

The image features the European Commission logo at the top center, consisting of the blue EU flag with yellow stars and the text "European Commission". Below the logo, the slogan "EUROPE Better together!" is displayed in large, bold, sans-serif font. The background is a vibrant blue sky filled with white clouds. In the foreground, there's a stylized illustration of a windmill with yellow blades, a suspension bridge, a factory chimney emitting smoke, a green tree with a red apple, and a stack of coins. A small green character is walking on the bridge. At the bottom left, the letters "EN" are printed in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

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.

A simple line drawing of a hand emerging from a sleeve, holding a scroll. A large black checkmark is drawn on the scroll, symbolizing approval or completion.

The main stages of European integration

A timeline diagram showing the main stages of European integration. It features a central vertical axis with dates and events, flanked by two arrows pointing to the right. On the left arrow, there is a stopwatch icon with the text "TIME TO FACE THE FUTURE!!!". Above the timeline, a pink cloud contains the title "The main stages of European integration".

- 1945: End of the Second World War
- 1951: ECSC
- 1957: Treaty of Rome — EEC
- 1989: Fall of the Berlin Wall
- 2002: Single currency
- 2007: Treaty of Lisbon
- 1992: Maastricht Treaty — EU

EUROPE
Organising together!

With around 446 million million citizens, the European Union (EU) is made up of 27 countries, in which one or more of the 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?

The image is a vibrant, stylized illustration. At the top right, a white dove with its wings spread holds a small green sprig in its beak. To the left of the dove is a circular arrangement of twelve yellow stars, resembling the European Union flag. Below the stars, a red suspension bridge with two tall towers spans across a landscape of blue and yellow hills. On the bridge, two white silhouettes of people, a man and a woman, are holding hands. To the right of the bridge, there is a large green tree. The background consists of soft, rounded shapes in yellow, blue, and white, suggesting a sky or clouds. On the right side of the image, there is a column of text in black and red, listing ten principles for a peaceful Europe.

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.

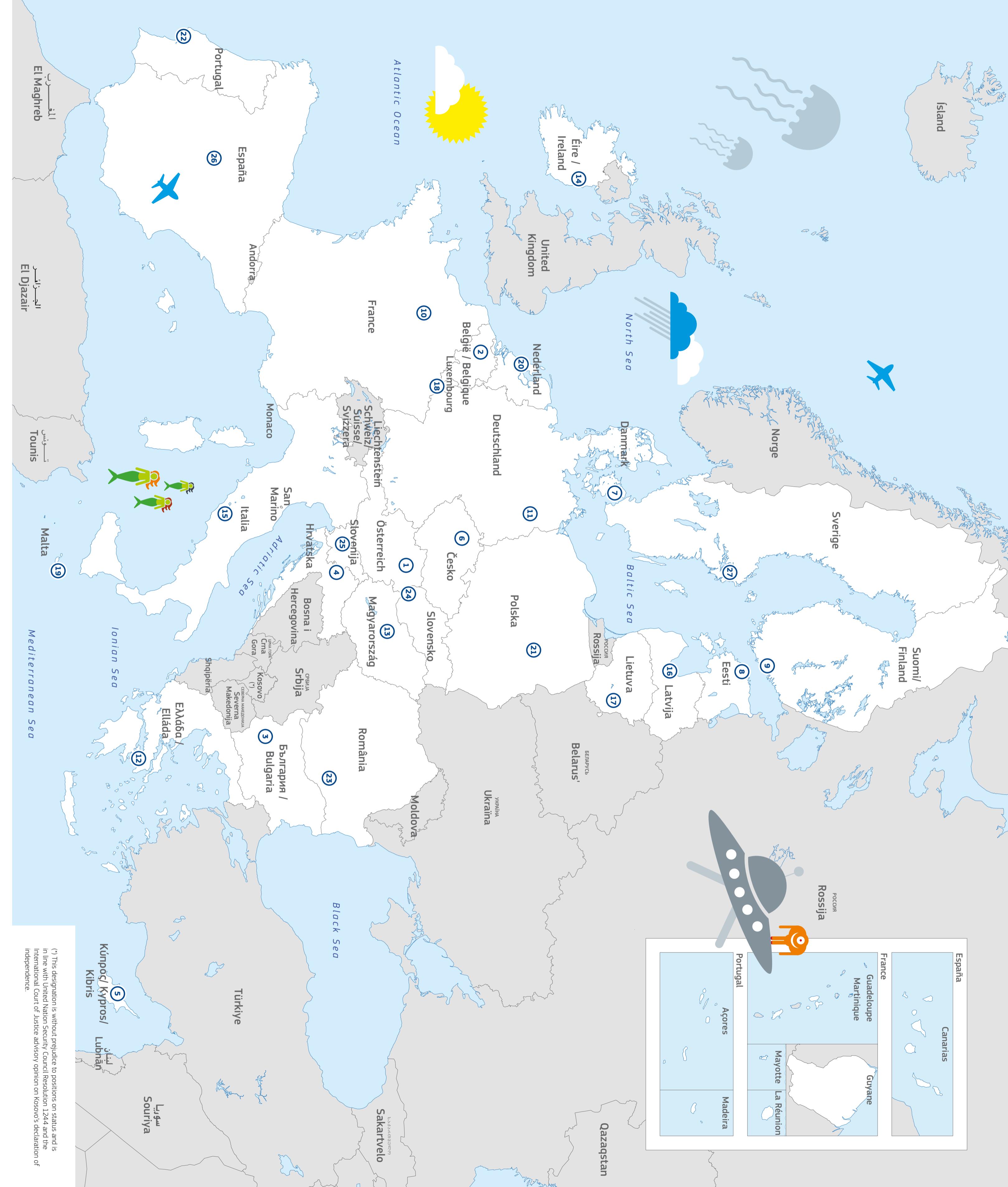
A colorful, stylized illustration of the Earth. The planet is primarily green with white clouds at the bottom. It has several prominent, wavy, multi-colored appendages extending from its top: two green ones with blue tips, two brown ones with red tips, and two grey ones with orange tips. A small green alien with a single eye and a pink balloon-like head is perched on one of the grey appendages. In the center, there's a large, orange, downward-pointing shape. On the left side, there's a small black and white figure with orange hair and a black coat. The background behind the planet is white.



EU Member States in the eurozone

1	Austria	1995	€	+
2	Belgium	1957	€	+
3	Bulgaria	2007		
4	Croatia	2013		
5	Cyprus	2004	€	
6	Czechia	2004	€	
7	Denmark	1973	€	
8	Estonia	2004	€	
9	Finnland	1995	€	
10	France	1957	€	+
11	Germany	1957	€	+
12	Greece	1981	€	+
13	Hungary	2004	€	
14	Ireland	1973	€	

- EU Member States in the euro-area
- Countries in the Schengen area (including 4 non-EU countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland + Monaco and San Marino)
- Reference number and location of the country's capital

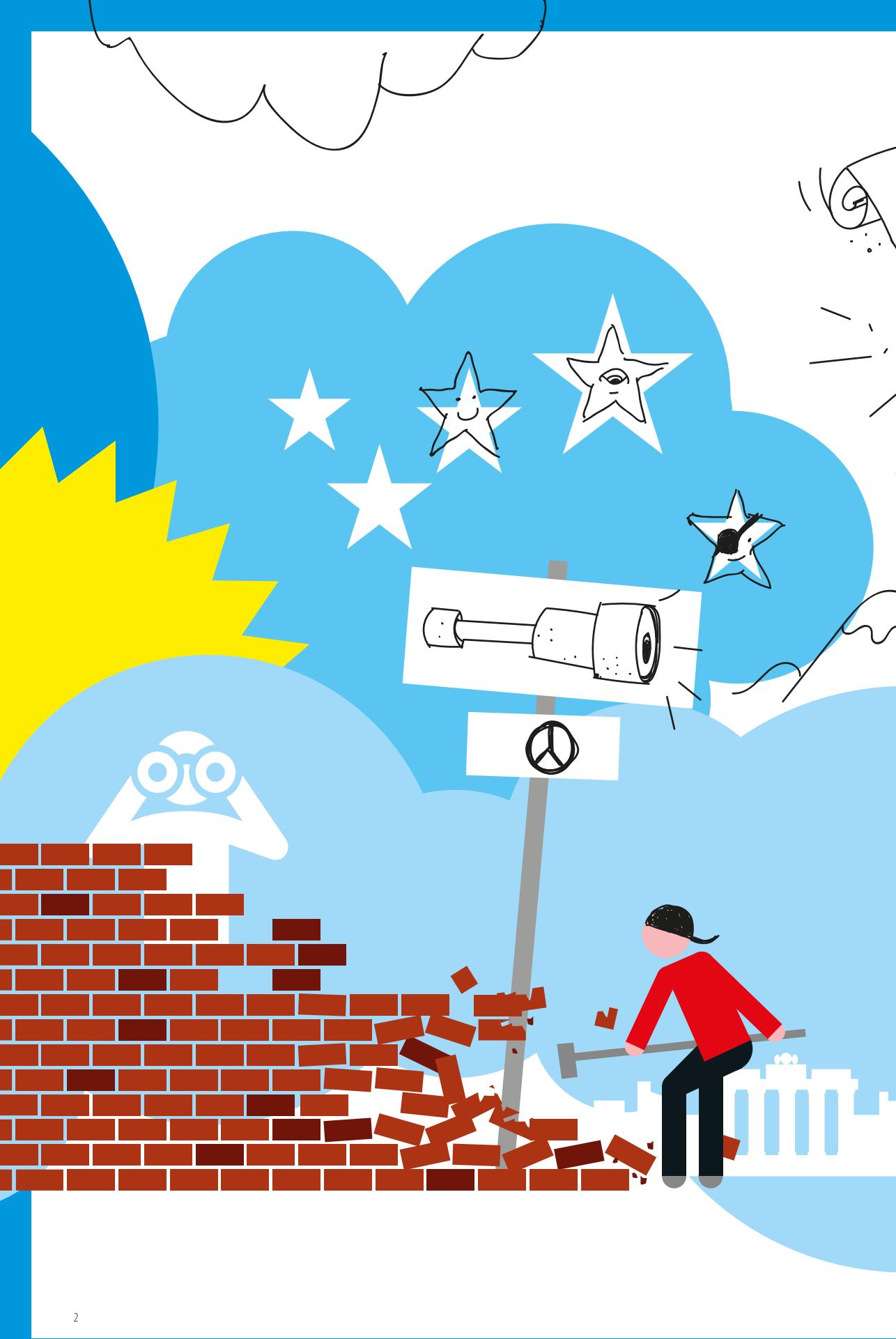




EUROPE Building together!



