Better together!

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.)
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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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).

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.

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).

EU publications
You can view or order EU publications at 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).

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).

EU open data
The portal 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!

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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.

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**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.
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’.

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Answers

1951

European Coal and Steel Community
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 (1) became members. Then the enlargement towards the south of Europe started, with Greece joining in 1981, followed by Spain and Portugal in 1986.

(1) 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!
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.
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.
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.
Imagine you are in the future. What does the Europe of tomorrow look like to you?

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!
If you want to learn how Europe is organised and operates on a daily basis, have a look at these two brochures:
EUROPE Living together!
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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.
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.

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
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.

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**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.

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**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!
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 CO₂, 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.
**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* piaśczariska 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.
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.

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.
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?
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.

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**IDENTITY**
Choose a good (and cool) online name that doesn’t reveal your real identity.

**JUST FRIENDS!**
Don’t add people you don’t know to your contacts.

**TOP SECRET**
Don’t share your password with anyone; it’s personal!

**DISCRETION**
Don’t give out any personal information about you or your friends to people you don’t know.

**CAUTION**
Never switch on your webcam if a stranger asks you to.

**MODESTY**
Never do anything in front of a webcam that you wouldn’t do in public.

**VIGILANCE**
If you notice something unusual, ask an adult you trust for advice.

**REspect**
Treat others as you would like to be treated; be kind and respectful.

**IT SECURITY**
Sharing safely
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 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.

Dear Gordon,

You’re under the age of 15. Sign up with us and get all your text messages free!

But hurry. Tomorrow will be too late.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks ;)

This is such a scam!
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?
If you want to learn how Europe is organised and operates on a daily basis, have a look at these two brochures:
EUROPE
Organising together!
HAMBURGER PLEASE
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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**: 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.
The EU’s institutional triangle

The European Council
- sets out the EU’s goals

The European Commission
- proposes laws
- adopts the laws and budget

The European Parliament
- discusses and takes decisions
- adopts the laws and budget

The Council of Ministers
- adopts the laws and budget

The European Parliament
- implements the budget
- ensures that the laws, treaties and programmes are respected

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.
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.
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.

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).
The EU is a vast territory of almost 4 million km² 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?
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.
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?

Answers
1. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Austria.

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Answers
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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.
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.

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/
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?
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?
Hello!
¡Hola!

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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Greeting</th>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Appreciation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dobro utro - добро утро</td>
<td>Bulgarian</td>
<td>Obrigado</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bună dimineaţa</td>
<td>Croatian</td>
<td>Efkaristo - ευχαριστώ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L-Għodwa t-Tajba</td>
<td>Czech</td>
<td>Blagodarya - благодаря</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labrīt</td>
<td>Danish</td>
<td>Gracias</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guten Tag</td>
<td>Dutch</td>
<td>Merci</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>God morgen</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Hvala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dia dhuit</td>
<td>Estonian</td>
<td>Tack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Born dia</td>
<td>Finnish</td>
<td>Hvala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goedemorgen</td>
<td>French</td>
<td>Grazie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dobré ráno</td>
<td>German</td>
<td>Ačīū</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labas Rytas</td>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>Bedankt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>God morgen</td>
<td>Hungarian</td>
<td>Dziękuję</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tere hommikust</td>
<td>Irish</td>
<td>Paldies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buenos dias</td>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>Danke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonjour</td>
<td>Latvian</td>
<td>Tak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buongiorno</td>
<td>Lithuanian</td>
<td>Thank you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dzień dobry</td>
<td>Maltese</td>
<td>Dėkuji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good morning</td>
<td>Polish</td>
<td>Đakujem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyvää huomenta</td>
<td>Portuguese</td>
<td>Go raibh maith agat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dobro jutro</td>
<td>Romanian</td>
<td>Grazzi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalimerá - Καλημέρα</td>
<td>Slovak</td>
<td>Aitāh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jó reggelt</td>
<td>Slovenian</td>
<td>Köszönöm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dobré ráno</td>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>Kiitos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dobro jutro</td>
<td>Swedish</td>
<td>Muğlumesc</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Affirming our diversity
Acknowledging our roots
Building to the future
Protecting nature
Living well
Sharing resources
Inclusion

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 by diversity. But this common project could only come about because of the will of the men and women who went before us and who truly believed in it. The European Union is a project for the future, to be built around friendship so that our continent never again has to experience hunger or war.

No matter how old we are, we have to reverse the trend to greater isolation. None of us has a role to play in building Europe or shaping its future.

One of the strengths of our vast shared territory is the diversity of the cultures of each of its countries. The responsible behaviours that we adopt help us to ‘live together’.

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

With around 467 million inhabitants, the EU's 27 countries form a space of 27 countries, in which one or more of the EU’s 24 official languages are spoken.

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

It means that they can take decisions together on issues such as free movement, the single market, 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 space where prosperity goes hand in hand with justice and freedom.

The main stages of European integration

1562
Strengthening lordships

1648
Peace of Westphalia

1849
Malta Conference

1907
Ottoman Empire

1944
End of the Second World War

1949
European Coal and Steel Community

1957
Study of Monnet — European Communities

1962
Balfour Declaration

1992
Maastricht Treaty — European Union

2003
Treaty of Lisbon

What is Europe?

Information, videos and more on the history of the European Union:

europa.eu/about-eu/history_en

The history of the European Union

Your Europe

Help and advice for EU nationals and their family members:

europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/index_en.htm

Online bookshop with a wealth of books, booklets and PDF documents in the EU's 24 official languages:

op.europa.eu/en/publications

Let us know:

europa.eu/contact

Your feedback is important to us.

EUROPE

Better together!

What is Europe?

GETTING IN TOUCH WITH THE EU

FINDING INFORMATION ABOUT THE EU

In person

All over the European Union there are hundreds of Europe Direct centres. You can contact:– by freephone: 00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11 (certain operators may charge for these calls)

– via the following form:

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### EU Member States in the euro area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>euro area</th>
<th>Reference number</th>
<th>Location of the country's capital</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td></td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Vienna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td></td>
<td>1957</td>
<td>Brussels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>Sofia</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>2013</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Nicosia</td>
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<td>Czechia</td>
<td></td>
<td>2004</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Copenhagen</td>
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<td>Estonia</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>Tallinn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Helsinki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td></td>
<td>1957</td>
<td>Paris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td></td>
<td>1957</td>
<td>Berlin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td></td>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Athens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td></td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Budapest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td></td>
<td>1973</td>
<td>Dublin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td></td>
<td>1957</td>
<td>Rome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Netherlands</td>
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<td>Poland</td>
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<td>Portugal</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>Bucharest</td>
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<td>Madrid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td></td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Stockholm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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