

King'sMUN

The EU



Noah Muscat
Feb. 22, 2025

Welcome Letter

Dear King'sMUN 2025 delegates,

As this year's Co-Secretary Generals of King'sMUN, we are truly honoured to welcome you to our 11th annual conference. The Secretariat has been working hard throughout this school year to deliver you an incredible, in-person conference with various unique committees, experienced chairs, and a successful day of debate.

Model United Nations, a reenactment of the function of the United Nations, is designed for students to come together to debate, discuss, and develop creative resolutions to various pressing issues that plague our current world. In most committees, students take on the positions of multiple countries, characters, or political figures to create solutions for real and fictional issues and crises. We provide distinctive committees that delve into historical events, future scenarios, and fictional topics.

In our personal experience with MUN, we have developed many valuable skills that we will take with us throughout our lives, such as confidence in public speaking, leadership, and creative problem-solving. Furthermore, MUN promotes lifelong connections, as we meet delegates who share similar passions in committee sessions. We genuinely believe that your participation in MUN will guide you throughout your high school journey and beyond.

At King'sMUN, we provide a variety of committees to ensure that we have something of interest for everyone. From very current pressing issues (i.e. UNSC and the ICJ) and issues in sports (i.e. English Premier League and International Olympic Committee) to fictional committees, yet applicable issues (i.e. Pokémon) and issues set in our very own communities (i.e. Government of Ontario). We strive to ensure that there is appeal for a variety of delegates. Whether you have no experience or have attended many conferences, there is a place at King'sMUN for you!

Once again, we are thrilled to welcome all delegates, new or returning, back to King's MUN. We hope you will engage in fruitful debate and have a fantastic time at King'sMUN 2025.

Sincerely,

Aryan Suri and Luciana Ilic

Co-Secretary Generals

King'sMUN 2025

Table of Contents

History of EU.....	3
Background Information.....	4
Topic 1: Migrants, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers.....	4
Topic 2: Poverty and Inequality.....	6
Connections to SDGs.....	8
Works Cited.....	10
Appendices.....	12

History of the EU

The creation of the European Union was meant to facilitate economic cooperation and avoid the heightened nationalistic tensions that led to two World Wars. After World War II, all the European countries were devastated both economically and politically. The need for cooperation became clear. In 1951, the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) was formed among six countries: Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands. This organization was aimed at controlling the production of coal and steel, the two most essential industries to war manufacturing. The early collaboration laid the foundation for increased economic and political integration. With the Treaty of Rome in 1957, the European Economic Community emerged. A common market aimed at the free movements of goods, services, capital, and people across borders was created. Its purpose was to achieve greater prosperity and stability while reducing the chance of war. Increasing the presence of European countries in the world economy was the end goal. As time passed, the community expanded its membership and political responsibilities, especially in areas like human rights, democracy, and sustainable development. These actions finally led to the establishment of the European Union. Founded on the belief of unity, the EU has always worked towards lasting peace, shared prosperity, and a more united continent in the face of global challenges.



Background Information

Although its origins date back to the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) in 1951 and the European Economic Community (EEC) in 1957, the EU was officially created with the signing of the Maastricht Treaty in 1992. Over the years, the EU continued to expand its attendance. Many Eastern European countries amalgamated into the Union after the collapse of the Soviet Union. One of the biggest impacts of this collaboration between countries has been the unified market established within the Union where goods, services, people, and capital can move freely across states. The EU introduced a shared currency as well. Used by 19 of the 27 member countries, the Euro further improves economic cooperation. Due to the democratic values of the EU, they also played an active role in global trade, climate change awareness, and advocacy for human rights. Increased political cooperation between countries helped promote peace and stability. With these initiatives and involvement aimed towards advancing Europe, the EU has evolved into one of the biggest economic and political gatherings in the world.

Topic 1: Migrants, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers

A growing percentage of the EU's population is made up of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers from all over the world. For these individuals, Europe stands as a place of tranquility. It's a place free from the distress of war or poverty that plague their home countries. Most have a multitude of reasons for immigrating to member countries of the EU. Refugees from war-scarred areas like Syria or Afghanistan seek asylum, while the economic migrants are on the hunt for job openings in more developed countries.

Nevertheless, the approach of the EU to deal with these refugees and asylum seekers has been nothing but controversial and complicated. Some countries have come up with supportive

integration programs for the immigrants, but others have responded negatively. Most countries have set up high immigration barriers to secure themselves, referencing the possible negative impacts on job security, cultural exchange, and the economy. European Union states are ill equipped to handle migration influxes, sometimes leading up to severe migration crises (see Appendix A).

