



EU is calling and you must go

As an EU citizen one of your basic rights is the right of free ability whether it is for vacation, studies or walking abroad. The facts below are gonna help you get ready for your adventure.

1. **Valid ID card or Passport:** travel documents are the most important part while planning a journey. Schengen treaty has offered EU citizens the ability to move freely between the state members only with their national ID card. However if the country you are going to visit is not a Schengen state you should check if a passport is needed. Make sure you don't lose any of them during your journey and validate them as well (if needed).
2. **European Health insurance card:** did you get seek in one of the EU countries, Iceland, Norway; Switzerland? Well just in case this happened before you leave your country it is highly recommended that you go to your personal insurance provider and ask for EHIC. Once the medical care is free and the country you are going to use the card the care will be provided to you as well free of any charges.
3. **Currency:** The nineteen state members of EU use the same currency as they all belong to the system of the Eurozone. Although the rest of them use their national currency, for example in Bulgaria Lev is the currency. If your plan is to travel within the Eurozone and you are an Eurozone member there is no need to worry. Although if you are in a country where the currency is not Euro and you are going to visit a Eurozone member or vice versa, then you should visit an exchange office where you can get informed about exchange rate between different currencies. Be careful!!! Before exchanging your currency to another one make sure the office is trustworthy or visit your national bank or any other. There are offices with no extra fees as well, so it is recommended to do a small research before visiting one. Airports and hotels are usually the ones with high exchange extra fees.
4. **Luggage and clothing:** according to EU rules due to the terroristic attacks that have taken place during the last years there has been imposed a restriction as far as the fluids are concerned if they have to be carried in hand luggage: one hundred ml maximum in a sealed bottle. Luggages are not included in this rule so make sure you book the right type of airplane ticket. Make sure your baggages are within size and weight demanded because some airplane companies for being oversized or overweight, especially the low cost ones. Because clothing is what matters the most for your travel photos make sure you cast an eye on the weather forecast for the place you are going to visit. Northern countries tend to be cooler while Mediterranean ones are warmer and sunnier.
5. **Transport:** airports tend to be far from the city centers in all countries, so make sure you find an appropriate way to reach your destination from airport and vice versa. Often service of transport from and to the airport is provided by the hotels.
6. **Time difference:** don't forget that some countries have a small or large time difference. There may be an informative note on your boarding pass in case of travelling by plane but in all cases it is good to know by doing a research.

Stay safe, and have fun!!! Remember life is too short to be spent in only one place!!! Game questions

Cooperate for a better future

When European Union was created the main aim was to make a community capable of letting all of the countries cooperate and help them grow all together. Most of the time the countries cooperated with successful outcome, beside that sometimes some countries don't cooperate with each other and it results in a damage for the unity of the community.

An example of lack of cooperation has been BREXIT, the UK started to feel that their population was only giving to the Europe but was not receiving any aid from the other member countries, in that case both EU and UK didn't do anything to cooperate and it resulted in the withdraw of UK from EU. This situation cause economical problems both to EU and United Kingdom, in fact there will be fees for import export, many workers are risking to lose their job and there is a long process in order to find a deal for the withdraw.

An example of good cooperation is youth exchanges, each year many NGOs from different countries cooperate with each other in order to make people explore different cultures and spread their ideas. NGOs send their participants and organize youth exchanges, participants after coming back to their country will give their knowledge back for the future of EU.

Much happier together

21 January, 2020, Ayia Napa, Cyprus

A national proverb says: "if you want to go fast, go alone, if you want to go far, go together". This applies not only to individuals, but also to individual countries. For going far and being stronger countries have always created alliances and unions throughout their history, and while scientists do research and explore the forms of alliances, their effectiveness,



invent new forms and suggest new approaches, and politicians, meanwhile, discuss new ways of collaboration and improvement of existing situation, ordinary people live their lives in conditions "imposed" to them and "bear consequences" of that situation in their everyday lives. Thus, no matter what political, economic or military objectives alliances follow, human side should not be ignored. People should benefit from the new situation and be positively impacted. Prosperity of all citizens must be put in the first place, otherwise unsatisfied citizens may unexpectedly destroy structures created during years.

