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INTRODUCTION

Actuality of the research. The process of European integration is a significant factor in the development of the world economy. It involves political and economic unification between European states, with the purpose of promoting economic and political union in Europe that arises to prevent war between states. Recent research on the topic has highlighted different aspects of European integration, including the political, economic and social benefits. This study aims to synthesize the European integration and its role in the development of the world economy. Numerous authors have explored the economic, social and political benefits of the European integration. Zimmermann K.F. [81], Wiener A. [79], Szemlér T. [63], Sajdik M [55] and others have researched the potential benefits of the European integration, however, a number of theoretical and practical issues remain insufficiently studied, in particular: strengthening the powers of the EU governing bodies, searching for compromise solutions to integration problems, regulating labor migration and further enlargement of the European Union.

The aim of qualifying work is to study the European integration process. According to the purpose of the qualification of the work. The following **tasks** were established:

- identify the prerequisites for the creation of the European Union;
- analyze the theories and concepts of European integration;
- analyze the political structure of the European Union and how its institutions interact with the outside world;
- highlight the concept, the achievements and the challenges of economic integration in the European Union;
- identify the features of migration processes development in the European Union;
- figure out the main problems and prospects for the EU further enlargement.

The object of the research is the European Union and its member states.

The subject of research is the European Union integration process.

Research methods. While writing the qualifying work, the following methods were used: systemic, classification, system analysis, comparative analysis, structural analysis and

graphic method.

Research's database is a set of journals, articles, internet sources including official website of the EU institutions, books of different authors evaluating the European Union integration process.

Academic programs, plans and themes correlation. Executing this qualifying work is connected with the research plan of Poltava University of Economics and Trade on the topic "Modern processes of globalization: driving forces, megatrends, contradictions" (0113U006220). The author's contribution is an original approach to evaluation of the EU further enlargement process.

Qualifying work results approbation. The most significant research results were presented at scientific conference of higher education students and young scientists of specialty 292 International economic relations "Current problems of the theory and practice of international economic relations in conditions of global transformation" (Poltava, April 14th, 2023).

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CHAPTER 1

ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PREREQUISITES FOR EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

1.1. Prerequisites for the creation and evolution of the European Union

The European Union (EU) is a supranational organization of 27 European countries, which came together to form a block of political, economic and legal integration. Spanning a period of over six decades, the formation of the EU has been a long and arduous process that has seen close cooperation between the various European nations, and has led to the creation of one of the largest and most powerful economic blocs in the world. When it was first established, the EU was intended to form a 'common market' among its member countries. Initially, this involved the removal of existing trade barriers, the creation of free movement of goods and factors of production between the member countries, and the establishment of a unified customs duty and regulatory framework. Over the years, the scope of the EU's objectives and activities have expanded far beyond the single market, and it now addresses a wide range of political, economic and social issues.

The idea of creating a union among European countries is not a new one. It dates back as early as 1926, French Foreign Minister Aristide Briand for the formation of a 'European federation' but this did not materialize in the form of any actionable plan until after the second world war. The dream of forming a European union became a concrete possibility.

The goal of the formation of the European Union was to end hostilities between neighboring states, create economic ties, and foster cooperation among member countries.

These first steps towards forming the EU began with an initial conference in Paris in 1947 known as the Conference on Security Co-operation (CSC). Here delegates discussed ways to improve security policies throughout Europe. Next came 'The Schuman Declaration' which proposed creating what would later become known as the European Coal & Steel Community (ECSC), allowing signatory states access to collectively pooled

resources for trade within this industry sector alone. Other conferences followed suit such as: The Messina Conference 1954; Brussels Treaty 1956; Rome Treaties 1958; Single Council 1969 – leading up until 1992 where Maastricht summit took place ultimately endorsing treaties initiating political integration.

These conferences were to discuss the initiated to discuss the formation of the European union, taking first The Messina Conference which was held in Italy in June 1954 at the suggestion of Italian Foreign Minister Giuseppe Pella. At the conference, the participants discussed the creation of a European Economic Community (EEC), which would encompass six European nations: France, West Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg [50]. In addition to discussing economic issues, the participants also discussed various aspects of the Treaty of Rome, a set of treaties that would ultimately become the foundation of the EEC. The goal of the Rome Treaty was to create a unified economic system that would allow for free trade and movement of people and goods between member nations. The Messina Conference established the framework for how the EEC would function, and its recommendations were later formalized in the Treaty of Rome in 1957.

The Brussels Treaty, signed in March 1948, was a multilateral agreement among France, Netherlands, Belgium, United Kingdom and Luxembourg. The treaty was aimed at strengthening economic, political, and military relations between the participant nations. It also attempted to improve their ties with one another, as well as lay the groundwork for a possible joint security system [72]. The treaty proposed the establishment of a European Defense Community (EDC) to facilitate common defense efforts. Although the EDC was not ultimately established at the time, it served as a basis for further military cooperation in the future.

The Single Council of 1969, held in Luxembourg, was a meeting that aimed to increase the amount of cooperation among the member states in order to make the European Economic Community (EEC) more effective. At this meeting, it was determined that the six member states would form a common market based on the free movement of goods, capital, services, and people. Furthermore, it was also determined that the member states would be flexible in allowing each other to set their own tax rates. This meeting marked the first major

step towards integrating national economies into a single European economy.

The Maastricht Summit of 1992 was a meeting held in Maastricht, the Netherlands, between the 12 EEC members. At this summit, the European Union was established in order to further the integration process that the EEC had begun. The Maastricht Treaty, which was signed at the summit, established three main pillars of the EU: a single market, a common foreign and security policy, and justice and home affairs. Furthermore, the treaty also included provisions for economic and monetary union (EMU), which would involve the adoption of a common currency, the euro. The Maastricht Treaty also created the European Central Bank, which was tasked with managing the EMU.

The Messina Conference 1954, the Brussels Treaty 1956, the Single Council 1969, and the Maastricht Summit 1992 all played important roles in the formation of the European Union. Through these conferences the member states were able to establish key agreements in economic, political and military cooperation.

Also, the treaties were drawn up and were to set a framework on how the EU was to be structured. Each treaty has their individual objective and aim for the structure of the EU.

