



youngsters

Youngsters voting for Europe!

**Ideas, methods and suggestions
for the European Parliament Elections 2009**

⚭ aej

Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Evangelischen Jugend
in Deutschland e.V.

C·A·P

Centrum für angewandte Politikforschung
Forschungsgruppe Jugend und Europa

Youngsters voting for Europe! | Imprint

The 5th edition of the newspaper youngstars will be published in the first days of March. It is designed to be used in conjunction with this manual for group work.

To order the newspaper or the manual, write to: info@evangelische-jugend.de

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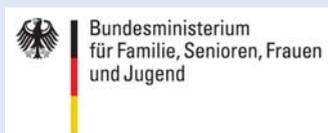
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Youngsters voting for Europe!

Introduction

The EP elections in 2009 will focus the attention on the European Parliament and the European Union. Europe is a delicate topic and often hard to impart. Youngsters often say they don't have enough information concerning the EU. We hope this manual and the newspaper youngstars will spark young people's enthusiasm for European issues.

Discovering European connections are supposed to be fun and to encourage deeper thinking. Youngstars was compiled and written by youngsters from seven European countries. Some of the methods are closely related to it. Therefore, it is best to have both at hand: This manual and a couple of youngstars editions. (Order from: info@evangelische-jugend.de)

Facing the EP elections 2009, the emphasis of the presented methods and information is on the EP and its elections. We will not blandish Europe but talk about it in complex and also controversial ways. The methods are directed at young people considering their knowledge and attitude and will motivate them to deal with the topics more profoundly. Most of the methods are shorter units that require little previous knowledge. But they can easily be intensified and connected to other parts if you wish to.

The manual is divided into three sections. The first section contains basic information useful as background knowledge for the methods. The main section contains practical methods which demonstrate how to get closer to the topic in a playful and exciting way. And the third section contains useful links and addresses.

The presented methods were tested in protestant youth work programmes and in the junior team of the C.A.P., partially even developed out of their work. They are connected with the manual „Europa sind wir!“ (We are Europe) published by the C.A.P. The leading principle is always to teach young people the content and the methods so that they themselves can then pass them on to other young people.

We hope you have a lot of fun and success using this manual and hope that many youngsters will “vote for Europe“ on the 7th of June!

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Youth and Europe

The European Union (EU) is getting more and more importance for its population, particularly for young people. Therefore, they should be invited to join the discussion on how to organize Europe more often. They are the ones who will be most affected by the future consequences of these decisions and have to implement and realize them. Therefore it is important that they are informed about European politics, able to join the discussion and get involved. This is the only way for them to become active members of the European society.

The relationship between the European Union and its young citizens is hard to describe. On the one hand, the EU is facing big challenges and reforms. The recent expansions and the reform efforts aiming to change the EU Treaties will considerably change the EU and the lives of its inhabitants. On the other hand, its citizens increasingly distance themselves from the EU's policy and are showing no sympathy for it. Youngsters generally support the EU and only few completely reject the unification process. But the connection between the EU and their own life remains hazy to them. Without a stronger participation of the people and the younger generation in particular in the unification process, the EU's evolution is at stake. To prevent this, the EU published a White paper in 2001 titled 'A new Impuls for the European Youth'. The aim is to enable young EU citizens to live their lives as citizens who are socially aware, responsi-



The „youngstars“ editorial team

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ble, active and tolerant citizens. This is the task of the European Cooperation on Youth Work and Youth Policy. To achieve this aim, the EU programme 'Youth in Action' supports exchange and encounter of young people in Europe. Its main topics are supporting mobility, the European Voluntary Service, supporting youth participation projects and the development of an active European society in general.

End of 2006, the 'structured dialogue' aiming at addressing all young people was set up. It is designed to strengthen European youth participation and actively include young people in the discussion on the development of European youth politics. First youth conferences already took place.



After a poll in all member states on the experiences made with the European cooperation in youth work, the European Commission is working on a new EU youth strategy. The European Parliament and the Youth Minister's Council will supposedly ratify it in 2009. This new strategy will have a special meaning for young Europeans. Last but not least, the amount of young voters turning up at the EP elections 2009 will indicate how well the EU is able to appeal to young people and to interest and interest them in EU politics.

Europe in Everyday Life

The European Union (EU) increasingly affects everybody. Most people do not realize this, also because Europe seems to be very complex, unfathomable and difficult to understand. Furthermore, the EU is often used as a scapegoat for exaggerated expectations, national mistakes or unrealistic measures. But how the EU really works, the results and successes of its policy, how it affects the people and the EU's relation towards young people in particular – these things are usually unknown. The European community celebrated its 50th birthday in 2007. After World War II, the weakened states of Europe hoped to maintain peace and safety and achieve wealth and adjustment of living standards by cooperating with each other. These objectives set in the founding Treaties have never been more actual. European safety is taken for granted, but terrorist attacks in Madrid and London or war actions on the Balcan show that this is not reality. Even the economic growth and social balance seem to be endangered by the financial crisis. The question is: How can the EU with its 27 member states cope with this? Is it prepared for these challenges? Does it consider the interests and needs of its citizens? And will it manage to pursue a homogenous and efficient political course in spite of the divergent interests of its members?

The constantly failing endeavours to ratify the reform Treaties make the EU's future remain vague. But the history of the EU has always been shaped by great ideas and visions followed by rather small and pragmatic actions. But often these actions really changed things in the end. Many successes and failures of the European policy seem to be natural by now and remain unnoticed. For example: Consumer protection, employees' rights, social and environmental policies, equality of opportunity and between women and men or education; the EU affects our life every day. By means of common regulations, the EU creates simplifications and advantages that have a direct effect on people's lives.

A big achievement of the EU was surely the right to travel freely around the member states, to work and study or spend your retirement there. Millions of union citizens make use of this all over Europe and consider it as one of the EU's major advantages. Regulations such as europa-wide healthcare system, recognition of academic degrees or the transfer of pension rights between states facilitate the mobility.

The EU-initiated liberalisation of the telecommunication market led to drastic price lowerings in the last few years, especially on the mobile phone market. On the 30th of august 2008, mobile phone calls to other EU countries became cheaper once again. The price cuts were an effect of the EU roaming decree. It was created to ensure that Europeans do not have to pay exaggerated phone bills when travelling to other EU countries.. more than 400 million consumers all over Europe enjoy price-cuts of appr. 60% while travelling for private or business reasons. Another example of European politics is the quality control of groceries. The EU is re-

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sponsible for ensuring food quality and mutual recognition of standards in all member states. Furthermore, an early warning system for emergencies such as the spoiled meat scandal or the dioxin-contaminated food was set up. The EU can not stop such disturbances to happen but the system helps to investigate them and to work against abuse.

