

EUCLASS Alliance Training course

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Overview of Module 1 and 2

This PowerPoint presentation covers the content of Module 1 and 2.

For each lesson, you can expect to find:

- A summary of the main points and core content
- The most important key takeaways
- Suggestions for engaging elements relevant to your teaching practice
- Recommendations for useful supplementary materials

Our goal is to provide a clear and concise overview of Module 1 and 2, equipping you with the essential information and practical resources needed to effectively implement these lessons in your classroom.

Module 1: History of EU Integration & EU Institutions

Lesson 1.1:

History of European Integration

Main Focus:

History as a story with a beginning,
middle and an end...as well as
heroes and villains
War in Europe as the villain

Key Takeaways:

We know the beginning and middle
of the story, but not the end
Each country's story may vary

Making it Engaging:

Use of maps

Videos from EU on the integration story

The story of your country's experience with the
history of the EU

Lesson 1.2.

EU Institutions

Main Focus:

Institutions as representing three sets of different interests

- European citizens
- The national interest
- The EU itself

Key Takeaways:

Focus is less on specifics of each institution but what they are meant to do

Making it Engaging:

- Talking only about what institutions do is boring and complex
- Talking about why we have them and how they work makes
- Any activity that has students making a decision will help them understand the complexity of decision-making

Lesson 1.2.

Institutions: European Parliament

Main Focus:

Looking at the electoral process and party groups

How is it similar to your national parliament? Different

Key Takeaways:

Parliament as the institution that is meant to represent Europeans as citizens of the EU

Making it Engaging:

Debate about whether members of European Parliament should represent their country or their party

Have students look at how national newspapers cover the European Parliament, if at all

Lesson 1.3.

Institutions: European Council and Council of the EU

Main Focus:

Council is where the member states express their interests and preferences

How 27 different interests become a European decision

Key Takeaways:

Nothing can happen in the EU without the member states agreeing

Making it Engaging:

The Council is the easiest institution to organise a simulation. Students can represent a member state and can be tasked to find information about it on a specific issue. Then they have to decide in a simulated negotiation.

Lesson 1.4.

Institutions: European Commission

Main Focus:

The central point is that the Commission is there to ensure that the rules are applied in the same way for everyone.

It also helps find consensus amongst the 27 member states

Key Takeaways:

The Commission is the referee whose job is to make sure that what the Council and Parliament have agreed on is implemented.

Making it Engaging:

Get students to try to match different directorate generals of the Commission with ministries in your country

Lesson 1.5.

Institutions: European Court of Justice and European Central Bank

Main Focus: the composition, structure, objectives, and key responsibilities of the CJEU and the ECB.

Key Takeaways: The CJEU ensures EU law is applied correctly and uniformly. The ECB is responsible for the stability of the Euro.

Making it Engaging:

- Both these institutions have a very real impact, even if they seem distant for example consider how the ECB's decisions on interest rates and monetary policy can affect daily life, such as borrowing costs or inflation

Lesson 1.6. Decision Making in the EU

Making it Engaging:

- Please look the infographics visually from the materials to not get lost in tiny details initially.
- Focus on 'why' behind different voting rules why some sensitive areas might require every country to agree (unanimity), while other areas use majority voting - it relates to the balance between national and common interests.
- For this lesson, we highly recommend using the EU Decision-Making Simulation Game. This is an excellent hands-on tool that lets you and your students actively experience the roles of different institutions in making a decision. It really brings the process to life!

Main Focus: an overview of the EU decision-making process, highlighting institutional interactions. It covers various procedures like unanimity, qualified majority voting, and co-decision.

Key Takeaways: EU law-making is a shared process, not dominated by just one body. Decisions require agreement, but how that agreement is reached (the voting method) varies depending on the subject. It's a process of negotiation and compromise.



EU agrees all mobile phones and tablets must have a common USB-C charger in blow to Apple



Module 2:EU Policies and Actions

Lesson 2.1:

Economic Policy: Single Market and Innovation

Main Focus: the EU's Single Market where goods, services, money, and people can move freely without most internal barriers. It's a core driver of the EU's economy.