Since its foundation the European Union has recognized people's power and the importance of its citizens satisfaction, happiness and fulfillment. The European Union is one of the few geopolitical structures that pays such a great attention to "creation" of its own citizens that share the same values and care about the same things, tries to provide the same opportunities to all its citizens, involving them in all ongoing processes. If you happen to meet EU citizens, just ask their opinion, and they will

definitely tell you a long list of privileges and advantages of being an EU citizen which they appreciate and value. They will tell you long stories about life of their parents before the EU and their lives in the EU, the advantages of a completely new world that makes their lives much more different and prosperous. They will remember their travel experiences and the ease with which they move within a huge geographical territory. They will proudly speak about various social and health protection measures available to them to protect them and make their lives much happier. They will speak about war as of something happening very far away and will highly appreciate the peace they live in. They will be amazed on human rights violations and discriminations occurring all around the world and value the level of democracy they managed to reach, even forgetting the crisis of the past century. They will proudly speak about high quality standards established by law to ensure quality life to each of any citizen and be surprised on lack of any standards in a remote country.

They will, for sure, also complain of ineffective politicians, tax policies, refugee and migration policies and lots of various things but at the end of the day they will certainly tell you how lucky are they to be born in the EU to have all the rights and protections one needs to be happy and conduct a prosperous life. It's hard to encounter Europeans who would complain more than praise the strengths and achievements of their huge country, despite hardships.

Has the European Union achieved its objective of forming a land of happiness? Definitely yes! Will it have a long life or not, mainly depends on efforts taken by not only politicians but also its citizens to maintain achievements and continuously add new ones.

Talking anti-europeism in rural areas

Over the last decade, anti-European ideas have been spreading all across the Union. This phenomenon mainly concerns rural areas, often poor and with few opportunities. But how does it work? Let's have a closer look in order to better understand the problem. Since 2007/2008, the population of urban areas across Europe has exceeded the one of rural ones for the first time in human history. The urban growth, however, has led to huge inequalities between big cities and the countryside, not only from an economic point of view, but also in terms of job opportunities, education and, broadly speaking, perspectives. The example of Milan shows it quite clearly: it is the only Italian city which has registered a GDP growth by 17% in the period between 2008 and 2016, creating an extensive imbalance with the rest of the country and increasing the already existing internal brain drain. In fact, house investments in Milan make up to one third of the total of the whole country. However, while cities like Milan are growing, thus attracting skilled, prepared people, they leave behind a plethora of equally capable workers who are not willing to leave their hometown, which sadly don't offer the same opportunities. We often speak with concern about migration, but some economists are actually focusing on the fact that people are, in fact, not moving enough.

This is, of course, increasing the disparities between urban and rural areas. Until a few years ago, experts used to believe the issue was going to sort itself out thanks to the so-

