

CURRICULUM RESOURCE GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

2025 EU Policy Forum Europe and The EU: Alone in a Multipolar World?

August 12th, 2025 | 9:00AM to 5:00PM Thomson Hall Room 317, University of Washington





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Outlining Standards

A Note on Learning Standards Presented in this Guide

Three sets of standards have been linked to each of the learning objectives in this packet. The **Washington State K-12 Social Studies Learning Standards** and the accompanying Grade Level Requirements are the social studies standards for WA State.

The College, Career, & Civic Life C₃ Framework for Social Studies State Standards are the standards published by the National Council for the Social Studies. Guiding the packet as a whole is the Framework for Global Learning created by the Asia Society and the Council of Chief State School Officers titled *Educating for Global Competence: Preparing Our Youth to Engage the World* (2011).

Cross-objective standards are listed at the beginning of the packet, and content-specific standards can be found after each learning objective.

The standards provided have been selected for relevance, but are not exclusive: many other standards, such as Common Core, may be applicable to the resources and learning objectives identified in this packet. The intention for this packet's organization is to provide educators with an idea of resources available and possible uses for resources. Users should feel free to create their own learning objectives and to select resources according to the specific needs of their classrooms.

The student understands and applies reasoning skills to conduct research, deliberate, and form and evaluate positions through the processes of reading, writing, and communicating.

WASHINGTON STATE K-12 SOCIAL STUDIES LEARNING STANDARDS

There are five EALRs in Social Studies, one for each of the discipline areas: civics, economics, geography, and history, and a fifth for social studies skills.

(1) Social Studies EALR 1: CIVICS

The student understands and applies knowledge of government, law, politics, and the nation's fundamental documents to make decisions about local, national, and international issues and to demonstrate thoughtful, participatory citizenship.

(2) Social Studies EALR 2: ECONOMICS

The student applies understanding of economic concepts and systems to analyze decision-making and the interactions between individuals, households, businesses, governments, and societies.

(3) Social Studies EALR 3: GEOGRAPHY

The student uses a spatial perspective to make reasoned decisions by applying the concepts of location, region, and movement and demonstrating knowledge of how geographic features and human cultures impact environments.

(4) Social Studies EALR 4: HISTORY

The student understands and applies knowledge of historical thinking, chronology, eras, turning points, major ideas, individuals, and themes on local, Washington State, tribal, United States, and world history in order to evaluate how history shapes the present and future.

(5) Social Studies EALR 5: SOCIAL STUDIES SKILLS

The student understands and applies reasoning skills to conduct research, deliberate, and form and evaluate positions through the processes of reading, writing, and communicating.

Outlining Standards



COLLEGE, CAREER, & CIVIC LIFE C3 FRAMEWORK FOR SOCIAL STUDIES STATE STANDARDS

The C₃ Framework is organized into the four Dimensions, which support a robust social studies program rooted in inquiry.

The four Dimensions are as follows:

- (1) Developing questions and planning inquiries;
- (2) Applying disciplinary concepts and tools;
- (3) Evaluating sources and using evidence;
- (4) Communicating conclusions and taking informed action

DIMENSION 1:	DIMENSION 2:	DIMENSION 3:	DIMENSION 4:
DEVELOPING QUESTIONS AND PLANNING INQUIRES	APPLYING DISCIPLINARY TOOLS AND CONCEPTS	EVALUATING SOURCES AND USING EVIDENCE	COMMUNICATING CONCLU- SIONS AND TAKING INFORMED ACTION
Developing Questions and Planning Inquiries	CivicsEconomicsGeographyHistory	 Gathering and Evaluating Sources Developing Claims and Using Evidence 	 Communicating and Critiquing Conclusions Taking Informed Action

Dimension 2 has four disciplinary subsections: (1) Civics; (2) Economics; (3) Geography; (4) History. Each disciplinary subsection has three to four additional categories, which provide an organizing mechanism for the foundational content and skills within each discipline.

C3 Framework Organization

CIVICS	ECONOMICS	GEOGRPAHY	HISTORY
Civic and Political Institutions	Economic Decision Making	Geographic Representations: Special Views of the World	Change, Continuity, and Context
Participation and Deliberation: Applying Civic Virtues and Democratic Principles	Exchange and Markets	Human-Environment Interaction: Place, Religions, and Culture	Perspective
Processes, Rules, and Laws	The National Economy	Human Populations: Spatial Patterns and Movements	Historical Sources and Evidence
	The Global Economy	Global Interconnections: Changing Spatial Patterns	Causation and Argumentation

Educating for Global Competence

Frameworks taken from Educating for Global Competence: Preparing Our Youth to Engage the World (Asia Society and the Council of Chief State School Officers 2011).

"Global competence is the capacity and disposition to understand and act on issues of global significance" (Chapter 2).

Globally competent students are able to perform the following four competences:

- 1. **Investigate the world** beyond their immediate environment, framing significant problems and conducting well-crafted and age-appropriate research.
- 2. **Recognize perspectives** others' and their own, articulating and explaining such perspectives thoughtfully and respectfully.
- 3. **Communicate ideas** effectively with diverse audiences, bridging geographic, linguistic, ideological, and cultural barriers.
- 4. **Take action** to improve conditions, viewing themselves as players in the world and participating reflectively.
- Identify an issue, generate questions, and explain its significance.
- Use variety of languages, sources and media to identify and weigh relevant evidence.
- Analyze, integrate, and synthesize evidence to construct coherent responses.
- Develop argument based on compelling evidence and draws defensible conclusions.

#

- Recognize and express their own perspective and identify influences on that perspective.
- Examine others' perspectives and identify what influenced them.
- Explain the impact of cultural interactions.
- Articulate how differential access to knowledge, technology, and resources affects quality of life and perspectives.

Investigate the World

Students investigate the world beyond their immediate environment.

Recognize Perspectives

Students recognize their own and others' perspectives.

Understand the World through Disciplinary and Interdisciplinary Study

Take Action

Students translate their ideas into appropriate actions to improve conditions.

Communicate Ideas

Students communicate their ideas effectively with diverse audiences.

- Identify and create opportunities for personal or collaborative action to improve conditions.
- Assess options and plan actions based on evidence and potential for impact.
- Act, personally or collaboratively, in creative and ethical ways to contribute to improvement, and assess impact of actions taken.
- Reflect on capacity to advocate for and contribute to improvement.

- Recognize and express how diverse audiences perceive meaning and how that affects communication.
- Listen to and communicate effectively with diverse people.
- Select and use appropriate technology and media to communicate with diverse audiences.
- Reflect on how effective communication affects understanding and collaboration in an interdependent world.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The SDGs in Action

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

SDGs Working Group

These working groups engage young people in the work of GCE, providing the opportunity to have an active role in EU decision making and be heard on climate and environmental issues. Each working group is managed by two coordinators. The currently working groups are: Biodiversity, Circular Economy, Climate Justice, Clean Mobility, and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The SDGs Explained For Business

No matter how large or small, and regardless of their industry, all companies can contribute to the SDGs. While the scale and scope of the global goals is unprecedented, the fundamental ways that business can contribute remain unchanged. The UN Global Compact asks companies to first do business responsibly and then pursue opportunities to solve societal challenges through business innovation and collaboration.



Introduction to Workshop Facilitator



Global Classroom Director

Ryan Hauck is a teacher at Glacier Peak High School in Snohomish, WA. As a teacher of comparative politics and international studies, he is often applauded for bringing the world into his classroom by engaging students around the importance of living in an increasingly interconnected, interdependent world. One of Ryan's global projects has been his work in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria, building not only a sister school relationship between his high school and a remote village school in Oporoza, but also a village library. Recently, Ryan participat-

ed in a U.S. State Department fellowship to Senegal as part of the Teachers for Global Classroom Program and as a fellow with the Goethe Institut's Transatlantic Outreach Program to Germany. Ryan Completed his master's degree in Globalization and Educational Change from Lehigh's Comparative & International Education Department. As part of this program, Ryan worked with a cohort of classmates and teachers on a professional development project in Cambodia to enhance teacher training and student learning. As a Washington State Council for the Social Studies Board Member, Ryan extends his passion for global studies to other teachers, students, and communities. Ryan brings his own real-life experiences into the classroom so that his students begin to understand the value of cross-cultural understanding and humanitarian action. Over the last 15 years, Ryan has worked closely with the World Affairs Council and hosted numerous International Visitor Program delegations at his school. He has traveled to South Africa and Swaziland, returning to write curriculum for other teachers to use. Ultimately, Ryan wants his students to think critically about world issues, acquire the skills needed to be globally competent in the 21st century, and become actively engaged citizens locally, nationally, and internationally.

Introduction to Workshop Speakers

<u>Lecture 1 | European Union: Past, Present and Future</u>

Dr. Markku Jokisipilä is a Professor of Contemporary History in the University of Turku, Finland. His research interests include 20th Century and contemporary Finnish and European politics. He's also the Director of Center for Parliamentary Studies, which currently offers a one-year specialization course in European Studies. In Autumn 2025, he will be a Visiting Professor at the University of Washington, teaching the course, "Scandinavia in World Affairs."

Introduction to Workshop Speakers

Monika Sus, Professor of Political Science at the Institute of Political Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw, part-time Professor at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies at the European University Institute and member of Team Europe Direct Poland. Her research interests focus on international relations, with a particular emphasis on European and transatlantic security cooperation, and the EU's foreign, security, and de-



fense policy. She recently published an article in *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations*, exploring the Polish reaction to the war in Ukraine, "Status-seeking in wartime: Poland's leadership aspirations and the response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine."

<u>Lecture 2 | Data Privacy vs. Data Protection: US and EU Strategies for Regulating Digital Privacy</u>

Justin Petelka (PhD Candidate, UW Information School) studies U.S. and EU data privacy laws with a particular focus on individual data subject rights. In Winter 2025, he taught a course in the UW Jackson School of International Studies (JSIS/LSJ/PolSci 370), "Privacy," exploring how online data tracking works, how companies monetize this data and expand surveillance capabilities, how this surveillance expansion creates risks for individuals and society, and how data subjects can navigate these risks through data rights, data practices, and community-building.

Lecture 3 | US-NATO Relations, Past and Present

John Johnson is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service and the Diplomat in Residence at the University of Washington. Prior to this he was the Director of the Brussels International Media Hub, the Deputy Chief of Mission of the Afghanistan Affairs Unit which operated out of Doha after the fall of Kabul, and the Counselor for Public Affairs in Afghanistan during the evacuation of the Embassy in 2021. Prior to the establishment of the Doha platform, Mr. Johnson was in Brussels, Belgium where he was the Counselor for Public Affairs at the U.S. Mission to NATO.

