

The image features a blue background with a pattern of yellow stars, characteristic of the European Union flag. Five hands are positioned around the center, with their fingers pointing towards the middle, forming a circular shape. The word "EUROSTAR" is written in a white, cursive font in the center of the hands.

EUROSTAR

Advantages and disadvantages being member of EU

In these days the topic of the European Union is very popular. Many people are interested in the importance of the EU. The key thing is an economical aspect of the union.

One of these advantages is reducing costs and prices for consumers. This is a reason of the free trade and removal of non-tariff barriers. EU is also a strongest economic areas in the world. In EU lives 500 million people which is 7.3% of the world's population, but accounts for 23% of nominal global GDP.

Increased trade creates the jobs and higher income. For example over 52% of UK exports are to the EU.

Another one advantage is Human Development Index. Countries in the EU are situated at the top of this list.

Few countries like Ireland, Portugal and Spain have made significant degrees of economic development since they joined the European Union. It is important that the removal of customs barriers mean 60 million customs documents per year no longer need to be completed, cutting bureaucracy and reducing costs and delivery times.

EU structural funds will benefit the countries in long term, because as they become more affluent, they will be able to buy more.

Citizens can move freely, they can choose country to live, study and work.

European Working Time Directive protects workers in union.

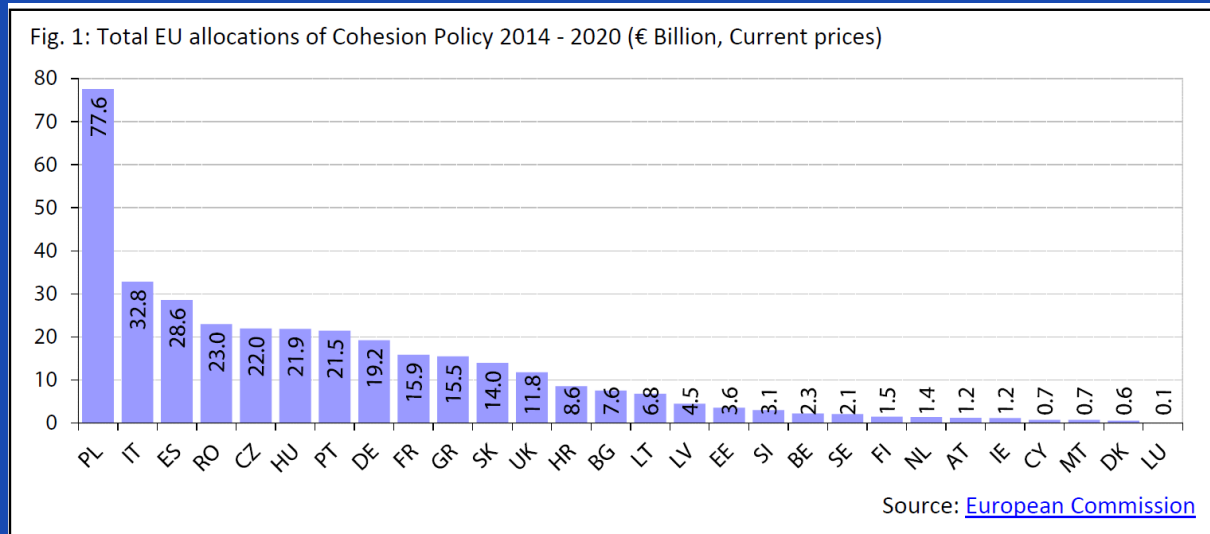
We need to remember also about the disadvantages of European Union. We can recognize few of them.

There is big problem with single currency. Not every country are using the Euro. Each one member of the EU have a cost to be in the Union which per head ranges from £300 to £873. When one country have a debt crisis that could took down economy of other members of EU. Large and wealthy countries have to share their wealth with much smaller and poorer countries.

When we take into consideration all of advantages and disadvantages conclusion is simple. It is worth to be a member of the European Union.

