RESPECT FOR HUMAN DIGNITY & HUMAN RIGHTS

Political Cartoon/Propaganda Poster

BUILDING INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES THAT REPRESENT ALL PEOPLE
Strengthening human rights and democracy in the world: EU launches a €1.5 billion plan to promote universal values

Brussels, 9 December 2021

On the eve of Human Rights Day and coinciding with the Summit for Democracy, the European Union launches the **Global Europe Human Rights and Democracy** programme. This programme, worth €1.5 billion, steps up EU support in promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy, and the rule of law and the work of civil society organisations and human rights defenders around the world during the period 2021–2027. The programme will promote and protect the universality of human rights, strengthen the rule of law and accountability for human rights violations and abuses, and defend the full and effective exercise of fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of expression, supporting independent journalism and media, while seizing opportunities and countering risks associated with digital and new technologies.

High Representative/Vice-President, Josep Borrell, said: "Courageous people from all backgrounds are fighting on a daily basis for their civil liberties, for independent media and to safeguard democratic institutions, often at great personal risk. The European Union stands with them. The Global Europe Human Rights and Democracy programme will allow us to strengthen our support to and protection of universal human rights and democratic principles worldwide: for everyone, at any time and everywhere. Together with civil society organisations, human rights defenders, the UN Human Rights Office and the International Criminal Court, we will leave no one behind."

Commissioner for International Partnerships, Jutta Urpilainen, said: “Human rights and democracy are a cornerstone of sustainable and inclusive development, and essential to addressing global challenges and ensure citizens reach their full potential and realise their aspirations. In whichever way you measure it – in stability, equality, economic growth,
health or longevity – democracies always outperform other forms of government in the long run. I am proud to think of the countless human rights defenders, young people, women, girls and civil society organisations that the €1.5 billion Global Europe Human Rights and Democracy programme will empower to build a better tomorrow for all of us.”

Global Europe Human Rights and Democracy
The Global Europe Human Rights and Democracy programme for the period 2021–2027, that will complement further support at bilateral and regional level, is the EU's flagship tool for action to advance human rights and democracy, including addressing the impact of global challenges, such as climate change and environmental degradation, digital and new technologies, or the COVID-19 pandemic.

The programme can support activities in any country outside the EU and at global level. It therefore complements other EU programmes at local, country, and regional levels.

It has five overarching priorities:

• **Protecting and empowering individuals – €704 million**
  Uphold all human rights, including by working towards the universal abolition of the death penalty, the eradication of torture and cruel and inhumane treatment, the fulfilment of basic needs, decent working conditions, the eradication of child labour, and a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment. The programme will promote equality, inclusion and respect for diversity, support human rights defenders and counter shrinking space for civil society, and strengthen the rule of law, ensure a fair and effective administration of justice, and close the accountability gap.

• **Building resilient, inclusive and democratic societies – €463 million**
  The programme will support functioning pluralist, participatory and representative democracies, and protect the integrity of electoral processes. It will, for instance, engage civil society observers in election observation and support pro-democracy organisations, networks and alliances.

• **Promoting a global system for human rights and democracy – €144 million**
  Enhance strategic partnerships with key actors, such as the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the International Criminal Court (ICC), regional human rights systems, national human rights institutions, the private sector, and the Global Campus of Human Rights.

• **Safeguarding fundamental freedoms, including harnessing the opportunities and addressing the challenges of digital and new technologies – €195 million**
Create and maintain an environment conducive to the full exercise of all fundamental freedoms both offline and online. For example, it will help strengthen the capacity of independent, pluralistic and quality media, including investigative journalists, bloggers and fact-checkers, to provide the public with reliable information through responsible and professional reporting. It will support civil society in fostering online media literacy and digital skills and in promoting an open, global, free and secure internet equally accessible to all.

