



Academic Preparation Kit

Copyright: Tampereen kaupunki / Hanna Leppänen, 2017

Tampere 2018 – Regional Session of EYP Finland

9–11th of November 2018



This Academic Preparation Kit was compiled for Tampere 2018, one of the Regional Sessions organised by European Youth Parliament Finland. The session will take place in Tampere, Finland, from the 9th to the 11th of November 2018.

OVERVIEWS

The Topic Overviews are written by the Committee Chairpersons and serve as background material. They aim to identify the importance of the issue at hand, as well as the principal matters within it, the interconnections amongst the main actors in those matters and the actions already taken by them, while offering a short look at their possible future development. They are written with the intention of providing stimulating, yet neutral, introductions. It must be noted that the content of the Overviews does not reflect the positions of the European Youth Parliament Finland, and are the sole responsibility of their authors. Likewise, while the regional session will be held under the patronage of various public entities, no claim is made that their views are in any way represented by the contents of this preparation kit.

KEYWORDS

The non-exhaustive list of keywords intends to facilitate the search for information, may that be documents, news items or articles, through different types of search engines, news websites or encyclopaedias.

LINKS

As regards the suggestions of research links, the list is by no means exhaustive. Also, several of the websites may contain relevant information other than the one cited herewith. Several links have been made available through footnotes – all underlined references are hyperlinked to their sources. Please note that the EYP Finland is not responsible for the contents of the various websites; the texts, images and/or audio or video clips reflect the opinions of their authors, only.

We recommend that you print this preparation kit, together with all the research you will conduct on your own and bring all those materials with you to Tampere.

Wishing you a good read and successful preparation,

Joana Cavaco

President, Tampere 2018 - Regional Session of EYP Finland



Table of contents

FOREWORDS	3
READING THE TOPIC OVERVIEWS	6
THE EU EXPLAINED	8
COMMITTEE TOPICS	15
COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND EDUCATION (CULT)	17
COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT (DEVE)	23
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS (DROI)	29
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND MONETARY AFFAIRS (ECON)	36
COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (EMPL)	42
COMMITTEE ON WOMEN’S RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY (FEMM)	49
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE (INTA)	54
COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND ENERGY (ITRE)	59

Forewords

A word from the President of Tampere 2018

My dearest delegates,

First and foremost, I want to personally welcome you to Tampere 2018. Thank you for applying, for filling all the forms and for just being present at this regional session - without you, this experience would not exist. I am addressing you because I want to make sure that you not only understand the work that has been put in making this document but to also encourage you to be your own individual in this sea of committees, journalists, chairs and organisers.

This academic preparation kit was created by your chairpersons *Matias, Teodora, Lisa, Jill, Hanna, Nicola, Riccardo, Austra, Doireann, Christina, Anastasia, Cameron, Christophe, and Anca* - with the help of the board, *Laura, Mariette* and myself. They worked tirelessly in order to create an academic document that is factual, realistic and correct. To make sure that you get a global idea of the problem you were given and make up your own opinion regarding this matter. In the European Youth Parliament (EYP) we value independent thought and we welcome orderly and respectful discussions. Therefore, I encourage you to pour a cup of tea, read this document and enjoy learning about something new. We value your presence and we want you to feel heard and challenged. We want you to hop off your comfort zone and discover the power of informal learning and the magic of EYP.

I hope you enjoy reading the Topic Overviews, enjoy discussing them, all while having fun at Tampere 2018.

Wishing you all happy readings!

Abraços,

Joana Cavaco

President of Tampere 2018



A word from the Editor of Tampere 2018

Dear participants of Tampere 2018!

My name is Yannika and I will be the Editor of the session. I will not be working with the academic part, neither the organisational part. What my Media Team and I will be doing is working behind the scenes, trying to capture the atmosphere of the session. We will not be chairing any committees nor be brewing any coffee, instead we will try to capture your most important moments, producing the pictures and videos you hopefully will be looking back at long after the session.

I wish you all the best!

Yannika Rönqvist

Editor of Tampere 2018



A word from the Head Organisers of Tampere 2018

Hey!

Aarni and I have worked for close to a year on this project, trying to make this Regional Session a reality. Every step of the way, every decision we made, we wanted to make sure you have a great time in Tampere and we couldn't be more excited to finally welcome you to the Tampere 2018 Regional Session of EYP Finland. We realise this may very well be your first EYP session ever, so we hope that you come to Tampere with an open mind over everything. We urge you all to lose yourself for one weekend, talk to people you normally wouldn't, talk about things you normally wouldn't, and engage yourself in ways you normally wouldn't. Don't leave Tampere wishing you had done more. Get the most out of this amazing assembly of 133 bright young minds.

We can't wait to see you all in Tampere,

Alexandra and Aarni,

Head Organisers of Tampere 2018



Reading the Topic Overviews

In this section of the academic preparation kit we will explore every section of the Topic Overviews (TO) individually. It is important to understand each section of the overview and what you as a delegate, can do to take the maximum amount of information from it. You are encouraged to use your own methods when reading the TO's, nevertheless this small guide can be useful if you are a first time delegate and are wondering how to best analyse them.

The EU explained

Even though this is a separate section of the TO, this chapter is essential to understand how the EU works, what it does and what it can do. Even though this might be something that seems not very interesting, this information will be essential for a smooth committee work process. Give it a go and let your Chairperson(s) know if you have any questions. We are here to help you!

What Is the Problem and Why Does This Matter?

This section will help you build up empathy with the topic. It will describe why you, as Finnish delegates, humans, students and EU citizens should (or could) be interested in the topic. You are encouraged to also do your own research, read the articles linked and watch the videos that your Chairpersons carefully added to their text.

Key Actors

This section is a real who is who! Here you will be able to find information about the people, bodies, institutions, organisations and many other that are related to your topic. It is very useful since during committee work you will be asked to discuss these actors and the way they influenced, still influence and can influence your topic.

Key Conflicts

This is one of the most essential parts of the TO. It outlines several situations that can or are hindering the process of actually solving the problem. Here you will be able to understand the most critical aspects of your topic and use that information later on during committee work.

Measures Already in Place

Here you will be able to read about what is being done by governments, institutions, civil societies, organisations *et al* in order to solve your problem. You can draw inspiration from these policies and actions and use them to share knowledge during committee work. It is also an opportunity for you to get acquainted with the basics of European politics and how they influence your topic.

Key Questions

It is normal that you have a lot of questions about your topic. This small list will introduce you to some food for thought and hopefully make you think differently about your topic. As a preparation exercise for the session, you can always try to answer these and bring the answers to the session. Exciting!

Keywords

This section is to guide you when doing independent research and it can also work as a small guide of things you should definitely try to know about before the session.

Links For Further Research

As the title implies, in here you will be able to find not only further information about the topic, but also deepen your knowledge on things you might already know about. Even though there are a couple of links here for you, you are also encouraged to do your own independent research in order to get some fresh perspective on the problem.

The EU explained

I. WHAT IS THE EU?

The European Union (EU) is a unique economic and political partnership between 28 European countries which, together, cover much of the continent. The EU 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. The result was the **European Economic Community (EEC)**, created in 1958, and initially increasing economic cooperation between six countries: Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. Since then, a large single market has been created and continues to develop toward its full potential.

From economic to political union

What began as a purely economic union has evolved into an organisation spanning policy areas, from development aid to environment. A name change from the EEC to the European Union (EU) in 1993 reflected this. The EU is based on the rule of law: everything that it does is founded on treaties, voluntarily and democratically agreed by all the Member States. These binding agreements set out the EU's goals in its many areas of activity.

Mobility, growth, stability and single currency

The EU has delivered half a century of peace, stability and prosperity, helped raise living standards and launched a single European currency, the euro. Thanks to the abolition of border controls between EU countries, people can travel freely throughout most of the continent. And it is become much easier to live and work abroad in Europe. The single or 'internal' market is the EU's main economic engine, enabling most goods, services, money and people to move freely.

Another key objective is to develop this huge resource to ensure that Europeans can draw the maximum benefit from it.

Human rights and equality

One of the EU's main goals is to promote human rights both internally and around the world. Human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights: these are the core values of the EU. Since the 2009 signing of the Treaty of Lisbon, the EU's Charter of Fundamental Rights brings all these rights together in a single document. The EU's institutions are legally bound to uphold them, as are EU governments whenever they apply EU law.

Transparent and democratic institutions

As it continues to grow, the EU remains focused on making its governing institutions more transparent and democratic. More powers are being given to the directly elected European Parliament, while national parliaments are being given a greater role, working alongside the European institutions. In turn, European citizens have an ever-increasing number of channels for taking part in the political process.

II. HOW DOES THE EU WORK?

The institutional structure of the EU cannot be compared to that of any other international organisation (e.g., the North Atlantic Treaty Organization or the United Nations). It is neither a centralised unity like a nation state, nor does it imitate a relatively loose structure, such as the Commonwealth of Nations or a confederation like the United States of America. The structure is unique and continuously developed. The Treaty of Lisbon marks the last big step in this process.

A. MAIN INSTITUTIONS

1. Within the institutional triangle

European Commission

The European Commission (EC) is the ‘executive’ power of the EU. One Commissioner is appointed by each Member State. The Commissioners are appointed by their respective Member States, approved by the European Parliament and put in charge of specific issues. The EC monitors the Member State’s and the Union’s adherence to the *acquis communautaire* (the ensemble of all EU legislation), represents the Union in its foreign relations and has the exclusive Right of Initiative.

European Parliament

The European Parliament (EP) is the first part of the EU’s legislative branch and consists of 766 Members of Parliament (commonly, MEPs), who are elected for five-year mandates by all EU citizens (over 18 years old, in Austria over 16). The EP is divided into seven large fractions plus several independent MEPs. The biggest three fractions are the European People’s Party pooling Christian Democrats (EPP), followed by the Party of European Socialists (PES) and by the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats Party (ALDE). It works either in a big plenary or in its 20 different Committees, each responsible for specific issue areas. The EP shares its legislative competences with the Council of the European Union.

Council of the European Union (Council of Ministers)

Also known as ‘the Council’, the Council of the EU is structured in issue-specific groups (councils), comprising the respective Ministers of the Member States (e.g., the Council for Justice and Home Affairs, with all Ministers of the Interior/Home Affairs). The presidency of the Council changes every six months and the ‘president’ in office supplies the different councils with a Chairperson, with the exception of the council on Foreign Affairs, which is presided to by the High Representative. The issue areas are mirrored in those of the EP (e.g., environment, education, economy, budget), with whom the Council shares its legislative competences. Additionally, the Council also has executive powers.

2. Outside the institutional triangle

European Council

The European Council (no standard abbreviation is used) is an EU institution comprising the heads of state or heads of government of the Member States, along with the council's own President and the President of the European Commission. The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy takes part in its meetings. The European Council was established as an informal body in 1975; it became an official EU institution in 2009, when the Treaty of Lisbon entered into force. While the European Council has no formal legislative power, it is charged under the Treaty of Lisbon with defining “the general political directions and priorities” of the Union. It is thus the Union's strategic (and crisis-solving) body, acting as the collective presidency of the EU.

European Central Bank

The European Central Bank (ECB) is the central bank for the euro and administers the monetary policy of the euro area, which consists of 18 EU member states and is one of the largest currency areas in the world. It is one of the world's most important central banks. The bank was established by the Treaty of Amsterdam in 1998, and is headquartered in Frankfurt, Germany. The owners and shareholders of the European Central Bank are the central banks of the 28 Member States of the EU.

Court of Justice of the European Union

The Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) is an EU institution that encompasses the whole judiciary. Seated in Luxembourg, it consists of two major courts and a number of specialised courts. The institution was originally established in 1952 as the Court of Justice of the European Coal and Steel Communities (as of 1958 the Court of Justice of the European Communities (CJEC)). In 2009, with the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon, the court changed to its current name. Its mission is to ensure that “the law is observed (...) in the interpretation and application” of the Treaties. The Court reviews the legality of the acts of any EU institution, ensures that the Member States comply with obligations under the Treaties and interprets EU law at the request of the national courts. It consists of two major courts: i) the European Court of Justice (created in 1952), the highest court in the EU legal system; ii) the General Court (created in 1988; formerly the Court of First Instance);

3. Not an EU body!

Council of Europe

The Council of Europe (CoE) is an international organisation promoting cooperation amongst all countries of Europe in the areas of legal standards, human rights, democratic development, the rule of law and cultural cooperation. It was founded in 1949, has 47 Member States with over 800 million citizens, and is an entirely separate body from the EU. The CoE cannot make binding laws. Its best known bodies are the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), which enforces the European Convention on Human Rights, and the European Pharmacopoeia Commission, which sets the quality standards for pharmaceutical products in Europe. The Council of Europe's work has resulted in standards, charters and conventions to facilitate cooperation between European countries. Its statutory institutions are the Committee of Ministers (comprising the foreign ministers of each of its 47 Member States), the Parliamentary Assembly (composed of MPs from the parliament of each Member State) and the Secretary General.

B. WHAT CAN THE EU DO?

1. Exclusive competences – as per Article 2 (1) and Article 3 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)

In these areas, only the EU may legislate and adopt legally binding acts. Exceptions are possible if the EU empowers Member States to act or with regard to the implementation of Union acts.

- The customs union, including an internal free trade area with common customs tariffs (Art. 31 TFEU).
- The monetary policy of the EU for the Member States whose currency is the euro, overseen by the European Central Bank and with certain precepts formulated in the Stability and Growth Pact (Art. 129 (3) and (4), Arts. 132, 138, 219 TFEU).
- Competition rules controlling state aid from national governments and the actions of companies necessary for the functioning of the internal market.
- A common international trade policy, e.g., a common position in international trade negotiations (Art. 207 TFEU).
- The conclusion of certain international agreements (Art. 3 (2) TFEU).
- Common commercial policy.
- The conservation of marine biological resources (part of the Common Fisheries Policy, Art. 38 (1) TFEU).