Lecture 4 | US-EU Relations, Past and Present

Amy Stern (JD, University of Virginia) served as Legal Advisor in the U.S. Mission to the European Union in 2021-2024. She led multi-stakeholder advocacy efforts to secure the EU-US Data Privacy Framework, collaborating with global partners on regulatory challenges impacting privacy, civil liberties, online safety, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and sustainability.

Lecture 5 | Studying the European Union in the USA, Past and Future

Phillip Shekleton is Managing Director of the Center for Global Studies, and **Guntis Šmidchens** is Director of the Center for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies, UW Jackson School of International Studies.

The European Union (EU)

EU Symbols

Symbols of the European Union include its blue flag with a circle of yellow stars, but it also has an anthem and motto.



EU Learning—Introduction

Intended for enriching Canadian secondary school students about the European Union, this launchpad from Carleton University provides all secondary school educators resources about the history, politics, economics, and culture of the EU as well as lesson plans, programs, and games.



Europe in a Global Context: Geographical Perspectives

Columbia University's journal, EuropeNow, gives a thorough history and description of the geography's uses and significance in understanding Europe's politics, especially in the last century. It provides a background for subjects that would become paramount to the European Union's policymaking, including the European Green Deal, geography in economics, and Europe's success in achieving the UN SDGs. The source also explores the relationship between the European Union and the European Association of Geographers (EUROGEO).



European Union Maps

Maps depicting the various enlargements of the European Union, the total number EU member states (prior to Brexit), and some candidate countries provide a great visual for students to understand the breadth of EU territory and its role across the 20 and 21st centuries.



Geography: The Language of Europe

The Royal Geographical Society has put together a cross-cultural lesson plan outline for introducing the geography of the European Union. It focuses on understanding which countries are in the EU, what the EU's primary goals are and why, and how the EU prioritizes unity in light of its diversity.



<u>Learn Europe</u>—<u>Educational Open E-Tools</u>

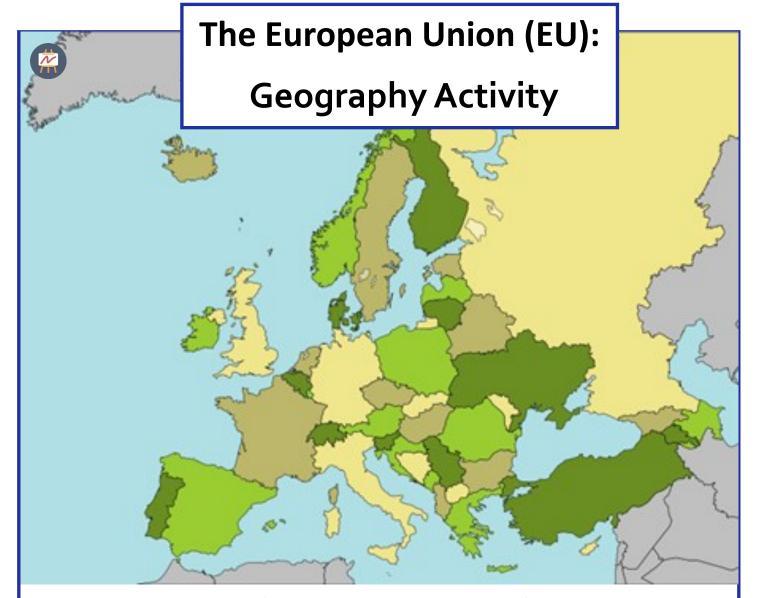
This website gives a teaching guide (lesson planning resource) for educators who wish to teach about the foundations of the European Union through geography, history, and the economy. It also provides topics (e.g. energy policy, fisheries policy, sustainable development) for classroom debates, mirroring the conversations being held among the EU.



Teaching the EU

This compilation of resources by the University of Wisconsin supports educators in teaching about the EU. It has links to several general resources and databases but also has resources that delve into specific topics like Brexit and the Euro.





Can your students name the nations of the EU & Europe? Have your students identify the nations on the map in small groups or as a class! HOW DO THEY THINK EUROPE'S GEOGRAPHY MIGHT IMPACT ITS CLIMATE POLICY?



<u>Learning Corner: Play-Teach-Discover the European Union</u>

This site by the EU provides students with opportunities (many interactive) to learn more about the European Union. Students can play games, examine an EU development timeline, and the site provides materials for primary and secondary students.



Learning Corner: A Short Guide to the EU (2021)

This document provides a short guide to the EU. From introduction - "Ever wondered which EU countries use the euro or what it means to be part of the Schengen area? What the European Green Deal is and how it will make your life better? What exactly does the EU do for you and where the money comes from to pay for it all? Read on to find out everything you need to know about the EU."



How Does the EU Actually Work? (July, 31, 2019)

An animated short (6 minutes) film explaining how democracy works in the EU and the European Parliament. This introductory video will help students learn of the basic structures and processes of the EU.

The European Union (EU)



The European Union: A Guide for Americans

"The European Union is unique. It is not a federation like the United States. It is neither a state intended to replace existing states, nor an organization for cooperation between governments, like the United Nations. It is much more than any other international organization."



Teaching the EU: Bringing Modern Europe to your Classroom

"Learn about curriculum resources available for teaching the EU, and tips to implement these learning tools in your classroom!"



Teaching The EU Toolkits

"The Center for European Studies at UNC-CH is proud to present our updated the Teaching the EU Toolkits. CES has a 20-year history of providing outreach materials and professional development on contemporary Europe. During this time, we have discovered that although there is much interest in teaching Europe, most resources are historic in nature, and do not allow students to fully grasp the rich cultures, languages, people, and politics of today's Europe, Europeans, and the European Union."



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Key Terms

<u>European Union (EU)</u>: "International organization comprising 27 European countries and governing common economic, social, and security policies. Originally confined to western Europe, the EU undertook a robust expansion into central and eastern Europe in the early 21st century."

<u>European Economic Community:</u> "Designed to create a common market among its members through the elimination of most trade barriers and the establishment of a common external trade policy."

<u>European Commission (EC):</u> "An institution of the European Union (EU) and its constituent entities that makes up the organization's executive arm."

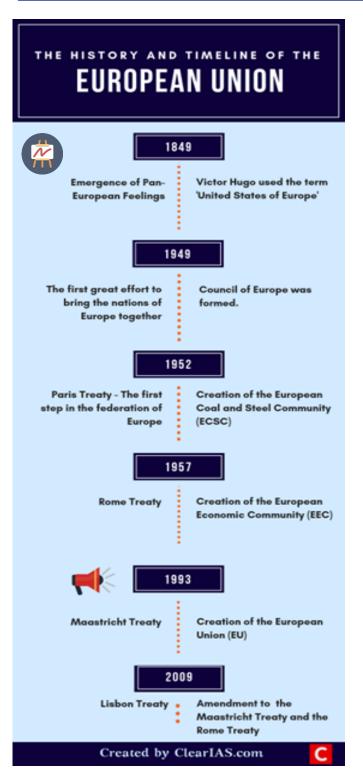
<u>Scandinavia</u>: "Part of northern Europe, generally held to consist of the two countries of the Scandinavian Peninsula, Norway and Sweden, with the addition of Denmark. Some authorities argue for the inclusion of Finland on geologic and economic grounds and of Iceland and the Faroe Islands on the grounds that their inhabitants speak North Germanic (or Scandinavian) languages related to those of Norway and Sweden."

Learning Objectives

By engaging with this resource guide, educators will be able to:

- 1). Explain the origin of the European Union, describe how EU institutions have developed since 1957, and analyze why the EU has chosen to add new members.
- 2). Identify and/or explain the primary goals, purpose, and values of the European Union.
- 3). Identify and analyze political, economic, and social challenges faced by the European Union over the past 20 years, as well as describe how EU policymakers addressed specific challenges
- **4).** Explain how domestic and foreign policy decisions are made within the European Union and describe the EU's role in addressing global issues.
- 5). Utilize and evaluate primary and secondary sources that pertain to EU goals and policies.
- **6.)** Analyze EU perspectives and policy issues by using charts, graphs, and other stimulus-based information sources.

The Evolution of the European Union: From Post-War Peace Project to Global Actor



European Union: History of the EU

"The following visionary leaders inspired the creation of the European Union we live in today. Without their energy and motivation, we would not be living in the sphere of peace and stability that we take for granted. From resistance fighters to lawyers and parliamentarians, the EU pioneers were a diverse group of people who held the same ideals: a peaceful, united and prosperous Europe."

History of the European Union 1945-59

"With the aim of ending the frequent and bloody conflicts that culminated in the Second World War, European politicians begin the process of building what we know today as the European Union. The European Coal and Steel Community, founded in 1951, is the first step in securing a lasting peace. In 1957, the Treaty of Rome establishes the European Economic Community (EEC) and a new era of ever-closer cooperation in Europe. This period, however, also sees the emergence of a Cold War that divides the continent for more than 40 years."

Timeline: A History of The EU

Timeline of significant events in history that shaped the European Union from its postwar years to the present day.

The Evolution of the European Union: From Post-War Peace Project to Global Actor



Making the EU a Stronger Global Actor: Postelection Perspectives

"As its citizens head to the polls in June's European Parliament elections, the EU faces an unprecedented combination of external threats. From Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the war in Gaza to economic, energy, and military dependencies and the climate crisis, the scale of the challenges is such that the very existence of European integration is in peril."

The Founding and Evolution of The EU (October 30th, 2024)

"The Maastricht Treaty established the European Union, with the European Communities making up the first of three pillars. New additions were a common foreign and security policy as the second pillar and greater cooperation in justice and home affairs as the third. The Treaties of Nice and Amsterdam were later added to the existing set of agreements, in part due to the upcoming expansion of the EU to the east."



The Evolution of the European Union: From Post-War Peace Project to Global Actor



A Road to Unity: The EU's History (June 17th, 2024)

"The death and destruction of the Second World War made many dream of a United Europe. Some European leaders knew unity could offer both peace and prosperity."

The EU as a Global Actor (March 17th, 2023)

"The European Union and its Member States are engaged around the world to promote peace, security and prosperity and the interests of European citizens. To this end, the EU works to prevent and resolve conflicts, to foster resilient democracies, to promote human rights and sustainable development, and to bolster a cooperative and rules-based global order."

