# EUROPEAN news

**EU values**

**What is the Eurozone?**



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# EU VALUES

## What are they?

European Union is based on values of respect of human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, justice and human rights including rights of minorities. These values are common to the Member States in a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men are upheld. Declaration of these values is a vital condition for a country that wants to join the European Union. Serious rule violations can lead to sanction or expelling from the union.

The main goal of the European Union is to defend these values in Europe and promote peace and the wellbeing of the citizens. For its part, the European Parliament seeks to ensure that these values are realised in the EU legislation.



The EU member states are pluralistic. Nobody may be discriminated against; instead, people and government representatives must respect others and be tolerant. Everybody must be treated fairly.

Minority rights must be respected. Equality between men and men is promoted. Responsibility must be shared. The European Union works for social equality. It develops social security and tries to protect the weakest. It seeks to prevent social exclusion and discrimination.

All these fundamental values are defined in the Treaty of Lisbon. The Treaty of Lisbon officially confirmed the universal citizens' rights as well as political, economic and social rights. The Charter of Fundamental Rights forbids discrimination because of gender, race or the colour of the skin. Also, discrimination based on religion or sexual orientation is forbidden.

## Values of EU members

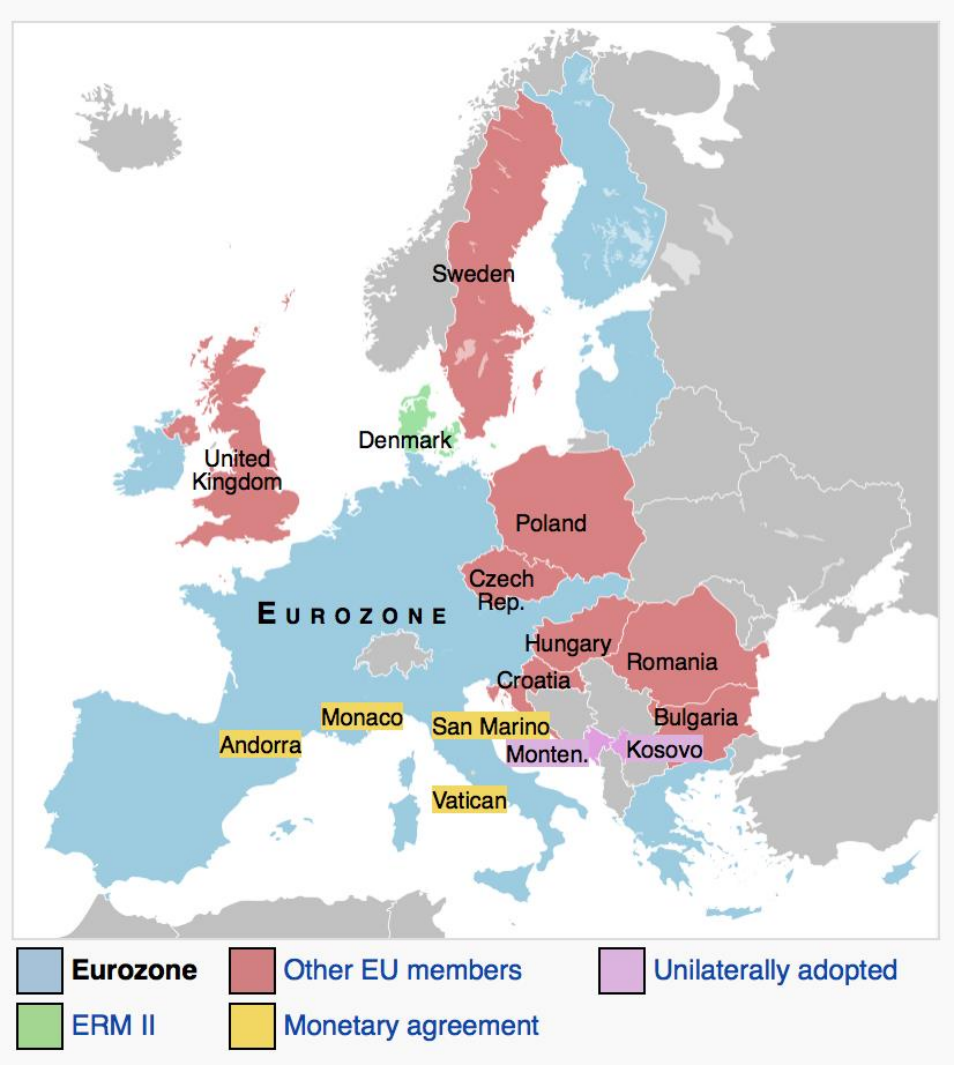
As mentioned above particular states have to adhere and respect all the values and duties. Even though it is one of the conditions, there are still sometimes certain obstacles which may cause that they are not entirely kept. These values may vary based on current political and historical situation in each state. We can talk for instance about different attitudes regarding freedom of sexual orientation and related registered partnership. This special type of partnership is still not allowed in many of the EU countries. For example: Italy, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Romania, Slovakia etc.

Also freedom of speech is not entirely sustained in particular countries. Another disrespect to values might be demonstrated through independency of judicature undermining, corruption, covering or even election manipulation.

The question here is not if the values are perceived by all of the member states equally, but if EU can do something in order to improve this situation?

You can send us your opinions and suggestions to email address: likewecare@en.eu

# Eurozone




*source: Wikipedia.org*

The eurozone officially called the euro area, is a monetary union of 19 of the 28 European Union (EU) member states which have adopted the euro (€) as their common currency and sole legal tender. The other nine members of the European Union continue to use their own national currencies.

The eurozone consists of Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Spain. Other EU states (except for Denmark and the United Kingdom) are obliged to join once they meet the criteria to do so. No state has left, and there are no provisions to do so or to be expelled.

Andorra, Monaco, San Marino, and Vatican City have formal agreements with the EU to use the euro as their official currency and issue their own coins. Kosovo and Montenegro have adopted the euro unilaterally, but these countries do not officially form part of the eurozone and do not have representation in the European Central Bank (ECB) or in the Eurogroup.