2. Shared EU competences – as per Art. 2 (2) and Art. 4 TFEU

These are policy areas on which the Member States have agreed to act individually if the EU has not exercised (or planned to exercise) its competence. If a policy area is neither exclusive nor falls under supportive actions, it is a shared competence. Some examples are:

- Internal market;
- Economic, social and territorial cohesion;
- Agriculture and fishing (except the conservation of marine biological resources);
- Social policy;
- Transport;
- Environment, pollution and energy;
- Consumer protection;
- Area of Freedom, Security and Justice.

3. Supporting, coordinating or complementary competences – as per Art. 2 (5), Art. 6 TFEU

The EU can financially support the actions of the Member states that have agreed to coordinate their domestic policies through the EU. However, it does not entail harmonisation of regulations. These areas include:

- Education, vocational training, youth and sport;
- Tourism;
- Administrative cooperation;
- Civil protection;
- Protection and improvement of human health;
- Industry;
- Culture.

C. LEGAL ACTS OF THE EU

While the EU can issue several types of legal acts, not all are fully binding for its Member States. These acts are named according to their legal strength and are divided into:

- *Regulations* – have to be strictly adhered to in all Member States and leave no room for adjustments during the implementation process;
- *Directives* – provide a framework and give a certain policy direction, leaving the states with more flexibility and room for adjustments;
- *Decisions* – always address certain recipients and are only valid for those specific countries/people/institutions;
- *Recommendations* – without legal force, but negotiated and voted on according to the appropriate procedure, they are not binding for the Member States;
- *Opinions* – similar to recommendations in that they have no legal force, but not voted on, simply emitted.

The European legislative procedure runs considerably longer than those of most Member States. In brief: the EC (which has the exclusive Right to Initiative), the Council and the EP decide if the proposal becomes a legal act after having discussed relevant details. General policy guidelines and statements, especially from the EP, are formulated in Resolutions. They can entail instructions for future procedures, as well as regulations, which are formally valid in the Member States. Legal acts passed by the EP and the Council enter into force once the national governments have transposed them into national law. The combined legal heritage of the EU, including all legal acts, contracts and treaties is known as the *acquis communautaire*.

III. FURTHER RESEARCH

A. GENERAL LINKS

To learn more about the EU, its institutions and instruments, please visit their respective websites, below.

1. European Union

http://europa.eu/index_en.htm

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book:European_Union

2. EU-Institutions

<http://eu2012.dk/en/EU-and-the-Presidency/About-EU/EU-Background/EUInstitutions>

3. European Neighbourhood Policy

http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/index_en.htm

4. Enlargement

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/index_en.htm

5. Common Foreign and Security Policy

http://europa.eu/pol/cfsp/index_en.htm

http://europa.eu/agencies/regulatory_agencies_bodies/security_agencies/index_en.htm

6. Lisbon Treaty

http://europa.eu/lisbon_treaty/index_en.htm

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/6901353.stm>

<http://www.robert-schuman.eu/doc/divers/lisbonne/en/10fiches.pdf>

7. Treaty on European Union (TEU)

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2008:115:0013:0045:EN:PDF>

8. Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2008:115:0047:0199:en:PDF>

9. TFEU with explanations

<http://en.euabc.com/upload/books/lisbon-treaty-3edition.pdf>

10. Europe 2020

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:2020:FIN:EN:PDF>

11. Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/charter/pdf/text_en.pdf

B. QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

After you have read the Topic Overviews, it is recommended that you take the time to consider the questions therein, as well as the ones below. This will be an important phase in preparation and will greatly aid you clarify your own stance on the matters at hand (which, in turn, is crucial for you to have decided by the time you start writing your Position Paper).

1. What is the legal basis for the Committee Topic?
2. What are the relevant EU competences?
3. What are the relevant EU institutions?
4. Who decides on policies?
5. Is an EU-level solution desirable?
6. What are the short-term and long-term implications?
7. What type of further legislation is needed?

Committee Topics

Committee on Culture and Education (CULT): page 17

The European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health, states that even though sexual education in schools is mandatory in almost every EU state by law, the quality and content can differ greatly amongst Member States - often concentrating lessons solely on the communication of biological facts, neglecting social and psychological aspects, as well as essential communication skills. **How can this one-sided orientation be broadened in order to achieve a higher quality school-based sexuality education while providing students with not only a comprehensive and inclusive approach but with the possibility of discussing a wide range of subjects without taboo?**

Committee on Development (DEVE): page 23

Since it was founded in 2007, the European Progress Microfinance Facility, has since then supported more than 30,473 SME's by increasing access to finance for micro-entrepreneurs, including but not restricted to, groups with limited access to the conventional credit market, such as female entrepreneurs, young entrepreneurs, entrepreneurs belonging to a minority group. Nevertheless, the fragmented regulatory frameworks at national level can favour banks over microfinance providers and make it difficult for the latter to challenge the rules. **How can policy makers promote microfinancing activity while also cooperating with stakeholder banks, that lend to SMEs in the old fashioned way, to further increase access to microfinance?**

Committee on Human Rights (DROI): page 29

From Calais to Moria, refugee camps are spread across Europe to serve as safe havens to those who seek asylum. But lack of housing infrastructures and essential medical facilities, poor security, malnutrition and above all, a status of uncertainty due to the slow processing of asylum requests, results in refugees being exposed to dangerous and life threatening conditions. **How can the EU further cooperate with not only governments but NGO's and even civil societies, to not only improve living conditions in the camps but to also allow refugees to recover and integrate their surroundings?**

Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON): page 36

Released to the public in 2009, Bitcoin's white paper flashed the potential of open innovation. As Bitcoin and other public blockchains grow, new intermediary platforms, distributed ledgers and patented technologies emerge, recreating proprietary digital barriers between transacting individuals. **How can the EU ensure that blockchain technology remains an equitable and open innovation led technology?**

Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL): page 42

A social enterprise combines entrepreneurial activity with a social purpose. Its main aim is to have a social impact, rather than maximise profit for owners or shareholders. Yet, only seven European countries have policy frameworks in place to encourage and support the development of social enterprises due to poor understanding of the concept of social enterprise, lack of specialist business development services, few supportive legislative frameworks and the absence of common mechanisms for measuring and demonstrating impact. **How can the EU support social entrepreneurship, while encapsulating a dynamic, diverse and entrepreneurial movement that combines economic activity with social missions, and the promotion of inclusive growth?**

Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM): page 49

From victim blaming to being fearful of law enforcement mechanisms and justice systems, survivors of sexual violence and intimidation are reluctant to report any incidents to the rightful authorities. Underreporting makes sexual violence notoriously difficult to measure while also contributing to the dismissal of necessary follow-up measures. **With reporting, recording and prosecution rates of sexual offences substantially below the real rates of occurrence, what can governments and civil society do to close that gap?**

Committee on International Trade (INTA): page 54

After the Lisbon Treaty, promoting ‘fair trade’ has become one of the long-term objectives of the EU international trading partners, by setting up key international labour and environment standards and agreements amongst the rectification of international deals. **What can the EU do to further work with partners to strengthen the competitiveness of fairtrade exporters, through a broad offer of tools and services, to help build vibrant and sustainable export sectors that provide economic opportunities to all?**

Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE): page 59

Over the past 200 years, employment numbers have persistently increased due to technological development. The development of robotics and Artificial Intelligence (AI) may have the potential to transform lives and work practices, drive efficiency, increase savings, and improve safety levels in areas such as transport, medical care, rescue, education and farming. **What can the European Commission and the Member States do to foster AI entrepreneurship, research programmes, and explore long-term risks and opportunities of AI and robotics technologies while encouraging the initiation of a structured public dialogue on the consequences of their development?**



COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND EDUCATION (CULT)

*The European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health, states that even though sexual education in schools is mandatory in almost every EU state by law, the quality and content can differ greatly amongst Member States - often concentrating lessons solely on the communication of biological facts, neglecting social and psychological aspects, as well as essential communication skills. **How can this one-sided orientation be broadened in order to achieve a higher quality school-based sexuality education while providing students with not only a comprehensive and inclusive approach but with the possibility of discussing a wide range of subjects without taboo?***

Chairpersons: Jill Somers (IE) & Austra Grīviņa (LV)

1. What Is the Problem and Why Does This Matter?

There are certain standards for sexuality education in Europe held by European parliament and it is mandatory by law in nearly all EU Member States (MS) to provide sexuality education in their school curriculum¹. The problem is however that the content and quality may vary greatly not only between the Member States but also from school to school which results in more and more cases of young people infected with HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), unintended teenage pregnancies since about 14 million girls between ages 15 and 19 give birth each year and complications of pregnancy and childbirth for this age group are a leading cause of death², also sexual violence, taking into account that 79% of female rape victims report that the rape occurred before age 25^{3, 4}.

It has been observed that Nordic and Benelux countries have the highest quality of sexuality education while Eastern and Southern European states have deficient or even non-existent sexuality education programmes, there it's not uncommon for sexuality to be a taboo at school as well as at home⁵, however sexuality education goes hand-in-hand with one's development, social behaviour and manners.⁶ This is why it is a critical area of education and social policy. It provides information to children, teenagers and young adults about sexuality; how to know the difference between an abusive and a healthy relationship, how to use protection - practice safe sex and self-determine their sexuality and identity by introducing them to terms like LGBT+, abstinence and consent. These factors are also essential for protecting themselves from possible risks when becoming sexually active.

Experts say that where sexuality⁷ education is of a higher quality and with efficient content, the level of HIV infection is lower, gender-based violence well as early and unintended teenage pregnancies are rarer and gender equality is more respected.

2. Key Actors

1. **The European Union (EU)** - As far as the legal framework for sexuality education is concerned the EU doesn't have policy-making competencies in this, as education is the responsibility of the Member States. The EU however **provides EU funding** for education and training activities and makes recommendations like [Standards for sexual education in Europe](#).
2. **Member states** - responsible for implementation of such directives and programmes from the European Commission through their ministries of education and health.

¹ Regional overview of the status of sexuality education in EU https://www.bzga-whocc.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Dokumente/BZgA_Regional_Overview_online_EN.pdf

² Adolescent birth rate https://www.measureevaluation.org/prh/rh_indicators/womens-health/arh/adolescent-birth-rate

³ Sexual abuse statistics <https://www.teenhelp.com/sexual-abuse-trauma/sexual-abuse-statistics/>

⁴ Policies for sexual education in the EU: [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/note/join/2013/462515/IPOL-FEMM_NT\(2013\)462515_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/note/join/2013/462515/IPOL-FEMM_NT(2013)462515_EN.pdf)

⁵ Purpose for standards for sexual education in Europe https://www.oif.ac.at/fileadmin/OEIF/andere_Publikationen/WHO_BZgA_Standards.pdf

⁶ The impact of sexuality education for young people http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/expert/2011-12_Kirby_Expert-Paper.pdf

⁷ Sexuality education reducing the rates of HIV <https://en.unesco.org/news/why-comprehensive-sexuality-education-important>

3. **World Health Organisation (WHO)** - directs and coordinates international health within the United Nations system doing research, creating materials, funds and foundations.
4. **Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)** - Works independently both internationally and within the member states. Their role is especially recognized because of their access to minorities and vulnerable social groups.
5. **Individual Schools** - are granted varying amounts of autonomy by national governments in relation to the sexuality education curriculum. For example in the Finnish system local authorities determine how much autonomy is passed on to schools⁸ and in the Irish system schools can opt out of certain programmes if they feel the clash with their religious ethos⁹.
6. **Individual teachers** - also play a bigger role in students sexuality education than they may realise. The way in which topics surrounding sexual health and sexuality topics are approached and the nature in which they are discussed have an impact on the effectiveness of sexuality education.

3. Key Conflicts

One of the main reasons for the disparities in the quality of sexuality education between member states is due to their **cultural and religious traditions**. For example, countries where Catholic or Protestant churches have had great influence in the countries' culture¹⁰ such as in Ireland where church and state are not separate and the catholic church has ownership of 90% of primary schools¹¹.

Another aspect of culture is the **general openness** of citizens in discussing issues surrounding sexuality. The Dutch Model of sexual education has been praised as a model for other countries. Young people's education stretches beyond the classroom. Parents in the Netherlands take a very pragmatic approach. They know their children are going to have sex, and they are ready to prepare them and to speak with them about their responsibility¹². However, many parents, in the UK for example, find the approach of teaching children from a young age about sex to be **inappropriate**¹³.

Oftentimes girls and boys are separated for the sexual education they receive despite 65 percent of students stating they **prefer mixed-gender instruction**¹⁴. A problem with this gender based separation is that it paints sexuality as secretive or shameful and it is something that cannot be discussed openly in mixed company¹⁵.

The training of teachers on sexuality education is often a neglected element. Teacher training is also essential because these topics can be sensitive and teachers may find them difficult to handle. The focus of

⁸ [Education system](#)

⁹ <https://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/bill-would-end-religious-ethos-opt-out-for-sex-ed-469101.html>

¹⁰ [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/note/join/2013/462515/IPOL-FEMM_NT\(2013\)462515_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/note/join/2013/462515/IPOL-FEMM_NT(2013)462515_EN.pdf)

¹¹ <https://www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Information/Diversity-of-Patronage/Diversity-of-Patronage-Survey-of-Parents.html>

¹² <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0012/001201/120152e.pdf>

¹³ <https://www.bbc.com/news/education-13292133>

¹⁴ https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/2018/10/19/why-we-shouldnt-be-separating-boys-girls-sex-ed/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.e7f1468d125c

¹⁵ <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/protecting-children-sexual-abuse/201802/should-boys-and-girls-get-sexual-education-separately>

good sexuality education lies not just on the transfer of knowledge, but also on discussing positive values and behavioural skills. In only three of 25 countries surveyed by the WHO had the majority of teachers been sufficiently trained on sexuality education¹⁶.