The EU as a Global Actor Addressing the Challenge of Contested States (May 30th, 2022)

"The E.U.'s role as an international player began to upgrade alongside the effort to coordinate its external action by adopting a common foreign and security policy (CFSP). Peacebuilding and state-building interventions were necessary for the post-conflict transition and socioeconomic rehabilitation of these fragile states with contested sovereignty."

How Does The European Union Work? (March 11th, 2022)

"Since the end of World War II, European countries have sought to deepen their integration in pursuit of peace and economic growth. The institutions that became the European Union (EU) have steadily expanded and strengthened their authority as member states have passed more and more decision-making power to the union."

European Union, Historical Evolution (July 2019)

"The idea of a European Union is not an invention of the 20th century. The earliest proposals for cooperation at the European level of the 17th and 18th centuries by William Penn, Charles- Irénée Castel de Saint-Pierre, and Immanuel Kant were strictly confederal in nature, and intended European institutions to serve as forums for peaceful conflict resolution between States."

Europe as Global Actor (September 28th, 2018)

"Based on ever greater economic and commercial integration, the European Union has become a major actor in globalization."

Scandinavia's Role in Global Affairs & the EU

30 Years of Finland in the EU

"Thirty years ago, the Finnish people made the European Union their home – a historic moment for both Finland and the rest of the EU. The European Union has made Finland stronger. And our Union has changed for the better thanks to Finland."



Crossing North 29: In The Gray Zone

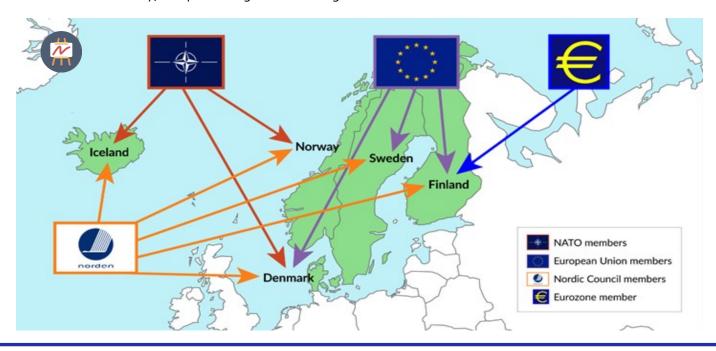
"What constitutes an act of war? Finnish research fellow Minna Ålander considers the edge cases—damaged data cables, suspicious AirBnBs, and prank phone calls—under a new label: 'hybrid warfare.' In this episode we discuss Finland's responses to an ever-evolving security environment and the motivations behind Finland and Sweden's recent decisions to join NATO."

Geopolitical Shifts in Scandinavia: Analyzing the Diplomatic Trajectories of Sweden and Finland (2024) "The geopolitical landscape of Scandinavia has witnessed significant transformations over the past century, bringing nations like Sweden and Finland to the forefront of international relations discourse."



Finland's Priorities and Challenges as We Look Beyond the 2024 European Parliament Elections (May 15th, 2024)

"In Minister Adlercreutz's view, the long-term success of Europe is being decided now, and Europe must act now. Against the backdrop of a more challenging world, the European elections are fast approaching. As part of the Future-Proofing Europe project, Minister Adlercreutz's addresses outlines how Finland seeks to meet these challenges as well as the country's key priorities: strategic competitiveness, comprehensive security, and promoting a clean ecological transition."



Scandinavia's Role in Global Affairs & the EU SCANDINAVIAN CONNECTION Scandinavia May not be a Country, but the Scandis Share Many Things Language Languag

Scenario/ The Nordic Union, a Key Actor in the European Union (October 26th, 2023)

"From 2025 onwards, the Scandinavian countries and Finland, federated in a Nordic Union, decide to adopt a joint diplomatic policy and army, and succeed in playing a central role on the European stage. One of the triggers was the rise of the Russian threat, which was brought to greater attention by the war in Ukraine. This threat prompted Finland and Sweden to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), thereby making it possible for the Scandinavian and Baltic countries to draw closer together economically, diplomatically, and militarily."

Finland's Move into NATO Ends an Era of Neutrality in Europe: What Comes Next? (April 17th, 2023)

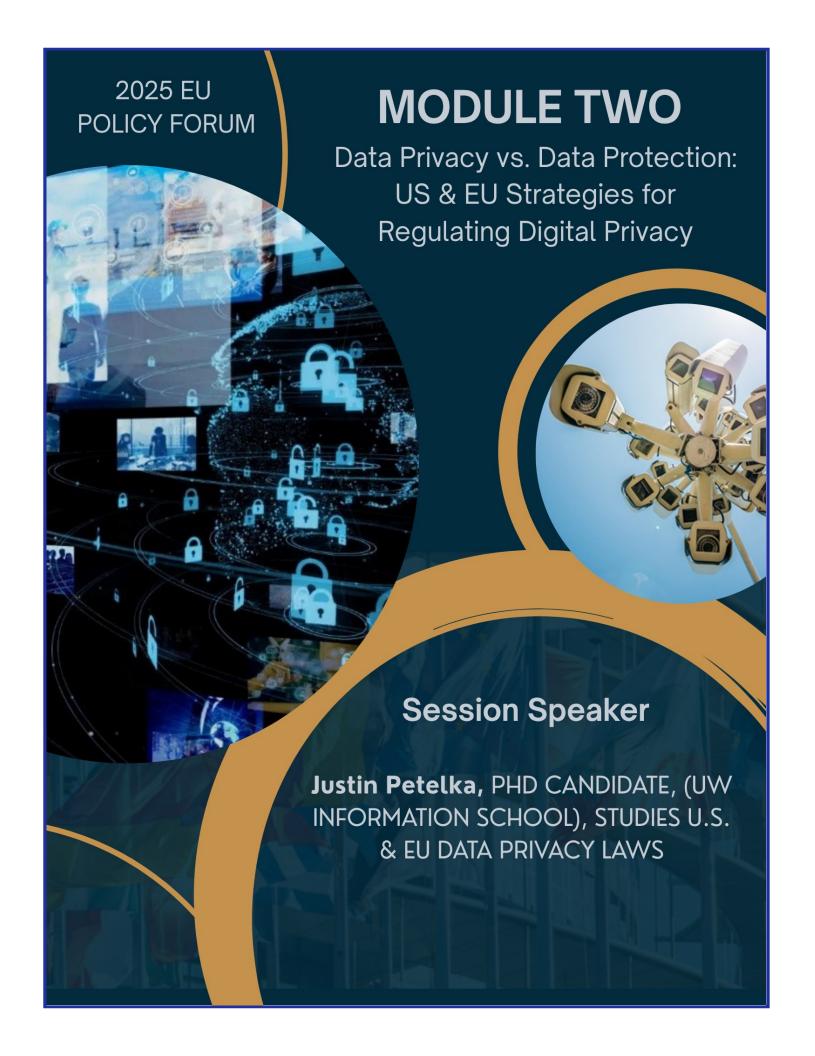
"Faced with the Ukraine war, Finland was unable to uphold its cherished priorities and values and instead decided "to deepen its collaboration" with the U.S. and NATO."

The Scandinavian Way and Its Legacy in Europe (2013)

"The Scandinavian Way and Its Legacy in Europe relies on internationally recognized country experts who document how and why the five northern European states pursue alternative paths in the European integration process."

Relations Between the European Union and the Nordic Countries: Is There a Nordic Reluctance? (February 16th, 2007)

"The Nordic countries are often perceived as being hesitant with regard to the European construction. It is true that they often showed to be very careful on the matter. And even though some of these states actually became members of the European Union (like Denmark, Sweden and Finland), one knows that they often remained being wary."



Key Terms

<u>Data Protection:</u> "Species of privacy law that controls access to information relating to the individual. Typically, data protection provides individuals with the right to see data held about themselves and to require correction. Beyond that, data protection determines how organizations holding data may—or may not—process them, and, in particular, it regulates access to personal data by third parties."



General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR): "European Union (EU) law surrounding data privacy and security, which was adopted by the European Parliament in 2016 and came into effect in May 2018. The legislation marked a major worldwide precedent; it was particularly notable for establishing a comprehensive framework around data protection, expanding the legal definition of personal data, and extending its protection to all data generated by EU citizens and residents regardless of where the information was being processed."

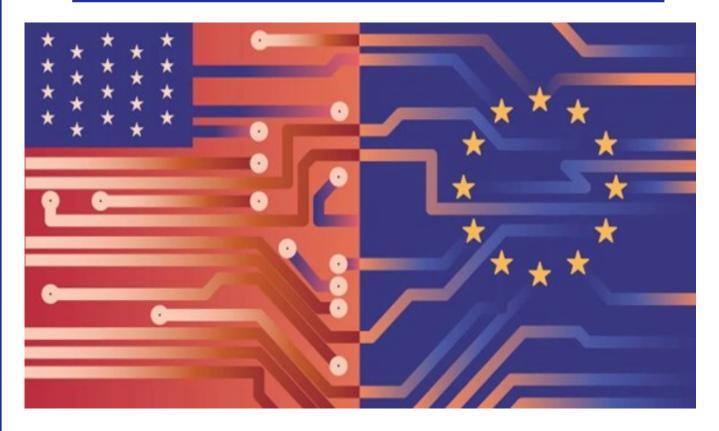
<u>Artificial Intelligence Act (AI Act)</u>: "European Union (EU) legislation that seeks to improve EU citizens' experience, privacy, and safety when using artificial intelligence (AI). The act places limitations on corporations and other entities that use AI in sharing or gathering information, and it aims to help EU citizens avoid discrimination, which may occur when AI makes decisions that privilege some groups over others."

Learning Objectives

By engaging with this resource guide, educators will be able to:

- 1). Explain the difference between data privacy and data protection
- 2). Identify, evaluate, and compare U.S. and EU strategies for regulating digital privacy.
- 3). Analyze and explain why digital privacy has become an important policy issue in the U.S. and EU.
- **4).** Describe the data privacy and data protection rights articulated in EU Treaties and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and explain the reason for their inclusion.
- **5).** Analyze graphs, charts, and surveys to better understand perspectives on data privacy and data protection.

Data Privacy vs. Data Protection: Comparing US & EU Digital Rights



<u>Tiktok Faces New EU Investigation Over Data Privacy Concerns (July 15th, 2025)</u>

"The European Union has launched a fresh privacy investigation into TikTok as concerns deepen over the social app's handling of European user data, particularly regarding transfers to China."

