The European Union

The European Union

History of the EU

The EU was not always as big as it is today. It was created in the aftermath of the Second World War. The first steps were to foster economic cooperation; the idea being that countries who trade with one another become economically interdependent and so more likely to avoid conflict.

When European countries first started to cooperate economically in 1951, only Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands participated.

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History of the EU

The European Economic Community (EEC) started in 1957 with Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands as its first members.

Over time, it gained 22 new members and changed its name twice: first to the European Community (EC) and then to the European Union (EU).

Several countries, including Albania, Montenegro, Serbia, Macedonia and Turkey wish to join the EU.

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The EU

The EU flag consists of a circle of 12 gold stars on a blue background. The number of stars has nothing to do with the number of member countries, though the circle is a symbol of unity.

Timeline of the EU

Seomra Ranga

The European Union

1957

Belgium

Germany

France

Italy

Luxembourg

Netherlands

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1973

Denmark
Ireland
United Kingdom

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1981

Greece

1986

Spain

Portugal

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1995

Austria
Finland
Sweden

The European Union

2004

Czech Republic

Estonia

Cyprus

Latvia

Lithuania

Hungary

Malta

Poland

Slovakia

Slovenia

The European Union

2007

Romania

Bulgaria

2013

Croatia

The Eurozone

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Eurozone

The euro (€) is the official currency of 19 out of the 28 EU countries. These countries are collectively known as the Eurozone.

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Eurozone Countries

Austria	Greece	Netherlands
Belgium	Ireland	Portugal
Cyprus	Italy	Slovakia
Estonia	Latvia	Slovenia
Finland	Lithuania	Spain
France	Luxembourg	
Germany	Malta	

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Non-Eurozone Countries

Bulgaria   Poland

Croatia   Romania

Czech Republic   Sweden

Denmark   United Kingdom

Hungary
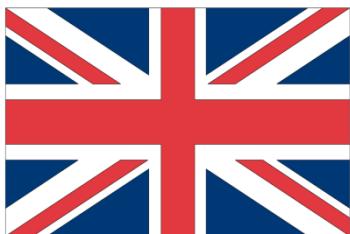
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BREXIT

The word "Brexit" comes from a combination of the words "Britain" and "Exit". In 2016, the people of the UK voted by a majority in a referendum to leave the EU.

This will be the first time a country has left the EU. The UK is scheduled to leave the EU on Friday March 29th, 2019.

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Rights of EU Citizens

Under EU laws, citizens of all EU countries have certain rights. These include the right to move freely around member states of the EU, the right to live, work and study in member states.

EU citizens are also free to trade and transport goods and services within the EU.

Citizens also have the right to vote on elections to the European Parliament.

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EU Stats

- The EU started in 1957
- It started with 6 countries and now has 28
- The flag of the EU has a circle of 12 yellow stars on a blue background
- There are over 500 million people living in the EU
- People in the EU speak 24 different official languages, including Gaeilge
- The European Parliament has 751 members, elected by citizens of the EU

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EU Stats

- The Euro was introduced in 2002 as the currency of the EU
- 19 of the 28 EU member states are members of the Eurozone
- The EU is run from institutions in Brussels, Luxembourg and Strasbourg
- "United in Diversity" is the motto of the European Union
- "Ode to Joy" is the official anthem of the European Union
- The EU celebrates its birthday every year on May 9th