Looking first at The Schuman Declaration of 9 May 1950 widely considered a driving force for the creation of the European Union. The then French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman proposed the suggestion France, Germany and other European countries will cooperate in integrating coal and steel production. The idea behind the proposal was that if these resources are collective, it is impossible for one country to wage war against another. This proposal is far from the traditional system of the European states based on the principle of maintaining the balance of forces and is usually achieved through military alliances. On the other hand, the Schuman Declaration called for new forms of international cooperation based on common sovereignty principles. Many European countries welcomed the Declaration and the 1951 Paris Treaty established the European Coal and Steel Community to unify France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. The ECSC was the first step towards European integration and paved the way for later initiatives aimed at promoting cooperation and solidarity between European countries [68]. The European Coal and Steel Community was widely regarded as the first step in Europe's economic integration. Following the Second World War in 1951, six European countries (France,

Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg) established the Union. The European Central Committee was dedicated to establishing a common market for coal and steel, which are essential resources for industrial production and reconstruction of Europe damaged by war. The ECSC aimed to eliminate competition and tensions that had led to the wars by combining coal and steel production [27]. The ECSC was based on international principles, and the ECSC could delegate some of its sovereignty to high authorities. The ECSC is composed of representatives of the independent high-level authorities of each Member State, which regulates production and prices and invests in research and development. The ECSC has also established a common market for coal and steel, removed customs duties and other barriers to trade, and guaranteed the same prices for all members. The success of the European Community supported greater economic and political cooperation between its member states. In 1957, six countries signed the Rome Treaty, which established the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (EAEC). The EEC aims to create a single market for goods, services, capital and labor, and the EAEC is aimed at peaceful coordination and development of nuclear energy. The creation of these communities was an important step in the future development and growth of the EU. The foundation of the European Coal and Steel Community in 1951 and the Treaty of Rome in 1957 laid the establishment for the European Union and advanced financial and political participation in Europe [74].

The Treaty of Rome of 1957 established the European Economic Community, marking a turning point in the development of the European Union. The Treaty established the European Economic Community (EEC) with the aim of creating a common market between Member States. The main objectives of the European Community (EC) are to eliminate trade barriers between Member States and promote trade, the free movement of goods, services and persons. It was a decisive step towards a more integrated and prosperous Europe, which promoted better economic cooperation and growth through a better cooperation. The Rome Treaty also established the European Atomic Energy Community (EAEC) to promote the peaceful development of nuclear energy in Europe. The EEC and EAEC were created indefinitely, demonstrating the Member States' long-term commitment to working together on common objectives. The Rome Treaty laid the

foundations for the modern European Union, which now consists of 27 member states. The Treaty marked a new turning point in European history and brought the focus of cooperation and unification from conflict and division.

The 1986 single European law was an important step in the establishment of the European Union and broke the barriers to the establishment of the single market. Its main objective is to establish a single market for the European Community, removing barriers to the free movement of goods, services, persons and capital. This includes the elimination of trade barriers, the standardization of regulations, and the reduction of protectionist policies that had previously restricted cross-border trade. The single European law is an important step towards a more integrated and coherent Europe, and the introduction of the euro will further strengthen the economic relations between member states [77]. The single market has a profound impact on EU companies and consumers, enabling better choice and competition, encouraging innovation and efficiency, and stimulating economic growth. The interests of a strong and prosperous EU share countries, which contributes to political stability and cooperation. The establishment of a single market is not without challenges, but an important achievement in the history of the European Union, which demonstrates the advantages of cooperation and integration towards achieving common objectives.

The Treaty of Maastricht, signed on 7 February 1992, created the European Union and the euro and made a breakthrough in the history of the European Union. This marks the official establishment of the European Union and strengthens the foundations of previous treaties. The main purpose of the Treaty is to create a more integrated Europe in which countries can work together to achieve common objectives. One of the most important achievements of the Maastricht Treaty was the introduction of the single euro in the European Union. The euro was created to replace the old national currency system, which hampered trade and investment throughout Europe [40]. The establishment of the euro was a complex process that included the coordination of monetary policy and the establishment of the European Central Bank. The Maastricht Treaty also defined the framework of EU foreign and security policies and defines the concept of European citizenship. This gave citizens of Member States additional rights such as the right to freely move in the EU, the right to vote in local elections and the right to vote in the European Parliament. Overall, the

Maastricht Treaty is a milestone in the history of the European Union. It is a step towards closer ties with common currencies and common future visions, and a step towards breaking free alliances between Member States. Despite the difficulties since its implementation, the Maastricht Treaty has been a decisive moment for the continued development of the European Union.

The Lisbon Treaty continued integration and rationalization The Lisbon Treaty, signed in 2007, marked an important step in the creation of the European Union. The treaty aimed to simplify the process of the EU decision-making and further integrate the Member States. It replaced the failed European constitution, which was rejected by voters in France and the Netherlands in 2005. One of the most important changes in the Lisbon Treaty was the establishment of a European External Action Service (EEAS) to improve the coherence and effectiveness of EU foreign policy [71]. The Treaty also strengthened the role of the European Parliament, by strengthening its powers in legislative and budgetary decisions. The Lisbon Treaty also introduced the principle of permanent structural cooperation in defense, which allowed Member States to cooperate more closely in defense matters at any time. This led to the establishment of the European Defense Funding 2017 in order to strengthen the EU's defense capabilities and reduce its dependence on the United States. The Treaty also facilitated the EU actions on behalf of citizens, allowing citizens to speak directly to the European Parliament and enabled the EU decisions to be more transparent [73]. Overall, the Lisbon Treaty was a decisive step towards integration and improvement of the European decision-making process. Although not controversial, it is an important achievement of the continued efforts of the European Union to build a more united Europe.

The establishment of the European Union is an important step in the history of the continent and an important factor in ensuring peace and stability in Europe. The EU not only contributes to economic growth and prosperity, but also plays a bulwark against growing nationalism and extremism in the region. In today's fast-changing world, where new challenges are faced daily, the importance of the unification of Europe cannot be exaggerated. The EU must continue to work towards a more integrated, inclusive and sustainable future based on common values, cooperation and solidarity. Today, the EU has become one of the most powerful countries' integrations, and we have examined how it has

evolved from pre-war to post-war and from Europe as a whole before war. We will go further into its integration. The next chapter, we will discuss how the EU can overcome its obstacles, its legislation and its government decisions. Member states of the EU are mentioned in table 1.1.

Table 1.1 – The EU member states and their year of entry into the union [18]

EU Member State	Year of entry	EU Member State	Year of entry
Austria	1995	Malta	2004
Belgium	1957	The Netherlands	1957
Bulgaria	2007	Portugal	1986
Hungary	2004	Poland	2004
Greece	1981	Romania	2007
Germany	1957	Slovenia	2004
Denmark	1973	Slovakia	2004
Italy	1957	France	1957
Ireland	1973	Finland	1995
Spain	1986	Croatia	2013
Cyprus	2004	Czech Republic	2004
Luxembourg	1957	Sweden	1995
Latvia	2004	Estonia	2004
Lithuania	2004		

The formation of the EU did not just come to be, there were conflicts which led to resolutions (talks). The countries of Europe rubbed mind together, they had a common goal and the treaties signed over the years down to the last treaty agreement, showed that the union did not just come about to be, lots of agreements had to made to meet each parties needs and desires. This eventually paid off as the union started with just six members and continuously grew and attained more members.

