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EN



mini-EUROPE

.brussels

A FASCINATING
JOURNEY AROUND
EUROPE



THIS GUIDE FOLLOWS THE VISIT



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Welcome to Mini-Europe

In front of you are two symbols of the construction of Europe: the offices of the European Commission and the house where Jean Monnet wrote the speech that would lead the founding fathers to form the European Union. For any institution, even one as strong as this, depends on individuals.

These two buildings illustrate the philosophy behind Mini-Europe: it is a miniature world that allows me to share with you my vision of the European Union.

You will see monuments and scenes lining your path through the park. They symbolise the great eras and the rich heritage that have marked Europeans, forged our shared values and led to the creation of the European Union.

This guide will introduce you to this heritage and these democratic values, which have taken concrete form today in the shape of town halls, the British parliament, the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, and the offices of the European Commission, and are also symbolised by the animation of the fall of the Berlin wall.

As in the "Spirit of Europe" exhibition at the end of the tour, we will look at the EU's successes but also at the great challenges facing it in a world of globalisation.

Thanks to all of you who have shared with me a passion for the story told by Mini-Europe. Feel free to share your comments and suggestions with us. The park undergoes continual change, as does the European Union. It is built with you!

Enjoy your discoveries and above all, have fun!



THIERRY MEEUS
Manager of Mini-Europe
Education asbl



European Commission

House of Jean Monnet

"I said that Europe needs to be big on big things and small on small things. Well, Mini-Europe is now the only place in the EU where it is allowed to be small on big things!"

JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER
President of the European
Commission from 2014 to 2019



FOLLOW THE GUIDE

Discover all of Europe in just a few hours and enjoy a unique experience! Explore the cities, buildings, history and innovations of the Old Continent... Dive into the past, taste the present and imagine the future of Europe.

- **In the order of the tour, you will find a description and stories on all the monuments.** Are you lost? Every monument has a sign with its name.
- **Extra information on the heritage of the past** can be found next to these monuments to illustrate the period concerned:
p. 15, 22, 30, 31, 36, 38, 40, 46, 52, 63
- **Information on the EU:**
p. 02, 03, 08, 10, 17, 19, 29, 34, 42, 49, 55

Throughout the guide, take a look at the stories that appeal to you by following the thematic symbols:



HISTORY



GEOGRAPHY



EUROPE



BEHIND
THE SCENES



ART &
ARCHITECTURE



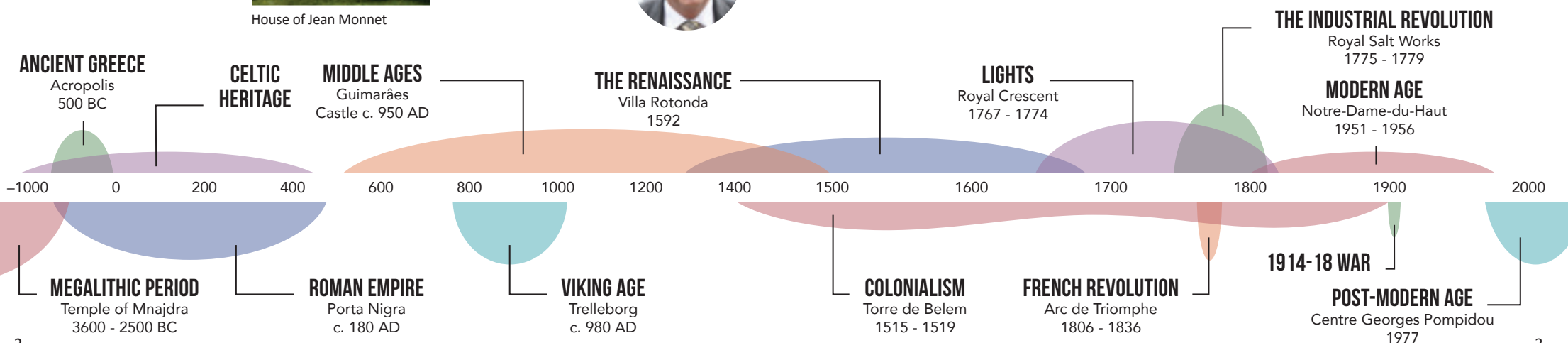
FUN &
GOSSIP



ENJOY YOUR
VISIT!

A COMMON THREAD

Go a step further and follow the common thread of the guide... The different sets of heritage that connect and punctuate the history of Europe and Europeans. Learn more about the influences that shaped the European Union of today.



WHY A EUROPEAN UNION?

Together, the countries of the EU are stronger and better able to promote their Standard of living and their vision.

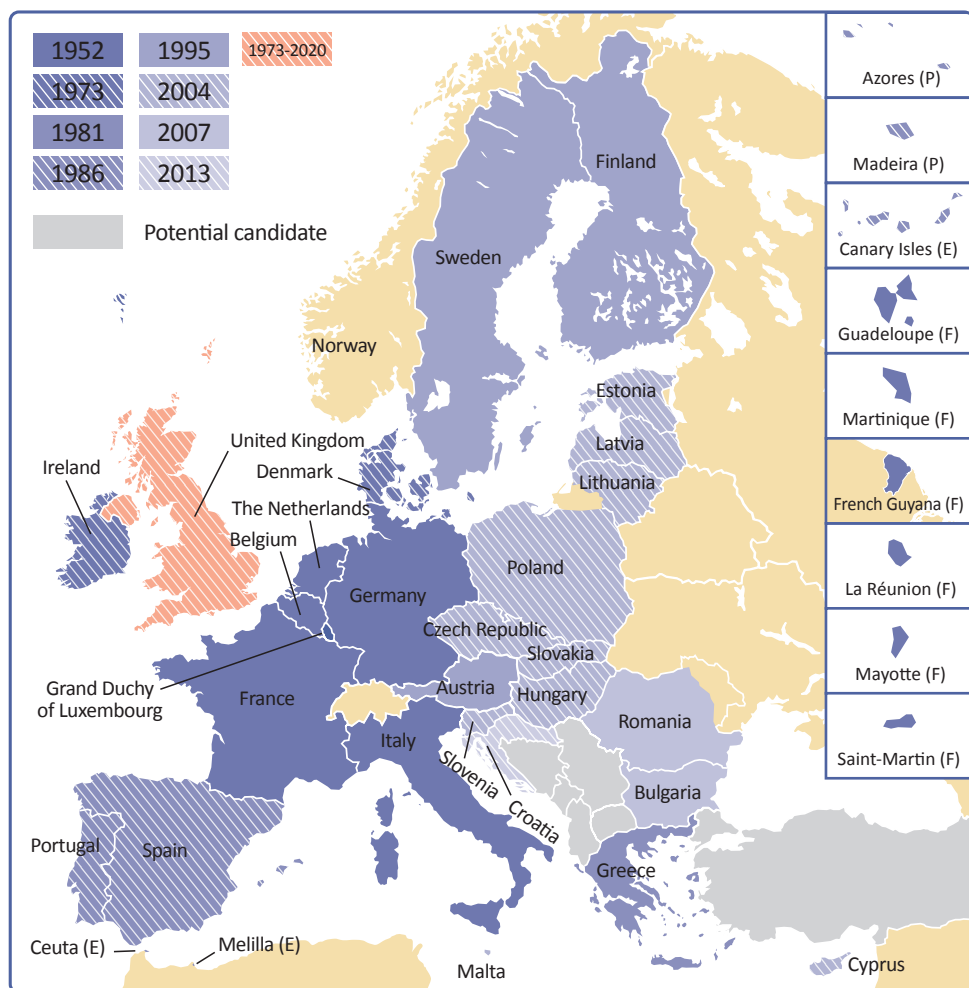
TOGETHER WORKING FOR PEACE

The construction of Europe has allowed collaboration between former rival countries after centuries of war. 70 years is the longest period of peace since the fall of the Roman Empire.

**TOGETHER STRIVING FOR A HIGH
STANDARD OF LIVING**

The single market, the free movement of goods and capital has enabled unprecedented development. European citizens are amongst the wealthiest inhabitants of the planet with one of the best wealth distribution ratios.

27 MEMBER STATES



TOGETHER FACING NEW CHALLENGES

The European Union remains a key player on the world stage, although global development has reduced its importance. In 1989, at the start of Mini-Europe, the European Union still represented:

- 10% of the global population, as opposed to 6.8% in 2018 and probably less than 6% in 2030.
- 25% of world trade as opposed to 15% in 2018.

Divided, the countries that make it up would no longer be up to scratch faced with the new economic powers.

**TOGETHER PROMOTING GLOBAL
DEVELOPMENT**

The European Union and its Member States contribute almost 50% of international aid. To this is added the diplomatic efforts of the European Union in a world undergoing constant change.

PROUD TO BE EUROPEAN (IMF 2019)

The figure consists of three concentric ellipses, each representing a different metric. The outermost ellipse represents Population, the middle one represents GDP in M\$, and the innermost one represents GDP per inhabitant in \$. The ellipses are color-coded: China is represented by a large red ellipse, India by a medium green ellipse, and the USA by a small blue ellipse. The relative size of the ellipses indicates the relative size of the countries in each metric.

	POPULATION (in millions)	GDP in M\$ (in Purchasing Power Standards)	GDP per inhabitant in \$ (in Purchasing Power Standards)
CHINA :	1,400	27,380	65,110
INDIA :	1,350	11,330	8,380
EU 27 :	444	19,640	42,740
USA :	329	21,440	65,110
RUSSIA :	147	4,350	29,640
UK :	67	3,130	46,330



→ Direction of visit: go down to the bottom of the park, towards Denmark.



DENMARK

Monarchy



43,000 km²



1973



5.7 million

Standard of living:
100 = EU average

125/100

The strategic gateway to the Baltic Sea, the territory of Denmark was once a lot larger. The country – made up of 406 islands – is surrounded by the sea. The Vikings left from the Scandinavian countries (Denmark, Sweden and Norway) to discover Iceland, Greenland...



The Faroe Isles and Greenland have been independent territories since 1979, but they are still attached to Denmark. They do not, however, belong to the European Union.



Forget the Vikings from the TV series... contrary to modern beliefs, the Vikings never wore horned helmets.

TRELLEBORG ZEALAND

980 AD – Medieval Scandinavian style

The most famous restored Viking camp is at Trelleborg, the circular fortress with 31 'longhouses' surrounded by ditches and battlements. Between 500 and 800 soldiers – often accompanied by their wives and children – were stationed here before their sea voyages. Harald Bluetooth (958-987 AD), King of Norway and Denmark, ordered the construction of five fortresses of this type. He is also said to have introduced Christianity to Denmark.

VIKING HERITAGE (8th - 11th century)

Scandinavian Vikings profoundly changed the social and political structures of European populations by forcing them to defend themselves and organise and centralise power. Exceptional navigators, they gave a huge boost to trade, in particular through the circulation of precious metals and the establishment of new trade routes punctuated with port and bar towns and cities. By doing this, they brought Scandinavian countries closer to the rest of Europe. Their civilised laws and justice systems form the basis of our modern juries.



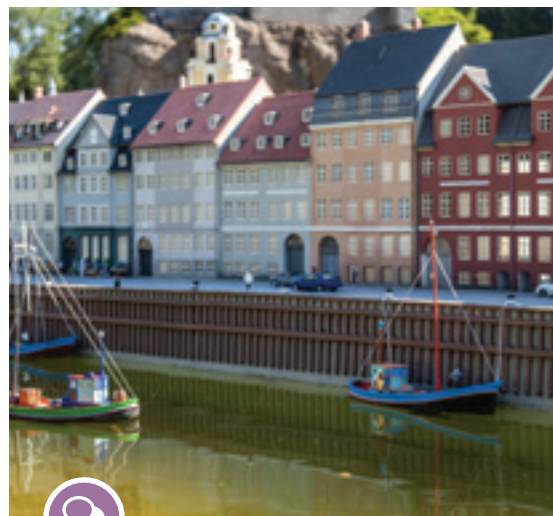
STOCK EXCHANGE COPENHAGEN

1619-1640 – Nordic Renaissance

To give a fresh boost to the Danish economy, King Christian IV ordered the construction of the Copenhagen stock exchange. To state his title of King of the three Scandinavian countries (Denmark, Norway and Sweden), he had 3 crowns placed at the top of the brass turret.



On this same brass turret, notice the 4 interwoven dragon's tails on the building to prevent against attack and fire.



Danish writer Hans Christian Andersen, famous for his novellas and fairy tales, lived in Nyhavn. It was there that he wrote – among others – the tale "The Princess and the Pea". He wrote many traditional European tales that have been translated into 125 languages.

NYHAVN COPENHAGEN

1670-1673

The large numbers of wooden ships and painted harbour fronts are proof of the importance of Nyhavn as a commercial port in the 17th and 18th centuries. The port was built using Dutch expertise and labour from Swedish prisoners captured during the Danish-Swedish War (1658-1660), who dug the foundations of the houses. Now it is mainly visited by tourists, but sailors still come and have themselves tattooed there, as the former King Frederik IX did in earlier times.