EN





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HISTORY OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

Remembering our roots

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

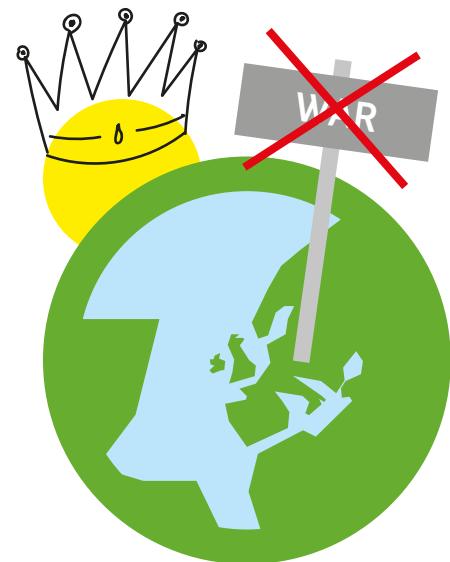
To understand what Europe does for us today, **it's important to know how it began.**

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.

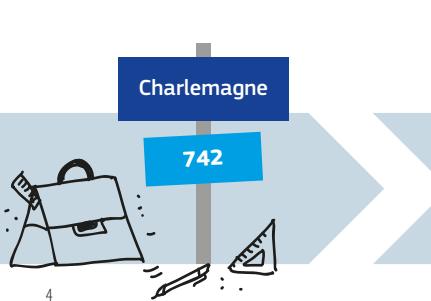
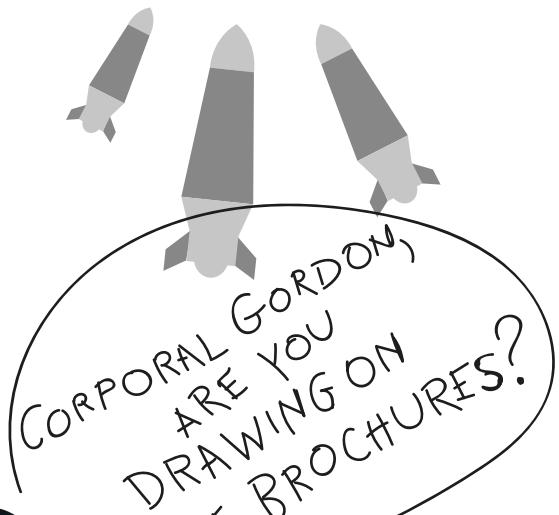
In the 20th century two wars broke out on the continent of Europe and then spread to the whole world. That's why they are called **world wars**.

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.



WELL, M
A BIT.
FOR

1769

NO,
GENERAL!!

The Second World War

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

Because of that awful war, which lasted 5 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.

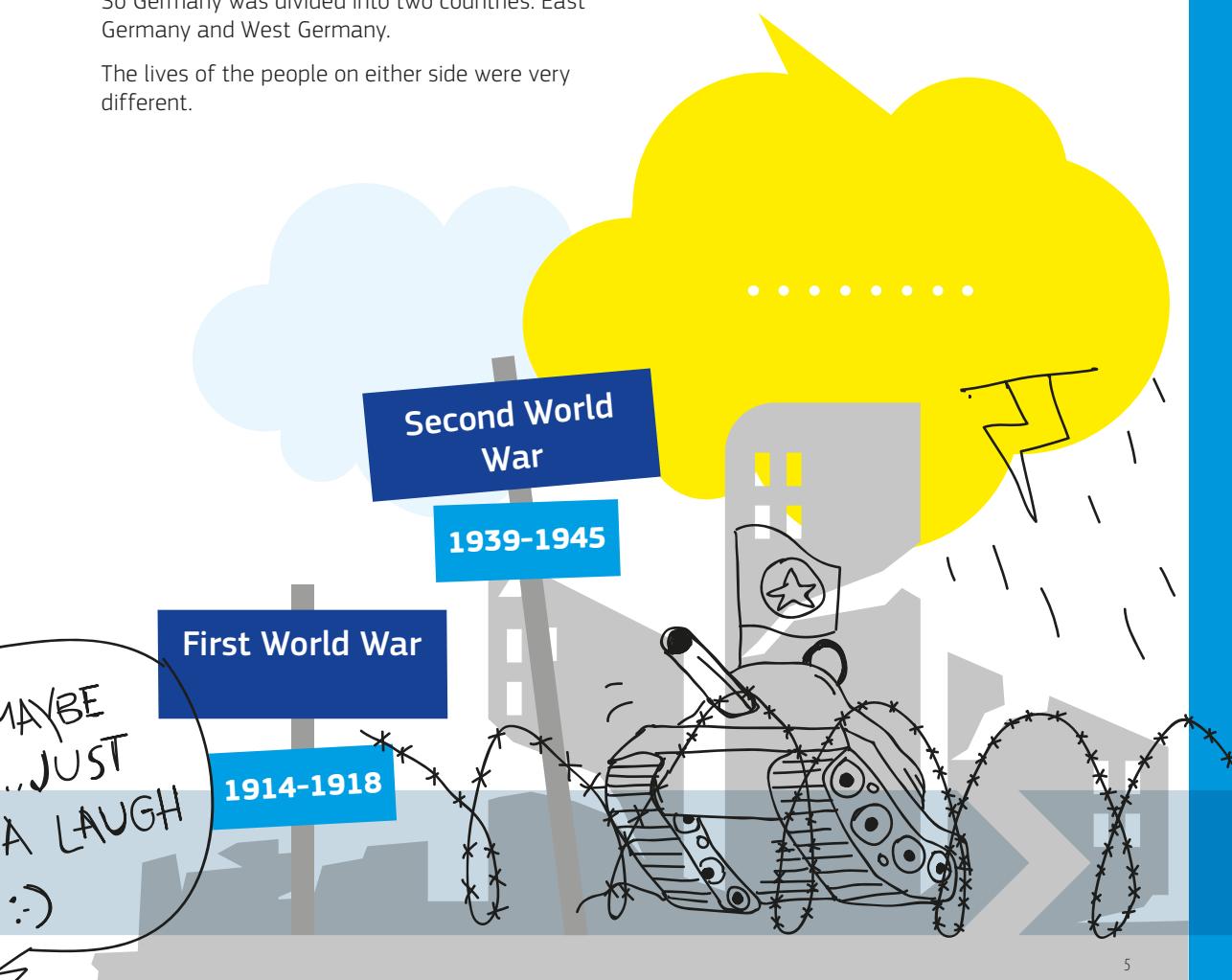
How did people live peacefully in the West in spite of everything?

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.

