Teaching about the EU Methodological Resource

Project title: The European Union – our home, our world, our way

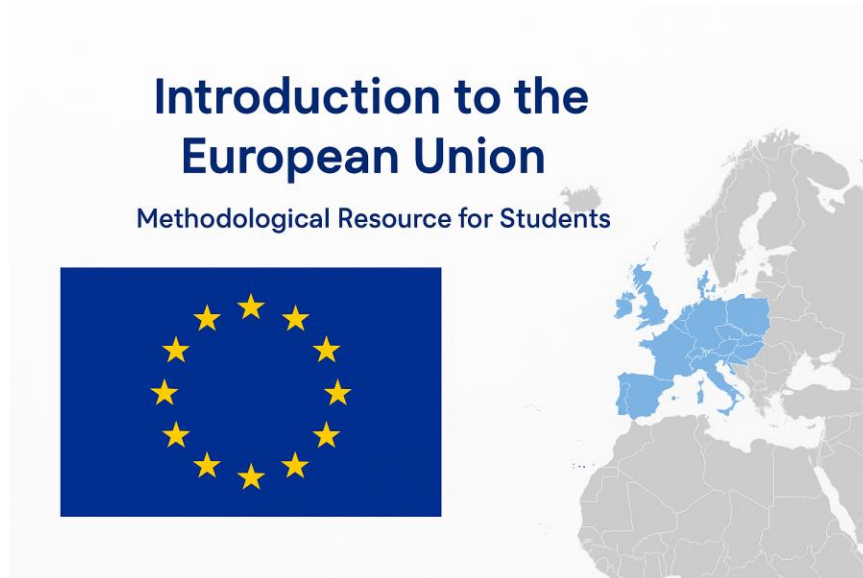**Project:** 101176164 – ZSK1 – ERASMUS-JMO-2024-OFET-LEARNING-EU

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Introduction to the European Union

Welcome!

Let's explore how the European Union connects countries and shapes our everyday lives.

Introduction to the European Union
Methodological Resource for Students

What is the EU?

The EU is a union of 27 countries working together for peace, prosperity, and shared values.

History of the EU

EU Symbols

EU motto: "United in diversity"

Czech: Jednotná v rozmanitosti

European anthem

Motto EU

Europe Day

European flag

EU Institutions Overview

- the European Parliament (Brussels/Strasbourg/Luxembourg)

- the European Council (Brussels)

- the Council of the European Union (Brussels/Luxembourg)

- the European Commission (Brussels/Luxembourg/Representations across the EU)

Their work is complemented by other institutions and bodies, which include:

- the Court of Justice of the European Union (Luxembourg)

- the European Central Bank (Frankfurt)

- the European Court of Auditors (Luxembourg)

European Parliament

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

- **Role:** Represents EU citizens and ensures democratic oversight of EU institutions
- **Members:** 705 Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), elected every five years
- **Legislative Powers:** Shares law-making powers with the Council of the EU, approves the EU budget, and monitors the work of the European Commission

European Commission

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

- **Role:** Acts as the EU's executive body, proposing legislation, implementing decisions, and managing day-to-day operations.

- **Members:** 27 Commissioners (one from each EU country), including the President of the Commission

- **Powers:** Can annul EU laws conflicting with to propose new EU laws and ensures their proper implementation across member states

Council of the EU & European Council

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (COUNCIL OF MINISTERS)

- **Role:** Co-legislates with the European Parliament; adopts laws and coordinates policies

- **Members:** Ministers from each EU country, depending on the policy area (e.g., environment, finance)

- **Decision-making:** Uses qualified majority voting for most decisions; unanimity required for sensitive issues (e.g., foreign policy, taxation)

EUROPEAN COUNCIL

- **Role:** Defines the EU's overall political direction and priorities, does *not* pass laws

- **Members:** Heads of state or government of each EU country, plus the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission

- **Decision-making:** Mostly by consensus, especially on strategic

Court of Justice

COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

- **Role:** Ensures adherence to EU law across member states; interprets legislation to clarify disputes

- **Members:** 27 Judges (one from each EU country) and 11 Advocates General, appointed for six-year terms

- **Powers:** Can annul EU laws conflicting with the treaties, issue rulings on the application of EU law, and sanction states failing to meet obligations

EU Values & Principles

EU VALUES & PRINCIPLES

- **Human dignity:** Respected and protected
- **Freedom:** Having rights to liberty and security
- **Democracy:** Represent citizens through elected leaders
- **Equality:** Being treated equaly before the law
- **Rule of law:** Fairness, justice, and upholding
- **Human rights:** Right to be free from discrimination

EU Policies

EU POLICIES

- **Single market**: Goods, services, capital, and people can freely move between EU countries
- **Competition**: Ensures fair business practices and consumer choice
- **Agriculture**: Supports farmers and promotes sustainable rural development
- **Environment**: Protects natural resources and tackles climate change
- **Regional policy**: Reduces disparities between EU regions by aiding development
- **Foreign policy**: Addresses global challenges and promotes security

EU Funding & Programs

EU FUNDING & PROGRAMS

- **Erasmus+**: Supports education, training, youth, and sport

- **Jean Monnet**: Promotes studies and research on the EU and its policies

- **Horizon Europe**: Funds research and innovation projects

Czech Republic in the EU

CZECH REPUBLIC IN THE EU

- **Membership:** The Czech Republic became a member of the European Union on 1 May 204.

- **Role in the EU:** As a member state, it participates in EU decision-making through its representatives in the European Parliament, Council of the EU, and other institutions. It contributes to shaping EU policies, especially in areas like energy, digital transformation, and regional development.

EU in Everyday Life

EU IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Currency: The euro is used by 20 EU countries, making travel and trade easier

Travel: EU citizens can live, work, and study in any EU country

Consumer rights: Strong protections for product safety and fair business practices

Education: Erasmus+ offers opportunities to study and train abroad

Current Challenges

CURRENT CHALLENGES

Climate change: Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting sustainable practices

Migration: Managing the influx of refugees and asylum seekers

Digitalization: Regulating digital markets and addressing cybersecurity concerns

Brexit: Clarifying future EU-UK relations after the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the EU

Opportunities for Youth

Happy learning and exploring!