EU vs US: What Are the Differences Between Their Data Privacy Laws? (November 15th, 2023)

"The introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) in May 2018 set a high bar in privacy protection for individuals within European Union (EU) member states. The data privacy landscape in the US has changed considerably in recent years and data protection rules are now aligned increasingly with a European approach, although there remain some big differences."

Comparing U.S. State Data Privacy Laws vs. the EU's GDPR (July 11th, 2023)

"A brief comparison of U.S. State Data Privacy Laws with the EU's GDPR. Bloomberg Law provides an easy-to-read comparison of the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) against the first three data privacy laws in the U.S: <u>California</u>, Virginia, and Colorado."

The Ripple Effect of Meta's \$1.3 Billion GDPR Fine for Businesses That Handle Data (May 24th, 2023)

"Meta, the parent company of Facebook, has been fined a record €1.2 billion (\$1.3 billion) by the European Union for violating its data privacy laws."

Data Privacy vs. Data Protection: Comparing US & EU Digital Rights

Behind the Screen: A Comparison of Data Protection Regulations in the EU and US (December 4th, 2023)

"Have you ever felt like your phone was listening to you? Have you ever felt like certain ads were made just for you? This is not the result of actual eavesdropping, but rather it stems from the tracking of your online searches, purchases and location."



The Right to Digital Privacy: Why Don't We Care About It? (May 2021)

"Every day each one of us is contributing to the creation of massive amounts of data, which few technology companies use to create and deliver products and services that we enjoy using. There is an asymmetry in this game, where these companies know everything about us while most of us don't know anything about them. Most of us are not aware of how data about us is collected and used. And moreover, for some reason most of us seem to not even care about it!"









- Privacy laws change with each administration.
- 2 Individuals have little ownership of their online data, which allows large businesses can monetize consumer behavior and habits.
- Privacy laws are often a messy combination of public regulation, private self-regulation, and legislation which varies by state.
- 4 Enforcement of privacy laws is carried out by several different government organizations, e.g. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).
- Numerous privacy organizations exist to provide legal framework, which ensure digital privacy to Americans. Ex: American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF).
- 6 Companies can keep data indefinitely, depending on their own Terms of Service.

- Privacy laws have less turnover when administrations change because most EU member states aren't as polarized as the US.
- 2 EU laws respect "private and family life" and allow citizens to delete their data.
- 3 Privacy laws are generally more comprehensive and geared towards consumers.
- 4 Enforcement of privacy laws is carried out by one authority, equally for all 28 member states.
- Due to the nature of EU rights, fewer privacy organizations exist but there are: The European Digital Rights (EDRi) and The European Privacy Association (EPA.)
- EU citizens have the "right to be forgotten," meaning that search results can be removed if they are irrelevant or inadequate.

Sources

https://www.marketplace.org/2017/04/20/tech/make-me-smart-kai-and-molly/blog-main-differences-between-internet-privacy-us-and-eu http://politicsandpolicy.org/article/european-union-and-internet-data-privacy



Data Privacy vs. Data Protection: Comparing US & EU Digital Rights

Bigger Responsibility, Bigger Repercussions





Differences Between EU and US Data Protection (October 8th, 2020)

"The European Union and the United States take different approaches to data protection. The U.S. favors a bottom-up approach, reflecting states' rights in governing, while the EU likes top down, which balances

intergovernmental and supranational policies. The EU has comprehensive overarching legislation and has made data protection a high priority, whereas the U.S. has taken a piecemeal approach without all-encompassing regulations or a regulating federal agency."



GDPR: What Is It and How Might It Affect You? (May 21st, 2018)

An explanation of the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and how its data privacy rules may impact people around the world, even those outside the EU.



Digital Surveillance, AI, & Civil Liberties in the EU

Al Act: Shaping Europe's Digital Future

"The AI Act is the first-ever legal framework on AI, which addresses the risks of AI and positions Europe to play a leading role globally. The AI Act (Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 laying down harmonized rules on artificial intelligence) is the first-ever comprehensive legal framework on AI worldwide. The aim of the rules is to foster trustworthy AI in Europe."

Global Perspectives on Regulating Facial Recognition Technology Utilization for Criminal Justice Arrests (June 12th, 2025)

"With the capabilities of facial recognition technology (FRT) expanding rapidly in recent years, regulations and policies guiding its use across political contexts are inconsistent and lack clarity. While certain artificial intelligence can help solve crime, for instance, the implications for ethics regarding privacy, bias, accuracy, and consent warrant considerable attention."

The Surveillance Dilemma: Al, Privacy, and the Future of Civil Liberties (June 10th, 2025)

"The rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI) has ushered in a new era of surveillance, raising profound questions about privacy, civil liberties, and the balance between security and individual freedoms. As AI technologies become increasingly integrated into public and private sectors, they offer unprecedented capabilities for monitoring and analyzing human behavior. However, these advancements also pose significant risks to personal privacy and democratic values."

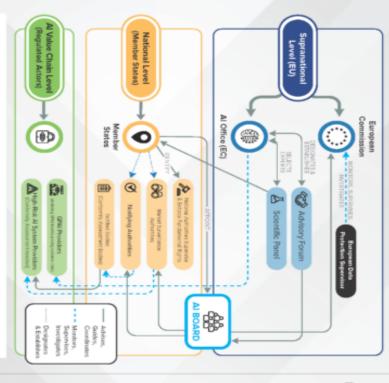




EU AI Act — Governance Architecture and Implementation Framework



EU AI Act – Implementation Dynamics



TOOLS & INSTRUMENTS Supranational & National Enforcement Authorities Will Use for Implementation

The All Park the All Office Invites inher 2024. splementing Acts, after consulting with the expents designated by each Member State. The power to for a period of the years from 1 August 2024 and may be satily extended thereafter. under the AliFact were signed by over 100.

h February 2028; (1) The All Beard should

for Mary 2028. (f) The AV Office will have to publish Coalego of Practice for Sen-cifice does not deliver on the CoPs for GPN within Sciences, the Coassaksiden one youths after the entry into force. If the A

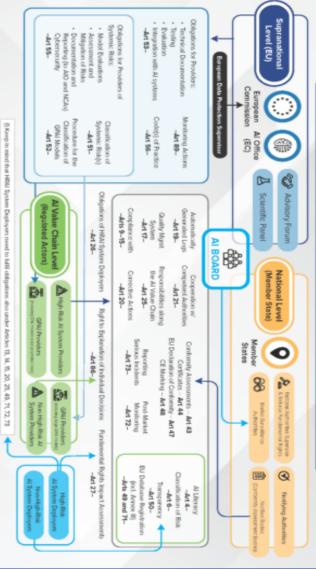
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By Engineery 2028. (All the Commission Information the European At Board, has to provide Guidelines specifying the practice and onlying the Commission shall appear by Board, has to provide Guidelines specifying the practice and an appear of the provide and the provid

By August 2029. National Competent Authorities exist in Regulatory Sendouses to be enumed by Marcher Suissi, However, the Commission is in the part of adjustments with the Personal and development, while the All Board is taken with ensuining that functioning.

By 2 August 2028 and every

EU AI Act – Mapping of Concrete Obligations & Enforcement



Legend on the Goals, interdependencies and Challenges of the Al Governance Framework

SUPRANATIONAL LEVEL (EU)

repear AI Office Jrt. 64 AIA and Commission's Decision - Composition into linear weight the EC to D6 Office.

consistent and effective application of the AIA. Coordinates to phene tacknotine of historical particular packnotic transcriptions and operation of requests of the Commission of establishment and operation of regulatory sandscore;

Sidentifite Planet of Independents Experts: Article 68 AGA - Composition independent experts selected by the Commission.

NetRying Authorities Art. 28-29, 30, 36 AIA. - Composition Designated o

Market Surveillance Authorities: Art. 70, 74-76. A&A. – Composition: Entitles designated or established by Member States as single-points of contact.

ALVALUE CHAIN LEVEL (Regulated Actors)

High-Risk Al Systems Providers: High-Risk All systems need to undergo on vibratity assessment (Ars. 4.2 before being placed in the market or put

Purpose Al (SPA) Model Providers: All Models (including large oracle oracle observation to downstream system providers (Arts. 25 and

High Bak All Systems Deployers that are be operators providing public services, open that corry out credit workiness assessme in the and health insurance shall perform



EU AI Act



A COMPREHENSIVE IMPLEMENTATION & COMPLIANCE TIMELINE

full effect and of the Al Act which & Entry into force EU Official Journal Publication to the activities towards countdown of marks the 24 month

> (Art. 113(a)) apply, six months after Scope and Definitions the entry into force.

force. (Art. 113(a)) Al kick off, six months Provisions on Prohibited after the entry into

> into force. (Art. 113(b)) will kick-off within 12 months after the entry (New) general-purpose AI model obligations

Single Point of Contact. (Art. 70(2)) Member States will have to designate their Market Surveillance Authorities to act as the

Commission the rules on penalties. (Rec. 179) Member States should lay down and notify to the

facilitate compliance with the obligations on The Commission should issue guidance to erious incident reporting (for HRAIs), (Art. 73(7))

practices by the Commission. (Art. 112(1)) (5) Annual review of the list of Prohibited Al

> months after the entry into force. (Art. 113) obligations under Annex III kick in, within 24 General Applicability of the Regulation & HRAIs

authorities establish at least one operational sandbox. Member States have to ensure that their competent within 24 months after the entry into force. (Art. 57(1))

measures. (Art. 99(2)) of the rules on penalties and of other enforcement The Member States shall notify the Commission

if these systems experience major design The AIA affects operators of HRAIs marketed changes thereafter. (Art. 111(2)) before 24 months from its start date, only

> into force, (Art, 111(2)) within six years from the entry public authorities need to comply HRAIs intended to be used by The providers and deployers of

to comply before 31 December the entry into force, will need in the market 36 months before included in Annex X, and placed established by the legal acts of the large-∏ systems Al systems which are components 2030. (Art. 111(1))



2025 MAY

2025 AUG

FEB 2026

AUG 2026

AUG 2027

BEFORE END

OPERATIONAL PROCESS

FULLY

OF 2030

2024 AUG

the entry into force (Art. 77(2)) three months after authorities within Fundamental Rights have to identify their The Member States

> Practice for General Purpose Al (GPAI) within The Al Office will have to publish Code(s) of nine months after entry into force. (Art. 56(9))

place, the EC may issue implementing acts If by 12 months no (adequate) CoP is in

standardization request C(2023)3215 the deadline for deliverables from EC's of the Al Act. 30 April 2025 is set as place before the general applicability Standards-setting process: To be in