The EU's migration policies are mainly questioned because of their fragmented nature. Different member states have different quota systems, asylum procedures, and border control measures. This has resulted in confrontations, disparities among states, even turning away asylum refugees. In addition to this, migrants themselves often have to deal with xenophobia, labor exploitation, and legal barriers. Social rights these migrants are entitled to are denied when they attempt to contact services for legal protection. Delegates are asked to coordinate EU migration policies for immigrants to experience a more streamlined integration process into European societies.

The task of this committee is to consider the above as well as mitigate the impact of human smuggling organizations that perpetuate the issues and limit the number of deaths of migrants who take dangerous journeys into the EU.

Further Questions to Consider:

1. Should the European Union adopt a more open-door immigration policy to address labor shortages, or does this pose a risk of exacerbating existing economic inequality within member states?
2. To what extent should the EU be responsible for providing financial assistance to countries that are overwhelmed by migrant inflows, and how can this help reduce poverty and inequality?
3. Can the EU's current asylum and migration policies effectively reduce poverty and inequality, or do they mainly perpetuate economic segregation within member states?

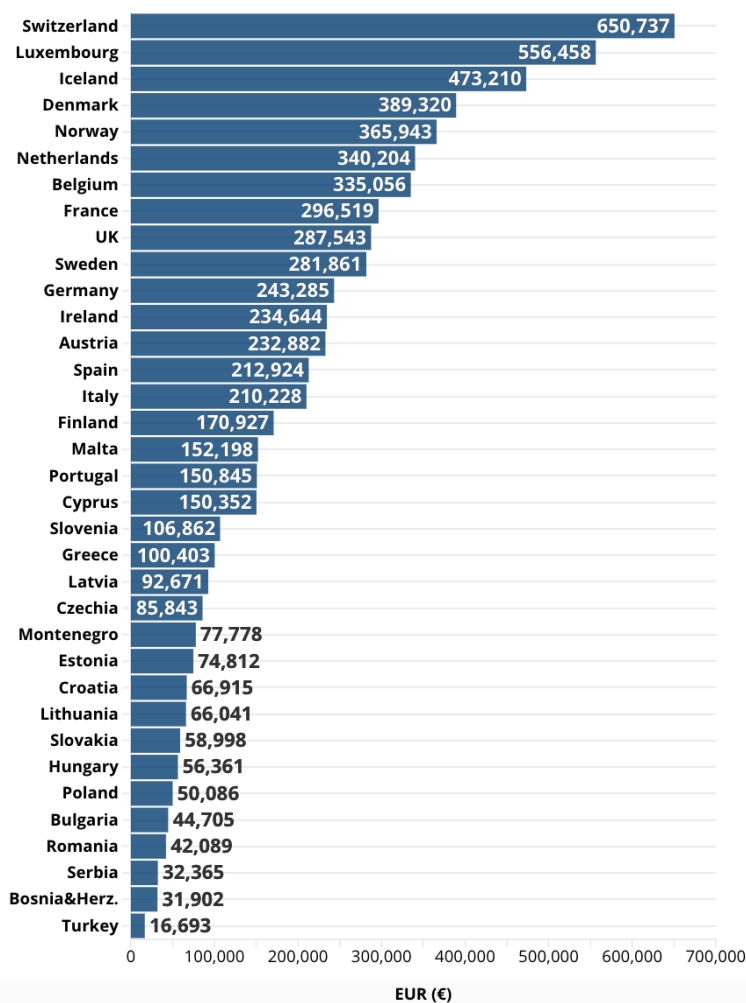
4. How can the European Union balance the integration of refugees and migrants while ensuring that local populations do not suffer from increased poverty or social inequality as a consequence of migration?

Topic 2: Poverty and Inequality

Despite being overall wealthy and well-developed, the European Union continues to face pressing challenges surrounding poverty and inequality. Even some of the globally richest countries in the EU have high poverty and social exclusion. As can be seen in the figures below, recent statistics confirm how a big part of the population faces the threat of poverty or social exclusion, especially in countries with weaker economies such as Bulgaria, Romania, and Greece.