Attitudes towards the European Union

The population's attitudes towards the EU are very diverse and sometimes contradictory. Big expectations on the one hand and doubts about the EU's ability to act on the other hand are usual.

All in all, the EU is supported by the majority and just a small number of critics completely questions it. Usually, youngsters are more optimistic than the rest of the population.

Nevertheless, the opinions about concrete issues and aspects are often more sceptic and reserved. Also, the more specific the issue is, the more people are undecided. This is often the result of missing knowledge which makes it hard to make a precise comment about the EU policy.

The critical attitudes about the EU show that the union and its member states in particular have to improve the understanding, support and participation of its population. They have to organize actively the dialogue between the EU and its citizens and thus create a solid foundation for a vivid European society.

The next lines are the result of a survey the EU holds every six months in all member states.

Membership in the EU

Do you think the EU membership of your country is a good thing / a bad thing / neither?



EU 27

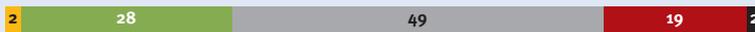


Young Europeans, 15 - 24 years

■ good thing | ■ bad thing | ■ neither good or bad | ■ I don't know
numbers in percentage

Personal knowledge about EU Politics

Would you describe yourself as well-informed about EU-political matters or not?



EU



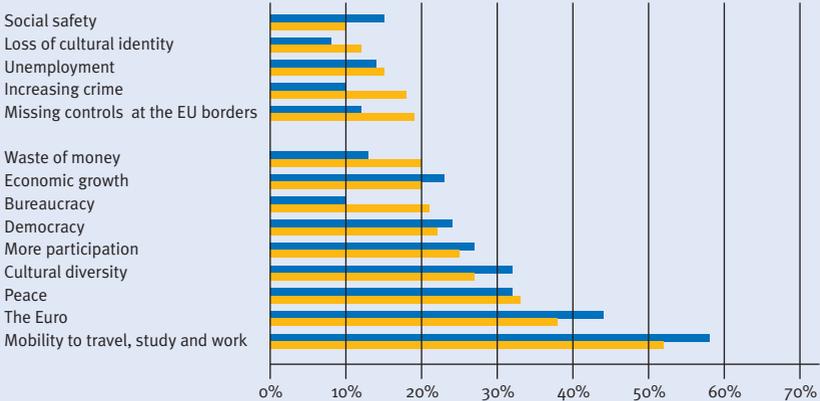
Young Europeans, 15 - 24 years

■ very good | ■ good | ■ not very good | ■ not at all | ■ I don't know
numbers in percentage

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Personal meaning of the EU

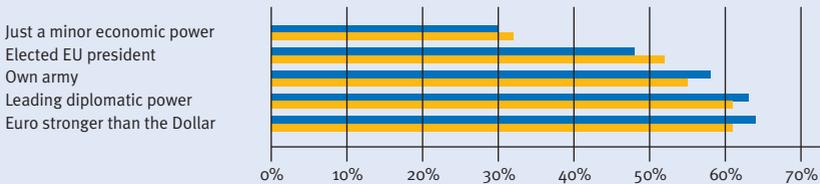
What does the EU mean to you?



The EU in 50 Years

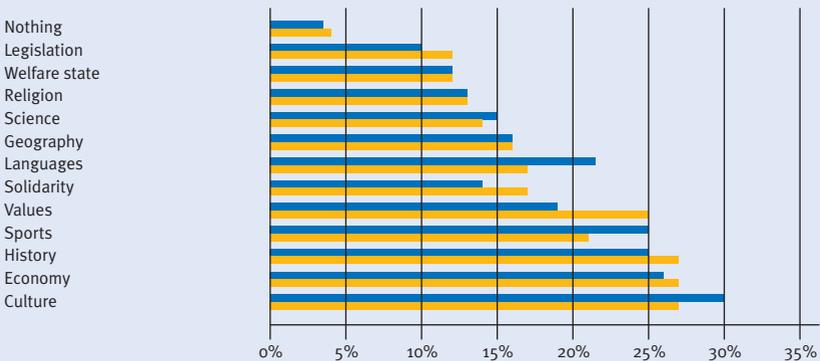
What do you think the EU will look like in 50 years:

a leading diplomatic power in the world | the Euro will be the strongest currency worldwide, stronger than the dollar | it will have its own army | a central president directly elected by all EU citizens | just a minor economic power



foundations of a community

Which of the following matters causes the strongest sense of unity among EU citizens in your opinion?



■ EU ■ Young Europeans, 15 - 24 years

The History of the European Union

The EU is characterised by its long and varied history that is still in progress. This process-like character makes the EU special and is the reason for many of its peculiarities. Countless enhancements and reform treaties, increased competences and fine-tuned decision-making mechanisms are changing the shape of the EU.

The European unification is still unfinished with all the possibilities and risks the process holds. To understand the current situation of the EU, it is helpful to know the most important steps of its development and see the connections. The following text describes some of the steps that have been taken so far.

British prime minister Winston Churchill demands the foundation of the United States of Europe in Zurich.

19.9.1946

French foreign minister Robert Schuman presents Jean Monnet's (French commissioner for planning) plan for the integration of the European coal and steel production. The 9th of may is later declared the „Europe Day“.

9.5.1950

The Treaties of Paris for the foundation of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) are ratified by France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

They commit to put their coal and steel industries under a collective administration and stop using them for war purposes.

18.4.1951

The member states enhance the areas of their cooperation and sign the treaties for the foundation of the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom).

25.3.1957

The United Kingdom, Ireland and Denmark join the EEC.

1.7.1967

The United Kingdom, Ireland and Denmark join the EEC.

1.1.1973

First direct elections for the European Parliament (EP). Until then, the delegates were sent by the national parliaments. The EP is now the only Institution on the European level legitimated by direct democratic elections.

From now on, every five years the citizens can elect the members of the EP themselves.

7.-10.6.1979

Greece joins the EEC.

1.1.1981

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Spain and Portugal join the EEC.

1.1.1986

Advent of the ERASMUS programme for European student exchange.

15.6.1987

The Single European Act (SEA) enters into force. It includes first reforms of the founding treaties.

For instance, the EP gets more rights to participate and majority decisions are introduced to the Council.

1.7.1987

Advent of the EU programme Youth for Europe which promotes youth exchange and encounter in Europe.

1.7.1988

The European domestic market with free movement of goods, capital, services and persons is complete.