Currently, the EU has 27 member states and that more countries have dedicatedly showed interest in joining the EU, showing the union is still growing and expanding across Europe and its entailing countries (table 1.2).

Table 1.2 – The candidate countries for the EU membership as of 2023 [18]

Candidate countries	Year of application
Serbia	2012
Moldova	2022
Turkey	1999
North Macedonia	2005
Montenegro	2010
Albania	2012
Ukraine	2022
Bosnia & Herzegovina	2020

The originality of the European Union derives from the special way in which its various constituent parts have evolved. The European Union came into being with the adoption of the Treaty of Maastricht in 1992, and it brought together three organizations established in the 1950s to integrate activity in specific sectors (the European Communities), and two areas of intergovernmental cooperation (common foreign and security policy and justice and home affairs). Since then, the resulting structure has been described as one with three pillars, the first of which is supranational, comprising the three Communities, each of which has its own legal personality. The European Union does not have legal personality, however, even though it encompasses the Community pillar and the two intergovernmental pillars within a common institutional structure.

The European Union is the first ‘general-purpose’ international organization to be created not by a coordination of its members’ national policies but by the pooling of some of those policies under the umbrella of the European Communities. The result of this pooling of policies was an innovative type of body – a supranational organization – formed by the voluntary transfer of certain sovereign powers by its Member States. Member States did not surrender their powers: they decided to exercise them jointly at a higher level which had common institutions. Accordingly, 1951 saw the establishment of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) and 1957 the European Economic Community (EEC) and European Atomic Energy Community (EAEC or Euratom).

As specialist organizations, each of the three Communities holds only those powers conferred on them by the Member States. The principle of conferral requires that each Community ‘shall act within the limits of the powers conferred upon it and of the objectives assigned to it’ by the treaties which established them (Treaty of Paris establishing the ECSC and the Rome Treaties establishing the EEC and Euratom). Likewise, the Community institutions – Parliament, Council, Commission, Court of Justice, Court of Auditors – assisted by an Economic and Social Committee and a Committee of the Regions, must each ‘act within the limits of the powers conferred upon it’ by the Treaties.

With the aim of creating an ever-closer union among the peoples of Europe, integration has proceeded on a step-by-step basis, firstly by the pooling of policy on certain sectors of Member States’ national economies, then by the creation of a common market,

followed in turn by the gradual introduction of economic and monetary union. Notwithstanding its economic foundations, the objective of European Union was, from the outset, political. The functional approach taken by the ‘founding fathers’ of the Communities, Jean Monnet and Robert Schuman, implied that it was necessary to move from the economic to the political sphere. In effect, specific actions in a given sector of the economy were bound to have an impact on the way in which other sectors operated. The questions that this raised needed answers which implied political choices.

Accordingly, the completion of a common market involving free movement of goods raised the question of the movement of people, services and capital, and that required the introduction of a raft of supporting policies in the areas of competition, industry, agriculture, transport, research, etc. Ultimately – little by little – complementary policies addressing the problems of more sensitive national prerogatives were adopted. This was the case with social and fiscal policy. In addition, the organization’s internal policies had external ramifications which the organization, as an entity under international law, had to manage in its dealings with non-member states and other international organizations. As a result, external relations were established in the areas of world trade, development aid, immigration, defense, etc.

Whilst the organization is a constantly evolving one, the degree of integration achieved at each stage is the result of compromise which is not always easy to secure. The Member States, each with their own economic and social baggage and national susceptibilities, struggle between the benefits of solidarity and the drawbacks of having their political and budgetary autonomy curtailed, something often perceived as a surrender of national sovereignty. Meanwhile the organization, in a way the victim of its own success, has to manage two inseparable processes at one and the same time: widening itself through enlargement, to include new Member States which have applied for accession, and deepening itself by extending its powers and institutional procedures. The imperative is to meet the legitimate expectations of applicant countries without undermining the operational efficiency of the common institutions. Consequently, the collective agreement put in place by the founding Treaties evolves pragmatically over time, reflecting the structure of the organization, the priorities of the various players in the process of European

integration, and changes in the geopolitical environment.

Major reforms to the founding Treaties were made with the adoption of the Single European Act in 1986, the Treaty of Maastricht in 1992, the Treaty of Amsterdam in 1997 and the Treaty of Nice in 2001. Of these, the Maastricht Treaty was the one which most radically altered the structure of the organization. It established the European Union, with its pillar-based structure, and placed the EEC, now the European Community (EC), at the heart of the edifice. In 2002, the ECSC Treaty expired, after 50 years of existence. 2004 saw the signing in Rome of the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe, which must be ratified by all the Member States of the Union before it can come into effect. This ‘constitutional Treaty’ would repeal all the earlier treaties apart from the Euratom Treaty and would, at last, confer on the Union legal personality. The European Union established by this new Treaty would thus be the successor to the European Union established by the Maastricht Treaty and to the European Community.

The changes in the nature and operation of the organization, brought about by successive revisions of the original treaties, reflect the degree to which compromise is possible at any given moment in history. In an increasingly enlarged and diverse Union, in the teeth of opposition from certain Member States and their obsession with sovereignty, it can sometimes seem that integration is not the way, or not yet the way, to address the new challenges which the world throws up. In such cases, the search for viable solutions acceptable to the greatest number leads to the adoption of new forms of intergovernmental cooperation (cf. Maastricht Treaty) or to enhanced cooperation by a smaller number of Member States which are keen to go further (cf. Amsterdam Treaty). That is not to say that an area initially dealt with by intergovernmental cooperation (cf., in the Amsterdam Treaty, visas, asylum, immigration) cannot subsequently be moved up to Community level or that a Member State cannot subsequently join a process of enhanced cooperation in which it was not initially involved.

Given the major enlargement of the European Union in 2004, fresh compromises would appear essential in order to ensure that institutions with 25 or more Member States can function. In response to the unsatisfactory outcome of the reform brought about by the 2001 Treaty of Nice, changes were made to the procedure for amending the original treaties

by means of intergovernmental conferences (IGCs) in an attempt to make this procedure more flexible and more effective. Following the model of the Convention which drafted the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the Union in 2000, the European Convention met in Brussels from 2002 to 2003 with the aim of drawing up a draft treaty which would form the basis for the work of the next IGC. The European Convention consisted of representatives of the Heads of State or Government, the national parliaments, the European Parliament and the European Commission, and it introduced a new method of reforming the Union, offering greater transparency and more participation by the players concerned. Member States will still be the ‘masters of the Treaties’, but this new procedure, which is designed to be more democratic and more consensual, goes beyond the conventional method of multilateral diplomatic negotiations and further down the road towards the gradual constitutionalizing of the founding Treaties.

