

# Module III

# European Values



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# Which countries are members of the European Union?

- 27 countries are members of the European Union.
- These countries work together.
- The European Union has goals and represents values.



# What are the goals of the European Union?



## Goals of the European Union:

- Economic and monetary union
- Economic and social cooperation and solidarity
- Peace and the well-being of all citizens
- Freedom, security and justice in all countries
- Cultural and linguistic diversity
- Scientific and technological progress
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

# What are Values?

- There are European Values and individual values.
- The EU is based on six European Values, but people also need individual values.
- Values are important convictions.

# What are individual values?

- Values are convictions, attitudes, behaviour.
- Values contribute to the formation of character and identity. People orient themselves by values.
- More precisely, individual values determine the way people think and act in society.
- People have and need different values: success, family, happiness, love, peace, friendship, humanity, money, health, justice...

# What are the values of the European Union?

Every EU member state has its own culture and tradition. The values of the European Union unite all the member states – All member countries have to respect these values in order to belong to the Union.

The European Union's fundamental values are:

- Respect for human dignity and Human Rights
- Freedom
- Democracy
- Equality
- Rule of law



# Where are these values of the European Union written down?

The values and goals as a basis of the EU and are laid down in the:

- Lisbon Treaty (2009)
- EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

In 2012, the EU received the Nobel Peace Prize for securing peace, reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe.



# Respect for Human Dignity and Human Rights



- Human dignity is inviolable.
- It must be respected and protected (Art 1 EU Charter of Fundamental Rights)
- Human dignity is the basis of Human Rights.
- Human Rights are also protected by the **EU Charter of Fundamental Rights**.
- **The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR)** in Strasbourg ensures that states respect the Human Rights.



# Freedom

## The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights Art 6-19

Some individual freedoms:

- Respect for private life
- Freedom of thought
- Freedom of movement
- Freedom of religion
- Freedom of assembly
- Freedom of expression
- Freedom of information



# Democracy

The European Union is based on representative democracy:

- Therefore European citizens have political rights.
- Right to stand as a candidate and to vote in elections to the European Parliament.
- Right to stand as a candidate and to vote in their country of residence, or in their country of origin.



# Equality



- **Equality:**

All individuals are valued equally and have equal opportunities.

They may not be discriminated against on the basis of gender, ethnic background, religion, disability, sexual orientation, social class or other status.

# Rule of Law



- Everything the EU does is founded on laws.
- The EU treaties are voluntarily and democratically agreed by its EU countries.
- Law and justice are secured by an independent judiciary.
- **European Court of Justice (Luxembourg):** It ensures that EU law is interpreted and applied the same in every EU country.

# List of figures Resources

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- Figure 1: Map of European Union: [https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/easy-to-read\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/easy-to-read_en)
- Figure 2: European flag: <https://www.publicdomainpictures.net/en/view-image.php?image=254982&picture=european-flag>
- Figure 3: European values: [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/resources/library/images/20180409PHT01207/20180409PHT01207\\_original.jpg](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/resources/library/images/20180409PHT01207/20180409PHT01207_original.jpg):
- Figure 4: Lisbon Treaty: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/about-parliament/en/in-the-past/the-parliament-and-the-treaties/treaty-of-lisbon>
- Figure 5 : The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in Strasbourg: <https://echr.coe.int/Pages/home.aspx?p=court&c=>
- Figure 6 :Freedom of movement: <https://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2018/freedom-movement-rights-versus-reality-eu-citizens>
- Figure 7:European Parliament: <https://www.business-humanrights.org/en/latest-news/european-parliament>
- Figure 8: : Equality Symbol: <http://clipart-library.com/equality-symbol.html>
- Figure 9: European Court of Justice: <https://pixabay.com/de/photos/eu-gerichtshof-kirchberg-luxemburg-213379/>
  
- Internet Resources
- [https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/easy-to-read\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/easy-to-read_en)
- [https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/eu-in-brief\\_en#from-economic-to-political-union](https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/eu-in-brief_en#from-economic-to-political-union)
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