1.1.1993

The Treaty of Maastricht comes into effect. It establishes the European Union supported by three columns. The first column is the supranational European community. The second column consists of the collective foreign and security policy. The third column is the cooperation in legal and homeland matters. Furthermore, the member states agree on Union citizenship and the completion of the economic and monetary unification.

1.11.1993

Austria, Finland and Sweden join the EU.

1.1.1995

The Treaty of Amsterdam enters into force as one more change to the reforms. The member states' cooperation deepens, their ability to act gets stronger and the EP gets additional possibilities to participate.

1.5.1999

Introduction of the Euro notes and coins in twelve EU countries.

1.1.2002

The Treaty of Nice enters into force. The changes in it are designed to keep the EU working after the planned expansion.

1.2.2003

Ten new member states from middle and eastern Europe join the EU: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Hungary and Cyprus become members.

1.5.2004

Bulgaria and Romania join the EU.

1.1.2007

The European Union

United in Diversity

The EU is an economic and political partnership of 27 democratic European countries. It is striving for peace, wealth and freedom for its 495 million citizens – in a fairer and safer world.



The Triangle of the European Union

The European Parliament - Representing the European Citizens

- 785 delegates
(before the 2009 elections)
- direct elections every 5 years
- legislation in cooperation with the EU council
- participation in decisions concerning the EU budget
- supervision of the EU commission

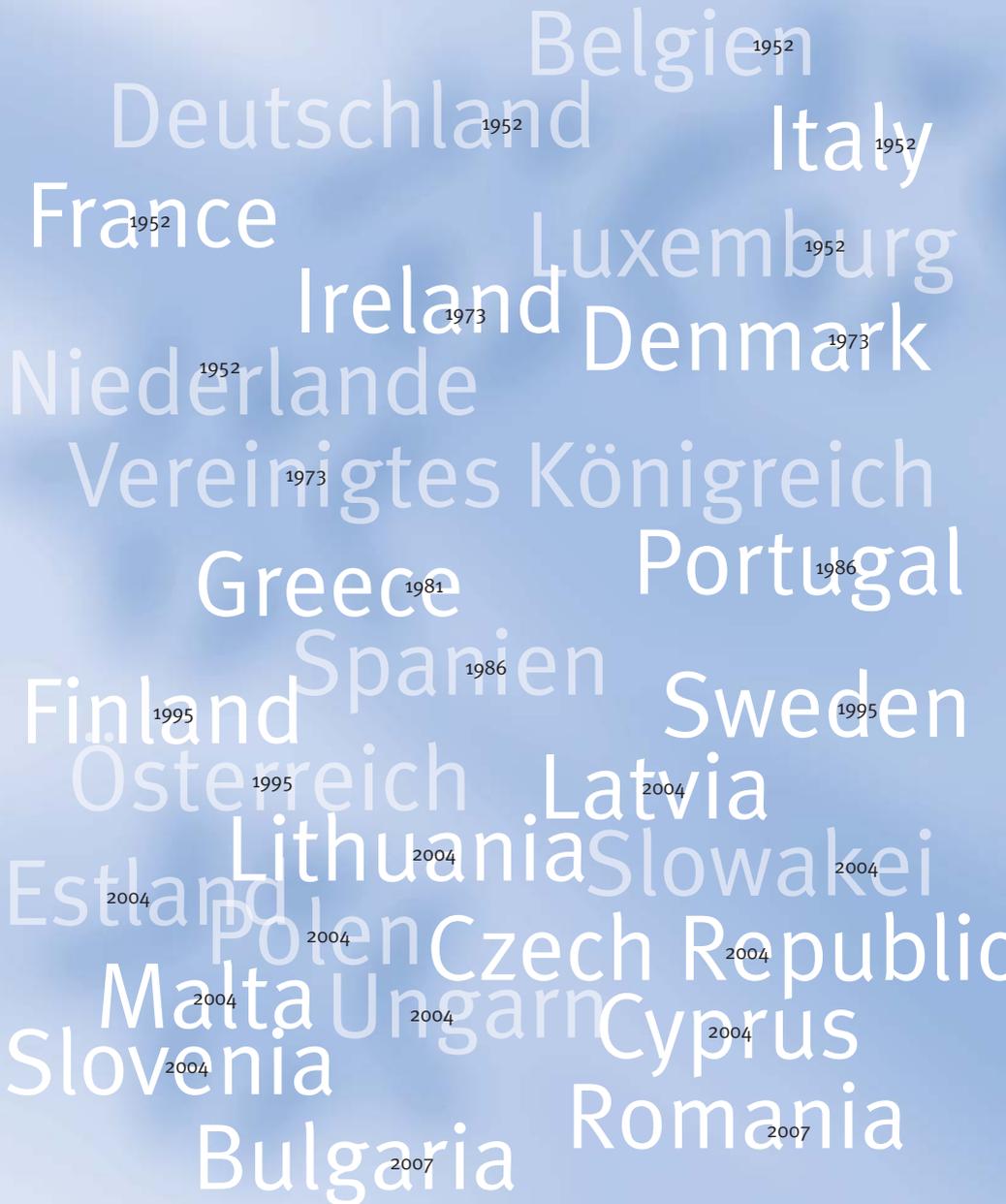
European Council - Representing the National Governments

- ministers of all member states
- most important decisionmaking organ of the EU
- EU legislative (in cooperation with the EP)
- responsible for foreign and security policy
- main decisions concerning justice and inner affairs

European Commission – Representing the common interest of the EU

- proposals for new EU laws
- turning EU politics into action
- managing the EU budget
- „guardian“ of the EU treaties
- 27 members (= commissioners)

