

EUROPEAN UNION HISTORY

70 YEARS OF EUROPEAN
HISTORY (1945-2015)





The album of the European Union History was prepared by the Italian team who is part, together with other seven countries, to an Erasmus+ project whose title is “70 years of European History 1945-2015”.

The partners involved in this project are: Greece (the coordinator), Czech Republic, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain and Turkey.

The idea of the “70 Y.E.H” project was born under the acceptance of how few things students know about European History, about the process of European unification and the reasons that led to it.

We strongly believe that in times of crisis such as we are experiencing in recent years it is crucial to cultivate the “shared memory”, to enhance the faith of young people to common European values and to promote discussion on issues regarding our common future as European citizens.

This project is designed to contribute to the improvement of all participants’ knowledge of European History and to provide them the opportunity to develop critical thinking on issues concerning E.U.

Motivated by the above considerations, eight upper secondary schools of different types (general education, vocational, theological and private) were joined in order to accomplish the following aims:

1. Learn more about the historic events that took place in Europe after the end of World War II.
2. Find out how these events effected on the artistic evolution in painting, literature, cinema and music.
3. Connect the historic events with the scientific and technological development of the European countries by that time.
4. Find out the reasons that made the creation of the E.U necessary.
5. Cultivate skills in searching and using information critically.
6. Introduce new methods and teaching tools with a European dimension within school education by exchanging teaching practices.
7. Expand digital competences of both students and school education staff.
8. Stimulate the curiosity of students.
9. Contribute to the increase and deepening of knowledge, aiming to achieve better performances.



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A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

The modern European Union is the result of a determination among European politicians to prevent future conflicts in Europe after the Second World War.

The European Union, which is a geo-political entity covering a large portion of the European continent, was initially composed by six members, but this number has gradually increased in fact it has now 28 country members.



(PHOTO SOURCE: WWW.WIKIPEDIA.ORG)

THE IMAGE REPRESENTS THE ACTUAL EUROPEAN UNION CONFIGURATION

WHEN DID IT BEGIN?

Largely due to the devastating effects of the war, lots of people turned to the idea that a unified Europe was necessary. Such idea became greater in Europe after the First World War, but it was only after World War II that the idea turned into reality.

In fact after the Second World War there was the desire to ensure that the horrors of the war could never happen again.



(PHOTO SOURCE: WWW.NBCNEWS.COM)

THE DEVASTATING EFFECTS OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

1946: WINSTON CHURCHILL AND HIS SPEECH

In 1946 Winston Churchill called for a "kind of United States of Europe" in a speech at Zurich University.

In his speech, he said:

"If Europe were once united in the sharing of its common inheritance, there would be no limit to the happiness, to the prosperity and glory which its three or four hundred million people would enjoy. Yet it is from Europe that have sprung that series of frightful nationalistic quarrels, originated by the Teutonic nations, which we have seen even in this twentieth century and in our own lifetime, wreck the peace and mar the prospects of all mankind".



(PHOTO SOURCE: WWW.ITV.COM)

1948: CONGRESS OF EUROPE

Between 7 and 10 May 1948, a great international Congress of Europe took place in The Hague, under the chairmanship of Winston Churchill.

The International Committee of the Movements for European Unity had invited nearly 800 eminent figures from seventeen Western European countries. The largest delegations came from France, Great Britain, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy and Germany.



(PHOTO SOURCE: WWW.CAEE.ORG.UK)



1949: COUNCIL OF EUROPE



COUNCIL
OF EUROPE

CONSEIL
DE L'EUROPE

(PHOTO SOURCE: WWW.EIUC.ORG)

In 1949 the UK, France and the Benelux countries decided to create a Council of Europe and ask Denmark, Ireland, Italy, Norway and Switzerland to help them prepare the statute of such Council. In the same year there is the signature of the North Atlantic Treaty in Washington.

1950:THE SCHUMAN DECLARATION

French Foreign Minister, Robert Schuman, announces a plan for France and Germany to pool coal and steel production and invites other states to join them. His plan is based on the idea that European unity is the key to peace. This led to the Treaty of Paris, creating the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) the next year.



(PHOTO SOURCE: WWW.EULEU)

1951: THE TREATY OF PARIS

Six countries signed the Treaty of Paris: France, West Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Italy. It sets up a High Authority to manage the coal and steel industries and a Common Assembly a precursor of the European parliament.



