PON FSE 2014/2020 "TOWARDS EUROPE"

CODICE PROGETTO 10.2.2A-FSEPON-CL-2018-7

THE EUROPEAN FLAG

The European flag symbolises both the European Union and, more broadly, the identity and unity of Europe. It features a circle of **12 gold stars** on a **blue background**. They stand for the ideals of unity, solidarity and harmony among the peoples of Europe. The number of stars has nothing to do with the number of member countries, though the circle is a symbol of unity.

The history of the flag goes back to 1955. The Councile of Europe - which defends human rights and promotes European culture – chose the present design for its own use. In the years that followed, it encouraged the emerging European institutions to adopt the same flag.

In 1983, the European Parliament decided that the Communities' flag should be that used by the Council of Europe. In 1985, it was adopted by all EU leaders as the official emblem of the European Communities, later to become the European Union. In addition, all European institutions now have their own emblems.

THE EUROPEAN ANTHEM

The melody used to symbolize the EU comes from the Ninth Symphony composed in 1823 by *Ludwig Van Beethoven*, when he set music to the "**Ode to Joy**", Friedrich von Schiller's lyrical verse from 1785.

The anthem symbolises not only the European Union but also Europe in a wider sense. The poem "Ode to Joy" expresses Schiller's idealistic vision of the human race becoming brothers - a vision Beethoven shared.

In 1972, the Council of Europe adopted Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" theme as its anthem. In 1985, it was adopted by EU leaders as the official anthem of the European Union. There are no words to the anthem; it consists of music only. In the universal language of music, this anthem expresses the European ideals of **freedom**, **peace** and **solidarity**.

The European anthem is not intended to replace the national anthems of the EU countries but rather to celebrate the values they share. The anthem is played at official ceremonies involving the European Union and generally at all sorts of events with a European character.

Ludwing Van Beethoven

EUROPE DAY

Europe Day held on **9 May** every year celebrates peace and unity in Europe. The date marks the anniversary of the historical 'Schuman declaration'. At a speech in Paris in 1950, Robert Schuman, the then French foreign minister, set out his idea for a new form of political cooperation in Europe, which would make war between Europe's nations unthinkable.

His vision was to create a European institution that would pool and manage coal and steel production. A treaty creating such a body was signed just under a year later. Schuman's proposal is considered to be the beginning of what is now the European Union.

To celebrate Europe Day, the EU institutions open their doors to the public in early May in Brussels and Strasbourg. Local EU offices in Europe and all over the world organise a variety of activities and events for all ages.

Each year thousands of people take part in visits, debates, concerts and other events to mark the day and raise awareness about the EU.

THE EU MOTTO

"**United in diversity**", the motto of the European Union, first came into use in 2000.

It signifies how Europeans have come together, in the form of the EU, to work for peace and prosperity, while at the same time being enriched by the continent's many different cultures, traditions and languages.

THE EURO

The euro is the official currency for 19 of the 28 EU member countries. A long preparatory path of over 40 years led to the introduction of the euro in 2002. The European Central Bank and the European Commission are in charge of maintaining its value and stability, and for establishing the criteria required for EU countries to enter the euro area.

Tangible proof of European integration, the single currency has a specific history of design, implementation, and policies. Although the switch to the euro took place almost 20 years ago, in some countries it is still possible to exchange old national notes and coins with the single European currency.

24 OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Български · English · latviešu valoda · português
Čeština · español · lietuvių kalba · Română
dansk · français · magyar · slovenčina
Deutsch · Gaeilge · Malti · slovenščina
eesti keel · hrvatski · Nederlands · suomi
Ελληνικά · Italiano · polski · svenska

Konrad Adenauer

Winston Churchill

Alcide De Gasperi

Robert Schuman

Jean Monnet

EU PIONEERS

The following visionary leaders inspired the creation of the European Union we live in today. Without their energy and motivation, we would not be living in the sphere of peace and stability that we take for granted.

From resistance fighters to lawyers and parliamentarians, the EU pioneers were a diverse group of people who held the same ideals: a peaceful, united and prosperous Europe.

Beyond the pioneers described below, many others have worked tirelessly towards and inspired the European project. This section on the EU's pioneers is therefore a work in progress.