EU member states and their year of entry



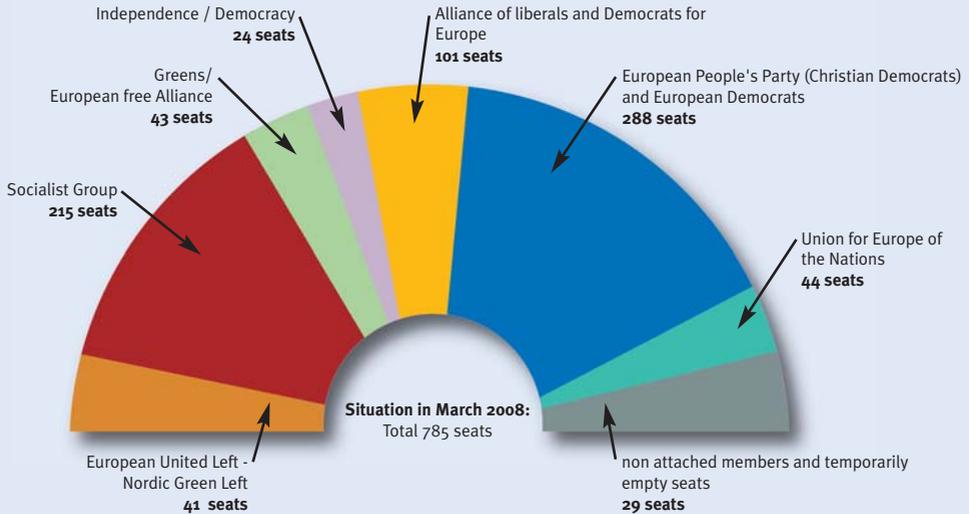
The European Parliament

The European Parliament (EP) is the EU's parliamentary organ. It is constituted by direct elections every five years and consists of 785 delegates from the 27 member states. Approximately a third of them are women. The members of the EP are seated according to their political group. The EP works in three different cities: Strasbourg (plenary sessions), Brussels (committee meetings) and Luxembourg (General Secretariat).

**On the union level, the citizens are directly represented
by the European Parliament**



The political groups in the European Parliament



German delegates are divided in five groups



The European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats (EVP-ED): Delegates from the „CDU“ and „CSU“



Socialist Group in the EP (SGE): Delegates from the „SPD“



Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE): Delegates from the „FDP“



Greens / European Free Alliance: Delegates from „Bündnis90/Die Grünen“



Confederate Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left (CVEL/NGL): Delegates from „Die Linke.“

European Keyboard

- aim:** cooperational exercise and warming up, first loose contact with the topic 'Europe'
- procedure:** All players sit down in a circle and get a letter from a to z assigned to them. If less than 26 players should be present, some players have to take several letters. Now, the same supervisor gives them a longer sentence or a complete paragraph dealing with Europe which the players have to memorize (taking notes on a blackboard or a flipchart is an option). Then, the players become a human keyboard. After the starting signal, the keyboard starts to work. To do this, the respective player stands up, shouts his letter and immediately sits down again. An empty space between two words or the end of a sentence mean all players have to stand up. If several sentences in a row have to be typed, the group has to stand up after each sentence and imitate the sound of the shift key on a typewriter.
- variation:** When 'typing' longer passages, all punctuation marks can be associated to certain actions all players have to do: E.g., scratching your head for a question mark, stand up and turn around for an exclamation mark etc.
- time needed:** 10 – 15 minutes
- target group:** at least 10 persons, maximum 26 persons, all ages
- room:** common room or free space
- material:** (optional) blackboard/flipchart/poster, chairs

Journey to Europe

- aim:** warming up and getting into the subject of European merging
- procedure:** Put one 'youngstars' double page per player on the floor of a big room. While music plays, the players have to move in a circle on the pages. When the music stops, all feet have to be on a page. After each stop, one page is removed etc. The goal is to have all feet on paper even when the number of pages is shrinking.
- time needed:** 15 – 20 minutes
- target group:** all ages
- room:** common room
- material:** youngstars newspapers, CD player

Youngstars Ice Floes

- aim:** a game that can be used to demonstrate the common objectives
- procedure:** Outline a safe island with posters on which the players write EU objectives: Economic cooperation, a single currency, equal chances and opportunities for all a common foreign and security policy etc.
- Put 'ice floes' made of Youngstars pages on the ground, one per player. Make sure that there is enough space between the ice floes and the island. The goal is to reach the safe island. Whenever an ice floe has no player on it, it sinks (is removed). The group must work as a team, make sure no important ice floe sinks and nobody falls into the water. The group wins when all players have reached the island.
- time needed:** 15 – 20 minutes
- target group:** not specific
- room:** common room
- material:** youngstars pages

The 'White Socks' Game

- aim:** simple warm-up and getting to know each other while sitting in a circle; variation - asking personal questions concerning Europe
- procedure:** The group makes a circle of chairs, leaving one player without a chair standing in the middle. This player starts giving orders, such as: 'everyone who wears white socks'. This means all players who wear white socks have to change seats – they must not choose a chair right next to them. In the end, one player with no seat will stay in the middle and give the next order etc.
- variation:** the players ask questions concerning Europe, e.g.: 'Everyone who traveled to a foreign EU country this year' or 'Everyone old enough to vote at the EP elections' etc.
- time needed:** 10 – 15 minutes
- target group:** not specific, also suitable for bigger groups
- room:** common room with a circle of chairs
- material:** chairs

Language Chaos in Europe

aim: warming up and getting in the subject of language diversity in Europe

procedure: Form four to eight teams (make sure it is an even number) and disperse along the walls. Teams opposite each other become each other's senders and receivers.

The game supervisor hands out short passages from youngsters to the sending teams. Their task is to dictate the text while the receiving teams write down what they hear.

After the starting signal, all groups begin to send and receive at the same time. Which sending team finishes first? After all groups are finished, compare the results.

time needed: 10 – 15 minutes, depending on the length of the text

target group: not specific, at least 8 persons

material: short texts or paragraphs taken from youngsters, pens, paper

Coordinate System Europe

aim: getting to know each other, personal associations about Europe

procedure: All players stand in the middle of a big room. The game supervisor declares the room to be Europe and says which direction is north, south, east and west. Now, the players have to go to the place where their home is. To achieve this, they have to communicate where the borders of the countries and the cities are, respectively. When all players have found their place, the game supervisor can walk around and ask in which country they are. It is also possible to let the players stand where they like to spend their holidays, where their favourite food comes from, their favourite country to work in, the country where most of their immigrant friends come from or the country they know best. The game supervisor should not ask too many players at once to make sure the game does not lose its energy.

time needed: 20 minutes

target group: bigger ones in particular (at least 20 players)

room: a big common room

material: a microphone if necessary

Number Ray Europe

- aim:** learning more about each other, getting closer to the issue
- procedure:** All players stand in the middle of a big room. The game supervisor has drawn a number ray from 1-10 on the ground using chalk or just defined it by showing the line. The players are asked some questions concerning Europe, the European Union or the European Parliament and have to find a place on the number ray according to their degree of agreement. 1 means little, 10 means a lot. The game supervisor can walk around and ask individual players to state and explain their opinion. Possible questions are: 'How much do you know about Europe?', 'How strongly do you consider yourselves as Europeans?', 'Does the European Parliament represent your interests?', 'How successful do you think the European policy is?', 'What meaning does the EU have in this world?'. The game supervisor should not ask too complicated questions / too many players at once to make sure the game does not lose its energy.