HDI rank	Country	Human Development Index (HDI) Value	Life expectancy at birth (years)	Expected years of schooling (years)	Mean years of schooling (years)	Gross national income (GNI) per capita (2011 PPP \$)	GNI per capita rank minus HDI rank
		2014	2014	2014	a	2014	a
VERY HIGH HUMAN DEVELOPMENT							
1	Norway	0.944	81.6	17.5	12.6	64,992	5
2	Australia	0.935	82.4	20.2	13.0	42,261	17
3	Switzerland	0.930	83.0	15.8	12.8	56,431	6
4	Denmark	0.923	80.2	18.7	12.7	44,025	11
5	Netherlands	0.922	81.6	17.9	11.9	45,435	9
6	Germany	0.916	80.9	16.5	13.1	43,919	11
6	Ireland	0.916	80.9	18.6	12.2	39,568	16
8	United States	0.915	79.1	16.5	12.9	52,947	3
9	Canada	0.913	82.0	15.9	13.0	42,155	11
9	New Zealand	0.913	81.8	19.2	12.5	32,689	23

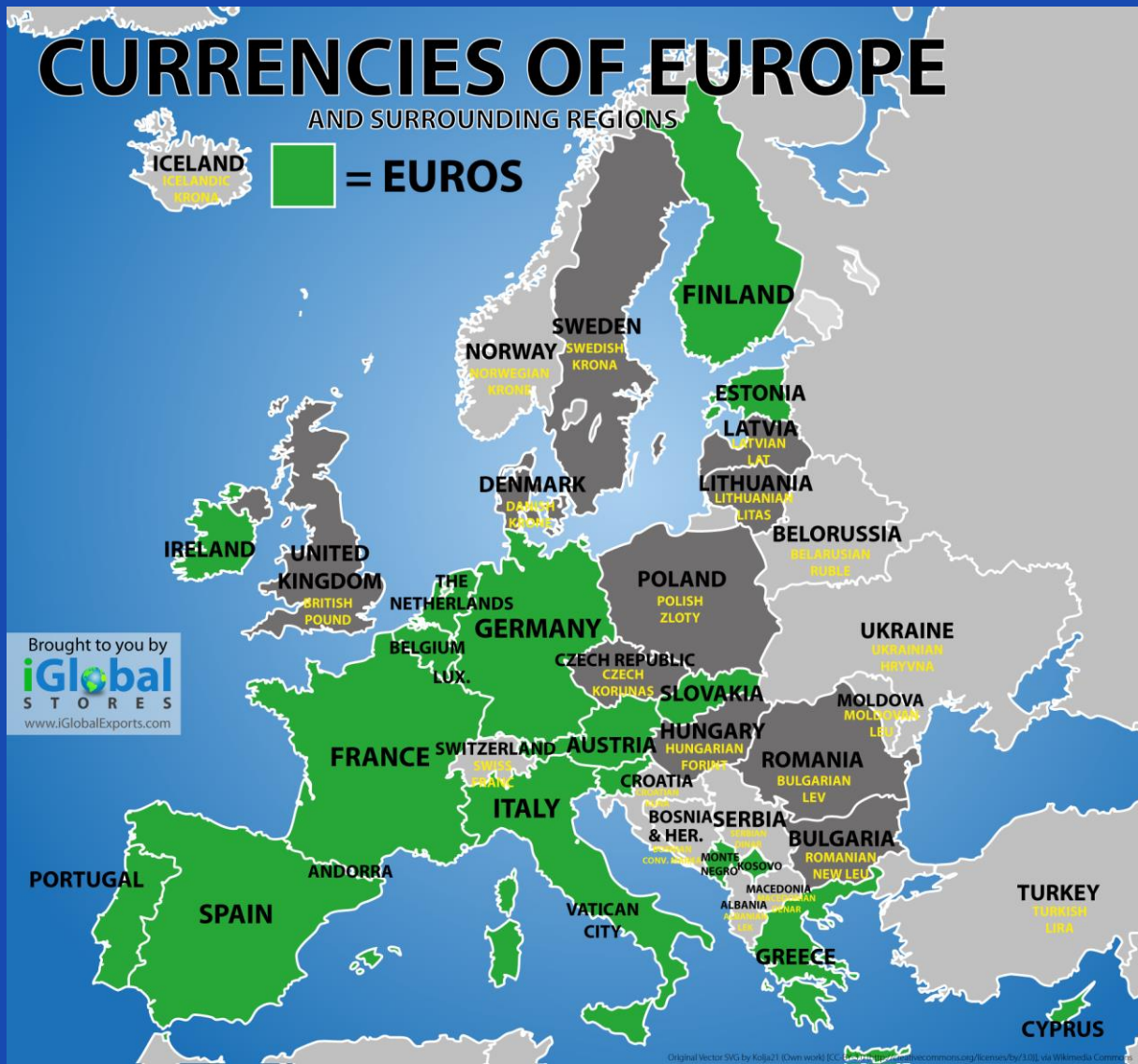
Source: hdr.undp.org



Source: ethinktank.eu

CURRENCIES OF EUROPE

AND SURROUNDING REGIONS



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EU for youth

The EU has much to offer, especially for the young people from its countries, the biggest advantage for them is the right to move freely within the EU. The European Union supports the European youth, percentage of its budget is dedicated to it. In numbers, it is billions. If you are a young person who wants to gain some international experience, you can and you will be supported along the way with money from the EU.



The most known program among university students is Erasmus+, it allows you to study in a different university. You can have a taste of how other educational systems works and also learn some new skills that can improve your CV. Apart from that it is also an opportunity to discover how one can manage to live on their own, it teaches you how to take care of

