

Advantages and Disadvantages of EU Citizenship



ADVANTAGES

DIFFERENT CULTURES AND LANGUAGES BUT A SINGLE AIM

The EU is characterized by pluralism. There are 28 Member States , 24 languages, hundreds of different cultures , customs and ways of living . Despite this cultural scene the EU proposes several objectives in the social and economic field, but the main objectives of the European Union are now to promote peace, EU values and the well-being of its peoples.

FREE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE

In the EU, free movement of people is a major benefit for citizenship. The majority of the European Union countries are part of what is known as the “Schengen Area”, which is a borderless area where EU citizens can travel freely without a passport and without being stopped by immigration officials. The name “Schengen Area” derives from an agreement that many EU countries joined in the city of Schengen, Luxemburg. The main aim of this agreement is promoting the freedom of travelling in the EU. Being a member of the Schengen area is not automatic for any EU country. In order to be a EU member, the country must submit to rigorous border inspections; the border must be cleared by EU authorities and declared both safe and secure. European citizens have the freedom to live ,work, study and travel in any other EU country. Young people can complete part of their studies in another member State with the help of the Erasmus programme. Besides the EU has enabled people to travel freely across national borders making trade and tourism easier and cheaper than before.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

One of the advantages of being a part of the European Union is Free trade. This has helped EU countries develop from the economic point of view. The single market has forced the companies to lower the prices of their products in order to become more competitive. This has allowed greater stability of prices and choice for consumers. Thanks to the single market , companies can make business in other EU countries easier and cheaper than ever. No customs tax is charged on goods sold or transported between the member States. The common currency makes it easy to do business across the EU countries without changing currency or having to pay additional bank fees. Free trade and removal of non-tariff barriers have helped reduce costs and prices for consumers. Removal of customs barriers mean customs clearance documents per year no longer needed to be completed, cutting bureaucracy and reducing costs and delivery times. Other advantages are a greater stability and economic growth for companies and markets and a very important role of the EU in the global economy.

FREE MOVEMENT OF LABOUR AND CAPITAL

The rights citizens of any EU country enjoy are a great benefit of European Union citizenship. EU membership means that resources are shared with more prosperous members, and job opportunities and economic benefits can expand in internal markets. Rather than having just one job market to exploit, a EU citizen has many job markets. Free movement of labour and capital have helped create a more flexible economy. Workers are protected in the EU. This is made possible through the European Working Time Directive, which includes regulations regarding holidays ,working hours, breaks ...

ACCESS TO HEALTH BENEFITS

EU citizens are provided with the EU Health Insurance Card which gives them access to emergency healthcare whenever they need it, while visiting any Member State.

DISADVANTAGES

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE EU ON THE MEMBER STATES

The EU has shown that states can come together and share laws, currency, security and other areas which are usually under the control of the singular national state. The traditional view of sovereignty has been challenged in recent years. The member states share the sovereignty with institutions such as the EU Commission and the EU Parliament even if they are still sovereign in certain areas .

IMMIGRATION

A disadvantage of the EU expansion faced by the new economies includes the migration of skilled workers to the better economic nations for better wages and higher benefits .The European Union regulations on immigrations affect some countries' policies. For instance, member countries lack the authority to turn away large numbers of refugees. Such limitations strain members' financial resources. Besides there is loss of immigration control which have resulted in overcrowding in many EU countries.

UNEMPLOYMENT

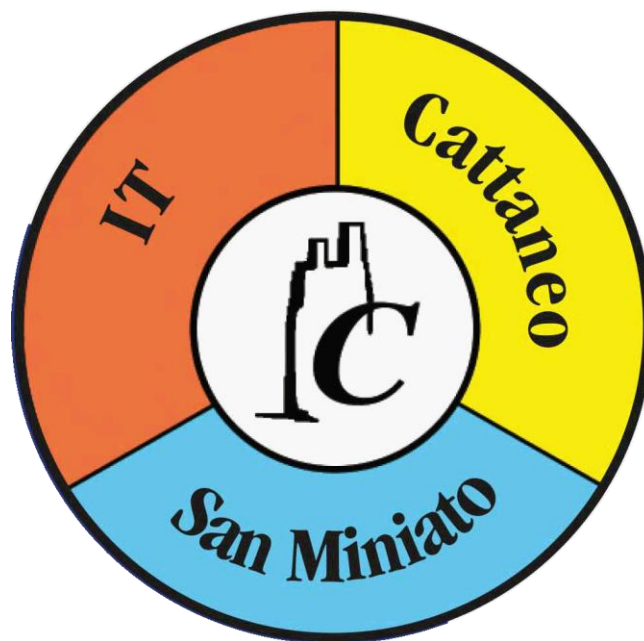
In the EU unemployment has reached a critical point. In some EU countries unemployment has increased to over 25%, and youth unemployment rates have reached 50%. The recent rise in EU unemployment is primarily due to the long period of economic recession . Due to austerity measures and a weak global economy, the EU economy has fallen back into recession. The concern is that structural problems and the current monetary and fiscal policies will create several years of below- trend economic growth.

COMMON POLICIES

Operating as a single market and following common policies have resulted in many discrepancies. Regulations that were designed to protect smaller member countries can affect larger countries since the European Commission looks after the interests of the entire EU and not the individual countries. Wealthier countries are also obliged to share their wealth with other member States.

THE SINGLE CURRENCY

Although the EU does not require all its members to adopt the Euro, they insist on the use of the Single Currency. Unfortunately, the Euro is causing problems all over the EU, including high unemployment rates, slow economic growth and unsuitable interest rates in the Eurozone.



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