> after entry into force. (Art. 6(5) and 96) classification of HRAIs, no later than 18 months The European Commission (after consulting the specifying the practical implementation for the European Al Board) has to provide guidelines

adopted when deemed necessary. (Art. 96(2)) The Commission shall update guidelines previous?

a template for the post-market monitoring plan act laying down detailed provisions establishing (Art. 72(3)) The Commission shall adopt an implementing

> entry into force. (Art. 113(c)) under Annex I, within 36 months after the Application of HRAI obligations that fall

comply with their obligations by 36 months from the date of entry into force. (Art. 111(3)) placed on the market before 12 months Providers of general-purpose Al models from the date of entry into force, shall

PERIODICAL EVALUATION(S) & REVIEW(S): By four years from the entry into force and every four years thereafter,

- the need for amendments the Commission shall evaluate and report to the European Parliament and to the Council of the EU on the following: headings in Annex III amendments to the list of Al systems requiring
- additional transparency measures in Article 50;
- the supervision and amendments enhancing governance system the effectiveness of
- 2 the Commission shall evaluate the functioning of the Al Office.
- ω the Commission shall submit a report on the review of the on the energy-efficient development of general-purpose models: progress on the development of standardization deliverables
- 4 the Commission shall evaluate the years thereafter). (Art. 112) the entry into force and every three codes of conduct (by four years from impact and effectiveness of voluntary





21 April 2021 by the European

December 2022

(negotiating position) by the Council of Adoption of the General Approach the EU

Commission

14 June 2023

First reading/ Adoption of the IMCO LIBE Report (negotiating position) of the European Parliament

2023 Political

24 Jan 2024

Al Office

St.

April 2024

neck) on the Al linguistic/legal Corrigendum

13 March 2024

Plenary vote (adopted) European Parliament

13 Feb 2024

 IMCO-LIBE Committee voted on the final text of the Al Act (adopted)

2 Feb 2024

text of the Al Act (adopted) COREPER voted on the fina

May 2024

A

Formal adoption & Publication in the Officia

> May/June 2024 (20 days after publication in OJ

Entry into force of the Al

+ 6 months (Dec 2024)

Provisions on prohibited Al practices start to apply

+ 9 months (Q1 2025)

Codes of Practice for GPA Deadline for crafting



months

provisions GPAI

start to apply

+18 months

EC to issue guidelines

+36 months

bligations under Annex

+24 months (mid-2026)

Application of HRAI obligations under General application of the Al Act & Annex III ***

Prior to AIA General Application

commitments (for EU and non-EU EC's Al Pact & industry voluntary stakeholders)**

PRIVACY FORUM

* Take notice of the compliance timeline deviation under Article 11(3) concerning GPAI models already placed on the market or put into service (before 12 months from the date of entry into force of this Regulation);

"The European Commission has initiated a 'Call of interest' in Nov. 2023 – first meeting with interested parties will be announced during H1 2024. The European Commission is seeking such voluntary commitments to anticipate the

Al Act and to start implementing its requirements ahead of its general applicability date;

*** Take notice of the compliance timeline deviation under Article 111(2) concerning High-risk Al Systems already placed on the market or put into service (before 24 months from the date of entry into force of this Regulation).

Digital Surveillance, AI, & Civil Liberties in the EU



The European Perspective on Al Governance with Dragos Tudorache (September 16th, 2024)

"In this episode, we are joined by former MEP Dragos Tudorache, co-rapporteur of the EU AI Act and Chair of the Special Committee on AI in the Digital Age. We discuss where we are in the EU AI Act roadmap, how to balance innovation and regulation, the future of the EU AI Office, and the increasing energy infrastructure demands of AI."

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Human Rights: Using AI as a Weapon of Repression and Its Impact on Human Rights (May 2024)

"With the world leaning heavily towards digital transformation, Al's use in policy, economic and social decision-making has introduced alarming trends in repressive and authoritarian agendas. Such misuse grows ever more relevant to the European Parliament, resonating with its commitment to safeguarding human rights in the context of digital transformation."

<u>Al Ethics and Ordoliberalism 2.0: Towards A 'Digital Bill of Rights (February 14th, 2024)</u>

"Dozens of AI ethics initiatives and governance documents have emerged over the past few years, starting with the U.S. National Science and Technology Council's 'Preparing for the Future of AI' and the E.U. Digital Charter in 2016. The latest examples include the E.U.'s proposed AI Act, the Biden-Harris Administration's 'Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights,' and the White House's 'Ensuring Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy AI Principles."

Facial Recognition Technology: Threat to Personal Privacy and Security (May 5th, 2023)

"Facial recognition technology is something that we spot around us too often nowadays. Whether it's our smartphones, tabs, laptops, or office biometrics, all the tech gadgets are efficiently using facial recognition technology to authenticate users and verify their identity. However, as all technologies have a downside, a lot more is being discussed with regard to the ethical concerns of using facial recognition systems and how they pose a threat to the security and privacy of people."

DID YOU KNOW?

"Globally, 77% of businesses are either using AI or actively exploring its potential, with 33% already implementing it and 42% in the exploration phase."

https://www.apollotechnical.com/surprising-statistics-on-ai-in-the-workplace/?trk=public_post_main -feed-card-text

Digital Surveillance, AI, & Civil Liberties in the EU

<u>Visual and Biometric Surveillance in the EU. Saying 'NO' to Mass Surveillance Practices? (May 1st, 2022)</u> "Earlier this year, the European Commission (EC) registered the 'Civil society initiative for a ban on biometric mass surveillance practices', a European Citizens' Initiative. Citizens are thus given the opportunity to authorize the EC to suggest the adoption of legislative instruments to permanently ban biometric mass surveillance practices."



The Ethics of Facial Recognition Technologies, Surveillance, and Accountability in An Age of Artificial Intelligence: A Comparative Analysis of US, EU, and UK Regulatory Frameworks (*July 29th*, 2021)

"The rapid development of facial recognition technologies (FRT) has led to complex ethical choices in terms of balancing individual privacy rights versus delivering societal safety. Within this space, increasingly commonplace use of these technologies by law enforcement agencies has presented a particular lens for probing this complex landscape, its application, and the acceptable extent of citizen surveillance."



Key Terms

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO): "Military alliance established in 1949 that sought to create a counterweight to Soviet armies stationed in central and eastern Europe after World War II. Following the end of the Cold War, NATO was reconceived as a "cooperative-security" organization. It has 32 member states."

Bloc: "A group of nations united by treaty or agreement for mutual support or joint action."

The Schengen Area: "Encompasses most EU countries, except for Cyprus and Ireland. Bulgaria and Romania became the newest Member States to join the Schengen area as of 31 March 2024, any person crossing the internal air and sea borders will no longer be subject to checks. Nevertheless, a unanimous decision on the lifting of checks on persons at the internal land borders is still expected to be taken by the Council at a later date. Additionally, the non-EU States Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein also have joined the Schengen Area."

<u>Nordic Countries:</u> "Group of countries in northern Europe consisting of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. The designation includes the Faroe Islands and Greenland, which are autonomous island regions of Denmark, and the Åland Islands, an autonomous island region of Finland."

<u>Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU):</u> "The judicial branch of the European Union (EU). Its basic mission is to ensure the observance and uniform application and interpretation of EU law within EU member states and institutions. Its headquarters are in Luxembourg."

Learning Objectives

By engaging with this resource guide, educators will be able to:

- 1). Explain historical context and role of NATO in providing EU security past and present.
- **2).** Identify and analyze the U.S. role in NATO, past and present.
- 3). Identify and assess the perspectives of different EU nations on security issues in Europe.
- 4). Explain current EU perspectives on NATO and its role in the future security of Europe.
- **5).** Evaluate possible advantages and/or disadvantages of the EU providing their own security in the absence of NATO (or in its current form).
- **6).** Analyze the present and future role of international security alliances, such as NATO, in regional and global contexts.
- 7). Analyze EU and U.S. perspectives on NATO through charts, graphs, and other stimulus-based information sources.

Understanding NATO and Its Relationship with the EU & the US

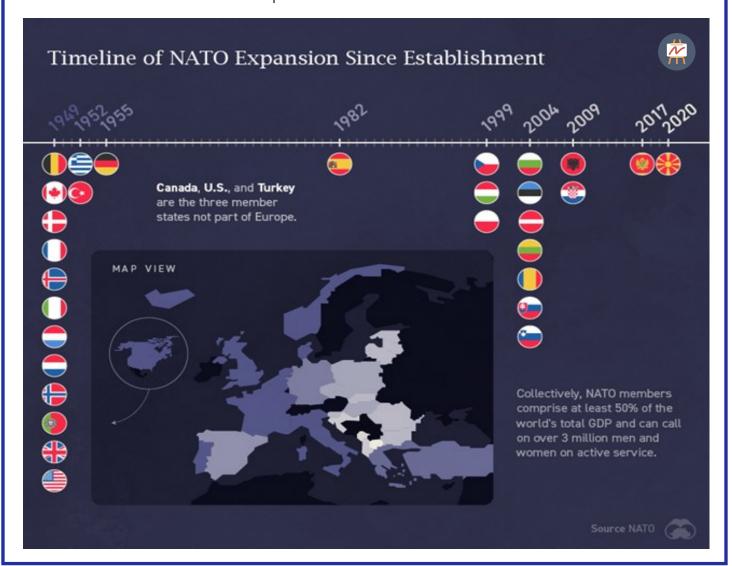
What is NATO?

A brief explanation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. "NATO is an alliance of countries from Europe and North America. It provides a unique link between these two continents, enabling them to consult and cooperate in the field of defense and security, and conduct multinational crisis-management operations together."



The History of NATO | Why It Matters

"Learn the history behind the creation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and its relevance today in this video from *Why It Matters*, the history video series where the past is used to explain the present. *Why It Matters* host Malick Mercier interviews Dr. Susan Colbourn about why NATO, a military and political alliance, was formed in the aftermath of World War II and why it continues to be a relevant alliance for the defense of democratic European nations."



Understanding NATO and Its Relationship with the EU & the US

Relations With the European Union (June 20th, 2025)

"The European Union (EU) is an essential partner for NATO. The two organizations share common values, strategic interests and a majority of member countries. They work side by side in crisis management, on capability development, in addressing hybrid threats and challenges posed by growing strategic competition, as well as in building the capacities of their common partners in the east and south."

