

ERASMUS- MAGAZINE

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- Reasons why we love the EU
- EU: Between equity and inequality
- My Life without the EU? UNTHINKABLE!
- What is the next step to unifying the EU?
- Survey: Inequalities in different EU-countries

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EDITORS

Artemis
Daniel
Franca
Kira
Lotta
Lorenzo

DESIGNER

Lotta
Franca

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My life without the EU? UNTHINKABLE!

The European Union was officially founded in 1993. Ever since then, we have been profiting from its benefits, such as a common currency, open borders, and the freedom of movement. One can easily work, live, and move within the European Union without ever applying for a visa or residency permit. As all Europeans have the European citizenship one cannot get discriminated against his or her nationality for example on the job market in order to have equal chances when applying for a job.

But also our daily life is affected and influenced by European laws for example when going to the supermarket one can buy groceries from the whole Union without paying extra custom traits. European Citizens obtain a common European health card so that they can get medical treatment in all memberstates when needed. As a



student one can study at any European University as we have the same educational system. Therefore many young people use the opportunity and participate in different Erasmus+ projects such as youth encounters, semesters or internships abroad. During that time they gain financial support from the EU and do not have to pay university fees.

Today I am 24 years old, and I cannot imagine a life without the European Union. I see myself as a European citizen rather than German and I am happy to profit from nearly all mentioned aspects above. For me Europe is more than just free borders and a common currency, it is also about cultural exchange. There are so many different people living on one continent with different traditions, languages and cultures and still having a common understanding of guarding human rights and promoting peace. Therefore the EU's motto is: United in Diversity.

But I am well aware that all around Europe critical voices towards the European Union are rising and in various countries political parties are working towards a dissolution of the EU because they are either dissatisfied with the current policy or its vision for the future. In my opinion it is worth fighting for the persistence of the EU, because otherwise Europe will lose influence and power economically but especially politically. Not only human beings but also countries are more efficient when working together therefore we have to face future challenges together.



Written by Kira.

Why we love EU

First pillar of European union was founded in 1957 and in 1993 those pillars transformed into EU. Idea behind EU was to help participating countries with peace and prosperity. Thanks to EU we can be sure that our economic, social and political rights are respected and protected.

Here is the list of most important benefits that we should not take for granted.

Peace and security

In history of Europe there has never been so long period of time without conflicts. Thanks to the fact that EU seems to be the most successful peace project ever it has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Single market

EU has the world's most highly developed and open marketplace. Single market is based on 4 key freedoms.

1. Live/work in any EU country
2. Move your money
3. Sell without restrictions
4. Provide services under similar conditions



High food and environmental standards

EU food meet some of the highest quality standards thanks to close cooperation of member countries. Rules are strict and fines are so high that companies have almost no chance of getting away with extreme pollution or poor quality food.

Consumer benefits

EU guarantees shoppers getting their money back after they return bought items. In case of delay or cancellation of transport travellers have right to get a refund. Standards of goods in EU are strict so that consumers don't have to worry about quality and their safety.

Human rights

Minorities and vulnerable groups are protected by EU and EU also stands up for the oppressed. Equal treatment is necessary regardless of a nationality, gender, language, culture, profession, disability or sexuality.