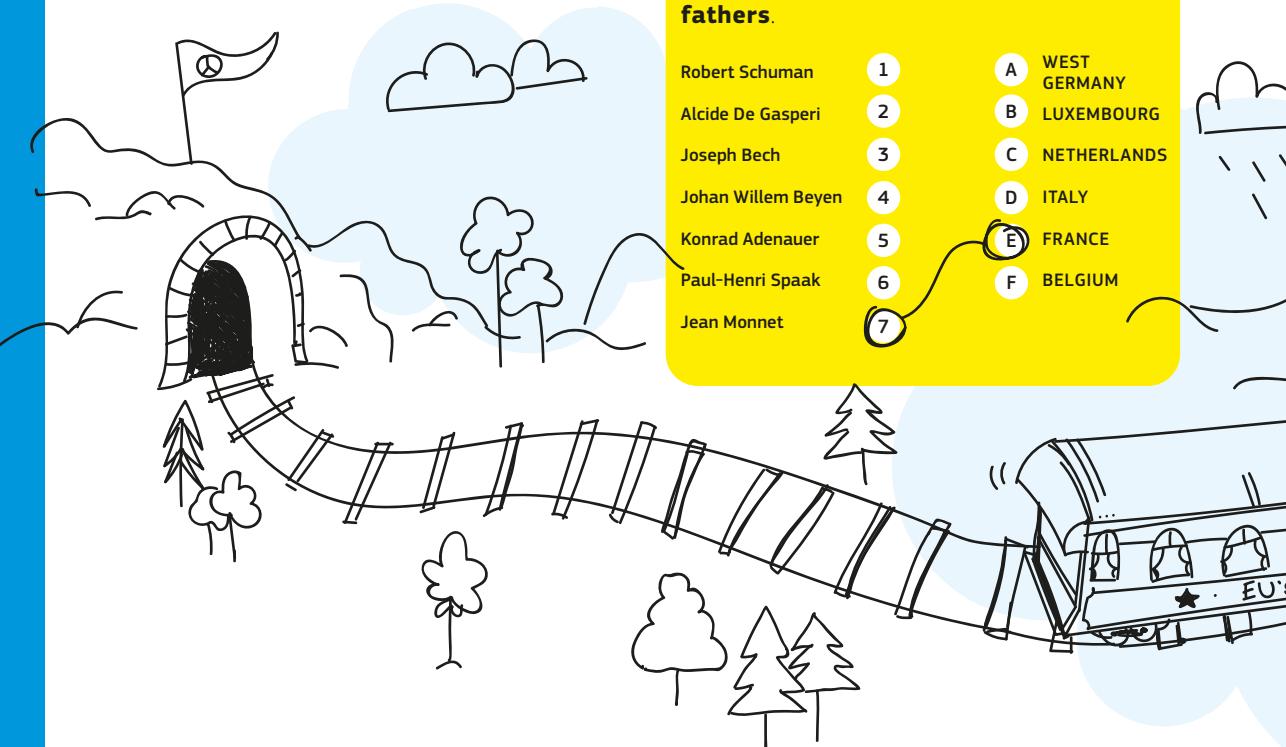
Without drawing them, name some objects that can be made from steel.



The European Coal and Steel Community

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

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 fathers of Europe

But building a united Europe wasn't going to be easy. It needed truly committed politicians to back the idea and turn it into a real common project. Today when we talk about them we call them the '**founding fathers**'. Who are they?

► Match the countries to the **founding fathers**.

Robert Schuman	1	A WEST GERMANY
Alcide De Gasperi	2	B LUXEMBOURG
Joseph Bech	3	C NETHERLANDS
Johan Willem Beyen	4	D ITALY
Konrad Adenauer	5	E FRANCE
Paul-Henri Spaak	6	F BELGIUM
Jean Monnet	7	

► Answers

SA-3B-4C-2D-7E-1E-6F

ECSC

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.

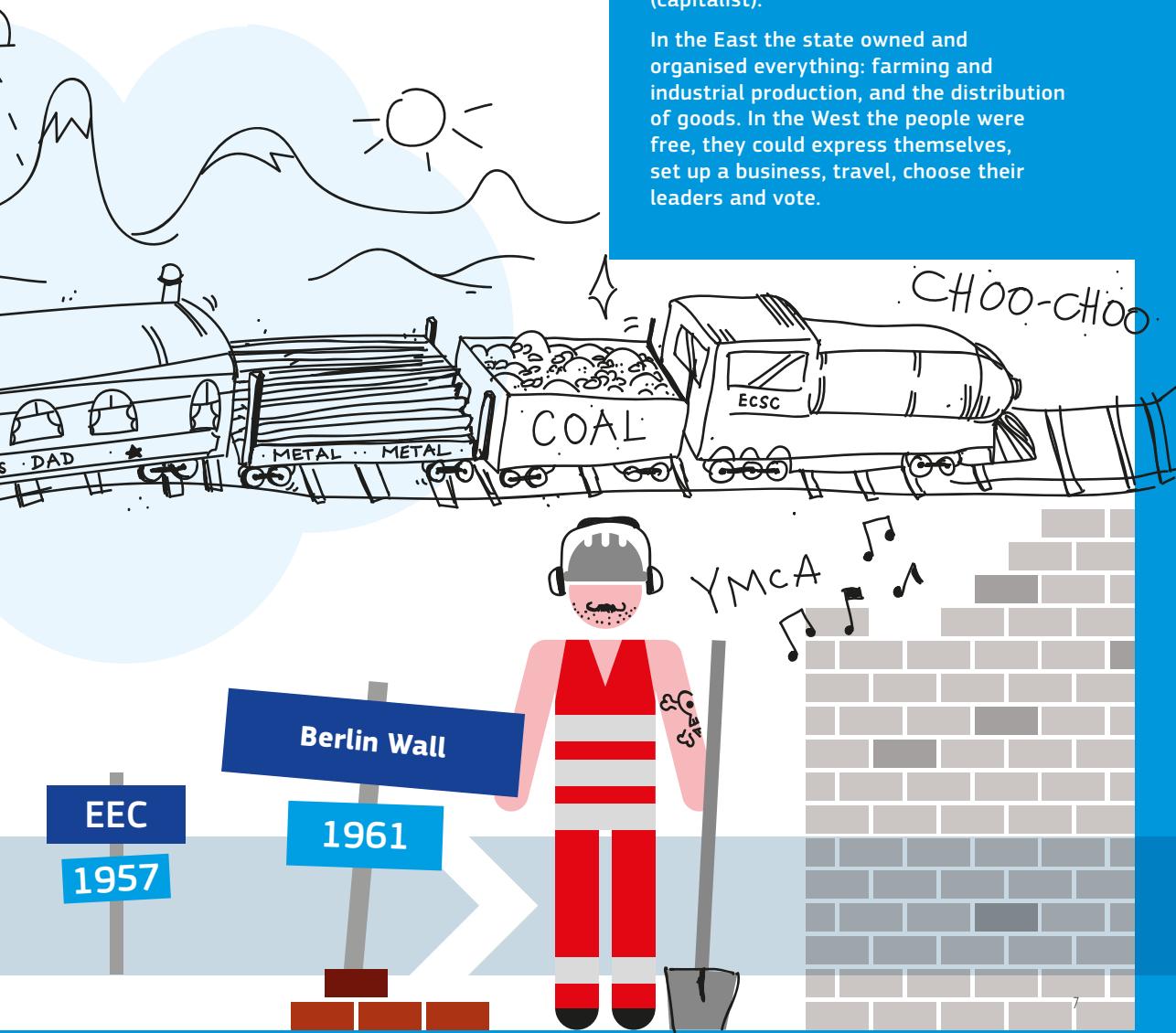
The economy got back on track. The war seemed very far away. Western Europe was at peace.

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).

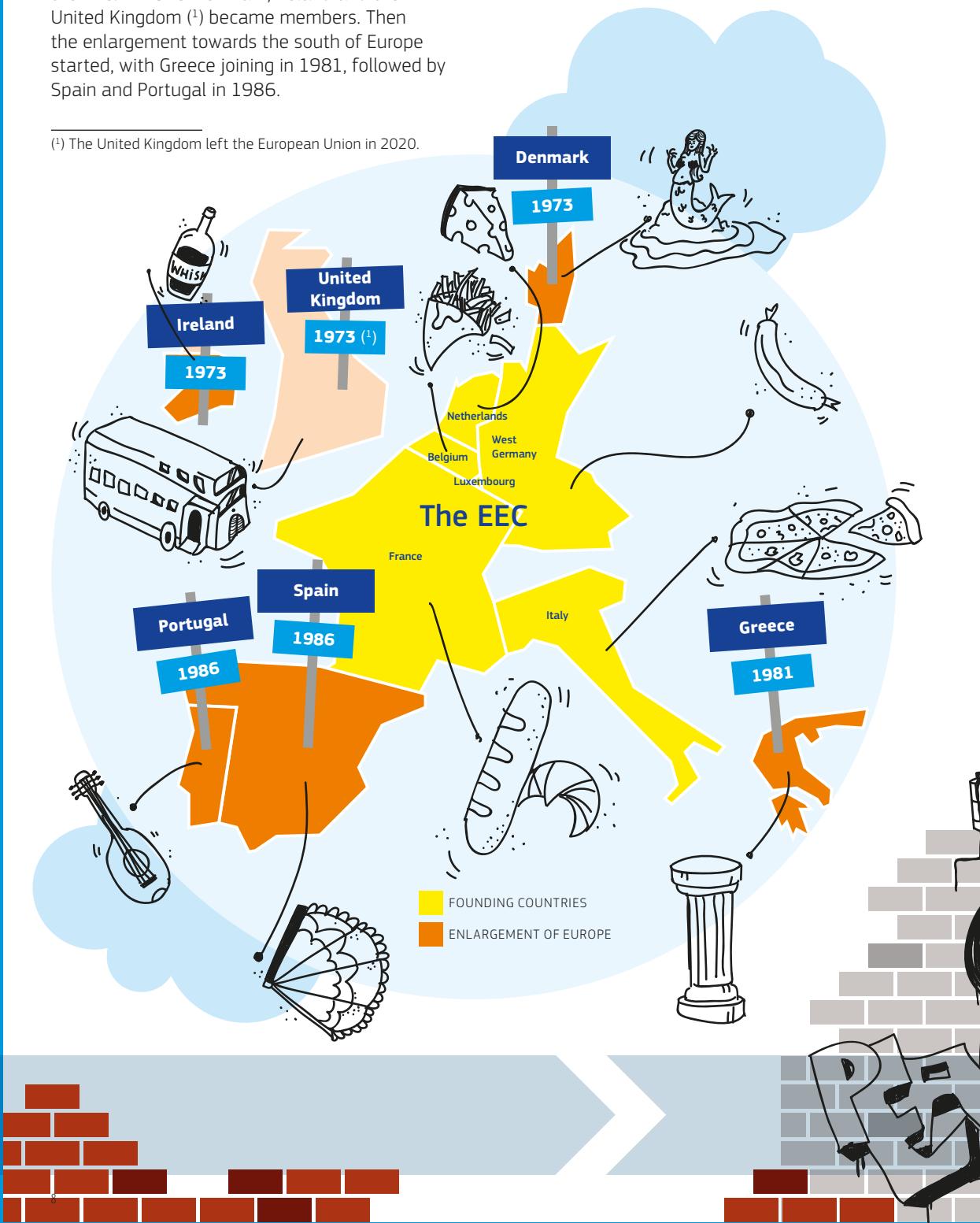
In the East the state owned and organised everything: farming and industrial production, and the distribution of goods. In the West the people were free, they could express themselves, set up a business, travel, choose their leaders and vote.