NATO Crisis Management Exercises: Preparing for the Unknown (February 7th, 2020)

"What is the role of crisis management exercises? How have they evolved within NATO? Is the current international security environment influencing how these exercises are planned and conducted?"

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union (January 30th, 2020)

"Neither NATO nor the EU are full-spectrum security providers. They are complementary institutions with offsetting strengths and weaknesses. The EU, unlike NATO, has treaty-based legislative prerogatives enabling it to implement common policies on a pan-European basis that touch upon both internal and external components of security."



NATO Adapts: A Natural Disaster Crisis Simulation By Model NATO Students - NATO Engages London (2019)

"NATO has adapted to a range of emerging security challenges, but how would it respond to a major disaster that calls into question the existential security of Allies? Would NATO have the resilience and resources to protect its populations? Would consensus prevail in the face of distinct national emergencies?"

U.S.-NATO Relationship Spans 70 Years (January 28th, 2019)

"The United States is one of the founding members of NATO, a military alliance that was formed in 1949 and is still going strong today, some 70 years later."

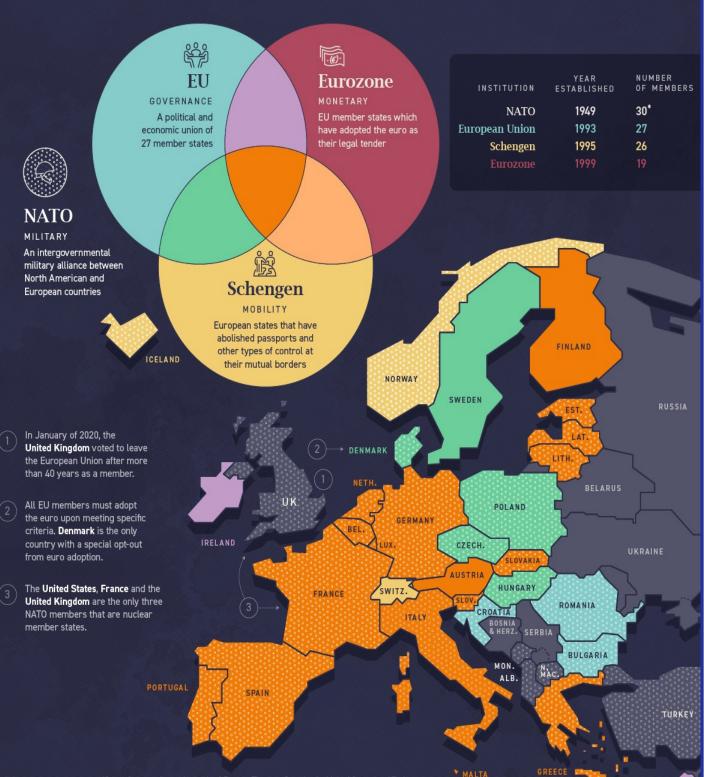
The US, the EU and NATO (February 15th, 2016)

"American officials have begun expressing concerns about the state of the European Union. In particular, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said on Feb. 12 that America has a "very strong" interest in the United Kingdom staying in the EU. Until now, the United States has seen the European Union's problems as something for the Europeans to settle among themselves. The U.S. did not see Europe's problems as directly affecting U.S. interests, nor did it see itself as capable of influencing EU policy. It was too monumental to influence."

European Member States 2022



The European member states are countries mainly in Europe that are part of one or more of the four major treaty groups, namely the European Union, NATO, Schengen and Eurozone.







EU - NATO Lesson Plan

An educational guide about NATO's history, purpose, and key principles.



<u>Lesson Plan: The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)</u>

"The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a military alliance between 29 different countries in Europe and North America. Initially created in 1949 to prevent the expansion of Soviet influence in Europe, NATO formed a rivalry with the countries of the Warsaw Pact during the Cold War. After the fall of the Soviet Union, NATO adapted it efforts to address new threats. This lesson traces the history of NATO starting with its formation and ending with President Trump's efforts to increase Europe's financial contributions to the alliance."



Eisenhower and the Origins of NATO

"Students will gain an understanding of the NATO military alliance, why it was formed, and why individual countries agreed to sign the treaty to become members. Working in pairs or small groups, students will be assigned a country to represent. Students will first review the global political context by examining sources related to the Berlin Airlift. Students will then locate their country on a map and use the map to assess whether or not joining a military alliance would be a good idea. What does joining the NATO alliance mean? Does an alliance make war more or less likely? How will the Soviet Union view the new alliance?"

The United States, the European Union, and NATO (June 1st, 2005)

"The transatlantic debate is not over American power and European weakness, but over how a combination of American and European power can best contribute to global order in spite of the weaknesses found on each side of the Atlantic."

US-EU Transatlantic Relations: Diplomacy in Action

The Art of the Transatlantic Deal (March 3rd, 2025)

"One thing is clear: the new US-EU relationship will be far more transactional. The second Trump administration will not judge European countries as loyal allies, but rather according to their strengths and weaknesses as rival negotiators and what they bring materially to the relationship with the United States. In response, the EU and its member states should not depend on the idea of a strategic partnership but rather seek to conclude a series of deals."



The Transatlantic Alliance in the Age of Trump: The Coming Collisions (February 14th, 2025)

"The United States and Europe are on a collision course that will fundamentally alter and transform transatlantic relations. It is not just one issue that will trigger a clash but seemingly every issue. From NATO to Ukraine, climate to trade, tech regulations to China, the United States and Europe will likely clash, repeatedly and continuously."

<u>Transatlantic Relations Under New US and EU Leadership: Competitiveness and Economic Security</u> (February 6th, 2025)

"Restoring economic competitiveness forms a core pillar of the Commission's strategy over the next five years, especially in light of the findings of the two core reports that inform Commission thinking, namely the Draghi and Letta Reports. Many of the two reports' proposals have been integrated in the Commission's Political Guidelines."

<u>Transatlantic Relations Under New US and EU Leadership: Trade, Economic Security, and Competitiveness (January 21st, 2025)</u>

"In her second term, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has created a set of portfolios that reflect a strong focus on productivity, innovation and competitiveness. This builds on the recent reports by Mario Draghi on the Future of European Competitiveness and Enrico Letta on the Future of the Single Market. As a result, several portfolios have interrelated responsibilities to address key issues of market access, unfair market practices, and economic security."

Topical Digest EU Transatlantic Relations (November 2024)

"Transatlantic relations are about to enter a new era, with the second Trump administration officially taking office in late January 2025 following the victory of Republican candidate and former president Donald Trump over Democrat presidential candidate and Vice-President Kamala Harris, and with Republicans winning back control of the US Senate and also retaining control of the House of Representatives."



<u>Transatlantic Cues: How the United States and European Union Influence Each Other's Climate Policies</u> (September 27th, 2024)

"With the Inflation Reduction Act in the United States and the carbon border adjustment mechanism established by the European Union, ambitious yet contentious climate policies have been passed on both sides of the Atlantic in recent years. Each of these policies has spurred the other to consider not only the impact of these policies themselves, but whether the policies can serve as inspiration for further policy innovation."

How European Transatlanticists Might Approach an Isolationist U.S. Administration (February 1st, 2024)

"The United States is the European Union's most important partner, guaranteeing Europe's security through the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). A potential shift toward a less internationalist and more isolationist U.S. foreign policy would have profound implications for the continent."

<u>U.S.-EU Trade Relations (June 3rd, 2022)</u>

"Bilateral trade and investment ties between the United States and the European Union (EU) are long-standing and extensive, but some tariff and nontariff barriers remain. Successive U.S. Administrations have sought to address barriers that restrict U.S. firms' access to EU markets and to further liberalize bilateral trade and investment ties, enhance regulatory cooperation, and cooperate on global trade and economic issues of joint interest."

Reimagining Transatlantic Relations (October 6th, 2020)

"The time is ripe for a fresh appraisal of the transatlantic alliance. Can the United States and Europe rebuild their bonds in forward-looking and enduring ways?"



Key Terms

<u>Sustainable Development Goals (SGDs):</u> Also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

<u>European Green Deal</u>: The European Green Deal is a package of policy initiatives, which aims to set the EU on the path to a green transition, with the ultimate goal of reaching climate neutrality by 2050.

<u>European Environment Agency (EEA)</u>: Provides valuable insights on the state of Europe's environment. Thanks to reliable data collected from our extensive network, we actively support Europe's environment and climate policies.

<u>Human Migration</u>: The permanent change of residence by an individual or group; it excludes such movements as nomadism, migrant labour, commuting, and tourism, all of which are transitory in nature.

Learning Objectives

By engaging with this resource guide, educators will be able to:

- **1).** Describe the past and present political, economic, and social/cultural relationship between the U.S and European Union.
- 2). Explain some of the policy similarities and differences between the U.S. and EU.
- 3). Analyze how the U.S. and EU have created regional and global partnerships to address common challenges.
- **4).** Evaluate and explain how the U.S.-EU relationship may or may not change in the future.
- **5).** Analyze EU and U.S. perspectives on their partnership, common interests, and current challenges through the lens of charts, graphs, and other stimulus-based information.







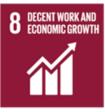
































Sustainable Development Goals – European Commission

"The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were established in 2015 by the international community as part of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through which countries of the world collectively pledged to eradicate poverty, find sustainable and inclusive development solutions, ensure everyone's human rights, and generally make sure that no one is left behind by 2030."

Council of Europe Contribution to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals

"With its global and overarching political approach, UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development has been highly relevant for the Council of Europe, which has, from the outset, been contributing to the process which led to the adoption of Agenda 2030."

EU Approach to SDGs Implementation

"The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are an intrinsic part of the President's political guidelines and lie at the heart of the policymaking on internal and external action across all sectors. Full implementation of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda is crucial to strengthen resilience and prepare the world for future shocks as we embark on the twin green and digital transitions."

The Global Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

"The Global Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development seek to end poverty and hunger, realize the human rights of all, achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources. The Global Goals are integrated and indivisible, and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental."



Europe at a Crossroads: Can the EU Lead the World to SDG Success?

"We unpack the slowdown in SDG progress across Europe, urgent priorities for the new EU leadership, and Europe's role in shaping global sustainability. Spotlight outcomes from the recent Financing for Development conference in Seville, Spain, what they mean for reforming the global financial system."