Global power

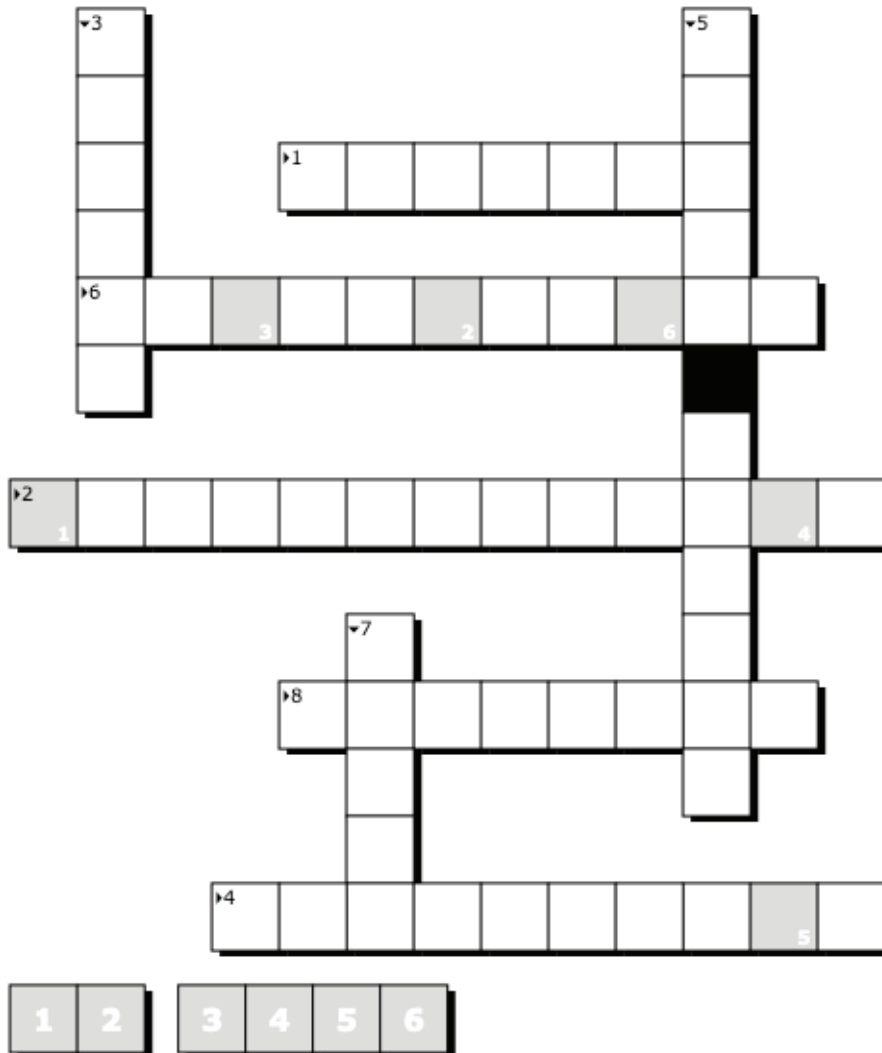
Voice of all EU countries together is much stronger on the world stage than 27 small and medium nations would have had separately.

Other benefits

- Usage of phone and internet services at no extra cost in EU
- Easier travelling and much more easier travelling in schengen area
- Erasmus+ and other programmes (training and support courses)
- Protection against downsides of globalization

Written by Daniel.

CROSSWORD 1



1. Privilege/Right to do something
2. Overall, international expansion
3. Synonym of outlet
4. Imbalance of options
5. Civil liberties
6. Human surroundings
7. No war
8. Safeness

What is the next step to unifying the EU

The European Union is growing more and more and apart from some exceptional cases everyone wants to be part of it. I think this is already a great way to understand that having a community together with other neighboring countries has so many benefits.

The European Union is now increasingly united and unified as a community, thanks to the many reforms that have been made, for example the roaming charges stopped. Another important step that should be taken is to invest in education especially to teach the most important languages of the Union (English, German, French, Spanish) to young citizens. Consequently all countries become more and more connected. In this way it could be much easier to work and live abroad, especially for us Italians who, as far as I can see, have a lot of difficulty in learning the languages of the Union. For us Sicilians above all this has always been a great problem that has made us, over the years, increasingly closed in the mentality and approach to understanding many important common problems of the European Union. We have been neglected from this point of view. I truly hope that our rulers understand and understand the importance of facing this problem.

There are many other important steps to make the EU ever more unified. I think it is really important to tackle all together, with the various European countries, the issue of the approval of some important laws that I think are of common interest for all of Europe. For example, the legalization of cannabis on which the United States is already far ahead of us. Making it legal could really create a big rebound in the European economy like the United States did, so as to help the poorest parts of the European Union to recover. I really think the Union should be very united on this issue in order to achieve the long-awaited and coveted legalization of cannabis. Another law I would like to pay attention to is the law on euthanasia. In my opinion everyone should have the opportunity to end their life if they deem it necessary and the Union should help these types of people.