SWEDEN

Monarchy



441,000 km²



1995



10.1 million

Standard of living: **123/100**
100 = EU average

Sweden, "on the roof" of Europe, is a sparsely populated industrialised nation. It was the birthplace of Alfred Nobel (1833-1896), a rich industrialist and the inventor of dynamite, who dedicated his entire fortune to the creation of the Nobel Prizes. These international awards are given to individuals who act for the whole of humanity, whether in the field of physics, chemistry, medicine, literature, the economy or peace.



Did you see Greta Thunberg, the Swedish environmental activist?



CITY HALL STOCKHOLM

1911-1923 – National Romantic style

Since its construction, Stockholm City Hall has hosted the Nobel Banquet once a year. At the top of its tower are the three crowns, which have been the Swedish national emblem since the 14th century. However, in 1550, Danish King Christian III dared to add the 3 crowns to his coat of arms. This started a feud: Sweden accused Denmark of wanting to conquer it and Denmark accused Sweden of monopolising the symbol of the Scandinavian union.

* Monument donated by Sweden



To the right of the building, notice the gold-plated sarcophagus of Birger Jarl (1200-1266). Although empty, this tomb honours the founder of Stockholm and the men at the origin of the Swedish Empire.

THE SYMBOLS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

- The flag of the European Union is made up of 12 stars in a circle, with the number 12 symbolising perfection.
- The European anthem "Ode to Joy" is taken from the final movement of Ludwig van Beethoven's 9th symphony.
- The word "Europe" almost certainly comes from the Phoenician "Ereb" meaning "where the sun goes down", the West as opposed to



Right way up



Upside down

the "land of the rising sun", in Asia. In Greek, the word "Europe" means "big eyes" and initially referred to a beautiful young Phoenician princess kidnapped by Zeus.

- May 9, the anniversary of the Schuman Declaration is European Union Day.
- The motto of the European Union is "United in diversity"



FINLAND

Republic



338,000 km²



1995

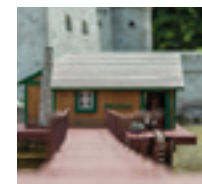


5.5 million

Standard of living: **110/100**
100 = EU average

A buffer state between Russia and Sweden down the centuries, Finland is one of a select few countries which is naturally gaining land (approximately 10 km² a year) from the Baltic Sea. This phenomenon is the result of a rise in the Earth's crust in Northern Europe after the melting of the ice caps which covered much of this part of the continent 40,000 years ago.

Did you know that there are more saunas in Finland than there are cars? No clothes are allowed in the sauna, except for pefletti (small towels). Nudity and naturism are for that matter legal in all locations and in all circumstances.



OLAVINLINNA CASTLE

SAVONLINNA

1475-1485 – Gothic military style

Olavinlinna Castle's importance lies in its strategic position on the canal linking many lakes and forming a defensive front against Russia. Today, it has become a popular spot for the organisation of operas in the summer.

Beyond the Arctic Circle, total night falls between November and January. From May to July, the sun shines all day long. In Savonlinna, the nights are therefore very short in summer...



ESTONIA

Republic

 **43,700 km²**

 **2004**

 **1.3 million**

Standard of living: **76/100**
100 = EU average



Estonian shares the same origin as Finnish and – more distantly – Hungarian. Along with Latvia and Lithuania, Estonia is one of the Baltic countries which – in the Middle Ages – were occupied by the Livonian Brothers of the Sword, a branch of the Teutonic knights. Towns rose up around this order and this can be seen in many constructions today.



The Estonian alphabet has 32 letters. There are 14 varieties per word and the quantitative system has three levels: 1, 2 and several.

FAT MARGERETA TOWER

TALLINN

1511-1530 – Gothic military style [UNESCO]

The “Fat Margereta Tower” and the great sea port (rebuilt in 1529) are the best preserved parts of the former medieval walled city. This defensive structure was built by the Teutonic knights. At the time, Tallinn represented a major stop on the journey to Russia.



Why the name ‘Fat Margareta’? This is probably a reference to Margareta of Denmark (1353-1412).



Did you know that Tallinn means “City of the Danes”?

WHEN WE TALK ABOUT EUROPE...

- Europe is an area of over 10 million km² and has more than 700 million inhabitants. It is one of Earth's 5 continents.
- The European Union was created as a result of the decision by some European countries to join together in a community structure. It has 512 million inhabitants spread over 4.5 million km².
- And when “Europe decides”, it is often national governments and members of the European Parliament elected in 28 countries who meet around the table!

LATVIA

Republic

 **65,000 km²**

 **2004**

 **2.1 million**

Standard of living: **64/100**
100 = EU average



In Latvia and Estonia, singing was an instrument of resistance to the Soviet occupation and allowed the traditional culture, language and religion to be saved. Singing celebrations in these countries are a part of UNESCO world heritage. The political impact of the Baltic linking of hands on August 23 1989 led to the Singing Revolution of 1991 during which the Baltic countries regained their independence.



The Baltic Sea is the youngest sea on Earth. It was created following the melting of the snow of Scandinavia.

MONUMENT OF FREEDOM

RIGA

1935 – Art deco style

The Monument of Freedom is dedicated to the soldiers killed during the Latvian War of independence (1918-1920). Beneath the female figure of freedom, Milda, a number of different sculptures represent values, such as work ethic and the struggle for independence, as well as key historical events.



The three stars of the figure of Freedom symbolise the three regions of: Kurzeme, Vidzeme and Latgale.

THE BALTIC CHAIN

In 1989, nearly 2 million people created a Pacifist human chain 675.5 kilometres in length across Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to claim national independence from the Soviet occupation.





LITHUANIA

Republic



65,300 km²



2004



2.8 million

Standard of living:
100 = EU average **75/100**



In the 16th century, the Grand Duchy of Lithuania was a major power. Together with Poland, it formed the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, which stretched almost as far as the Black Sea.



VILNIUS UNIVERSITY* VILNIUS

1579 – Renaissance and Baroque styles

Vilnius University was founded by the Jesuits in the centre of the old city. At the top of the building you will find the coat of arms of Bishop Valerianus Protasevicius, who invited the Jesuits to build this institution to fight Protestant Reform.

* Monument donated by the Lithuanian Government

The geographical centre of Europe is about 25km north of Vilnius.

The inside of the university can be viewed through a telescope.



The daughter of the Duke of Milan (Italy), Bona Sforza became Queen of Poland and Grand Duchess of Lithuania. It was she who spread Renaissance culture in these two countries and this is the reason why Vilnius University was subsequently built in an Italian style.



THE NETHERLANDS

Monarchy



41,500 km²



1952



17.1 million

Standard of living:
100 = EU average **131/100**



This country has a very appropriate name, since almost half the territory is below sea level. The administration of lands below sea level will be increasingly crucial in future with the rise in tides due to climate change.



Over 35,000 km of cycle paths are dotted throughout the country. Virtually the entire population owns its own bicycle.

TOWN HALL MAASTRICHT

1659-1664 – Dutch Baroque style

Why does this Town Hall have a double staircase? This building plan was to allow the curious dual rule of Maastricht to be reflected. Both the States General and the Prince - Bishop of Liège held sway in Maastricht. The double staircase allowed each to climb up the stairs without either having to wait and thereby appear less important.



The façade is a mix of Doric, Ionic and Corinthian columns. Did you recognise Mars, God of War and Minerva, Goddess of Wisdom and military strategy?

HOENSBROEK CASTLE

HOENSBROEK

14th-17th century – Gothic and Meuse Renaissance styles

The largest fortress between the Rhine and the Meuse... that is how Hoensbroek Castle is known today. In the mid-17th century, the medieval fortress was replaced by this castle surrounded by a deep moat and only accessible via a bridge.



→ The Netherlands continues on page 18



BELGIUM

Monarchy



30,500 km²



1952



11.4 million

Standard of living: 118/100
100 = EU average

At the crossroads of the great states, the country was in turn governed by the Carolingians, Burgundians, Spanish, Austrians, French and Dutch. It is characterised by three official languages and a stunning institutional complexity. Belgium also form the basis of the Benelux, a free trade zone agreed between Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.



The castle is still inhabited by the very same family.

The adventures of Tintin and his faithful companion Milou, thought up by artist Hergé from 1929, made Belgium the country of comic books.

VÊVES CASTLE* CELLES

1230 (rebuilt in around 1410) – Romanesque style

Located on a rock in a strategic location in the Ry Valley (a small tributary of the Lesse), this citadel-like castle is still fully furnished. It gives a good idea of how life must have been there in the Middle Ages.

CURTIVUS HOUSE* LIÈGE

1597-1610 – Meuse Renaissance and Louis XIV styles

Curtius house was built on the orders of Jean de Corte, otherwise known as Curtius, an industrialist and financier from Liège.

His fortune, acquired thanks to a monopoly on the provision of gunpowder for Spanish weapons, allowed him to build this monumental palace on the banks of the Meuse. Today the building is used as a museum.



CITADEL* DINANT

1815 – Romanesque Renaissance style

For many years, Dinant was a strategic location on the banks of the Meuse and a succession of many castle-forts were built there. To face up to advances in weaponry, the citadel was built in 1815 using a new defensive architecture style that gave Dinant the nickname Citadel Town.



Ever since 1550, a traditional procession based on the story of the 'Four Aymon brothers', one of the most popular medieval tales, has started out from the Collegiate. It tells the story of this brotherhood's revolt against Emperor Charlemagne.



Former big wheel at Walibi theme park.

COLLEGIATE* DINANT

13th century – Gothic style

The Collegiate - also known as the Our-Lady Church, is backed up against a rock wall. Frequently renovated, it has retained its glory and its distinctive pear-shaped tower.

CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

Catholicism is one of the cornerstones on which Europe is built. Despite the break between the Catholic and Orthodox Faith, and later with the Protestants, Christianity has long been something Europeans have in common.

Its values have been instilled throughout European society: the respect for human life that gave birth to human rights, equality, charity, solidarity and universality. A true means of spreading culture, Catholicism still dictates the pace of our lives, in particular through our calendar and religious feasts and holidays. It has also given birth to several towns who owe their existence to pilgrimage sites.

The Church has allowed the distribution of knowledge via a large number of universities (e.g. Vilnius University) and manuscripts copied by monks. It has also allowed for the spread of Greco-Roman heritage.



GRAND-PLACE* BRUSSELS

12th-19th century – Brabant Gothic, Baroque and neoclassical styles [UNESCO]

CITY HALL*

1401-1455 Brabant Gothic style

In the 19th century, City Hall was decorated with 294 statues of nobles, saints and other unmistakable historical figures. At the top of its tower shines Saint Michael, the city's patron saint, killing a dragon. Did you notice that the tower is not exactly in the middle of the city hall? When the city hall was expanded with a tower and a new wing, there was not enough space to build a wing symmetric to the previous one.

Did you spot the artist Brueghel represented among the other characters of his painting 'The Fall of the Rebel Angels'?



HOUSES OF THE CORPORATIONS

The Grand-Place is made up of City Hall and the Houses of the Corporations that dominated Brussels economic life from the end of the Middle Ages onwards. Bombarded by the French troops of Louis XIV in 1695, the Grand-Place - except for City Hall - was fully rebuilt.

MAISON DU ROI*

1516-1536 (rebuilt in 1870-1895)
Brabant Gothic and Neo-Gothic styles

Whilst City Hall is the symbol of municipal power, the Maison du Roi is the reflection of the influence of the Duke of Brabant. He ordered the construction of this building to emphasise his ducal power.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLES: A FEW POINTERS TO IDENTIFY THEM



CLASSIC STYLE IN GREECE AND ANCIENT ROME

(800 BC -500 AD)

- importance of proportions and geometric shapes in architecture
- frontispiece, columns and statues from mythology for temples
- taking up of Greek codes by the Romans with dome, keystones and blending of styles



ROMANESQUE STYLE

(800 -1150 AD)

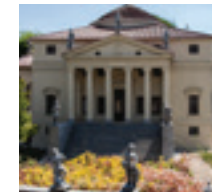
- huge buildings with sober, thick walls
- small doors and windows that do not allow much light in
- huge arches, semi-circular arches
- powerful pillars with huge capitals



GOTHIC STYLE

(1140 -1520)

- desire to let the light in through intensive use of columns, flying buttresses, cone-shaped (triangular arch) windows
- more and larger windows
- abundant decoration
- taller rooms and buildings



RENAISSANCE STYLE

(1420 -1700)

- return to the shapes, proportions and statues of Ancient architecture
- nature is used as a model
- respect of the harmonious proportion of the "golden number"



BAROQUE STYLE

(1600-1800 /1900)

- art and architecture of the Counter-Reformation: "barocco" means "irregular"
- busy and exuberant, reaching their high point in the Rococo era
- bright colours, optical illusions, striving for movement



MODERNISM

(END OF 19TH CENTURY TO C. 1960)

- new materials such as steel and concrete allowing for the age-old constraints to be disposed of
- architecture made to serve the purpose of the building
- return to simplicity, clarity and functional or pure forms



POST-MODERNISM

(START OF THE 1970S TO PRESENT DAY)

- deconstructed forms, more fluid shell (piping and stairwell on the outside, stunning wall angles etc.)
- search for new, less conventional materials

€375,000 and over 19,000 hours' work! These are the figures for this miniature Grand-Place covered with real gold leaf. Want more? Mini-Europe recreates the carpet of flowers that decorates the Grand-Place in even-numbered years. The true design is revealed to Mini-Europe one month before the event so that an exact replica can be made.