• **Delivering by working together – €6.6 million**

The earmarked funds can support the civil society in engaging with national authorities within the framework of the human rights dialogues that the EU conducts with partner countries, or finance training, studies, or exchanges of best practice. It underpins all of the activities. In the first year of implementation, the EU will focus on promoting a global system for human rights and democracy. For example, in 2022–2024, the EU will support the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with €16 million, the Global Campus of Human Rights with €10 million, and the International Criminal Court with €3 million. The EU will also support in 2022 the launch of a Team Europe Democracy initiative to reinforce the impact of EU and Member States' global support to democracy. The 2021 action plan complements a number of urgent individual measures under the programme adopted earlier.

**Background**

The Global Europe Human Rights and Democracy programme is flexible as regards procedures, and supports civil society actions independently of the consent of partner countries' governments and other public authorities. A substantial part of the programme will be implemented at country level. Subsequent calls for proposals covering the different activities, open to civil society organisations across the world, will be published in the coming months.

Funded under the thematic pillar of the new Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) – Global Europe, the Global Europe Human Rights and Democracy programme is the successor of the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), which was established in 2006 to support civil society-led actions in the area of human rights and democracy in countries outside the EU. Under the previous financial period 2014–2020, the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights was allocated €1.33 billion.

**SOURCE:**

FREEDOM

Political Cartoon/Propaganda Poster

Be Free
EU: ARTICLE 19’s recommendations for the European Media Freedom Act

On 20 March 2022, ARTICLE 19 submitted its response to the European Commission’s Public Consultation for the European Media Freedom Act (EMFA), legislation which aims to ensure that media freedom and pluralism are the pillars of democracy in the EU. ARTICLE 19 welcomes the initiative, as we have long warned that the EU law should consider media not simply as economic actors, but recognise independent journalism as a public good that needs protecting in its own right. Our submission makes several recommendations for how the EMFA should achieve these goals and improve the protection of the freedom of the media in the EU and beyond.

The European Commission has stated that recent developments in EU countries have negatively impacted media freedom and freedom of expression. The EMFA proposal is a response to these concerns. It aims to increase transparency, independence and accountability of actions affecting media markets, freedom and pluralism within the EU. The act would tackle issues such as disinformation, lack of media pluralism safeguards both online and offline, as well as interference in editorial decisions of the media.
ARTICLE 19 recognises that a free, independent and pluralistic media landscape is key in any democratic society. Without a healthy media environment, freedom of expression cannot be guaranteed. Hence, ARTICLE 19 supports several of the European Commission’s proposals such as the establishment of a pan-European registry to increase the transparency of media market transactions and the establishment of an EU-wide monitoring of state advertising allocated by the Member States.

However, we believe that more can be done to protect and promote media freedom. In our submission, we make the following recommendations:

- **The scope of the EMFA must not be limited to the economic dimension of the internal market.** If the EMFA is to achieve its goals, it should recognise that the social and political dimensions of the media market are of fundamental importance. Focusing solely on the economic aspects of media pluralism and diversity will not be able to effectively protect them.

- **Harmonised measures on guaranteeing media independence and media pluralism are key to building robust media freedom standards throughout the EU.** These harmonised standards should include ownership and authorisation requirements and procedures, audience measurement methodologies as well as the guarantee of independent public service media. We particularly
recommend the creation of **impact assessments of media market transactions on media pluralism**. As we highlighted in our submission in the Orlen/Polska merger case, the concentration of media ownership can cause serious risk to media pluralism.

- To achieve sufficient diversity of exposure, **large social media platforms should be required to unbundle hosting and content curation activities**. This would allow lower barriers to entry to the market and put the choice back into the users’ hands. ARTICLE 19’s policy paper “Taming Big Tech: Protecting freedom of expression through the unbundling of services, open markets, competition, and users’ empowerment” outlines how unbundling can better protect freedom of expression, diversity and pluralism in digital markets.

- **Establishing EU-wide guidance for direct and indirect State support to the media sector** would help end the fragmentation of national rules that undermine the efficiency of the European internal media market.

- **The development of an EU fund for media pluralism to finance original and independent journalistic programs and initiatives** would further contribute to the sustainability of the media sector.