Track the EU's Progress for the SDGs (July 2nd, 2025)

This interactive visualization tool from Eurostat allows users to explore how the European Union is progressing toward achieving the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

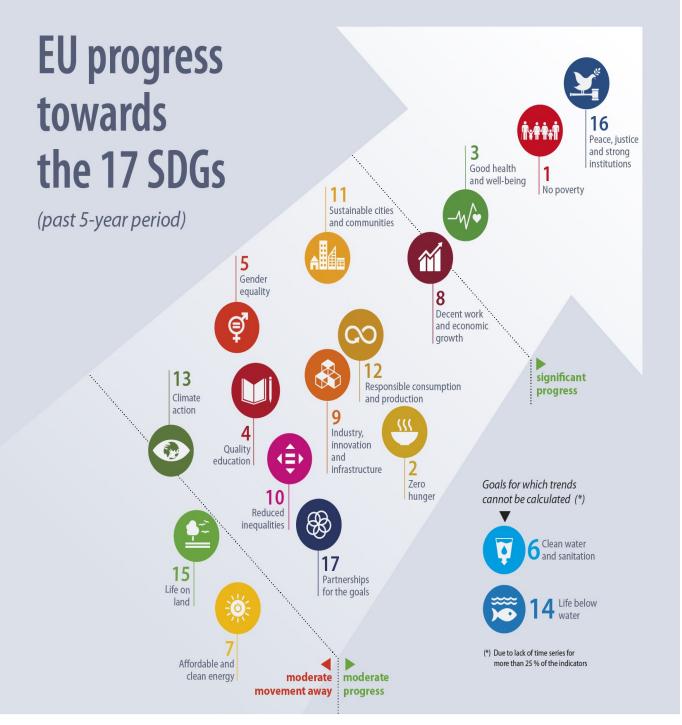
Two Years of EU Green: Advancing Sustainability, Innovation, and Collaboration in European Higher Education (March 25th, 2025)

"Since its launch, the EU GREEN Alliance has worked towards reshaping higher education by integrating sustainability across learning, research, and institutional governance. Bringing together nine universities from across Europe, the alliance has made significant progress in areas such as governance, mobility, research, student engagement, and digital transformation, setting the stage for a more interconnected and forward-looking academic network."

The European Sustainability Revolution: Becoming Climate-Neutral and Sustainable with the European Green Deal (June 6th, 2024)

"The European Commission has established six priority areas outlining the political goals for its current governing period (2019-2024) aimed at creating a sustainable and resilient Europe. The European Green Deal is one of these priorities, aimed at making Europe the first climate-neutral continent, and a leader in sustainable development."







ec.europa.eu/eurostat

Towards a Global Green Deal: Aligning Climate and Biodiversity Goals with SDGs from Bottom-Up (April 12th, 2024)

"EU cities and regions are urging to accelerate action at all levels of government for a more sustainable future by aligning the climate objectives, biodiversity targets and sustainable development goals (SDGs)."



Deep Dive Into the European Green Deal (Episode #1) (August 31st, 2023)

"In 2019, the European Commission launched the European Green Deal – its strategy to transform the EU into a low-carbon society. To do so, it proposed a wide range of measures that focus not only on reducing emissions, but also on restoring nature and making sure that no one is left behind. In this episode of 'How Green Deal?', Sebastian Oberthür (professor at the VUB, and UEF) helps us make sense of the all-encompassing European Green Deal. What are the EU's objectives? And how is the EU planning on reaching them?"



Sustainable Development Goals in EU regions [Policy Podcast] (June 29th, 2022)

"The EU has contributed to creating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), established in 2015, as part of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and takes action to implement them through its internal and external policies, as outlined in the 'Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030' reflection paper, the European Green Deal, the European Commission's political priorities and its work program. The Sustainable Development Goals also have a regional dimension, sometimes called 'localization'. Achieving around 65 % of the targets is estimated to require local and regional authority participation. Numerous regions and cities, including in the EU, have expressed support for the SDGs and many have integrated them in their policy frameworks."

<u>EU Progress Towards Its Sustainable Development Goals (April 24th, 2019)</u>

"Sustainable development is a fundamental objective of the EU, the aim of which is to achieve a better quality of life for present and future generations by integrating immediate and longer-term objectives, local and global action, and by promoting social, economic and environmental issues as interdependent components of human progress."



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A new plan for Europe's sustainable prosperity and competitiveness



A new era for European **Defence and Security**













Supporting people, strengthening our societies and our social model

















Sustaining our quality of life: food security, water and nature















Protecting our democracy, upholding our values









A global Europe: Leveraging our power and partnerships



Delivering together and preparing our Union for the future



FAST FACT

"The EU won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2012 for advancing peace, democracy, and human rights in Europe for over six decades."

https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/2012/eu/ facts/

Human Rights & the Rule of Law in the EU

Between a Rock and a Hard Place: The Impact of Rule of Law Backsliding on the EU's Response to the Russo-Ukrainian War

"In the past decade, Hungary and Poland have experienced a process of rule of law backsliding that threatens the state of democracy at home and affects the decision making and legitimacy of the European Union as a whole. In the face of Russia's war of aggression against



Ukraine, the response of Hungary and Poland has been diametrically opposed, but equally damaging to the EU rule of law."

Human Rights: Fact Sheets on the European Union

"The European Union is committed to supporting democracy and human rights in its external relations, in accordance with its founding principles of liberty, democracy and respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law. The EU seeks to mainstream human rights concerns into all its policies and programs, and has different human rights policy instruments for specific actions — including financing specific projects through its financing instruments."

What Is The Rule of Law? - European Commission

"The rule of law is a well-established principle. While Member States have different national identities and traditions, the core meaning of the rule of law is the same in all of them and can be defined along six principles: legality, implying a transparent, accountable, democratic and pluralistic process for enacting laws; legal certainty; prohibition of the arbitrary exercise of executive power; effective judicial protection by independent and impartial courts with effective judicial review including respect for fundamental rights; separation of powers; and equality before the law."

Democracy & Rule of Law - ENNHRI

"Countries across Europe are witnessing shrinking civic space, persisting structural human rights challenges, and a deterioration of the rule of law. This includes restrictive laws on the right to freedom of expression and assembly, laws undermining judicial independence, and security measures disproportionally affecting individual freedoms."



Sanctioning Democratic Backsliding in the European Union: Transnational Salience, Negative Intergovernmental Spillover, and Policy Change (February 21st, 2024)

"In 2021, the European Union (EU) started to use material sanctions to punish democratic backsliding in Hungary and Poland. This policy change presents a puzzle for the existing literatures on international responses to backsliding."

<u>Civil Society Calls on EU Legislators to Ensure the AI Act Protects the Rule of Law (September 28th, 2023)</u>

"More than 60 civil society organizations call on European lawmakers to ensure that the AI Act is fully coherent with rule of law standards, including transparency, accountability, and access to justice. The human rights coalition also pushes for the rejection of recent amendments to the AI Act on blanket national security exemption and dangerous loopholes in the classification of AI systems as high-risk."

The European Court of Human Rights and Rule of Law Backsliding (March 2023)

"The present European Policy Analysis examines the case law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) on judicial independence. This case law mainly concerns Poland. The analysis discusses the extent to which these judgments help in solving rule of law problems in Poland and other European Union (EU) Member States."

Human Rights & the Rule of Law in the EU

The Court of Justice of the European Union: A Human Rights Institution? (September 26th, 2022)

"While the original basic treaties establishing the European Communities were more or less silent on the need to respect human rights or fundamental rights, the Court of Justice of the European Communities (now the European Court of Justice) gradually came to the understanding that the principle of primacy of Community law could not in the long run be imposed against national constitutional bills of rights unless Community law itself provided some guarantees for the protection of fundamental rights."

The Rule of Law in the EU: Importance, Promotion, and Violation (December 10th, 2021)

"It cannot be stressed enough that the EU is a "Union of law" where the rule of law has been the paradigm of the European model and the structure of the common Europe since its foundation. The Treaty on the European Union (TEU) enshrines the rule of law as one of the fundamental values of the EU thereby making it the prerequisite for the protection of all other essential principles, including fundamental rights and democracy. Given its importance, it is essential to acknowledge how the concept of the rule of law is expressed by the Treaties, that is, understand the role that it has in the European legal system."

The European Court of Justice and Its Political Impact (March 6th, 2017)

"What are the implications for our understanding of the political system of the EU if the Court can be shown to pay due regard to the preferences of the member states?"

Introduction to the European Court of Justice





The Divergent Immigration Challenges in the U.S. and Europe (March 19th, 2025)

"Recent events in the United States and Europe have increased sensitivity around immigration policy. In early February, the Trump administration faced a diplomatic dispute after attempting to deport Colombian immigrants shackled and on military planes. In Germany, the chancellor-in-waiting, Friedrich Merz, is pushing for stricter immigration policies. These developments highlight the urgent need for a strategic approach to immigration. Understanding the underlying issues is essential for determining the necessary actions to be taken. This is where the U.S. and Europe differ in their immigration challenges."



From Welcome to Wary: Europe's Divide on Migration (February 19th, 2025)

"A decade of migration through the eyes of a German city. Ten years ago Germany opened its borders to more than a million people at the height of Europe's so-called migrant crisis. A decade later, that warm welcome has cooled as issues of culture, integration and national identity spark fierce debate across the continent. With German elections just days away, the BBC has revisited one migrant family and the city they landed in, to see how life has changed since 2015 – and what their experience says about the way Europeans now view migration."

<u>Understanding Europe's Turn on Migration (October 24th, 2024)</u>

"In the European Union (EU), one election after another has demonstrated the centrality of irregular migration and border security in public discussions and forced mainstream parties to take more restrictive approaches to calm fear and anxiety fueled by xenophobic, far-right rhetoric. The conflation between regular and irregular migration has also severely distorted the debate."

Migration, Borders, & Identity in the EU



<u>Democracy, Migration Studies, and Boader Studies: Bridges and/or Gaps (Episode #31, Part 2) (May 15th, 2024)</u>

(see description below)



<u>Democracy, Migration Studies, and Boader Studies: Bridges and/or Gaps (Episode #30, Part 1) (Apr 22nd, 2024)</u>

"Classically, Migration Studies explore all mobility regimes of human groups. There is a spectrum of public policies ranging from the migration of high-skilled workers to refugees. For the Migration Studies, national borders provide a form of social closure. Traditionally, Borders refer to issues that are fundamental to political community (state sovereignty, territorial delimitation, national security, political identity). And for this reason, borders are also instruments for regulating flows, policy tool for inclusion/exclusion. Several authors have pointed out a form of gap between Border Studies and Migration Studies. That there was a lack of cross-fertilization between these two research traditions. And some populist and nationalist discourses can exploit the ambivalence of the borders and the confusion around it. We will discuss about all the relations between democracy, migration and borders and get answers with Oliver Schmidtke. "



"Schengen guarantees free movement to more than 450 million EU citizens, along with non-EU nationals living in the EU or visiting the EU as tourists, exchange students or for business purposes, anyone legally present in the EU."

https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/schengen/schengen-area_en

Migration, Borders, & Identity in the EU

Countering Irregular Migration: Better EU Border Management (April 16th, 2024)

"The arrival of migrants through irregular channels at the EU's external borders is a challenge for Europe."

