



# **EuroCivic Lab**

**Strengthening European  
Identity and Citizenship  
through SDGs, Social  
Activism and Living Labs  
Methodology in School  
Education**



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## Project Partners



**Eszterházy Károly Catholic  
University (Hungary)**



**Social Nebula  
(Greece)**



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wien**

**University of Vienna  
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# EuroCivic Lab

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## Who Are the EU Citizens?

**Understanding Democracy, its Challenges &  
Our Participation**

**EuroCivic Student Toolkit — Module 1**

**Let's explore Europe together**



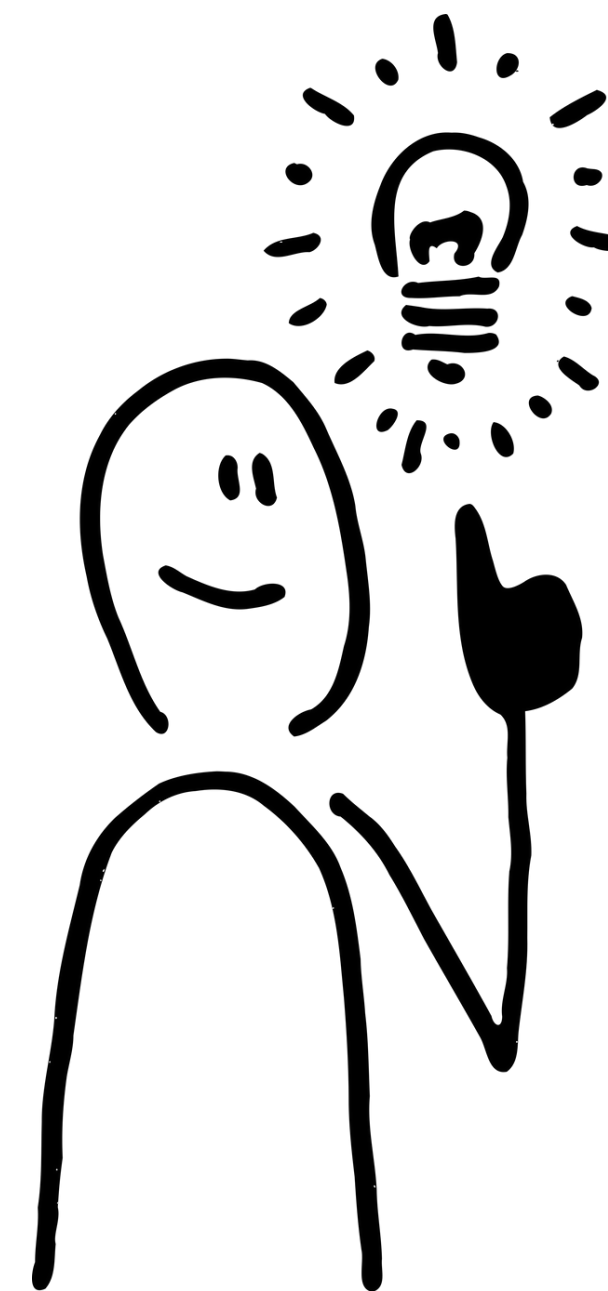
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# Say one word...

Say one word that comes to your mind when you hear 'European Union'.

→ **Warm-up: collect the words on the board before starting the module.**



# What is this handbook about?

- Recognise today's EU challenges
- Understand their effect on our daily life
- Discover how young people can take action
- Connect school life with real-world issues