So, the growth and expansion of the EU has given rise to a powerful union and a powerful economic bloc. The member states are united in tackling these challenges, as they seek to promote an environment of stability and prosperity within the European Union and beyond. This historical overview highlights the important steps taken by the European Union in achieving its goal of economic and political integration. Over the past several decades, the EU has had an unprecedented impact on the global economy and politics, bringing unprecedented peace and economic growth to its member states.

1.2. Theories and concepts of European integration

European integration, is the process of unification and collaboration among the various countries of Europe, this is arguably one of the most remarkable achievements of the post-World War II period. The idea of an integrated Europe was originally initiated by a number of European thinkers in the early part of the 20th century. However, it was after World War II that efforts to create a unified Europe began in earnest. The primary aim of this integration was to encourage economic cooperation and foster political stability, while

striving for peace and security in the continent.

The key drive towards European integration, and ultimately the creation of the European Union, was the belief that collective action could lead to greater prosperity for Europe as a whole. The European integration process sought to promote economic cooperation by facilitating the movement of goods, capital, and people between member states with the goal of fostering greater economic integration. This was to be achieved through the development of a customs union, free trade zones, and the monetary union of the Eurozone converging the EU into a single economic area. In addition to stimulating economic growth, the unification of Europe was intended to bring about greater political stability by providing a forum for decision-making and dispute resolution at the supranational level. Again, this could be seen as creating a stronger European identity in which individuals felt a sense of belonging and loyalty towards the EU as a whole.

The theories and concepts of European integration have evolved over time as the empirical world has changed. One of the most influential theories of European integration is neofunctionalism, which was developed by Ernst B. Haas and influenced by functionalist ideas. Neofunctionalism focuses on the spillovers of integration, and argues that well-integrated and interdependent areas lead to more integration. This theory captures the spillover from the European Coal and Steel Community to the European Economic Community.

Concept of collective identity entered European integration studies relatively late. The few early authors who addressed collective identity among mass publics, such as Deutsch, Inglehart, or Lindberg and Scheingold used terms such as ‘we-feeling’, ‘community’, or ‘loyalty’ to describe phenomena that today would be labelled as collective identity. Footnote Also for this reason it is important to clarify what we mean by collective identity.

Collective identities refer to ‘social identities that are based on large and potentially important group differences, e.g., those defined by gender, social class, age or ethnicity’. Individuals hold multiple identities rather than a single identity, relating to different group memberships and social positions. They can be competing, complementary, or reinforcing. Diéz Medrano and Gutiérrez speak of identities being ‘nested’, while Risse refers to ‘marble cake’ identities that partly overlap. Precisely how collective identities relate to each other

varies across individuals and is context-dependent and situational. Identities can be stimulated for example, by symbols and deliberation. For some, being Greek and being European might be generally highly compatible, but might have been perceived as conflicting in the light of the sovereign debt crisis.

Identity is often juxtaposed to interest as two alternative motivations for social behavior. While this is analytically useful, identities and (perception of) interest often go hand in hand. Common or opposing interest can influence one's perceptions of group membership, whereas 'who we are influences what we want'. What is more, a common identity is often invoked strategically to legitimize collective action and pursuit of interest.

European identity and support for European integration are closely related but not the same thing. Citizen orientations towards European integration have various dimensions. It is perfectly possible that a citizen feels attached to Europe and considers herself as European, but is nonetheless critical of the direction that European integration is taking or its policy output. However, empirical research suggests that European identity and support for European integration have become increasingly correlated. While earlier research on EU support mainly explained it as a question of utilitarian cost-benefit calculations, more recent studies highlight the important role of collective identities in structuring support for European integration.

The following sections revisit neofunctionalism, intergovernmentalism and post functionalism to assess if and how these grand theories of integration can help understand identity politics in the EU. Collective identities can be studied from a top-down perspective – how are identities constructed and formed by political elites, the mass media, and institutions. They can also be studied bottom-up – how do citizens perceive themselves, how attached do they feel to a community, etc. This article takes the latter approach and aims at answering the following questions:

- 1) To what extent do the grand theories of European integration find public opinion and collective identity of citizens at all relevant?
- 2) Do they predict a positive or negative trend in public orientations towards European integration?
- 3) Is a collective European identity (or lack thereof) understood as a cause of

integration, or is it merely seen as the end product of European integration?

Early neofunctionalism identifies three main drivers of European integration: Regional elites in search of efficient government, transnational interest groups in search of better representation of their interest, and the unintended consequences, or ‘spillover’ that propel regional institutions into even further integration: What starts out as a rational response to functional pressures to integrate, soon creates unintended consequences towards even more integration.

Neofunctionalism gives little room for ordinary citizens to influence European integration. And in fact, as the quote introducing this paper underlines, in *The Uniting of Europe*, Haas paid little attention to public opinion, although he was well aware of public criticism of European integration that today would be termed Eurosceptic. However, Haas deemed it justifiable to ignore such skepticism for two reasons. First, he argued that the public was simply ignorant and lacked understanding of European integration. Second, given the bureaucratic nature of European integration, decision makers were shielded from public scrutiny and therefore public opinion simply did not matter for integration.

In later revisions of neofunctionalism theory, Haas, Schmitter, and Lindberg and Scheingold paid closer attention to public opinion. Lindberg and Scheingold were more interested in the attitudes of citizens than of elites because they took pro-European attitudes among European policy makers for granted, but saw potential for scepticism among citizens. Their descriptive analyses of several sources of public opinion data ranging from the 1950s to the late 1960s suggested that both system support and, to a lesser extent, collective identity were increasing. This observation made them confident that there was a ‘permissive consensus’ of the public for further integration.

Neofunctionalist authors offered diverging perspectives if and how European integration could become a controversial political issue. In *Beyond the Nation State*, Haas argues that the fourth (and final) stage of integration towards a federal state may be facing a nationalist backlash.

Lindberg and Scheingold presented two opposite scenarios for the future: In the first one, further integration and development of European support would go hand in hand. In the second scenario, there would be a ‘trend towards radical politics based on sharp social

cleavage and entailing mobilization of mass publics', and increasing support could not be taken for granted. However, they concluded that under conditions of economic growth and the expansion of middle-class values to the working class, the first scenario was much more likely and policy makers could continue to count on this consensus in the future.

Schmitter accounted for the possibility that European integration might become a controversial issue and that public opinion might play a decisive role in the integration process. However, in a more recent contribution, Schmitter argued that neofunctionalists did not foresee negative politicization: 'What was not predicted was that this mobilization would threaten rather than promote the integration process. In the neo-functional scenario, mass publics would be aroused to protect the *acquis communautaire* against the resistance of entrenched national political elites determined to perpetuate their status as guarantors of sovereignty'.

It is a different question to what extent these authors expected a European collective identity to develop, and whether this development was seen primarily as a trigger for further integration or as the consequence of integration. While identity played a minor role in Haas' theory, the introductory chapter of *The Uniting of Europe* suggests that Haas saw political community as a result of successful integration.