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⁽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.

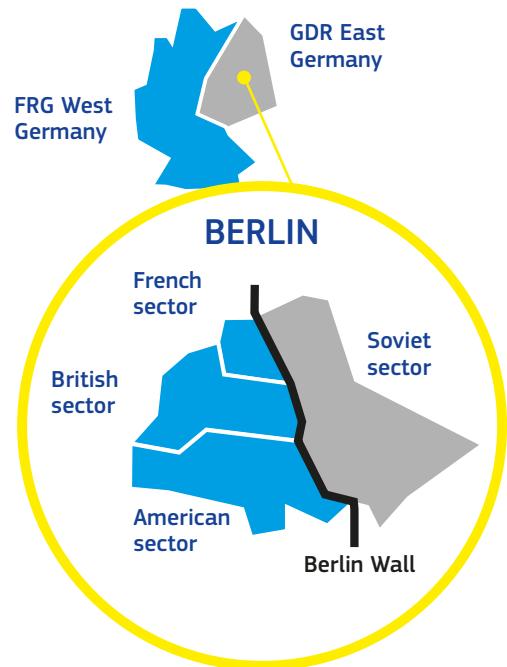


The fall of the Wall

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 symbolically was gone. Thousands of Berliners tore down the Wall and joined their fellow countrymen: 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).



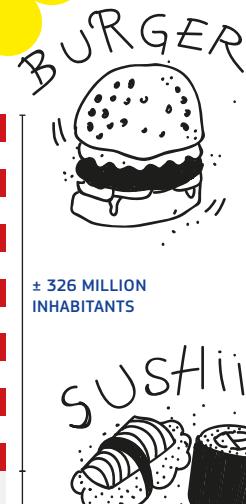
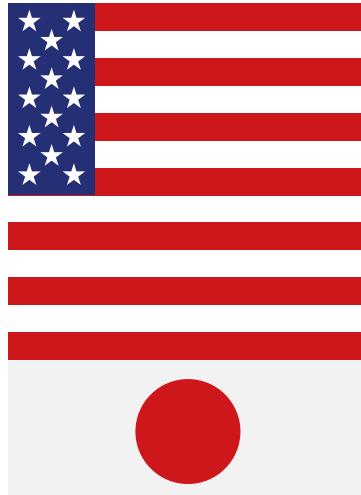
> ± 446 MILLION INHABITANTS



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 almost 450 million inhabitants, about the same population as the United States and Japan combined!



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.

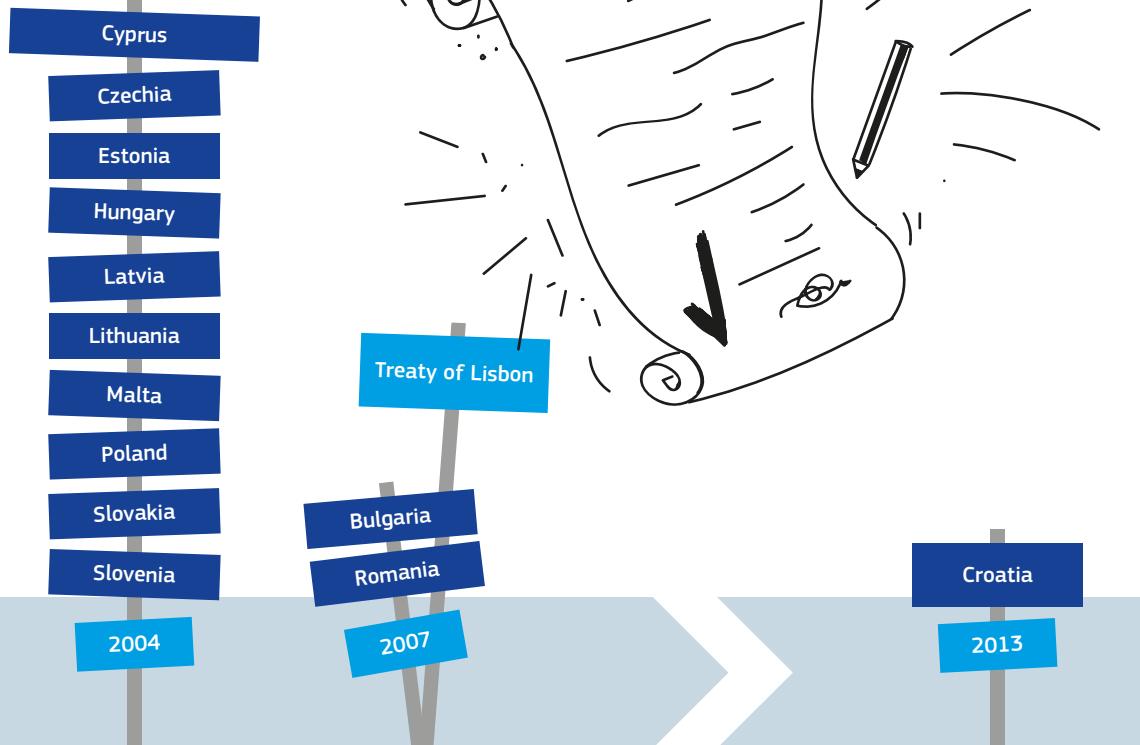
Seven major treaties have been agreed so far. In general, they’re named after the city in which they were signed. The most recent was the

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.

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. On Europe Day all of the EU institutions open their doors to the public.



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. Twenty-seven 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

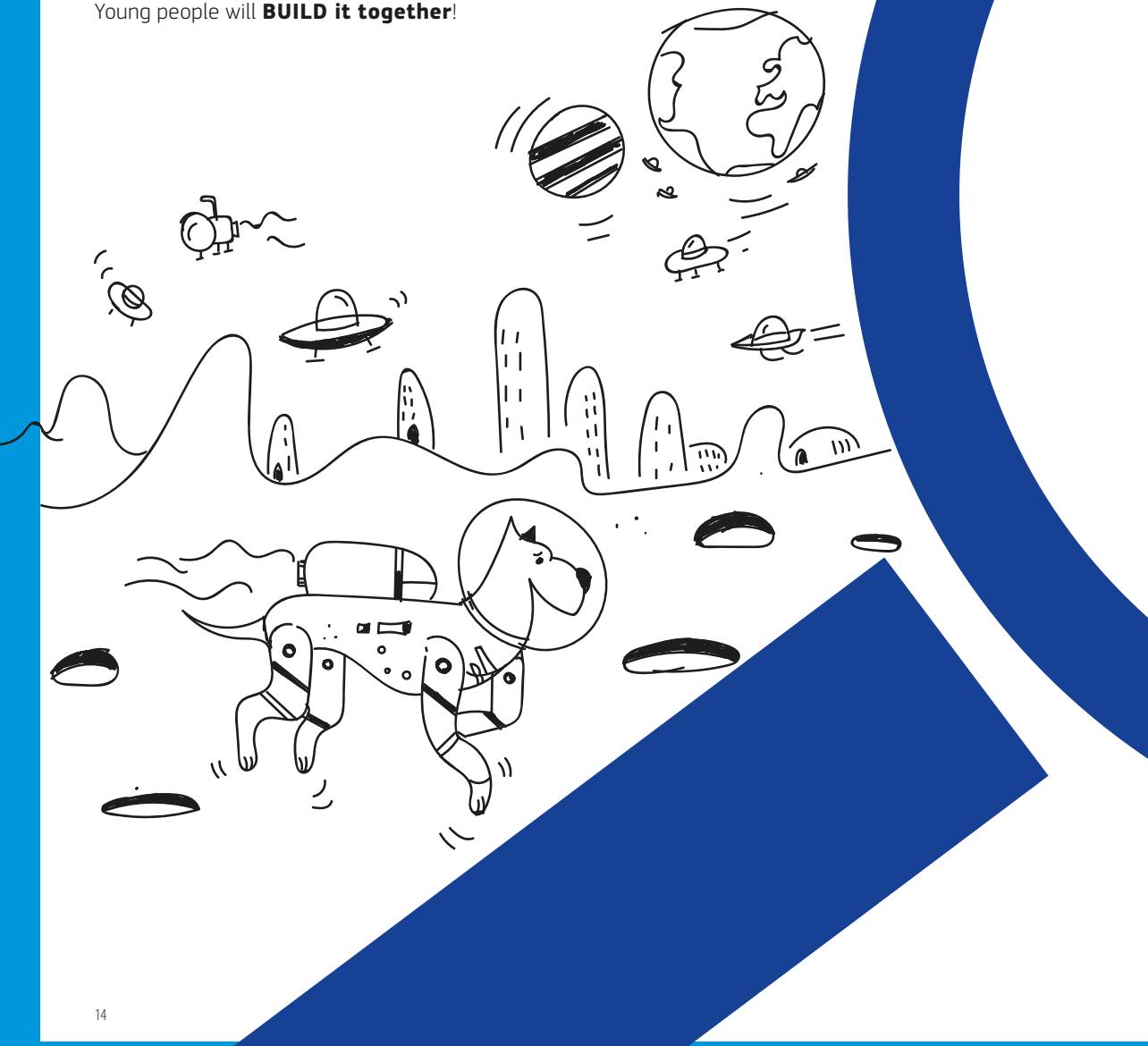
The European Union has gradually been formed by the ideas of brave men and women who have fought for peace. It's the fruit of a long history in which we have all played a part.