Austria

Belgium

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Bulgaria

The European Union

Croatia

The European Union

Cyprus

The European Union
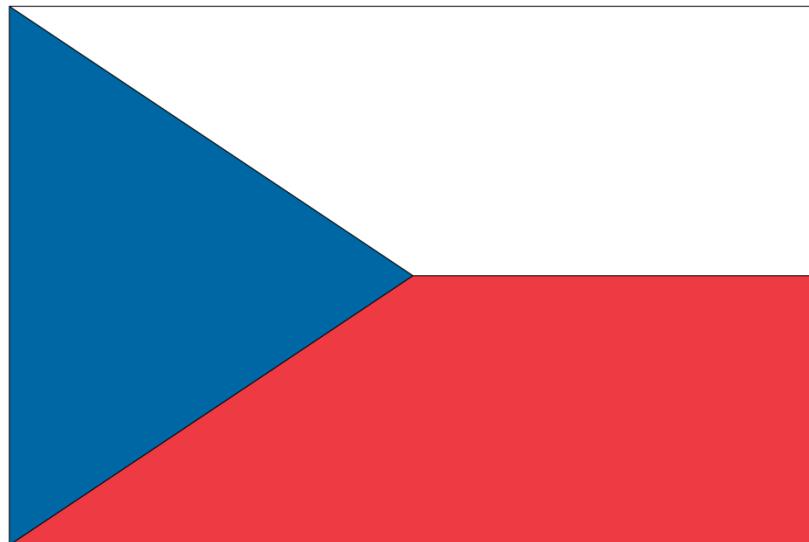
Czech Republic

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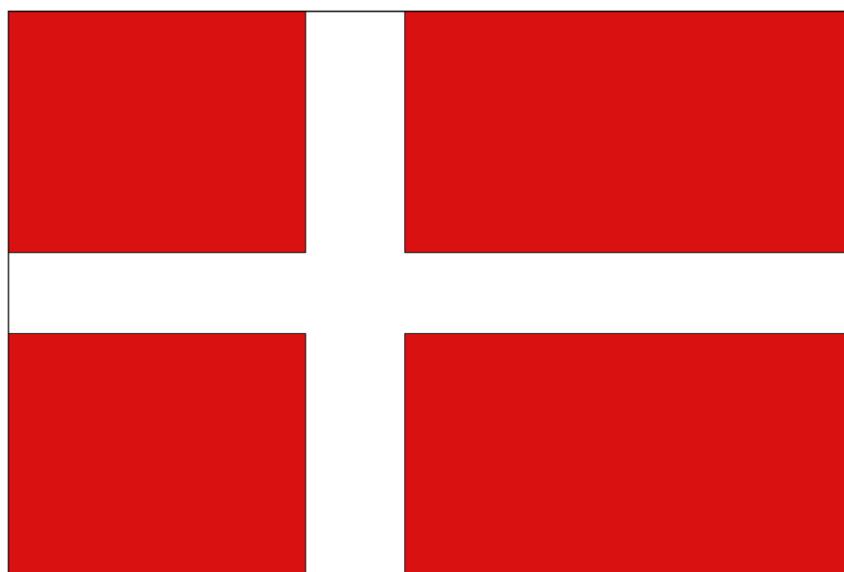
Denmark

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Estonia

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Finland

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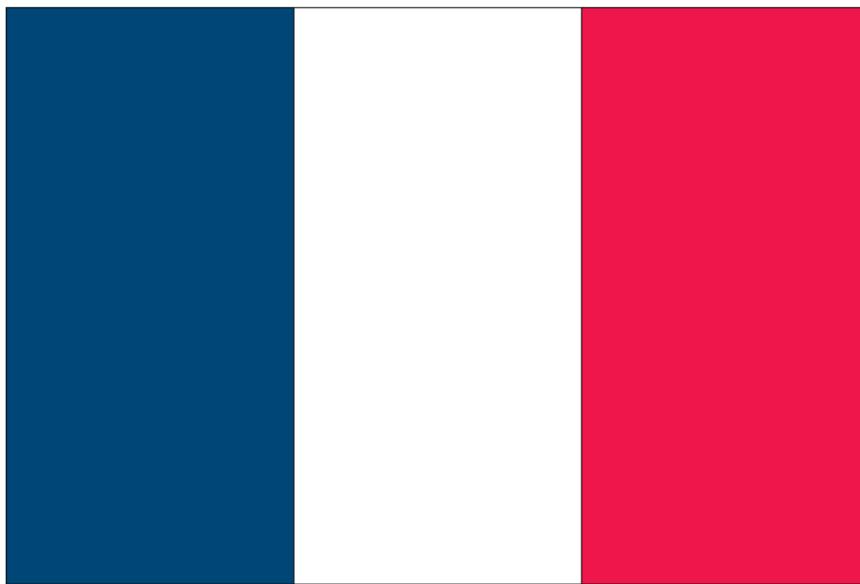
France