→ **Do you think young people can bring positive changes in Europe?**



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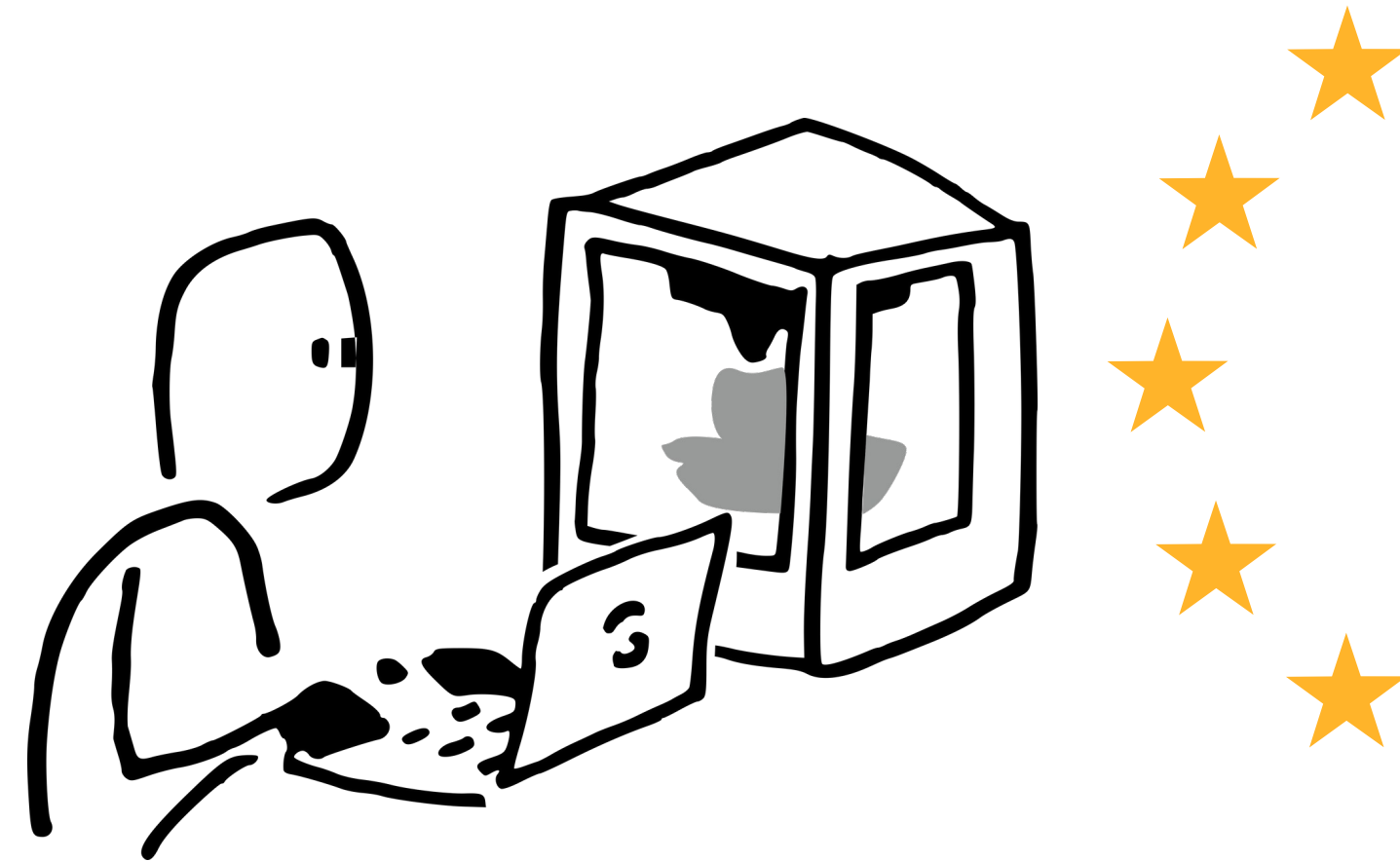
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# Why should we care?

## The world is changing fast!

- Migration
- Climate change
- Wars & conflicts
- Digital technology & AI



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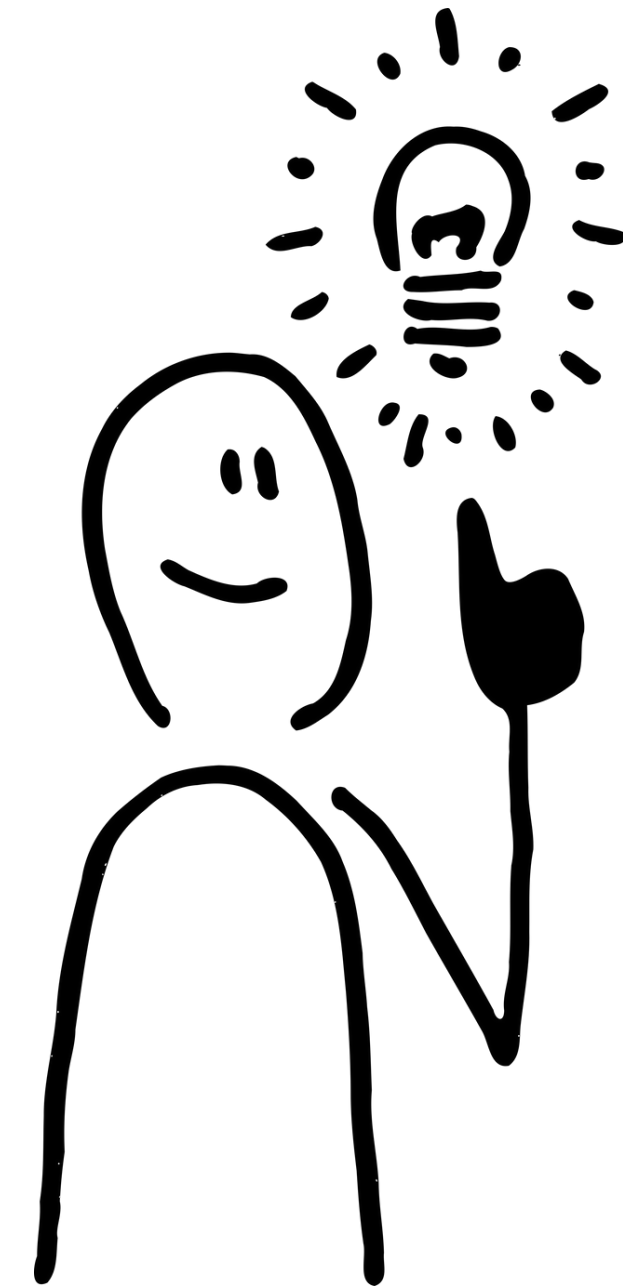
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# Think of the EU as a team of countries...

How many countries do you think are in the team?

→ **Take a quick class guess before revealing the answer.**



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# What is the European Union?

- A group of 27 European countries
- Countries that choose to work together

## **They share:**

- Rules — just like school rules help everyone feel safe and treated fairly, EU rules help countries work together and protect people's rights.
- Institutions — like a student council or school leaders, EU institutions help make decisions, solve problems, and represent citizens' voices.
- Common values — things we believe in together: democracy, peace, human rights, fairness, and respect for others.