yourself without help and safety of your parents. But you do not have to be a student to gain from this program. You have an opportunity to gain some work experience and have an advantage in the future when applying for a job by finding an internship. The employer does not pay you for the job but you are funded by the money from the EU during it. There are actually a lot of interesting positions including trainings in the EU so you can discover what it is like to be part of one of the most influential coalition in the world. Part of this program are also the Youth Projects, the idea behind it is that a non-profit organizations come up with projects on various topics and find partners from other countries to join them. Depending on the project, people of various ages can apply and participate, on these projects participant do all kinds of workshops that are focused on different set of competences, the participants have the opportunity to learn new skills and improve the ones they already know.

Another program that was created is called Youth Employment Initiative, from 2014 to 2020 it has a budget of over 6 billion. It supposed to support the people who are under 25 and live in areas with 25% unemployment by providing them with

apprenticeships, traineeships, jobs and further education.

Another program to help the problem of unemployment is EURES, people under 35 can sign up online for a job in any EU country, Norway and Iceland. It also gives the employers a chance to find a person with the right skills for them.

As you can see, the EU really has a lot to offer to young people. But you have to want it and do something to get it. This is how the EU increases the chance of the young people staying in the EU countries and not going to look for other opportunities around the world and also ensures that EU will prosper in the future.

Tips and guidelines for living abroad

For many people for small countries the most desired thing is moving in bigger one. But they've missed a lot of things before that and the most important is to prepare themselves. Fortunately, it is never too late for doing this. This can help many people to reduce the most stressful thing for most people-leaving home.