In the neofunctionalist framework, national identities among the public are not per se an obstacle to European integration. Haas discussed the possibility of individuals holding both a European and a national identity, either because they do not conflict with one another or because people are able to ignore these contradictions. Moreover, Haas strongly believed in the power of interests prevailing over the irrationality of identity: 'The alleged primordial force of nationalism will be trumped by the utilitarian-instrumental human desire to better oneself in life, materially and in terms of status, as well as normative satisfaction'.

To summarize, neofunctionalism paid little attention to public opinion and collective identity. Politicization, if taking place at all, was predominantly expected to mobilize in favour of European integration. Neofunctionalist scholars did not see identity politics to become a serious concern to European integration.

Neo-functionalism was the theory of European integration in the 1950s and 1960s. The most prominent neo-functional writer, Ernst Haas, wrote *The Uniting of Europe* in

1958. The important question neo-functionalists are trying to ask how cooperation in specific economic policy areas leads to a greater economic integration in Europe and then to a broader political integration [32]. The neo-functionalism brings to that light regional integration can be driven by “spillover” effects from one sector to another. Simply put, it suggests that once one area become integrated, other parts or sectors follows suite as well. This process lead to deeper cooperation and unity between countries and regions overtime.

This can be seen in the European single market, which was first formed with the aim to freely allow trade among member states (free trade zone) but grew into something much bigger, it’s now include policies and laws on environmental standard, consumer protection and many others affecting Europe as a whole.

In other words, the concept of Neo-functionalism is that once a sector or region became integrated or more integrated, there will be pressure for the other regions and sectors to follow likewise in order for the system to remain in effective and grow.

This theory also emphasized on the role played supranational organizations in being another driving force towards regional integration. These organizations were able to stimulate incentives for governments and businesses which encourage further cooperation between countries and regions. Neo-functionalism theory gives us an interesting view on how regional integration works and how it was able to work in Europe.

Liberal intergovernmentalism is another theory which implies that states are motivated to cooperate with one another because of the mutual benefit that will be obtained, i.e. that states come to agreement with each other be it military agreement or economic agreement because they have something beneficial to gain from it.

The main argument behind this theory is that states have reasons for cooperation with other states because they have something to gain from whatever agreement and that supranational organization have no role to play as part of the cooperation between states as agreements and cooperation will take place naturally when a states see benefit in the proposition made. This theory also sheds light on value and cultural factors. Stating that a state might agree to a proposition not because they are any benefits but because they share common values and culture. This brings the state to have closer ties because this common value or culture shared [51].

Supranationalism, another theory of European suggests that the powers of independent nation states should be pooled together and given to supranational organizations in order to increase cooperation and mutual understanding. This model of integration is based on the idea that states should come together and have a common agenda and interests. The main aim is to promote a common identity among European states and to create a unified regional structure. This would allow for more open borders and greater political, economic and social integration.

This theory is applied in a variety of ways including the promotion of multilateral treaties, the establishment of common legal and regulatory frameworks, and the coordination of foreign and security policies. According to the theory of supranationalism, nation states should surrender some of their national sovereignty in exchange for cooperative benefits from other countries. This model of cooperation has become increasingly relevant in Europe as the EU has undertaken great steps to increase integration of its member states [56].

Federalism, the core principles of the European integration, which is based on the decentralization of absolute power to the provincial or sub-national level.

Federalism has been adopted in the European Union to provide incentives to national governments for cooperation and integration. Instead of every state having the right to unilaterally implement policy unilaterally, states instead delegate authority to a central body, in this case, the European Commission, which in turn, can create legislation that applies to all of the member states [26]. This allows for a greater degree of integration than is possible through intergovernmental agreements or political treaties.

Federalism in the European Union provides the framework necessary for the international organization to function effectively and democratically. It ensures that each nation takes responsibility for its economic and social policy while also allowing for the effective functioning of the single market and providing incentives for cooperation and integration [30].

Integovernmentalism, this theory which has been a widely accepted approach to getting insights on the European integration, explains that states interact with each other to achieve a common goal and objective, as well as cooperate and discuss matters of mutual interests.

This theory became of real value over the years as the increase in the complexity of international relation and the need for more effective communication and cooperation between states became high.

The ideology behind intergovernmentalism is that states are sovereign entities that have their own objectives and goal which will be taken into consideration when making decisions on international matters [31]. This theory brings to light the importance of self-governance of a state while also recognizing that cooperation among state members lead to a greater environment/achievements of goal to all parties involved [45].

This theory encourages government of different member states bringing into account their countries wellbeing and priorities while discussing international affairs with other states therefore bringing better understanding and cooperation. The theory gives us an analytical frame work t understanding the dynamics within Europe (table 1.2).

By understanding state autonomy and cooperation between states, it helps us to understand why certain policies within the European union failed and succeeded and also giving room for more solutions to potential challenges that Europe might face in time to come.

In all this theory provides us with an insight also to the European integration complexity, it shows how states also deal more on their interest over the interest of international organization and also shows how these interest come to play a vital role in the cooperation and the unity of the states.

The integration of Europe is dived into political integration, economic integration, cultural integration. These concepts on integration have been the foundation in which the European union was built on.

The commitment to political integration in Europe gave rise to the development of policies, institutions, and decision-making processes designed to increase cooperation among countries and strengthen the political relationships within the EU. These policies include the common foreign and security policy, the Schengen Agreement, and the Dublin Convention. The common foreign and security policy is a coordinated policy among the member states of the EU with respect to defense and international security. The Schengen Agreement is an agreement among several European countries which eliminated border

controls, allowing for the free movement of people within an area known as the Schengen Zone. The Dublin Convention is a set of rules designed to determine the responsibilities of EU states regarding migration and asylum-seekers.

Table 1.2 – Main theories and concepts of integration [61]

Theory	Concept	Summary
Neo-functionalism	Neofunctionalism may be a hypothesis of territorial integration which downplays globalization and reintroduces region into its governance. Neofunctionalism is regularly respected as the primary European integration hypothesis created by Ernst B. Haas in 1958 as portion of his Ph. D	Neofunctionalism is the viewpoint that all integration is the result of past integration. The term may moreover be utilized to actually depict a social hypothesis that's "post" conventional basic functionalism
Intergovernmentalism	intergovernmentalism contends that states (i.e., national governments or state pioneers), based on national interests, decide the result of integration. Intergovernmentalism was seen as a conceivable illustrative viewpoint amid the 1970s and 1980s, when the integration process appeared to have slowed down.	Intergovernmentalism is a theory of integration and also a method of decision making that allows states to cooperate and participate in different fields while maintaining their sovereignty
Liberal-Intergovernmentalism	Liberal intergovernmentalism argues that it is incomprehensible to explain and understand the concept of the European Union with a single figure and accept that distinctive approaches or speculations are required to truly get it the complexity of the EU.	Liberal intergovernmental argues that the integration of the EU is too complex to be understood by one theory but says that it should be tackled an broken down using a mixture of two or more integration theories.
Federalism	In the context of EU integration, federalism refers to the idea of increasing cooperation and integration among the member states by forming a federal state with a single parliament and government. This concept has been used to describe the envisioned end goal of the EU integration process, which is a more unified and cooperative union or supranational state.	Federalism in the European integration provides the framework necessary for the international organization to function effectively and democratically. It ensures that each nation takes responsibility for its economic and social policy while also allowing for the effective functioning of the single market and providing incentives for cooperation and integration

Political integration also required the cooperation of member states and this integration gave rise certain principles which were guidelines in order to achieve political creation in EU.