THE HISTORY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

1945 – 1959

A peaceful Europe – the beginnings of cooperation

The European Union is set up with the aim of ending the frequent and bloody wars between neighbours, which culminated in the Second World War. As of 1950, the European Coal and Steel Community begins to unite European countries economically and politically in order to secure lasting peace. The six founding countries are Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. The 1950s are dominated by a cold war between east and west. Protests in Hungary against the Communist regime are put down by Soviet tanks in 1956. In 1957, the Treaty of Rome creates the European Economic Community (EEC), or 'Common Market'.
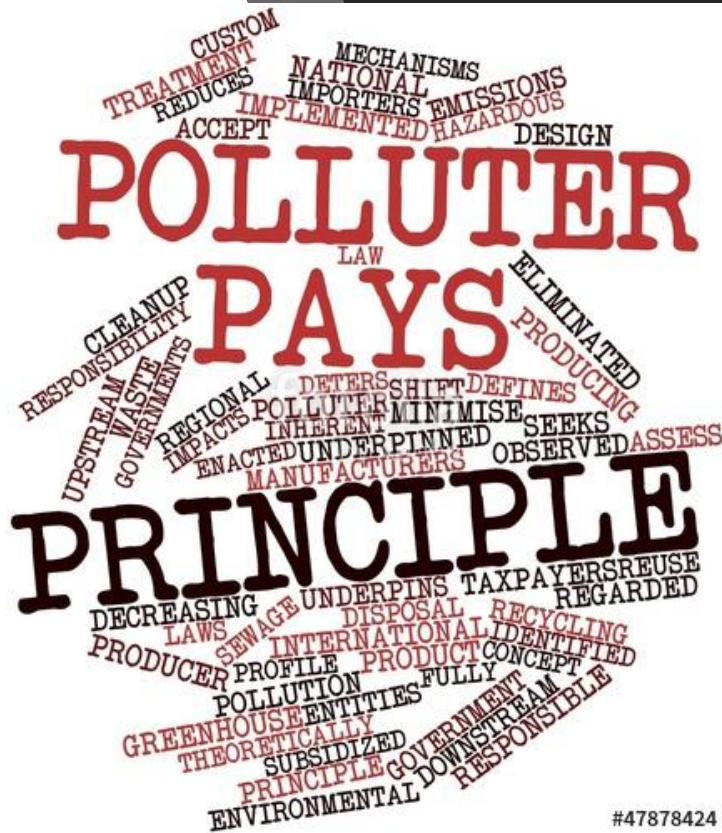
1960 – 1969

A period of economic growth

The 1960s is a good period for the economy, helped by the fact that EU countries stop charging custom duties when they trade with each other. They also agree joint control over food production, so that everybody now has enough to eat - and soon there is even surplus agricultural produce. May 1968 becomes famous for student riots in Paris, and many changes in society and behaviour become associated with the so-called '68 generation'.

A growing Community – the first enlargement

Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom join the European Union on 1 January 1973, raising the number of Member States to nine. The short, yet brutal, Arab-Israeli war of October 1973 results in an energy crisis and economic problems in Europe. The last right-wing dictatorships in Europe come to an end with the overthrow of the Salazar regime in Portugal in 1974 and the death of General Franco of Spain in 1975. The EU regional policy starts to transfer huge sums of money to create jobs and infrastructure in poorer areas. The European Parliament increases its influence in EU affairs and in 1979 all citizens can, for the first time, elect their members directly. The fight against pollution intensifies in the 1970s. The EU adopts laws to protect the environment, introducing the notion of 'the polluter pays' for the first time.

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1980 - 1989

The changing face of Europe - the fall of the Berlin Wall

The Polish trade union, Solidarność, and its leader Lech Walesa, become household names across Europe and the world following the Gdansk shipyard strikes in the summer of 1980. In 1981, Greece becomes the 10th member of the EU, and Spain and Portugal follow five years later. In 1986 the Single European Act is signed. This is a treaty which provides the basis for a vast six-year programme aimed at sorting out the problems with the free flow of trade across EU borders and thus creates the 'Single Market'. There is major political upheaval when, on 9 November 1989, the Berlin Wall is pulled down and the border between East and West Germany is opened for the first time in 28 years. This leads to the reunification of Germany, when both East and West Germany are united in October 1990.