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Germany

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Greece

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Hungary

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Ireland

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Italy

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Latvia

The European Union

Lithuania

The European Union

Luxembourg

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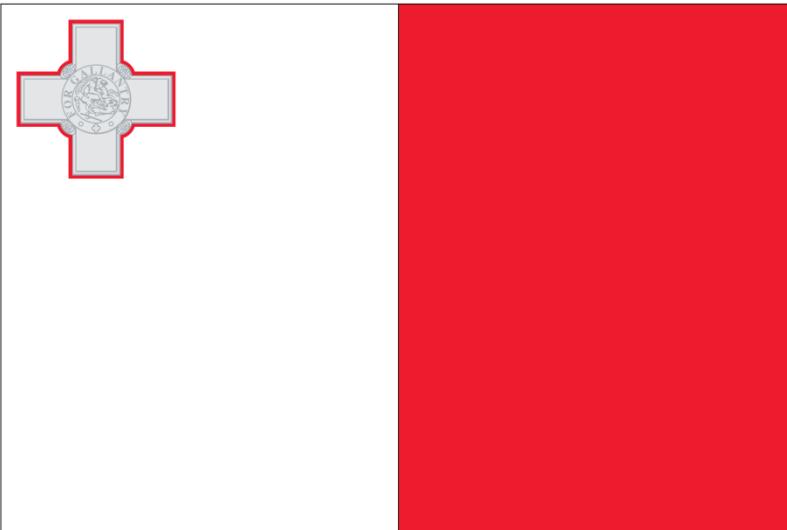
Malta

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Netherlands

Poland

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Portugal

The European Union

Romania

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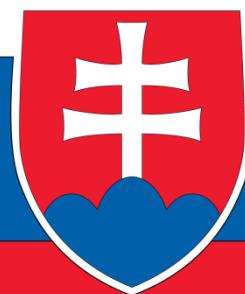
Slovakia

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Slovenia

Spain
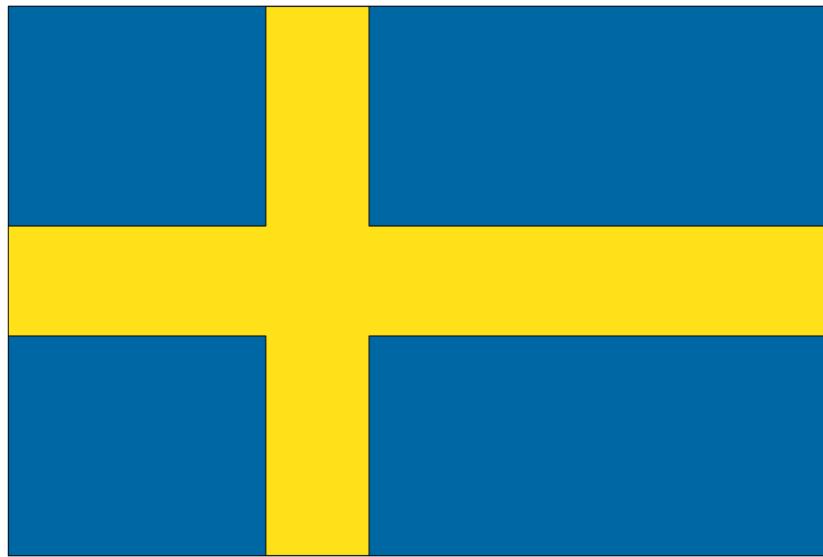
Sweden

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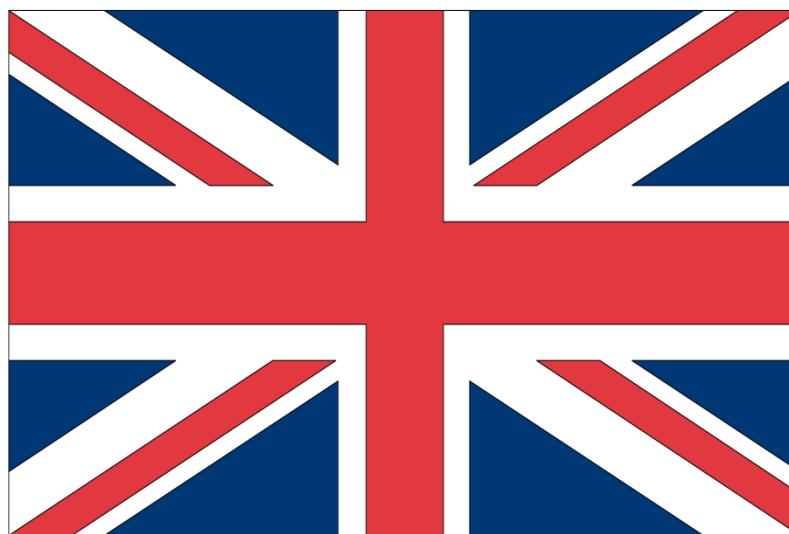
United
Kingdom

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