These were:

The principle of mutual recognition which states that all EU Member States must recognize and respect the laws, regulations and decisions of other EU Member States. Non-discrimination; This principle requires that Member States treat each other fairly.

The principle of subsidiarity; The principle brings the decision-making process closer to the citizens, i.e. to make decisions at national or regional level as far as possible.

The principle of proportionality, i.e., any limitation of the sovereignty of a State must be proportional to the purposes of the pursuit and, as far as possible, should be based on the goals.

Economic integration of the EU involved a number of policies designed to facilitate the free movement of goods, services, people, and capital, as well as to harmonize regulations. Some of the key aspects of the economic integration of the EU were:

Free trade: The removal of trade barrier, quotas and tariffs encouraged free movement of goods and services among member states. This encouraged member states to be involved more with each other in terms of trading and doing business. This brought about growth in the economies of the member states.

Custom union: The members state exercised a common external tariff policy on non-EU states and shared a common policy. This gave room for integration and cooperation economically because member states were being profiting from other non EU countries therefore enriching their own economy as they didn't have to pay extra cost for on tariffs but received when dealing with trades from non-EU members.

Single market: The unifying of regulation and rules, standards and laws allowed business and trade to move smoothly among the EU members thereby promoting economic efficiency.

Economic and Monetary Union: The use of a common legal tendency (Euro) ensures price stability across all member states and facilitates easy cross border transactions.

The economic integration in the EU helped to build a stabilized union, it also helped

in shaping efficiency of the member states through specialization, as more countries became economically integrated, they were able to focus their resources on their specialty where the theory of comparative advantage is in play. This gives a higher level of productivity which boosts the growth rate of their economies across [47].

The economic integration also made it easier for countries to manage their finances without having to worry about the currency exchange rate fluctuations affecting them. The integration also brought about unity among the member states, all parties are involved whenever a member state is in financial crisis or any other external shock that could affect a country in the union.

Cultural integration in the EU involves the promoting of a sense of shared values, culture, identity and understanding among the different and diverse people of the member states. Since the EU was going to be bringing together countries with different cultural background, it was important that provisions were made in order to integrate people culturally and socially. There were established several institutions which were to in place to promote a shared culture. Some programs included:

Cultural programs: organizations like the European capital for culture and others promote cultural unity, cooperation and understanding among the European citizens.

Language learning: learning multiple languages is encouraged in the European union as it promotes better understanding and communication between people from different cultural and ethnic background.

Human rights and values: The EU stresses on the relevance of democracy, human rights and the rule of law as the shared values of the European integration.

In addition, part of the cultural integration process was the pursue of projects such as Erasmus and the EU Youth Programme, which supports exchange programs between universities and other organizations in different European countries. The EU also works to promote shared values and identities by supporting programs which foster mutual understanding and support unity, such as the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency [44].

In conclusion, these theories helped us understand the complexity of the European integration, the integration of Europe came along way as it had to constantly find way for

the countries of Europe to coexist and cooperate politically, develop economically as a whole, culturally and socially accept each other while still allowing the countries maintain its independent state.

Conclusions for chapter 1

In this chapter, the findings of the evolution of the European Union, how the EU was formed, what led to the formation of the EU and how countries of Europe were able to build such a union were discussed.

The EU was formed to keep and maintain world peace because as countries of Europe engaged in conflict, it ultimately spread chaos across other continents of the world. The union fulfilled its main goal in keeping peace and proceeded to make the union beneficial to its members. It created an umbrella where member states would look out for each other and subsequently integrate each other into a common market taking into example its unifying its currency and making EU a single market.

This equally brought about free trade among member states and made EU zone a more attract area for both foreign investment and this also encouraged domestic trade among member states as there was no restriction on currency.

The union also brought about political stability among member states and also improved economic stability among member states also. Economic stability meant a higher standard of living, this enabled the citizens of each member states to enjoy the benefits of the unified Europe. In this chapter also, the findings of the integration theories of the European union, Neofunctionalism, Intergovernmentalism and Liberal-intergovernmentalism were discussed. The theories helped understand the complexity of the EU, each theory shed light of different aspects on the European integration of the member states. It gives insight to how the European states were able to adapt to each other despite cultural differences, political differences and even down to economic differences. The theories explained how the EU as a union operated, how the made decisions for the whole member state and yet still

allowing each member state to be an independent state with its national rule. The theories didn't just come about to be but took years and year of the continuous growth of the European union and its complexity as it grew to the innovation of these three major concepts in understanding it.

CHAPTER 2

FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

2.1 The political structure of the European Union and its interaction with the outside world

Regarding the EU political structure, the EU is built on the concept of the rule of law and democracy so rightfully the political structure and governance will surround these two concepts. The political structure of the EU is complex, with numerous levels of governance interdependently operating within different areas, both at an EU level and among the Member States.

The various elements of the EU's political structure, the overall framework of the EU's institutions, the development of the European Commission, and the decision-making process employed at the EU level. The different individuals and bodies that are influential in EU decision-making like the EU's citizens and the Council of the European Union will be analyzed. This will offer an overview of the current state of the EU's political structure and give an insight to how decision and policies are made in the EU.

The EU's Framework Institutions: The EU is a complex system of interdependent institutions, agencies, and bodies. The framework institutions of the EU include the European Council, the Council of the European Union, the European Commission, the European Parliament, and the European Court of Justice (ECJ). The overall framework of the EU is established within the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), which is meant to ensure that all the institutions operate in accordance with EU principles. The Treaty also sets out the respective competencies of all the different EU institutions.

The European Council is the highest decision-making body of the EU, composed of heads of states or governments from all Member States. It is headed by a President, elected by the Council itself for a period of two and a half years. The purpose of the European Council is to set the general direction of the EU's policies by deciding which matters shall

be taken up by the other EU institutions for further consideration and action. It constitutes of all the head of states of every EU member and a president is elected amongst them to head the European council. Its headquarters is in Brussels in Belgium. The presidency chair in the European council is usually a two and half year tenure which can only be ran once by a person. The president of this council represents the European Union to the outside world [19]. The Council's presidency rotates once every six months between the governments of the Member States of the EU, with the relevant ministers of the respective countries as presidents at all times to ensure the smooth functioning of the meeting and the establishment of the day-to-day agenda. The continuity between the Presidents is assured by agreements whereby three successive Presidents, the so-called Presidential Tripartite, share a common political program [15].

