**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT EUROPE**

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 Information on the European Union, in the EU's 24 official languages:  
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**Learning corner website**  
 Teaching resources and games about the EU for children aged 5 to 18, their teachers and parents: [europa.eu/learning-corner/home\\_en](http://europa.eu/learning-corner/home_en)

**European Youth Portal**  
 European and national information about education, jobs, travel and much more for young people:  
[europa.eu/young-europe](http://europa.eu/young-europe)

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[europa.eu/learning-corner/en-timeline/overview](http://europa.eu/learning-corner/en-timeline/overview)  
[europa.eu/about-eu/history\\_en](http://europa.eu/about-eu/history_en)

**Your Europe**  
 Help and advice for EU nationals and their families:  
[europa.eu/your-europe/citizens/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/your-europe/citizens/index_en.htm)

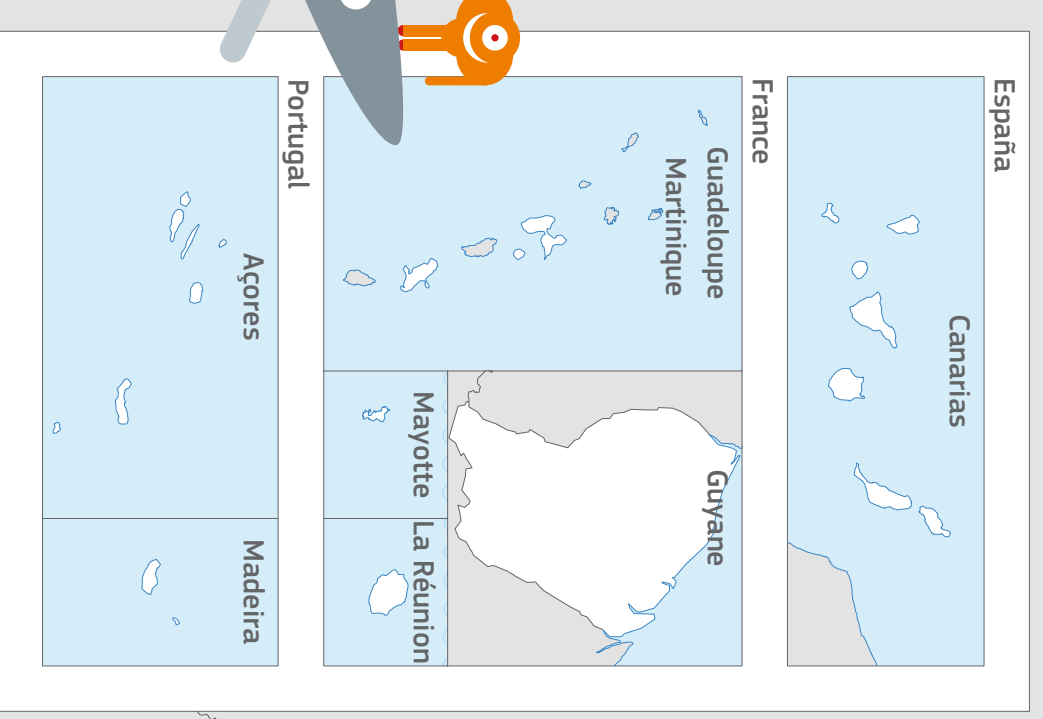
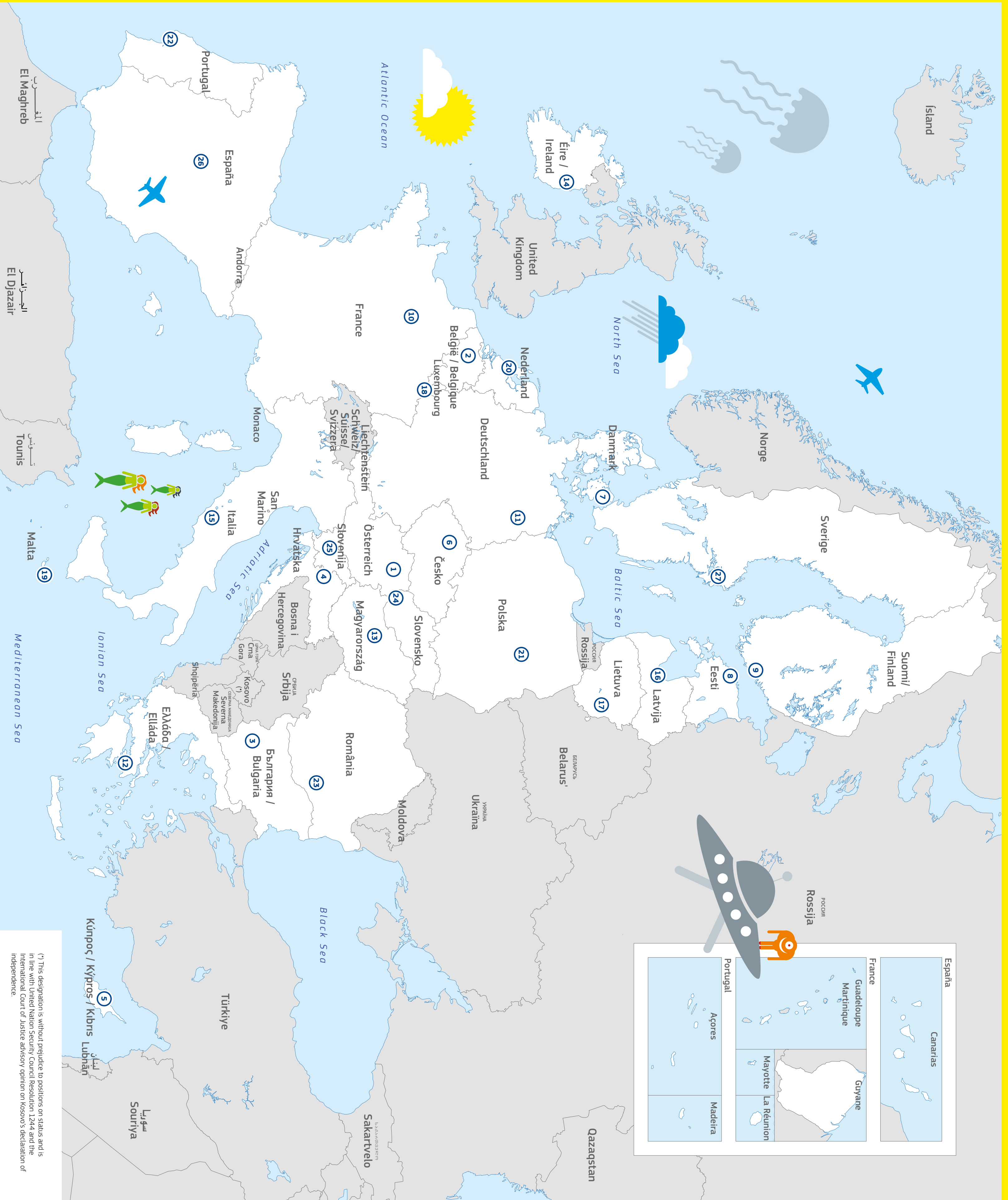
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(\*) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and the International Court of Justice advisory opinion on Kosovo's declaration of independence.