(PHOTO SOURCE: WWW.CVCE.EU)

1952: THE ECSC

The first president of the High Authority is Jean Monnet the inspiration behind the Schuman Declaration. The ECSC (European Coal and Steel Community) guarantees German coal to the French steel industry. It also provides funds to upgrade Belgian and Italian coal mines. Germany agrees to this and to the dismantling of its steel cartels in order to gain international respectability.



(PHOTO SOURCE: WWW.WIKIPEDIA.ORG)

JEAN MONNET WAS AN INFLUENTIAL SUPPORTER OF EUROPEAN UNITY
AND IS CONSIDERED AS ONE OF THE FOUNDING FATHERS OF THE
EUROPEAN UNION

1957: THE TREATY OF ROME

The six members of the ECSC sign the Treaty of Rome setting up the European Economic Community EEC and the European Atomic Energy Community Euratom. The EEC aims to create a common market a customs union plus free movement of capital and labour. To please France it also promises subsidies to farmers. Euratom's goal is the joint development of nuclear energy.



(PHOTO SOURCE: WWW.KADOC.KULEUVEN.BE)



1958: FIRST SESSION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY AND NEW CANDIDATES ADMITTED

The session setting up the European Parliamentary Assembly is held in Strasbourg, France. Mr. Robert Schuman is elected president of the Assembly. This assembly is to substitute the ECSC one. In this same year, other countries joined the EU: Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands



(PHOTO SOURCE: WWW.CAEF.ORG.UK)

1960: EFTA IS LAUNCHED

An alternative to the EEC emerges when Austria, Denmark, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK set up EFTA (European Free Trade Association). Like the EEC, EFTA aims to establish free trade but it opposes uniform external tariffs and sees no need for supranational institutions.



(PHOTO SOURCE: WWW.CVCE.EU)

THE SIGNING OF THE EFTA CONVENTION BY SWITZERLAND (STOCKHOLM, 4 JANUARY 1960)

1961: BRITAIN APPLIES TO JOIN THE EEC

The UK's decision to apply for membership of the EEC was taken by the government of Harold Macmillan a Conservative. It was not welcomed by French President Charles de Gaulle who saw it as a threat to his goal of using the EEC to amplify France's voice in world affairs. He was also concerned about the UK's close ties with the US.