Of course it's not completely perfect yet: it's **a project that evolves every day**. And tomorrow it will be the young people 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?
Young people 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!



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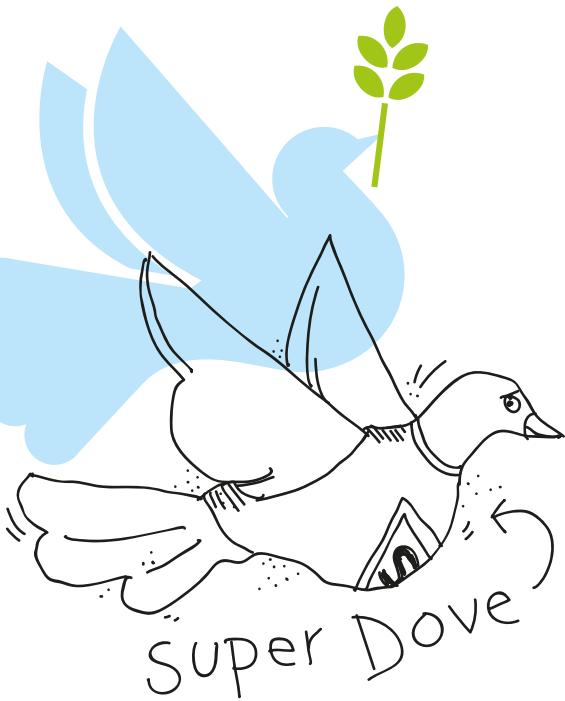
VALUES

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 and 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 Member States 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

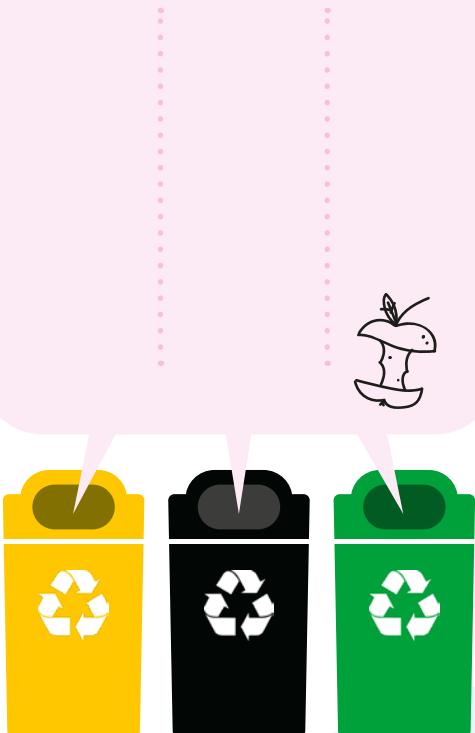
In order to live happily together, it's important to **take care of our environment**: water, air, plants and animals. Human activities sometimes upset the balance of nature. So we have to change some of our behaviour. The European Union works to prevent pollution and global warming.

Global warming

Every person in the EU throws more than a kilo of rubbish in the bin every day. And there are around 446 million of us!

Thankfully, we have been recycling lots of products for years: plastic bottles, cans, glass, paper and cardboard. Through this simple action we are helping to fight pollution.

- ▶ What would you put in each of these bins?



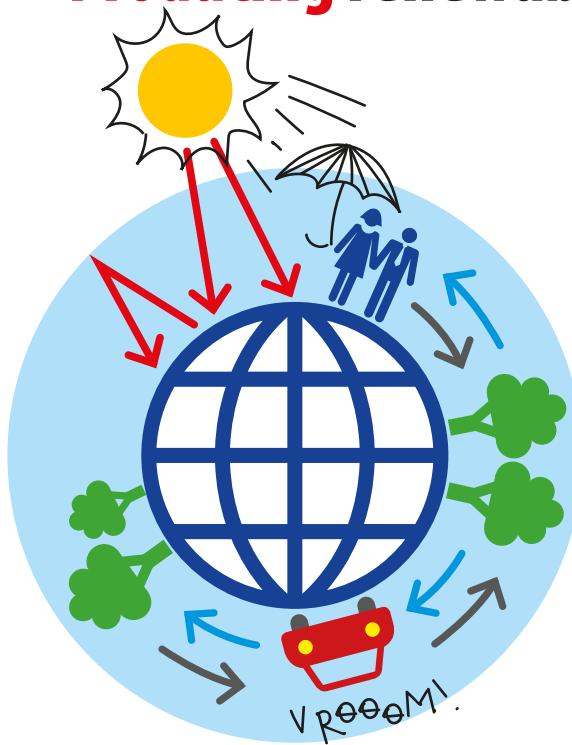
CE Marking

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 **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. Europe does not have a lot of oil or natural gas. So it has to do everything it can to produce renewable energy. The EU countries have agreed that by 2030 they will:

- reduce greenhouse gases by **40 %**;
- reduce energy use by **32.5 %**;
- produce at least **32 %** of their energy from renewable sources (wind, solar or marine energy, etc.).



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

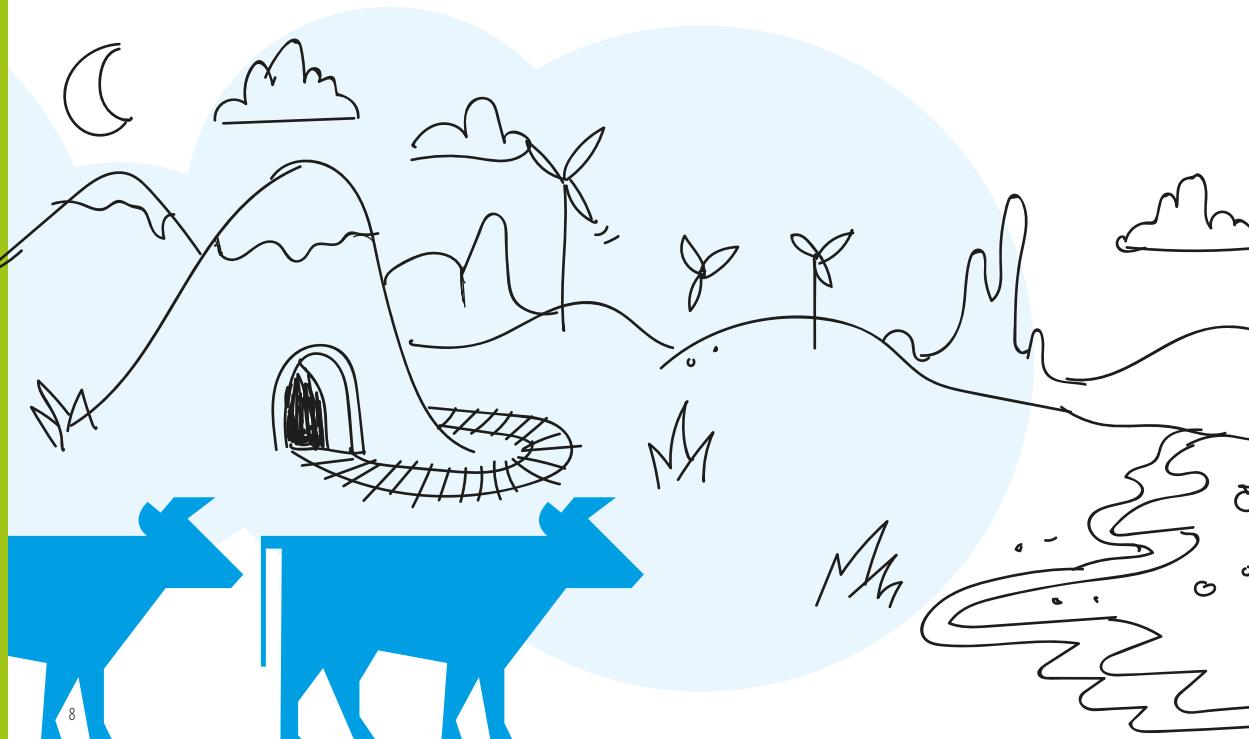
Since the 1980s farmers haven't been able to just produce whatever they want, however they want. High-quality food is the rule now. There are also **rules** to ensure that animals are better treated. Europe encourages its farmers to get involved in other activities. For example:

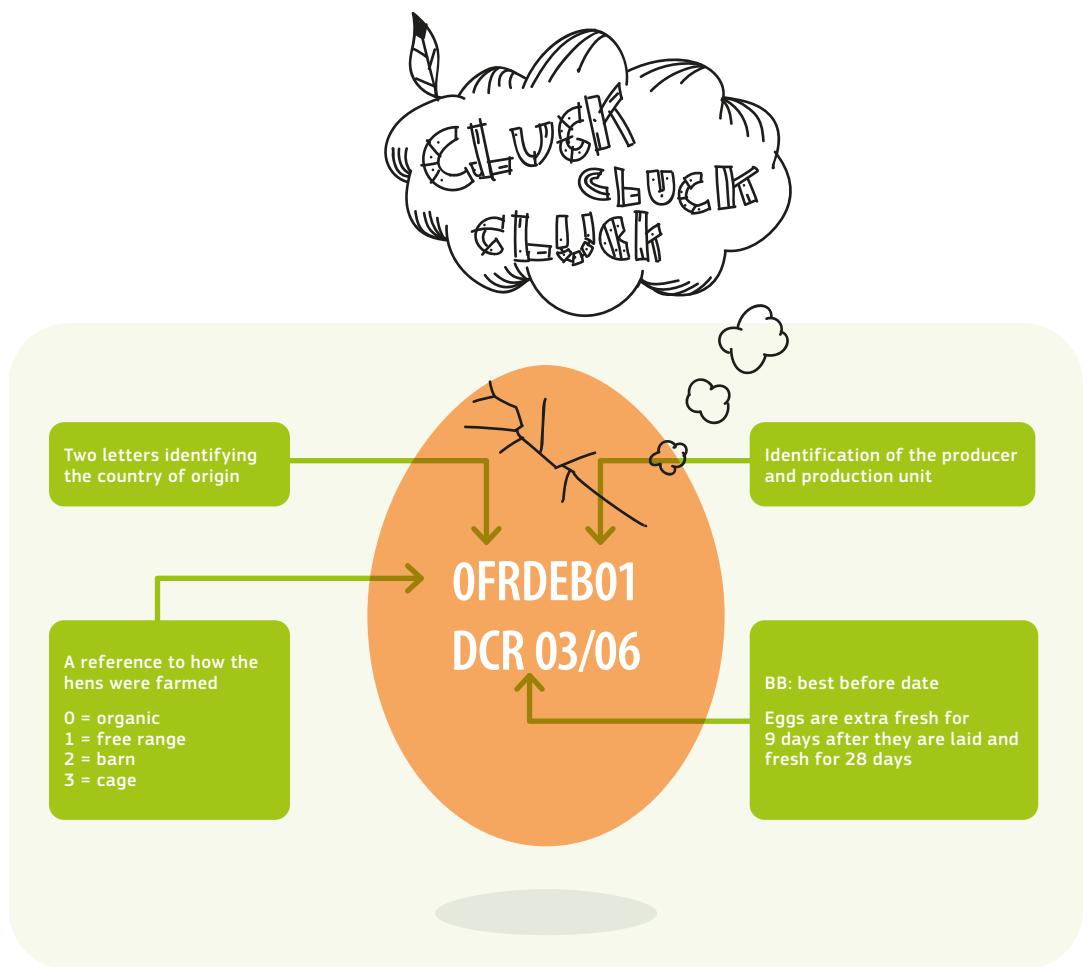
- Have you heard of agritourism?
- Have you ever visited a farm?
- Have you ever bought food directly from a farm?

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 and show its 'use by' date.

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).

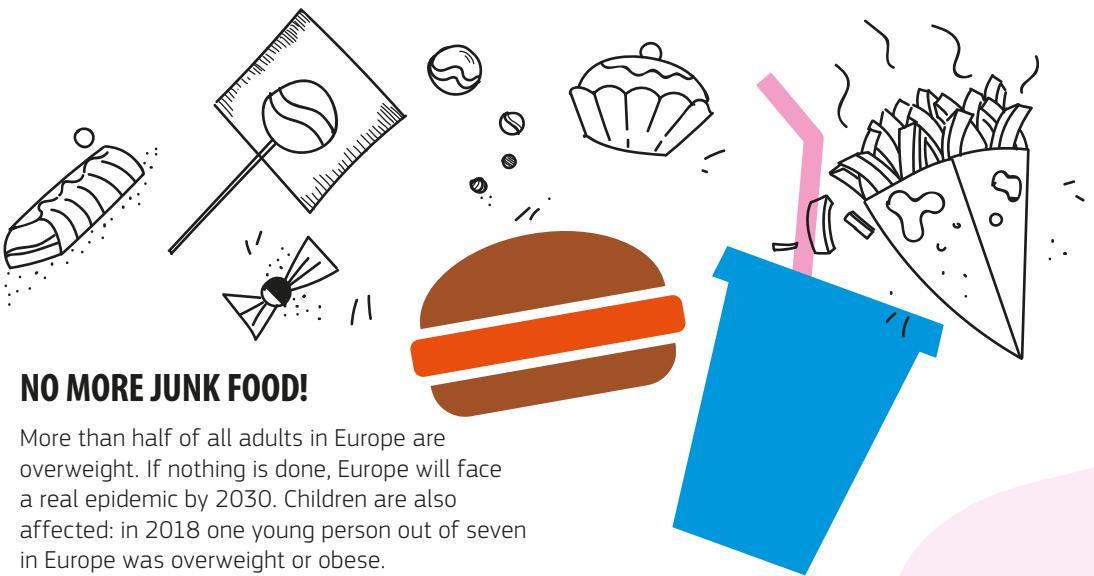


The 'Protected Geographical Indication' logo means that at least one of the stages in making the product (production, processing or preparation) has taken place in a specific place or region.

Examples are: *Kiełbasa piaszcząńska* 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 Europe are overweight. If nothing is done, Europe will face a real epidemic by 2030. Children are also affected: in 2018 one young person out of seven in Europe was overweight or obese.

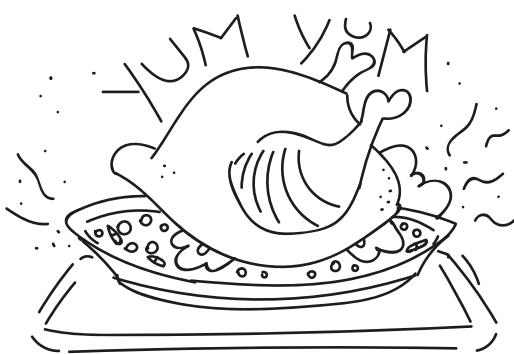
How can we get rid of junk food?

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

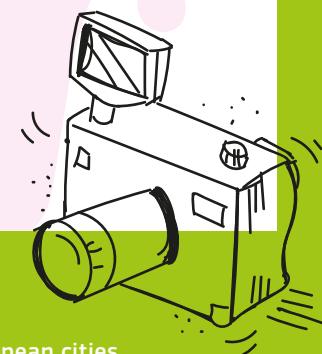
The European Union supports the development of many cultural and audiovisual sectors in the 27 Member States. Its aim is to raise awareness of talented creators in EU countries and to create numerous jobs in every cultural sector: cinema, TV, computer games, museums, music, books, etc.

- **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**. For 2020 they are Rijeka (Croatia) and Galway (Ireland). In 2021 they will be Timișoara (Romania), Elefsina (Greece) and Novi Sad (Serbia, candidate country).



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 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 <http://www.betterinternetforkids.eu> with an adult, and you will find some tips and tricks for safe surfing.

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 2018.

And we're not the only ones in the world. Did you know that around 1.5 billion people live on just 1 euro a day? Many countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America are victims of 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 Member States provide more than half of all global aid.