Finally, the EMFA is not the only legislative proposal that touches upon freedom of expression and media freedom issues. Other existing, or in the making, legislative instruments
such as the Digital Services Act and the Digital Markets Act will also shape the future of human rights in the EU. We believe that coordination between all these regulatory instruments will be key to ensuring the best possible environment for the exercise of freedom of expression and protection of human rights in the EU and beyond.

Source: https://www.article19.org/resources/eu-article-19s-recommendations-european-media-freedom-act/
DEMOCRACY
Political Cartoon/Propaganda Poster
REFORM OF THE EU ELECTORAL LAW: BIG WINS TO STRENGTHEN EUROPE’S DEMOCRACY

The Greens/EFA group brought to the plenary several proposals to make universal suffrage a fairer process. The report adopted today by the parliament on the reform of the European electoral law incorporates provisions on what in legal terms is already known as the ‘Junqueras doctrine’.

Oriol Junqueras was elected as an EFA MEP in 2019, unfortunately, he was never able to take his position as a Member of the Parliament because he was in jail as a political prisoner following the Catalan referendum. The Junqueras doctrine, defended in the court of Luxembourg by the lawyer Andreu Van den Eynde, also allowed Carles Puigdemont, Toni Comín and Clara Ponsatí to become fully-fledged MEPs and take their seats on the chamber.

Following the Junqueras case, where, in violation of EU law, an EFA MEP was stripped of his parliamentary immunity over political interests, the Greens/EFA group have pushed for the establishment of an independent electoral authority to solve and rule on disputes about MEP immunity cases.

The text also includes many forward-thinking proposals like the creation of a EU Constituency, as well as a recommendation to decrease the voting age at 16, the introduction of gender balanced lists through quotas or zipped lists and transnational lists.

Jordi Solé EFA Group President said:

“As European and Catalan citizens committed to democracy and to equal and fair political participation, we celebrate the inclusion on the Report of the provisions to enforce the ECJ ruling on Junqueras case. There is an explicit provision saying that immunity is acquired since the official declaration of the results, without any further requirements. Therefore, the inclusion of the “Junqueras Doctrine” is a big win, a setback to Spanish attempts to silence us, and a big step forward on our pursue to strengthen European democracy”.

“Today the European Parliament sends a clear message: the need to deepen European democracy through a necessary reform of the Electoral Law. The European Parliament calls for more citizen participation. The creation of transnational lists for the next
elections in 2024, the recommendation to lower the voting age to 16 years and the introduction of gender-balanced electoral lists, are crucial steps for this undertaking. We, Greens/EFA, have been a driving force for such positive outcome.”

Diana Riba ERC MEP said:

“It is important that, today, Parliament has taken a clear stand in protecting members’ immunity and their electorate, so we can avoid Member states being able to manipulate through various legal arguments, the results of the European votes, as was the case with Oriol Junqueras.”

“Thanks to that judicial victory, we now have clear jurisprudence and we know that an MEP has immunity from the moment of proclamation of the results.”

“This is a victory not only for the Catalan Republican cause, but for the democratic cause in Europe.”

EQUITY
Political Cartoon/Propaganda Poster

Gender equality
The EU institutions are negotiating a proposal to boost the number of women on company boards. EU lawmakers are working to strengthen the European Commission’s proposal to ensure that women fill 40% of non-executive board seats of listed companies, while campaigners call for a swift adoption of the text before the end of the French presidency of the EU Council.

The proposal is currently under discussion with the European Parliament, trying to agree on a common legislative text with the EU Council representing EU member state governments.

“The trilogues have been constructive, but we’re not there yet,” MEP rapporteur Lara Wolters said during a meeting of the Legal Affairs Committee on Thursday (2 June).

While most countries agreed on a directive and targets to boost the number of women on boards, “the majority is not extremely broad,” Wolters explained.

Among EU member states, a common position on the compromise text was reached in March, 10 years after the Commission first presented the proposal.

Most member states agreed to the text, while only Poland and Sweden strongly opposed the directive,
with the latter opposing introducing regulations on diversity, according to Hedwige Nuyens, chair of European Women on Boards (EWOB).