Time needed: 20 – 30 minutes

target group: not specific, about 10 persons or more

room: common room

material: chalk, a microphone if necessary

Crossword Europe

- aim:** learning more about each other, getting closer to the topic Europe on a personal level
- procedure:** The players write the letters of Europe vertically on a sheet of paper. Then they have to attach a word to each letter that has something to do with Europe. Subsequently, all players present their connotations and talk about similarities and differences. The game supervisor acts as a moderator, asks additional questions and supports the exchange of ideas. Bigger groups can be divided into smaller groups of 5-10 players.
- time needed:** 20 – 30 minutes, depending on group size
- target group:** not specific
- room:** common room with tables or a circle of chairs
- material:** pens and paper

European Taboo

aim: learning EU-related terms and how to explain them

procedure: first, the group is divided into smaller teams of 4 people. Each team gets several file cards to write EU terms on them (about 10 terms per team), one word on every card. Below each term, the teams have to write three words that must not be used to describe it.

To start the game, the teams exchange the card decks without taking a look at them. Each team gets a certain period of time (3-5 minutes) while the others are watching. One team member has to describe the term to the others without using any of the words on the card or parts of it. Two players make sure the rules and the time are observed. If a word from the card is used, the card is nullified. The rest of the team has to guess the words by shouting out their ideas. All cards whose terms were guessed might count as points. When the time is up, the next team takes the stage.

time needed: 60 minutes

room: a big one

material: lots of file cards, pens, some kind of clock (stop watch, hourglass), if needed a buzzer or something else to make noise when somebody makes a mistake

European Scrabble

aim: warming up and getting into the issue

procedure: The players write each letter of their names on a file card. Smaller groups (up to 15 players) can use the letters of both their first and last names. Subsequently, they lay the cards down in front of them. The game supervisor uses the letters to form a word, e.g. 'Europe'. The players have to attach new words related to Europe using their remaining cards. All letters should be used. When the scrabble is complete, the group can discuss the used words and their connotations with them.

Time needed: about 20 – 30 minutes, depending on group size

target group: not specific, about 10 people or more

room: common room with a circle of chairs

European Rap

- aim:** learning EU-related terms, creatively approaching the issue
- procedure:** The group writes down EU-related words, key words and abbreviations on a flipchart. Then, the players form teams of four and try to write and exercise a rap using these words. When they are ready, they perform the rap.
- variation:** a) Every team can pick up a youngstars article to write a rap about it.
b) A principal topic can be set.
- time needed:** 60 – 90 minutes
- target group:** at least 12 years old, musically interested
- room:** a big room for the performances, smaller ones for the preparational work
- material:** flipchart, pens, paper, youngstars articles, maybe a microphone and speakers and music to perform to

European Flower

- aim:** developing and expressing personal and collective ideas concerning Europe, the European Parliament and the EP elections
- procedure:** First, form teams of 5 to 7 people. Each team gets their own table with pens and a big sheet of paper on it. An introductory question concerning Europe is set, e.g. 'What fascinates me about Europe?', 'Which meaning does the EP have?', 'Slogans for Europe'. The teams draw a flower with the pistil in the middle and one petal for each team member. All players write their personal thoughts on a leaf, the pistil is used to write down the thoughts the team shares. The teams present their flower to the others before hanging it on the wall.
- variation:** First, the players read a youngstars article dealing with unity and diversity. Then, they use the leaves to write down aspects of the EU's diversity and the pistil to write down its unifying aspects.
- time needed:** 30 minutes plus 10 minutes for every team to present their flower
- target group:** not specific, depends on the questions
- room:** a big room with tables
- material:** tables, chairs, pens, big sheets of paper, adhesive tape, youngstars article for the variation 'Unity and Diversity'

Borders of Europe

- aim:** introduction and discussion of European topics
- procedure:** Each player gets a map of Europe. The task is to encircle the states that they expect to be EU members in 2020. Subsequently, they compare their ideas, explain them and discuss the expansion policy of the EU. Bigger groups can be divided into smaller ones for the discussion. To intensify the topic, the youngstars article dealing with the enlargement policy.
- Time needed:** 45 – 60 minutes
- target group:** 16 years or older, 10 –30 players
- room:** common room with circle of chairs
- material:** maps of Europe, youngstars article concerning the enlargement of the EU

European Election Poster

- aim:** creative presentation basic of core statements on the European Parliament and the EP elections
- procedure:** the participants form groups of 5-7 people. Each group gets basic material about the issue (youngstars editions, EP diagram taken from this booklet, leaflets etc.), pens, poster paper, glue and scissors. With the help of the materials, the respective groups create an election poster with the intention to motivate people to vote. The following questions should be kept in mind:
- Why are the EP elections important for us?
 - Which meaning has the European Parliament?
 - What issues are important for Europe?
- After finishing the posters, the groups present their work. An option is to use the posters for an exhibition and write comments for them.
- time needed:** 60 minutes to create the posters
5 – 10 minutes for presentation and discussion of each poster
- target group:** 15 years or older
- room:** common room, tables and chairs
- material:** poster paper, pens, glue, scissors, youngstars editions, EP diagram taken from this booklet, leaflets etc., possibly a reference book or a computer with internet access for research

Europe in 4 Corners

aim: getting closer to the topic, getting to know each other, express opinions on Europe and listen to others

procedure: The game supervisor reads out questions and gives four possible statements. Each answer is assigned to one corner of the room. The participants go to the corner whose statements they agree with. The people meeting in the corners discuss their choice.

Time needed: 20 – 30 minutes

target group: not specific, suitable for bigger groups

room: common room

material: prepared questions and answers

Questions: Europe in 4 Corners

1) My first thought about Europe is

- a) travelling
- b) Brussels
- c) bureaucracy
- d) something completely different

2) At school/university/work, Europe

- a) is a big topic
- b) is a moderate topic
- c) is a small topic
- d) is something we hardly talk about

3) To be honest, my interest in Europe is really

- a) enormous
- b) big
- c) moderate
- d) so far, I am not very interested in Europe and I do not know if this will change

4) How much do you know about European structures and decision-making processes (Parliament, Commission, Council)?

- a) great knowledge
- b) a lot
- c) moderate knowledge
- d) not very much

5) I think that Europe and my everyday life / my reality have

- a) a lot to do with each other
- b) probably more to do with each other than I think
- c) more to do with each other than I would like them to
- d) little connection

6) What does Europe mostly mean to you?

- a) mobility for travelling, studying and working
- b) peace protection
- c) common currency and economic advantages
- d) cultural diversity

7) When thinking about Europe, what scares/alienates me the most is...