4. Measures Already in Place

There have been many initiatives at the European and global level promoting good quality sexual education. An example is “**The Safe Project**” which aims to emphasise “the sexual and reproductive health and rights of all youth across Europe through better cooperation among EU countries, coordination between agencies and harmonization of public health policies, health promotion strategies and programmes”.¹⁷ The EU is also involved in a project called “**Boys and Girls**”. This project develops informational resources in collaboration with sexual health specialists, doctors and social workers about sexual education targeting teenagers and young adults¹⁸.

With the implementation of **The Lisbon Treaty** in 2009, the principles of the **Charter of fundamental rights** gained the same binding force as the principles of the European treaties. **These guarantee the right to education about sexuality.**¹⁹

Sexual health education is also loosely mentioned in the **EU framework of public health**, article 168 of the treaty of the functioning of the EU.²⁰ However, the EU has no competences to propose concrete policies for sexual education in the Member states. It can only influence on how sexuality education programmes are established indirectly by promoting EU created programs like the ones previously mentioned.

5. Key Questions

- Why is sexuality education important for young people?
- What risk does inadequate sexuality education provide?
- How can we balance providing young people with all the relevant information they need to make informed decisions about their sexuality with respecting the discomfort this could create, specifically for those from a conservative religious background?
- How do we create an environment in which young people feel they can openly discuss issues and educators can comprehensively inform them?
- Is sexuality education a healthcare issue or a social issue?

¹⁶ https://www.ippfen.org/sites/ippfen/files/2018-05/Comprehensive%20Country%20Report%20on%20CSE%20in%20Europe%20and%20Central%20Asia_0.pdf

¹⁷ “The Safe Project” <http://www.ysafe.net/SAFE/>

¹⁸ “Boys and Girls” http://www.boysandgirlslabs.eu/?page_id=70

¹⁹ Summary of the Lisbon treaty <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/about-parliament/en/powers-and-procedures/the-lisbon-treaty>

²⁰ Article 168 <http://www.lisbon-treaty.org/wcm/the-lisbon-treaty/treaty-on-the-functioning-of-the-european-union-and-comments/part-3-union-policies-and-internal-actions/title-xiv-public-health/456-article-168.html>

6. Keywords

- **SRH:** Sexual and Reproductive Health
- **SRHR:** Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
- **IPPF EN:** International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network
- **STD:** Sexually Transmitted Disease
- **STI:** Sexually Transmitted Infection
- **Sexuality:** Capacity for sexual feelings.
- **Comprehensive sex education (CSE):** a [sex education](#) instruction method based on-curriculum that aims to give students the knowledge, attitudes, skills and values to make appropriate and healthy choices in their sexual lives
- **Teenage pregnancy:** a teenage girl, usually within the ages of 13-19, becoming pregnant.
- **Sexual Health:** is the integration of the somatic, emotional, intellectual and social aspects of sexual being in ways that are positively enriching and that enhance personality, communication and love.

7. Links For Further Research

- This Guardian article on sexual education highlights the need for sexuality education needs to be updated to stay relevant in the digital age.
<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2018/jul/19/campaigners-criticise-delay-in-updating-sex-education-curriculum>
- This compendium was created as a result of The Safe Project II and includes an overview of young people's SRHR policies, comprehensive sexuality education, young people's access to sexual and reproductive health services and young people's access to safe abortion services.
https://www.ifpa.ie/sites/default/files/compendium_on_young_peoples_sexual_and_reproductive_health_and_rights_policies_in_europe.pdf
- A very interesting ted talk. Although American-based it shows how we talk about sexuality and how it can create an unhealthy culture around sex.
https://www.ted.com/talks/al_vernacchio_sex_needs_a_new_metaphor_heres_one?utm_campaign=tedspread&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=tedcomshar
- An IPPF report on sex ed in Europe and Asia that gives an overview on 25 countries.
https://www.ippfen.org/sites/ippfen/files/2018-05/Comprehensive%20Country%20Report%20on%20CSE%20in%20Europe%20and%20Central%20Asia_0.pdf



- Washington Post article about educating boys and girls separately and the social effects that has.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/2018/10/19/why-we-shouldnt-be-separating-boys-girls-sex-ed/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.31cda5514cab

COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT (DEVE)

*Since it was founded in 2007, the European Progress Microfinance Facility, has since then supported more than 30,473 SME's by increasing access to finance for micro-entrepreneurs, including but not restricted to, groups with limited access to the conventional credit market, such as female entrepreneurs, young entrepreneurs, entrepreneurs belonging to a minority group. Nevertheless, the fragmented regulatory frameworks at national level can favour banks over microfinance providers and make it difficult for the latter to challenge the rules. **How can policy makers promote microfinancing activity while also cooperating with stakeholder banks, that lend to SMEs in the old fashioned way, to further increase access to microfinance?***

Chairperson: Riccardo Rastello (IT)

1. What Is the Problem and Why Does This Matter?

Microfinance in Europe has witnessed an **impressive outburst** and a **steady growth** in the last years, as the “Microfinance Barometer 2018” by the platform Convergences demonstrates: in 2017, the surveyed Microfinance Institutions reported almost 1 million total active borrowers, with a gross microloan portfolio of 3.1 million euros. Moreover, if considering a six-year time-span (2012-2017), the research shows a growth rate in microfinancing activities upwards of 50%²¹.

Despite this positive trend, the Barometer denounces the still present flaws of the microfinance system in Europe. In fact, **microfinance institutions (MFIs) still lack “adequate public and private support** to ensure a wider outreach to the underserved, to constantly improve their institutional capacity and to be able to stay at the forefront of social and technological innovation.”²²

Indeed, the **financial performance** of a sample of MFIs analysed **has been worsening since 2016**, particularly in the Western European MFIs where the return on equity has been negative in the last years. This poses a dangerous challenge to MFIs, because in the “struggle to find a **balance between social and financial performance**, a decline in their profitability threatens their viability”, that is to say their ability to deliver microfinance to individuals or groups excluded from traditional financing systems.

Moreover, the **Member States’ strict regulatory frameworks and the differences among the various Member States’ frameworks themselves** can potentially **suffocate the activity of non-conventional financial services providers such as MFIs**. For example, there are countries where microcredit is considered part of credit to SMEs, which “does not facilitate its recognition as a specific sector”²³, countries where microfinancing is little known and the regulatory framework has not evolved, countries which recognise only to banks the right to officially lend money and therefore established a system based on partnerships between MFIs and banks, etc. As a further matter, due to the presence of European banking system regulation, **the establishment of favourable national legislation for MFIs could contravene certain EU Directives**: for instance, according to EU law, if an MFI were interested in offering deposit services, it would have to apply for a bank license, since only banks are allowed to provide this kind of service²⁴. This further increases the risk of hindering the development of alternative ways to offer financial services.

2. Key Actors

- **European Commission:** it is the main executive body of the European Union. It has supported microenterprises and MFIs through a series of initiatives ranging from the launch and management of the “Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) programme” (a EU financing instrument which includes the European Progress Microfinance Facility) and the development of the European Code of good Conduct for Microcredit Provision.

²¹ Convergences: Microfinance Barometer” 2018, p. 4

²² Ibid.

²³ “Creating Jobs in Europe: Legal and Regulatory Frameworks of Microenterprises and Microcredit in Europe: A TrustLaw publication by the Thomson Reuters Foundation for Adie”, September 2011, p. 153

²⁴ Oxford Business Law Blog, Eugenia Macchiavello, “European banking law evolution and the future of microfinance and socially responsible operators”, 20 October 2017

- **European Investment Bank (EIB):** it is the European Union’s bank and aims at contributing to EU policy objectives by providing finance and expertise. More than 90% of its activity is located in Europe, where it focuses mainly on four priority areas: “Innovation and skills”, “Access to finance for smaller businesses”, “Infrastructure” and “Climate and environment”. It is not to be confused with the European Central Bank, which is the central bank of the Eurozone and manages its monetary policy.
- **European Investment Fund:** part of the EIB group, its aim is improving SME’s and microenterprises’ access to financing services. It funds the European Progress Microfinance Facility (also known as Progress Microfinance), launched by the European Commission in collaboration with the European Investment Bank.
- **European Microfinance Network (EMN):** it is a member-based non-profit organisation which promotes the employment of microfinance as a means to fight social and financial exclusion in Europe through advocacy and promotion of transparency, best practice, good governance and research among microfinance institutions.

3. Key Conflicts

One of the most pressing issues being discussed is the need for a **European harmonisation of microfinancing systems**. In fact, it has been argued that, since **MFIs would need a favourable legislation** that, if provided by Member States, could **conflict with EU law**, a certain harmonisation of the microfinance sector at European level could “promote financial and social inclusion, competition and EU freedoms, overcoming obstacles both in EU law and in national laws”²⁵. However, the **regulatory diversity among Member States**, described as “extreme” by some researches²⁶, **can represent a significant obstacle** to such a reform. In fact, microfinance systems variety is due not only to the diverse “public and private modes of intervention, the models chosen and measures taken in recent years”, but also to the “historical roots of microfinance”²⁷.

Another problem being debated, linked to the previous one, is the **need for regulation at all**. Indeed, some argue that the regulatory wave triggered in the post-crisis period has brought about the extension of strict **regulation** also to previously unregulated organisms, and that this **could hamper the development of non-conventional social financial service providers**²⁸. However, many others argue that **special legislative schemes should be developed**, in order to **ensure the viability of microfinancing institutions**²⁹ (for example, through special tax regimes³⁰) and to **avoid creating an environment favourable to profit-seeking microfinance companies**, which could end up exploiting the poorest strata of the population³¹.

²⁵ Oxford Business Law Blog, Eugenia Macchiavello, “European banking law evolution and the future of microfinance and socially responsible operators”, 20 October 2017

²⁶ “Creating Jobs in Europe: Legal and Regulatory Frameworks of Microenterprises and Microcredit in Europe: A TrustLaw publication by the Thomson Reuters Foundation for Adie”, September 2011, p. 153

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Oxford Business Law Blog, Eugenia Macchiavello, “European banking law evolution and the future of microfinance and socially responsible operators”, 20 October 2017

²⁹ “Convergences: Microfinance Barometer” 2018, p. 4

³⁰ For example, as proposed by the European Commission in the Communication “A European initiative for the development of micro-credit in support of growth and employment”, 13.11.2007, p. 6

³¹ Aneel Karkani, “Microfinance needs regulation”, Stanford Social Innovation Review Winter 2011, p. 1

4. Measures Already in Place

One of the most important measures in place regarding microfinance is the **European Progress Microfinance Facility** (Progress Microfinance). It was launched by the European Commission in collaboration with the European Investment Bank to **increase access to microcredit for setting up and managing small businesses**. Rather than directly financing entrepreneurs, it **allocates loans for selected microcredit providers in the EU** (through the European Investment Fund) with the aim to enhance their ability to finance small businesses. These intermediaries may be private or public banks, non-bank microfinance institutions and not-for-profit microcredit providers.

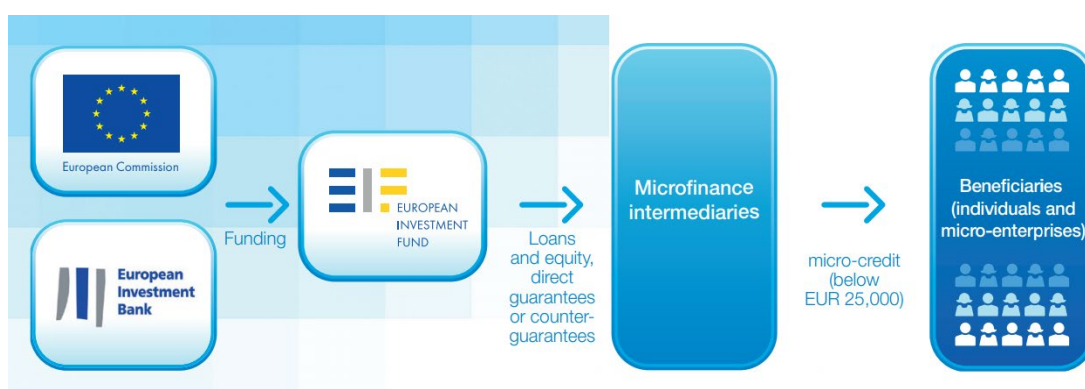


Figure 1. *Progress Microfinance simplified structure – European Investment Fund*

Moreover, the **European Microfinance Network** launched in 2015 the “**European Microfinance Day**”, an annual event whose aims are to **spread awareness** on microfinance practices, **draw media attention** and **provide a platform for the exchange of experiences** within the European microfinance sector.

Another noteworthy initiative is the **European Code of Good Conduct for Microcredit Provision**, launched by the European Commission, which sets **common good practice guidelines** in order to **help microfinance providers** “face the challenge of accessing long-term finance, maintaining and raising the quality of services, and moving towards sustainability.”³²

5. Key Questions

- What can the European Union and its Member States do to ensure the viability of MFIs and facilitate them develop financial sustainable policies?
- How can the European Union address the regulatory differences among Member States and the possible legislative conflicts between Member States and the EU regarding the microfinance sector to achieve the full potential of this alternative financing system?
- How can the European Union and its Member States take advantage of traditional financial service providers to foster microcredit?

