



READY

EU READY TO READ

Easy-to-understand version of
EU Provisions

Editor: Forum for Freedom in Education, Croatia

Authors: Mario Bajkuša, Maja Šarić, Leila Younis

Proofreading: Lucy Croxton

Design: Robin Höft

Editorial contribution: READY Project Partners

YES Forum, Germany (Project Coordinator)
Forum for Freedom in Education, Croatia
Framework Filmagentur, Germany
Institute of Training and Vocational Guidance (IEKEP), Greece
Pistes-Solidaires, France
Zefiro Società Cooperativa Sociale, Italy

Visit the READY project's website to get further information:

<https://www.yes-forum.eu/our-work/projects/ready-raising-eu-awareness-through-accessible-documents-for-youth/>

Acknowledgement:

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the diverse individuals whose invaluable contributions made this project and publication a reality. Our special appreciation goes to the young participants and youth & social work professionals who actively engaged in the project's meetings & trainings, enriching the outcomes with their authentic experiences and valuable feedback. Their dedication and involvement were vital to making this achievement possible.

Disclaimer:

The European Commission support for the production of this publication (Grant Agreement No. 2021-1-DE04-KA220-YOU-000028868) does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission and European Union as a whole cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

Images used are made by and are therefore property of the YES Forum and its project partners. Usage by any other party is prohibited. The text contained in this handbook has been written by the project partners.



Co-funded by
the European Union

CONTENTS

Introduction	4
Understanding the European Union	
Competences	5
The Institutions	7
Non-discrimination and citizenship of the Union	
Eliminate inequalities, promote equality and inclusion	12
Fight discrimination	13
Citizenship rights	14
Free movement of persons in the area of freedom, security and justice	
Free movement	15
Schengen area	16
Employability and social affairs	
Social policy	18
Education, vocational training and youth	18
Environment	19
Euro	19
Conclusion	20
Glossary	21
Original Provisions	26
READY Project Partners	27

INTRODUCTION

The European Union as we know it today is the result of seventy years of development and agreements that began in 1951 with the establishment of the European Coal and Steel Community. Since then, seven more major contracts have been signed. The Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union is the basis for EU action in the youth field established, has over 300 pages, but how about the language and content, is it accessible to all?

The treaties are translated into all the languages of the 27 member states of the EU, which does not ensure everyone understand the text. In these treaties, we find the basis of our lives in society. The more than 300 pages of the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) can seem like "dry letters", distant from our everyday life, but they carry the history of what the EU is today.



So how do we ensure that the importance of the European Union is recognised by young people if its texts are far from their reality?

The aim of this project result was to produce an easy-to-understand compilation of the most relevant provisions to young people from EU treaties. By "most relevant provisions" we understand those articles that have a major impact on the lives of young people in Europe. This is why we have selected themes and topics which are significant in the everyday life of youth:

Understanding the European Union, Non-discrimination and citizenship of the Union, Free movement of

persons in the area of freedom, security and justice, Employability and social affairs, Environment and Euro.

With the READY project we want to raise EU awareness among young people by making relevant provisions from EU treaties understandable to them.

We want to raise literacy competencies of young people, so they can better understand the meaning of these treaties and the importance that they have over their lives. To ensure that the language of the relevant provisions of European Union treaties and policies are accessible to them.

Having this thought and aim in mind in the next pages of our Ready to Read publication, we made sure to have the EU language easily read and understood. Over 50 articles are adapted to be closer to youth. The publication is created with help of youth and for the youth. In several working groups with young people from Croatia, France, Germany, Greece and Italy we were creating and adapting every article you will find in here. As an addition there is a Glossary which is an additional tool to help you understand better complex words whose meaning couldn't be simplified but its importance is more than significant in understanding EU language and everyday life.

For those who want to know how the original articles are written in your own language. This publication is available in six languages: English, Croatian, French, German, Greek and Italian.

We hope you will find this easy-to-understand publication easy, helpful and bring the EU one step closer to your everyday life!

UNDERSTANDING THE EUROPEAN UNION

COMPETENCES

Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

ARTICLE 2

1. The Treaties give the European Union (EU) exclusive ability to create laws and make decisions in certain areas. Member States (MS) can act by themselves in the defined areas only if the EU allows them.

2. The Treaties give the EU and Member States shared power to create laws and make decisions in certain areas. The MS can only create laws and make decisions in areas with shared powers if the EU has not already created laws or made decisions in those same areas.

3. The Member States should coordinate their policies related to economy and labour rights (and the EU will help the MS in this co-ordination).

4. The EU has defined powers, according to the rules of the Treaty, to organise its common foreign and security policy and to shape a common defence policy.

5. In certain areas and under the conditions set in Treaties, the EU can support and assist the actions of the MS without undermining their power and sovereignty in that area.

6. The Treaties on each area define the EU's power and how it will be exercised in relation to MS.

ARTICLE 3

1. The EU has exclusive power to make decisions in these areas:

- a) Customs
- b) Competition rules within the internal market / Internal market
- c) Monetary policy for countries that use the euro / Monetary policy
- d) Conservation of marine resources and common fisheries policy
- e) Commercial policy

2. The EU has exclusive power to make international agreements if the agreement affects the common rules of the EU.

ARTICLE 4

1. The EU has shared power with the Member State based on Treaties for areas which are not covered or mentioned in Articles 3 and 6.