- a) outsourcing of jobs / rising unemployment
- b) rising drug smuggle, human trafficking and crime
- c) our country pays more and more money to the EU and I can not see our benefits
- d) increasing loss of culture and national identity

8) What do you know about youth politic issues such as the white paper, the open method of coordination, the Youth Pact or the structured dialogue?

- a) never heard of it
- b) I somewhat know what one of them means
- c) I know what two of them mean
- d) I could talk about all of them

9) How do you want people to see you:

- a) as a citizen of your country
- b) as a human being with a foreign nationality
- c) as a European
- d) as a citizen of the world

Table Talk EP Elections

- aim:** collecting ideas and conceptions concerning the EP elections and the parliament, start dealing with the content
- procedure:** The game supervisor prepares a long table with no chairs around which the participants can walk. The table is covered with packing paper with a question written in the middle, e.g. 'EP elections – why?', 'Role of the EP?', 'Citizens and the elections'. Many pens are spread all over the table.
- Then, all participants stand around the table and take a pen. They write down their own opinion regarding the question without talking to each other. When they are finished, they can move around the table and silently read the ideas of the others, write comments and new ideas and so on. A silent table talk is going on.
- After ten minutes, the participants take the paper off the table and put it in the middle of a circle of chairs. A moderated discussion about the original question takes place. Bigger groups can be divided into smaller ones of max. 10 people. For further reading, a youngstars article dealing with the parliament and the EP elections is recommended.
- Time needed:** 10 – 15 minutes of writing, about 20 – 30 minutes of discussion
- target group:** no specific age, depends on the question
- room:** common room with a big table and chairs
- material:** table, packing paper, felt pens, youngstars article on the parliament and the elections

Table Talk Europe

EU Discussion 'Pro and Contra'

- aim:** taking a look at a controversial issue from different perspectives, opinion-forming
- procedure:** A controversial issue with no consensus in the group is to be discussed, e.g. 'borders and expansion of the EU' or 'a collective EU language'. The youngstars articles can help to get ideas. The participants form small groups of six people maximum. Their task is to either collect pro or contra arguments. It is important to keep in mind that the focus is not on the participants' own opinion but on finding arguments and understanding opposite opinions. Depending on the topic, background information can be useful. The groups get enough time to collect, research and write down arguments. When they are finished, they meet again to present their arguments and discuss them. A structuring moderator is essential for this. After the discussion, the group can reflect upon the discussion and exchange thoughts.
- variation:** Bigger groups can deal with several issues at the same time. Each issue gets its own pro and contra group. While a discussion takes place, the other participants sit down and act as an audience. Afterwards, they evaluate the discussion before the next two groups enter the stage.
- Time needed:** 60 – 90 minutes
- target group:** 14 years or older, 10 – 20 people
- room:** a big room for discussion, smaller rooms or isolated places for group work
- material:** pens, paper, youngstars articles, background material

EU Discussion 'Pro and Contra'

Europe in Pictures

aim: the participants deal with Europe in everyday life and translate it into meaningful photographs.

procedure: First, the participants read the youngstars article on European diversity and discuss its major statements. Then they split up into small groups of 5-7 people and think about how Europe turns up in their everyday life and environment. What places, what people or what objects have something to do with Europe?

Then, the groups go outside equipped with digital cameras and take pictures of bench marks where Europe can be experienced or seen. When they are finished, they return and pick the five most meaningful pictures which they present using an LCD projector or on big printouts/posters.

The participants explain concisely why they chose the places and objects and what they associate with them.

variation: the printouts get a collective headline, commenting subtitles and further material if needed.

Time needed: 20 minutes for the article, 60 minutes for preparing and executing the photo sessions depending on the locality, 30 minutes for evaluating and editing the pictures, 10 minutes for presentation and discussion per group

Target group: 15 years or older

room: common rooms and surroundings

material: youngstars article on EU diversity, digital cameras, computers and printers, (maybe) lcd projector and screen, pens, poster paper, glue

Europe in Pictures

Europe Poll

aim: the participants deal with different attitudes and perceptions of Europe, the EP elections and the EP.

procedure: the participants get a youngstars article, e.g. about the Parliament or the EP elections, read it and then discuss their opinions regarding the issue. While doing this, they extract different opinions and statements.

Subsequently, they split into smaller groups (5-7 people) and develop three to five questions for a short poll in the neighbourhood. The questions should be short and precise, e.g.: 'Will you vote at the EP elections?', 'What does the EP mean to you?', 'Which expectations do you have in the future Europe?'

The poll can be documented by writing down or audio-recording the answers. Photographs or videos are an option.

When the groups return, they work up the results. They present the statements on a poster, edit the recordings and make comments.

At last, the groups present their poll results and discuss the different perspectives on Europe. The discussion can also take place in front of a bigger plenum.

Time needed: 30 minutes for the youngstars article, 60 – 90 minutes for preparing and conducting the poll depending on the locality, 30 minutes for evaluating the results and preparing the presentation, 10 minutes for the presentation per group

target group: 15 years or older, 10 – 20 people

material: youngstars, pens, packing paper, paper, glue, scissors, (maybe) audio recorders, digital cameras with printout option, video cameras

Europe Poll

Europe: 1, 2 or 3

aim: playful approach to basic EU knowledge

procedure: The game supervisor prepares index cards with questions on it plus three possible answers of which only one is correct.

Three stickers with 'one', 'two' and 'three' written on them are attached to the floor; alternatively, the numbers can be written with chalk or marked with adhesive tape.

In the beginning, all players stand on a line or a starting point. The game supervisor reads out the first question. Each answer gets a number. The players can jump around from number to number until the command 'Europe: 1, 2 or 3' is shouted. After this, they have to stay where they are. The players on the correct number get a point (mark it with a felt pen or self-adhesive circles on the back of the hand). The player who has the most points at the end of the game wins and receives a 'Europe: 1, 2 or 3'-price.

Variation: Before the game, all players read a certain youngstars article. The questions deal with its content. The questions can be asked using a wheel of fortune or some other popular game show device or procedure. An option is to leave out the suggested answers.

