

European Union

By Hank Schrader



What is the EU?

- The European Union is an economic & political union of 27 member states.
- It has made Europe one of the world's most important economic forces. The members generate about 22% of the PPP (per person parity) gross world product.

How does the EU work?

- The EU has developed a single market in Europe that ensures free movement of people, goods, services & capital (money).
- It maintains common policies on trade, agriculture, fisheries & regional development.
- 27 states use the Euro as their currency.

3 Pillars of the EU

- 1st Pillar--European Communities—includes all economic agreements, EU citizenship & social policy (Human rights)
- 2nd Pillar--Common Foreign & Security Policy
- 3rd Pillar--Police & Judicial Co-operation in Criminal Matters

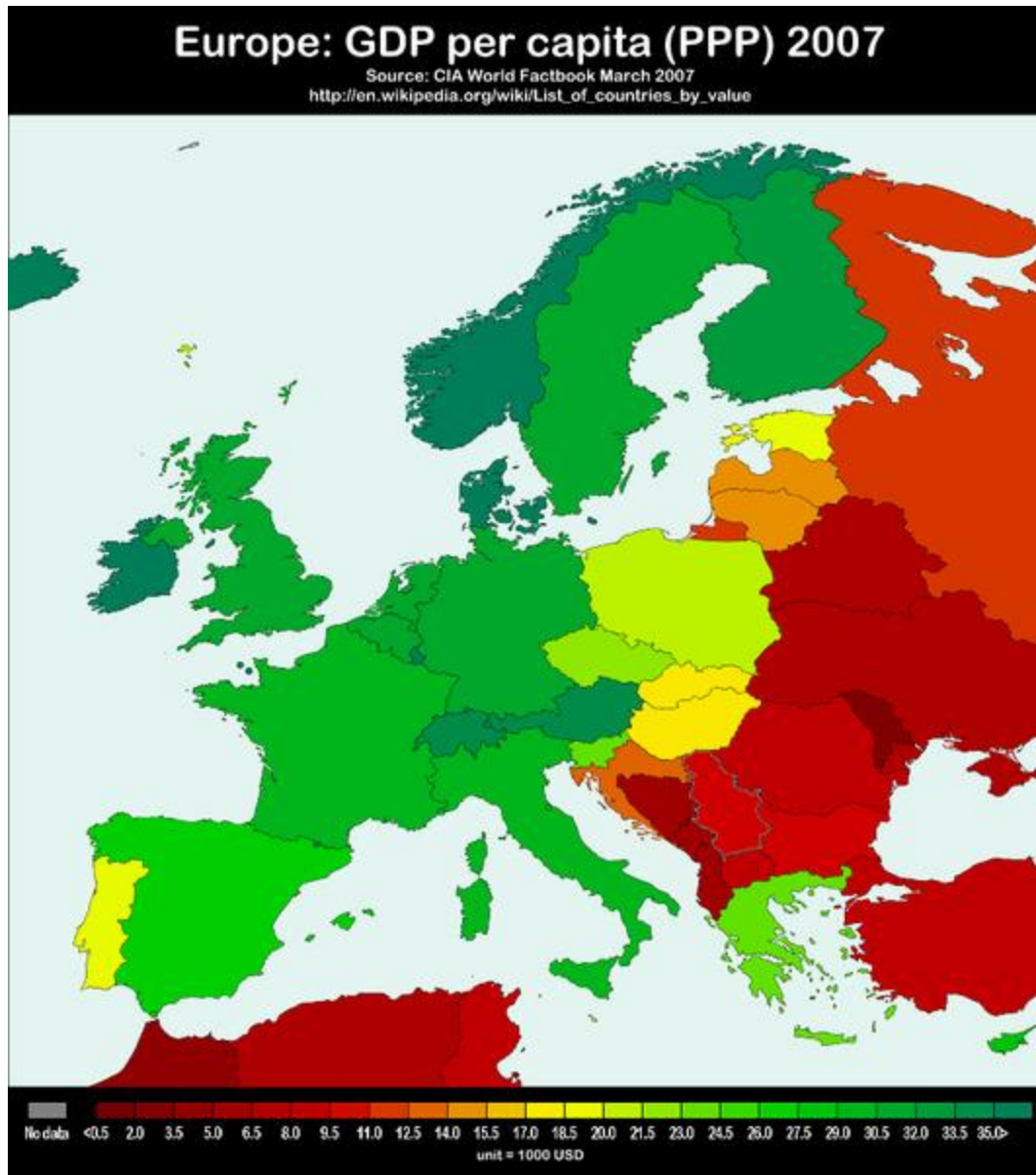
Membership Requirements

- 1) Must have democratic government, that supports the rule of law, preserves human rights and provides respect & protection for minorities
- 2) Must have a functioning market economy
- 3) Must be able to uphold the obligations of membership, including adherence to the aims of political, economic & monetary unity.

Members of the EU



Effects of EU



Fall of the Berlin Wall



Effects of EU on European Travel

- You can cross many borders within the EU without being checked
- The euro makes it easier to shop around for bargains & eliminates the need to change currency in countries that use the euro.
- Some Europeans are skeptical that the EU can promote unity while preserving cultural diversity

Schengen Area

- The Schengen area is Europe's borderless area.
- It operates very much like a single state for international travel without external border controls for travelers travelling in and out of the area, but with no internal border controls.
- That means you can cross many borders without being checked.

Schengen Area

- The current list of European countries covered by the Schengen Convention are:
- Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia, Sweden and Spain.

Map of the Schengen Area



Visa Requirements

- The United Kingdom, Ireland, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Romania and Switzerland are not part of the Schengen zone, but also don't require a visa for stays under three months (you can stay six months without a visa in the UK).
- You will still need a visa if you decide to travel to **Ukraine, Belarus, Georgia, Russia and Turkey.**