



European Union
on Demand

*An Overview
of Some Key Policies
of the European Union*

ŠPELA MAJCEN

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Foreword

European Union on Demand simply, concisely and transparently presents basic information on the European Union (EU). Anyone, regardless of their age, can find out almost anything on the EU, which an EU citizen should know.

European Union policy has an important influence on the lives of individuals, communities and individual countries. However, sometimes EU citizens are not aware of the importance and influence of these policies, which are, when correctly understood generally positive for both countries and individuals. The complexity of EU policies makes it impossible for the individual to be actively involved in shaping policies. Therefore, education on the role and content of the EU should be a component of the curricula on all levels of education.

This book is mainly addressing the young people, students of different countries and nationalities who do not have any EU themed content on their study programme and to serve as study material in programme subjects on the EU which are not based on European studies.

In deepening and widening their knowledge on the European Union, young people (and others) will discover what options and opportunities the European Union offers them to increase the awareness of European identity and citizenship. This will encourage young people to be active citizens and thus become actively involved in forming future regulations, policies, and principles in our European Union. In strengthening active citizenship we also encourage the development of competencies young people need to efficiently be included in a fast changing society, transnational European education environment and common labour market.

The book is written in English as it is meant for all young people and EU citizens. The majority of the content which relates to links on the official EU webpage, is published in all official EU languages, thus the text is used simultaneously in different language environments and is always up to date.

This book was created within the framework of the Jean Monnet module EU LAJF (EU Learning, Action, Job, Fun), co-financed by the

Foreword

European Commission. In this project, ISSBS offers, in 3 consecutive academic years (2013/2014, 2014/2015, 2015/2016), the elective course 'Living in the EU: Unity in Diversity.' During the first two years, the course was carried out face to face and supported by the e-classroom. In the last year, the course will be performed mainly in an e-environment, both via Moodle and m-learning (phone, iPad). The course in the first year was only offered to ISSBS students, later it is offered to all post-secondary and higher education students in the region in the framework of a national mobility programme. Some of the lectures are open to the general public.

The Jean Monnet programme aims at stimulating teaching, research and reflection in the field of European integration studies at the level of higher education institutions within and outside the European Community. European integration studies are defined as the analysis of the origins and evolution of the European Communities and the European Union in all its aspects. They cover both the internal and external dimension of European integration, including the European Union's role in the dialogue between peoples and cultures and the European Union's role and perception in the world. Jean Monnet Modules are short teaching programmes (or courses) in the field of European integration studies at higher education institutions. Each Module has a minimum duration of 40 teaching hours. Modules may concentrate on one particular discipline in European integration studies or be multidisciplinary in approach and therefore call upon the services of several teachers.

Dr Nada Trunk Širca

Dr Valentina Jošt Lešer

Introduction

Whatever we do and wherever we are, individuals are a part of a reality, influenced among other also by political structure of the society. In order to achieve greatest gains from any activity, it is therefore beneficial to know how policies are adopted and how we can influence them in a way to bring us additional advantages.

The European Union (EU) is a reality not only for its citizens and Europeans but also for foreign partners. It is a unique political system that has until now not yet been replicated in any other region in the world. It is more than an international organisation and less than a State. *The sui generis form of the EU makes it a complex yet interesting topic to study, as well as a challenging environment hiding many possibilities for those who know how to harness them.*

This book was prepared in a way that will allow the reader to constantly follow the dynamic process of EU policy making and changing rules, related to our everyday life. Practical examples of implementation of EU legislation are offered and future prospects announced.

The book is organised in four main chapters and a number of sub-chapters. The first chapter covers an overview of the evolution of EU integrations, its legal basis, fundamental values and institutions. The following three chapters focus on policies, dividing them into economic integration policies, monetary policies and political cooperation.

To allow readers to engage actively in the EU decision-making process, introductions of the policy chapters offer an overview of key decision-makers and other players in various policy fields. The sub chapters then give a more detailed view into the individual policies, including live links to relevant contents online. This allows the book to remain up to date even when a new document is adopted or additional rules enter into force. [Readers can check latest news with a simple click of the mouse on the symbol at the right !\[\]\(e10773081adcaeab632f9dd4c8931cd5_img.jpg\).](#)



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