There would be so many other topics to pay attention to such as reviewing something on immigration policies or approving a law in favor of the rights of every single citizen, especially gay people who are still discriminate by many people who should be punished for this discriminating attitude. In Italy there is a great debate on this topic, we hope for the approval of the Zan DDL. But I really trust that the European Union will overcome these problems in the best way in the future. A great idea could be to create a European referendum in which every citizen of the Union could have their say on topics that are so important and common to all.

A great greeting of hope to all and LET US UNITE TO STAY UNITED.

Written by Lorenzo.

EU

Find all 16 words!

E	D	M	I	Q	E	C	R	Y	S	S	J	F	W	X
X	E	V	E	Z	M	O	E	Q	U	A	L	I	T	Y
C	I	T	I	Z	E	N	S	H	I	P	O	F	O	T
H	G	U	R	C	E	F	G	F	U	N	T	W	L	X
A	S	S	A	N	R	E	M	O	S	R	N	O	E	E
N	S	Z	O	I	A	D	B	E	A	C	H	R	R	L
G	H	D	I	H	S	E	H	T	N	H	V	K	A	N
E	G	V	A	H	M	R	Y	N	V	I	X	I	N	D
J	I	N	E	Q	U	A	L	I	T	Y	B	B	C	N
A	G	K	U	I	S	T	D	G	W	Y	E	F	E	L
P	E	S	H	Q	E	I	V	O	T	E	X	B	V	V
G	Y	M	R	A	Y	O	U	T	H	P	A	S	S	X
Z	T	P	Q	G	G	N	E	L	K	I	R	U	X	T
C	Y	P	R	U	S	C	X	L	K	H	Y	X	C	A
Z	P	X	P	A	R	L	A	M	E	N	T	D	A	M

EU: Between equity and inequality

Not having a job is a horror scenario for many people. Especially among us younger people, it is often an issue of how good the chances are of getting a permanent job after leaving school or training. The number of unemployed varies greatly from one EU country to another. In Spain, the unemployment rate was around 15% in March 2021, whereas in the Netherlands it was only 3.5%.

Inequality means that there is an unequal or unfair distribution of resources and opportunities between members of a society or country. Inequality can occur in different areas such as the economy, the social or the spatial dimension.

Due to the current crisis situation, inequality within EU countries and in international comparison is more topical than ever. Some of the inequalities such as income, education, employment and living conditions have increased in recent years.

The understanding of inequality has changed from the traditional outcome-based view (meaning that outcome is used as a proxy for well-being) to the opportunity-based perspective, which recognises that the circumstances of birth are more important than the outcome.

From this perspective, inequality is the result of circumstances beyond one's control, such as ethnicity, family background and gender.

In some EU countries, inequality has increased due to factors such as globalisation, technological change, tax policies and the economic crisis.

Inequality has risen sharply, especially in recent years. Examples of this are the different living conditions, financial situations and social standards. These different conditions accompany people throughout their lives. For example, people have different conditions and resources depending on the country they were born in and whether they grow up in the countryside or in a big city.

If you grow up in the countryside, you may have fewer educational and cultural facilities in comparison with growing up in a big city. Another example are the big differences in educational standards between EU countries, for example in the technical equipment of schools.

„Inequality still robs too many people in Europe of the chance to make the most of their lives. Educational outcomes depend on the social status of parents, and poverty and lack of opportunities in the labour market are passed on from one generation to the next“

Tibor Navracsics, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport.