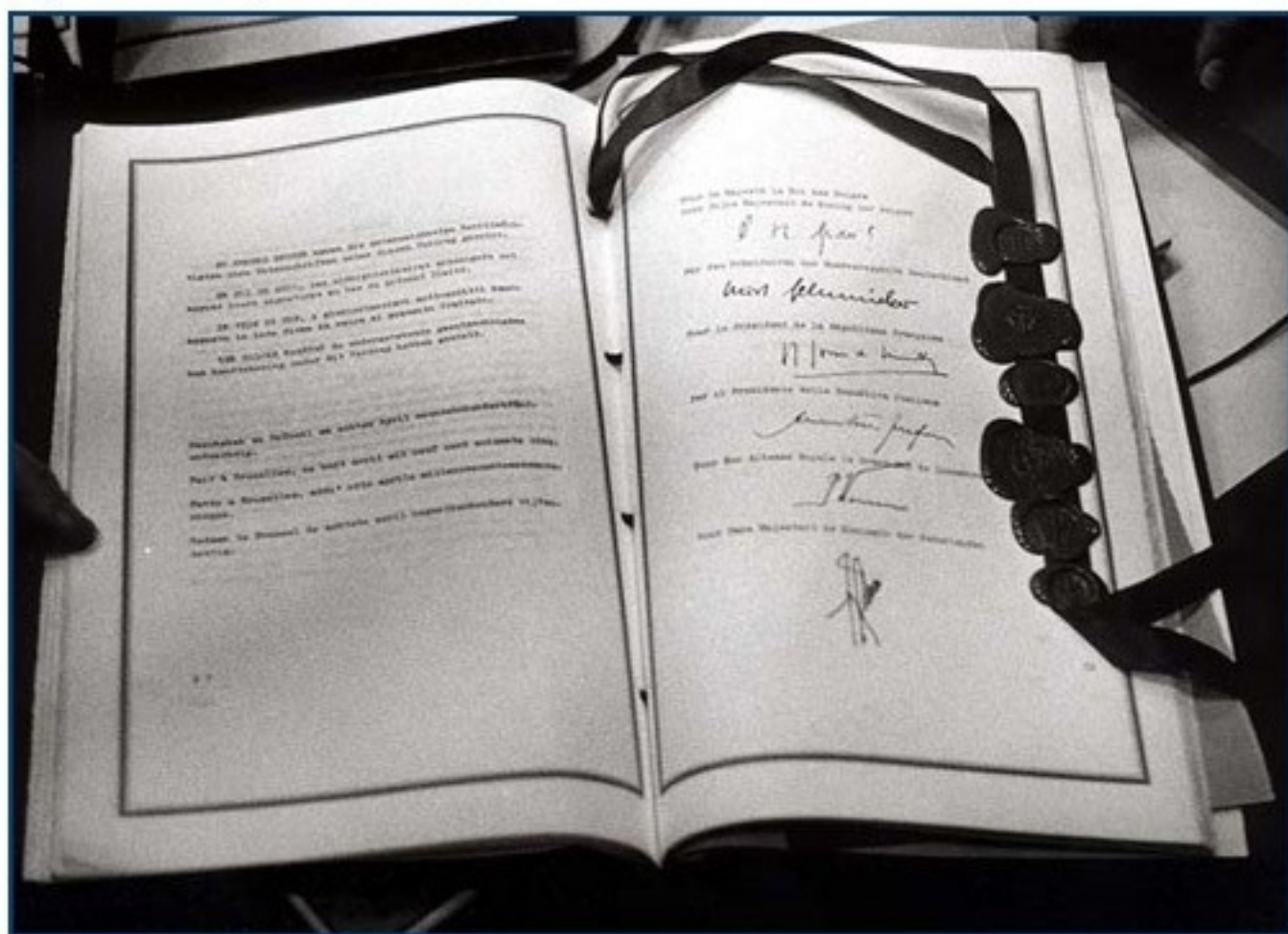


(PHOTO SOURCE: WWW.YAHOO.COM)

FRENCH PRESIDENT CHARLES DE GAULLE AND BRITISH PRIME MINISTER HAROLD MACMILLAN
FOLLOWING TALKS IN NOVEMBER

1967: THE MERGER TREATY

The Merger Treaty was signed on 8 April 1965 and entered into force on 1 July 1967. Thanks to this treaty, the institutions of the EEC, ECSC and EURATOM merged to form a single set of institutions: the European Commission, the European Council and the European Parliament, with members initially selected by national parliaments.



(PHOTO SOURCE: WWW.SCHUMAN.WIKISPACES.COM)

1973: BRITAIN, DENMARK AND IRELAND JOIN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom formally enter the EU. Following an Arab-Israeli war in October 1973, Middle East oil-producing nations impose big price increases and restrict sales to certain European countries. This creates economic problems throughout the EU.



(PHOTO SOURCE: WWW.BBC.COM)

THE EUROPEAN UNION CONFIGURATION AFTER IRELAND, GREAT BRITAIN
AND DENMARK JOINED IT

1979: FIRST DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The European Assembly Election, 1979, was the first European election to be held in the United Kingdom after the European Community (EC) decided to directly elect representatives to the European Parliament. It was held on 7 June. Elections were also held in eight other EC states. European elections were incorporated into UK law by the European Assembly Elections Act 1978.



(PHOTO SOURCE: [HTTP://WWW.DW.COM](http://www.dw.com))

1981: A EUROPEAN COUNCIL IS HELD IN MAASTRICHT

A European Council is held in Maastricht, The Netherlands. It mainly discusses economic and social perspectives.

The Council decides to increase the European Court of Justice's number of judges to eleven and the number of advocates-general to five.



(PHOTO SOURCE: [HTTP://EC.EUROPA.EU](http://ec.europa.eu))



1985: JACQUES DELORS BECOMES PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Jacques Delors proposes that the European Community should, by the end of 1992, remove a series of barriers to free trade and free movement of capital and labour creating a "single market". Delors believes the single market programme will revive European integration by spilling over from the economic into the political arena. It is widely seen as a necessity if Europe is to compete with the United States.