³² European Commission, “European Code of Good Conduct for Microcredit Provision”, June 2013, p. 10

- What steps can the European Union and its Member States take to promote a micro-enterprise-friendly environment?

6. Keywords

- **Microfinance:** In the Cambridge dictionary, it is described as “the activity or business of providing financial services to poor people or new businesses in poor countries”. These financial services may include micro-credit, often confused with micro-finance itself, insurance, and fund transfers³³ and are directed to not only poor people, but also to unemployed or low-income individuals or groups who otherwise would not have access to financial services.
- **Microcredit:** according to the European Investment Fund, in the EU microcredit means “loans smaller than EUR 25,000 [...] tailored to microenterprises [...] and unemployed or inactive people who want to go into self-employment but do not have access to traditional banking services”³⁴
- **Micro-enterprises:** Enterprises employing fewer than 10 people; they build 91% of all European businesses.³⁵
- **Microfinance institutions:** financial institutions specialized in banking services for individuals or groups of people who suffer from financial exclusion.

7. Links For Further Research

- European Investment Fund, “Microfinance in Europe: A market overview” by Helmut Kraemer-Eis and Alessio Conforti, Working Paper 2009/001, EIF Research and Market Analysis http://www.eif.org/news_centre/publications/EIF_WP_2009_001_Microfinance.pdf
- European Investment Fund, “Progress for Microfinance in Europe” by Birthe Bruhn-Leon, Per-Erik Eriksson and Helmut Kraemer-Eis, Working Paper 2012/13, EIF Research and Market Analysis http://www.eif.org/news_centre/publications/eif_wp_2012_13_microfinance.pdf
- EU Microfinance support <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=836&langId=en&furtherPubs=yes>
- List of European Commission sources:
<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=836>
http://www.eif.org/what_we_do/microfinance/progress/index.htm
- Fabrizio Botti, Diego Luigi Dagradi, Luca Maria Torre “Microfinance in Europe: A Survey of EMN-MFC Members – Report 2014-2015”, December 2015 https://www.european-microfinance.org/sites/default/files/document/file/Survey_EMN-MFC_2014-2015.pdf

³³ Peck Christen, Robert; Rosenberg, Richard; Jayadeva, Veena. 2004. Financial institutions with a "double bottom line": implications for the future of microfinance (English). CGAP Occasional paper; no. 8. Washington, DC: World Bank; pp. 2-3.

³⁴ European Investment Fund, “Microfinance in Europe: A market overview” by Helmut Kraemer-Eis and Alessio Conforti, Working Paper 2009/001, EIF Research and Market Analysis, p. 5

³⁵ Ibid.



- Sérgio Lagoa, “Financial institutions and supply of financial services in the European microcredit market: a survey of selected countries’ experiences”, FESSUD Working Paper Series, No 73, November 2014 http://fessud.eu/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Financial-institutions-supply-of-financial-services_European-microcredit-market_WP-73.pdf
- Anastasia Cozarenco, “Microfinance Institutions and Banks in Europe: The story to date”, 2015 https://responsiblefinanceforum.org/wp-content/uploads/microfinance_in_europe_31.pdf
- European Banking Federation, “Microfinance within the EU banking industry: policy and practice”, 2010 <http://www.ebf-fbe.eu/uploads/D1093k%20Microfinance%20EU%20banking%20industry.pdf>



COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS (DROI)

*From Calais to Moria, refugee camps are spread across Europe to serve as safe havens to those who seek asylum. But lack of housing infrastructures and essential medical facilities, poor security, malnutrition and above all, a status of uncertainty due to the slow processing of asylum requests, results in refugees being exposed to dangerous and life threatening conditions. **How can the EU further cooperate with not only governments but NGO's and even civil societies, to not only improve living conditions in the camps but to also allow refugees to recover and integrate their surroundings?***

Chairpersons: Hanna Ryan (FI) & Christina Hönings (AT)

1. What Is the Problem and Why Does This Matter?

Over the past decades, **civil wars and armed conflicts** in Afghanistan, Syria and Libya, the combat against the so-called Islamic State throughout the Middle East and its dire aftermath brought about political instability, famine and poverty, persecution, and **mass migration** towards Europe.¹

The **refugee crisis** prompted the largest influx of refugees into Europe since World War II, and inevitably unravelled unforeseen flaws of the European asylum policy.² The ‘**Common European Asylum System**’ established in the 1990s, nowadays encapsulated in the Dublin III Regulation of 2013, deems all Member States of the European Union (EU) to share the responsibility for asylum seekers. However, ‘**frontline states**’ such as Italy and Greece feel the heaviest burden since, as a general rule, the first EU Member State of entry is under the obligation to accommodate the registration and process of asylum claims.³

Makeshift shelters and temporary registration centres soon emerged all over Europe, trying to keep the crisis under control when it reached its peak in 2015 with 1,015,078 arrivals in Italy, Greece and Spain.⁴ What started as a temporary measure to counter lack of housing, medical facilities and structure soon solidified in numerous **refugee camps** across Europe.

Moria, a horrifically overcrowded and isolated camp on the Greek island of Lesbos, was thought to accommodate around 2,000 people, yet currently hosts some 9,000 people under violent, inhumane and appalling conditions.⁵ Inside the camp, thousands of people are stuck in a limbo, under the constant threat of deportation and fear due to increasing crime rates, epidemic diseases, and frictions between the various ethnic groups. A similar scenario revolved around two years ago when the **Calais refugee camp** known as ‘the Jungle’ was evicted and demolished in an effort to prevent ‘fixation points’ which could eventually turn into yet another camp.⁶

At this stage, **improving humanitarian standards** by providing genuine support through food and shelter, are not sufficient means to an end. The EU and its Member States are at crossroads: A humanitarian crisis has emerged from **insufficient, inhumane, and unfair asylum procedures**. It is now time to put an end to the misery through measures which focus on the integration, rehabilitation, and local settlement of displaced people.

¹ “Global Conflict Tracker” *Council on Foreign Relations*, 2018, www.cfr.org/interactives/global-conflict-tracker#!/.

² “EU Asylum Reform: Parliament’s Stance on Dublin Regulation” *European Parliament*, 20 June 2018, www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/world/20180615STO05927/eu-asylum-reform-parliament-s-stance-on-dublin-regulation.

³ “Improving the Common European Asylum System” *European Parliament*, 30 June 2017, www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/priorities/refugees/20170627STO78418/improving-the-common-european-asylum-system.

⁴ “Migration to Europe in Charts” BBC News, BBC, 11 September 2018, www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-44660699.

⁵ “Misery Deepens for Trapped Asylum Seekers in Greece” *Human Rights Watch*, September 20, 2018, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/09/20/misery-deepens-trapped-asylum-seekers-greece>.

⁶ “Calais Jungle: Police Try to Stop New Camp Forming” BBC News, 09 January, 2018, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/world-europe-42612646/calais-jungle-police-try-to-stop-new-camp-forming>.

2. Key Actors

- **The European Union:** The EU and its Member States collectively represent the world's leading contributor to humanitarian aid.⁷ In 2011, the **European Commission** launched the 'EU Civil Protection Mechanism' which aims at fostering cooperation between national governments, NGOs and civil societies in providing civil protection to victims of man-made and natural catastrophes in- and outside of Europe.⁸
- **The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR):** Established in 1950, the UNHCR exercises their mandate in assisting forcibly displaced and stateless people, refugees and asylum-seekers. The UNHCR's work is committed to humanitarian and critical emergency assistance and aims at the political, legal, and physical protection and support of refugees.⁹
- **EU Member States:** National governments are the central stakeholders when aiming at identifying the underlying drivers of defective integration. An effective asylum policy inevitably depends on the cooperation between the national and the international community. For reasons of national security and sovereignty as well as financial considerations, many Member States fail to recognise their responsibilities within the crisis.¹⁰ However, their role is all the more vital in addressing both the push and pull factors of uncontrolled migration and the proper implementation of a common integration and rehabilitation system for refugees.
- **NGOs and civil societies:** Cooperation is not only needed vertically, between the EU and the Member States, but also horizontally, between the governments on the one side and NGOs and civil societies on the other side. However, persistent efforts of local governments are continuously obstructing humanitarian aid, as was seen in 2017 when the mayor of Calais banned the distribution of food to refugees.¹¹ Organisations such as **Help Refugees** provide on-site support through material donations, integration initiatives and legal aid in Calais¹², while humanitarian institutions such as **Médecins Sans Frontiers** are facing the grave medical and psychiatric needs of asylum-seekers in Moria.¹³

⁷ "Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection - European Union - European Commission" *European Union*, October 12, 2018, https://europa.eu/european-union/topics/humanitarian-aid-civil-protection_en.

⁸ "EU Civil Protection Mechanism - European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations" European Commission, 15 February, 2018, http://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/civil-protection/mechanism_en.

⁹ United Nations, "What We Do" *UNHCR*, <http://www.unhcr.org/what-we-do.html>.

¹⁰ OECD, "Who Bears the Cost of Integrating Refugees?" *Migration Policy Debates 13* (January 2017), <https://www.oecd.org/els/mig/migration-policy-debates-13.pdf>.

¹¹ Amelia Gentleman, "Calais Mayor Bans Distribution of Food to Migrants." *The Guardian*, March 02, 2017, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/mar/02/calais-mayor-bans-distribution-of-food-to-migrants>.

¹² "Help Refugees in Calais: Donate & Volunteer" *Help Refugees*, <https://helprefugees.org/calais/>.

¹³ "Moria is in a State of Emergency" *Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) International*, September 17, 2018, <https://www.msf.org/moria-state-emergency>.

3. Key Conflicts

Increasing tensions between Member States and the EU seem to arise under the **Dublin III Regulation**¹⁴ and its criteria for attributing responsibility for newly arrived refugees. Due to the ‘first country’ rule, states such as Italy and Greece are put under a disproportionate pressure overburdening their capacity to properly proceed asylum applications and the resettlement of refugees.¹⁵

Efforts in amending the situation still seem to be insufficient in bridging the **gap between people’s needs and limited resources** in the camps. Over the past years, the EU has allocated around 1.6 billion¹⁶ Euros to the Greek authorities and over 20 governmental organisations and NGOs have received monetary support, yet a lack of transparency, little improvement on the humanitarian spectrum and the steadily increasing dimensions of the crisis have led to public criticism on the deployment of such funds.¹⁷

The camps are surrounded by barbed wire and police guards as national governments try to regain control over migration flows by closing internal borders. Refugees are not allowed to leave the camp until their asylum application process has been conducted. In Moria, the authorities refuse to resettle refugees to the mainland, pushing camps far beyond their capacities.¹⁸ Hence more and more refugees are stuck in an **endless bureaucratic limbo**, waiting for a decision on their asylum while being trapped in inhumane facilities under dire conditions without legal recourse against severe human rights violations.¹⁹

4. Measures Already in Place

The EU has been active in improving living conditions, especially by proposing the **European Agenda for Migration**²⁰, which calls out for consistent and clear policies in all Member States. The EU wants to strengthen trust between Member States through the **European Asylum Support Office (EASO)** to highlight refugees’ fundamental rights, coordinate asylum camps according to EU guidelines alongside Member States and reflects on refugee camps by assessing asylum data.²¹

The UNHCR is also a great contributor in handling refugees and their safety. In 2016 the UNHCR responded to the wave of refugees and asylum-seekers in Europe by launching the **Regional Refugee and**

¹⁴ *Official Journal of the European Union* L180/31, 29.6.2013, pp. 31-59.

¹⁵ "Country Responsible for Asylum Application (Dublin)" *European Commission*, December 06, 2016, https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/asylum/examination-of-applicants_en.

¹⁶ Stephan Jaeger, "Migration: The Commission Stands by the International Organisation for Migration Working on the Ground in Greece" *European Commission*, October 11, 2018, https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/news/20181011_commission-stands-international-organisation-migration-working-ground-greece_en.

¹⁷ Patrick Kingsley, "Better to Drown': A Greek Refugee Camp's Epidemic of Misery" *The New York Times*, October 03, 2018, <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/02/world/europe/greece-lesbos-moria-refugees.html>.

¹⁸ "Refugee and Migrant Children Arriving on Greek Islands up by One-Third in 2018" *UNICEF*, September 21, 2018, <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/refugee-and-migrant-children-arriving-greek-islands-one-third-2018-unicef>.

¹⁹ Patrick Kingsley, "Better to Drown': A Greek Refugee Camp's Epidemic of Misery" *The New York Times*, October 03, 2018, <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/02/world/europe/greece-lesbos-moria-refugees.html>.

²⁰ Anonymous. "European Agenda on Migration." *Migration and Home Affairs - European Commission*. European Commission, December 6, 2016. https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration_en

²¹ Easo.europa.eu. (2018). *What we do | EUROPEAN ASYLUM SUPPORT OFFICE*. [online] Available at: <https://www.easo.europa.eu/about-us/what-we-do> [Accessed 22 Oct. 2018].

Migrant Response Plan (RRMP)²². It recognizes the need for refugees to integrate into a new environment involving a “two-way process” between refugees and host countries. The main aim is to establish trust between refugee and State, by ensuring the implications of rights of States, addressing **xenophobia** and for refugees to partake in **integration programmes** and respecting host State’s laws.