2. The Union and the MS share decision making powers in these areas:

- a) Internal market
- b) Certain areas of social policy
- c) Economic, social and territorial cohesion (uniting, working together)
- d) Agriculture and fisheries excluding marine resources
- e) Environment
- f) Consumer protection
- g) Transport
- h) Trans-European networks
- i) Energy
- j) Freedom, security and justice
- k) Certain areas of public health matters





ARTICLE 6

The Union has the power to support, coordinate or improve actions of the Member States in these areas:

- a) Human health
- b) Industry
- c) Culture
- d) Tourism
- e) Education, vocational training, youth and sport
- f) Civil protection
- g) Administrative cooperation

3. In the areas of research, technological development and space, the EU can define and implement programmes, but it can not act above the Member State and cannot prevent the Member State from acting.

4. In the areas of development cooperation and humanitarian aid, the EU can carry out activities, and conduct a common policy. However, it cannot act above the Member State or prevent the Member State from acting.

ARTICLE 5 (Power to create the rules under which the Member State must coordinate its national policy)

1. The Member States have to work with each other when creating their economic policies. For those policies, the Council issues guidelines for all Member States to follow. The Member States whose currency is the euro have specific rules they must follow.

2. The Member States must work together in areas related to employment policies, according to measures and guidelines outlined by the EU.

3. The EU can ensure the coordination of social policies by Member States.

THE INSTITUTIONS

Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

ARTICLE 223

1. The European Parliament (EP) proposes rules and procedures for the election of its Members. Each adult citizen has a right to vote (direct universal suffrage). These procedures should be the same and respect the same principles in each Member State.

ARTICLE 227



Official Logo of the European Parliament

Any person living in the EU (and any organization based in the EU) has the right to send a petition to the EP, alone or together with other citizens about any EU matter which affects them directly.

ARTICLE 229

The EP should have at least one meeting per year on the second Tuesday in March. It can meet more times for shorter sessions if the meeting is requested by the majority of its members or at the request of the Council or of the Commission.

ARTICLE 231

The EP makes decisions according to a majority vote, if there are enough members present in the meeting (quorum) according to the Rules of Procedure.

THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

ARTICLE 235

1. When voting, any member of the European Council can vote on behalf of another member. Where the European Council decides by vote, its President and the President of the Commission do not take part. Abstentions cannot prevent decisions which require unanimity.

2. The European Council can invite the President of the Parliament to the hearing.

3. For decisions related to procedures, the European Council acts by simple majority.

4. The General Secretariat supports the work of the European Council.

ARTICLE 236

The European Council adopts by a qualified majority:

- a) a decision on the list of specialised groups within the Council, in addition to the General and Foreign Affairs Councils
- b) a decision on the Presidency of the bodies of the Council, apart from the Foreign Affairs Council

The European Council adopts by qualified majority the structure of member bodies and their Presidency, apart from the General and Foreign Affairs Councils.

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

ARTICLE 237

A meeting of the Council takes place when the President or one of the Members of the Council or Commission requests it.

The President or one of the Members of the Council or the Commission can organise the meetings of the Council.

ARTICLE 238

1. When it acts by a simple majority it means that the Council acts by a majority of its members.

2. Unless the Council is acting on a proposal from the Commission or from the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, a qualified majority is achieved when at least 72% of the members of the Council, representing the Member States comprising at least 65% of the population of the EU, vote in favour of that proposal. This special rule applies from 1 November 2014.

3. If not all the Council members participate in voting, a qualified majority is achieved if the following conditions are met:

- a) At least 55% of the members of the Council representing the participating Member States, comprising at least 65% of the population of these States, votes in favour of a proposal.
- b) Any blocking minority must be represented by at least 35% of the population of the participating Member States plus one member. If that number is not reached, the vote is made by a qualified majority. This special rule also applies from 1 November 2014.

4. Abstentions in voting by Members present in person or represented can not prevent the adoption of acts which require unanimity to pass.



Official Logo of the Council of the European Union

ARTICLE 239

When voting, any Member can also vote on behalf of a maximum of one other member.

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

ARTICLE 244

Based on Article 17(5) of the Treaty on EU, Members are chosen based on a system of rotation established unanimously by the European Council. Principles to elect are:

- a) Member States have equal right to gain the mandate and equal duration of mandate for their nationals who are members of the Commission.
- b) each Commission has to represent the demographic and geographical range of all the Member States.

ARTICLE 245

Members of the Commission should not make actions which contradict their duties. Member states should respect their independence and should not seek to influence them. Members of the Commission should not have any other paid or unpaid jobs. When taking on the position in the Commission, representatives must promise that they will behave with integrity and respect while accomplishing their duties, when using their benefits, and upon ending their placement. If a commissioner breaks any of these obligations, a simple majority of the members of the Council or of the Commission may ask the Court of Justice to order the Commissioner to leave their office and/or to lose their right to a pension or other benefits.

THE COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

ARTICLE 251

The Court of Justice can decide upon cases in small groups of judges (chambers) or in a larger group for more important cases (Grand Chamber) in accordance with its own rules. In some cases, where it has been established in the Statute, the Court of Justice can also take decisions as a full Court composed of all the judges in the Statute of the Court.

ARTICLE 258

If the Commission considers that a Member State has failed to fulfil its obligation, or breached its obligations under the Treaties, it sends a reasoned opinion to the State.

The Member State can then submit a response to the Commission.

If the concerned State does not act in accordance with the opinion of the Commission, in line with the given deadline, the Commission may bring the matter to the Court of Justice.

ARTICLE 259

Any Member State that believes another MS has breached the Treaties has the right to bring that matter to the Court of Justice. Before a Member State starts a case against another MS, it must inform the Commission. The Commission then asks each of the involved Member States to give their opinion on the case. After receiving those opinions, the Commission gives its own reasoned opinion on the matter. If the Commission does not deliver its opinion within three months of the date from when it first received the complaint of the MS, the case can still proceed to Court.



