

CELEBRATING EUROPE DAY 2026

EPAS ACTIVITY SHEET

What is Europe Day?

Europe Day, held on 9 May every year, celebrates peace and unity in Europe. The date marks the anniversary of the historic 'Schuman declaration' that set out his idea for a new form of political cooperation in Europe, which would make war between Europe's nations unthinkable. Schuman's proposal is considered to be the beginning of what is now the European Union.

Activity

Essentially you have 3 steps you need to take:

1. Choose how you will mark Europe Day:
 - Will it be serious, fun, or a mix?
 - Do you want to have just one activity or several?
2. Organise your team, or teams, to work on each activity.
3. Create a timeline for what you need to prepare, what support and permission you need, and how you will co-ordinate with one another.

The following pages will guide you through each step.

1. Choose how you will mark Europe Day

Should your activities be serious, fun, or a mix?

Europe Day is supposed to celebrate “peace and unity in Europe”, however, with the war in Ukraine that is something we need to take stock of and think about: what we can do to get back to a situation of peace and unity.

You can use this occasion to celebrate what unites us as the peoples and nations of Europe. You could think about the positive aspects of life in Europe:

- Democracy
- Human rights
- Culture

Or the shared challenges that we are facing:

- War in Ukraine
- Supporting refugees
- Climate crisis

So, you could approach Europe Day in one of two ways: a time for **debate**, or a time for **fun celebration**, or maybe a **mixture of the two**.

There are ideas for both ‘debate and challenge’ and ‘fun celebration’ events at the end of this guide.

Do you want to have just one activity or several?

You could do just one activity to mark Europe Day, or you could plan a few smaller things. To make your decision you need to consider:

1. How many people do we have to help us?
2. How much time do we have to plan?
3. Will the events clash with one another? (Remember they don’t all have to be on May 9th, you could spread them out over a longer period.)

2. Organise your teams(s)

Once you have decided on which activities you will run, and how many, you should make sure you have the following roles on your team:

- Project Manager
- Publicity
- Staff liaison
- Resources

Role	Responsibilities
Project Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organises team meetings.• Keeps track of the timeline.• Follows up to make sure everyone is completing their tasks.
Publicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Makes posters, flyers, etc.• Creates posts for newsletter, social media, website.
Staff liaison	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Talks to staff to get permission to use rooms, resources, etc.• Checks with staff about any safeguarding, health and safety issues.• Get announcements in school bulletins, school social media, newsletters, etc.
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creates the resources needed for the event to be a success – e.g. presentations, lesson plans, equipment

3. Create your timeline

A timeline is a really simple project plan. Make it at the start and check every few days to see what you need to do next and where you are falling behind.

Brainstorm all steps

Firstly, brainstorm all the steps you need to take to make your event happen. The smaller the step, the better. For example, here are some big steps and ways to break them down into more useful manageable steps.

Big Step	MORE USEFUL SMALLER STEP
Make posters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find someone to design posters • Design posters • Check all details on posters • Decide how many posters we need • Get school office to print posters • Stick posters up around school
Run a debate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decide on a date for the debate • Book a room to have debate in • Decide on the debate topic • Research the debate topic • Organise microphones, tables, and chairs

Using AI

Once you've decided what you want to do and what will make it work for your peers, you may want to ask an AI to check and suggest anything you are missing.

Upload your outline and prompt it to help you break it down into manageable small steps and put them in order. Remember though, that all it can do is suggest steps, YOU need to check they work for your school/college and actually DO THE WORK.

Put your steps in order

Now you know **what** you're going to do, you need to agree **who** will do each step, and by **when**.

N.B. The 'who' will always be someone in your team. For example, if the action is 'Send out permission slips', the 'who' is not 'Teachers', it will be the member of your team responsible for Staff Liaison, as it will be her job to get the teachers to send out the permission slips.

Your timeline should be a table with these headings:

Action	By When?	Who is responsible?	complete?
Find someone to design posters	April 3 rd	Tariq (Publicity)	✓
Send out permission slips	April 15 th	Helen (Staff Liaison)	

Activity/event ideas

Debate and challenge

European Parliamentary debates

Lunchtime debates where a key issue facing the European Parliament is debated by students, staff or experts brought in for the occasion. This can be extended by having 8 debaters each tasked with representing the point of view of one of the political groups in the European Parliament.

Euro debates

Set up session where a big question about Europe and the EU is debated by everyone in the room, either in small groups, or by taking points from people across the room. A short initial presentation is useful to spur wider debate. Some propositions you might want to debate:

- As Europeans, more unites us than divides us
- The essential European values are...
- We need a 'United States of Europe'
- The EU needs an army

Day of Action

Have Europe Day as a 'Day of Action': encourage groups to form to campaign on issues that they care about. Almost any issue that matters to young people will have a European dimension. Set them up with the means to research the issue, plan their campaign and contact the European Parliament and UK Government to share their views.

Fun events

Euros-style sports events

Split into teams representing different European nations, compete wearing the national colours of those nations in a knockout competition.

European food week/day

Groups bring in food to share from a different European region each day for a week – or work with the school kitchen to provide European flavours to school dinners.

European greetings

Each class is taught how to greet people in a different European language. They are encouraged to greet everyone in their learned language that day.

Euro-fair

Groups are given different European nations to research and represent. At lunch time each group has a stall where they share information – fun facts, language titbits, and maybe food – about the nation they have researched.

Euro quiz

During form time, a quiz is sent round to each class. Classes compete to see who has the best Euro-knowledge. Rounds could include: identifying flags; placing countries in order of size, GDP, etc.; identifying countries by outline; working out which language is from which country.

Ukraine, Russia and the Council Of Europe

Europe Day isn't just celebrated by the European Union, it's also an important occasion for the Council of Europe, of which the UK and Ukraine are both members. Russia was too but had its voting rights removed when it annexed Crimea and its membership was terminated when it invaded Ukraine. With the war in Ukraine still ongoing, you might want to create events that show your support for peace in Europe and solidarity with those displaced or injured by war:

- Meetings with refugees to understand their stories
- Fundraising or creating care packages for those displaced by war
- Learning about the history of European wars: how they've escalated and how they've ended
- Having presentation by organisations working for peace and reconciliation in Europe