(PHOTO SOURCE: [HTTPS://EVROFEDERALISTWORDPRESS.COM](https://evrofederalist.wordpress.com))



1986: PORTUGAL AND SPAIN JOIN THE EC

Portugal and Spain join the EC and the European flag is unveiled.



(PHOTO SOURCE: WWW.BBC.COM)

1987: THE SINGLE EUROPEAN ACT ENTERS INTO FORCE

The SEA modifies the Treaty of Rome aiming to complete the formation of a common market which the earlier treaty had begun. It abolishes national vetoes in a host of areas relating to the single market increases the legislative powers of the European parliament and makes the first commitment by member states to create a "European Union".



(PHOTO SOURCE: WWW.FLICKR.COM)

1990: BRITAIN ENTERS THE ERM

Britain's first day as a full member of the Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM) of the European Monetary System has been marked by hectic trading in the City.

More than 500 million shares were traded in the first two hours and by the end of the day the turnover was 1.08 billion shares - the highest daily volume since the 1987 stock market crash.



(PHOTO SOURCE: WWW.BBC.COM)

THE PICTURE PORTRAYS THE ENGLISH PRIME MINISTER MARGARET THATCHER

1992: THE TREATY OF MAASTRICHT

The Maastricht treaty on European Union paves the way for monetary union and includes a chapter on social policy. The treaty also introduces European citizenship giving Europeans the right to live and vote in elections in any EU country and launches European cooperation in foreign affairs security asylum and immigration.



(PHOTO SOURCE: WWW.EUROPOL.EUROPA.EU)

SIGNING OF THE MAASTRICHT TREATY (MAASTRICHT, 7 FEBRUARY 1992)

1993: COPENHAGEN EUROPEAN COUNCIL

A European Council is held in Copenhagen, Denmark. The Council confirms that the accession of Austria, Finland, Sweden and Norway is to be accomplished by 1995 and assures associated countries of central and eastern Europe that they will become full members as soon as they satisfy the political and economic conditions.



(PHOTO SOURCE: [HTTPS://EUROPA.EU](https://europa.eu))

1995: AUSTRIA, FINLAND AND SWEDEN JOIN THE EU.

Austria, Finland and Sweden joined the EU at the start of 1995 taking membership to 15. Norway would have joined too if voters had not rejected the move in a second referendum.



(PHOTO SOURCE: WWW.BBC.COM)

THE PICTURE REPRESENTS THE EU CONFIGURATION IN 1995

1997: THE AMSTERDAM TREATY IS SIGNED

The treaty starts to get the EU ready for its eastward expansion. More national vetoes are abolished. Laws on employment and discrimination are strengthened and the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty becomes an official part of EU law. The Schengen agreement also becomes law though Ireland and the UK maintain their optouts. This gives the EU more say on immigration and asylum.



(PHOTO SOURCE: [HTTP://EC.EUROPA.EU](http://ec.europa.eu))

SIGNING OF THE TREATY BY LAMBERTO DINI, ITALIAN MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

1998: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

The European Central Bank (ECB) is the central bank for the euro and administers monetary policy of the eurozone, which consists of 19 EU member states and is one of the largest currency areas in the world



(PHOTO SOURCE: WWW.BRITANNICA.COM)

HEADQUARTERS OF THE EUROPEAN
CENTRAL BANK, FRANKFURT AM MAIN,
GERMANY



1999: CRISIS AT THE COMMISSION FRAUD AND RESIGNATION

The EU faces its darkest hours. All 20 commissioners resign before the parliament sacks them. In September Romano Prodi becomes the new president of the commission promising radical change in the way it is run



(PHOTO SOURCE: [HTTP://ELQUADRE.BLOGSPOT.IT](http://elquadre.blogspot.it))

THE PICTURE PORTRAYS ROMANO PRODI, THE TENTH PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION FROM 1999 TO 2004.

2001: THE TREATY OF NICE

The Treaty of Nice was signed by European leaders on 26 February 2001 and came into force on 1 February 2003. It amended the Maastricht Treaty and the Treaty of Rome. The Treaty of Nice reformed the institutional structure of the European Union to withstand eastward expansion, a task which was originally intended to have been done by the Amsterdam Treaty, but failed to be addressed at the time.