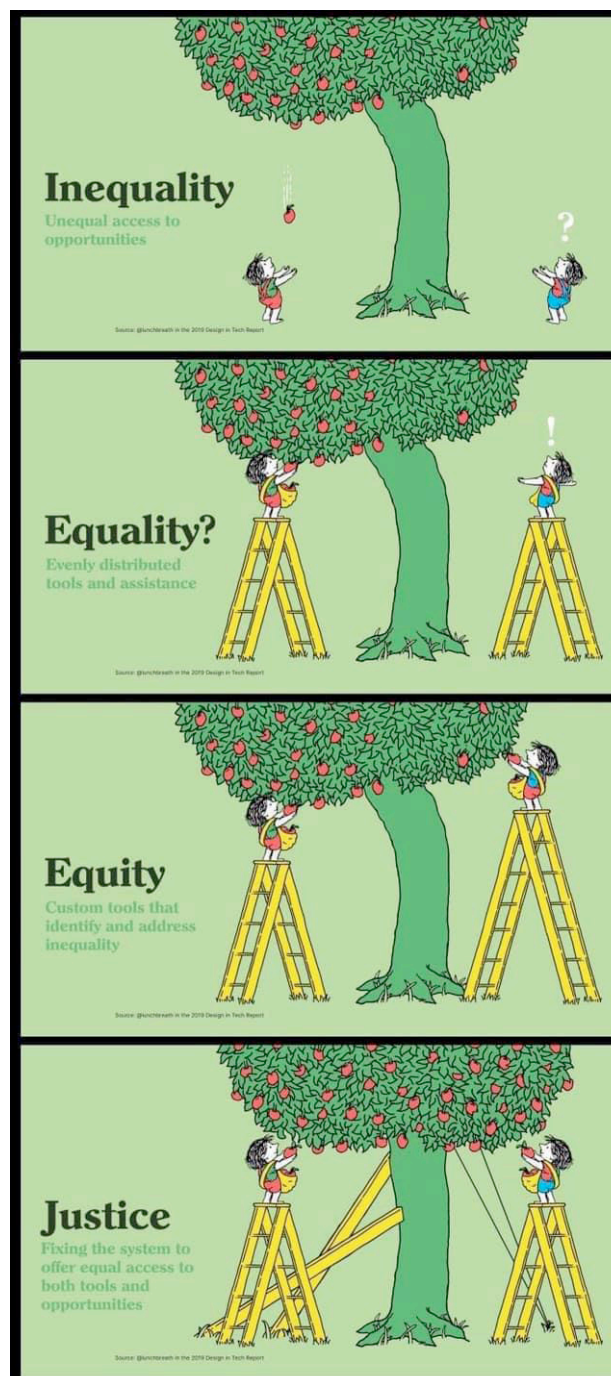
Especially in Greece, Hungary and Slovakia, social origin has a strong influence on educational success. During the physical school closures due to the Corona crisis, this problem has worsened and will increase overall European educational inequality.

But there is a change. With many Programs to fight against this inequality. With more education, financial support, solidarity and social Investments the EU Countries

fighting together against inequality. Because only if you have equal opportunity everyone have a equal chance to live the live he dreamed about.

But there is a change, with many programs against inequality. With more education, financial support, solidarity and social investment the EU countries are trying to fight together against inequality. Because only when you have equal opportunities, everyone has the opportunity to live the life they have dreamed of.

Written by Franca.



Inequalities in different EU-countries

How do participants in our youth exchange perceive existing inequalities in their homecountries?



Theo from Cyprus

Who suffers from inequalities in your country?

Theo: Gender inequalities exist unfortunately in the private employment sector. There is a large gap between salaries between the two traditional genders, women being paid less. Another important inequality is adoption availability for the LGBTQ+ community: it is not legal yet in Cyprus while heterosexual couples are allowed.

Kira: Foreign workers, especially from Eastern Europe suffer from inequalities, the access to housing is difficult, as well as the jobs for foreigners.

Stefania: I think that people who suffer the most from inequalities are the immigrants from Africa, this is also caused by the immigration laws we have in Italy. Another example is related to LGBTQ+ people, for example same-sex couples cannot adopt children and they are not protected by a specific anti-discrimination law.

Jannis: I think big problems in Germany are posed by gender inequalities, resulting e.g. in the gender wage gap or a weaker representation of women in parliaments.



Kira from Germany

Do you know inequalities of your country that are treated better somewhere else in the European Union?