Official Logo of the Court of Justice of the European Union

ARTICLE 267

The Court of Justice rules upon:

- a) the interpretation of the Treaties
- b) the validity and interpretation of acts of the institutions, bodies, offices, or agencies of the Union.

*Explanation: for these questions, any court or tribunal of a Member State may ask the Court of the EU for its judgement if they need it to decide a case. When there is a case pending in a Member State in

the highest Court, this Court must ask the Court of the EU for its judgment. When such a question relates to a person in jail, the Court of EU shall act as quickly as possible.

ARTICLE 270

The Court of the EU also has jurisdiction in disputes between the EU and its employees.

Treaty on the European Union

ARTICLE 14

1. The European Parliament and the Council have legislative and budgetary power, i.e. they make decisions related to laws and the budget. The Parliament also has functions, control and consultative roles as outlined in the Treaties. The Parliament elects the President of the Commission.

2. The European Parliament can have a maximum number of 750 representatives plus the President. Representation of citizens should be proportional, with a minimum of 6 seats per Member State. The maximum number of seats is 96.

The composition of the EP is decided by the initiative of the European Parliament and the unanimous decision of the European Council.

3. Members of the European Parliament are elected for a term of five years by a direct universal vote in a free and secret ballot.

4. The European Parliament elects its President and its officers from among its members.

ARTICLE 15

1. The European Council supports the development of the Union by establishing political directions and priorities, but it does not have legislative functions.

2. The European Council consists of the Heads of State of Government of the Member States, together with its President and the President of the Commission. The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy takes part in its work too.

3. The European Council meets twice every six months, invited by its President. If needed, members can be assisted by the minister, or the President of the Commission can be assisted by a member of the Commission. When the situation so requires, the President can organise a special meeting of the European Council.

4. Decisions are made by consensus unless otherwise specified in the Treaties.

5. The President is elected by a qualified majority, and has a term of 2.5 years which is renewable once. In case of breach of rules or misconduct, the Council can end their term.

6. The President of the European Council:

- a) Chairs the European Council (is in charge of the European Council)
- b) Ensures that work between the European Council and the President of the Commission is operational and based on the work of the General Affairs Council
- c) Facilitates work within the European Council
- d) Presents a report to the European Parliament after each meeting of the European Council

The President ensures external representation of the Union in matters of common foreign and security policy (together with the High Representative). The President cannot have a position within the national government.

ARTICLE 16

1. The Council, together with the European Parliament, makes decisions about legislation and budget. It is responsible for policymaking and coordinating work outlined within the Treaties.

2. The Council consists of the representative on a ministerial level from each Member State who can represent their national government and vote in name of that government.

3. The Council acts by qualified majority except when Treaties say differently.

4. A qualified majority is defined as at least 55% of the members of the Council, with at least 15 of them from different Member States representing at least 65% of the population of the Union.

[...]

ARTICLE 17

1. The Commission promotes the general interests of the EU. It ensures the application of the Treaties. It shall oversee the application of EU law under the control of the Court of Justice of the European Union. It executes the budget and manages programmes. It takes care of the coordination, executive and management functions as outlined in the Treaties. With the exception of the common foreign and security policy, and other cases provided for in the Treaties, it ensures the EU's external representation. It initiates the Union's annual and multiannual programming with a view to achieving agreements between institutions.

2. The Commission proposes laws for the EU.

3. The Commission's term of office is five years. The Commission is independent in its work. Its members cannot take instructions from any Government or institution and should not act in a way that interferes with their duties in the Commission.

4. Until 31 October 2014, the Commission consisted of one national of each Member State, the President and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy who is one of the Vice-Presidents of the Commission.

5. From 1 November 2014, the Commission consists of a number of members, including its President and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, which corresponds to two-thirds of the number of Member States (unless the European Council, acting unanimously, decides to alter this number). The members of the Commission are chosen from among the nationals of the Member States on the basis of a system of strictly equal rotation between the Member States, reflecting the demographic and geographical range of all the Member States.

6. The President of the Commission:

- a) gives guidelines for Commission's work
- b) decides on the internal organisation of the Commission
- c) appoints Vice-Presidents, other than the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, from among the members of the Commission

A member of the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy should resign if the President requests so.

7. The European Council, acting by a qualified majority, proposes to the European Parliament a candidate for President of the Commission considering the results of the elections for the Parliament. If a candidate does not gain the required majority by the European Parliament, the European Council can propose a new candidate within a period of one month.

The Council, in agreement with the President-elect, adopts the list of the other persons whom it proposes for appointment as members of the Commission. They are selected based on the suggestions made by the Member States through the procedure.

The European Parliament votes by consent on the positions of the President, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the other members of the Commission. Based on those votes, the European Council appoints the Commission and the other positions.

8. The Commission, as a body, is responsible to the European Parliament. Parliament can ask for the resignation of members of the Commission.



Official Logo of the European Commission

ARTICLE 18

1. The European Council, by qualified majority with the agreement of the President of the Commission, appoints the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. The term of the High Representative can also end by the same procedure.

2. The High Representative conducts the EU's common foreign and security policy and takes part in the development of a common defence policy.

3. The High Representative presides over the Foreign Affairs Council.

4. The High Representative is one of the Vice-Presidents of the Commission. He or she is responsible for the consistency of the Union's external action (relations and policies).

ARTICLE 19

1. The Court of Justice of the European Union includes the Court of Justice, the General Court and specialised courts. It interprets and follows the application of the Treaties. Member States should ensure effective legal protection and procedures according to EU law.

2. The Court of Justice consists of one judge from each Member State who is assisted by Advocates-General. The General Court includes at least one judge per Member State. The Judges and the Advocates-General of the Court of Justice and the Judges of the General Court shall be chosen from persons whose independence is beyond doubt and who satisfy certain conditions (set out in Articles 253 and 254 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union). They are appointed by common agreement of the governments of the Member States for six years. Retiring Judges and Advocates-General may be reappointed.