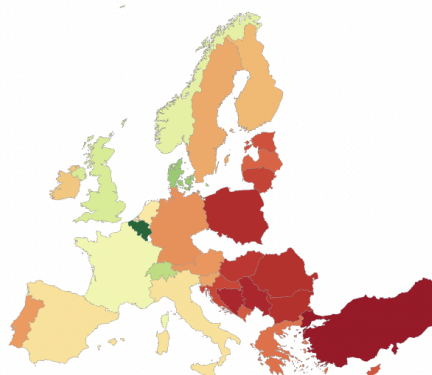
Wealth per adult (2022)

Mean Median



Median wealth per adult

€ 5212 121,284.5 237,357



The gap within the EU between affluent and poor regions is also increasing. Several countries of Southern and Eastern Europe have higher unemployment rates, lower wages, and restricted access to social services. Inequality is further entrenched by factors like gender, race, and disability, as these groups

often face obstacles in receiving education, health care, and job opportunities. Studies conducted in the last decade shed light on how inequality is affecting the populations of the EU differently (See Appendix B).

The EU has rolled out different initiatives and social safety nets, including the “European Pillar of Social Rights”, to help resolve these issues. However, extremely slow progress is being recorded on the execution of these initiatives. The political and social effects of economic disparities can also provoke the rise of nationalism and populism in some EU countries, further threatening the unity and stability in the region. In order to fight effectively against poverty and inequality within the EU, comprehensive multi-level strategies should be implemented.

Delegates are urged to review not only economic policies, but also committing to social justice, inclusion, and equal opportunities for all.

Further Questions to Consider

1. How can the EU ensure economic growth in countries with weak economies without harming countries with strong countries in order to create a more equal wealth distribution?
2. What measures can promptly be taken to mitigate the worst effects of poverty and social inequality in EU countries?
3. What developments in EU policies have made a significantly positive impact on resolving the inequalities EU citizens face? What factors caused these policies to be more effective compared to others in the past?

Connections to SDGs

The challenges facing the European Union directly relate to many key SDGs. Economic inequality among member states can be compared to SDG 10: “Reduced Inequality”. Target 10.1 focuses



on ensuring that economic growth in the bottom 40% of the population is higher than the overall growth and Target 10.2 seeks to empower and promote social, economic, and political inclusion to all. The EU's work in reducing inequality through their “Cohesion Fund” and investments in less prosperous regions contributes to these outlined targets.

The issue of Brexit relates to SDG 16: “Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions”. Target 16.7



involves responsive, inclusive, and representative decision-making while Target 16.8 involves increasing developing country participation in global governance. Maintaining strong democratic institutions within the EU is vital for stability.



The immigration and refugee crisis also applies to both SDG 10:

Reduced Inequality and SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions. Specifically, Target 10.3 seeks to provide equal opportunities to everyone through the elimination of discriminatory practices, whereas Target 16.3 promises lawful justice to all. Target

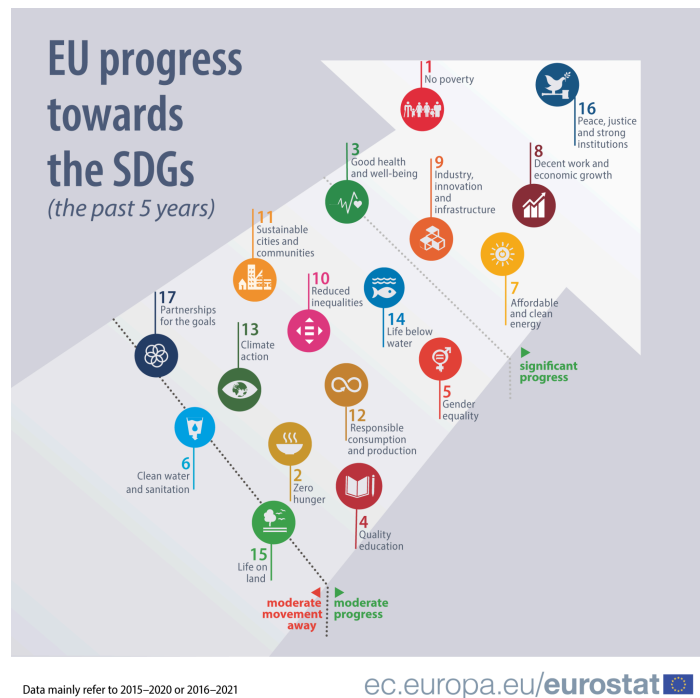
16.2 deals more with ending abuse and exploitation, specifically of children. The EU's policies on migration and refugees have to uphold fairness and protection. The upsurge of nationalism and populism put the EU's unified democratic values to the test. Target 16.6 on accountable and transparent institutions and Target 16.1 on reducing violence and ensuring peace speaks to these issues directly.



Furthermore, the EU's commitment to take action against climate change addresses SDG 13: Climate Action. It especially matches Target 13.2 on integrating climate change measures into national policies and Target 13.3 on education and capacity-building to

advance climate change mitigation. The EU supports global efforts against climate change through the “European Green Deal” and other climate policies. Their cumulative target is to become the first climate-neutral continent by 2050.