* Monuments created with the support of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation.



→ Belgium continues on page 22



THE NETHERLANDS

(CONTINUED)

VILLAGE

OOTMARSUM

1196 – 1220 – Romanesque and Gothic styles

The Catholic church is located in the centre of Ootmarsum. All around it are alleys and squares with on either side the residences of the large-scale merchants and farmers of the 17th and 19th centuries. Ootmarsum was a trade capital as it is located on the road linking the Netherlands to the cities of northern Germany.



The bronze statue in front of the church represents the Poaskearls, the characters of folklore who go through the town singing during the Easter celebrations.

Notice the bas-relief located above the façade... You will also see the arquebuses (primitive long muskets) and cannonballs that remind us of the first owners of the site: arquebusiers.



KLOVENIERSDOELEN

MIDDELBURG

1638 – Northern Renaissance style

Those who used the culverin - an ancestor of the arquebuse or musket - lived in this wide house and trained at shooting. Property of the Dutch East India Company until the end of the 18th century; it was then converted into a military hospital and today it is a cultural centre.

ABBAY

MIDDELBURG

15th century – Gothic style

Middelburg was founded as a “burg” (fortified town) in the 9th century to defend against attack by the Vikings. The first abbey was built in 844 AD, and was replaced with a new building in 1125.

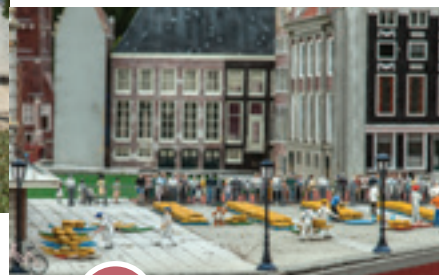


TOWN HALL

VEERE

15th century – Gothic style

Veere was once a flourishing port. In the 16th century, it had the wool trade with Scotland to thank for its prosperity.



Since the 17th century, the cheese market has been held on the Waagplein. Dressed in traditional costume, cheese carriers stack up cheese wheels (160 kg) on the square, where they are tasted, compared and sold.

WAAGPLEIN

ALKMAAR

1566-1603 – Northern Renaissance style

In 1582, after the Spanish troops were pushed back, the former Chapel of the Holy Spirit and its hospital were converted into a weighing spot to show restored municipal freedom. The right to weigh then became the right to raise taxes on trade. The Latin motto on the façade also refers to it: “Courage and Strength have given back to the Government and the Citizens their lost Weighing Right”. The toll pavilion, dating back to the 17th century, was previously where access taxes were raised. Today the Waagplein is the home of the Dutch cheese museum.

EUROPE'S BUDGET

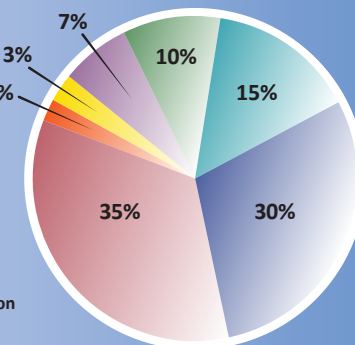
The EU's budget is paid by Member States and using its own-source revenue. Set approximately every 7 years, it represents nearly 1.1% of European GDP. The majority of this budget is reinvested, either directly in the countries or via shared projects.

- An internal market for all facilitates the economy
- 21% of the budget = climate action (R&D, transport, energy, external actions)
- Some issues have no borders (e.g. immigration, unfair competition, delocalisation and climate matters).
- The euro needs converging economies
- Solidarity also means mutual respect

BUDGET 2021-2027

TOTAL
€182.8 billion

- Single market, innovation and digitalization
- Cohesion and values (Regional development, economic and monetary union and social cohesion)
- Natural resources and environment
- Migration and borders
- Security and defence (Including the crisis response)



- Neighbouring countries and the rest of the world (External actions and preadmission)
- Public administration

RING OF CANALS

AMSTERDAM

17th century [UNESCO]

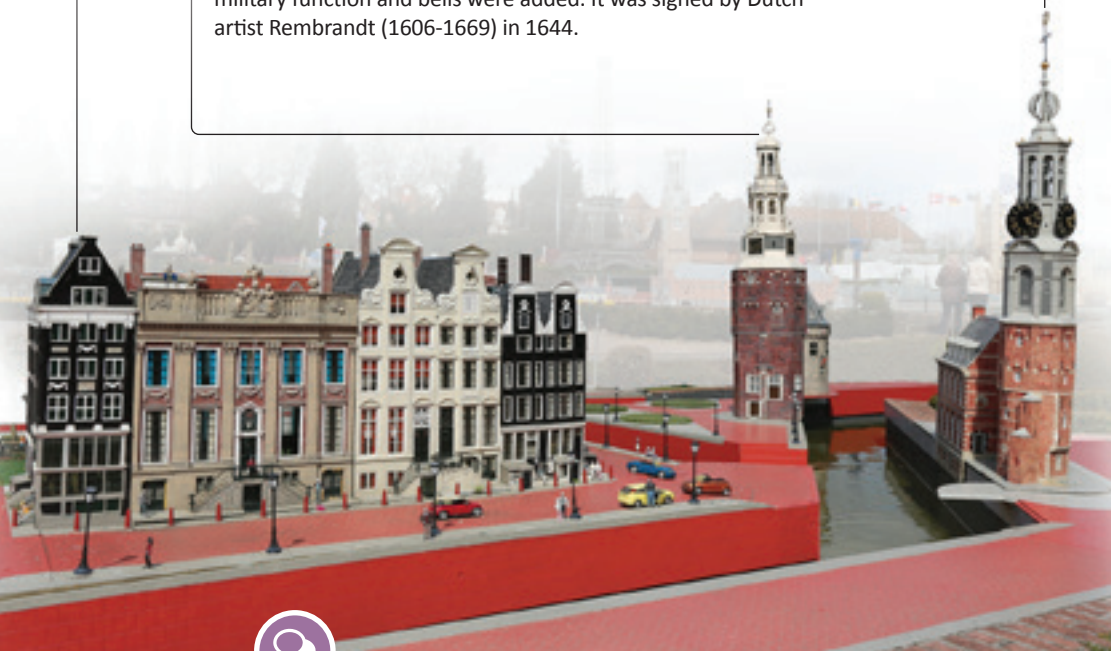
The 17th century is the Dutch Golden Age. Thanks to the commercial wealth of the city, a ring of canals was built in a little more than 50 years. Many houses lining the banks of these canals were built on stilts, which also explains their current “twisted” appearance.

MONTELBAANSTOREN

AMSTERDAM

1516 (rebuilt in 1606) – Northern Renaissance style

After an attack on the neighbouring town, Lastage, this tower was built for defensive purposes. In 1606, it ceased to have a military function and bells were added. It was signed by Dutch artist Rembrandt (1606-1669) in 1644.



Amsterdam has 1,000 bridges, whereas Venice “only” has 700... It is this fact that has earned it the name “Venice of the North”.

MUNTTOREN

AMSTERDAM

1620 (rebuilt in 1885-1887)
Northern Renaissance style

The Munttoren was originally one of the gates on the medieval city battlements. In the 17th century, it was used to mint coins. Did you notice its 4 clocks and its ringing system made up of 38 bells?



MILLS

KINDERDIJK

15th century – Gothic style

Mills for milling grain? Not these ones! These 19 monumental windmills were built for hydraulic drainage and thereby to gain arable land. Today they are no longer in use, and the drying is carried out by electric pumps.



During the war, peasants communicated with each other via the positioning of windmill blades.

DOELENKADE HOUSES & MAIN TOWER

HOORN

16th century – Northern Mannerism style

Hoorn has retained the signs of its once prosperous maritime trade. The gables of the houses still bear reminders of this history with sea patterns. The semi-circular tower was built to defend the entrance leading to the port.



Jacob Le Maire and Willem Schouten gave the name of the city Hoorn to Cape Horn.



FIRST WORLD WAR HERITAGE

Mass violence and loss of human life, both military and civil, as commemorated by the tombs and war memorials, shook up the European certainties: science was called into question, figures of authority rejected. Women and children won a place in society with the absence of the men departed for the front.

At the end of the 1914-18 war, the breaking up of the great empires (Austro-Hungarian, Ottoman etc.) drew up some of our current borders and Europe lost its status as the leading world power.



28-07-1914

11-11-1918



In 1914, the opposing soldiers put down their weapons and socialised during the Christmas period, with a football match being organised right in the middle of the war zone.

TOWN HALL ANTWERP

1561-1565 – Northern Mannerism style

Surrounded by the Houses of the Corporations dating back to the end of the 16th century, the Brabo fountain has pride of place at the centre of the square. According to legend, the Roman Silvius Brabo was the winner of a fight with the giant Antigone, who demanded that he pay a toll. He cut off his hand and threw it into the Scheldt. So does the name Antwerp come from 'hand-werpen' which means 'throw the hand'? No, the City's name is probably derived from "aan het werp" which approximately translates as "at the jetty" (of a port, for example).

During the Counter-Reformation (16th century), the Virgin Mary was placed at the centre of the Town Hall as a symbol of Catholic Faith... Did you also notice the artist Rubens (1577-1640) right in the middle of the square?



A sculptor produced the 236 statues of the building on 1/25 scale.

TOWN HALL LEUVEN

1448-1469 – Brabant Gothic style

The Town Hall, an emblem of the town's pride? In Leuven, the building looks rather like a reliquary with its shape of a chest that can contain relics... Moreover, it was only in the 19th century that the niches were decorated with characters evoking the town's history.



KORENLEI GHENT

12th-19th century – Romanesque, Brabant Gothic and Baroque styles

Graslei is one of the roads in the historic centre of Ghent. Its buildings of differing styles align and blend in with one another. De Spijker (1200) is the oldest house on the road. Within the county of Flanders, the city was for a long time the centre of the corn trade. The name "Ghent" comes from the Gallic word "Ganda" meaning "meeting point".

RABOT GHENT

1491 – Brabant Gothic style

With its 2 round towers, the Rabot is a flushing sluice. Its name comes from the French "rabattre" as a reference to the movement of the beams.

Who is looking at his "Mystic Lamb"? Flemish artist Jan Van Eyck (1390-1441).





TANNERS' SQUARE BRUGES

17th century – Brabant Gothic style [UNESCO]

Tanners, artists working with leather, established their headquarters on this square from 1302 onwards. In the 17th century, the Houses of the Corporations were built to express the wealth and power of Bruges as a trade metropolis.

BELFRY BRUGES

13th-15th century – Gothic style in brick [UNESCO]

The Belfry, a symbol of the city's independence, is where the Bruges charters and other treaties are kept. This medieval bell tower, which much later would bear the Belgian coats of arms in its centre, was also used to warn citizens of any possible dangers. The former market hall is connected to the Belfry and together they showcase the splendour of Bruges in the 13th century.

Did you see the telescope? It shows the path of the Saint James of Compostela pilgrimage.



ALDEN BIESEN* RIJKHOVEN

16th-17th century – Meuse Renaissance style

As of the 13th century, this commandery belonged to the Teutonic Knights, an order of knights who swore to defend the Christian Faith and serve the poor, infirm and pilgrims. The Teutonic Order led to the founding of many towns and cities in Eastern Europe, the majority of which formed the core of Prussia.



How many stones were stuck together by the modeller to produce his mould? Nearly 80,000!

* Monument created with the support of the Flemish Community



UNITED KINGDOM

Monarchy

243,000 km²

1973 - 2020



66.2 million

Standard of living: 109/100
100 = EU average



The United Kingdom is often known for its insular nature, independent from the rest of Europe. And yet to its Celtic population was also added the Angles, Saxons of German origin and the Normans. This independence gave a tumultuous character to relations with the European Union, which the UK joined in 1973. In a referendum held in 2016, 51.9% of British voters who took part were in favour of leaving the European Union. The UK is expected to leave the EU in January 2020 with a transition period until December 2020.

DRILLING PLATFORM



The oil platforms of northern Scotland are still in operation today, although many efforts have been made by Europe to replace combustible fossil fuels with more ecological alternatives.



What are the national symbols for Great Britain?
Flowers! The rose for England, the thistle for Scotland, the narcissus and the leek for Wales.

CUTTY SARK 1869

This sailing ship, also called a clipper and used to carry perishable goods, is one of the last great sailing ships built by the British. After holding the speed record for 10 years, it lost its place to steam-powered ships. But who is the figure on the prow of the Cutty Sark? The witch Nannie Dee from a poem by Robert Burns in 1791.