3. The Court of Justice of the European Union does the following: (a) rules on actions brought by a Member State, an institution or a natural or legal person; (b) gives preliminary rulings at the request of courts or tribunals of the Member States, on the interpretation of Union law or the validity of acts adopted by the institutions; (c) rules in other cases provided for in the Treaties.

NON-DISCRIMINATION AND CITIZENSHIP OF THE UNION

ELIMINATE INEQUALITIES, PROMOTE EQUALITY & INCLUSION

Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

ARTICLE 8

The same rights for men and women will be promoted in all EU activities with an aim of stopping inequalities of any kind.

ARTICLE 9

In defining and implementing its policies and activities, the EU must promote a high level of employment, provide the guarantee of adequate social protection, fight against social exclusion, ensure a high level of education, training, and protect human health.

b) Indirect discrimination - practice, policy or rules which apply to everyone in the same way, but which have a worse effect on those with a particular religion or belief, a particular disability, a particular age, or a particular sexual orientation at a particular disadvantage unless:

If a person has a disability their employer or organisation should take appropriate measures to avoid any unfair treatment of that person.

3. Harassment is a form of discrimination where unwanted behaviour occurs against a person with the aim of humiliating or diminishing their self-worth.

4. Giving instructions to discriminate against people or groups is also a type of discrimination.

5. This rule must be in line with national laws made to protect democratic values, public security, health, the rights of others and the prevention of crime.

ARTICLE 3

Scope

1. This directive concerns all people in the public and private sector, as well as public bodies where it relates to:

- a) conditions for work (working for someone) and self-employment (owning a business). It includes both selection and recruitment conditions across all areas and professional levels, including promotion to a better position.
- b) access of vocational training, guidance, or any practical work experience
- c) work and working conditions, including being fired, leaving your job and pay
- d) participation in organisations of workers or employers, or any other organisation for members of any profession, and access to benefits provided by such organisations.

Council Directive 2000/78/EC of 27 November 2000 establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation

ARTICLE 2

Treating people unfairly

1. All people have the same rights and they will not be treated differently in their jobs no matter their differences ('the Principle of equal treatment").

2. To better understand the 1st paragraph:

- a) Direct discrimination - when one person is treated less favourably than another is (has been, or would be) treated in a comparable situation

FIGHT DISCRIMINATION

Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

ARTICLE 10

The European Union has agreed that all its activities and policies will fight discrimination of any kind (based on nationality, sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age, or sexual orientation).

ARTICLE 18

If additional rules and actions against any type of discrimination are needed, they can be brought by the European Parliament and the Council.

Any type of discrimination based on nationality is prohibited under EU laws.

ARTICLE 19

The Council, acting unanimously in accordance with a special legislative procedure and after obtaining the consent of the European Parliament, may take appropriate action to combat discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age, or sexual orientation [...].

on an aspect of their identity

b) Indirect discrimination – a practice, policy or rule which applies to everyone in the same way, but which has a worse effect on some people than others

3. Harassment is a form of discrimination where unwanted behaviour that humiliates or diminishes the self-worth of a person or group occurs. The national laws of the Member States may specify what type of behaviour constitutes harassment.

4. Giving instructions to discriminate against people or group on grounds of racial or ethnic origin is also a type of discrimination.

ARTICLE 3

The responsibility to fight discrimination applies to all people, the public and private sector, as well as public bodies when it relates to:

I.) Access to work

a) Selection

b) Recruitment

II.) Life-long learning

a) Training

b) Guidance

c) Practical work experience

III.) Working conditions

a) Pay

b) Leaving work

IV.) Organisation of workers and its benefits

a) Chambers

b) Trade unions

c) Organisations of workers or employers

V.) Social protection, security, and healthcare

VI.) Social advantage

VII.) Education

VIII.) Access to public services and goods. Eg. housing

This directive does not apply to non-EU nationals, third-country nationals or stateless people within EU territory.

Council Directive 2000/43/EC of 29 June 2000 implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin

ARTICLE 2

1. All people have the same rights and must not be treated differently, no matter their differences (skin colour, gender, religion, etc.).

2. To better understand the 1st paragraph:

a) Direct discrimination - when a person is, or would be, treated worse than another based

ARTICLE 5

Positive action

All Member States can take measures to stop or compensate for damages connected to racial or ethnic origin.

ARTICLE 11

Social dialogue

Member States will promote cooperation between trade unions, employer organisations and the government to fight discrimination and encourage equality.

This might involve:

- a) monitoring of workplace practice
- b) collective agreements
- c) codes of conduct
- d) exchange of experiences and good practice

ARTICLE 12

Cooperation with non-governmental organisations (NGOs)

Member States will encourage cooperation with NGOs in line with national law which fights against discrimination and promotes equal treatment.

ARTICLE 13

Member States must designate national institutions which will promote equal treatment and fight discrimination.

These institutions can safeguard and defend individual and human rights.

These institutions have to:

- a) provide objective and independent help to all people who experience discrimination
- b) help with complaints about discrimination
- c) manage independent surveys
- d) publish reports and make recommendations

CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS

Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

ARTICLE 20

Every person that has a nationality of any Member State also has European Union citizenship. All EU citizens have access to the rights and are subject to the obligations written in the Treaties.

These rights and obligations are as follows:

- a) the right to move and live freely within EU borders
- b) the right to vote and to be elected to the European Parliament and municipalities in the Member State where they are living
- c) the right to be protected by any EU embassy in a third country, if their Member State does not have an embassy in that country
- d) the right to petition and contact any EU institution (European Parliament, European Ombudsman, etc.) in their own language and to have an answer in the same language.