(PHOTO SOURCE: [HTTP://WWW.EUROPARL.EUROPA.EU](http://www.europarl.europa.eu))

2002: NATIONAL CURRENCIES REPLACED BY EURO NOTES AND COINS

The euro came into existence in 1999 as the official currency of 11 countries. Greece adopted the currency two years later though Sweden Denmark and the UK stayed out. On 1 January 2002 euro notes and coins were introduced in the 12 participating states and over the next few months their national currencies were phased out.

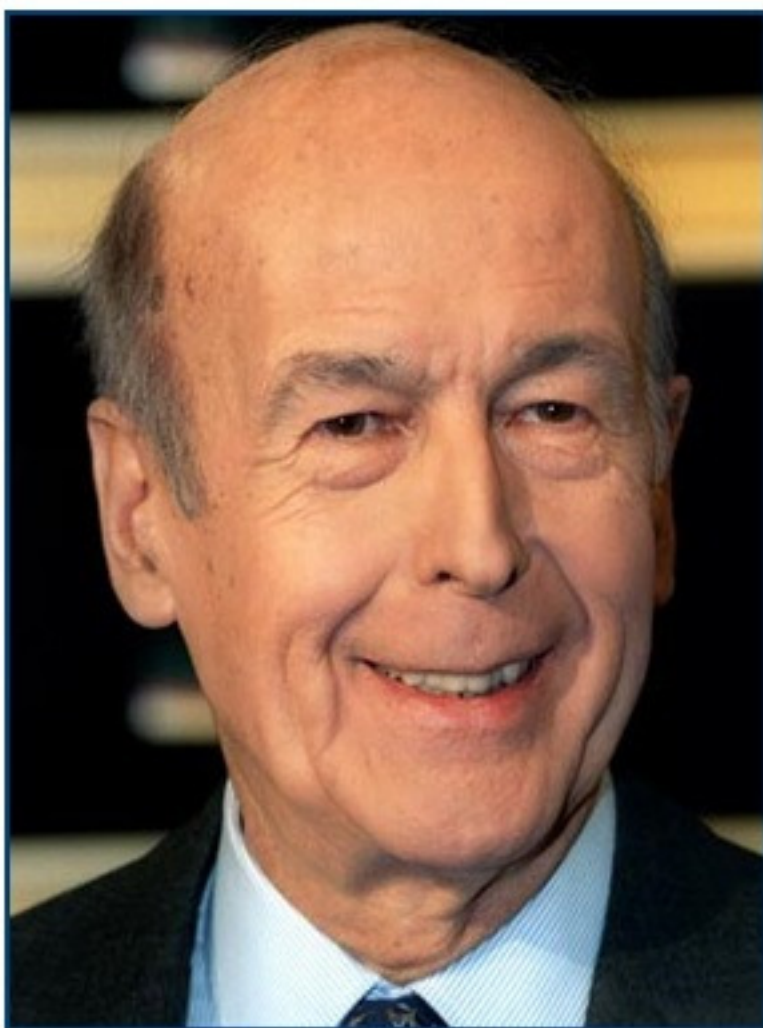


(PHOTO SOURCE: [HTTPS://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG](https://en.wikipedia.org))



2003: PLANS FOR A EUROPEAN CONSTITUTION SUFFER A SETBACK

A convention headed by former French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing has spent much of 2002 and 2003 drafting the EU's first constitution. Its goals are to simplify the EU treaties to make the EU more easily understood by its citizens and to help it working efficiently after enlargement. But an intergovernmental conference ends in disarray as heads of state and government fails to agree a final text.



(PHOTO SOURCE: [HTTP://CONTENT.TIME.COM](http://CONTENT.TIME.COM))

IN THE PICTURE: THE FRENCH PRESIDENT
VALÉRY GISCARD D'ESTAING

2004: THE EU ENLARGES AND A NEW CONSTITUTION IS SIGNED

Enlargement goes ahead on 1 May 2004. On 29 October EU leaders sign a new constitution in the same room where the Treaty of Rome was signed to establish the EU



(PHOTO SOURCE: WWW.TELEGRAPH.CO.UK)

CAPITOLINE HILL, ROME, OCTOBER 29, 2004 - SIGNING THE NEW EU CONSTITUTION IN THE APPARTAMENTO DEI CONSERVATORI, SALA DEGLI ORAZI E CURIAZI, BEFORE THE BRONZE STATUE OF POPE INNOCENT X BY ALESSANDRO ALGARDI.