# Why was the EU created?

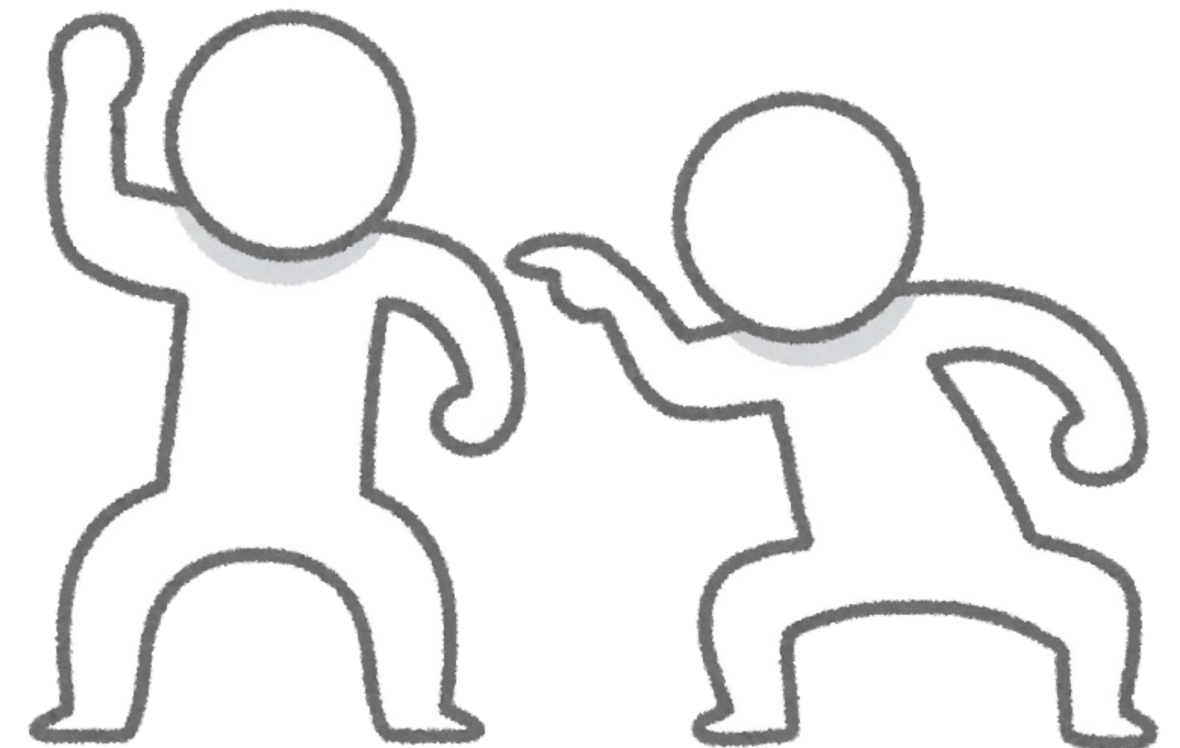
## Europe did not always live in peace.

- Two very destructive wars (World Wars I & II)
- Millions of lives lost

## Countries realised:

- War destroys everything
- Cooperation is better than conflict

→ **Think: what happens when people stop talking and start fighting?**



# From conflict to cooperation

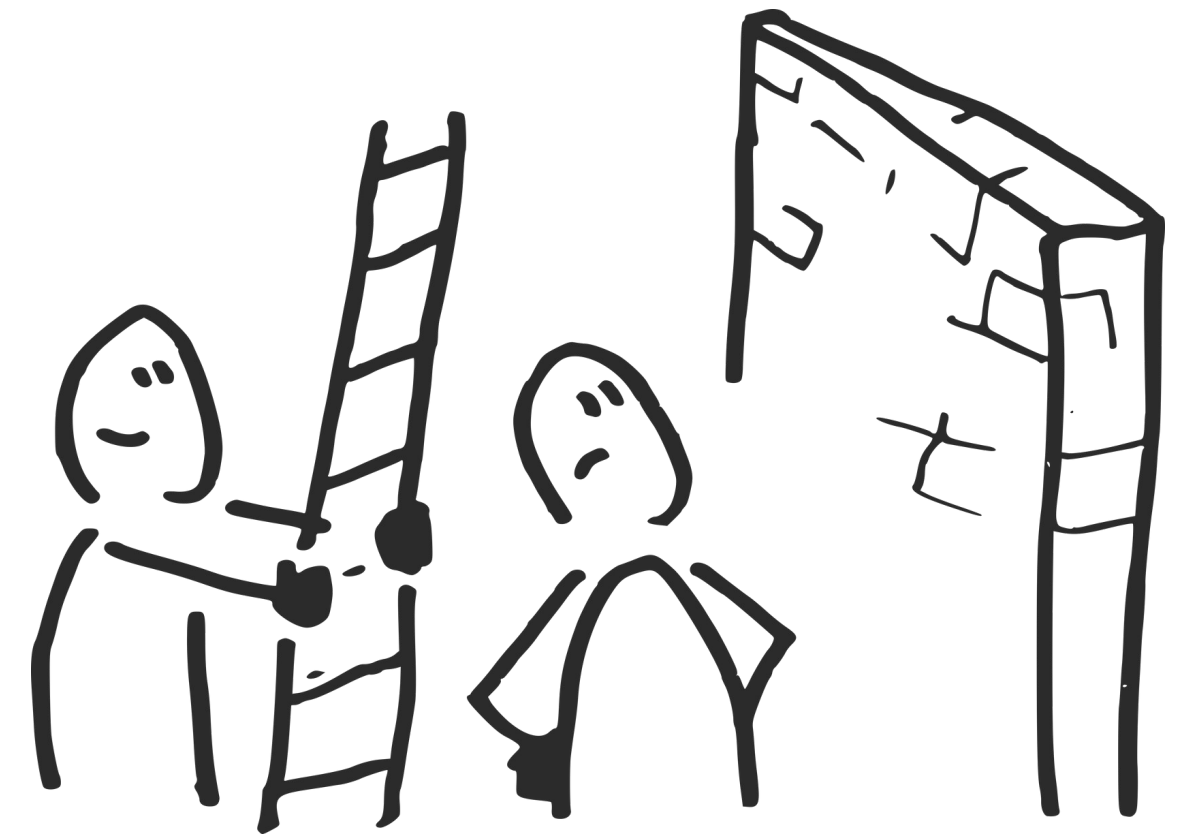
## After the wars:

- Countries decided to work together

## They started by sharing:

- Coal
- Steel
- and... other resources

→ If you share toys, are you more or less likely to fight?



# From Economy to Citizenship

## At first, the EU was about:

- Jobs • Trade • Money

## Later, it became about:

- Rights • Freedom • Equality • Protection
- Citizens became central.

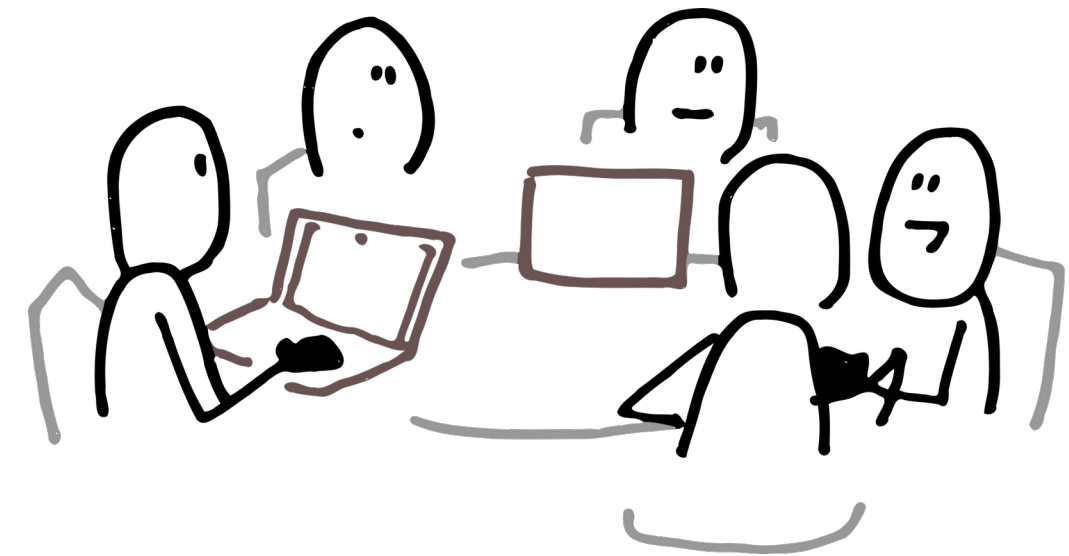
→ **Think: is money important, or are people more important?**



# What is an EU challenge?

- A BIG problem
- That affects many countries
- Cannot be solved by one country alone
- Needs cooperation

→ **Think of a problem that affects more than one country.**



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# EU Challenges

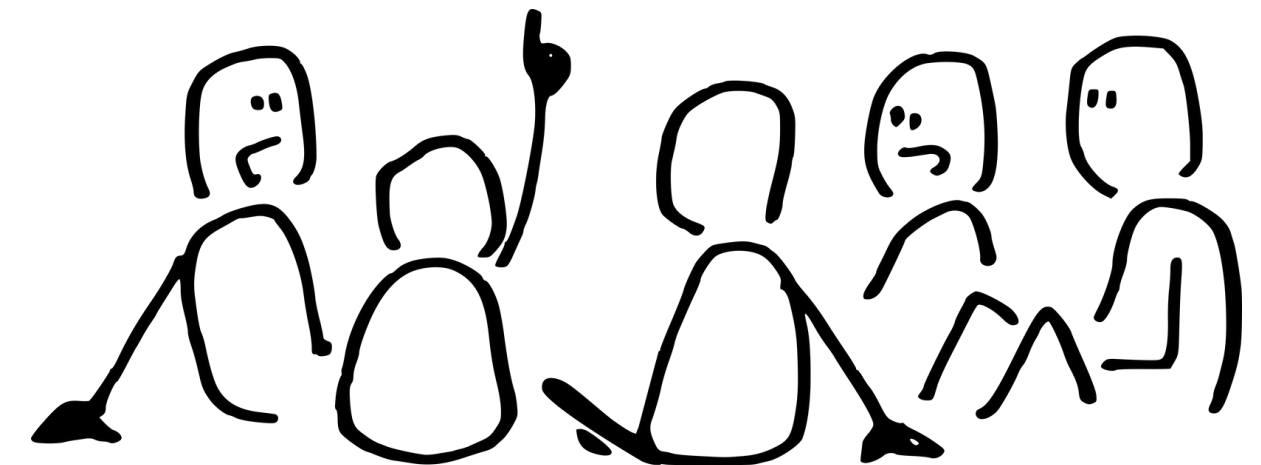
- are shared
- are connected
- affect daily life

## They have:

- Political sides
- Social effects
- and... economic impact

What happens in one country can affect others.