All rights are in line with the conditions and boundaries written within the Treaties.

ARTICLE 21

1. Every citizen of the EU has the right to move and stay freely within EU borders.
2. The European Parliament and the Council can adopt additional rules to ensure the right of free movement.
3. If there are no rules regarding social protection and social security, the Council can create new measures with the approval of the EU Parliament.

ARTICLE 22

If you move to another EU country, you can

- a) vote for and be a candidate in municipal elections
- b) vote for candidates in your home country

Warning: voting conditions may be different between EU countries (mandatory, registering, etc.).

FREE MOVEMENT OF PERSONS IN THE AREA OF FREEDOM, SECURITY AND JUSTICE

FREE MOVEMENT

Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

ARTICLE 45

1. All workers have freedom of movement within the EU's territory.
2. No discrimination based on nationality can occur in relation to employment, payment and working conditions.
3. Free movement of workers includes:
 - a) accepting job offers
 - b) moving freely in the EU for a job
 - c) staying in the country while or after being employed, respecting Member States national laws.
4. In some cases, there can be limitations because of public policy, security or healthcare. These rights do not apply to employment in public service.

ARTICLE 53

1. Diplomas, certificates and any other qualifications have mutual recognition between Member States in order to facilitate access to self-employment (freelance, owning a business).
2. Medical, pharmaceutical, and related professions depend on the harmonisation of conditions between Member States.

Directive 2004/38/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the right of citizens of the Union and their family members to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States amending Regulation (EEC) No 1612/68 and repealing Directives 64/221/EEC, 68/360/EEC, 72/194/EEC, 73/148/EEC, 75/34/EEC, 75/35/EEC, 90/364/EEC, 90/365/EEC and 93/96/EEC (Text with EEA relevance)

ARTICLE 4

Right of exit

1. All EU citizens and their family members can travel between the Member States and leave their country with a valid identity card or passport without the requirement of a visa.
2. If you are an EU citizen, your identity card and passport will be given to you and renewed by your Member State.

Your passport is valid if you want to travel between Member States. If the Member State does not provide identity cards, your passport must have at least five years validity remaining.

ARTICLE 5

Right of entry

1. All EU citizens and their family members can travel between Member States and leave their country with a valid identity card or passport, no visa is needed.

2. Family members who are not EU citizens only need to have an entry visa in accordance with EU and/or national laws.

3. A family member who has a residence card from a MS can enter freely. No stamp will be made on the passport for entrance or exit.

4. If an EU citizen or a non-EU family member does not have ID, passport or visa, the MS must give them an opportunity to get the documents or to prove their right of free movement and stay.

5. In some MS you might have to inform the State about your presence within a defined time which applies to everybody. Not informing the MS can result in sanctions. Sanctions have to be proportional and the same for everybody.

ARTICLE 6

Right to stay up to three months

1. As an EU citizen you can stay in any Member State territory for up to three months with a valid ID or passport.

2. If a non-EU family member is joining or accompanying an EU citizen, they can also stay in the MS territory for up to three months with a valid passport.

ARTICLE 7

Right to stay for more than three months

1.&2. All EU citizens can stay in another EU Member State for more than 3 months if they:

- a) work or are self-employed (freelance, own a business) in the host Member State
- b) have enough money to not rely on the social system of the host Member State and have their own health insurance
- c) are joining a private or public institution (e.g faculty) to study or train for a job - they need to have enough money that they do not rely on the social system of the host Member State, and have their own health insurance
- d) are a family member (spouse, registered partner, children) joining or accompanying an EU citizen, if they satisfy the previous criteria.

2. non-EU family members (spouse, registered partner, children) can join or accompany EU citizens with the

same right only if they satisfy the previous criteria.

3. If EU citizens are no longer working or self-employed, they will still have the same rights if:

- a) they are temporarily unable to work because of an illness or accident
- b) they are currently unemployed after having a job for more than a year and are registered with the employment office
- c) they are involuntary not working during the first year but are registered with the employment office - in this case the work status and its rights will last at least 6 months
- d) they are starting job training, unless they are involuntary not working - in this case, work status require that the job training is related to the last workplace.

SCHENGEN AREA

Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

ARTICLE 67

1. The EU is an area of freedom, security and justice. It must respect fundamental rights and the different legal systems of all Member States.

2. The EU will ensure that there are no border controls within the Schengen area.

The EU will ensure a mutual policy on asylum, immigration and external border control based on solidarity between the Member States.

3. The EU will prevent and stop crime, racism and xenophobia. The Member States will co-ordinate and establish cooperation between police and judicial authorities.

4. Every citizen will have the right to access justice in all EU countries.

ARTICLE 77

1. The EU will develop policies to:

- a) ensure no internal border controls
- b) protect external borders

2. The European Parliament and the Council will adopt the following measures:

- a) common policies on visas and other short-stay permits
- b) checks for people crossing external borders of the EU
- c) travel conditions for third country nationals to have the freedom to travel within the Schengen borders for a short period
- d) measures necessary for the step-by-step introduction of a joint management system for external borders
- e) measures which ensure no border control between the Member States of all EU citizens.



Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code)

ARTICLE 22

Crossing internal borders:

Internal borders can be crossed at any point without a border check on persons, no matter their nationality.

ARTICLE 25

If needed, Member States may decide to re-introduce controls at (some or all) internal borders for a limited period of time in exceptional cases.

SOCIAL POLICY

Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

ARTICLE 151

The EU and the Member States' social policy is to:

- a) Respect fundamental social rights by promoting employment
- b) improved living and working conditions to reach a goal of proper social protection
- c) dialogue between management and labour
- d) the development of human resources with a view to lasting high employment
- e) combating exclusion while respecting national practice, and ensuring the competitiveness of the Union economy.