1990 – 1999

A Europe without frontiers

With the collapse of communism across central and eastern Europe, Europeans become closer neighbours. In 1993 the Single Market is completed with the 'four freedoms' of: movement of goods, services, people and money. The 1990s is also the decade of two treaties: the 'Maastricht' Treaty on European Union in 1993 and the Treaty of Amsterdam in 1999. People are concerned about how to protect the environment and also how Europeans can act together when it comes to security and defence matters. In 1995 the EU gains three more new members: Austria, Finland and Sweden. A small village in Luxembourg gives its name to the 'Schengen' agreements that gradually allow people to travel without having their passports checked at the borders. Millions of young people study in other countries with EU support. Communication is made easier as more and more people start using mobile phones and the internet

2000 - 2009

Further expansion

The euro is now the
new currency for many Europeans. During the decade more
and more countries adopt the euro.
11 September 2001 becomes synonymous with the 'War
on Terror' after hijacked airliners are flown into buildings in
New York and Washington. EU countries begin to
work much more closely together to fight crime.
The political divisions between east and west Europe
are finally declared healed when no fewer than 10 new
countries join the EU in 2004, followed by Bulgaria
and Romania in 2007. A financial crisis hits the global
economy in September 2008.
The Treaty of Lisbon is ratified by all EU
countries before entering into force in 2009. It provides the
EU with modern institutions and
more efficient working methods.

2010 - today

A challenging decade

The global economic crisis strikes hard in Europe. The EU helps several countries to confront their difficulties and establishes the 'Banking Union' to ensure safer and more reliable banks. In 2012, the European Union is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Croatia becomes the 28th member of the EU in 2013. Climate change is still high on the agenda and leaders agree to reduce harmful emissions. European elections are held in 2014 and more Eurosceptics are elected into the European Parliament. A new security policy is established in the wake of the annexation of Crimea by Russia. Religious extremism increases in the Middle East and various countries and regions around the world, leading to unrest and wars which result in many people fleeing their homes and seeking refuge in Europe. The EU is not only faced with the dilemma of how to take care of them, but also finds itself the target of several terrorist attacks.

The treaties – basis for democratic cooperation built on law

1952	The European Coal and Steel Community
1958	The treaties of Rome: • The European Economic Community • The European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM)
1987	The European Single Act: the Single Market
1993	Treaty on European Union - Maastricht
1999	Treaty of Amsterdam
2003	Treaty of Nice
2009	Treaty of Lisbon

INSTITUTIONS AND BODIES

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Role: Directly-elected EU body with legislative, supervisory, and budgetary responsibilities

Members: 751 MEPs (Members of the European Parliament)

President: Antonio Tajani

Established in: 1952 as Common Assembly of the European Coal and Steel Community, 1962 as European Parliament, first direct elections in 1979

Location: Strasbourg (France), Brussels (Belgium), Luxembourg

EUROPEAN COUNCIL

Role: Defines the general political direction and priorities of the European Union

Members: Heads of state or government of EU countries, European Commission President, High Representative for Foreign Affairs & Security Policy

President: Donald Tusk

Established in: 1974 (informal forum), 1992 (formal status), 2009 (official EU institution)

Location: Brussels (Belgium)

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Role: Voice of EU member governments, adopting EU laws and coordinating EU policies

Members: Government ministers from each EU country, according to the policy area to be discussed

President: Each EU country holds the presidency on a 6-month rotating basis

Established in: 1958 (as Council of the European Economic Community)

Location: Brussels (Belgium)

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Role: Promotes the general interest of the EU by proposing and enforcing legislation as well as by implementing policies and the EU budget

Members: A team or 'College' of Commissioners, 1 from each EU country

President: Jean-Claude Juncker

Year established: 1958

Location: Brussels (Belgium)

COURT OF JUSTICE

Role: Ensuring EU law is interpreted and applied the same in every EU country; ensuring countries and EU institutions abide by EU law.

Members:

- Court of Justice: 1 judge from each EU country, plus 11 advocates general
- General Court: 47 judges. In 2019 this will be increased to 56 (2 judges from each EU country).

Established in: 1952

Location: Luxembourg

EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

Role: Ensuring EU law is interpreted and applied the same in every EU country; ensuring countries and EU institutions abide by EU law.

Members:

- Court of Justice: 1 judge from each EU country, plus 11 advocates general
- General Court: 47 judges. In 2019 this will be increased to 56 (2 judges from each EU country).

Established in: 1952

Location: Luxembourg

OUR SCHOOL'S ERASMUS PROJECT

"IPSO FACTO (Innovative Pedagogical Scenario On Food And Consumption Trends and Opportunities)"

The project is designed to enable teachers and students from 4 European countries (partners in an Erasmus + KA2 project) to communicate and collaborate in order to achieve 2 general objectives:

- educate students about the impact of nutrition on health and the environment, using information and digital communication tools;

- enable teachers to implement innovative teaching scenarios.

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- On the one hand, it is about developing the "4 Cs" of 21st century skills: knowing how to create and cooperate, exercise a critical spirit and communicate in a useful way using TICS.