**→ If energy prices rise in one country, does it affect others?**



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# Trust & Euroscepticism

## Some people feel:

- The EU is too far away
- Their voices are not heard
- They don't trust EU institutions

This is called Euroscepticism.

→ **Misinformation can make this worse.**



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# Economic Crises

## Example: the 2008 financial crisis

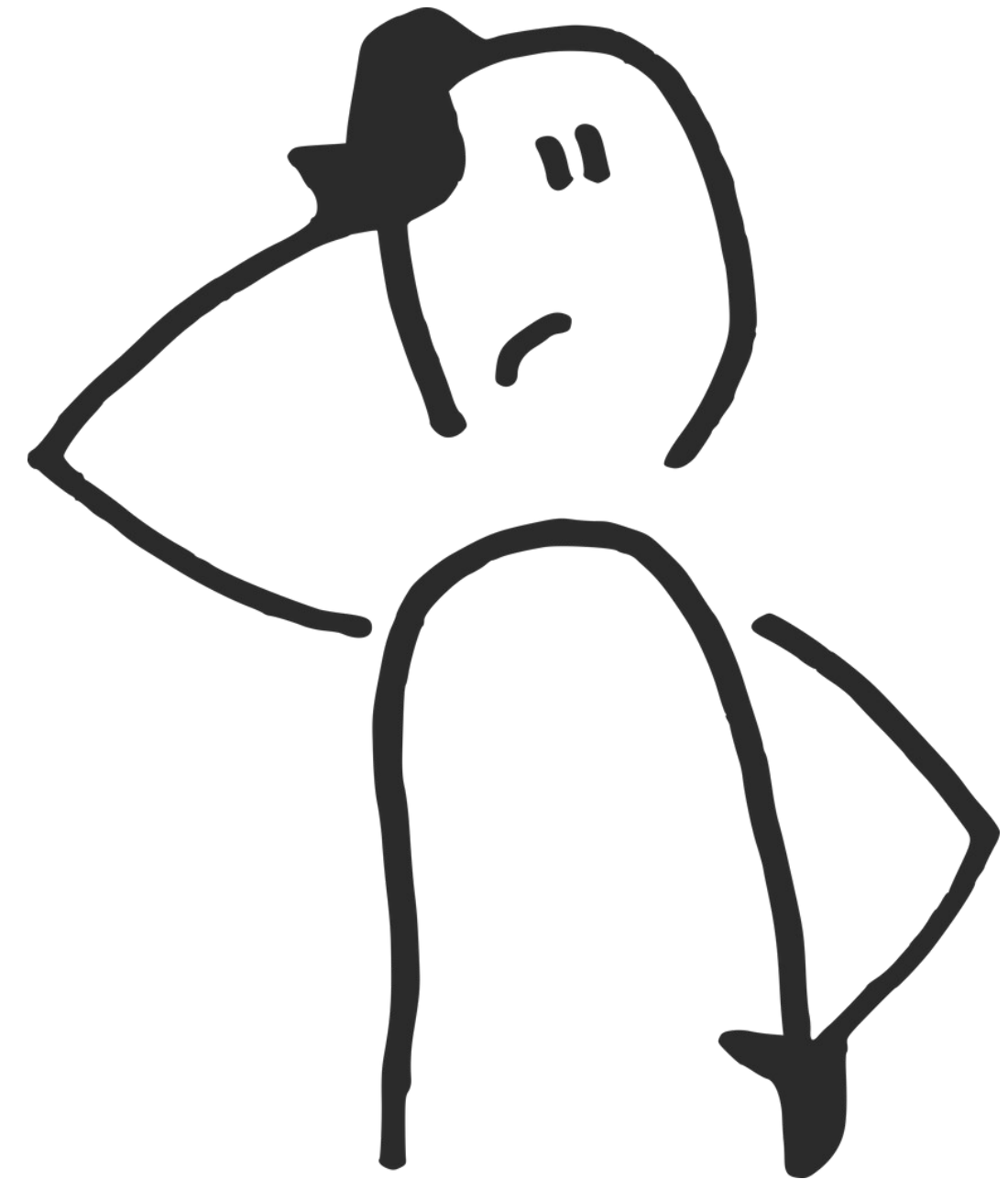
- Jobs were lost
- Inequality increased
- Some countries were hit harder

### This tested:

- Solidarity
- Fairness between countries

Helping each other is not always easy.