The Parliament is now working to improve the proposal, Wolters said. “There are a number of loopholes in the text,” she said, adding that the Parliament has tried to “tighten up grey areas,” looking at possible exclusions for member states who already have quota requirements.

**The Proposal**

The proposal asks companies to put in place measures to boost the number of female non-executive directors on corporate boards who act as independent advisors and are not responsible for the company’s daily operations.

EU countries would need to achieve either a 40% target of non-executive directors held by members of the under-represented sex or 33% for all board members by 2027.

Only 30.6% of board members and 8.5% of board chairs in the EU are women, according to estimates by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE).

Under the new law, member states will also need to ensure that companies prioritise the least represented sex when choosing between equally qualified candidates.

While most of the proposal has been agreed upon, inter-institutional negotiations continue regarding the
implementation and compliance date, as the directive was first proposed ten years ago.

MEPs and activists are also pushing for penalties and sanctions if the targets are not respected, rapporteur Evelyn Regner told EURACTIV.

Companies, however, do not fully agree with the proposal. Business Europe, an organisation representing companies, questions the effectiveness of quota laws in boosting female representation in corporate positions and points to social, cultural and educational reasons for the limited number of women in leadership positions. Moreover, it criticises EU level quota laws as member states have different procedures for nominating board members and calls for more flexibility for countries.

Swift adoption

According to Regner, all the three institutions are “fully committed” to moving forward with the directive, but activists are increasingly calling on negotiators to reach an agreement soon. “We strongly hope that the final text will be adopted by the end of the French presidency,” said Jéromine Andolfatto from the non-profit organisation European Women’s Lobby, calling for a “swift adoption” of the directive.

Nuyens also underlined the urgency of reaching a deal and said, “the agreement needs to be sealed in the coming days.”
In her view, reaching a deal before the end of June is “very important” as the French presidency of the EU Council, which has played a crucial role in unblocking the directive, will come to an end at the end of June. “Momentum is now with the French presidency determined to get this done,” she said.

The next negotiation round is expected for 7 June.

[Edited by János Ammann/ Alice Taylor]

RULE OF LAW

Political Cartoon/Propaganda Poster
Article

Why the EU’s rule of law mechanism won’t resolve its democratic crisis

It is crucial for the European Commission to resolutely defend the rule of law.

If it settles for a rotten compromise with Warsaw, there will be a risk of legal chaos in the EU.

It was an important, even historic, judgement. On 16 February, for the first time, the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) ruled that the union has its own constitutional identity and that the rule of law, especially the independence of judges, is an integral part of this. This is true also for Poland, where the nationalist Law and Justice party (PiS) government has taken control of the judiciary. If the independence of a country’s judicial system continues to come under attack, this will threaten the EU’s entire legal system. If there is nothing to prevent politicians in EU countries from pressuring judges into certain decisions, trust-based cooperation between the union and its member states will break down. Therefore, in such cases, the EU needs a mechanism to cut its budget funds to the country in question. The CJEU has finally confirmed that such a mechanism conforms to the EU treaty. Is this a breakthrough in the dispute over the defence of EU principles, in which Polish and Hungarian populists have so far fooled the EU? Not at all. To draw this conclusion would be analytically inaccurate and politically unwise. Those who, like many members of the European Parliament, have too high hopes for the new Piotr
Why the EU’s rule of law mechanism won’t resolve its democratic crisis

By Buras Head

The EU’s new rule of law mechanism won’t resolve its democratic crisis. The mechanism is indulging in wishful thinking. The EU can only use the new instrument if it proves that the violations concerned lead to the misuse of its budget. In the case of institutionally corrupt countries such as Hungary, this approach can succeed. In contrast, where democratic principles are trampled but EU money is still correctly administered – as in Poland – this is much more difficult. And the procedure takes at least six months before there is a decision by EU member states. They will have to vote on whether to take the money from a partner country. So, the process can turn out to be an empty threat.

Therefore, the fate of the European Commission’s effort to defend EU principles will not be determined by the application of the rule of law mechanism. The true battle will take place in a different theatre and be fought using other weapons.