2005: 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENDING OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR IN EUROPE

On May 9 there was the 60th celebration of the ending of the Second World War.



(PHOTO SOURCE: WWW.BUNDESPRAESIDENT.DE)

70 Years of European History (1945-2015) - The European Union and its Member States

2006: EUROPEAN YEAR OF WORKERS' MOBILITY

The European Year of Workers' Mobility is launched by European Commission president José Manuel Barroso, commissioner Vladimír Špidla and Austrian minister for Economics and Labour, Martin Bartenstein, in Brussels.



(PHOTO SOURCE: WWW.FOET.ORG)

2007: THE TREATY OF LISBON

The Treaty of Lisbon met the need to reform the structure of the EU and the way in which it functions. Successive enlargements have increased the number of EU countries to 28. It was therefore necessary to adapt the way the European institutions function and how decisions are taken.

This treaty has enabled several EU policies to be reformed. It has redefined and strengthened actions taken at European level.



(PHOTO SOURCE: [HTTP://WWW.EUROPARL.EUROPA.EU](http://www.europarl.europa.eu))

2008: CYPRUS AND MALTA ADOPT THE EURO

Cyprus and Malta adopt the euro, bringing euro-area membership to 15 EU countries and a population of around 320 million.



(PHOTO SOURCE: WWW.THEHINDU.COM)

CYPRIOUS PRESIDENT TASSOS PAPADOPOULOS HOLDS THE EURO BILLS HE WITHDREW FROM AN AUTOMATED TELLER MACHINE DURING A FINANCE MINISTRY CEREMONY IN NICOSIA, CYPRUS, WHEN THE EAST MEDITERRANEAN ISLAND FORMALLY ADOPTED THE EURO AS ITS OFFICIAL CURRENCY.



2009: JOSÉ MANUEL BARROSO IS THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION PRESIDENT FOR THE SECOND TIME

The European Parliament approves the nomination of José Manuel Barroso for a second five-year term as President of the European Commission.



(PHOTO SOURCE: WWW.TOPNEWS.IN)

2011: 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR POWER PLANT ACCIDENT

The EU maintains its commitment to strengthening nuclear safety.



(PHOTO SOURCE: [HTTP://EN.KREMLIN.RU](http://en.kremlin.ru))

DMITRY MEDVEDEV AND PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE VIKTOR YANUKOVYCH TOOK PART
IN MEMORIAL EVENTS ON THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHERNOBYL DISASTER.

2012: THE EUROPEAN CITIZEN'S INITIATIVE

The European Citizens' Initiative becomes a reality, enabling citizens to propose EU legislation on specific issues for the first time. One million citizens from at least one quarter of EU Member States can invite the European Commission to put forward proposals for legal acts in areas where it has the power to do so.