→ **Should stronger countries help weaker ones?**



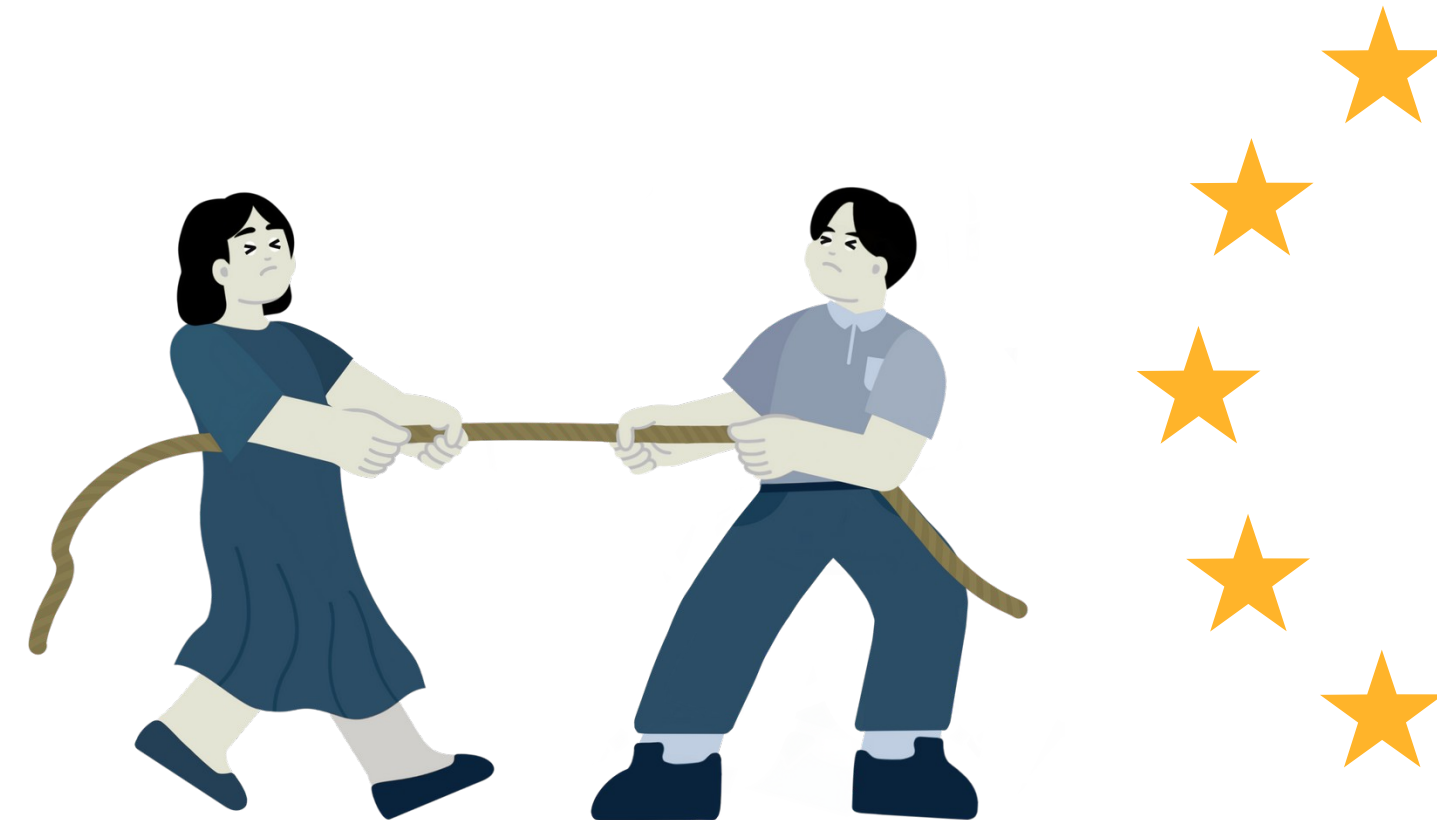
# War & Peace Today

The EU was created as a peace project. But:

- Wars still happen near Europe
- Conflicts affect safety, prices, migration

How to protect peace without contributing to a war?

→ **Class vote: peace first, or security first?**



# Migration: Why Do People Move?

## People migrate because of:

- War
- Poverty
- Climate problems

Many risk their lives to find safety.