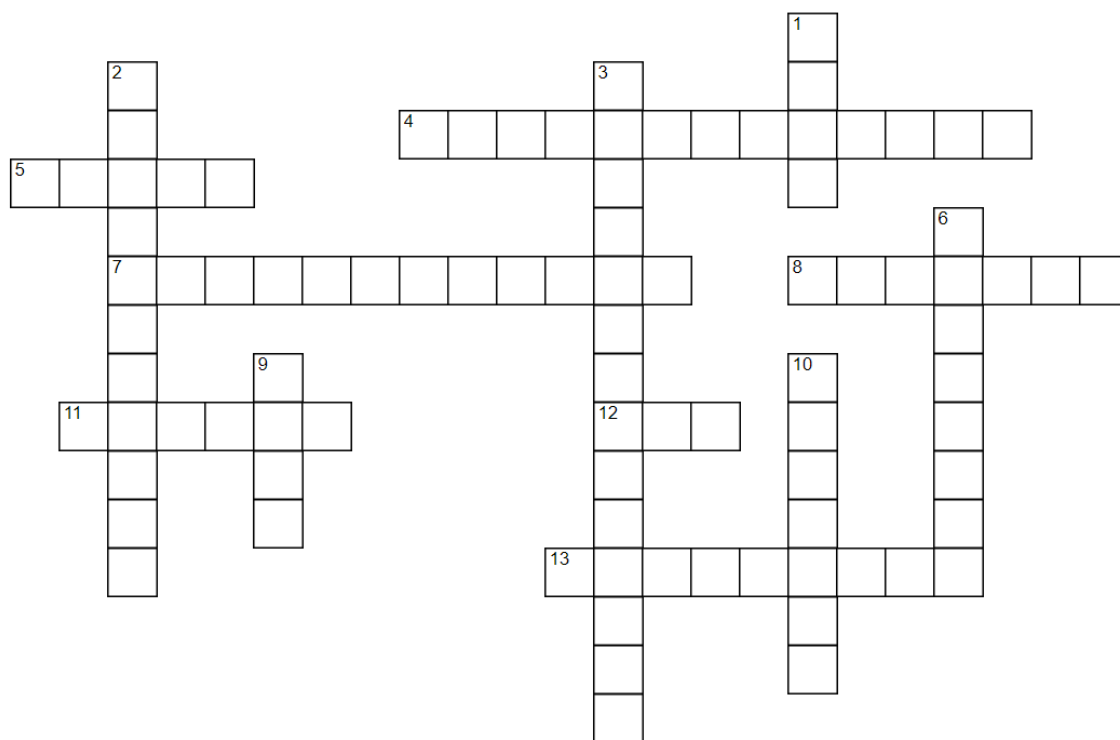
called spillover effect, which consists of a spontaneous redistribution of the growth generated by the most dynamic areas, but it has been shown that it is not really working anymore.

Alessandro Coppola, researcher at the Polytechnic University in Milan, has offered three possible solutions to this issue: the first one is to leave things as they are hoping the spillover effect will eventually fix things up, which doesn't seem to be a viable option anymore. A second, highly debated method, consists in redistributing wealth produced by the most productive areas. The third solution is the most radical one and it involves a criticism of the capitalist system itself, but it has not really been explored yet.

On the other hand, though, the cities are affected by the huge issue of lack of affordable housing, which has been highly worsened by companies like AirBnb, embraced by the European Union as part of a "collaborative economy". The problem with these companies is quite self-explanatory: taking accommodation off the rental market, the housing prices get spiked up, thus preventing disadvantaged people from moving to the cities and forcing current inhabitants to accept inadequate living conditions. Cities like Berlin and Barcelona are trying to face this situation by regulating AirBnb locally, however, although acting on a local level seems to be the best solution to adapt the response of each city to its unique needs, European regulation is highly needed and demanded all across the Union.

This can definitely be an explanation of the anti-European ideas that have been spreading and to the fact that, over the last decade, populist parties have doubled their votes. We can find examples stemming from most countries, from Brexit to the far-right growing support in France and Germany. Italy has seen a huge increase of populist parties and techniques over the last few years, both in the language used by the politicians and their agendas. Five Star Movement, founded in 2009 as a protest movement, is still the leading party in some areas of the country, although it has been surpassed by the former divisionist party Lega, which is quite similar in terms of form, but is far more radical ideas.

This phenomenon has been explained quite well by Andrés Rodríguez-Pose, professor of Economic Geography, in his "The revenge of the places that don't matter" (2017), in which he says that people from rural, poor areas are more prone to reject the political establishment, the whole concept of globalisation and internal commerce. Moreover, they are more scared of the values of interculturalism, tolerance and cultural exchange. It is clear that the European Union must take action in order not to leave behind the weakest and the forgotten, otherwise inequality is going to keep spreading. We should all recover the core European values of inclusion and tolerance for all.



ACROSS

- 4 The first country to withdraw from the EU is _____
- 5 European institution recently reached to the European _____ Deal
- 7 In which year will Erasmus+ Program be over?
- 8 What was the last country to join EU?
- 11 The last treaty signed and approved by state members is the _____ treaty.
- 12 How many were the founding members of EU?
- 13 Citizens of EU participate on European elections for the MEPS of the European _____

DOWN

- 1 How many EU members countries don't have Euro?
- 2 How many are the current members in EU?
- 3 European health care is guaranteed all around EU with the European _____ card
- 6 In order to visit a country outside the EU you need a _____
- 9 Name of the organisation that the founding members created was European __ and Steel community
- 10 Which is the most famous mobility program in Europe?



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