Introduction: Comparing and Contrasting EU Border and Migration Policy – Are They Exemplary? (2020)

"In Europe, the 2015 refugee crisis, resulting from unexpected increases in immigration across the Mediterranean Sea into the European Union (EU), has led to a re-questioning of not only the functions of borders in controlling migration, but also of European Integration. The ideal of a "Europe without borders" was questioned because both the Schengen agreement and Dublin convention were unable to deal with what turned out to be one of the major humanitarian challenges for Europe since the end of the Second World War."

Migration Crisis in the EU: Developing a Framework for Analysis of National Security and Defence Strategies (October 1st, 2018)

"The idea of 'EU'rope without internal borders is at stake as Schengen is under serious attack due to increasing Eurocentrism and growing extreme right-wing populism, which are a consequence of increasing economic protectionism and international terrorism. The solution seems to depend on two critical uncertainties: the evolution of political and social instability in the North Africa and the Middle East, and the future of the EU itself. The results enlighten a securitization of migration mostly centered on the nation-state and national security rather than on people and human security."

<u>Changing Borders: The Politics of the EU (November 30th, 2017)</u>

"Migration has always been a feature of human affairs, though in recent decades it has become a major phenomenon. In fact, the growing diversity of the European population as well as the inevitable changing of borders within the European Union (EU) reveal that Europe has become an immigration continent. These developments have, however, prompted concerns over the EU's external borders and control of immigration, as well as the need for further inquiry by international relations scholarship."

Schengen Area Shaken: The Impact of Immigration-Related Threat Perceptions On the European Security Community (June 2017)

"The year 2015 may be remembered as the year Europe had to deal with the greatest movement of people fleeing conflict, since the end of Second World War. This unprecedented migratory pressure on the doorstep of Europe has triggered a fierce public debate around the possible demise of one of the major achievements of European integration, namely the Schengen Area. In light of these events, the article uses the concept of security community (SC), in order to explore the destabilizing impact of immigration-related threat perceptions on the Schengen Area."



Key Terms

<u>Transatlantic Relations:</u> "The historic, cultural, political, economic and social relations between countries on both side of the Atlantic Ocean. Sometimes it specifically means relationships between the Anglophone North American countries (the United States and Canada), and particular European countries or organizations."

<u>European Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP):</u> "Designed to resolve conflicts and foster international understanding, is based on diplomacy and respect for international rules. Trade, humanitarian aid, and development cooperation also play an important role in the EU's international role."

<u>Multilateralism</u>: "Process of organizing relations between groups of three of more states. Beyond that basic quantitative aspect, multilateralism is generally considered to comprise certain qualitative elements or principles that shape the character of the arrangement or institution."

<u>Academic Mobility:</u> "Refers to students and researchers in higher education moving to another institution inside or outside of their own country to study or teach for a limited time."

Learning Objectives

By engaging with this resource guide, educators will be able to:

- 1). Identify effective strategies for bringing the European Union into the American classroom.
- 2). Identify and describe the various resources available for teaching about the European Union.
- 3). Explain why it is important for American educators and students to learn about the European Union.
- **4).** Identify and describe key concepts and topics/content for teaching/studying the EU in the American classroom.
- **5).** Identify and explain how the EU can be used as a context for better understanding American history, past and present.



Studying the EU from the US: Opportunities for Global Education

Fulbright Schuman European Union Affairs Program

"The program funds graduate and post-graduate study, research, and lecture proposals in the field of U.S.-EU relations, EU policy, or EU institutions for interested American and EU citizens."

European Union – Open Study/Research Award

"The Fulbright-Schuman Program, administered by the Commission for Educational Exchange between the United States of America, Belgium and Luxembourg, is jointly financed by the U.S. State Department and the Directorate-General for Education and Culture of the European Commission. The latter funds projects exclusively dealing with US-EU relations, EU institutions, and EU policy. Awards are available to American students and professionals, including professionals in training – e.g. decision-makers, policy-makers, individuals in industry, the media, politics, academia, and public administration – who wish to study, research, or lecture on a topic relevant to US-EU relations, EU policy, or EU institutions."

People-to-People Exchanges

"Information about educational programs for Americans interested in Europe. The EU offers activities for high school and college students, legislative staffers, aspiring journalists, professors, researchers, mid-career professionals, and more, providing an intimate look at the inner workings of the EU."





4 Things You Should Know About Study Abroad Programs



High-Quality Education

Almost half of US students choose to study in Europe because of education quality. They commonly prefer countries like England, Spain, Italy, and Germany.



Student Support Programs

You can apply to your institution for accommodation assistance, language courses, and health care referrals.



The Higher Education Act of 1992

The Higher Education Act of 1992 allows American students to apply for financial aid while studying abroad.



Lower Cost of Education

European colleges and universities offer much more financially affordable programs than institutions in the United States.



Studying the EU from the US: Opportunities for Global Education

Europe Beckons Global Students Amid US Setbacks (June 11th, 2025)

"As U.S. immigration policies become less predictable, Europe is offering a more welcoming option for international students. The European Union (EU) is encouraging students to come study there by expanding Erasmus Mundus scholarships and promoting academic partnerships with the U.S."

Why Are More U.S. Students Choosing to Study in Europe? (June 9th, 2025)

"The direction U.S. higher education is heading has many Americans considering a study destination that's long had its appeal as a timeless hub of academic heritage, cultural richness, and global outlook – Europe."

What Are the Benefits of Global Education for Students? (October 23rd, 2024)

"In today's interconnected world, global education plays a vital role in shaping well-rounded, informed, and adaptable students. As society becomes increasingly globalized, it is crucial that students learn to navigate cultural differences, think critically about global issues, and develop the skills necessary for success in a globally connected workforce."

Erasmus And International Credit Mobility in a Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals Associated with Quality Education and Reducing Inequalities (August 2022)

"In Europe, and promoted by the European Commission, the Erasmus+ programme has been providing institutions, through various actions, with mobility and exchanges of students, teaching and non-teaching staff both within and outside Europe. In order to increase the qualitative impact of its actions and to ensure equal opportunities, the programme aims to make it easier to reach more people of all ages and from other cultures, and from diverse social and economic backgrounds."

The Impact Of Studying Abroad On Students' Intercultural Competence: An Interview Study (2019)

"By offering opportunities for experiencing cultural differences and prompting students to develop coping strategies and to make references to the home culture, the sojourn is thus of significant importance for tertiary students, allowing for fostering their intercultural development to a certain degree."

<u>EU-U.S. International Education Connections: U.S. Opportunities to Participate in Erasmus Programs and the Case for a Renewed Commitment to Transatlantic International Education Collaboration (2019)</u>

"The European Union's suite of Erasmus programs are an ambitious effort to facilitate educational mobility and research across the EU's 28 member countries and with partners around the world. It is one of the primary means to achieve a sense of European identity among the citizens across the Union, and governmental and educational organizations in the U.S. are keen to learn more about how they can also engage with it. The Departments of State and Education, because of their respective work in international education, are particularly well-positioned to lead that effort."



Project on the Future of Europe

"The Project on the Future of Europe aims to examine the European Union's growing geopolitical role and the implications for the United States and Europe. It seeks to raise awareness in the United States of the European Union's future trajectory, which will be critical to building a stronger transatlantic partnership."

Scenarios for a Sustainable Europe in 2050: the EEA Report

"The report by the European Environment Agency (EEA) explores possible scenarios for Europe in 2050, focusing on energy, environment, and resilience. Through strategic analyses, the document proposes solutions to tackle global challenges and build a sustainable and resilient society."



EU & ME Quiz

"This online quiz has been created for secondary school pupils to help them understand the basics about the EU."



<u>Learning Corner: Play - Teach - Discover The European Union</u>

Learning Corner is for both the teacher and the student where we can learn more about the EU in a fun way.



A Day in the Life ...

"What can a day in the life of people from different European countries look like? In these country-based short videos, discover what the EU does for you and how it can affect your life."

DID YOU KNOW?

"Students from all over the world can apply for fully funded scholarships to study or teach in Europe under programs like Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters."

https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/

Student-Led Inquiry: What's the Future of the EU?

Future in the making: European Students Shape Policy at ESA25 in Strasbourg (June 24th, 2025)

"Held under the European Universities Community Voices (EUC Voices) initiative, ESA25 was more than a symbolic gathering—it was a hands-on policymaking experience that placed students at the centre of democratic life. With 76 policy proposals tabled and 74 adopted, the Assembly proved that Europe's youth are ready not only to raise their voices but to offer pragmatic, thoughtful solutions on issues ranging from mental health and Al ethics to sustainable innovation and gender equality."

Students Shape the Future of Europe at ESA 2025

"From May 26–28, five students from the ENHANCE Alliance joined over 230 peers from more than 50 European University Alliances at the European Student Assembly (ESA 2025), held at the European Parliament in Strasbourg. Over three days, students came together to discuss, draft, and vote on policy recommendations aimed at addressing some of Europe's most pressing societal challenges."

The European Union Risks a Sad, Bad Future (September 16th, 2024)

"The European Union brought peace and prosperity to a troubled region in the decades following World War Two. But it may lack energy and become impotent in the decades ahead."

EU Youth Report 2024: Looking at How Youth Are Shaping The Future

"Released by the European Commission, the EU Youth Report 2024 highlights the progress made between 2022 and 2024 under the EU Youth Strategy, celebrating achievements and tackling the challenges. The message is clear: young people matter, and their voices are shaping Europe's future!"

Global Trends to 2040: Choosing Europe's Future (April 2024)

"Recent years have been marked by rapid and disruptive change on many fronts and have already produced more than their fair share of once-in-a-generation crises. War at the very border of the EU, escalating conflicts with global consequences, a pandemic, and extreme weather events all have dramatic and intertwined consequences, and combined with sweeping technological innovation, create ever more complex challenges for governments and populations around the world."



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