1		Austria Vienna	1995	€	📍
2		Belgium Brussels	1957	€	📍
3		Bulgaria Sofia	2007		📍
4		Croatia Zagreb	2013	€	📍
5		Cyprus Nicosia	2004	€	
6		Czechia Prague	2004		📍
7		Denmark Copenhagen	1973		📍
8		Estonia Tallinn	2004	€	📍
9		Finland Helsinki	1995	€	📍
10		France Paris	1957	€	📍
11		Germany Berlin	1957	€	📍
12		Greece Athens	1981	€	📍
13		Hungary Budapest	2004		📍
14		Ireland Dublin	1973	€	



# EU Member States

- € EU Member States in the euro area
- 📍 Countries in the Schengen area (including four non-EU countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland + Monaco and San Marino)
- 📍 Reference number and location of the country's capital



15		Italy Rome	1957	€	📍
16		Latvia Riga	2004	€	📍
17		Lithuania Vilnius	2004	€	📍
18		Luxembourg Luxembourg	1957	€	📍
19		Malta Valletta	2004	€	📍
20		Netherlands Amsterdam	1957	€	📍
21		Poland Warsaw	2004		📍
22		Portugal Lisbon	1986	€	📍
23		Romania Bucharest	2007		📍
24		Slovakia Bratislava	2004	€	📍
25		Slovenia Ljubljana	2004	€	📍
26		Spain Madrid	1986	€	📍
27		Sweden Stockholm	1995		📍