SDGs and targets provide a clear framework for addressing the EU's challenges and ensuring its actions contribute to sustainable development, equality, and global peace. The EU's progress to achieving its goal can be referenced the below figure.



in

Works Cited

“Immigration to the European Union.” *European Union*,

https://european-union.europa.eu/live-work-study/immigration-eu_en.

“Inequality.” *Eurofound*, <https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/en/topic/inequality>.

“Poverty and Inequality.” *European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research*,

www.euro.centre.org/domains/poverty-and-inequality.

- “Poverty and Inequality in the European Union – submission to the UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights.” *Social Justice Ireland*, 2020,
<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Poverty/VisitEU/SocialJusticeIreland.pdf>
- Admin, Rumi. “Fear, Integration, and Identity in European Immigration Discourse.” *Rumi Forum*, 29 Oct. 2024,
https://rumiforum.org/fear-integration-and-identity-in-european-immigration-discourse/?gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiApY-7BhBjEiwAQMrrEVzr4wLTzkJmWpydIYPNGxJAmH26Cai7g-G7MMtg--yiGEJfUzyVvBoCU0EQAvD_BwE.
- Collet, Elizabeth, and Le Coz, Camille. “After the Storm: Learning from the EU Response to the Migration Crisis.” *Migration Policy Institute*, Jun. 2018,
<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/after-storm-eu-response-migration-crisis>.
- Goodger, Samuel, and Makay, Monika. “The Fight Against Poverty, Social Exclusion and Discrimination.” *Fact Sheets on the European Union*, European Parliament, 2024,
www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets/en/sheet/60/the-fight-against-poverty-social-exclusion-and-discrimination.
- Regional Information Centre for Western Europe. “Migration to the EU: Facts, Not Perceptions.” *United Nations*, 14 Dec. 2023,
<https://unric.org/en/migration-to-the-eu-facts-not-perceptions/>.
- Statista Research Department. “Individual wealth in Europe - statistics & facts.” *Statista*, 29 Feb. 2024, www.statista.com/topics/4507/high-net-worth-individuals-in-europe.
- WID.World. “What’s New About Inequality in Europe in 2023?” *World Inequality Database*, 22 Nov. 2023, <https://wid.world/news-article/2023-wid-update-europe/>.

Appendix A

After the Storm: Learning from the EU Response to the Migration Crisis

Analysis • Source: [MPI](#) • Posted: 28 Jun 2018 • Originally published: 28 Jun 2018 • Origin: [View original](#)

European leaders should de-escalate crisis around migration, says MPI Europe report

BRUSSELS – The European Union needs to boost its institutional capacity to predict and handle future volatility in migration to ease the sense of crisis hanging over national leaders, argues a new report from the Migration Policy Institute Europe.

Heads of government attending the European Summit this Thursday and Friday will discuss a range of issues, from strengthening external border controls to shifting responsibility for individual asylum claims. But in this discussion, the capacity of the EU institutions to respond to crisis has been largely absent.

The MPI Europe report, titled [After the Storm: Learning from the EU response to the migration crisis](#), describes in detail how the bloc responded to the influx of hundreds of thousands of people in 2015-2016. It makes clear that EU officials were taken off guard by the dramatic rise in arrivals over the summer of 2015 and struggled to develop a course of action for several months. Despite the situation affecting several Member States, EU institutions had few means to coordinate a collective response.

To cope with this lack of internal leadership, the European Union organised a series of emergency summits, but this, in turn, over-politicised the response. The sense of panic that emerged has sustained an overall perception of crisis even as numbers of arrivals have dropped.

MPI Europe Director Elizabeth Collett and Policy Analyst Camille Le Coz argue in the report that to counter this, European policymakers should reassess the architecture built up to deal with the influx of 2015-2016.

'In many ways, the European Union is in a much better position to respond to a new crisis than it was in 2014', they write. 'Yet it risks squandering the progress made if it cannot consolidate the lessons it has learned and create sustainable mechanisms to manage future emergencies'.

The report identifies several innovations that proved effective during the migration crisis, not least coordinating mechanisms put in place by EU institutions and improvements in the quality of information given to policymakers. The authors argue that these activities should be strengthened.

Along with this, the report suggests that the European Union should appoint a migration coordinator to sit across all policy areas affected by the issue, improve its data analysis capabilities as part of a beefed-up early warning system and find a way to switch between crisis and non-crisis modes.