Time needed: 20 – 30 minutes (depending on group size and amount of questions)

target group: not specific, depends on the questions

room: common room or outside

material: enough questions/answers, marked number areas (paper, chalk or adhesive tape), a felt pen or self-adhesive circles, prizes, for the variation articles from 'youngstars'

Europe: 1, 2 or 3

European Questions

1 Where do the plenary sessions of the European Parliament take place?

1. Brussels (committee sessions)
2. Luxembourg (General Secretariat)
3. *Strasbourg (plenary sessions)*

2 Which EU-Organ includes ministers?

1. European Council (heads of government)
2. *Council of the European Union (ministers)*
3. Europe Council (does not exist)

3 How many members does the European Parliament have right before the elections in 2009?

1. 261
2. *785*
3. 1058

4 What is the troika?

1. An ancient, forsaken greek city
2. The generic term for the three major EU organs: Council, Parliament and Commission
3. *The triple team of the former, current and future EU council presidencies*

5 How many stars adorn the European flag after the EU expansion in January 2007?

1. *12 (represents completeness)*
2. 25
3. 27

6 What is the beginning of the anthem of Europe?

1. United in diversity with sparkle of the gods
2. *Joy, beautiful sparkle of the gods*
3. Friends, beautiful sparkle of the gods

7 What does the abbreviation CoR stand for?

1. Committee of the Rich
2. *Committee of the Regions*
3. Cooperation of Rural Areas

Youngsters voting for Europe! | Methods for the topic 'Europa'

8 Which country has the biggest amount of delegates in the European Parliament?

1. *Germany (99 because of the size of its population)*
2. Great Britain (78)
3. Poland (54)

9 Which of the following country did not apply for joining the EU?

1. Croatia
2. *Molwania (does not exist)*
3. Turkey

10 Which country belongs to the European Union?

1. Iceland
2. Norway
3. *Estonia*

11 What is the Bologna Process?

1. The original italian recipe for spaghetti sauce
2. The sponsorship of the urban renewal of Bologna
3. *The equalisation of the European academic systems*

12 Who was Jean Monnet?

1. The director of the European Space Agency
2. *The initiator of the European Coal and Steel Community*
3. An impressionist painter known for his water lily paintings

13 What is the Treaty of Maastricht?

1. *The Treaty of Maastricht established the European Union and introduced the union citizenship*
2. The Treaty of Maastricht regulates the European single market
3. The Treaty of Maastricht introduced the European constitution

14 Who or what is OLAF?

1. A popular swedish folk singer
2. *The European anti-fraud office*
3. The European guideline for the standardisation of cultivated area

Youngsters voting for Europe! | Methods for the topic 'Europa'

15 What is a European guideline?

1. A law that instantly enters into force all over the EU
2. *A legal act setting objectives for the member states*
3. A non-binding proposal for a national law

16 What is the most northern capital of the European Union?

1. *Helsinki*
2. Stockholm
3. Riga

17 What does not violate the electoral principles of the EP elections?

1. *Double membership in the EP and in a national parliament*
2. Double membership in the EP and in the European Commission
3. Membership in the EP and being the foreign minister of a member state

18 When do the EP elections 2009 take place?

1. 9th of May (anniversary of the Schuman declaration of 1950)
2. 3rd of October
3. *7th of June*

19 Since when does the Euro circulate in the form of notes and coins?

1. *2002*
2. 1999
3. 2004

20 How many states founded the EEC, the European Economic Community, in 1957?

1. 9 states (UK, Ireland, Denmark in 1973)
2. *6 states (Germany, France, Italy, Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg)*
3. 27 states (along with the EU expansion on the 1st of January 2007)

21 How many EU states have the Euro as their only valid currency?

1. 27
2. 13
3. *15 (on the 1st of January 2008: Germany, France, Italy, Netherlands, Finland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Spain, Portugal, Estonia, Austria, Ireland, Slovenia, Malta, Cyprus)*

EP Bingo

aim: gathering information on the European Parliament and the EP elections using a quiz

procedure: The participants receive EP bingo sheets and pens. After the starting signal, they ask each other for the right answers. When a player thinks the answer he got is right, he has to get the answering player's signature. Double signatures and signing one's own sheets are forbidden. The first one having four signatures in a horizontal, vertical or diagonal row has to shout 'BINGO' and thus ends the game. Playing until two or three players have finished is also possible. The game supervisor takes a look at the finished sheets to gather all answers.

variation: to make sure the players have enough knowledge, they can read the respective youngstars articles first.

Time needed: 30 minutes

target group: 16 years or older, at least 10 players, requires special knowledge

room: common room or open space

material: EP Bingo sheets (A4 sheets with enough space for the answers), pens, youngstars article on the EP and the elections

EP Bingo

EP Bingo Sheet

<p>1 Where do plenary sessions of the EP take place?</p>	<p>2 How many delegates has the EP before the 2009 elections?</p>	<p>3 How often is the EP reelected?</p>	<p>4 How many direct elections took place so far, including the one in 2009?</p>
<p>5 What is the French name of the European Parliament?</p>	<p>6 What is the abbreviation for the parliament members?</p>	<p>7 In how many member states do the elections take place in 2009?</p>	<p>8 Who is the president of the EP during the first half of 2009?</p>
<p>9 What was the first time the parliament was constituted by direct elections?</p>	<p>10 How many female members does the EP have?</p>	<p>11 Where do the committee sessions of the EP take place?</p>	<p>12 How are the EP subgroups dealing with specific issues called?</p>
<p>13 How many parliamentary groups are in the EP?</p>	<p>14 Where is the EP's general secretary's office?</p>	<p>15 When do the EP elections 2009 take place in your country?</p>	<p>16 How many delegates has Germany in the EP before the 2009 elections?</p>

Answers: 1: Strasbourg; 2: 785 members of the EP; 3: every 5 years; 4: 7. direct election; 5: parlement européen; 6: MEP; 7: 27 member states; 8: Hans-Gert Pötering; 9: 1979; 10: appr. 1/3 women; 11: Brussels; 12: committees; 13: 7 parliamentary groups (not counting the groupless members); 14: Luxembourg; 15: 4th or 7th of June 2009, depending on your country; 16: 99 delegates

EP-Bingo

Link List for Europe

EU – general

- <http://europa.eu/>
portal of the European Union – central portal for information on its organs, activities and competences of the EU
- <http://www.bundesregierung.de/Webs/Breg/DE/Europa/europa.html>
informational homepage of the German federal government dealing with the structure, issues and political areas of the European Union
- <http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/diplo/de/Europa/Uebersicht.html>
informational homepage of the German Federal Foreign Office about Europe – general information on the EU and Germany's role in it
- http://www.bpb.de/themen/HYVG22,o,Die_Europ%E4ische_Union.html
dossier of issues on Europe of the German Federal Agency for Civic Education
- a comprehensive informational homepage about the European Union, its institutions, treaties, competences, scope of duties and political areas
- <http://www.bpb.de/files/IIITW2.pdf>
Europe for beginners - teaching material of the German Federal Agency for Civic Education
- <http://www.cap-lmu.de/english/index.php>
Centre for applied policy research (C.A.P.) – university institute for political consultation on European international matters in Germany/development of international and interdisciplinary analyses including concrete ideas for the political practice
- <http://www.politikportal.eu>
this independent website offers a comprehensive survey of latest news, opinions and statements concerning issues of the EU
- <http://www.europa-digital.de/>
the independent European website includes information and references concerning issues of the EU
- http://europa.eu./debateeurope/index_de.htm
debates on the future development of Europe