National governments have different responses to accepting refugees. While Germany classifies asylum seekers according to the **Geneva Convention**, other countries such as Italy only offered around 12% of refugees subsidiary protection status, meaning asylum seekers are not considered refugees yet provided supplementary protection in case of potential deportation, or in the UK 5% of refugees were given a humanitarian status, defining refugees as ineligible for international protection but protected from being deported.²³

5. Key Questions

- How could the EU protect and improve the quality of life in refugee camps and battle the uncertainty of deportation back into dangerous zones?
- Considering the large sum of funding provided to national governments for refugee welfare, how could the EU better spend the money for refugees basic needs?
- While considering the pressure put on the ‘frontline states’ rule and how overpopulation is degrading the life quality of everyone in the host country, how can the EU and Member States communicate more efficiently to ensure refugees with safer and better quality care?
- Many countries fail to recognize their potential in accepting refugees and limit their refugee intake based on political standards, despite rich economy. What can the EU do to remind Member States of their responsibilities and incentivise a more equal refugee intake across Europe?
- As xenophobia increases with refugees being displaced carelessly by governments, what measures can be taken to battle refugee discrimination and encourage integration?

6. Keywords

- **Refugee:** a person who has been voluntarily escaped their country of residence in fear of persecution due to race, religion, nationality, member of a particular group or political views. Refugees leave with the intention of not returning as they may be targeted upon arrival in country of origin.²⁴
- **Asylum seeker:** a person who requests international protection and has ‘spontaneously’ departed to a safer country. An asylum seeker may or may not be fully legal in the host country and has to wait for

²² UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), *Better Protecting Refugees in the EU and Globally: UNHCR's proposals to rebuild trust through better management, partnership and solidarity*, December 2016, available at:

<http://www.refworld.org/docid/58385d4e4.html> [Accessed 22 Oct. 2018]

²³ Ec.europa.eu. (2018). *Glossary:Asylum decision - Statistics Explained*. [online] Available at:

https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Glossary:Asylum_decision [Accessed 22 Oct. 2018].

²⁴ “What’s the Difference between a Refugee and an Asylum Seeker?” *Amnesty International Australia*, 6 Nov. 2017, www.amnesty.org.au/refugee-and-an-asylum-seeker-difference/.

permission to enter borders. Every refugee is initially an asylum seeker, but not every asylum seeker can be classified as a refugee.²⁵

- **Refugee camp:** Accommodation built for refugees who require immediate settlement. They provide instantaneous shelter but NGOs and other institutes find it difficult to access and sustain refugee camps with water, food, electricity and medical support, as they are generally widespread and out of reach from civil societies.²⁶
- **Refugee crisis:** A large number of refugees fleeing their country and heading to a safer country as a result of violent, political outbreaks, natural disasters or discrimination on religion. Over 65 million people are currently displaced across Europe and the majority suffer terrible living conditions and insufficient supplies to medical or nutritional treatment as well as unsecure passage to safer countries.²⁷
- **Dublin III Regulation:** Regulation EU No 604/2013 accepted on 26th June 2013 explains the necessary regulations to plan and execute the placement of refugees in different Member States. The Member State examines your asylum application which has been chosen by a third neutral party member.²⁸
- **European Agenda for Migration:** Agenda based on the cooperation between EU and Member States when managing refugees, the EU supporting Member States by providing tools to secure long-term residence for refugees and enhancing legality by exposing smuggling and trafficking networks.²⁹
- **Xenophobia:** Translated from latin as ‘fear of the stranger’, understood as being aggression and dislike in foreigners in a certain community. It is based from existing prejudice against a belief, ethnicity, culture or nationality. It is not the same as racism, as xenophobia is concentrated on the attitude or background of an individual.³⁰
- **Geneva Convention:** Founded originally in 1864, the Geneva Convention is a series of treaties to provide human rights and guaranteed security to those directly or indirectly involved in armed conflicts from armed conflicts.³¹

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ "What Is a Refugee Camp?" Definition and Statistics | USA for UNHCR. Accessed October 22, 2018.

<https://www.unrefugees.org/refugee-facts/camps/>.

²⁷ "Refugee Crisis in Europe - European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations - European Commission." *European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations*, European Commission,

<https://ec.europa.eu/echo/refugee-crisis>

²⁸ Anonymous. "EU Dublin III Regulation". Office of the Refugee Applications Commissioner. European Commission, Accessed 22/10/2018, <http://www.orac.ie/website/orac/oracwebsite.nsf/page/eudublinIIIregulation-main-en>

²⁹ Anonymous. "European Agenda on Migration". Migration and Home Affairs. European Commission. Accessed 22/10/2018, https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration_en

³⁰ Anonymous. "Xenophobia". LEARNING TO LIVE TOGETHER. UNESCO. Accessed 22/10/2018, <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/international-migration/glossary/xenophobia/>

³¹ Anonymous. "Geneva Conventions." Legal Information Institute. Cornell Law School. Accessed 22/10/2018, https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/geneva_conventions

7. Links For Further Research

- https://www.ted.com/talks/alexander_betts_our_refugee_system_is_failing_here_s_how_we_can_fix_it?referrer=playlist-refugees_welcome
- <https://www.msf.org/moria-state-emergency>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8v-OHi3iGQI>
- <http://www.unhcr.org/alternatives-to-camps.html>
- <http://www.oecd.org/cfe/regional-policy/OECD-migration-local-factsheet.pdf>
- <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/05/10-ways-countries-can-help-refugees-integrate/>
- <https://gvwire.com/2018/05/01/eus-refugee-crisis-which-european-countries-are-hosting-more-asylum-seekers/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5kLULg42kPE>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LO8qQ8cBe6M>

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND MONETARY AFFAIRS (ECON)

*Released to the public in 2009, Bitcoin's white paper flashed the potential of open innovation. As Bitcoin and other public blockchains grow, new intermediary platforms, distributed ledgers and patented technologies emerge, recreating proprietary digital barriers between transacting individuals. **How can the EU ensure that blockchain technology remains an equitable and open innovation led technology?***

Chairpersons: Teodora Pariza (RO) & Christophe Schmit (LU)

1. What Is the Problem and Why Does This Matter?

Blockchain is a technology for promoting user trust. It makes it possible to share online information, agree on and record transactions in a verifiable, secure and permanent way. Cryptocurrencies run on blockchain technology, which is perfectly legitimate and offers many advantages for innovations in sectors such as business and the public sector.

Transactions can be made using a virtual currency, most famously Bitcoin, but also Litecoin, Peercoin, or Dogecoin, among others, where you use an electronic coded address to make the transaction. The system is **peer-to-peer**¹ and based on a **decentralized** currency (there are no physical bitcoins). Bitcoins are **not** issued or backed by any **banks** or **governments**, and it is “the most anonymous” method of payment (reason why it is highly preferred in the making of illegal transactions). However, bitcoins are not regenerable. There are currently 16.8 million Bitcoins in circulation and an algorithm limits the increase so that the total number of tokens will never exceed 21 million. Therefore, Bitcoin’s price is almost completely **determined by the demand** for the currency. *In 2017 alone, the price of Bitcoin rose from a little under \$1,000 at the beginning of the year to close to \$19,000, ending the year more than 1,400% higher.* Bitcoin's price is also quite dependent on the size of its mining network, since the larger the network is, the more difficult – and thus more costly – it is to produce new bitcoins. As a result, the price of bitcoin has to increase as its cost of production also rises. The Bitcoin mining network's aggregate power has more than tripled over the past twelve months. Miners have also gradually replaced the processor with the **video card**, which can solve calculus much faster, but it is an extremely **expensive**² and time-consuming process as well.

2. Key Actors

- **European Central Bank:** Officials from the European Central Bank state that virtual currencies could never be seen as money, but they are considered to be [virtuous innovations](#).
- **Nobody owns the Bitcoin network:** its design is public, nobody owns or controls Bitcoin and everyone can take part (for example, if you are a good developer, you could improve the network or build new softwares).³
- **Investors** generally buy Bitcoins because they believe the price momentum will continue and the value of the token will keep increasing. These investors expect that the demand for Bitcoins will increase and long-term holders will be able to sell their Bitcoins to others for a higher price.
- **European Blockchain Partnership** is a collaboration between 21 Member States and Norway aiming to facilitate digital public services with the highest standards of security and privacy: “*Blockchain is a great opportunity for Europe and Member States to rethink their information systems, to promote user trust and the protection of personal data, to help create new business opportunities and to establish new areas of leadership, benefiting citizens, public services and companies.*”⁴

¹ A peer-to-peer network is a decentralized distributing architecture connecting users directly and without a third party intermediary.

² <https://www.tomshardware.com/news/ethereum-effect-graphics-card-prices,34928.html> Tomshardware 2018 February 16

³ <https://bitcoin.org/en/how-it-works>

⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/european-countries-join-blockchain-partnership>

3. Key Conflicts

Anonymity is one major issue when it comes to tax evasion. Entering into taxable cryptocurrency transactions without paying taxes is tax evasion. But, when a tax authority does not know who enters into the taxable transaction, because of the anonymity involved, it cannot detect nor sanction this tax evasion. This makes cryptocurrencies a very attractive means for tax evaders. By some commentators instruments such as Bitcoin were even described as "*tomorrow's tax havens*", hence **Venezuela's**⁵ usage of cryptocurrencies as a solution to the financial crisis.

In addition to anonymity, the intrinsically cross-border nature of cryptocurrencies, crypto markets and crypto players is a major challenge for regulators. The cross-border nature of cryptocurrencies, crypto markets and crypto players probably means that rules will only be adequate when they are taken at a sufficiently international level.

The existing **European legal framework** is failing to deal with certain issues. To be able to freeze and confiscate cryptocurrencies it is necessary to know that a criminal has them, and this is what the anonymity surrounding cryptocurrencies prevents.

It is very difficult, if not impossible, to include cryptocurrencies and players within the existing scope of financial services legislation, as cryptocurrencies cannot be defined as “financial instruments”, “securities” or “e-money”.

4. Measures Already in Place

On December 15, 2017 following the proposal, the **5th AML Directive**⁶ got into effect which represents the first real step towards regulating cryptocurrencies within the EU. By not only containing the first **legally binding definition** of virtual currencies, the 5th AML Directive also makes **virtual currency exchanges** and **custodian wallet providers** “obliged entities” under the new AML/CTF⁷ legislation, similar to traditional financial institutions. The implemented measures include **customer due diligence clauses (CDD)**⁸ and transaction monitoring.

With the creation of the **European Blockchain Partnership** (EBP)⁹ and the **European Blockchain Observatory**, the EU and their participating member states made clear that they further support the development of cross-border blockchain-based digital public services and research of blockchain technologies by providing blockchain related projects with 80 million¹⁰ EUR in funds.

⁵ <https://www.ccn.com/bitcoin-an-alternative-solution-to-venezuelas-economic-crisis/> CCN 2018 June 29

⁶ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52016PC0450&from=EN>

⁷ Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism

⁸ Customer Due Diligence or Know Your Customer (KYC) policies are processes requiring the act of performing background checks on the customer to ensure that they are properly risk assessed before being onboarded.

⁹ <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/italy-joins-european-partnership-blockchain-supporting-delivery-cross-border-digital-public>

¹⁰ <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/italy-joins-european-partnership-blockchain-supporting-delivery-cross-border-digital-public>

With the pace of technology outstripping the ability of global regulators to adapt to the evolving technology the EU has come up with the creation of the **Financial Technology Task Force (FTTF)**¹¹ aimed at ensuring financial stability and consumer confidence whilst going through this technological shift. However, the EU still remains without a specific legislative framework addressing cryptocurrencies.

5. Key Questions

- How can the EU come up with a legislative framework for the upcoming cryptocurrencies without jeopardizing its core concepts of decentralization and anonymity?
- With the development of new virtual tools such as smart contracts or ICOs, what approach should the EU take in order to regulate these profitable opportunities?
- Being aware of the many applications of the blockchain technology in many different industries, how can the EU ensure a smooth shift rather than an inevitable disruption of their domestic economy?
- Considering the discrepancies regarding the regulation of cryptocurrencies among MS, what steps should the EU take to further promote a unite European vision for a legislative framework regarding cryptocurrencies?
- In light of the high risk of exposure to fraud and financial crime, what can the EU do in order to protect its citizen?

6. Keywords

- **Blockchain or distributed ledger technology (DLT)**

A distributed ledger is a shared database that is consensually synchronized across a network of multiple independent sites or institutions. Underlying the distributed ledger technology is the blockchain, which is a digital public record of all transactions between users in the **P2P network**. All individual records are mathematically encrypted and linked together in a single list, called a chain. The whole system is decentralized, meaning that the authority over the whole system is divided among all users of the network.

- **Cryptography**

Using complex mathematical algorithms (hash functions¹²), the original information gets disguised by creating piece of information that is completely useless and nonsensical until it is decrypted. This allows the information to be publicly displayed in the blockchain, giving only the intended recipients the ability to read it and nobody else.

¹¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/blog/european-commission-sets-internal-task-force-financial-technology>

¹² <https://www.cryptomathic.com/news-events/blog/differences-between-hash-functions-symmetric-asymmetric-algorithms> Cryptomathic 2017 October 27

- **E-Wallets**

Eliminating the need to carry a physical wallet, an E-Wallet is a digital storing system¹³ for your payment information and passwords used for online transactions.

- **Cryptocurrency Mining**

In a process to both generate digital coins and verify transactions made in the network, miners solve complex and computationally demanding mathematical puzzles. After successful validation, a set of transactions are combined and added to the blockchain. The reward for their work as auditors, are both the transaction fees associated with the transactions compiled in the block as well as newly released digital coins.

- **ICO (Initial coin offering)**

An ICO is a fundraising tool by providing investors which so-called tokens/coins. In comparison to an Initial public offering (IPO)¹⁴ or venture capital, the investor doesn't get an equity stake in the company, but the bought coin can be used on a product that is eventually created and there is the chance that the digital token will increase in value itself making it attractive for a profitable trade at a later stage.