The Council's main objective is to act as one of the two veto bodies of the European legislative authority, the other being the European Parliament. Together, they are used to amend, approve or reject the proposals of the European Commission. Alongside with the parliament, the European council has more budgetary power than the parliament in the union. The council also possess more authority in controlling the foreign policy and the macroeconomics of the union more that the parliament [14].

As the institution that has the highest representation of politics in the European union, the European council is in charge of making decisions of political matters and priorities of the European union but they are in charge of passing laws. They also handle complex matters which could not be handled in the lower tiers. The European council is also responsible for making security policies taking into consideration all the EU members interest, they also can appoint candidates into other roles in the other institutions in the EU [79].

The Council of the European Union, also known as the “Council of Ministers”, consists of Ministers from each of the Member State governments, and it is responsible for formulating and adopting most of the EU's laws. It adopts the annual budget and coordinates the policies of the Member States in areas such as foreign, security, economic, and transportation policies.

It consists of national government ministers from each member state and its role is to adopt laws and coordinate policies across Europe. The councils' members represent their

countries at a ministerial level in areas such as foreign affairs, internal market, economic and finance policy, justice and home affairs and agriculture and fisheries among others. Each country's minister for that sector attends meetings according to their given responsibility – meaning if it's Foreign Affairs they attend on behalf of their respective country – where decisions are taken by consensus or majority voting depending on the topic discussed [64].

The parliament is an elected legislative body of the European union aimed to represent the interest of the citizens in the single market and also involved in moving and expanding the political structure of the EU. The parliaments have 705 members who are called MEPs (members of the European union). These members are selected every five years and are citizens who are representatives of their various countries, each member state has a fixed seat in the parliament based on their population size [20]. These representatives ensure that their country's interest, priorities, issues and goals be addressed.

The MEPs of the parliament have 7 political groups which they are shared into, these groups are not organized by nationalities but by political interest and affiliation. The parliament being a co-legislator with the council, also is involved in monitoring the commission and other EU bodies.

The Parliament meets in Strasbourg for the monthly plenary session (except in August) for a four-day “part session” (from Monday to Thursday). In Brussels there are other sessions. The Parts Committee is divided into daily meetings. The plenary work focuses mainly on debate and vote. Only the texts adopted in plenary and the written declarations signed by a majority of the members of Parliament constitute official acts of the European Parliament [48]. These relate to various types of texts, depending on the subject of consideration and the legislative procedures applicable.

Legislative reports are examined by Parliament in the context of various legislative procedures of the EU as the EU has different legislative procedures which are Ordinary legislative procedures, consent and consultation procedures. In ordinary legislative procedures, Parliament has the same role as the European Union Council. Accordingly, some parliamentary reports have more legislative weight than others.

Non-legislative reports are prepared by the Parliament at its own initiative within the responsible parliamentary committee. With the adoption of these documents, Parliament

addressed other European institutions, bodies, national governments or even third countries to draw attention to specific issues and raise response. Although they have no legislative value, these initiatives are based on parliamentary legitimacy and can persuade the Commission to make proposals on the issue [35].

The parliament also is notable for its multilingualism. The parliament holds most of its meeting in 24 official languages, this helps to make every member state feel included. All citizens of Europe have the right to participate in the elections to the European Parliament. Each member's right to read and write parliamentary documents, follow debates, and speak his own language is expressly recognized in the rules of procedure of Parliament. All EU citizens must be able to read the laws affecting them in their own language. As a co-legislator, the European Parliament has also the duty to ensure the linguistic quality of all laws adopted in all official languages. According to European legislation, Europeans have the right to follow the work of Parliament, to ask questions and to receive answers in their own language [23].

The European Commission is the executive body of the EU. It has the primary responsibility for initiating and drafting the EU's laws and ensuring that they are correctly implemented and enforced. It is also charged with setting the EU's overall goals and strategies, which it does through its five-year work program. The European Commission is composed of a College of Commissioners, headed by a President, appointed by the European Council and approved by the European Parliament, it is made up 27 commissioners, who are representatives of each member states. The commission is responsible for protecting the European citizens interest, getting details and consulting experts as well as the public for better and more effective dealings of national issues [17].

The commission is also responsible for the budget proposal, and also set the prioritize for the EU's spending. They supervise and give accounts on the allocation and funds spent. In implementation of the laws made by the EU's institution, they commission also plays a big role with cooperating with the Court of Justice in making sure countries of the member states abide by the rules and regulations. The commission also represents and speaks on behalf of the EU in trade agreements, they also do negotiations on behalf of the European union in terms of trade negotiations [43].

Decision making in the commission is a collective responsibility among the members of the commission. Each member is entitled and has equal right in decision making. It is done as a group not individual decision making. The Vice-President acts on behalf of the President (if absent) and coordinates with the Commissioners the work in his or her area of responsibility. Decisions are made by consensus, but there is also a vote. In this case, the decision is made by a simple majority with one vote per member [53].

The Committee's role is to ensure that all member states are represented and their views taken into account in the decision-making process within the EU framework. The committee provides a platform for cooperation between national governments, allowing them to reach agreement on issues related to economic policy, environmental protection, foreign affairs and other areas. In addition, it also represents the interests of its members when dealing with external partners such as international organizations in multilateral negotiations and dialogues. Membership of this committee consists mainly of Ministers or senior government officials appointed by individual governments from among independent experts nominated through consultation procedures set out under Protocols which forms part of the founding treaties amongst other protocols adopted.

The committee must represent both sexes equally at all times because one third proportionally shall be persons chosen after consulting interested parties representing civil society, employers' associations and trade unions alike. This concept helps hold public authorities accountable for decisions drawn regarding citizens' liberties especially concerning internal market competences (migration/free movement, worker cooperation etc.).

The European Court of Justice (ECJ) is the judicial arm of the EU, and its primary role is to ensure that EU laws are interpreted and applied uniformly in all Member States. The ECJ is composed of a panel of judges appointed by the Member States, and it can issue binding judgements. It is based in Luxembourg.

The ECJ consists of two courts, which are: The Court of Justice which interprets and ensures correct application of EU law by national courts; and The General Court which deals with cases related to competition, state aid, intellectual property and free movement issues among others. The court is made up of 27 Judges who are assisted by 11 Advocates-General.

The Judges and Advocates-General are appointed by common accord of the governments of the member states and hold office for a renewable term of six years, there must also be an equal number from both large countries like Germany or France, as well as representatives from smaller ones such as Malta or Luxembourg therefore ensuring fair representation across the board regardless size (table 2.1) [9].