European Parliament Elections (EP)

- http://www.europarl.de/europawahl/europawahl_2009.html
informational homepage of the European Parliament for the European Parliament Elections
- http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_299_de.pdf
results of a poll of the EP for the European Parliament Elections - interests of the citizens, possible issues of the election campaign

Youngsters voting for Europe! | Link list

- <http://www.bundeswahlleiter.de/de/europawahlen/>
legal basis, dates, online election atlas about the European Parliament Elections
- <http://www.europa09.de>
website dossier of the Centre for applied policy research concerning the European Parliament Elections

EU-Institutions

- <http://consilium.europa.eu/>
Council of the European Union - official homepage containing information on the council, its tasks, structure and role in the legislative process
- <http://ec.europa.eu/>
European Commission - website of the presentation of the European Commission in Germany (Berlin, Munich, Bonn) with information services and background material for the EU commission and Europe
- <http://www.europarl.de/>
homepage of the European Parliament - dealing with the EP, its members, organisation, work processes and session dates
- http://europa.eu/institutions/index_de.htm
portal of the European Union - general information on all EU institutions

Youth, Education and Europe

- <http://europa.eu/youth/>
European youth portal - an initiative of the European commission to give young people access to European information and increase their participation in public life. Target group: youngsters between 15 and 25 years of age
- <http://www.europarl.de/jugend/>
website of the European Parliament about youth and Europe - information on EU youth programmes, internships at the EU, Europe in school, events and workshops for young people
- <http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/de/s19003.htm>
collection of the EU's youth politic initiatives
- <http://www.bundesregierung.de/Webs/Breg/DE/Europa/JungeLeuteInEuropa/junge-leute-in-europa.html>
informational homepage of the Federal Government on studies, training and youth exchange in Europe
- <http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/diplo/de/Europa/Jugend/Uebersicht.html>
internet-based service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs about youth and Europe

Youngsters voting for Europe! | Link list

- <http://www.bpb.de/themen/7WGKPC,o,o,EUProjekttag.html>
EU project day at schools, information, publications and further link lists of the German Federal Agency for Civic Education
- <http://www.webforum-jugend.de/>
portal of „JUGEND für Europa“, the German Agency for the EU programme „Youth in Action“
- <http://www.jugend-in-aktion.de/>
internet-based service of „JUGEND für Europa“ for the EU programme „Youth in Action“
- <http://www.machwasdraus.de/>
internet-based service of „JUGEND für Europa“ - information on the development and the realization of autonomous youth initiatives, brainstorming, development of projects and cofinancing
- <http://www.jugendpolitikineuropa.de/>
internet-based service of „JUGEND für Europa“ concerning the current development of the EU Youth policy
- <http://www.youthforum.org>
homepage of the European Youth Forum (YF); The YFJ is a union of 99 national youth syndicates and international European youth organisations and represents the interests of young people against the European institutions
- <http://www.eyce.org>
homepage of the Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe (EYCE). The EYCE is a forum for christian-based youth organisations
- <http://www.dbjr.de/index.php?m=17&id=99>
website for the German National Committee for International Youth Work (DNK). The DNK represents the interests of the German youth organisations in the multilateral area.
- <http://www.youngstars.info>
homepage of the Youngstars newspaper; all editions can be downloaded or read online.
- <http://www.fgje.de>
homepage of the Research Team Youth and Europe including information and advice about the subject youth and Europe i. a. about the junior team Europe, a pool of consultants (young people) for Europe

Literature review

- **Europa 2008. Wissen – Verstehen – Mitreden.** Published by the European Parliament, information office for Germany. Berlin 2008 (free of charge at the EP-office, address see below)
- **Willkommen beim Europäischen Parlament.** Published by the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities (Publications Office). Luxembourg 2008 (free of charge at the EP-office)
- **Europa. Das Wissensmagazin für Jugendliche.** Published by „aktion europa“ and the German Federal Agency for Civic Education. Berlin 2008 (free of charge at the German Federal Agency for Civic Education)
- **Panorama der Europäischen Union.** Leaflet. Published by the European Commission. Brussels 2007. (free of charge at the European Commission)
- **„Europa sind wir!“ -Methodenband für die europapolitische Jugendbildung.** Published by the Federal Agency for Civic Education Baden-Wuerttemberg and the Research Team Youth and Europe. Stuttgart 2007 (New issue 2009 is prepared, can be obtained free of charge at the publisher)
- Werner Weidenfeld, Wolfgang Wessels (publishers): **Europa von A-Z. Taschenbuch der europäischen Integration.** Bonn 2007. (New issue 2009 is prepared, can be obtained free of charge at the German Federal Agency for Civic Education)
- **Thema: Europa. Europasprech – Informationen und Tipps für mehr Durchblick in der EU.** Published by German Federal Youth Council and Young Naturefriends Germany. (Can be ordered free of charge at info@dbjr.de)
- **YOUrope 07 – Jugendaktionen in Europa.** Publisher: German Federal Youth Council. (Can be ordered free of charge at info@dbjr.de)

Addresses

- **Europäisches Parlament**
 Informationsbüro für Deutschland, Unter den Linden 78, 10117 Berlin, Tel.: 030-22801000
 Informationsbüro München, Erhardtstr. 27, 80331 München, Tel.: 089-20208790
- **Europäische Kommission**
 Vertretung in Deutschland, Unter den Linden 78, 10117 Berlin, Tel.: 030-22802000
 Vertretung in Bonn, Bertha-von-Suttner-Platz 2-4, 53111 Bonn
 Vertretung in München, Erhardtstr. 27, 80331 München, Tel.: 089-2424480
- **Jugend für Europa**
 Deutsche Agentur für das EU-Programm Jugend in Aktion,
 Godesberger Allee 142-148, Tel.: 0228-9506220
- **Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung**
 Adenauerallee 86, 53113 Bonn, Tel.: 0228 99515-0 (telephone exchange)
 oder 0228 99515-115 (customer advisory service)



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