- **Smart Contracts**

Are self-executing contracts between a buyer and a seller written in digital form, containing contractual clauses. which exist across a shared, decentralized blockchain network. Smart contracts are defined by three core traits, their traceability, transparency and irreversibility. In short, smart contracts help you exchange money or anything of value in a transparent, and hassle-free way avoiding a middleman.

- **Permissioned blockchain and public blockchain**

A public blockchain, used for bitcoin for example is a completely open network inviting anyone to participate in the core activities of the blockchain network. Driven by an incentivizing scheme a public blockchain maintain its self-governed nature, where anyone can read, write and audit the ongoing activities on the public network. In comparison to the public blockchain, permissioned blockchains come with a set of customizable options, which may include, the necessity of a suitable verification of their identity, or the guarantee of special permissions to each participant for specific functions to be performed in the network. This type of blockchain has become very popular for businesses¹⁵, by eliminating this low-trust environment and creating a stable but efficient network

¹³ 'How to store your Bitcoin' <https://www.coindesk.com/information/how-to-store-your-bitcoins/> Coindesk 2018 January 20.

¹⁴ A private company or corporation raises investment capital by offering its stock to the public.

¹⁵ <https://blockchainatberkeley.blog/a-snapshot-of-blockchain-in-enterprise-d140a511e5fd> Blockchainat Berkely 2018 January

7. Links For Further Research

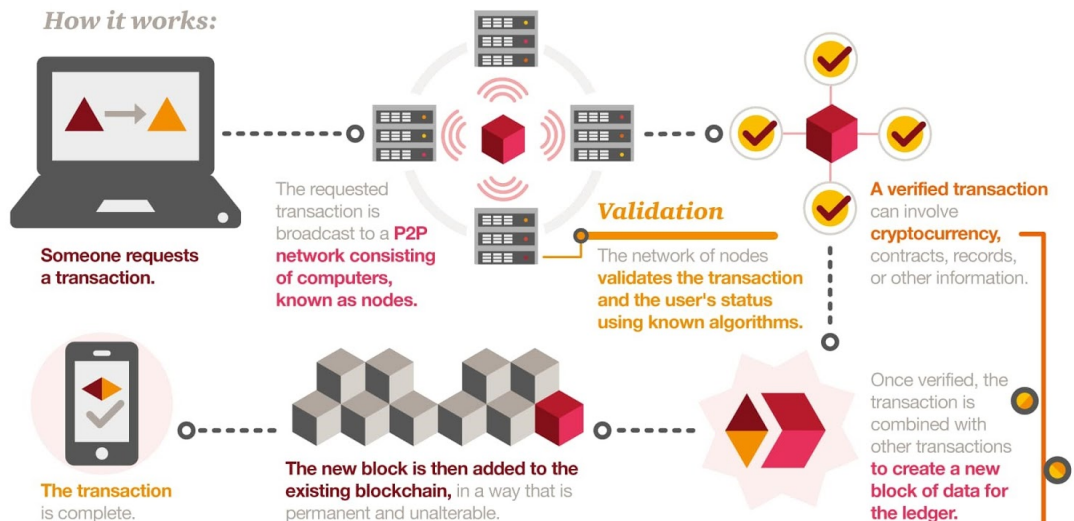
- http://graphics.reuters.com/TECHNOLOGY-BLOCKCHAIN/010070P11GN/index.html?fbclid=IwAR3UcFVOjCpD8lx_ihzoy8le1y7UcVk9pF_T6K_Cen0zU21jJ18YHU1gLI8
- <https://www.investopedia.com/tech/how-does-bitcoin-mining-work/>
- <https://www.forbes.com/sites/bernardmarr/2018/07/16/here-are-10-industries-blockchain-is-likely-to-disrupt/#3f7029bcb5a2>
- <https://futurethinkers.org/industries-blockchain-disrupt/>
- <https://bitcoinmagazine.com/articles/project-titanium-eus-plan-decloak-cryptocurrency/>
- <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/150761/TAX3%20Study%20on%20cryptocurrencies%20and%20blockchain.pdf>

A look at *blockchain technology*

What is it?

The **blockchain** is a decentralized ledger of all transactions across a peer-to-peer network. Using this technology, participants can confirm transactions without the need for a central certifying authority. Potential applications include fund transfers, settling trades, voting, and many other uses.

How it works:



The evolution of cryptocurrency Source: PWC

COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (EMPL)

*A social enterprise combines entrepreneurial activity with a social purpose. Its main aim is to have a social impact, rather than maximise profit for owners or shareholders. Yet, only seven European countries have policy frameworks in place to encourage and support the development of social enterprises due to poor understanding of the concept of social enterprise, lack of specialist business development services, few supportive legislative frameworks and the absence of common mechanisms for measuring and demonstrating impact. **How can the EU support social entrepreneurship, while encapsulating a dynamic, diverse and entrepreneurial movement that combines economic activity with social missions, and the promotion of inclusive growth?***

Chairpersons: Anca Herăscu (RO) & Cameron Dunn Merelle (FI)

1. What Is the Problem and Why Does This Matter?

Social entrepreneurship is, at its most basic level, entrepreneurship with a social cause (e.g. environmental protection & conservation, job creation etc.). This is hardly a definition, however, given that there are so many different ways in which social enterprises can operate, with so many different purposes and organisational structures. In the EU, the [social economy accounts for over 11 million employees or 6% of total employment](#) and covers either cooperatives, associations and other bodies of the sort or ordinary private/public limited companies.

These social businesses, both large enterprises and Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs), should inarguably be deemed as important as traditional ones and offered equal opportunities and advantages of the [EU Single Market](#), which desperately needs inclusive, innovative growth and employment that is closely aligned with social work. Despite the [EU recognising this fact](#), social enterprises are still [largely underdeveloped](#) and misunderstood. They face more challenges than ‘normal’ entrepreneurs, mainly because the concept is difficult to grasp, breeding confusion and a general lack of support.

As such, there are [some EU countries](#) that have little to no publicly funded schemes designed specifically for social entrepreneurship - Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Slovakia and Romania-, where some fragmented initiatives have been funded through Structural Funds or Finland and the Netherlands in which this absence of customised schemes was a conscious policy choice.

2. Key Actors

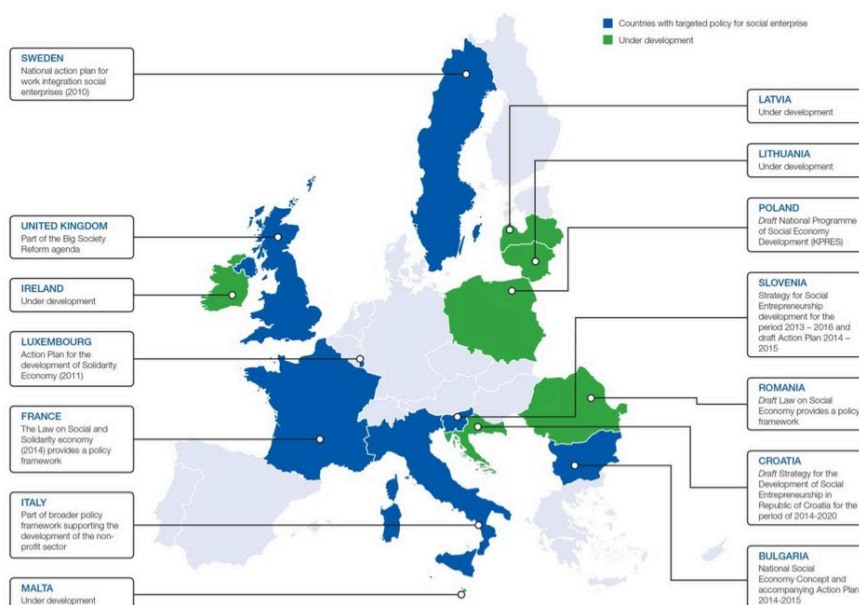
- [The European Commission](#): is an institution of the European Union, responsible for implementing decisions, proposing legislation, upholding the EU treaties and managing the day-to-day business of the Union. It has been seeking to improve the economic environment for social enterprises through a variety of methods, such as the [Employment and Social Innovation \(EaSI\)](#) programme, which is an EU-wide financing instrument meant to promote a high level of quality and sustainable employment;
- **EU Member States**: are the ones responsible for revamping the social economy and designing legal forms and frameworks best suited to social entrepreneurship within the guidelines of EU competences. Their different jurisdictions on these matters are concerning and make it increasingly difficult for social enterprises to achieve recognition and aid;
- [European Social Enterprises](#): the very institutions the topic addresses, they are organisations that employ entrepreneurial strategies to effect different types of social change and improvement;
- [Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship](#), in partnership with the [World Economic Forum](#): is a global platform that promotes models of social innovation and facilitates wider applications of their them;
- [Expert Group on Social Economy and Social Enterprises \(GECES\)](#): is a consultative multi-stakeholder group on social business to examine the progress of the measures envisaged in the Social Business Initiative;

- **[The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development \(OECD\)](#)**: provides a forum in which governments can work together to share experiences and seek solutions to common problems;
- **[The European Investment Fund \(EIF\)](#)**: is a part of the European Investment Bank (EIB) who provides risk finance for small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) across the EU;
- **[Erste Group Bank AG \(Erste Group\)](#)**: one of the largest financial services providers in Central and Eastern Europe serving 15.7 million clients in over 2,700 branches in 7 countries (Czech republic, Hungary, Austria, Romania, Serbia, Croatia and Slovakia).

3. Key Conflicts

The majority of European Member States [do not actively seek to impede the development of Social Enterprise](#). However, lack of legislative recognition, of impact assessment methods, of business support and of regulatory frameworks are indirect [challenges](#) social enterprises have to contend with.

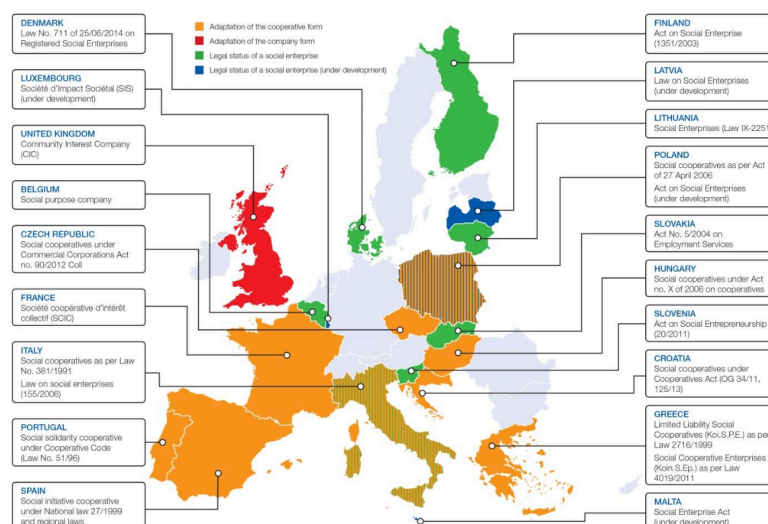
Figure ES1.5 Countries with policy frameworks targeting social enterprise



Firstly, the [inaccurate legal recognition of social enterprises](#), or lack thereof, in many Member States makes it challenging for governments to develop specialist support services, financial incentives or adequate regulatory frameworks. The great majority of jurisdictions [do not have legal forms specifically designed for social enterprises](#), therefore forcing entrepreneurs to use or adapt ones not suited to their specific needs or hybrid models, which oftentimes increases costs and further diminishes the visibility of SE. This inadequacy of different legal forms may also limit the variety of social purposes a social enterprise can pursue, as legal forms are sometimes exclusive to certain sectors, and restrict the capacity of Non-Profit Organisations to engage in trading or compete with for-profit companies.

A map of social enterprises and their eco-systems in Europe

Figure ES1.2 Countries with specific legal forms or statutes for social enterprise



Notes: (i) Social enterprise laws in Finland, Lithuania and Slovakia narrowly refer to work integration social enterprises; (ii) Italy is the only European country with both a law on social cooperatives (legal form) as well as a law on social enterprises (legal status); (iii) Poland has a specific legal form for social enterprises (social cooperatives) and a draft law proposes the creation of a social enterprise legal status.

Other issues have to do with **impact evaluation**¹ and deficient trust in the concept of social entrepreneurship. Success in this field isn't usually measured in terms of profit, but rather in the extent of the positive change it effects. Because there are very few countries who have methodologies for this (and for those that do, their use isn't mandatory) and there also isn't a common EU-level one, the achievements of social enterprises are often distorted. This is partially why investors tend to steer clear of SEs.

Table ES1.1 Overview of social impact reporting schemes

Country	Social impact reporting system	Voluntary/Mandatory
Austria	Common Good Balance Sheet	Voluntary
Belgium	A social purpose company has to produce an annual report (non-standardised) on how it acted on the established social goals of the organisation	Mandatory
Estonia	Social entrepreneurship sector pilot statistical report (EU funded) and impact assessment handbook	Voluntary
Germany	Social Reporting Standard	Voluntary
Italy	Bilancio Sociale (social report)	Mandatory for social enterprises ex lege
Poland	Pilot projects aimed at designing impact measurement and reporting tools	Voluntary
United Kingdom	A number of actors have published guidance and toolkits. There are current attempts to further develop and agree common frameworks	Voluntary

¹ The "Impact measurement and reporting systems" section of the [synthesis report](#) elaborates on this.

SEs also have a [hard time finding access to finance from external sources](#) due to the fact that profit margins usually fall by the wayside and innovative social work takes precedence, making conventional investors remain skeptical and refuse to collaborate. The alternative, of specialist investors or financial intermediaries, is either not currently in existence or underdeveloped in most European countries.