Key Takeaways: The key idea is that removing barriers significantly boosts trade and creates opportunities across the EU. It's a dynamic concept that has to evolve to stay relevant in the modern world

Making it Engaging :

- Please focus on “four freedoms” (people, capital, services, good)
- The resource “Discovering the Benefits of Single Market” is great for exploring what these four freedoms actually bring to the Single Market. Think about the practical advantages: the ease of traveling between EU countries, or the ability to buy things online from another member state without extra customs checks

Lesson 2.2:

Social Policy and Solidarity

Main Focus:

The EU has tried to be more than just an economic agreement

Different policies have tried to create solidarity

Key Takeaways:

Even though EU does not have power to intervene in many areas of social policy, it still has important influence

Making it Engaging:

Have students identify programs at your local and/or national level that have funded projects for youth, regional development, worker training and social inclusion

Lesson 2.3:

The EU and Sustainable Development

Main Focus:

The Green Deal is attempt to take a global lead to fight climate change

Member states also need to think about energy security

Key Takeaways:

EU remains committed to fighting climate change but member states are also having find new forms of energy

Making it Engaging:

Have students debate trade-off between energy security and fighting climate change

Lesson 2.4:

The EU and the World: Foreign Policy

Main Focus: how the EU acts together on the global stage and how the EU works with other countries on issues like promoting human rights, providing international aid, and sometimes using tools like economic sanctions.

Key Takeaways: the EU tries to speak with a single, stronger voice in global affairs to promote its values and interests. It has a range of tools to influence events outside its borders.

Making it Engaging:

- Please remember that foreign policy has many dimensions (soft vs hard instruments)
- EU is more active in soft instruments diplomacy, humanitarian aid, economic sanctions or taking a position on a global issue
- You can link this lesson in the context of sanctions against Russia

Lesson 2.5:

The EU and the World: Security and Defence

Main Focus: how EU member countries cooperate on security and defence matters.

Key Takeaways: EU countries work together to enhance their collective security, often coordinating with NATO. The EU is also developing its own ways to respond to security challenges and crises independently.

Making it Engaging:


- Please remember that EU is not a military alliance but considering the today's security challenges (cyber attacks, Russian invasion of Ukraine etc) require countries to work together
- No single EU country can effectively tackle them alone it is either too expensive or too complex.
- We recommend you to watch the short videos provided in the additional materials.

Baltic states and Poland seek EU funds for a massive border defense line

NATO members Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland will seek European Union funding to build a network of bunkers, barriers, distribution lines and military warehouses along their borders with Russia and Belarus

Jari Tanner • Saturday 28 September 2024 13:32 BST



 Baltic states and Poland seek EU funds for a massive border defense line

Show all 2



Lesson 2.6:

The EU and Borders

Main Focus: Schengen Area, where many EU countries have removed checks at their shared borders, allowing people to move freely between them

Key Takeaways:

Schengen Area provides significant freedom of movement within a large part of Europe. However, maintaining security and managing migration effectively at the EU's outer borders is a challenge.

Making it Engaging:

- Please visually observe the Schengen area map
- Consider benefits and importance of the Schengen area (trade, travel, etc) vis-à-vis its challenges (illegal migration, organized crime)
- Within this context, you can link discussions to the future of Schengen or how the EU is addressing pressures at its external borders.

EU Mediterranean countries call for stronger efforts against irregular migration

Interior ministers from 5 EU countries bordering Mediterranean Sea urged stepped-up efforts to combat irregular migration during meeting in Italy

Baris Seckin and Seda Sevenscan | 13.04.2025 - Update : 14.04.2025



Mediterranean migrant arrivals in 2018



Greece warns Germany over 'unilaterally scrapping' free-movement Schengen zone to tackle migration

Berlin says it must tackle irregular migration because of overburdened public services and to protect the public from threats such as Islamist extremism

Angeliki Koutantou Athens, Alexander Ratz • Thursday 12 September 2024 15:19 BST

• [\[30\]](#) Comments



Lesson 2.7:

The EU and You: Citizenship and Culture

Main Focus:

The value added of European citizenship?

Key Takeaways:

Key point here is that we cannot be a European citizen without being a citizen of one of its member states
And European citizenship does not replace national citizenship but adds to it

Making it Engaging:

Have students try to identify what rights they would lose if they were not EU citizens

Have students identify what might be shared cultural events and values that are essentially European

Have students look at surveys from Eurobarometer to see how Europeans felt about being part of the EU

Lesson 2.8:

The EU and You: Values and Democracy

Main Focus:

What does the EU mean for each of us, with a focus on values and beliefs.

Key Takeaways:

Focus on values is to help students understand how who we are as members of our national community is also part of being part of Europe

Making it Engaging :

Have students write a short answer to complete the phrase "I am European because..."

Have students go out into the school and ask the question to other students

Have them walk around town and interview people about Europe