

EUROPE @SCHOOL



Active lessons about the European Union

Teacher's manual



European
Parliament

Author

This educational tool was originally created by the Belgian educational not-for-profit organisation [Europe House Ryckvelde](#) at the request of the European Parliament. It was further updated by the European Parliament, with the support of the German organisation [planpolitik](#).

Contact

Contact the liaison office of the European Parliament in your country for more information:
www.europarl.europa.eu/at-your-service/en/stay-informed/liaison-offices-in-your-country.

Language versions

Original: EN

Translations: all official languages of the EU

Language of this version: EN

All documents are available online on
youth.europarl.europa.eu/educators/learning-resources.html.

Disclaimer

The educational tool 'Europe@school - Active lessons about the European Union' was developed to teach pupils about the EU. Its main target group is 14 to 18-year-old pupils in general and vocational secondary school pupils in all Member States of the EU. The goal of this tool is educational, which is the only basis for the content and methodology choices made. Any opinions expressed herein should not be taken to represent an official position of the European Parliament.

Update of the educational tool completed in 2025. Brussels © European Union, 2025.

ABOUT 'EUROPE@SCHOOL – ACTIVE LESSONS ABOUT THE EUROPEAN UNION'

Concept: What is 'Europe@school'?

The educational tool 'Europe@school – Active lessons about the European Union' was initially developed to offer schools in the European Parliament Ambassador School Programme an educational tool to help them teach pupils about the European Union in an active way. It contains tailor-made lessons that are useful, effective and attractive and are designed to teach pupils aged between 14 and 18 years old about the EU.

The aim is to guarantee that all schools in Europe have the tools to teach pupils about European parliamentary democracy and the necessary information to participate and get involved in European Parliament youth activities. The material can of course be used for a wider audience.

Modular approach and active methodologies

This material has proven popular with pupils and teachers thanks to the selection of active methodologies, including educational games, a role play game and debating exercises. In fact, research has shown that experience-based learning is an engaging learning strategy that has a large impact.

All modules of the material can be used separately. As a teacher, you are free to select the module(s) that correspond best to your students and their curriculum.

Moreover, at the end of this teacher's manual you can find a list of complementary learning resources that follow a similar active approach.

Based on educational principles

'Europe@school' has been developed according to a number of strong **educational principles**. The principles guarantee the material is creative and solid and has a real impact:

- **Tailor-made for the target group:** 'Europe@school' has been developed for students aged between 14 and 18 years old across the European Union. As this is a broad target group, it was deemed best to use a modular approach: the teacher chooses the assignments that correspond best to the educational needs of their pupils.
- **Ready-to-use:** the material can be used immediately in the classroom and is user-friendly.
- **Teachers and stakeholders have been involved** in the development of these learning resources. The material has been tested and used by schools that are part of the European Parliament Ambassador School programme.
- **Contemporary:** 'Europe@school' uses contemporary media and is up-to-date.

- **Neutral:** the information is presented in a neutral way. It is up to the students to form their own opinions.
- **Creative and motivating:** 'Europe@school' uses active and modern methodologies that motivate teachers and pupils alike to work on the theme of 'Europe' in class and at school.

'Europe@school' incorporates a clear pedagogical approach and growth model for teaching Europe at school, corresponding to the EU Paris Declaration (2015) that calls for strengthening the role of education in promoting citizenship and common EU values: 'The primary purpose of education is not only to develop knowledge, skills, competencies and attitudes and to embed fundamental values, but also to help young people to become active, responsible, open-minded members of society!'

Europe@school modules

1. The EU Member States:

- Learning guidelines
- Educational game
- Presentation

2. EU history & facts:

- Learning guidelines
- Educational game
- Presentation
- Printable timeline of the European integration process (2):
 - From coal and steel to a common euro and beyond
 - From 6 to 27 Member States

3. The EU in our daily lives:

- Learning guidelines
- Educational game
- Presentation

4. EU values:

- Learning guidelines
- Educational game
- Debating exercise with statements

5. European Parliament role play game:

- Learning guidelines
- Role play game with five relevant topics to choose from
- Presentation for the evaluation of the exercise

6. Overall teacher's manual (this document)

Complementary learning resources

1. The European Union in general

- The EU in slides: learning-corner.learning.europa.eu/learning-materials/eu-slides-0_en
- Online game about the EU in our daily lives: www.the12differences.eu
- The European Parliament's general online quiz on the EU and the Parliament. (15 minutes long). www.europarl.europa.eu/topics/en/article/20200624STO81902/quiz-test-your-eu-knowledge
- EU & me brochure: learning-corner.learning.europa.eu/learning-materials/eu-me_en
- EU & me: online quiz. learning-corner.learning.europa.eu/learning-materials/eu-me-quiz_en

2. The EU's values

- The European Parliament's online quiz on human rights (10-15 minutes long): www.europarl.europa.eu/topics/en/article/20191205STO68454/quiz-how-much-do-you-know-about-human-rights-in-the-eu

3. Where to find other educational resources

- House of European History: historia.europa.eu/en/learn
- Learning Corner: europa.eu/learning-corner