WESTMINSTER PALACE LONDON

1840-1876 – Gothic Renaissance style [UNESCO]

There are 3 km of corridors in the gigantic Palace of Westminster! This building, 286 m in length, is the home of the British Parliament. When it is in session, the flag is flown on the 102 m-tall Victorian tower. At the other end Big Ben is easily recognisable, the famous clock and its bell weighing 14 tons.



IRELAND

Republic



70,300 km²

4.8 million

1973

Standard of living: 134/100
100 = EU average

The country has 2 official languages: English and Irish. English is still the mother tongue of the majority of the population. Irish is spoken daily by fewer than 100,000 people. It was nonetheless recognised as an official language of the European Union in 2007. Did you also know that the official name that determines the order of the flags in the European protocol has changed from "Ireland" to "Eire"?

Ireland is also known as the Emerald Isle, such is the extent to which green dominates the landscape... whether in its lush fields, the shamrock or Saint Patrick hats, green is omnipresent.



SAINT PATRICK'S ROCK CASHEL

12th century – Romanesque and Gothic style

Not only is this one of the main sites of Celtic art and medieval architecture in Europe, but it is also among the most ancient remains of Irish Christianity. At the top of this rocky peak, the castle was long the headquarters of the kings of Munster (a part of future Ireland). It was handed over to the Church in 1101 which – on the orders of the King and Prince-Bishop Cormac Mac Carthaigh – built Cormac chapel.



In the 5th century, Saint-Patrick – a missionary and Christian bishop – used a clover leaf to teach the Irish people the doctrine of the Holy Trinity.

SAINT KEVIN'S CHURCH & TOWER

GLENDALOUGH

6th century AD – Anglo-Saxon style

At the start of the Middle Ages, Glendalough was a major cult centre. Many monks left there to spread Christianity. Its belfry, 33 metres tall, was used as a refuge for the population during Viking pillaging.



GALLARUS ORATORY BALLYDAVID

11th – 12th century – Romanesque style

The large and perfectly assembled cut stone gives this small prayer space a tent-shaped architecture.



UNITED KINGDOM

(CONTINUED)

BIRTHPLACE OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

16th century – Half-timbered style

This house was the birthplace of William Shakespeare (1564-1616), who is considered one of the greatest poets, dramatists and writers of English literature. He is most famous for his plays 'Romeo and Juliet' and 'Hamlet'.



'To be or not to be' ...
But is Shakespeare truly the author of his plays? Inconsistencies between his biography and his list of works have led some to believe that Shakespeare could have been a false identity to preserve the anonymity of one or even several authors.

ANNE HATHAWAY'S COTTAGE

SHOTTERY

15th – 17th century – Tudor and Elizabethan styles

This cottage with thatched roof bears the name of Shakespeare's wife.

ARLINGTON ROW BIBURY

14th century – Anglo-Saxon style

The village of Bibury is located at the heart of the Cotswolds, a chain of hills in the south-west of England. In addition to its cottages, it is known for Arlington Row: a row of brick houses originally used to shear sheep. In the 17th century, the building's use was changed and it was occupied by weavers.



Count them... 7 little domes on the roof as a reference to the days of the week and 365 windows for every day of the year.



LONGLEAT HOUSE

HORNINGSHAM

1568-1580 – Elizabethan style

Perfect symmetry. The Marquis of Bath wanted his property to be an example of the Elizabethan style. Its vast garden has been converted into a safari park.



SOLAR VEHICLES

The Solar Impulse, invented in 2009, is a plane powered by solar energy alone. It is the size of an Airbus A380, weighs the same as a car and has the power of a scooter! It is an example of alternative technology. In the same vein, the PlanetSolar boat was the first solar electric vehicle to go right round the world in 2012. In 2017, Nuna 9 won the World Solar Challenge, the famous solar car race in Australia.

You are now passing the Pride of Dover.
Now decommissioned, this ship used to link
Calais to Dover every day.
The model is on 1/25 scale just as
the rest of the monuments are.



DOVER CASTLE DOVER

1568-1580 – Elizabethan style

It is the biggest castle in England... standing on top of the imposing white chalk cliffs overlooking the English Channel. The construction of Dover Castle was ordered by William the Conqueror, leader of the Franco-Norman army and winner of the Battle of Hastings against the English army in 1066.

The Normans and the Vikings
were the last invaders of
Great Britain.



CIRCUS & ROYAL CRESCENT

BATH

1754-1774 – Georgian style [UNESCO]

The whole thing was inspired by Villa Rotonda (see Italy). Do you recognise the Roman amphitheatre? The model used by John Wood and his son to recreate this innovative monument of English urban planning was this one. On the side, 30 houses are in a row in a half ellipse and form the Royal Crescent.

Bath is a spa therapy town. Its hot mineral springs are said to have been discovered by Blalud in 800 BC. A leprosy sufferer and the son of a king, he was banished and became a pig farmer. The pigs, suffering from the same disease, fell into the spring and were cured... Blalud went in too, and this allowed him to return to the court of his father.



EUROTUNNEL

Want to get to the United Kingdom? Take the Channel tunnel (Eurotunnel) built in 1994 and linking Calais (France) to Folkestone (United Kingdom). It has 3 long tunnels, each exceeding 50 km in length: one for passenger trains, one for vehicle and goods trains and a third dedicated to maintenance.

MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- At the end of World War II, Europe's priority was to ensure food independence through a fair standard of living for farmers and by stabilising the markets at reasonable prices: this is how the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) came into being.

- Today these issues have been extended to environmental, food safety and rural development considerations.

- Did you know that 18% of the land's surface and 6% of the sea in the EU are in a Natura 2000 zone, ensuring the protection of endangered species and habitats?



FRANCE

Republic



675,000 km²



1952



67.2 million

Standard of living: 107/100
100 = EU average



France, the largest country in Europe, is also the country that has the most territories outside of Europe. However, only the overseas departments (DOMs) and the overseas collectivity of Saint-Martin belong to the European Union. From the 11th century to the start of the 14th century, French was spread throughout the world and was spoken in all the courts of Europe. Today, it is spoken every day by 235 million people worldwide.



Champagne bubbles... the work of the devil? That is what the French believed until the 18th century. Louis XIV's doctor would not let him drink it on the pretext that it would have a bad effect on his gout.

EIFFEL TOWER PARIS

1887-1889 – Industrial style

A symbol of the City of Light, the Eiffel Tower was built according to the plans of Gustave Eiffel on the occasion of the Universal Exhibition in Paris in 1889. 300 metres tall, little by little it silenced its critics and became a true national emblem.



On 1/25 scale, the Eiffel Tower weighs 1,800 kg and is 13 metres high.

THE HERITAGE OF THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION (18th - 19th century)

Capitalism was born in the early 18th century. Technology experienced a revolution and productivity increased. Factories and a multitude of machines like the spinning machine and weaving machine made their appearance. Charcoal gave way to new forms of energy and the first railways were built. Through its exports, Europe became a world economic power. The fall in the cost of products was to affect the way in which we consumed them. Society was split between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie and saw the emergence of trade unions and socialist thinking.

1807
Steamship

1825
1st photograph

1843
Electric
telegraph

1856
Manufacture
of steel

1876
Telephone

1878
Filament
lamp

CENTRE POMPIDOU PARIS

1977 – Post-Modern style

French President Georges Pompidou, a great lover of modern art, gave his name to this National Centre of Art and Culture, called the Centre Beaubourg. This institution dedicated to modern and contemporary art is an architectural innovation: the supporting structure and flows are positioned on the outside of the building. Result: freeing up of an entire inner space dedicated to works of art and activities.



Every building colour has a code: red for circulation of people, blue for air-conditioning, green for water and yellow for electricity.

ARC DE TRIOMPHE PARIS

1806-1836 – Neoclassical style

The Arc de Triomphe was built in the middle of Place Charles de Gaulle on Napoleon's orders, to commemorate the glory of the armies of the Revolution and of the Empire. In all, there are 600 names of generals and 150 references to battles engraved into the stone. The construction is inspired by the Roman arch but differs from it with its very large dimensions. The Arc de Triomphe is almost 50 metres tall.



The unknown soldier to which the Arc de Triomphe refers is an allusion to the citizen who protects his nation and who can therefore volunteer.

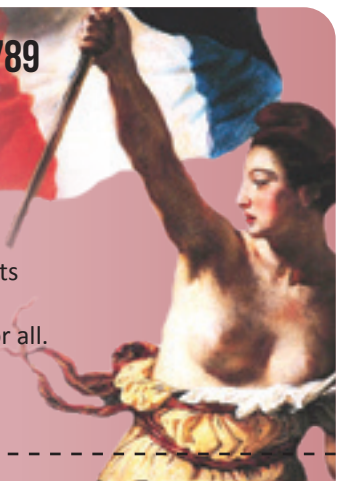
THE HERITAGE OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION - 1789

Consolidating the Age of Enlightenment, the French Revolution mobilised the middle classes, raised political awareness and caused a drastic transformation in the way things were done in France but also in Europe: universalisation of the concept of meritocracy, control by the authorities (Court of Auditors) and democratic concepts such as the French constitution, the Napoleonic Code, the Declaration of the Rights of Man and secondary schools for all.

1776
American Revolution

1789

1804
Napoleon



INTERACTIVE ANIMATIONS

Who will win the race, the policeman or the robber? From the other side of Paris, take part in the bicycle race but watch out for the pushchair!



AIRBUS FLEET

A European company based in France, Airbus is one of the world leaders in aeronautic construction. On the runway, see if you can identify the different types of Airbus: A320, A330, A340 and the imposing A380, which can transport up to 555 passengers.

SACRÉ-CŒUR BASILICA IN MONTMARTRE

PARIS

1875-1923 – Roman-Byzantine style

The basilica was requested by the population after the end of the Franco-Prussian War. Explaining the defeat as a form of divine punishment, the population wanted in this way to make honourable atonement. The statues of Louis IX and Joan of Arc guard the entrance.



The white colour of the stone is particularly striking. It comes from Château-Landon, in the Seine-et-Marne Region. What are its qualities? It goes white and hardens when in contact with air.

NOTRE-DAME-DU-HAUT CHAPEL

RONCHAMP

1951-1955 – Modern style

Le Corbusier designed this Catholic chapel in the Burgundy-Franche-Comté Region. The architect wanted it to be in tune with nature and drew inspiration from a crab's shell for his roof design. The building is also in harmony with the hills of the Vosges and its asymmetrical windows produce a special lighting effect in its austere interior.

Le Corbusier, the famous Franco-Swiss architect, wrote several controversial works on architecture and urban planning. He is seen as the pioneer of modern architecture.



CLOS VOUGEOT CASTLE

VOUGEOT

12th -16th century – Cistercian and Renaissance styles

Burgundy wine has been produced here since the 12th century... At that time, the monks of the large Cîteaux Abbey cultivated the vineyard which became prestigious. A few medieval presses are still in existence today. In the 15th century, a monastic barn was built, followed by the lord's castle in the 16th century.



CHENONCEAU CASTLE

16th century – Gothic and Renaissance styles

Among the famous châteaux of the Loire, Chenonceau is known as "the Castle of Ladies" as it has been marked by women over the centuries. Among the best known, Diane de Poitiers inherited the castle thanks to her status as a favourite of King Henry II. On his death, the legitimate Queen Catherine de Medicis chased her away and restored the castle to the crown. Today, the characteristic building with its bridge built as a gallery is one of the most visited private historic monuments in France.



This French stone model and the gardens that border the building required two years of work.

PORT AREAS

Some European ports were the departure points for caravel boats in search of the New World, as was the case of Le Havre in France. Today, the ports mainly fulfil a commercial function, serving as a transit point for millions of tons of merchandise in containers. Europe is the continent with the longest coastline to area ratio: 1 km of coastline for 60,000 km² of land.



WHAT ARE THE LARGEST EUROPEAN PORTS?

- Rotterdam (the Netherlands)
- Hamburg (Germany)
- Antwerp (Belgium)
- Helsinki (Finland)
- Marseille (France)



In the time of Christopher Columbus, the international fleet was the equivalent of 3 supercargo ships.

BEHIND THE SCENES OF MINI-EUROPE...

The park has hundreds of meticulously replicated monuments down to the smallest details on 1/25 scale, thousands of figurines and extremely true to life animations!

The number and quality of models, in particular due to the level of detail and finish of static and animated scenes have earned Mini-Europe international recognition.

INVESTIGATION WORK

The choice of a monument or scene is determined by its architectural or sociocultural value. It is then a question of gathering together the largest possible number of plans and photos to guarantee faithful replication on a 1/25 scale. This is one of the most difficult steps as – for the model of the Capitol in Rome, for example – precise plans are not always available or do not correspond with the true layout of the building.

BRING ON THE ARTISTS

Then comes the work of the modellers. Making a large-scale model able to resist the weather is a genuine challenge. Exposed to temperature fluctuations, the models expand and shrink.