- teachers
- c) result in a recognition of academic diplomas and periods of studying in all Member States
 - d) promote cooperation between educational authorities and institutions
 - e) exchange experience and information about the education system between the Member States
 - f) develop youth exchanges and encourage youth for active citizenship
 - g) encourage the development of distance education
 - h) develop the European dimension in sport, by promoting fairness and openness in competitions
 - i) Promotion of cooperation between institutions responsible for sports, protecting the physical and moral integrity of all sports people.

3. The EU and the Member States will co-operate with non-EU countries and relevant international organisations in the field of education and sport, especially within the Council of Europe.

EDUCATION, VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND YOUTH

Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

ARTICLE 165

1. The EU will contribute to the quality of education and sports by encouraging cooperation between the Member States. The EU will introduce support programmes and activities (such as Erasmus+), but the Member States will have the autonomy to create their educational system.

2. The EU's actions will:

- a) develop the European dimension in education through the teaching and (dissemination) of Member States' national languages
- b) encourage the mobility of students and

ARTICLE 166

1. The EU will implement a vocational training (VET) policy that will support Member States. Each Member State is responsible for the content and organisation of the training.

2. The EU's actions will:

- a) Facilitate adaptation to industrial changes with vocational training and retraining
- b) Improve the initial and continuing vocational training with an aim to (re)integrate people into the labour market.
- c) Facilitate the access of vocational training and mobility of teachers, trainees, and especially young people
- d) encourage cooperation of educational and training authorities and companies
- e) Facilitate experience and information about the training systems between Member States

The EU and the Member States will cooperate with non-EU countries and relevant international organisations in the field of vocational training.

ENVIRONMENT

Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

ARTICLE 191

1. The EU policy on the environment aims to: preserve, protect and improve the quality of the environment

- a) protect human health
- b) promote rational usage of natural resources
- c) promote global measures needed to combat climate change.

2. Considering the diverse situations within the EU regions, the EU policy will ensure that those who do damage to the environment will pay and restore it to the original state.

3. The EU environment policy has to consider:

- a) scientific and technical data
- b) environmental conditions in several EU regions
- c) cost-benefit analysis
- d) balanced socio-economic development of EU regions

4. The EU and the Member States will co-operate with non-EU countries and relevant international organisations in the field of the environment. Member States can still negotiate with international bodies and international agreements.



EURO

Treaty on the European Union

ARTICLE 3

[...]

4. The EU has a common economic and monetary union with the Euro as a currency.

Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

ARTICLE 119 (ex. Article 4 TEC)

1. In accordance with the principle of an open market economy with free competition, the EU economic policy is based on:

- a) Close cooperation and coordination of Member States' Economic policies
- b) Internal market
- c) Common objectives.

2. One of the activities of EU economic policy is a common currency (euro) and unique monetary policy, as well as an exchange rate policy which aims to avoid inflation and promote economic policies.

3. The Member States and the EU have to follow these guiding principles:

- a) Stable prices
- b) Secure finances and currency
- c) A sustainable balance of payments with other countries.

CONCLUSION

Dear reader, we hope that you found this easy-to-understand publication truly simple and user-friendly. We hope that these topics and articles are more understandable and that they will help you navigate through European laws and regulations in the future. Also, we hope that we managed to translate the „legalese“ language of the European Union in a way that makes it tangible, real and applicable to you.

Let this publication be your first step in seeking and realizing your own rights, and in addition, it is also a tool to help others who may not know where to start. Travel, employment, security, money and the environment are all topics that fill our daily lives, and we haven't even listed how many more topics there are!

We believe that you recognize yourself in our chapters and that the European Union is „not out there somewhere“ far from us, but its traces can be seen in our daily lives, schools, workplaces, and simple or less simple possibilities of traveling outside the country in which we live and in many other aspects.

So we hope that this is the beginning of your EU journey through rights, privileges, but also obligations and duties. And what we want to tell you, in the end, is that all these laws are there to serve and protect us, but don't forget that you also have the power to shape and change lives in the European Union.

GLOSSARY

MEASURES

Any law, regulation, procedure, requirement, guideline or practice.

Minimum number of Members of the Parliament who must be present in order for the result of a vote to be valid. In the European Parliament, a quorum exists when one third of the Members are present.

QUORUM

Agreement by all people in a group. It is a voting system where all members need to vote for the same thing for it to be accepted.

In the context of the European Union, when unanimity is applied, all Member States need to agree on the decision. The Council has to vote unanimously on several sensitive matters.

UNANIMITY

SIMPLE MAJORITY

A vote in favour by more than half of the member states means a proposal is adopted. In the European

Council, simple majority is reached when the majority of its members vote in favour (currently representing 14 out of 27 EU countries). It is not about votes cast in a particular vote; it means half of the actual number of the member states of the EU plus one. Member states are allowed to abstain from voting.

QUALIFIED MAJORITY

In the European Council, about 80% of legal proposals are decided by qualified majority vote, also called a 'double majority'.

Under qualified-majority voting, each minister votes for or against a proposal, or abstains. As the number of people represented by each minister varies according to the population of their country, a 'double majority' is required to adopt a decision fairly: at least 55% of EU countries (15 out of 27) representing at least 65% of the total EU population (around 447 million) must vote in favour for a law to pass.

An international partnership between 27 countries located primarily in Europe, governing common economic, social and security policies. The EU was established by the Treaty of Maastricht in 1993.

THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU)

Vocational Education and Training is a broad concept, usually defined

at the European level as preparing learners for jobs with a basis in manual or practical activities, traditionally non-academic and entirely related to a specific trade, occupation or vocation.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

TREATY

The EU treaties are binding agreements between EU member countries. They set out EU objectives, rules for EU institutions, how decisions are made and the relationship between the EU and its member countries.