In the event that venture capitalists are indeed interested in a social business, they may impose their own methods, practices and demands on it, in exchange for funding. This causes social enterprises to face **conflicts of interests** and be forced to give up some of their goals, [losing sight of their mission](#) in social change, in order to comply with sponsors'/shareholders needs (or those of other corporations / NGOs should they fuse to get more access to funds).

4. Measures Already in Place

The **European Commission** has played a significantly large role in the upcoming usage of social enterprises. Being introduced in 2014, the **EIF alongside all seven Erste Group member banks** mutually signed the [EU Programme For Employment and Social Innovation \(EaSI\)](#). The agreement specifically highlighted the encouragement and acceptance of financial support branching from the Erste Group. It allows for up to [50 million EUR](#) in loans to be distributed to over [500 social enterprises](#) over the time span of 5 years. The agreement also promotes the cooperation of NGO's and social enterprises as they can also benefit from easily acquired loans, if proven to have beneficial outcomes towards societal issues.

Also falling under the **Commission's actions forward**, the [Social Business Initiative \(SBI\)](#) was launched in 2011. Presented as a plan of action directly supporting the development of social enterprises along with actors of significance (such as NGOs) involved in the advancements of social economy and social innovation. The plan established a [5 pillar strategy](#) aimed at increased access to funding, access to markets, improved framework conditions, foster social innovation and continue to work on internationalisation.

In an aim to better the convenience of start up businesses, the **OECD** introduced the [Better entrepreneurship policy tool](#), which allows for authorities to conduct quick assessments regarding policies and restrictions for those in vulnerable groups.

5. Key Questions

- What more can the EU do to support social enterprises in its Member States?
- What do we, as EU citizens, lack in terms of social entrepreneurship?
- Why have the ideologies of social enterprises not been adapted by all Member States?
- What can the EU provide to encourage social enterprises?
- What are the risks of social entrepreneurship?

6. Keywords

- **Social entrepreneurship:** follows the use of start-up companies, whose goal isn't to receive profit, rather provide beneficial outcomes to improve cultural, environmental and social issues.
- **Legal form:** Different structures of cooperation and ownership for a business that must be clarified during early erection of a business. It determines whether the business shall be sole proprietorship, partnership or corporation.
- **Legal status:** Being heavily related to legal forms, it provides a broader term in which it underlines which societal aspect shall benefit and as to what their intentions were in the long run.
- **Small and medium sized enterprises (SME):** Businesses that possess a noticeably smaller headcount and profit margin. If eligible, then SME receive monetary benefits from the state, jump starting their business.

7. Links For Further Research

- Current media attention:

<http://news.trust.org/item/20181003103301-xvynh/>

<https://irishtechnews.ie/trinity-student-entrepreneurs-tap-into-us-startup-scene-as-first-international-accelerator-programme-launches>

- More information:

The response to the Social business Initiative

<http://labgov.city/thecommonspost/the-social-business-initiative-social-enterprises-into-the-foreground/>

A Description of social enterprise and the plan put forward by the European Commission

http://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/social-economy/enterprises_en

- What has been done:

A study report made by the Expert Group of the European Commission on Social Entrepreneurship (GECES)

<https://guests.blogactiv.eu/2017/03/15/social-entrepreneurship-tops-the-eu-agenda-with-the-geces-report/>

A policy brief made by the European Commission concerning social entrepreneurship

https://www.oecd.org/cfe/leed/Social%20entrepreneurship%20policy%20brief%20EN_FINAL.pdf

Guidelines proposed on suitable steps forward with developing social impact measures

<https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/0c0b5d38-4ac8-43d1-a7af-32f7b6fcf1cc>



EUROPEAN **YOUTH** PARLIAMENT
SUOMI FINLAND

European Youth Parliament Finland – EYP Finland ry | Asemapäällikönkatu 1 | 00520 Helsinki | www.eypfinland.org | info@eypfinland.org

- Videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N8LVa9pb-n8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mx9MEuxoWn0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aTo0qtdVMpM>



COMMITTEE ON WOMEN’S RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY (FEMM)

*From victim blaming to being fearful of law enforcement mechanisms and justice systems, survivors of sexual violence and intimidation are reluctant to report any incidents to the rightful authorities. Underreporting makes sexual violence notoriously difficult to measure while also contributing to the dismissal of necessary follow-up measures. **With reporting, recording and prosecution rates of sexual offences substantially below the real rates of occurrence, what can governments and civil society do to close that gap?***

Chairpersons: Doireann Brosnan (IE) & Nicola Spoletini (CH)

1. What Is the Problem and Why Does This Matter?

With recent allegations occurring not only in the United States against the recently appointed judge to the supreme court, Brett Kavanaugh, but across the globe, more and more victims of sexual assault are emerging from the shadows to talk about the issue. However, it is well-known that the actual number of victims is **underrepresented in reality**, since 2 in 3 crimes are unreported². The reasons for this are mainly **victim shaming, fear, long and complicated judicial procedures and lack of knowledge of one's rights**. Another problem is the lack of comparable data within the EU owing to different definitions of norms of violence. Across Europe in 2015, a total of **215,000 cases of sexual assault were reported** to the police. However, that is **only a fraction** of the incidents that actually occurred. The attitudes presented amongst European society nowadays truly makes victims of sexual assault **reluctant or even ashamed** of reporting what they have suffered and hinders the attempted progress of increasing the reports of sexual assaults over Europe. In fact, 55% of women in the EU have experienced sexual harassment at least once since the age of 15, 35% of whom never told anybody about the most serious incident. In addition to this, one in three women have experienced **physical and/or sexual violence**³ from an age of as low as 15. This issue is even more alarming among women who are **economically or socially dependent** upon their abusive partners, (in particular, migrant women⁴), and is usually referred to as domestic violence.

2. Key Actors

- **The European Union:** This organisation can take legal actions to protect victims of sexual assault. It also carries out surveys on the issues of sexual offences, providing statistics and information on that matter and regularly publishes reports through the European Agency for Fundamental Rights.
- **National governments:** They are responsible for implementing protective measures to prevent sexual violence. They also legislate on that matter so as give the victims legal tools to sue their perpetrator, while coordinating their strategies with the EU.
- **Rape Crisis Network Europe:** This network offers services and support for victims of sexual assault and rape, as well as domestic violence.
- **National police forces:** they are responsible for seeking perpetrators. However, many victims of sexual violence fear to contact them. The lack of reception and insufficient victim support system, often de-motivate women from reporting cases of aggression, resulting in under-reporting and sluggish follow ups on gender-based violence complaints
- **NGOs:** some organisations such as Women's aid and The European Women's Lobby play an important role in this issue by carrying out campaigns to raise awareness and also by providing a shelter and legal support to victims of sexual violence.

² <http://fra.europa.eu/en/press-release/2014/unreported-violence-against-women-masks-true-extent-problem>

³ Insulting, hitting, controlling and even forced sex, The Issue of Violence against Women in the European Union, *The European Parliament*, 2016

⁴ [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2016/556931/IPOL_STU\(2016\)556931_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2016/556931/IPOL_STU(2016)556931_EN.pdf)

3. Key Conflicts

The patriarchal functioning of the society based on **persistent conservative values** impacts the willingness of victims to report what they have suffered. This results in a **substantial decrease** in the number of victims coming forward, and promotes a rape culture as well as a **normalisation of the crime of sexual violence**.

In spite of the sympathy shown towards these victims, the belief that a victim should come forward can be overshadowed by many problems, such as **victim shaming, mitigating circumstances⁵, and impact of the issue** on careers, family and friends. Not only is the problem of victim shaming projected by the general public, often the authorities tend to underplay this issue, and attempt to **discourage reporters** of sexual assault from taking legal action against their perpetrators.

The **lack of services** provided to victims who choose to take legal action is another issue. Many suffer greatly from reliving the trauma of their assault in a court case, and must undergo the stress of cross examinations, often to have to face victim blaming and shaming after the court case. Additionally, in many cases, the **perpetrators are acquitted**, thus a “**double victimisation**” of the victims.

4. Measures Already in Place

For those who have experienced sexual assault, there are many organisations, voluntary or otherwise, that they can turn to for **help, counselling, and legal advice**. The organisations under the umbrella network of the RCNE, as well as others, offer support for those who are intending to report their encounters. This support can include anything from **emotional support** to the **supplying of information**, to the **accompaniment at a police station or in a courtroom**. Some organisations offer information on their websites for the general public to better understand the struggles that victims go through, and suggest ways in which these individuals can be helped by family and friends.⁶

The European institutions mentioned above also **provide statistics** on the figures of reported incidents of sexual assault. In particular, the European Commission funds a sizeable portion of the research carried out to obtain the figures of reported sexual assault in Europe.

Certain countries across Europe are making an effort to prevent the formation or increased normalisation of a rape culture, such as France, who have recently announced a national plan to **combat sexual and domestic violence** which aims to **simplify the process for reporting sexual offences**, **implement safety measures** for women, and also **educate school children** on these issues

⁵ Mitigating circumstances: circumstances in which an individual may be reprimanded, such as illegal trespassing. Some victims may not want to report an assault if they believe they will be reprimanded for the situation they were in when it occurred.

⁶ <https://www.rcne.com/>

5. Key Questions

- How can victims of sexual violence be made more comfortable with reporting the abuse they have suffered and denouncing their aggressor?
- To what extent should the law be changed and judiciary procedures facilitated to encourage victims of sexual violence to sue their abuser?
- What is the role of the victims' close circle in supporting and protecting them and encouraging them to take legal actions?
- In our society, to what extent should people witnessing sexual violence behaviour intervene to protect the victims?

6. Keywords

- **Victim blaming/shaming:** the fact of making victims of sexual assault ashamed of themselves and responsible for what they have suffered, thus making them believe that it is their fault.
- **Sexual assault:** any type of non-consensual sexual contact or activities which occur through physical force or threats. It includes rape and sexual coercion.
- **Domestic violence:** violence or the threat of violence by a person against his or her intimate partner, such as current or former spouses, girlfriends/boyfriends, or dating partners
- **Consent:** Consent refers to the clear affirmation of an individual through either words or actions to engage in a specific sexual action at the given moment. Consent can be withdrawn at any time, and does not extend to anyone other than to whom the consent was originally given. Additionally, it is only valid in the instance it is given in. Silence is **NOT** consent.
- **Under-publication** the lack of recognition and reporting on a certain topic in the media or the news.

7. Links For Further Research

- Sexual harassment of women in the EU (statistics by the European Parliament)
[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=EPRS_ATA\(2018\)614716](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=EPRS_ATA(2018)614716)
- European institute for gender equality
<https://eige.europa.eu/gender-based-violence>
- Article by the European Commission
<https://ec.europa.eu/justice/grants/results/daphne-toolkit/en/content/comparing-sexual-assault-interventions-cosai>
- Article by the European Commission
https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/gender-based-violence/ending-gender-based-violence_en

- Article providing insight into why victims of sexual assault do not come forward to report their attacks
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-compassion-chronicles/201711/why-dont-victims-sexual-harassment-come-forward-sooner>
- Study that provides information and statistics about reportings of, or lack thereof, sexual assault
<http://kanskapsbanken.nck.uu.se/nckkb/nck/publik/fil/visa/197/different>
- Article summarising France’s national plan to combat, assist victims of, and raise awareness of, sexual assault
<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-france-violence-macron/frances-macron-unveils-plan-to-curb-violence-against-women-idUSKBN1DP0H9>
- Article about violence against women in the EU
<https://www.theguardian.com/news/datablog/2014/mar/05/violence-against-women-european-union-physical-sexual-abuse>



COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE (INTA)

*After the Lisbon Treaty, promoting ‘fair trade’ has become one of the long-term objectives of the EU international trading partners, by setting up key international labour and environment standards and agreements amongst the rectification of international deals. **What can the EU do to further work with partners to strengthen the competitiveness of fairtrade exporters, through a broad offer of tools and services, to help build vibrant and sustainable export sectors that provide economic opportunities to all?***

Chairperson: Matias Mäkiranta (FI)

1. What Is the Problem and Why Does This Matter?

The wealth of the richest one percent equals of everyone else in the world¹. At the moment several workers and farmers are working below minimum wage in order to produce goods for the world, especially to the Western societies. In 2015 10 percent of the world's population lived on less than US\$1.90 a day². Around 265 million children are working worldwide even though child labour is considered unethical³.

The climate change is the problem of the century. Our society is based on consumption, which gets unsustainable in the long run. Thus taking in account the environmental standards is these important. Rising inequality, poverty and environmental problems have driven the global community to search for sustainable business models and trade.

For most consumers '**fair trade**' can be seen as the work done by the Fairtrade International, which labels products that are produced according to Fairtrade standards. However, the term 'fair trade' holds in a lot more than the labelling of goods. 'Fair trade' is a movement that reaches for sustainable trade policies that takes in account social and environmental problems. The main goal of the movement is to ensure that economic development goes hand in hand with social justice and high environmental standards.

The EU has always reached for **free trade** and after the Lisbon Treaty it has started promoting fair trade as well. 90% of future global growth is predicted to happen outside Europe's borders⁴. Hence - trade is a vehicle for growth and a key priority for the EU. **The World Trade Organization** (WTO) deals with the global rules of trade between nations and EU follows its principles. According to WTO principles, countries cannot normally discriminate their trading partners by promoting products of some states over others, and imported and locally produced goods should be treated equally.

The EU's trade policies have been used as **a tool to open markets for European companies**. However, the EU also uses trade negotiations in order to promote key EU values, human rights and the environment.