Frost and ice get into the smallest of cracks and the effect of the wind, snow or hail is to fade the colours or destroy the details and accessories.

Production techniques

- Moulding: the modeller creates parts, moulds them and replicates them in the final material, which is mostly polyester. Each part is then connected to the others and reinforced to make the final monument.
- Milling: the plans are encoded on a programmable milling machine that cuts up the parts. These will then be assembled and stuck together. Finishing work is carried out by hand.
- 3D impression: this technique is used in the design of small parts.
- Stone sawing: Only three monuments required this process to be used: Chenonceau Castle, the Leaning Tower of Pisa and Dinant Citadel.

It is painting that gives a monument its final touches of realism. A large-scale model can require almost 1,000 hours of work. Outdoor models are repainted once every 4 to 6 years. Did you know that gilding work is carried out using gold leaf to provide greater durability?



At the end of this long process, the monument is built into its base in dedicated surroundings, enhanced by its lighting and miniature decorative details.

The average cost of a monument is €75,000. Some ensembles, such as the Grand-Place in Brussels, can be as expensive as €400,000. A 3D-printed, hand-painted figurine costs €150 for a single part. The park currently has 9,000 of them.

ANIMATIONS: FULLY INDUSTRIAL MECHANISMS

Making a train or lorry move, activating a Roman crane or turning the blades of the Kinderdijk windmills is not child's play. The animations require systems that are resistant to wear and tear, external conditions and the enthusiasm of our 400,000 visitors. The production budget for an animated sequence such as that for the Vikings is around €25,000.

LIGHTING AND SPECIAL EFFECTS

Each year, new sound or light effects are added to the scenes of Mini-Europe to make them even more attractive. As with the animations, their outdoor installation requires a large amount of expertise to allow it to resist climatic conditions and wear and tear over time.

GREEN FINGERS

Two gardeners, with additional help in the high season, take care of the gardens throughout the year.

A lagoon system in our ponds provides an environment that is home to a large number of insects, fish and birds.



Over
350
buildings,
9,000
figurines and
60
animations



THALYS

1hr 22 between Brussels and Paris, or 315 km. The Thalys high-speed train has been the fastest transport link between the two cities since 1996. In addition to France and Belgium, the TGV also provides service to Germany and the Netherlands. In all, the European Union is criss-crossed by over 140,000 km of railways.

During the winter of 1944-1945, the Saline Royale was used as a prisoner of war camp by the Germans.



SALINE ROYALE ARC-ET-SENANS

18th century – Industrial style

Until 1895, white gold – i.e. salt – was produced here. Salt was then an essential factor in the preservation of perishable foods. In addition, the salt tax was a major source of income for the monarchy. Built in the reign of Louis XVI by architect Ledoux, La Saline was designed as an ideal example of an industrial village. The Manager, clerk and other workers all stayed there independently. Housing and workshops formed an inseparable whole.



THE LEGACY OF THE ENLIGHTENMENT (18th century)

The thinkers of the Enlightenment favoured science over religion, defended the idea that the human condition could improve itself through critical thinking and praised among other values the separation of the temporal from the spiritual, individual freedoms and the emancipation of slaves and women.

The literary salons witnessed the emergence of a more enlightened, more critical and more politicised population that preferred what was chosen and decided for themselves and – by defying the authority of the past for the benefit of plans for the future – sowed the seeds of the French Revolution and the other revolutions that followed it.

All of them, from Rousseau, Kant and Voltaire to Diderot brought about progress in a large number of fields: philosophy, politics, ethics, science and the arts. They incarnate reason, humanity, tolerance and scientific progress.



Newton	Voltaire	Von Linné	Diderot	Rousseau	Adam Smith	Kant	Volta
1643-1727	1694-1778	1707-1778	1713-1784	1715-1778	1723-1790	1724-1804	1745-1827



PORTUGAL

Republic

92,000 km²

1986

10.3 million

Standard of living: 78/100
100 = EU average



Portugal sought increased prosperity through sea trade and is undeniably associated with the Age of Discovery. Vasco de Gama was the first European to reach the Indies by sea (1497-1498). Magellan gave his name to a strait at the bottom of South America and Amerigo Vespucci of Florence discovered Brazil whilst commissioned by Portugal.



Did you notice the crosses of the Military Order of Christ on the building? The same cross was placed on the sails of the ships commissioned by the order when they set off to conquer the world.



TORRE DE BELEM LISBON

1515-1519 – Portuguese Renaissance style [UNESCO]

True protection for the port... This fortress was built in 2 sections, made up of a tower and a stronghold leaning over the Tagus like the prow of a ship. Many navigators departed the Torre de Belem to set sail for the New World.

OCEAN PAVILION* LISBON

1998 – Post-Modern style

* This aquarium was built for the universal exhibition in 1998.

The universal exhibitions were held from 1851 in Europe (Eiffel Tower, Atomium, Columbus monument etc.) to present the latest industrial productions. They are a fine demonstration of European entrepreneurial spirit.



CAIS DA RIBEIRA* PORTO

[UNESCO]

Ribeira dock is a typical Porto location with its stone houses and earthenware tiles known as azulejos. Architecture, gastronomy, trade and traditions all came together on these Portuguese docks.

* Building donated by the Portuguese Trade and Tourism Office.

MEDIEVAL HERITAGE (5th - 15th century AD)

Ancient Rome allowed for the development of Mediterranean borders, while the Middle Ages supported Northern Europe's surge in prosperity. Territory was reorganised around castles and monasteries to lead to the foundation of new towns. From the lord to the serf, Christianity acted as the common moral fibre and provided favourable ground for the teaching of divine order, pilgrimage rituals and crusades. These times were also marked by major landmarks and achievements such as the transition from Romanesque to Gothic architecture and the emergence of the university system in the 12th century. Even today, medieval imagination occupies a large place in our folklore (Knights of the Round Table, mythology etc.).

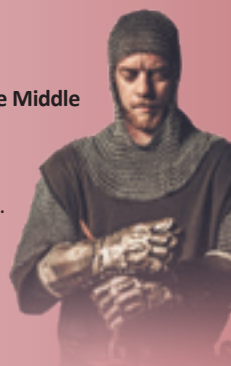
Two other facts also left their mark on the Middle Ages:

THE CRUSADES (1095-1291)

The Crusades were religious wars based on the need to conquer the holy lands of the Middle East, and Jerusalem in particular. Political and territorial advantages were drawn from these invasions in North Africa as well as Eastern and Southern Europe.

THE BLACK DEATH (1347-1351)

The fleas of rats, brought by ship from Central Asia through the Black Sea, caused a pandemic that killed between 30% and 50% of the European population and between 25 and 75 million people worldwide. The only positive consequence: the lack of labor forces obliges private landowners to abolish serfdom and to pay the farmers a wage.



GUIMARÃES CASTLE* GUIMARÃES

950 AD – Military Romanesque and Gothic styles [UNESCO]

The city of Guimarães is associated with the country's national identity. It was the capital of the Duchy of Portugal which then belonged to Henry of Burgundy, a knight in the Eastern crusades. His son Afonso Henriques became the first king of Portugal and made the castle his royal residence.



THE ALGARVE*

With a rich Roman past, today the Algarve is a tourist region valued for its privileged climate and beaches.

The name Algarve comes from the Arabic 'El Gharb' which means 'west'.



* Building donated by the Tourist Office of the Algarve Region and by the Portuguese Tourist Office.



SPAIN

Monarchy



506,000 km²



1986



46.7 million

Standard of living:
100 = EU average

91/100



Under the Habsburgs, Spain was a state with tremendous influence in Europe and owned a huge number of colonial territories. In modern-day Spain, considerable regional autonomy has been granted. Where?

In the Basque country, Galicia, Andalusia... Each region notably has its own language(s) that are spoken in addition to Spanish, the main language of the country.

EL ESCORIAL MADRID

1563-1584 – Renaissance style [UNESCO]

The royal site of Escorial is located 50 km from Madrid. Its basic construction plan is inspired by the temple of Salomon in Jerusalem. In the 16th century, King Philip II added a pantheon, a basilica, a convent, a school and a library containing nearly 35,000 books. Inside the Escorial there are 26 tombs of kings and queens as well as some 7,000 relics. The building symbolises the ideological and artistic splendour of the Spanish Catholic monarchy in the Golden Age (early 16th- late 17th century).



Admire the coat of arms of Philip II at the centre of the Escorial. It symbolises his vast empire, as he was King of Spain (1556-1598), Portugal (1581-1598), Naples and Sicily (1554-1598), England and Ireland (1554-1558). In 1555, he also became Duke of Milan and lord of the 17 provinces of the Netherlands. That is all!

Why is the national holiday celebrated on October 12? On this date in 1492, Christopher Columbus discovered America.



DON QUIXOTE OF LA MANCHA

Don Quixote and his faithful companion Sancho Panza crossing the desolate plains of La Mancha... A reference to the literary masterpiece written by Cervantes in 1605. Behind them are the windmills that the knight fights, wanting to bring justice to the world. The novel is a parody of medieval manners, chivalrous ideals and the rigid social structures of the Spanish Golden Age.



PLAZA DE TOROS SEVILLE

1881 – Baroque style

During a traditional corrida, 3 matadors kill 6 bulls. How?

After tiring out the animal using a red cape known as a “muleta”, the matador gives the bull the death blow by thrusting his sword between the shoulder blades to strike at the heart. Some consider this spectacle barbaric, whilst others see it as heritage or even an art form. In Seville, corridas are still held at the Plaza de Toros today.



How many people are seated in the arena model? 4,000! And they were all hand painted.



Did you notice the demonstration in the port of Barcelona? The European countries are now faced with the challenges posed by local independence movements.



COLUMBUS MONUMENT BARCELONA

1888

Built for the Universal Exhibition in Barcelona in 1888, this column is a homage to explorer Christopher Columbus, who was the first European to dare to attempt to reach the “Indies” via the West. From the top of the 57-metre tall monument, there is an unobstructed view of the port of Barcelona.

LA SANTA MARIA 1492

The Santa Maria is a caravel, a relatively small ship that was easy to manoeuvre and allowed for navigation on the high seas. This construction illustrates the exploratory genius of Europeans, guided by the spirit of the Renaissance. 70 years earlier, Chinese admiral Zeng He had a much larger fleet and crew. However, no major discoveries have been attributed to him.

COLONIALISM

There were many reasons behind colonialism (trade, power etc.). Colonialism and decolonisation led Europeans to a new view of the world and their positive or negative responsibilities. The immigration of colonised people still affects large European cities today. Is this also one of the reasons why Europeans give so much aid to the rest of the world?

CATHEDRAL OF SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA*

SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

11th-13th century – Romanesque, Gothic, Plateresque and Baroque styles

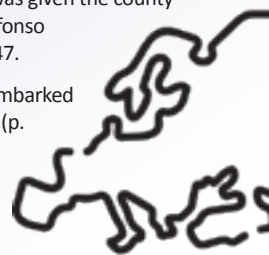
Santiago de Compostela Cathedral was built on the very spot where the relics of Saint James the Greater, one of the apostles of Jesus Christ, were found. Together with Rome and Jerusalem, this site is one of the main Christian sanctuaries and places of pilgrimage. Pilgrimages were often a way of (re)conquering and occupying territories.



A LITTLE EUROPEAN HISTORY AT THE HEART OF MINI-EUROPE.

Do you remember Bruges (p. 24) in Flanders (Belgium)? This city was a starting point for the Saint James of Compostela pilgrimage (p. 41) which aimed at recapturing the Iberian peninsula from the Moors. As recognition for his involvement in the reconquista (reconquest), Henry of Burgundy was given the county of Portugal where he ordered the construction of Guimaraes Castle (p. 38). His son Afonso Henriques became the first king of Portugal and drove the Moors out of Lisbon in 1147.

The reconquista was completed in 1492. The soldiers (guerillas), now unemployed, embarked on the expeditions following the discovery of the Americas by Christopher Columbus (p. 40). The riches brought back from these expeditions allowed the construction of the Escorial by Philip II, who built the roofs in the Flemish style as a reminder of the time he spent in Flanders. They are reminiscent of those in Bruges, Belgium.



* Monument donated by the Galician Government.

Take a break at the European tavern if you are hungry or very thirsty!



MALTA

Republic



316 km²

0.5 million

2004

Standard of living: 86/100
100 = EU average

Located 90 kilometres to the south of Sicily, Malta is an archipelago of rocks, islets and 8 islands, only 4 of which are populated. Its strategic location in the Mediterranean has led to other countries coveting and invading it on a several occasions. Malta has been independent from the United Kingdom since 1964. Maltese is the only Semitic language (i.e. like Arabic and Hebrew) that is written using the Latin alphabet.

The smallest Member State of the European Union draws its name from the Latin word 'melita'. Meaning 'honey', this is a reference to the golden colour of the stone with which the country's 400 churches were built.