Stefania: I think that in Northern Europe (ex. Scandinavia) there are less inequalities for LGBTQ+ people and for women.

Theo: Germany is the best example for respecting rights for minorities.

Kira: In the Scandinavian countries gender-based discrimination is better managed concerning remuneration and access to „higher positions“.



Stefania from Italy

What are positive aspects of your country compared to other EU countries regarding equality?

Stefania: For example, same-sex couples can have a civil union (although not a real marriage like heterosexual couples, but it's better than nothing).

Theo: Additional to new laws passed for diminishing the wage gap, women have a good position in decision making position (even if they might not be so represented in parliament, most authorities have women leadership).

Kira: In Germany we have a state-funded parental leave for fathers and public marriage opportunities for homosexual couples.

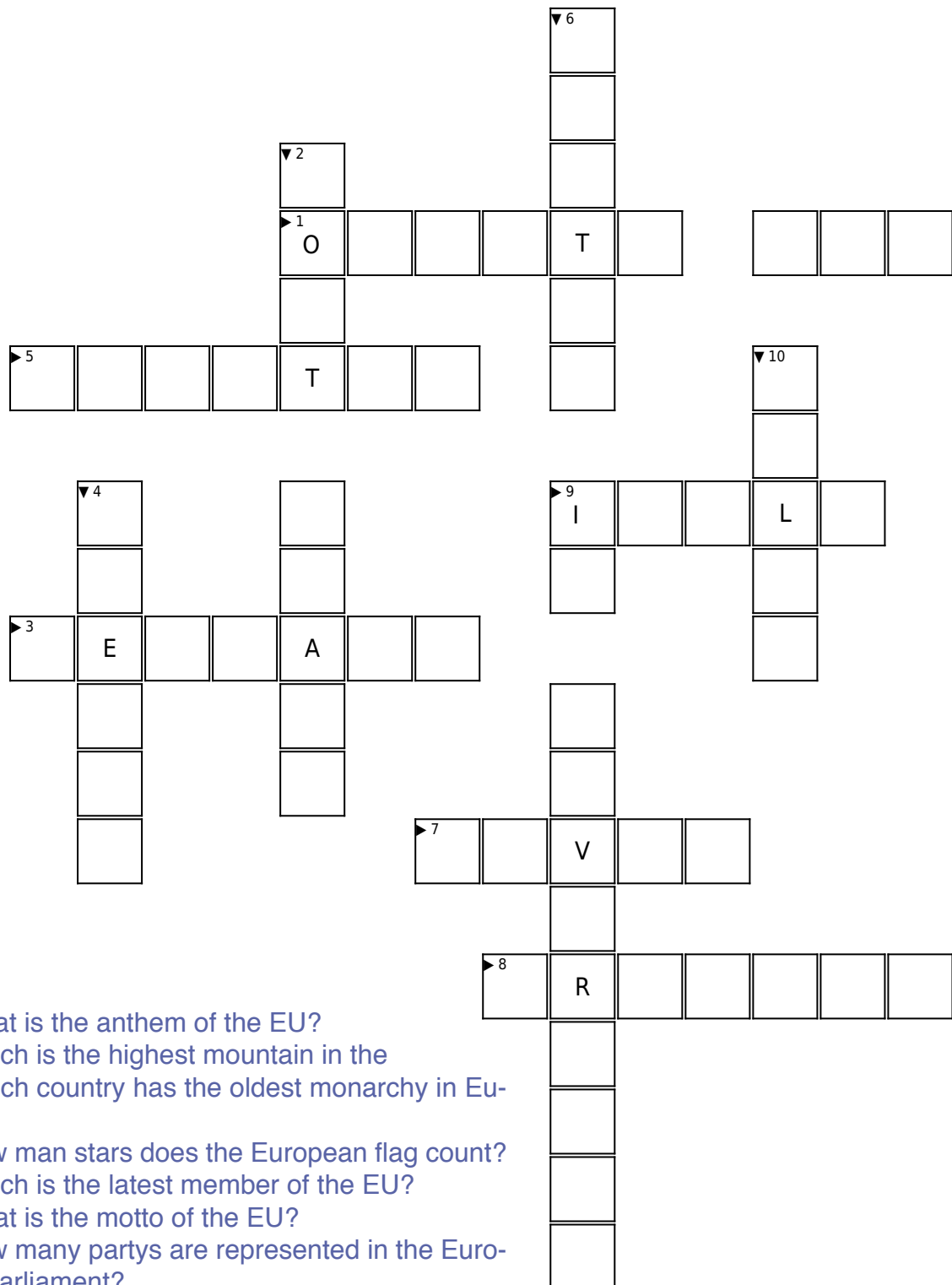
Jannis: Germany's society seems to care more about reducing gender inequalities than other EU-states - still there is a long way to go!