- Human rights matter
- Borders matter too

→ **Pause & think: how would you feel if you had to leave your home?**



# Different Views on Migration

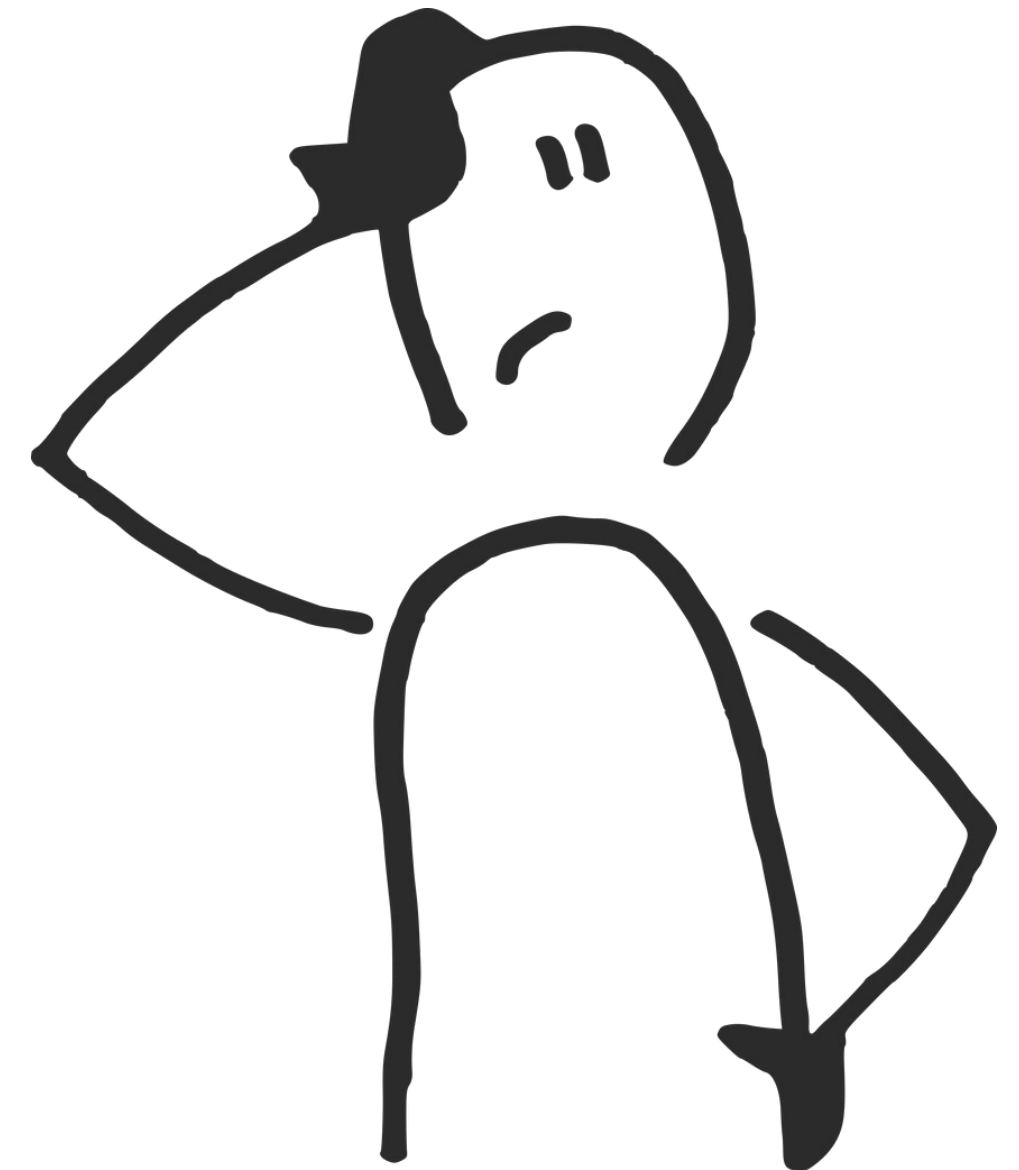
## EU countries disagree:

- Some focus on helping people
- Others focus on strong borders

## This creates:

- Political tension
- Difficult decisions

→ **Group task: give 1 reason for helping migrants and 1 concern countries may have.**



# Climate Change: A Big EU Challenge

## Climate change affects:

- Food
- Health
- Jobs
- Nature

EU goal: become climate neutral by 2050.

→ **What changes in weather have you noticed?**



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# Green Transition — is it easy?

## Moving to green energy is good, but:

- Not all countries are equally rich
- Energy prices can rise
- Some people feel left behind

The green transition must be fair.

→ **How can we protect the planet AND people?**



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# Digital Divide

## Not everyone has:

- Good internet
- Digital devices
- Digital or IT skills

COVID-19 showed the world big differences in education access.

Technology can help — but it can also divide.

→ **Raise your hands: did you have the opportunity to use online learning during COVID?**



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# AI Divide — A New Challenge

## Artificial Intelligence (AI):

- Can help with learning
- Can also increase inequality

## If only some people access AI:

- Gaps become bigger — also a divide

→ **Should everyone have equal access to new technologies?**



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# Democracy in the EU

## Democracy means:

- People have a voice
- Laws protect everyone
- Freedom of media & justice

EU citizens vote for the European Parliament.

Democracy needs trust.

→ **Is voting enough for democracy?**





# Participation Beyond Voting

## Citizens can also:

- Join discussions
- Start initiatives
- Participate in school & community actions

Democracy is an everyday action.

→ **Brainstorm: how can students participate?**



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# Young People as EU Citizens

## Young people are:

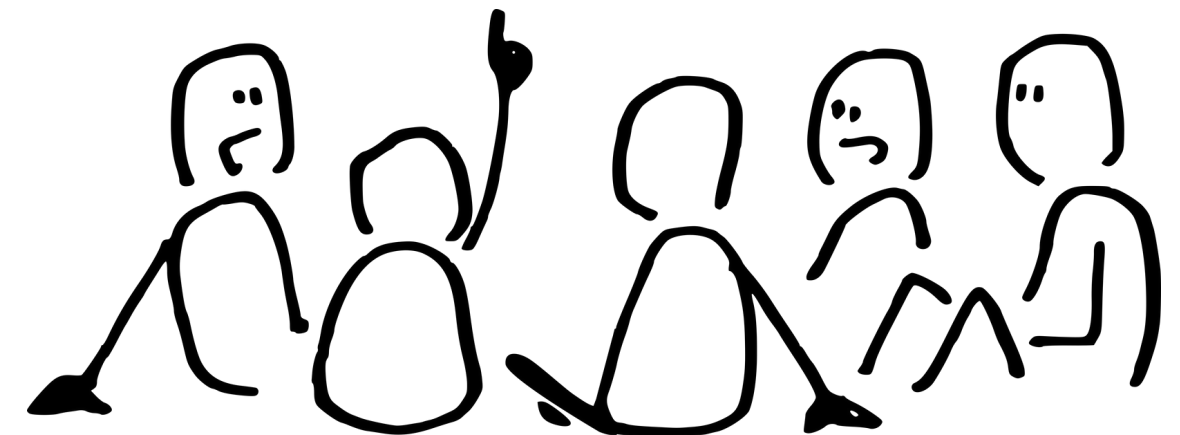
- Not just future citizens
- Citizens now

## They can:

- Share ideas
- Organise actions
- Support others

Youth = agents of change.