MNAJDRA TEMPLE MNAJDRA

3600-3200 BC – Megalithic Temple [UNESCO]

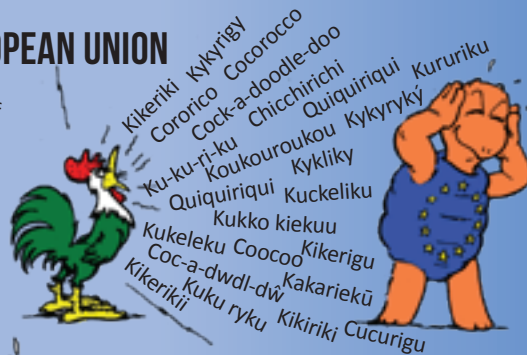
Mnajdra and other Maltese temples are thought to be the oldest stone temples in the world... They were built almost 800 years before the Great Pyramids of Gizeh and Stonehenge in the United Kingdom. What civilisation built this temple?

We know almost nothing of this population that came from Sicily and vanished in around 2500 BC.

The builders of the Mnajdra temple did not know about iron... The large blocks of stone and decorations were created using simple flint tools.

THE LANGUAGES SPOKEN IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

- Languages and cultures play a part in the richness of European heritage. In this way, they receive the support of the European Union.
- Europe has 24 official languages and over 50 unofficial languages (Catalan, Basque etc.).
- The flags are arranged in alphabetical order based on the language selected by the country



ITALY

Republic



301,000 km²

60.5 million

1952

Standard of living: 96/100
100 = EU average

Italy is one of the great cradles of European culture, in particular due to the vastness of the Roman Empire and the rapid spreading of the Italian Renaissance. The mountainous topography of the land favoured the development of independent towns and cities with a fierce rivalry between them. It was not until the 19th century that the centralised state emerged that is modern Italy today. The Republic of San Marino and Vatican City State are micro-states that are independent from Italy itself and are not therefore members of the European Union.

The Western Roman Empire, with Rome at its centre, existed until 476 AD. The Eastern Roman Empire, created after the split with the Western Roman Empire and with Constantinople/Istanbul as capital, existed until 1453. The Germanic Holy Roman Empire only began to be called this in 800 AD, on Charlemagne's coronation, so that he could legitimise his claim as successor to the Western Roman Empire but without there being any real link between them.



THE CALYPSO

A little naval history for you with the story of the Calypso, a former royal navy minesweeper that was converted into a research vessel for French naval officer and underwater explorer, Jacques Cousteau (1910-1997). He was particularly famous for his invention of the self-contained diving suit (1942) and improved the underwater image shooting process.

TREVI FOUNTAIN ROME

1732-1762 – Baroque style

The construction of Trevi fountain, which backs onto the Poli palace, was ordered by Pope Clement XII so that a work worthy of the Aqua Virgo aqueduct - which used to supply the fountain - could be produced. The main statue represents Neptune, the god of the sea.



The thousands of tourists who gather around the basin of the fountain every day vow to return there by throwing a coin over their shoulder. Nearly a million euros are collected there every year and this money is redistributed to charitable and cultural causes.

VESUVIUS

From 1281 metres altitude on Mount Vesuvius spouts the deadly lava that surprised the inhabitants of Pompei in 79 AD

The volcano is the only replica in Mini-Europe that does not respect the 1/25 as it would have been 51 metres tall!



TRULLI ALBEROBELLO

18th century [UNESCO]

The town of Alberobello is known for its little houses built of limestone, with conical roofs and whitewashed walls.



How can we avoid paying taxes?

By dismantling our houses! As trulli did not require any cement to stabilise them, owners used to dismantle their homes and rebuild them once the tax collector had done his rounds.

CAMPO DEL MIRACOLI PISA

11th-14th century – Pisan-Romanesque (and Gothic) style

ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY CATHEDRAL

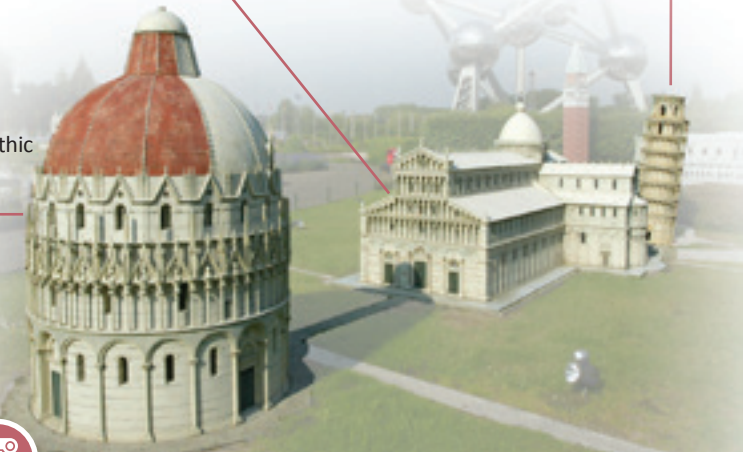
1064-1092

This large Roman cathedral was built to celebrate the victory of the Pisan fleet against Palermo. The building, made of white and green marble, translates these international influences using classic and Byzantine styles.

BAPTISTERY

1152-1363

It is the largest baptistery in Italy and illustrates the transition from the Romanesque style to the Gothic style.



According to the legend, Galileo, the Italian astronomer, mathematician, philosopher and physician is said to have dropped objects of different weights from the top of the leaning tower to show that the speed of the fall was not dependent on the weight of the objects.

PALAZZO PUBBLICO SIENA

1297-1344 – Romanesque & Gothic styles

On the Piazza del Campo is the City Hall whose bell tower - the 102-m tall Mangia - was designed to be higher than that of its neighbouring and rival city of Florence. As was customary at the time of its construction, the clock only had one hand.



The monogram "IHS" refers to the first three letters of the Greek name for Jesus Christ (iota-eta-sigma: iesus).

In summer, on 2 July and 16 August, the Palio is held, which is a horse race organised in front of the Palazzo Pubblico. 10 horses and their riders are dressed in the colours of 10 of the 17 districts of the city of Siena.



CAMPANILE VENICE

1514 (rebuilt in 1912) – Renaissance style

Each of the 5 bells in the belfry had a unique purpose. The Renghiera announced executions; the Mezza Terza marked the session of the Senate; the Nona was rung at noon; the Trottera called council meetings and the Marangona marked the start and end of the working day.

PALAZZO DUCALE

VENICE

1340 – Gothic style

This palace was the residence of the Doge of Venice, the supreme authority of the former Republic of Venice. It was the seat of the government and of the court.



At the end of the 17th century, the Doge and the Senate decided that in order to save money all gondolas would be painted black.



VILLA ROTONDA

VICENZA

1592 – Renaissance style

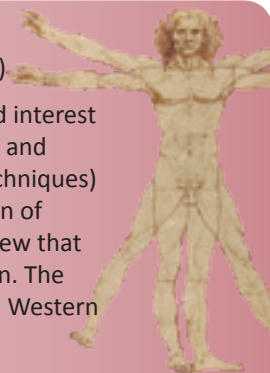
Under its apparent simplicity, the Villa Rotonda conceals a complex design. On the four façades, an identical porch with monumental staircase is built... Architect Andrea Palladio was seeking perfect symmetry. His style was inspired by Roman classicism.

A true model of the Renaissance, the Villa Rotonda was a place of study and literature, philosophy, art and the sciences. This building was the inspiration for the Circus of Bath and Arc-et-Senans, which are both also represented in Mini-Europe.



THE HERITAGE OF THE RENAISSANCE (14th-17th century)

After the Middle Ages, our European culture inherited a marked interest in learning and classicism. The world of the arts was reinvented and again did homage to ancient culture (literature, the arts and techniques) whilst the printing press allowed for a much swifter transmission of knowledge. Critical thinking led to the emergence of a world view that was now centred on individualism and the idea of universal man. The age revealed the premises of true democracy, a major aspect in Western civilisation.



1440	1498-1499	1503	1517	1534
Gutenberg invents the printing press	Michelangelo sculpts <i>La Pieta</i>	Leonardo Da Vinci paints <i>the Mona Lisa</i>	Martin Luther posts his 95 theses	Henry VIII becomes the head of the Church of England

GERMANY

Republic



Between the Germanic Holy Roman Empire, the German confederation, the German Empire, the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) and the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) and Germany after the reunification in 1990, there have been so many variations in borders and projects! The reunification of the two Germanys was and still is a true challenge for Germany and for the European Union.

357,000 km²

1952

82.9 million

Standard of living: 126/100
100 = EU average

Germany has the highest number of museums. There are more than 6,500 spread throughout the country.



HOLSTENTOR

LÜBECK

1464 – Gothic style [UNESCO]

The gate, the Holstentor, marks the western limit of Lübeck, a large city in the Hanseatic League (11th-17th century), which was a group of merchant cities located around the North Sea and the Baltic Sea. These cities were granted many privileges and for a long time they played a political as well as a commercial role. **The Burgtor**, the 2nd gate with a tower, is a remnant of the medieval fortifications. For their part, **the Salzspeicher** are warehouses that were used to store salt.

At the top, the quadriga – the triumphal chariot driven by the goddess of victory – was taken by Napoleon in 1806 before being returned in 1814. First used as a symbol of peace, it was then used as a Nazi emblem.

BRANDENBURG GATE

BERLIN

1788-1791 – Neoclassical style

The Brandenburg gate, based on the model of the Acropolis in Athens, was the entrance to the old city and – after the Second World War – was part of the Berlin Wall. Together, they are emblems of the democratisation of the East and German reunification in 1989 with the demolition of the wall. Did you notice the authentic segment of the Berlin Wall presented at Mini-Europe? Did you notice the figurine of Angela Merkel?





BERLIN WALL

'Tear down this wall'. During a speech at the Brandenburg Gate in 1987, US President Ronald Reagan called on the Soviet Communist Party to demolish the Berlin Wall, built in 1961. It was done in 1989, one of the key moments in the history of Germany and Europe. Did you notice the real segment of the Berlin Wall presented at Mini-Europe?

ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY AND SAINT STEPHEN SPEYER

1030-1061 – Romanesque style [UNESCO]

For 3 centuries, Speyer Cathedral was the main church for funerals and burials of the Germanic Holy Roman Empire.

In 1529, the Diet – the assembly of sovereigns of the Empire – banned all forms of religious reform. The 'Protestation of Speyer' was the response... 6 princes and 14 German cities forced King Charles V to recognise Protestant reform. Its founder: Martin Luther, represented by his statue.



Speyer Cathedral was a popular starting point for pilgrims on the path of Saint James of Compostela.



MILLENNIUM TOWER

MAGDEBURG

1999 – Post-Modern style

The Millennium Tower, 60 metres tall and with 6 floors, is the largest tower in the world to be made of laminated wood.



The Millennium Tower is also called the "World Tower" as it presents 6,000 years of the history of man and technology.



OSTHOFENTOR SOEST

1594-1603 – Gothic style

Osthofentor is a fortified gate which was part of the walls of the city of Soest.



GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG

2,600 km²

1952

0.6 million

Standard of living: 266/100
100 = EU average

Grand Duchy



In 963 AD, Count Sigefroi, of Carolingian blood, acquired a rocky promontory on top of which is the small fortress named "Lucilinburhuc". This name, from which the name Luxembourg is derived, was first given to the city and then the country too.

PONT ADOLPHE

LUXEMBOURG CITY

1900-1903 – Industrial style

The Pont Adolphe, named after Grand Duke Adolphe, was the first masonry arch bridge of such a length (84 metres) to be built entirely of natural stone. It is a great example of technical mastery.

Since its creation, Luxembourg has belonged to a whole string of great European economic powers: the Netherlands, Spain, Austria and France. It had to wait until the 19th century before it became fully independent.



The keystone at the centre of the bridge represents the coats of arms of the Grand Duke.



THE IMPORTANCE OF THE EURO IN THE WORLD

The European currency (the euro) makes up 25% of world bank reserves and is used in 19 Member States of the EU and 4 non-member micro-states (the Vatican City, Andorra, San Marino and Monaco).

Its purpose is to improve the European economy by facilitating the movements of capital, goods and European citizens by means of lower borrowing rates than neighbouring countries

and the absence of high exchange rates. It is governed by the European Central Bank, which dictates that the economy of a country must be stable before it is able to enter the eurozone.



POLAND

Republic



313,000 km²

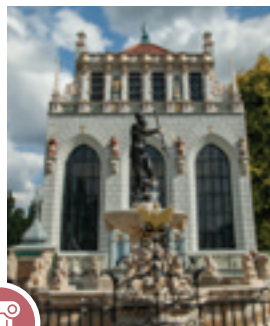
2004



38 million

Standard of living: 68/100
100 = EU average

Poland, with its territories highly coveted for their central positioning, is one of the European countries that has experienced the most changes in its borders. It was even completely broken up in 1795 and its territory shared between its three neighbours: Austria, Prussia and Russia.