Since 15 July 2021, the Polish government has refused to implement an important ruling by the CJEU. The ruling requires the complete reform of the judicial disciplinary system, which has for several years allowed the Polish government to persecute and intimidate judges for political reasons. This is the central issue in the EU’s dispute with Poland over its legal status. Warsaw does not want to be subordinate to EU law. The Polish Constitutional Court, which is controlled by the government,
ruled in October 2021 that CJEU rulings on the judiciary can be ignored. This is tantamount to a declaration of war against the highest EU court. The Commission has rightly prevented Poland from receiving money from NextGenerationEU, the union’s coronavirus recovery fund, until the government in Warsaw implements this key ruling. Those who, like many members of the European Parliament, have too high hopes for the new mechanism are indulging in wishful thinking. It is crucial for the Commission to stand firm on this issue rather than settle for a rotten compromise with the Polish government. Now, the government is negotiating a compromise with Brussels and trying to use bogus concessions to secure the release of the money. Both the Polish president, who is close to the government, and the PiS have presented draft reforms to this end. None of them come close to abiding by the CJEU ruling.

Most notably, under the current system, judges are punished for referring to the EU law and standards of judicial independence defined by the CJEU. Under the draft reforms, this would continue to be the case. There are a growing number of Polish judges who do not comply with the EU’s legal requirements. And their verdicts are invalidated by the European Court of Human Rights and other courts. This is legal chaos in the making. This is a cat-and-mouse game in which the PiS government wants to dupe the Commission. It hopes that the war in Ukraine – a geopolitical crisis requiring European unity – and the Commission’s political interest in a compromise with Warsaw will allow it to perform this trick. The dispute with
Poland is a constant source of irritation for Brussels. And many fear that the Polish government is trying to block important EU initiatives in retaliation for the Commission’s intransigence on the rule of law. The threat of such a permanent blockade is grossly exaggerated. However, one should not underestimate its political effectiveness. Should the Commission succumb to the pressure and settle for a sham compromise, the consequences would be catastrophic. How could it credibly defend European standards on the rule of law after disregarding the jurisdiction of the highest European court, thereby rewarding the Polish government’s violations with billions of euros?

If the Commission backs down – by accepting anything less than the full implementation of the CJEU judgement of 15 July 2021 as a precondition for the release of the EU funds – it will lose a key battle over the rule of law in the EU. And the Commission has never been so close to success in this battle as it is today. Anyone who cares about the future of the EU should insist that the Commission stand firm at this decisive moment in its dispute with the Polish populists. Far too often, the Commission has lacked the courage and steadfastness to defend the rule of law. Yet much more is now at stake for the EU than in the eventual application of the rule of law mechanism, which could easily turn out to be a paper tiger.
# Brussels-Lux Study Tour 2022
## K-12 Teacher Unit Planning Template

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name: Matthew John Wynne</th>
<th>Unit Plan: 1 Week</th>
<th>Subject/Grade Level: Social Studies/Middle Grades</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Unit Title:
Getting to Know the Core Values of the European Union

### Unit Narrative:
The European Union has values in common within all its member states that promote and advocate for societies in which inclusion, tolerance, justice, solidarity and non-discrimination prevail. These values are an integral part of these member states. Full respect for these values is the basic condition for building citizens’ trust in the Union. They are central to the treaties on the European Union signed by all member states at the moment of their accession.

In this lesson students will be introduced the following core values of the EU, which consist of the following: respect for human dignity and human rights, freedom, democracy, equality and the rule of law. Students will identify and define each of these values. In addition, they will analyze each of these values through primary and secondary sources through images and news articles. At the end of this lesson students should be able to accurately identify the core values of the EU through knowledge and application.

### Standards:
D2.Civ.10.9-12. Analyze the impact and the appropriate roles of personal interests and perspectives on the application of civic virtues, democratic principles, constitutional rights, and human rights.

### Objectives
- I can identify and analyze through primary and secondary sources the core values of the European Union.

### Big Ideas
- The EU Core Values are central to the order, function, and coexistence of the member states.

### Essential Questions
- How does the core values of the European Union shape the cultures and government of its member states?