Jannis from Germany

Edited by Lotta.

CROSSWORD 2



- (1) What is the anthem of the EU?
- (2) Which is the highest mountain in the
- (3) Which country has the oldest monarchy in Europe?
- (4) How many stars does the European flag count?
- (5) Which is the latest member of the EU?
- (6) What is the motto of the EU?
- (7) How many parties are represented in the European Parliament?
- (8) Name one of the EU core values?
- (9) Where is Pasta a traditional dish?
- (10) Which is the longest river in Europe?

How anti-racist Europe?

It is common knowledge European countries are said to be tolerant as well as open-minded. Unfortunately, this is far from the truth. That is because most minorities in Europe such as Muslims, refugees and LGBT community face discrimination on a daily basis.

To start with, Arabs and especially Muslims are not usually allowed to enter a European country, not even for holidays. On the contrary, EU citizens can visit any place they like at all times. Furthermore, Muslims are often treated like third-world citizens because there is a propaganda which reinforces the idea all Muslim people are terrorists. To exemplify, a racist incident occurred in Paris only a month ago; Two women stabbed two Muslims for wearing headscarves. Also, a research in Denmark showed that 45% of Danish people had negative feelings towards them while YouGov ranked the country as the most racist one in northern Europe. More specifically, 29% are intolerant of black people, Jews, Romas or gays and actually 72% rated Romas as “totally negative”.

Apart from these forms of discrimination, other groups also deal with a lot of stereotypes, too. For instance, Poland recently decided not to legally recognize same-sex relationships. Also, it banned these kind of people from adopting children. Another group of people facing prejudice is women. First of all, parliament positions all over the European Union are almost completely occupied by men. Secondly, there are rapes and sexual assaults happening every day, at least on most of these countries. Even worse, when the attackers finally face a trial, they either get away with it or their punishment is not as severe as it should be. Last but not least, there are certain jobs which are considered to be more “masculine” than others. Civil engineering, geology and maths are only some of them. As a result, many women are forced not to follow their dreams and passions. Instead, they settle down for less, just because their society refuses to acknowledge their right to equality.

All in all, Western societies and especially Europe are not as civilized as many of us like to think. It is high time we realized everyone should be treated equally, regardless of their color, sex, religion or sexual orientation. After all, let us think about the thing Albert Einstein once said; “The world is a dangerous place to live not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who do not do anything about it.”

Written by Artemis.



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Jokes

You are european when going to the bathroom and european when you leave the bathroom. What are you whilst in the bathroom?
You're peeing

A European and an American
European: Wanna hear a joke?
American: Sure.
European: Free Healthcare.
American: I don't get it.
European: I Know.

Did you know you can't tell Europeans to smile?
You can only tell them to Skilometer.

Do europeans have a foot fetish?
No, they have a centimeter fetish..

I have a friend from Olomouc who I play chess with
Or as I like to call him, my Czech mate

You know the difference between Americans and Europeans? .
Europeans think 100 miles is a long distance.
Americans think 100 years is a long time.

What did Francesca say about Frank?
Czech him out!

If you learn all of the european languages, you know which one you have to learn last?
Finnish

My friend who works as a beautician wants to learn Eastern European languages
It sounds challenging, but I know she's going to nail Polish.