Astronomer, canon, doctor and mathematician, Nicolas Copernic (1473-1543) marked the history of Poland, which was at the time Royal Prussia. He revolutionised the way people thought about the world with his theory of heliocentrism, which states that the Earth goes around the Sun and not the other way around. His claim literally changed the opinion of the scientists, philosophers and religious figures of his time... to such an extent that we now speak of the Copernican revolution.

ARTUS COURT GDAŃSK

1348-1350 (rebuilt in 1616-1617) – Northern Mannerism style

Artus Court was built by a Dutchman to house the rich merchants of the Hanseatic League (northern European association of merchant cities). Its façade presents the statues of kings and mythical characters. Located opposite the manor, Neptune's fountain (17th century) symbolises the port city.

The name Artus, as a reference to King Arthur and the knights of the round table, was given to several places where the assemblies of nobles or merchants of the Hanseatic League were held.

MONUMENT TO SHIPYARD WORKERS WHO DIED IN 1970 GDAŃSK - 1980

This steel construction, over 42 metres tall, commemorates the murder of over 1,000 shipyard workers during a strike against the Communist Government in December 1970. The 3 crosses symbolise the fight for freedom of association and democracy.



In 1980, the trade union struggles of Solidarnosc (Solidarity) shook up Poland and led it to independence. At its head was Lech Walesa (Nobel Peace Prize in 1983), who was president of Poland from 1990 to 1995. He visited Mini-Europe in 2004.



GERMANY

(CONTINUED)

BEETHOVEN'S HOUSE BONN

17th century – Baroque style

It was in this house, painted pink, that famous composer Ludwig van Beethoven was born in 1770. From a family who used to live in Malines (Belgium), he quickly became extremely famous. On turning 16, he was appointed a musician employed by the court's chapel. 6 years later, he left Bonn for good to live in Vienna.



Beethoven composed the 9th Symphony (Ode to Joy), whose final chorus was selected in 1985 as the European Union's anthem.



ELTZ CASTLE ELTZ

From the 12th century – Military Romanesque, Gothic and Baroque styles

Since the 12th century, Eltz castle has undergone a large number of modifications. From the Middle Ages onwards, 3 successors have been sharing the estate. Each line carried out its own building works with turret towers and lodgings. Today, the castle still belongs to the descendants of the counts of Eltz.



WALLFAHRTSKIRCHE WIES

1745-1754 – Rococco style [UNESCO]

The Wallfahrtskirche in Wies is known as a masterpiece of rococo art, using the trompe l'œil painting technique which gives a real illusion of relief.

CELTIC HERITAGE

In their heyday, the Celtic peoples occupied most of Europe. They were excellent craftsmen and traders and, as such, they developed many techniques in Europe.

Even the Roman army used their weapons and coats of mail. Many things that we still use nowadays were inherited from the Celts, such as wooden barrels (very important for food preservation until the 20th century), soap and trousers (the Celtic ancestor is known as braccæ). Their reapers were used until the onset of the industrial revolution in the 19th century. Their strongholds (oppida) and roads are at the origin of many current infrastructures. Celtic folklore is still alive and well, especially through the legends of King Arthur.

PORTA NIGRA

TRIER

180 AD – Roman architecture
[UNESCO]

The Porta Nigra is the largest set of Roman remains in Trier. The gate, which owes its name to its dark patina, reflects the power of the city once known as the 'Rome of the North'. Trier was then the headquarters of the Gallic prefecture, one of the highest authorities of the Western Roman Empire which stretched from Morocco to Great Britain.

The modellers enjoyed themselves here. Did you notice the touches of humour in the decorative details?



CZECH REPUBLIC

Republic



78,900 km²

2004

10.6 million

Standard of living: 84/100
100 = EU average

A very young nation created in 1993 following the dissolution of Czechoslovakia (1918-1992). It is made up of former Bohemia and Moravia. In the 15th century, gypsies from Bohemia left their region for Western Europe. In France, they were then called Bohemians, a term still used to refer to "travellers".

The Prague Spring evoked a desire to liberalise some aspects of Communism and was emphatically suppressed by the Soviets.



ROMAN HERITAGE



Roman civilisation gave us our sense of organisation and the practical skills required to manage such a large territory, the Roman Law code (still studied by lawyers) to maintain order there, roads to link the towns and cities whilst not forgetting thought and political speeches to federate the people. The archaeological remains all along the Roman roads linking the great cities of the Empire are for their part evidence of an already perfect mastery of the art of construction.

The Pax Romana (Roman Peace) encouraged the development in Europe of an homogeneous educational and cultural model, the transmission of Greek culture (see Greek heritage) and the spreading of new religions. These trends give Roman civilisation a universalistic character.

-753 BC
Foundation
of Rome

-509 BC
Foundation of
the Republic

-44 BC
Death of
Julius Caesar

476 AD
Fall of the Western
Roman Empire

MONARCHY

REPUBLIC

EMPIRE

OLD TOWN HALL

PRAGUE

14th-19th century
Gothic and Renaissance styles [UNESCO]

Would you know how to read all the information on the astronomical clock correctly?

It indicates the local time, the diurnal time (in twelfths of a day), the time in old Czech hours, the position of the sun, the moon and the Zodiac constellations, sidereal time and lunar phase. Built in 1410, a calendar was then added to this in 1490, with moving figures in the 17th century and apostles in 1865.



The countries of Slavic origin such as the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia and Croatia along with Russia generally use the three colours white, red and blue in their flag.





SLOVAKIA

Republic



49,000 km²

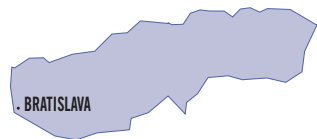


2004



5.4 million

Standard of living: 77/100
100 = EU average



Slovakia belonged to the Austro-Hungarian Empire for over two centuries. Pressburg was the capital of Hungary. In 1919, on the creation of the Republic of Czechoslovakia, Pressburg was renamed Bratislava. In 1993, the country was split by mutual agreement between Slovakia and the Czech Republic.



Slovakia has over 4,000 caves, 5 of which are listed as UNESCO world heritage sites. You can stay in some of them to treat respiratory diseases and allergies.

BLUE CHURCH

BRATISLAVA

1909-1913 – Art Nouveau style

The Blue Church is dedicated to a lady: Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, daughter of King Andrew II. Elizabeth was very young when she discovered the spirit and values of Catholic Saint Francis of Assisi. She then decided to renounce a life of luxury to serve the poor. Her story evokes the past that links the city to the Hungarian Empire.



Legend has it that Elizabeth used to bring bread to the poor regularly. One day, her disgruntled husband opened up her coat expecting to find the bread that she was hiding but all he could find was roses... The flower became her symbol. On both the inside and outside of the Blue Church, roses are for that matter present everywhere.



ROMANIA

Republic



238,000 km²



2007



19.5 million

Standard of living: 55/100
100 = EU average



Romania is a 19th century name that refers back to the “Roman” or Latin-speaking population. In the Eastern Roman Empire known as the Byzantine Empire, inhabitants referred to themselves as “Romans”. The chilling character Dracula, Count of Transylvania and an immortal vampire, created by British author Bram Stoker in 1897 was named after a 15th century Romanian prince: Vlad III Dracula or Vlad the Empaler.

MOGOȘOAIA PALACE

MOGOȘOAIA

1698-1702 – Brancovan style

The construction of this palace was ordered by the Prince of Wallachia, Constantin Brâncoveanu. Its architecture, referred to as Brancovan, combines the Orthodox Christian and Islamic styles that were dominant in the Ottoman Empire.



EUROPEAN STANDARDS THAT BENEFIT ALL CITIZENS

The European Union's contributions can be found in some national laws. It is quite common for national politicians to claim the credit for these laws whilst not mentioning that they have come about due to decisions first taken at European level.

What are some examples of this? Standards governing CO² emissions and food traceability, standards governing road and rail safety, minimum legal and parental leave, the displaying of prices and very recently telecommunications with the use of a mobile phone contract abroad subject to the same rates as in the country of origin.





HUNGARY

Republic



93,000 km²



2004



9.8 million

Standard of living: 68/100
100 = EU average



Hungary was founded at the end of the 9th century by prince and military commander Árpád who had conquered its territory. From the 16th century onwards, Hungary lost its sovereignty – to the Ottoman Empire, the Habsburg Empire and the Austro-Hungarian Empire successively. The country's modern-day borders date back to 1920, after it lost 71% of its land at the end of the First World War. The Hungarian language is a Finno-Ugric language (along with Estonian and Finnish).



To create a true capital, Hungary merged 3 cities in 1873: Buda, Pest and Obuda.

SZÉCHENYI BATHS BUDAPEST

1913-1927 – Neo-Baroque Renaissance style [UNESCO]

The Széchenyi thermal baths are the largest baths in Europe. Water temperatures vary and are believed to act against pain caused by rheumatism, osteoarthritis and muscular pain. The waters are drawn from a depth of almost 960 metres. The name of the baths is a tribute to Istvan Széchenyi, a reformer and 19th century man of letters.



Hungary is the land of thermal waters with a geology that has enabled the discovery of almost 1,500 thermal, mineral and curative springs. Today nearly 400 of them are operated as baths, swimming pools and thermal stations with relaxing and also curative properties. This true art of living was already practised by the Romans, but was above all developed by the Turks.

* Monument created with the assistance of Hungary



CROATIA

Republic



56,500 km²



2013



4.1 million

Standard of living: 59/100
100 = EU average



Throughout its history, Croatia has been at the crossroads of the great cultures. In turn, Croatia came under the influence of the Romans, Byzantines, Venetians, Austro-Hungarians and Ottomans. The country has been independent since 1991 and the break-up of Yugoslavia.



Under Louis XIV, his Croat regiment wore a scarf that is the origin of the term "cravate" meaning "tie" derived from the Croatian term "Hrvat".

CHURCH OF SAINT MARK

ZAGREB

13th century – Romanesque and Gothic styles

The church door represents Joseph, Mary, Jesus, the 12 apostles and the evangelist Saint Mark symbolised by the Lion. The varnished roof tiles were not added until 1880. They are a replication of the coats of arms of Zagreb (the white castle on a red background) and Croatia, Slavonia and Dalmatia.



After taking Slavic men as slaves, the Roman Empire assimilated the term "slavus" with "slave". Slavonia is in truth the country of slaves.



SLOVENIA

Republic



20,300 km²



2004



2.1 million

Standard of living: 82/100
100 = EU average



A state resulting from the breakup of Yugoslavia, Slovenia was the first former Yugoslav country to join the European Union. The term Slovenia comes from the words Slavs and Venet.



PREŠEREN SQUARE

LJUBLJANA

Slovenia has 36 dialects. Slovenian is a Slavic language similar to Czech and Slovakian. It has also been influenced by Latin, German and Italian.

FRANCISCAN CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION

1646-1660 – Baroque style

Why the red façade? This is a reference to the Franciscan monastic order. A statue of The Madonna with Child dating back to 1660 stands at the top of the church with the inscription 'Ave, Maria Gratia Plena' (I salute thee, Mary full of grace).

MONUMENT OF PREŠEREN

1903-1905

The bronze statue of Slovenian poet France Prešeren is one of the country's most well-known monuments. The base represents scenes from his poems.

HAUPTMANN HOUSE

1873 (rebuilt in 1904)

Vienna Secession style

The house resisted a major earthquake and was bought by merchant Adolf Hauptmann. In 1904, the façade was decorated with geometric patterns made up of ceramic tiles in green, blue and red tones.



TRIPLE BRIDGE

1820-1920 – Art Nouveau style

The Triple Bridge crosses the River Ljubljanica. The main bridge replaced an old wooden bridge in 1820. The two others were added a century later by influential architect Jože Plečnik.



BULGARIA

Republic



111,000 km²

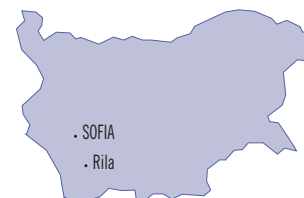


2007



7.3 million

Standard of living: 47/100
100 = EU average



A Bulgarian state first appeared in the 7th century. In 913, Tsar Simeon I (Tsar being derived from the word Caesar) reigned over an empire that stretched from the Black Sea coast to the Adriatic Sea. Over the centuries, Bulgaria was incorporated into the Byzantine Empire, was subsequently under Turkish and then Russian domination and finally gained independence in 1990.



In Bulgaria, nodding means no and shaking your head means yes.

RILA MONASTERY

RILA

927 AD (rebuilt in the 14th, 15th and 19th centuries)
Renaissance, Baroque and Gothic styles [UNESCO]

This monastery was founded by Orthodox hermit Saint John of Rila (870-946 AD), whose spiritual influence was considerable. Today it symbolises Bulgarian cultural identity and has been converted into an education and culture centre.



The Bulgarian Orthodox Church uses the revised Julian calendar. For this reason, the feast day of Saint John of Rila is sometimes put back a few days according to the Gregorian calendar used in the majority of Europe.

HRELJA TOWER

Hrelja Tower is dedicated to Hrelja Ohmučević, the feudal lord who built Rila monastery. It was built to serve as a defensive tower for the monks, before being used as a place of storage for objects of value or as a refuge for the mentally ill.

CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LADY

At the heart of the monastery courtyard is the Church of the Nativity of Our Lady, famous for its 5 characteristic domes.



* Monument created with the assistance of Bulgaria



AUSTRIA

Republic



84,000 km²

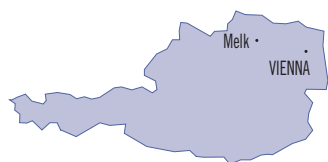


1995



8.8 million

Standard of living: 129/100
100 = EU average



Before 1918, the Austrian Empire covered some 650,000 km². The Austrian flag is the oldest flag of the European nations. It first appeared in 1230... after the birth of Austria itself. In 996 AD, the term 'Ostarrichi' (Eastern country in old German) appeared for the 1st time. It then designated the north-east of the country, where the Babenberg family founded Austrian royalty.

The Turks besieged Vienna in 1683. At dawn, a baker sounded the alarm and this allowed the enemy to be beaten back. To commemorate this victory, he designed a pastry... the very first croissant, called Hörnchen. It resembles the Ottoman crescent shape.

MELK ABBEY

MELK

11th century (rebuilt in 1702-1736)

Baroque style

Under the Babenberg dynasty, Melk was the capital of Austria. Its abbey was perched on a rocky cliff overlooking the Danube. On either side of the main balcony, the apostles Peter and Paul, patrons of the church, dominate the building.

* Monument donated by the government of Lower Austria



'Les hospites tamquam Christus suscipiuntur'
(all guests shall be received as Christ would be)... that is the motto engraved into the marble hall of Melk Abbey.



FRANCE

(CONTINUED)

ARIANE LAUNCHER

To facilitate communication and the study of our planet, the European Space Agency (ESA) has been launching satellites into space since 1979. Where is the launch base? Kourou in Guyana, a French overseas territory that is a member of the European Union. What is the next launcher to be designed? It is Ariane 6, which should be finalised in 2022.



CYPRUS

Republic



9,200 km²

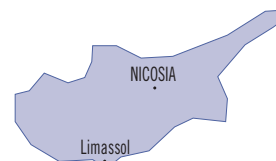


2004



0.9 million

Standard of living: 82/100
100 = EU average



The island of Cyprus takes its name from the word kupros, meaning "copper" and is located in Asia. It gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1960. In 1974, in response to a coup d'état that favoured Cyprus' annexation by Greece, Turkey invaded the northern part of the island on the pretext that it was protecting the Turkish minority. Today, the whole island is officially a member of the European Union, whereas in actual fact the northern part is independent from the southern part.

Aphrodite, goddess of Love and beauty, is said to have been born on Cyprus.

KOURION THEATRE

LIMASSOL

2nd century BC – Ancient Greek and Roman architecture

Built by the Greeks in the 2nd century BC, Kourion theatre was enlarged by the Romans in the 2nd century AD to house 3500 spectators. During the next century, it was converted to host wild animal hunts.

Kourion was inhabited from the Neolithic Period before being totally destroyed by earthquakes and the Arab incursions of the 7th century. Searches to uncover the ruins began in 1820.





GREECE

Republic



132,000 km²



1981



10.8 million

Standard of living: 73/100
100 = EU average

Whilst today those from Greece are called “Greeks”, they have been given several names throughout history. At the end of Antiquity, they considered themselves as “Romans”, then “Greeks” and finally “Hellenes”. In 1830, the first independent Greek State was founded following the War of Independence against the Ottoman Empire.



Typical of the country, feta cheese actually takes its name from the Italian word “fetta”, meaning “slice”.

ACROPOLIS ATHENS

5th century BC – Ancient Greek architecture [UNESCO]

This hill was the birthplace of democracy, philosophy, theatre, freedom of expression and the main values of our contemporary societies. The citadel was also used as a sanctuary dedicated to the 12 Greek gods.

PARTHENON

The Parthenon is dedicated to the goddess of the city: Athena. It is a masterpiece of Doric architecture.

ERECHTHEION

Some doubts remain concerning this Ionic temple: is it dedicated to the hero Erichthonius or King Erechtheus, mentioned in Homer's Iliad as a ruler of Athens in the Archaic period?

In the Odyssey, Homer's fabulous tale, Ulysses requested that he be attached to the mast of the ship to resist the call of the sirens, creatures that were half lady, half bird.

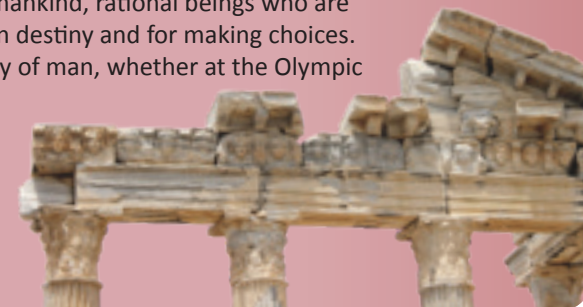


GREEK HERITAGE

The Greeks left Europe a political heritage that makes it possible to understand the roots of the functioning of contemporary states. In their different political regimes – monarchy, oligarchy and the first steps of democracy – as well as in the design of cities, laws and own institutions. Even today, our own national fervour echoes the patriotic fervour felt towards cities in those times.

They also left us a cultural heritage founded on a notion of the universe that still applies today. It focused on mankind, rational beings who are responsible for forming their own destiny and for making choices. The Greeks also praise the beauty of man, whether at the Olympic Games or in their mythology.

Philosophy, the sciences and the arts also come from Greek thought.



Are the columns straight? No, they are slightly adjusted in height to create an optical effect. Why? If they were totally straight, they would give the impression of being more spread out at the top than at the base. Greek architects were masters of optical effects.

THE PROPYLAEA

The Propylaea was the monumental gate leading to the Acropolis which inspired other European buildings such as the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin and the Munich Propylaea.

TEMPLE OF ATHENA NIKE

This temple is the oldest temple of the Acropolis. Ionic, it is dedicated to the goddess Athena Nike, the symbol of warlike victory.

EUROPE, LAND OF SHARED VALUES

They transcend history, get stronger and overlap... They are the filters that make it possible to understand the world. What are the values that characterise modern Europe so much?

DEMOCRACY

Democracy was born in Greece (Acropolis). And yet it was first introduced a lot later, notably in England with the parliamentary monarchy (Palace of Westminster - Houses of Parliament) from 1689 and in France, with the French Revolution (Arc de Triomphe) in 1789. It punctuates the history of the European Union and also governs daily life within its borders... So much so that in 1993, the Copenhagen criteria named democracy as the main prerequisite (essential condition) for membership to be granted to new European



Union candidate countries. The European Union was given official recognition in 2012 when it was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its contribution in promoting peace, reconciliation, democracy and human rights.

A TASTE FOR ADVENTURE

From the Cretans of Antiquity and the great discoveries of the Renaissance (Christopher Columbus column and the tower of Belem) and of the modern age to the space explorers, Europeans have always had a taste for adventure and for searching beyond the limits of what is known (Ariane rocket). Each of their attempts at colonisation has been accompanied with the spreading of their world view and an increasing of their knowledge, pushing them to expand the scope of their technical and scientific investigations (oceanography, botany, zoology, climatology etc.).



ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

Banks and stock exchanges were first built in Europe... This was also the case of merchant alliances (Houses of the Corporations in Brussels, Artus Court in Gdansk etc.) formed within the continent (the Hanseatic League, an association of the northern European merchant cities, is one example of this) and also beyond it with the East and the Americas. The tradition of commercial exchange is a long-standing one and this dynamism still dictates the market economy applied by the European Union today and continually aimed at rising to challenges



and achieving progress.

TECHNOLOGY

For a very long time now, men have been developing tools to suit their needs and improve their living conditions. However, the true surge of science and technology (Kinderdijk windmills) was during the Renaissance: the printing press and clocks radically transformed ways of working and distributing. There have also been two industrial revolutions in European history, one with the introduction of the steam engine and one with the introduction of electricity. Even today, Europe's access to technology continues to be a source of dynamism for Europe with for example the Eurotunnel and Eurostar, the Ariane rocket and Airbus aircraft.

SPREADING OF CULTURE

Culture is one of Europe's biggest treasures. It was developed almost a thousand years ago in the universities (Vilnius University) and has been

widely spread, in particular thanks to the invention of the printing press. Europe is the birthplace of many authors, artists and thinkers who have contributed and still contribute today to our artistic and literary heritage. Moreover, the European Union places culture at the heart of its international relations as it is a vector of understanding, dialogue and openness. Every building in Mini-Europe is evidence of our culture through its style, decorative features or philosophy.



SOCIAL THOUGHT

The gains by the labour movements of the 19th and 20th centuries, added to the Christian values of charity and solidarity, have caused the European states to be aware of their role as guarantors of labour rights, the struggle against poverty, social security and equal opportunities.

In Europe, the State has become the guarantor of social protection, what is known as the welfare state.

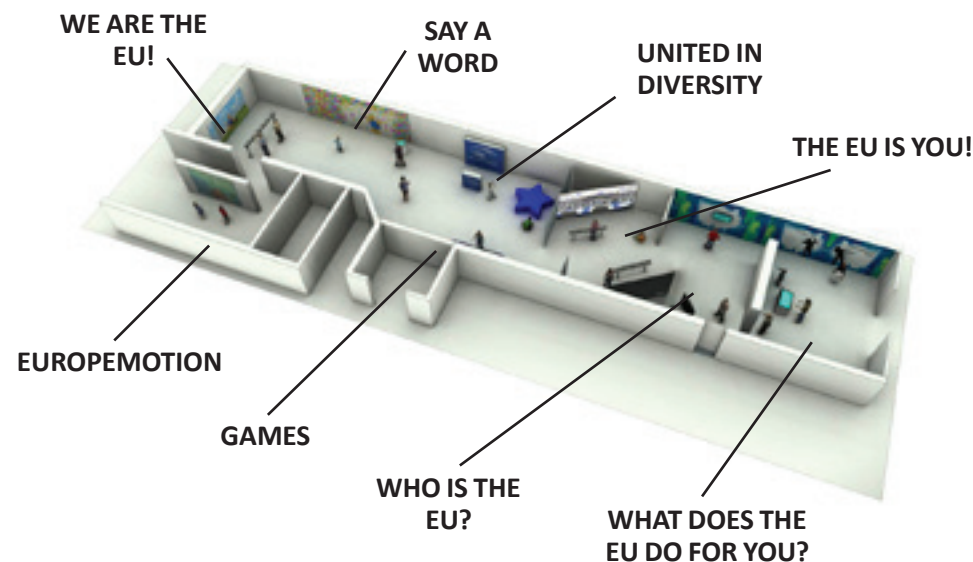
SECULARISM AND MULTICULTURALISM

Faced with such prevalent Christianity, secularism has developed little by little. In this way, the freedom to think – whether religious or otherwise – was gradually acquired throughout European history. Temporal and spiritual powers were separated and Europe became multi-denominational (or multi-religious). The large



number of languages spoken on the continent along with the many traditions, practices and customs also make it a rich multicultural territory. This opening up to neighbouring cultures never stops increasing levels of European cohesion.

SPIRIT OF EUROPE



HOW THE EUROPEAN UNION WORKS

Food traceability, quality of drinking water, safety standards, worker mobility, free movement of goods and people... These types of progress were made possible thanks to an original way of working based on cooperation between governments with the aid of supranational bodies.

SETTING PRIORITIES

The political orientations of the EU are set by the **EUROPEAN COUNCIL**, which brings together the national leaders and the president of the Commission twice a year for the European summits.

FORMULATING LEGISLATION

3 institutions jointly decide on the formulation of the policies and legislation implemented throughout the European Union.

1. The interests of the entire EU are defended in Brussels by the **EUROPEAN COMMISSION**, whose members are appointed by the national governments.

In principle, the Commission presents the legislation proposals that are adopted by the Parliament and the Council. Once adopted, legislative documents are implemented by the Member States and the Commission, which is responsible for ensuring that they are applied correctly.

This supranational body, which therefore works collectively and independently of the States, is unable to exert direct authority in the Member States.

2. EU citizens directly elect their representatives in the **EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**. These MEPs, elected for 5 years, examine European law bills which they accept, amend or reject. The European Parliament is based in Strasbourg. The works of the parliamentary commissions, political groups and extraordinary sessions take place in Brussels.

3. The interests of the Member States are defended by the ministers of each State (agriculture, health etc.) within the **COUNCIL** of Ministers of the **EUROPEAN UNION**. Depending on its size, each country has a number of votes to allow it to amend European laws with the European Parliament. The presidency of the Council alternates between each Member State using a rotation system.

CHECKING AND INTERPRETING LEGISLATION

The **COURT OF JUSTICE** is also a supranational body. It interprets and checks the application of laws and treaties. Its judgements provide guidance to the Courts of Justice in all Member States. It is based in Luxembourg.

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VISIT

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



FREE

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European Parliament