LEGISLATIVE POWER

The authority which can make new laws, change or reject them. The Council of the European Union is the

EU's main decision-making body. Together with the European Parliament, it has the power to make, change or reject laws (legislative power) which are proposed by the European Commission.

General agreement, collective opinion.



CONSENSUS



TO CHAIR (EG. A COUNCIL)

To act as the president of a meeting or a discussion, driving its content and process.

The authority which determines each year the income and spending of the EU. The European Parliament shares the budgetary power with the Council of the European Union.



BUDGETARY POWER

To take a decision on behalf of a government to do something.



TO COMMIT THE GOVERNMENT



UNANIMOUS VOTING

A vote in favor of a resolution by all the people who can vote, all participants (100%) agree on a matter or vote the same way.



TO EXECUTE THE BUDGET

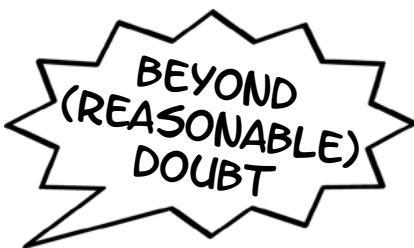
The process of expending the agreed budget for a time period including monitoring, adjusting, and reporting on it.



CONVENE

A group of people who come together for a meeting.

In a manner or to a degree that could not be reasonably doubted; there is no reason to doubt it.



BEYOND (REASONABLE) DOUBT

Is an economy which is able to drive growth and, income and welfare. Economic competitiveness is one of the key political priorities of the European Union.



COMPETITIVENESS OF THE UNION ECONOMY



DISCRIMINATION

Discrimination happens when someone treats you differently, unfairly or worse because of a characteristic of yours.

Indirect discrimination is when a person is treated in the same way as others, but it has a bad effect on that person because of who they are. So, for example, if a school policy is applied in the same way to everyone but, as a result, puts a disabled pupil at a disadvantage.

INDIRECT DISCRIMINATION

The European Ombudsman is in charge of investigating complaints concerning bad administration by EU institutions or other EU organisations. These can be made by EU persons or residents, as well as EU-based groups or businesses.

EUROPEAN OMBUDSMAN

DIRECT DISCRIMINATION

Direct discrimination is an unfair treatment of one particular person or group of people.

NGO

A non-governmental organisation (NGO) is a group of people from several countries who work together but are not affiliated with any government. Non-governmental organisations are often non-profit, which means they are not in business to make money for the people who operate them.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The European Parliament is the parliament of the European Union. EU citizens elect its members once every five years. It is one of the law-making branches of the institutions of the Union. While Parliament can change a law, it cannot start a new one, it has to ask the European Commission to do that. The European Parliament meets in two locations: Strasbourg and Brussels. Its members are called MEPs (Members of the European Parliament) and are elected by the EU citizens.

The European Parliament is the parliament of the European Union. EU citizens elect its

Are the basic rights and freedoms that belong to everyone in the EU. The rights are divided in personal, civic, political, economic and social. They are the same no matter where you're from, what you believe or how you live. These rights enforce important principles like dignity, fairness, respect and equality. They set standards for how we live and work in Europe today. The EU wrote them in its Charter of Fundamental Rights which means they are obligatory for the Member States to respect them.

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

The European Council brings together EU leaders to set the EU's political agenda.

It represents the highest level of political cooperation between EU countries. It is located in Brussels. Its members are the heads of state or government of EU countries.

EUROPEAN COUNCIL

Is the EU's programme to support education, training, youth and sport. It provides opportunities for over 4 million participants to study, train, gain experience, and volunteer abroad.

ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME

EXCHANGE RATE POLICIES (EURO)

A central exchange rate between the euro and the country's currency is agreed. The currency is

then allowed to fluctuate by up to 15% above or below this central rate.

