



Erasmus+



# ***ODE TO JOY*** **STUDENT'S BOOKLET** **1**



## **INTRODUCTION**

### Let's talk about the European Union!

This booklet is the result of close cooperation between Erasmus+ and five partner organisations in France, Croatia, Greece, Poland and Italy, all active in the R-EU CONNECTED project. The partner organisations are represented by teachers, instructors and formal/informal education experts.

The aim of the project is to raise awareness of the European Union, its history, its values and its official symbols.

The European Union is an international organisation made up of 27 countries. Following the Second World War, several European countries, including France, decided to join together in a union and cooperate more closely. The aim? To prevent future wars in Europe.

It was decided that the European Union would be built little by little. The French Minister of Foreign Affairs Robert Schuman suggested starting with the economy – in particular, with the pooling of steel and coal production in 1951.

Given the success of this initial economic cooperation, further cooperation efforts began. In 1957, six European countries signed the Treaty of Rome, which established a vast European area for the free movement of people and goods: the common market. The six countries were Germany, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Italy.

Over the years the Union took on an increasingly political dimension. That means that the cooperation between Member States moved beyond just economics. For example, in 1992 the heads of state and government of all the Member States signed a Treaty introducing a single currency for EU countries: the euro. The same Treaty established European citizenship. This means that the citizens of Member States now possessed, in addition to their national citizenship, the status of European citizens!

As the construction of the European Union progressed, other European countries wished to join. Initially there were only six members... Now there are 27! The largest expansion took place in 2004, when 10 Eastern European countries joined the European Union.

The European Union has recently faced the departure of one of its members – the United Kingdom, whose citizens recently voted to leave the Union.

## **European construction timeline**

The idea of a union in Europe was far from new! As early as 1849 the French writer Victor Hugo had suggested creating a 'United States of Europe'. However, European leaders did not actually launch European construction until after the Second World War.

1945: End of the Second World War

1950: The French Minister of Foreign Affairs Robert Schuman makes his Declaration in support of an economic union in Europe. He suggests the Union be constructed little by little, beginning with the economic sector of coal and steel.

1951: The European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) is established in Europe. Coal and steel production is pooled. The choice of coal and steel was highly symbolic, since it was these that had been used to create weapons for the war. The aim was to prevent future wars by pooling the resources needed to bring them about.

1957: The Treaty of Rome establishes a common market in Europe, enabling the six countries who have signed the Treaty to trade freely together. The first six countries to sign the Treaty are Germany, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Italy and the Netherlands.

1979: In order to make the European Union more democratic, the European Parliament is now elected by all the citizens of the EU's countries by universal direct suffrage.

1981: Greece joins the EU.

1985: The Schengen Agreements are signed. They will allow European citizens to travel all over Europe without barriers.

1992: The Treaty of Maastricht establishes the single currency (the euro) and European citizenship. Thanks to European citizenship, European citizens can vote in European Parliament elections in any EU country, even if they are not nationals of that country.

2002: The euro becomes the currency used in most EU countries (12 of the 15 members).

2004: The European Union undergoes a major enlargement: 10 Central and Eastern European countries (CEEC) join in the same year. Bulgaria and Romania became members in 2005, and Croatia joined the EU in 2013.

## Europe's myth

Europa was a princess living in the Kingdom of Phoenicia, which is located in modern day Lebanon, close to the city of Tyr. One day Jupiter (or Zeus) saw her picking flowers by the seashore with her friends.

In order to seduce the Princess, Jupiter turned himself into a white bull and positioned himself at the head of a real flock of sheep moving towards Europa and her friends.

Europa was fascinated by the beautiful, gentle animal. She patted him, put a crown on his head and finally climbed on his back.



At this the bull leapt into the sea and swam to Crete (a Greek island), carrying Europa with him. Having reached the shore, Jupiter (or Zeus) revealed his true identity. He and Europa lived together and had three children – Minos (the future king of Crete), Rhadamanthus and Sarpedon.

## EXERCISES QUIZ

1/ How many EU member countries are there?

- A 6
- B 15
- C 27

2/ Which of the following countries is not part of the European Union?

- A France
- B Ireland
- C Russia

3/ Which of the following features on the flag of the European Union?

- A An eagle
- B A cross
- C Stars

4/ Who of the following is considered the father of the EU?

- A Robert Schuman
- B Margaret Thatcher
- C Theodore Roosevelt

5/ Which of the following was not one of the original aims of the European Union?

- A Building peace in Europe after the Second World War
- B Creating a zone in which countries could trade together freely
- C Making it easier to organise the European football championship

6/ In 1957 a Treaty was signed to establish an economic union in Europe. In which city was it signed?

