



Shared Values in Europe – Reality or Illusion?

Material you need:

internet-enabled device
worksheets M1 & M2

90 minutes

The European Union (EU) is a group of 27 European countries. These countries are very different. They have different histories, cultures, religions, economies, and political systems.

Even so, all EU member states have agreed to work together. They cooperate on laws, the economy, and the protection of rights. The EU is based on shared values that should apply to all member states.

However, it is often debated whether these values are accepted and lived in the same way in every country. In this lesson, you will examine which EU values are controversial and think about how they could be strengthened.

You will work individually and in pairs. Have a look at the symbol behind each task.

Steps:

A

Write down values that you think all EU countries share. Think about politics, society, everyday life, and history. Share your ideas using the online voting tool.

**B**

Research the official goals and values of the European Union on the EU's official website. Write them down in Worksheet M1. Compare your findings with a partner you will continue working with.



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Now that you have found out about the official values of the European Union you will find out more about the implementation in the different member states.

To research information you will work with the Atlas of European Values, a mapping tool showing how people in European countries think about social and political topics.

You will see many topics and opinions on M1.

- C** Mark the EU values in different colors. Then connect the topics to one or more values by using the same colors. Some topics can belong to more than one value.



As a pair choose six EU member states. Assign three to each student and write down the country names and abbreviations on the worksheet M2.

- D** With your partner choose two values and four topics for each value. Then individually research how people in different countries think about these topics using the Atlas of European Values. Collect the results in worksheet M2.



Compare your results with your partner and discuss:

- E**
- Which EU values are especially controversial?
 - In which countries are these values weaker or stronger?
 - Why might this be the case?



- F** Develop ideas on how weakly implemented EU values could be strengthened. Share your ideas on the online board.



Tool for step A



Tool for step F



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