

The EU & Brexit

History of the European Union



- The **EU Referendum** took place in the United Kingdom (UK) and Gibraltar in **June 2016**.
 - The UK has voted to leave the EU by **51,89%**.
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- The UK is scheduled to leave the EU on **29 March 2019**.
 - Many questions are still open.



Google Trends: Top Questions on the European Union in the UK since Brexit results officially announced



» 1. What does it mean to leave the EU?

- 2. What is the EU?
- 3. Which countries are in the EU?
- 4. What will happen now we've left the EU?
- 5. How many countries are in the EU?

What is the EU?

- The **European Union** - also known as the EU - is an economic and political partnership involving **28 European countries**.
- The idea started to grow **after World War Two** to avoid war in the future by fostering economic co-operation in Europe.
- The total **population** is more than **500 million people**.
- The currency **euro** is used by 19 of the EU members. The UK did not introduce the euro.



The EU emblem with 12 stars

28 EU Member States



EU-28

Source: European Commission Audiovisual Services

What is the Single Market?

The single market allows **goods, people, services and money** to move freely within the EU as if the member states were one country. → **The four freedoms**

The single market is different from a free trade area. In a free trade there is no common trade policy towards non-members.

- The single market was extended with the **European Economic Area (EEA)** to: Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.
- Switzerland is not an EEA member, but has a series of bilateral agreements with the EU.

Citizens of the European Union

Citizens of EU countries can travel, live and work anywhere in the EU.

→ **One of the four freedoms**

In the Schengen area 26 European states have abolished passport and border controls.

- 22 EU countries are in the Schengen area.
- Four non-EU countries are also in the Schengen area: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland

History - from 6 to 28 EU members (1)

- In **1951**, the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) is set up by the six founding members Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. 6
 - In **1957**, the Treaty of Rome creates the **European Economic Community** (EEC) or 'Common Market'.
 - In **1973** we have the first enlargement round with three new members including the **United Kingdom**, Ireland and Denmark. 9
 - Greece, Spain and Portugal follow later. 12
 - In **1995** in the fourth enlargement round **Austria**, Finland and Sweden join the EU so that the EU covers almost the whole of Western Europe. 15
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From 6 to 28 EU members (2)

- In **2004** ten new countries join: Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia.
- Romania and Bulgaria join in 2007.
- In **2013** Croatia has so far been the last and 28th country to join the European Union.
- In **2019** the UK is scheduled to leave the EU.



Towards the EU – the Treaties

- 1952 - The European Coal and Steel Community
- **1957** - The Treaties of Rome:
 - The European Economic Community
 - The European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM)
- 1987 - The European Single Act: the Single Market
- 1993 - Treaty on European Union - Maastricht
- 1999 - Treaty of Amsterdam
- 2003 - Treaty of Nice
- 2009 - Treaty of Lisbon



Brexit – open questions

There are still open questions. Many of the questions are related to the ‘Four freedoms’.

1. **Trade:** conditions for the trade between the UK and the UK
2. **People:** the rights of residence
3. **Security:** UK’s boarder with the EU member state Ireland
4. **Finance:** UK’s contribution to the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014 – 2020

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