The European Union does not have a straightforward **fair trade policy**, but fair trade has been notified in several trade policies. The EU has for example trade policies for developing countries and promoted sustainable development in trade as part of the EU trade policies⁵.

2. Key Actors

- **World Trade organization (WTO):** The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations. The principles and agreements of WTO regarding trade affect the whole world.

¹ <https://www.google.com.tr/amp/s/amp.theguardian.com/inequality/2017/nov/14/worlds-richest-wealth-credit-suisse>

² <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/overview>

³ <https://ourworldindata.org/child-labor>

⁴ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/trade-policy/>

⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/index_en.html

- **The European Commission:** The European Commission (EC) is an institution of the European Union, responsible for proposing legislation, implementing decisions, upholding the EU treaties and managing the day-to-day business of the EU. It prepares, negotiates and proposes trade agreements.
- **Council of the EU:** Decides jointly with the European parliament whether to approve EU trade agreements.
- **European Parliament:** Decides jointly with the Council of the EU whether to approve EU trade agreements
- **Multinational companies:** The choices that large companies make have a big impact on how sustainable our goods are. These companies can themselves already promote fair trade or, in the opposite direction, undermine basic social rights.
- **World fair trade organization Europe (WFTO):** The WFTO is an organization of Fair Trade enterprises that are across over 70 countries.
- **Fairtrade International:** A global organization reaching to secure a better deal for farmers and workers for example through product labelling.

3. Key Conflicts

Fairtrade International uses **Fairtrade certification labels** in order to promote products created according to Fairtrade standards. However, Fairtrade label does not take in account environmental effects such as the produced carbon-dioxide pollution of the product and concentrates only on the social side. It also leaves the power to choose about fair trade to the consumer, who might not favour ethical products before cheap products.

In order to promote **fair trade, regulations** regarding social and environmental issues are needed. However, a lot of overbearing regulations can prevent innovative ideas from flourishing and be an obstacle for foreign investments. Therefore some people argue that **free trade** is the best way to promote fair trade.⁶ Neoliberalists believe that consumers will eventually make sustainable choices on their own. However, many consumers are more interested in the price of the product rather than the ethics of it. This gives companies a chance to produce goods as cheap as possible while undermining ethics.

Others believe that states and international organizations such as the European Union should intervene with different regulations in order to ensure fair trade. These **interventionists** favour state activity, for example through legislation and regulations. For interventionists, the EU trade regulations, which makes sure that imported products are sold at a fair price and with high environmental standards, are important.

As noticed, too much regulation might prevent economic growth and also too much deregulation can lead to corporations being able to undermine basic social and human rights. The aim is to find a balance between the two sides.

⁶ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/timworstall/2012/04/02/but-free-trade-is-by-definition-fair-trade/amp/>

According to European Commission, the EU aims for free and fair trade⁷. However, some criticise the trade policies and claim that the EU trade policies favour European companies at the cost of local producers around the world. The European companies usually have more resources and advantage on the market. Therefore free trade might harm the local producers.

4. Measures Already in Place

Fair trade has been a goal driven by the communities and NGOs. One of the most visible measures to promote free trade is **the labelling of products** made by Fairtrade International. The Fairtrade certification implies to the consumer that the product takes in account social values⁸.

EU trade policy is an exclusive EU competence, which means that the EU makes a decision of it, not the Member States. The commission proposes the trade policy and council together with the parliament decides. The new trade policy includes a policy for developing countries and takes fair trade in account. The EU aims to help the least-developed countries and boost their production and economy.

Economic partnership agreements (EPAs) are trade and development agreements negotiated between the EU and African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) partners engaged in regional economic integration processes. These trade agreements are WTO-compatible but go beyond conventional free trade agreements and reach for development in ACP countries⁹.

The EU has also implemented other measures in order to reach sustainability in the developing areas. For example the **External Investment Investment Plan** (EIP) is an EU initiative designed to attract more investment, in particular from businesses and private investors, into countries near the EU ('EU Neighbourhood') and in Africa¹⁰. It aims to create jobs, raise living standards and support entrepreneurs.

The Member States of the United Nations agreed on **Agenda 2030** which includes global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)¹¹. Besides other goals, the Agenda 2030 reaches for decent work and sustainable economic growth.

The European consensus on development takes in account fair trade as part of the EU's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

5. Key Questions

- What prospects of fair trade should be included in the definition of the phrase?
- How big is the consumer's responsibility in defining how ethical the production of a product is?
- What kind of trade policies should the EU create in order to promote the environment and fight inequality?
- How to ensure that the EU trade policies favor the local producers as well as European companies?

⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/free-and-fair-trade-2017-sep-14_en

⁸ <https://www.fairtrade.net/standards/our-standards.html>

⁹ <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/development/economic-partnerships/>

¹⁰ https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/policies/financing-development/eip_en

¹¹ <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

6. Keywords

- **EU trade policy:** The European Union's agreements that control imports and exports.
- **EU fair trade:** Fair trade is a movement seeking social justice and environmental sustainability
- **Europeaid:** Europeaid is an EU program which helps the developing countries.
- **WFTO:** The world fair trade organization has a lot of good information on the topic.
- **Fair trade issues:** Finding the criticism behind fair trade is also extremely important for the topic.

7. Links For Further Research

- <https://wfto-europe.org/international-fair-trade-charter/>
- <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/trade-policy/>
- <https://www.google.com.tr/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&url=https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/~media/fairtradeuk/get%2520involved/documents/current%2520campaigns/vote%25204%2520ft/current%2520eu%2520trade%2520policies.pdf&ved=2ahUKEwibrdqt9pveAhXG2qQKHxAbAQFjABegQICChAE&usg=AOvVaw2Wiy2B9mfpJd418ICksM2m>
- https://www.google.com.tr/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&url=https://www.oefse.at/fileadmin/content/Downloads/tradeconference/Martens_Conceptual_Framework_Mapping_EU_Fair_Trade_Policy.pdf&ved=2ahUKEwibrdqt9pveAhXG2qQKHxAbAQFjAGegQIBRAB&usg=AOvVaw1UgCIUU3gdC48IdiLacd_p
- https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/node/22_en
- <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/Media-Centre/Blog/2018/February/How-Fairtrade-and-producers-are-tackling-challenges-together>
- <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/development/>
- <https://www.google.com.tr/amp/s/amp.economist.com/business-books-quarterly/2014/07/05/good-thing-or-bad#ampf=undefined>
- <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=xT6TQSxID0Y>
- <https://www.google.com.tr/amp/s/amp.theguardian.com/global-development/2014/sep/05/fairtrade-unjust-movement-serves-rich>

COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND ENERGY (ITRE)

*Over the past 200 years, employment numbers have persistently increased due to technological development. The development of robotics and Artificial Intelligence (AI) may have the potential to transform lives and work practices, drive efficiency, increase savings, and improve safety levels in areas such as transport, medical care, rescue, education and farming. **What can the European Commission and the Member States do to foster AI entrepreneurship, research programmes, and explore long-term risks and opportunities of AI and robotics technologies while encouraging the initiation of a structured public dialogue on the consequences of their development?***

Chairpersons: Anastasia Makeeva (FI) & Lisa Fuchsberger (AT)

1. What Is the Problem and Why Does This Matter?

As we are on the cusp of **the Fourth Industrial Revolution¹**, sometimes also referred to as **Industry 4.0**, our lives are changing drastically at an exponential speed, and this is partly due to the AI economic development. The AI was a USD 5 billion marketplace by revenue in 2015 and is expected to increase by more than double its size by 2020.

Funding for global **AI start-ups has increased by 60% at compound annual growth between 2010 and 2017**, with leading countries such as China, Russia and the United States². Even with European countries such as Estonia, being pioneers in exploring AI, the European Union still lags behind.

AI entrepreneurship is relatively new and there has not been an establishment of a common approach of this matter. However, considering the fast-paced development of our modern economy, the decision on how to approach and **implement AI entrepreneurship on an EU-wide** (as well as on global) level will essentially be a determining factor of the development of our economy.

2. Key Actors

- **European Commission:** a governing body of the European Union which **implements decisions, proposes legislation**, maintains EU treaties and makes sure that the everyday business of the EU is functioning correctly and efficiently. Once legislations are passed through the Council of the European Union and Parliament, it is the European Commission's responsibility to ensure it's being implemented.
- **Member States:** At the moment, there are 28 countries in the European Union. Each state **represents itself in the EU institutions** and also has its own national institutions. If a state is a full member, they have a seat in the Council of the European Union and European Council.
- **European Association for Artificial Intelligence:** a representative body for the European Artificial Intelligence community. The aim of it is to promote study, research and application of AI in Europe. It carries out conferences and courses.

3. Key Conflicts

Even though **EU is already contributing to AI development** and research, it is behind in private investments in AI (2.4-3.2 billion euro in 2016 compared to 6.5-9.7 billion in Asia and 12.1-18.6 billion in North America).³ So, how can we make sure that EU doesn't fall behind on supporting the issue?

One other issue related to safe development is the fact that automatization of work leads to unemployment. For example, this video explains what happens when the technological development does not take ethics into concern⁴. There is a chance that AI will surpass human intelligence because of the

¹ <https://www.weforum.org/about/the-fourth-industrial-revolution-by-klaus-schwab>

² <https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbestechcouncil/2017/12/05/these-seven-countries-are-in-a-race-to-rule-the-world-with-ai/#7e831bce4c24>

³ <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/factsheet-artificial-intelligence-europe>

⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rnBAdnNIIXk>

privileges it has such as automated intellect (basically a powerful computer instead of a brain) and infinite stamina. It is also much easier for employers to use AI because it is free labour where the employer only needs to pay to power the machine and it is willing to do anything needed and for as long as needed. So, that raises a question: how can we use that power without restricting humans' rights to work? The development may also cause the rise of other socioeconomic challenges such as changes in the structure of businesses that will need the workers to get further education on them.

4. Measures Already in Place

Currently the European Commission is investing around **2.6 billion euros on AI-related areas over the duration of Horizon 2020**⁵. 700 million euros has been put into robotics during the programme, 2.1 billion euros in private investments went into one of the biggest smart robot research programmes in the world. 27 billion euros through European structure and investment funds are spent on skill development from which **2.3 billion euros are spent specifically on digital skills development**. There are different projects taking place related to agriculture, data and eHealth, public administration and services, transport and manufacturing.⁶ There is also a new project called AI4EU, the main objective of the AI4EU project⁷ is **to create a European AI-on-demand platform**. This platform will act as a broker, developer and shop providing services such as development tools.

5. Key Questions

- What actions should be taken in order to foster the AI development?
- What actions should be taken in order to educate the general public about the AI?
- How do we ensure that Artificial Intelligence does not replace human labour to the extent that would create high unemployment?
- What kind of role would different stakeholders have in tackling the problem?
- How do we make sure that Artificial Intelligence will be leading to positive changes and not the other way around? (Safe ways to use it?)

6. Keywords

- **Artificial intelligence (AI)**: simulated intelligence in machines. Machines that use artificial intelligence are basically programmed to think like a human would and mimic human-like behavior. The purposes of artificial intelligence are to combine humane concepts such as learning, reasoning and perception with concepts that machines are much better (or faster and more functionate) at such as mathematics, linguistics, computer sciences etc. to create machines that will possess scientific criteria and knowledge while having humanity.⁸

⁵ <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/>

⁶ <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/factsheet-artificial-intelligence-europe>

⁷ <https://ai4eu.org/>

⁸ <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/a/artificial-intelligence-ai.asp>

- **Entrepreneurship:** creating, designing, launching and running a new business, which is usually a small business, carried out by people called entrepreneurs. The goal is basically to produce a good or provide a service that will make profit. Entrepreneurship can also be described as willingness and capability of functionally managing a business, while avoiding the risks, tackling challenges and making profit.
- **Software as a Service (SaaS):** *distribution of software where customers access the software via the Internet, meaning the provider is hosting the application whilst the customers can use their standard browser. Well-known SaaS' are for instance Google Apps or Dropbox.*⁹
- **European AI-on-demand platform:** This platform will act as a broker, developer and a “shop” providing services such as development tools.
- **Horizon 2020:** biggest EU Research and Innovation programme so far with plans starting from 2014 up until 2020 with 80 billion euros in funding plus the private investments. The purpose is to drive economic growth and create jobs while focusing on science, industrial leadership and innovation.¹⁰
- **Return on investment (ROI):** a measure, expressed as a ratio and percentage, to evaluate the efficiency of an investment as well as to compare the efficiency of two or more investments.¹¹

7. Links For Further Research

- European Association for Artificial Intelligence: <https://www.eurai.org/>
- European Commission (on AI specifically): <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/artificial-intelligence>
- Factsheet on AI for Europe: <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/factsheet-artificial-intelligence-europe>
- Some examples: <https://www.siliconrepublic.com/enterprise/saas-enterprise-ai-startups-europe-2018>
- Commission outlines European approach to artificial intelligence: https://ec.europa.eu/growth/content/commission-outlines-european-approach-artificial-intelligence_en
- About AI: <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/a/artificial-intelligence-ai.asp>
- What entrepreneurship is: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Entrepreneurship#Types_of_entrepreneurs
- AI4EU website: <https://ai4eu.org/>
- YouTube video on AI destroying jobs: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rnBAdnNIIXk>

⁹ <https://www.techopedia.com/definition/155/software-as-a-service-saas>

¹⁰ <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/what-horizon-2020>

¹¹ <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/r/returnoninvestment.asp>

Partners of Tampere 2018 – Regional Session of EYP Finland



eurooppatiedotus.fi
Ulkoministeriö



Svenska
kulturfonden



Skandium Media



TAMPERE



Food & Co.

EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT
SUOMI FINLAND