### Learning Acquisition and Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students will know… (content/concepts)</th>
<th>Students will be able to… (skills, performance tasks)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EU Core Values</td>
<td>Identify how the EU Core values shape the cultural and government of its member states. Also, students will be to analyze primary and secondary sources assessing how these nations incorporate these values in their society.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Formative Assessments
- Students will complete a graphic organizer identifying the EU Core values from the primary and secondary source.

### Summative Assessments
- Students will conclude each lesson with a written reflection and/or product outlined within the learning activity.

### Learning Activities (1 week – 5 days): Lesson introduction, body, and closing

**Day 1**
- Opening Question: How would you describe human dignity and human rights?
  - Students will answer the question in a notebook or a separate sheet of paper. Instructor will have students to share their responses to the opening question.
- Teacher Input: The instructor will provide the definition of human dignity and human rights.
- Guided Practice: The instructor will preview a primary source image with captions that relate to the value of human dignity and human rights. They will guide students on how to properly identify and analyze the value with the EU values image analysis graphic organizer.
- Independent Practice: Students will individual or in groups read, identify, and analyze the EU core values of human dignity and human rights through the designated primary or secondary source using the sourcing organizer.
# Brussels-Lux Study Tour 2022

## K-12 Teacher Unit Planning Template

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Day 2** | **Opening Question:** Describe what freedom means to you? | Students will answer the question in a notebook or a separate sheet of paper. Instructor will have students to share their responses to the opening question.  
**Teacher Input:** The instructor will provide the definition of freedom.  
**Guided Practice:** The instructor will preview a primary source image with captions that relate to the value of freedom. They will guide students on how to properly identify and analyze the value with the EU values image analysis graphic organizer.  
**Independent Practice:** Students will individual or in groups read, identify, and analyze the EU core value of freedom through the designated primary or secondary source using the sourcing organizer.  
**Assessment:** Students will complete their written reflection of how the value of freedom is reflected in this source. |
| **Day 3** | **Opening Question:** What is a democracy? How does it function? | Students will answer the question in a notebook or a separate sheet of paper. Instructor will have students to share their responses to the opening question.  
**Teacher Input:** Instruction will prove the definition of democracy.  
**Guided Practice:** The instructor will preview a primary source image with captions that relate to the value of democracy. They will guide students on how to properly identify and analyze the value with the EU values image analysis graphic organizer.  
**Independent Practice:** Students will individual or in groups read, identify, and analyze the EU core value of democracy through the designated primary or secondary source using the sourcing organizer.  
**Assessment:** Students will complete their written reflection of how the value of democracy is reflected in this source. |
| **Day 4** | **Opening Question:** How would you define equality? Do you believe equality is a reality all over the world? | Students will answer the question in a notebook or a separate sheet of paper. Instructor will have students to share their responses to the opening question.  
**Teacher Input:** Instructor will define equality.  
**Guided Practice:** The instructor will preview a primary source image with captions that relate to the value of equality. They will guide students on how to properly identify and analyze the value with the EU values image analysis graphic organizer.  
**Independent Practice:** Students will individual or in groups read, identify, and analyze the EU core value of equality through the designated primary or secondary source using the sourcing organizer.  
**Assessment:** Students will complete their written reflection of how the value of equality is reflected in this source. |
| **Day 5** | **Opening Question:** How would you define rule of law? Do you believe everyone is subjected to it? | Instructor will define the rule of law.  
**Teacher Input:** Instructor will define the rule of law.  
**Guided Practice:** The instructor will preview a primary source image with captions that relate to the value of the rule of law. They will guide students on how to properly identify and analyze the value with the EU values image analysis graphic organizer.  
**Independent Practice:** Students will individual or in groups read, identify, and analyze the EU core value of the rule of law through the designated primary or secondary source using the sourcing organizer.  
**Assessment:** Students will complete their written reflection of how the value of the rule of law is reflected in this source. |

## Resources and Materials
Brussels-Lux Study Tour 2022
K-12 Teacher Unit Planning Template

→ EU Values Overview: https://ec.europa.eu/component-library/eu/about/eu-values/
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