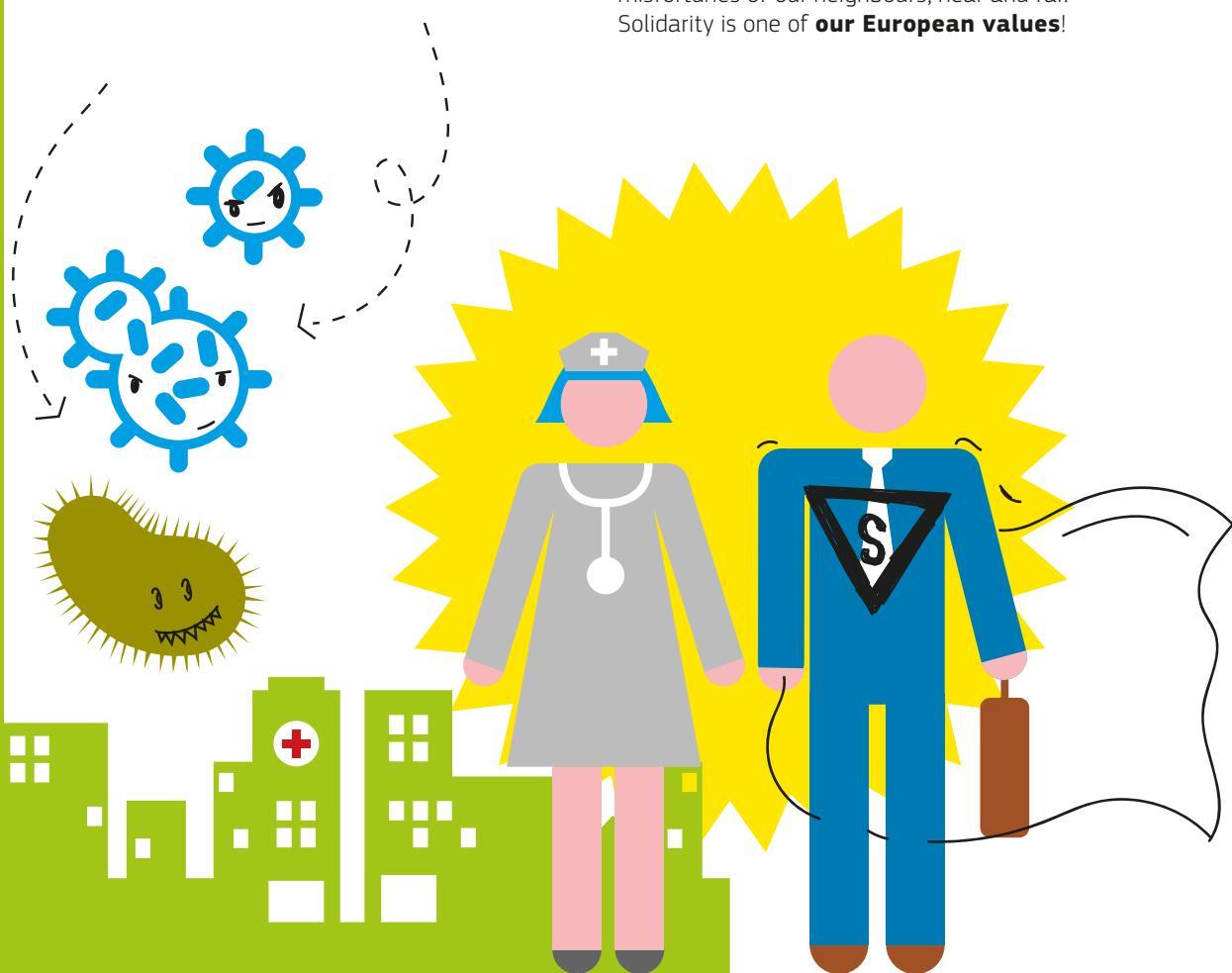
Humanitarian aid

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, 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:



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Europe — better together!

A new 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.

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

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

ONLINE

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

IN PERSON

All over the European Union there are hundreds of Europe Direct information centres. You can find the address of the centre nearest you at: https://europa.eu/european-union/contact_en

ON THE PHONE OR BY MAIL

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, or
- by email via: https://europa.eu/european-union/contact_en

EUROPEAN COMMISSION REPRESENTATIONS

The European Commission has offices (representations) in all the Member States of the European Union: https://ec.europa.eu/info/contact/local-offices-eu-member-countries_en

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LIAISON OFFICES

The European Parliament has a liaison office in every Member State of the European Union: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/atyourservice/en/information_offices.html

EUROPEAN UNION DELEGATIONS

The European Union also has delegations in other parts of the world: https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/area/geo_en



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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Directorate-General for Communication
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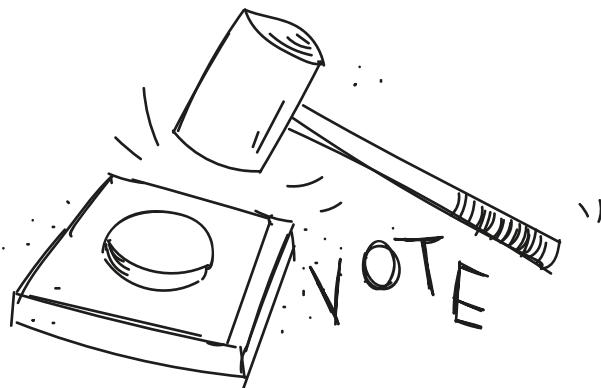


EUROPE Organising together!



EN





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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.

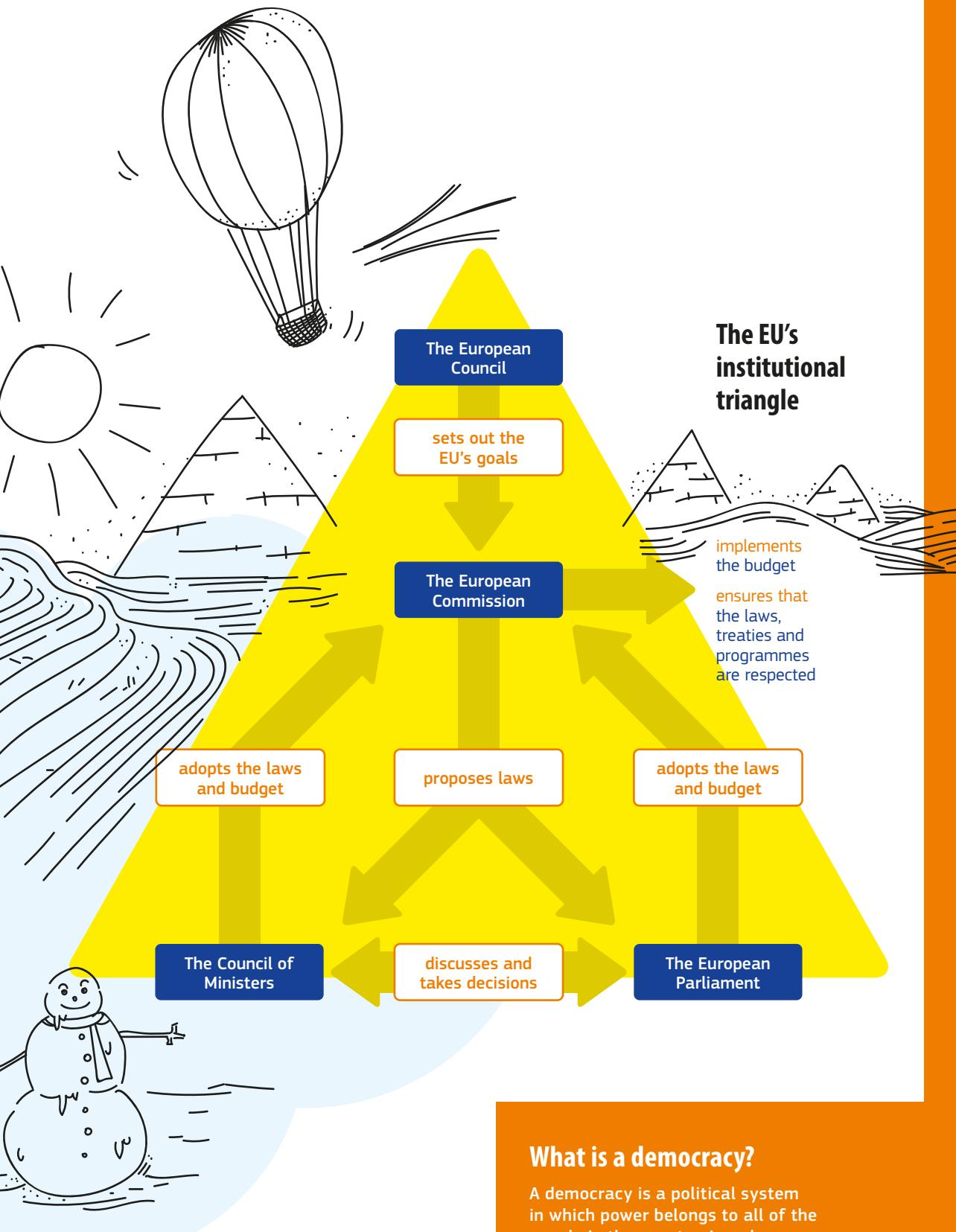
For example, if it is the Agriculture Council the agriculture minister will take part.

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

The Council of the European Union is based in Brussels.



The EU's institutional triangle



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⁽¹⁾. **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 approximately **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.

⁽¹⁾ In Austria and Malta you can actually vote from the age of 16, and in Greece you can vote when you turn 17.



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, the Youth Parliament.

- ▶ 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 km² in which different cultures exist side by side. To make the lives of Europeans easier, most Member States have done away with passport checks at their borders. So everyone who lives in a Member State is free to move, live and find work in any other EU Member State.

Young people too!

Young people can also move around Europe thanks to a programme called Erasmus+. This programme allows pupils and students to go and experience another country and study there.

Travelling allows us to learn one or more languages. One of the other 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 Europe?

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). In 2018 the Schengen area covered 26 countries: 22 EU Member States and four non-members. Within the Schengen area any person from the European Union (or anywhere else) can cross the borders of the other member countries without having to show their passport.

- Can you name any of the EU's official languages? (*)



(*) 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, 19 EU countries have shared a common currency: the euro (Austria, Belgium, 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, Croatia, 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?

	<input type="radio"/> PORTUGAL		
	<input type="radio"/> AUSTRIA		
	<input type="radio"/> CYPRUS		
	<input type="radio"/> BELGIUM		
	<input type="radio"/> ITALY		
	<input type="radio"/> NETHERLANDS		
	<input type="radio"/> FRANCE		
	<input type="radio"/> GERMANY		

▶ Answers
 6 Germany - 7 France - 8 Portugal
 1 Austria - 2 Cyprus - 3 Italy - 4 Netherlands - 5 Belgium

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).

▶ This 2 euro coin is the one that is most sought after by collectors. Do you know where it comes from?