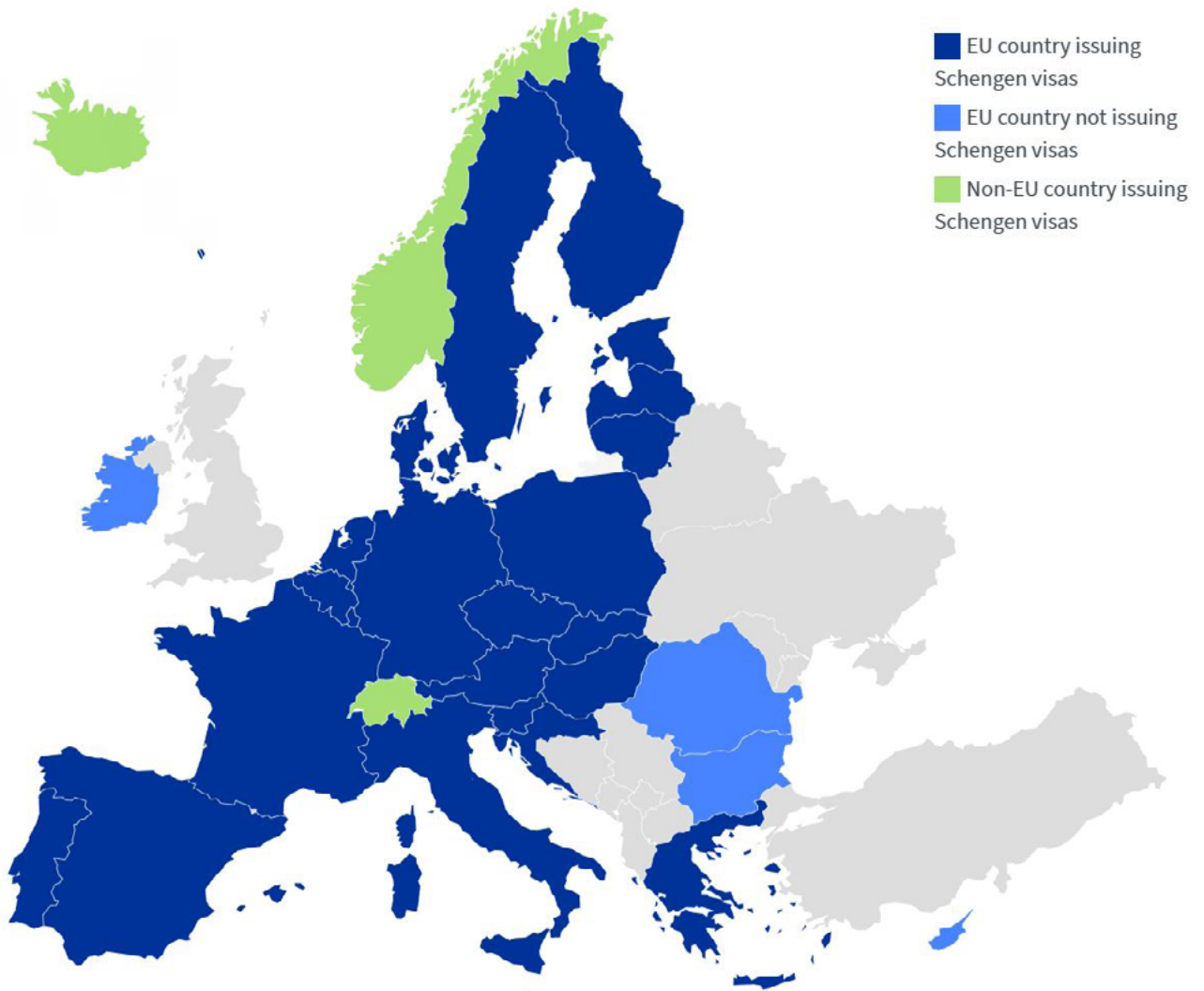
Represent the combined effect of interest rates (the interest rate component of the monetary

conditions) and the exchange rate (the exchange rate component) on the economy.

MONETARY CONDITION (EURO)

Is an area covering 27 European countries that have officially removed all passport and all other types of border control at their mutual borders.

SCHENGEN AREA





EXTERNAL BORDER CONTROL

External borders are land borders of member states including river- and lake—borders,

sea borders of member states and their airports, river-, sea- and lake-ports, provided that they are not inside the member state.

Is an original concept of the educational policies of the Council of Europe and the European Union.

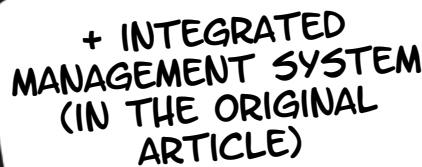


EUROPEAN DIMENSION IN EDUCATION

It's defined as a principle present in education system enhancing understanding of wider European context and educational perspectives, opening horizons of global thinking and intercultural understanding.

It encompasses national and international coordination and cooperation among all relevant

authorities and agencies involved in border management and trade with an aim to establish effective, efficient and coordinated border management.



+ INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (IN THE ORIGINAL ARTICLE)



SOLIDARITY PRINCIPLE

Understands cooperation between EU member states and explains mutual decision-making on certain issues.

Original Provisions

Treaty on the functioning of the European Union



Directive 2004/38/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the right of citizens of the Union and their family members to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States amending Regulation (EEC) No 1612/68 and repealing Directives 64/221/EEC, 68/360/EEC, 72/194/EEC, 73/148/EEC, 75/34/EEC, 75/35/EEC, 90/364/EEC, 90/365/EEC and 93/96/EEC (Text with EEA relevance)

Treaty on the European Union

Council Directive 2000/78/EC of 27 November 2000 establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation

Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code)

Council Directive 2000/43/EC of 29 June 2000 implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin

READY Project Partners



Empowering
young people

YES Forum, EU

yes-forum.eu

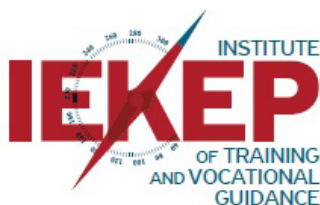
Contact: Annett Wiedermann,
annett.wiedermann@yes-forum.eu



Framework Filmagentur, Germany

framework-film.de

Contact: Robin Höft,
robin@framework-film.de



Institute of Training and Vocational Guidance - Lifelong Learning Centre, Greece

iekep.gr

Contact: Lilika Trikalinou,
lilika@iekep.gr



Forum for Freedom in Education, Croatia

fso.hr

Contact: Mario Bajkuša,
mbajkusa@fso.hr

pistes olidaires

Pistes-Solidaires, France

pistes-solidaires.fr

Contact: Mathieu Decq,
mathieu@pistes-solidaires.fr

Zefiro

Zefiro Società Cooperativa Sociale, Italy

cooperativazefiro.it

Contact: Mirco Trielli,
mirco.trielli@gmail.com

READY – Raising EU Awareness through accessible documents for youth (Grant Agreement No. 2021-1-DE04-KA220-YOU-000028868) is a Cooperation Partnership in Youth funded by the Erasmus+ programme, and coordinated by the YES Forum. For more information or to check our other Project Results, please visit the project's website (<https://www.yes-forum.eu/our-work/projects/ready-raising-eu-awareness-through-accessible-documents-for-youth/>) or contact us directly.

MAY 2023



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. The content reflects the views only of the authors. The European Commission cannot be held responsible for any consequences resulting from the re-use of the publications.