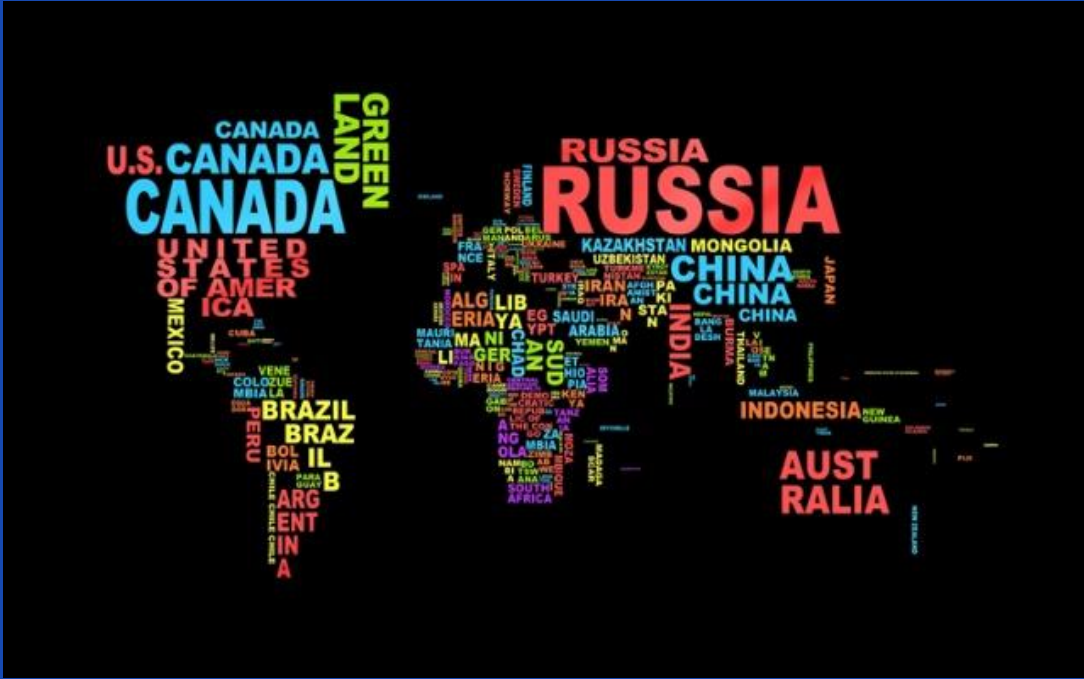
Firstly, you have to decide where you want to go. Of course, there are a lots of things you may think about. One of the most important things is to save some money before making your first step. May be you'll need three or four months to make your savings. On the other side, you have to be confident that you know some basic language from the country you want to go. Otherwise, you will be more confused and much more stressed. If you have the opportunity get qualified, because it is easier to find a job. When you know where to go and have some savings you could look for some vacancies in your profession. The other thing that would be good for you is to make a research is there a community of people from your home country. It would make it easy to share info and to adapt. Obviously, if you make some friendships you could be less homesick.



However, when you have already move on it is important to make some researches of all you need of living there: medical, law, taxes, insurance and bolts. Although, figure out where the locals buy their groceries-it will be cheaper and safer. Once you know the country the other step is to buy a mobile phone, rent or buy real estate and a car. If you are planning to stay there longer this is the best way to secure yourself. Probably, it wouldn't be easy but if you can don't call home too often. This may make you feel lonelier. And the last may be a little strange

advice is to pick up some item with you to remind you that you are at home.

Living in another country is at once the most memorable experience and the hardest thing to do. You have to be curious and open to being outside, otherwise you will make it impossible to be happy abroad. And don't forget that human-beings adapt most easily and if you want you can make this faster, because your life is in your hands.



Customs and traditions

As every month, we will talk about some customs and traditions in this specific month: February. For this number of our magazine we decided to write something about an important tradition connected to religion: CARNIVAL, in Italy. It's celebrate between Lent and Easter, with two important days: Fat Thursday and Fat Tuesday.

Carnival in this country now represent a folkloristic event but has ancient origin. Every single period is filled with masks, streamers and confetti all over the streets. The most important cities where this feast is rooted are Viareggio (Tuscany) and Venice.

In Viareggio this feast started in 1873 and consist in lots of float parade in the main street and this spectacle is shown in TV. It is also famous for caricature and parody of politicians, football players and VIP. The best float win a trophy.

In Venice the first document of the fist is dated 900 years ago. It is famous for the parade with beautiful and colorful dresses and for the masks that unable people to recognize the person who is wearing it.



A different type of Carnival has to be mentioned, the one in Mamoiada (Sardinia); an original one that has ancient and no clear origins. People go against the tide and, instead of being colorful are totally black. People wear a black mask, a black fur coat and heavy bell in their back that ring when their move. They are called Mamuthones.



A part from this, there are also typical sweets that are common to eat for this feast. They are not so indicated for those who are on a diet...because everything is fried!

They are accustomed to prepare sweets that has different name depending on the region, and also almost every region has its own sweets. Some of these are zeppole, struffoli, bugie, fattifritti



In economic aspects it is a very popular feast that attract lots of tourists and this means that for Venice and Viareggio, but also for other cities, is a chance to improve PIL and also an opportunity for Italy to show all the beauties that are hidden.

Even the little one starts celebrating Carnival. At kinder garden, at school, in University feasts. This fat days are a moment where people can stay all together and have fun. At school for example children have holiday and stay home or have a fancy party with their little colleagues eating and dancing. Of course they have to be dressed up and each year there is a new cartoon or idol to mimic.

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