▶ Answer
 THE VATICAN

EU BUDGET

Investing in our future

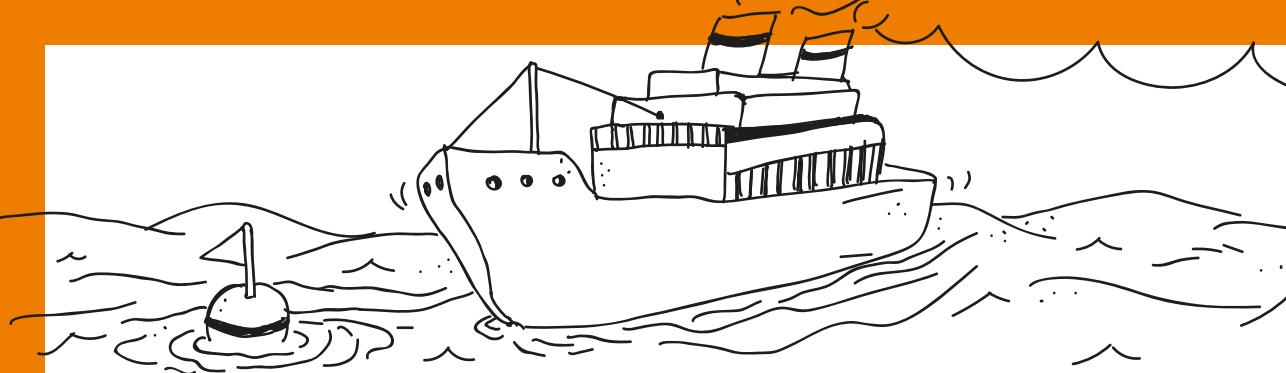
The European Union invests in many areas: education, the environment, research into new technologies, agriculture, etc. But in order to invest it needs money. And it also needs to organise how that money is divided up: that's what we call a '**budget**'.

Where does the EU's money come from?

99 % of the EU's budget comes from the Member States.

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 and jobs in Europe.





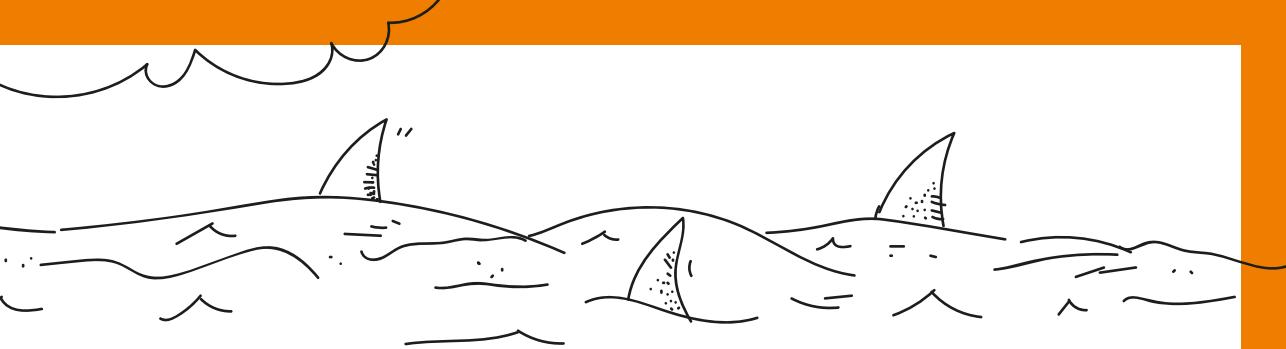
Projects supported by the European Union

Hundreds of thousands of projects have received EU investment over the years. Here are some examples and you can find others at:
https://europa.eu/investeu/projects_en

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.





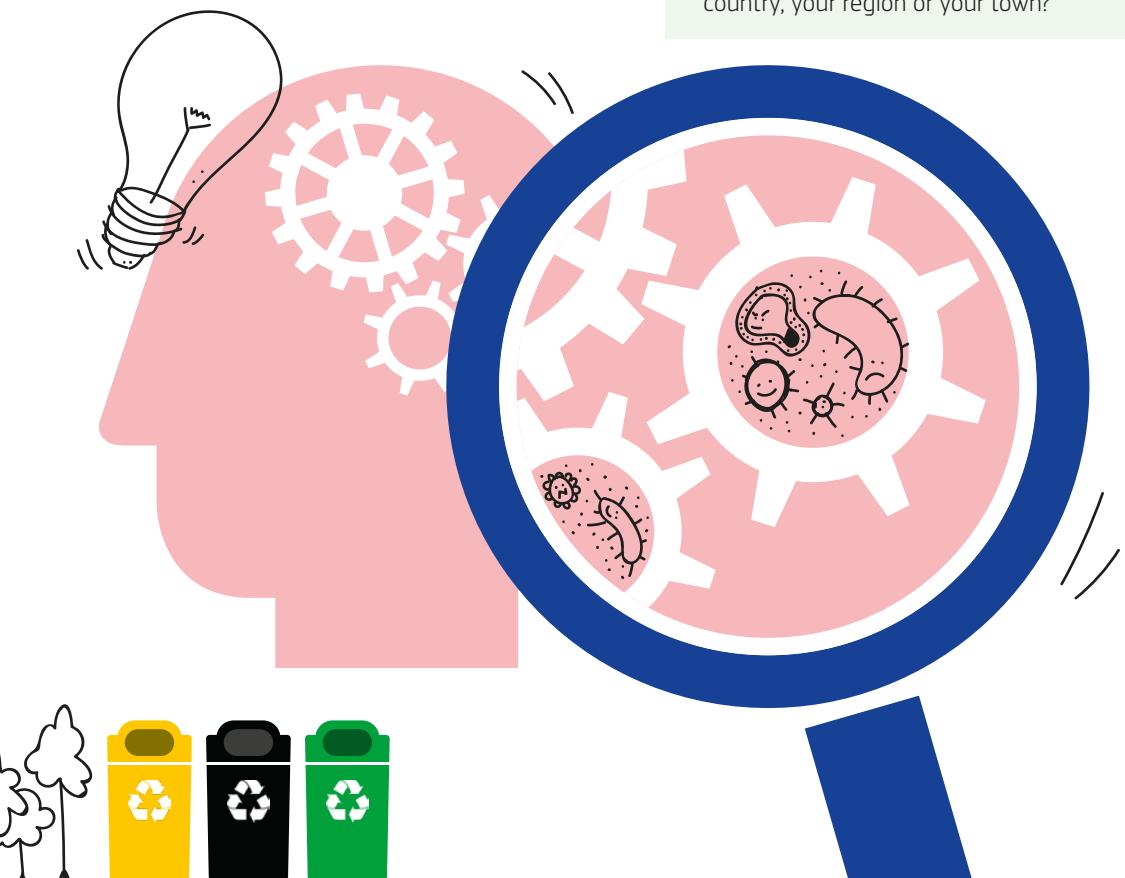
Fighting childhood cancers

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

Ultramodern schools

School buildings in Greece often have structural problems and are poorly maintained. And there are not enough schools to hold all the pupils. The 24 new state schools being built in the Attica region will help to address capacity problems, while providing high-quality facilities and producing all of the energy they need.

- ▶ 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

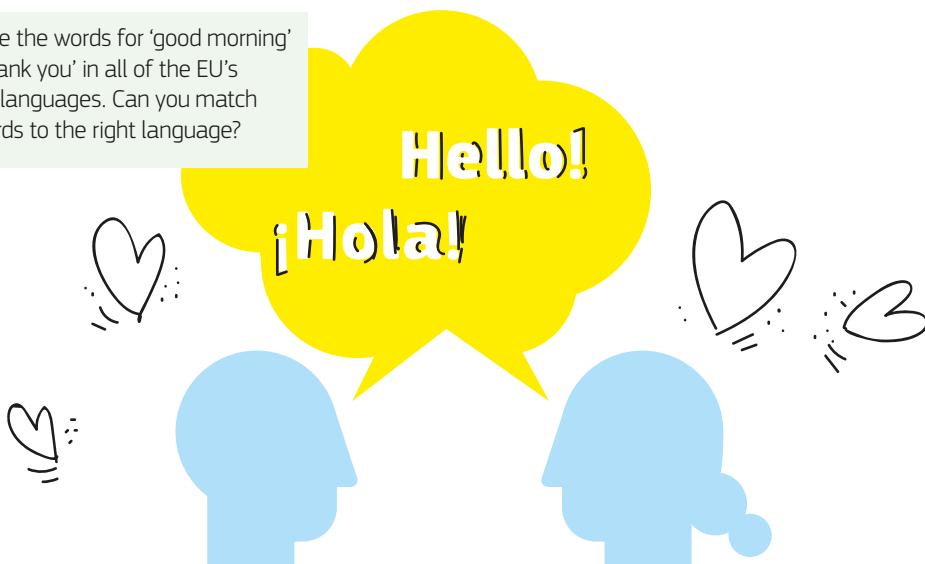
Quiz time!

There are 24 official EU languages. Although English is often used, the EU is committed to preserving the richness of each one 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?



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

- Answers:

Bulgarian: Dobro utro. **Croatian:** Dobro jutro. **Czech:** Dobrý ráno. **English:** Good morning. **French:** Bonjour. **German:** Guten Morgen. **Greek:** Kalimera. **Hungarian:** Labas Rytas. **Irish:** Díana. **Italian:** Buongiorno. **Latvian:** Guten Morgen. **Maltese:** Goed mormna. **Polish:** Dobrą ranę. **Portuguese:** Bom dia. **Romanian:** Buna dimineață. **Slovak:** Dobrý deň. **Slovenian:** Dobrino. **Swedish:** God morgon. **Tak:** Tack.

Answers: Dobro utro. Blagodarya! **Croatian:** Dobro jutro. Hvala. **Czech:** Dobrý ráno. Děkuji! **Danish:** God morgen. Tak! **Dutch:** Goedenmorgen. Bedankt!

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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