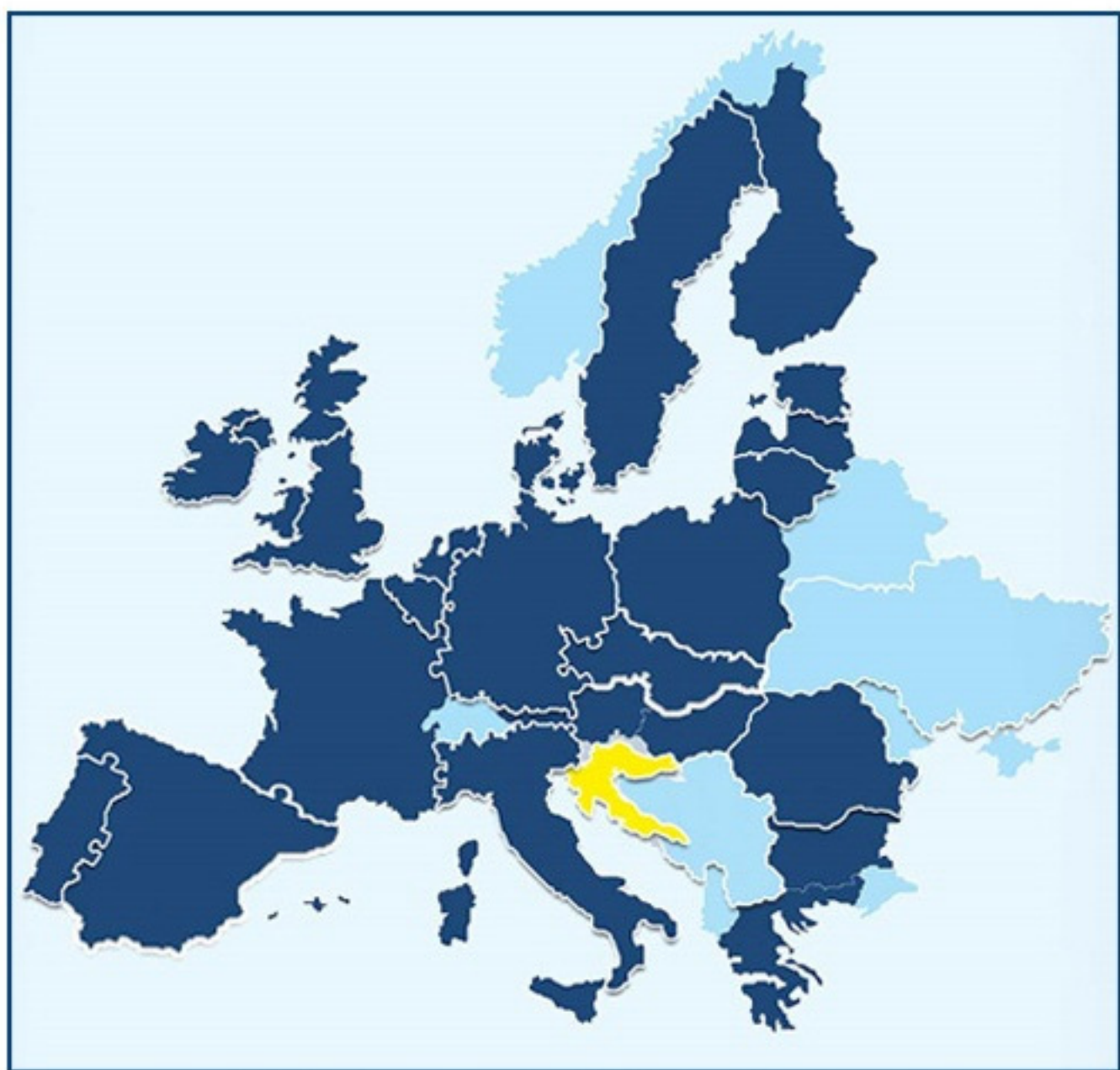
(PHOTO SOURCE: [HTTP://ONE-EUROPE.INFO](http://one-europe.info))

PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION: THE EUROPEAN CITIZENS' INITIATIVE



2013: CROATIA JOINS THE EU

Croatia joins the EU, bringing the total number of member countries to 28. The EU now also has 24 official languages.



(PHOTO SOURCE: [HTTPS://EUROPOINT.STONYBROOK.EDU](https://europoint.stonybrook.edu))

2014: THE EUROPEAN CAPITALS OF CULTURE

Rīga (Latvia) and Umeå (Sweden) become the 'European Capitals of Culture' for 2014.



(PHOTO SOURCE:
WWW.2LUXURY2.COM)



(PHOTO SOURCE:
WWW.AWORLDTOTRAVEL.COM)

2015: INFORMAL COUNCIL IN BRUSSELS

EU leaders meet at an informal European Council in Brussels to discuss three challenges facing Europe: restoring peace in Ukraine, fighting terrorism and improving the European Monetary Union, particularly in the light of the change of government in Greece, whose new Prime Minister, Alexis Tsipras, asks for a review of its situation.



(PHOTO SOURCE: PHOTOS: WWW.EUINJAPAN.JP)



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- "Liceum Ogólnosztalcace im. Adama Mickiewicza" - Opole Lubelskie, Poland
- "Liceul Tehnologic „Grigore C. Moisil" - Buzau, Romania
- "Associazione culturale 3.0" - Istituto Plateja
- "Agrupamento de Escolas Augusto Cabrita" - Barreiro, Portugal
- "IES Clara Campoamor" - La Solana, Spain
- "Gymnazium, Ceskolipska 373, Praha 9" - Prague, Czech Republic

Thank you everybody for all your efforts and for the wonderful memories shared.

70 YEARS OF EUROPEAN HISTORY (1945-2015)



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