'Given the current fragility of EU cooperation on migration—not least within the Schengen area—the EU institutions cannot afford to offer national governments further excuses to withdraw into unilateralism', the report argues.



Primary country:

[World](#)

Source:

[Migration Policy Institute](#)

Format:

[Analysis](#)

Theme:

[Protection and Human Rights](#)

Language:

[English](#)



Figure A1. A report analyzing the European Union's solutions to irregular migration flows.

(Source: "After the Storm: Learning from the EU Response to the Migration Crisis")

Appendix B

Income inequality

Since the onset of the crisis, income inequality in the EU has increased because the process of income convergence between countries has stalled and income inequalities within countries have expanded. [Pay and income](#) inequality remains a concern and the working poor are still a substantial group among workers in the EU. Eurofound has carried out a range of research on these issues highlighting impacts on employment, living conditions and quality of life, and working conditions.

Eurofound has examined recent developments in the distribution of wages in the EU, focusing both on the EU dimension but also offering country comparisons in terms of income and wage inequality. Research has also explored the role that occupations play in structuring wage inequality in the EU.

A study on income inequalities and employment patterns before and after the Great Recession showed that the recession pushed inequalities upwards both for the EU as a whole and across most Member States. It demonstrates that unemployment and its associated decline in income is the main reason for inequality surges in recent years.

Recent research has also explored the case of in-work poverty and the 'working poor'. Alongside direct measures by governments to prevent or alleviate inequalities and increase incomes, such as the minimum and living wage, progressive taxation, in-work benefits and social assistance, more policy attention is needed regarding indirect measures that improve living standards of the working poor households, such as more flexible working arrangements, housing benefits, upgrading of skills and childcare.

A policy brief on social cohesion and well-being in the EU considers how income inequalities undermine social cohesion and the well-being of European citizens.

Social inequality

Eurofound's [European Quality of Life Surveys \(EQLS\)](#) explore inequalities across various indicators of quality of life. EQLS 2016 shows that despite improvements on some indicators, there are persistent inequalities on others. It underlines the dilemma that the rising tide of the post-crisis recovery has not lifted all citizens equally; quality of life for people in the lowest income quartile improved less between 2011 and 2016 than for others. The new topic in the 2016 survey has looked at 'economising' in savings on food, and delaying visits to doctor or dentist as ways to cope with deprivation.

The EQLS 2016 highlights that inequalities in access to and quality of care are significant factors in limiting access to employment and participation in society, as well as reducing quality of life. Large differences between Member States and between socioeconomic groups in ratings of quality of services emphasise the continuing importance of measures to address inequalities.

Differences or inequalities in health are receiving increased policy focus. EQLS data shed light on changes across the EU population as a whole and in relation to specific groups. The most pressing inequalities are related to income and are underlined, for example, in the experience of greater problems in accessing primary healthcare for people in the lowest income quartile, as well as lower ratings of satisfaction with the quality of GP and hospital services.

Women in the lower income quartiles are particularly at higher risk of mental health problems. Some groups, particularly the (long-term) unemployed, are much more likely to experience feelings of social exclusion. People with lower secondary education or less report higher social exclusion and, unlike others, there was no improvement on this between 2011 and 2016.

Eurofound has carried out a range of studies on the challenges facing [older people](#) and [young people](#), both on entering the labour market and related to their social situation.

Social mobility

Across the EU, citizens and governments are becoming more concerned that – for the first time in decades – younger generations will have fewer opportunities for upward social mobility than their parents' generation. This concern is shared by those on low incomes and the middle classes.

A Eurofound study sheds new light on the debate on social mobility in the EU and provides new evidence on patterns of intergenerational social mobility. It identifies key barriers to social mobility and reviews policies aimed at facilitating upward social mobility and equal opportunities specifically in the areas of childcare, early education, schooling and the labour market.

Gender inequality

A range of research on the topic of [gender equality](#) has looked in particular into inequalities in the working conditions of men and women, as part of Eurofound's [European Working Conditions Survey \(EWCS\)](#). Other research has been conducted on topics such as the gender employment gap, the gender pay gap, pay transparency, work–life balance and flexible working arrangements, and more recently on discrimination against men at work. The European Quality of Life Survey underlines the message that women continue to carry out most of the unpaid household and care work.

Inequalities in working conditions

Besides gender inequalities in working conditions, research has also explored various forms of [fraudulent work](#) and of [self-employment](#) in the EU, issues facing [posted workers](#), as well as the implications for working conditions and for social protection.

Figure B1: Research focusing on various sources and effects of inequality in Europe. (Source: “Inequality”)