- A Bordeaux
- B Rome
- C Hamburg

7/ Which right did European residents obtain in 1989?

- A The right to directly elect their representatives to the European Parliament
- B The right to attend concerts for free in Berlin
- C The right to help write a European constitution

8/ What is the aim of the Schengen Area?

- A It means you can travel by plane for free.
- B It means you can travel wherever you like in Europe.
- C It makes it easy to organise important events each year.

9/ What is the currency of the European Union?

- A The dollar
- B The euro
- C The yen

10/ Which country joined the EU most recently?

- A Croatia
- B Poland
- C Austria

11/ Which country is currently preparing to leave the European Union?

- A Italy
- B Greece
- C The United Kingdom

12/ Which European Union institution is considered to be the EU's government?

- A The European Central Bank
- B The European Commission
- C The European Parliament

13/ Which city is considered to be the capital of Europe?

- A Berlin

B Brussels

C Dublin

14/ Who or what is Europe named after?

A A Mediterranean island

B A Phoenician princess

C A Spanish queen

15/ Which character from Greek mythology can be seen in this picture?

A Aphrodite

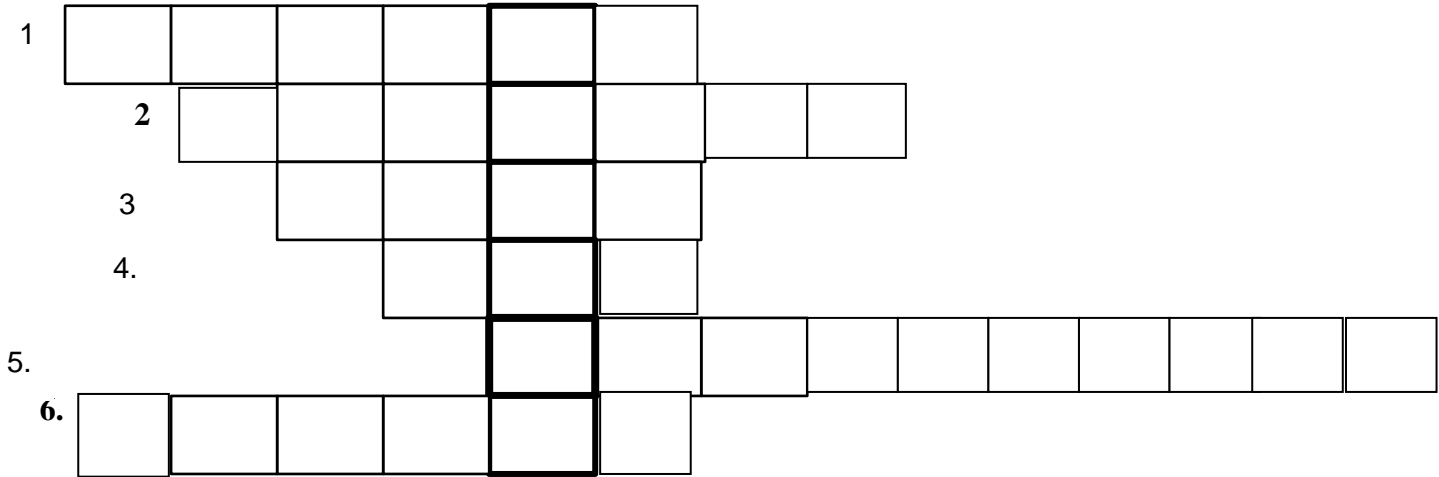
B Europa

C Athena



## CROSSWORD

Using the clues below, find the six words to fill in the crossword.



1. The first word of the EU's motto, meaning that the EU's countries are linked.
2. One of the founding fathers of the European Union this person gave a famous speech on 9 May 1950.
3. The currency used by most EU countries.
4. The emotion described in the poem by Schiller to which Beethoven wrote music.
5. EU citizens elect representatives directly to this European institution.
6. Something that is sung to rally the citizens of a country or union around shared values.

### The EU's values

Match each value with its definition.

**HUMAN RIGHTS**

A system of government. The word literally means 'rule by the people' (Greek words *dēmos* plus *kratos*)

**FREEDOM**

The authority and influence of law in a society, and a principle according to which all members of a society, including governments, are equal before the law

<b>EQUALITY</b>	The power and right to act, speak and think as you choose
<b>DEMOCRACY</b>	A person's importance and value, plus other people's respect for that person
<b>HUMAN DIGNITY</b>	Equal rights, status and opportunities
<b>RULE OF LAW</b>	Moral principles and standards describing rules for human behaviour; often protected by national and international law

**Listen to the European Union's anthem *Ode to Joy***

**How did you feel when listening to the music? Describe your feelings below**

**Now draw a picture inspired by the music!**

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