→ **Reflection: “One issue I care about is...”**



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# Local Action, European Impact

## Small actions matter:

- School recycling
- Climate clubs
- Helping newcomers
- Fighting fake news

Local actions → European values.

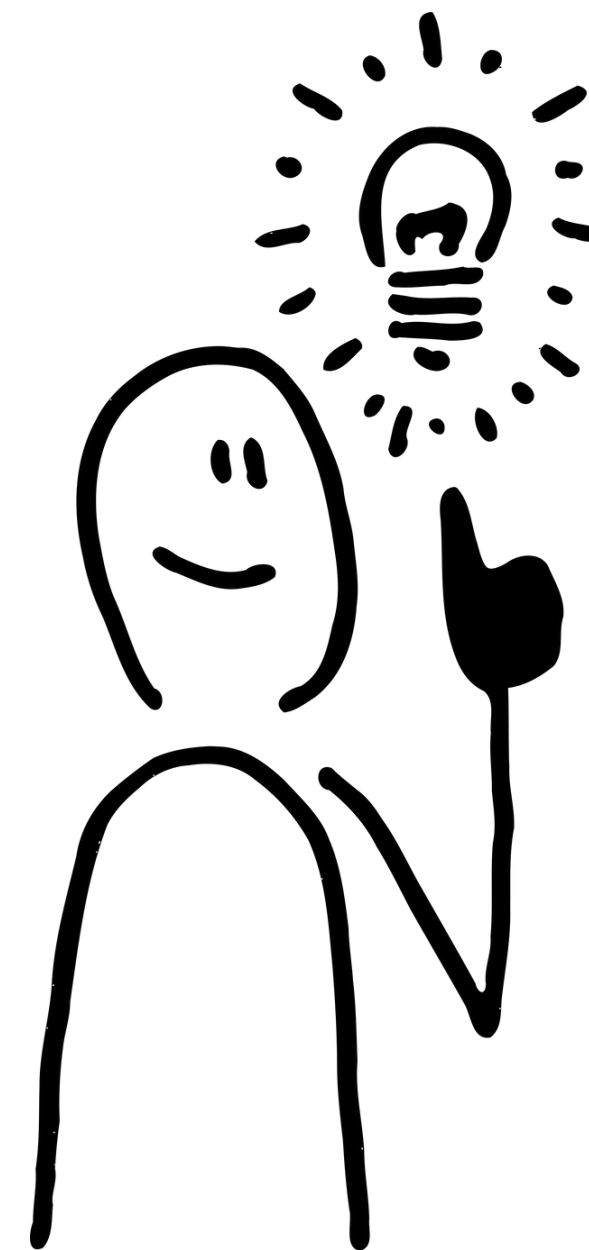
→ **Class task: one action our school could take.**



# Think about this

Which EU challenge affects your life the most, and why?

→ **Write one word or one sentence.**





# Key Message



- EU challenges are shared
  - Democracy needs participation
  - Young people are part of the solution
- You are an EU citizen. Your voice matters.



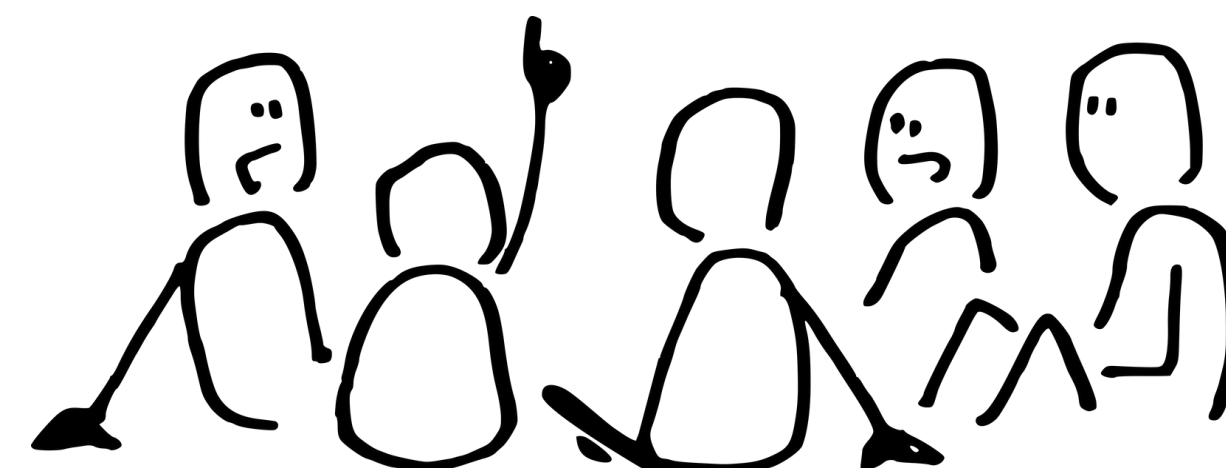
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# Exit ticket

"One thing I learned today..."

→ **Collect the answers at the door as students leave.**



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**Thank You!**

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