Table 2.1 – The functions of some EU institutional bodies [36]

EU institutions	Form of guidance/ function
EU commission. The council of the EU. EU parliament	Decision making for the union
European Council EU court of justice	Provides guidance in decision making of the Union
Economic and social committee Committee of the Region	Gives advice to the other intuitional bodies regarding economic matters of the union and regional matters concerning any member states

The decision making process of the EU involves the main components of the European union frame work: The European Council, the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament. Most decision are made using the legislature procedure which involves the commission proposing a legislative act, which is then voted on by the European Parliament, and then by the Council. Once it is adopted, it is implemented in the Member States in accordance with their respective laws. The procedure also includes other decision-making procedures, such as agreements between the European Council and Member States, and the assent of all Member States for certain important policies.

The European commission also plays a vital role in the decision making process, the commission acts as a proposer, proposing and draft legislation that is usually presented to the European Parliament and the Council for approval. The European Parliament is responsible for providing democratic oversight of the EU's legislative processes, voting on the Commission's proposals and amendments. The Council of Ministers is responsible for adopting legislation in areas which require unanimity, and making decisions on matters where only a qualified majority is required [21].

The role of EU citizens and National Governments: The EU's citizens have a direct role in influencing the decisions taken by the EU institutions, most notably through the

European Parliament elections. EU citizens can also engage with the EU institutions through the European Citizens Initiative, a new online initiative that allows citizens to propose legislation for consideration by the European Commission [39].

The role of the national governments in the decision-making process is crucial, as they are the Member States that are ultimately responsible for implementing the legislation adopted by the EU. National governments are represented in the institutions by their individual ministers and diplomats, who can influence the decisions taken by the Council of the European Union.

Since the end of World War II, European countries have sought to deepen their integration in pursuit of peace and economic growth. The institutions that became the European Union (EU) have steadily expanded and strengthened their authority as member states have passed more and more decision-making power to the union.

However, the EU has been buffeted by a series of crises in recent years that have tested its cohesion, including the 2008 global financial crisis, an influx of migrants from Africa and the Middle East, Brexit negotiations, and the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic. Most recently, the bloc has scrambled to respond to aggression by Russian President Vladimir Putin, with tensions reaching a head in 2022 after Russia's invasion of Ukraine created millions of refugees and threatened a broader war.

Today, the EU is a powerful player on the world stage, but the complexity of its many institutions can often confuse. Here's a closer look at what the EU is and how it works.

European integration began to take shape in the 1950s, but the modern union was founded in 1992 with the Maastricht Treaty. The EU was given its current structure and powers in 2007 with the Lisbon Treaty, also known as the Reform Treaty. Under these treaties, the bloc's twenty-seven members agree to pool their sovereignty and delegate many decision-making powers to the EU.

There are seven official EU institutions, which can be roughly grouped by their executive, legislative, judicial, and financial functions.

The European Council, a grouping of the EU's top political leaders, consists of the president or prime minister of every member state. Its summits set the union's broad direction and settle urgent high-level questions. Its members elect a president, who can serve

up to two two-and-a-half-year terms. The current president is former Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel.

The European Commission, the EU's primary executive body, wields the most day-to-day authority. It proposes laws, manages the budget, implements decisions, issues regulations, and represents the EU around the world at summits, in negotiations, and in international organizations. The members of the commission are appointed by the European Council and approved by the European Parliament. The current commission is led by former German Minister of Defense Ursula von der Leyen.

The European Parliament is the only directly elected EU body, with representatives apportioned by each member state's population. Unlike traditional legislatures, it can't propose legislation, but laws can't pass without its approval. It also negotiates and approves the EU budget and oversees the commission. Parliament is currently led by Maltese politician Roberta Metsola.

The Council of the European Union, also known as the Council of Ministers to avoid confusion, is a second legislative branch whose approval is also needed for legislation to pass. This council consists of the government ministers from all EU members, organized by policy area. For instance, all EU members' foreign ministers meet together in one group, their agriculture ministers in another, and so on.

The Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) is the EU's highest judicial authority, interpreting EU law and settling disputes. The CJEU consists of the European Court of Justice, which clarifies EU law for national courts and rules on alleged member state violations, and the General Court, which hears a broad range of cases brought by individuals and organizations against EU institutions.

The European Central Bank (ECB) manages the euro for the nineteen countries that use the currency and implements the EU's monetary policy. It also helps regulate the EU banking system. In the midst of the European debt crisis, which rocked the continent beginning in 2009, ECB President Mario Draghi controversially committed the bank to acting as a lender of last resort to ailing eurozone economies. French politician Christine Lagarde, former head of the International Monetary Fund, took over from Draghi in 2019.

The European Court of Auditors (ECA) audits the EU budget, checking that funds are

properly spent and reporting any fraud to Parliament, the commission, and national governments.

The offices of these institutions are located across the EU, with headquarters in Brussels, Frankfurt, Luxembourg City, and Strasbourg.

These EU institutions form a complex web of powers and mutual oversight.

At base they draw their democratic legitimacy from elections in two ways: First, the European Council, which sets the bloc's overall political direction, is composed of democratically elected national leaders. Second, the European Parliament is composed of representatives – known as members of the European Parliament, or MEPs – who are directly elected by the citizens of each EU member state.

The European Council and Parliament together determine the composition of the European Commission – the council nominates its members and Parliament must approve them. The commission has the sole authority to propose EU laws and spending, but all EU legislation requires the approval of both Parliament and the Council of Ministers.

Although Parliament can't initiate legislation, EU law can't pass without Parliament's approval. Parliament negotiates all laws, including the budget, with the commission and the Council of Ministers in an arrangement known as co-decision.

In addition, international agreements, including trade agreements, require Parliament's sign-off. The president of Parliament, who is elected by the body, must also sign off on laws for their passage.

Parliament has a number of other powers. It approves members of the European Commission, meaning that parliamentary elections go far in determining the direction of EU policy. Parliament can also force the commission's resignation. That has never happened, but on one occasion, in 1999, the commission resigned en masse over a corruption scandal before Parliament could act.

As the executive body, the commission is most responsible for the day-to-day operations of the EU.

The commission is tasked with drafting legislation and drawing up the EU budget. It sends these proposals to Parliament and the Council of Ministers and negotiates with them until it wins approval from both institutions.

The commission is also responsible for making sure EU laws are implemented and the budget is allocated correctly, whether through oversight of the member states or through one of the EU's dozens of agencies.

Other duties include representing the EU in international organizations, promoting the bloc's foreign policy, and leading trade negotiations. The commission also helps enforce EU treaties by raising legal disputes with the Court of Justice.

Thus, the EU is a body which has governing bodies in its structure which are able to make decisions, give out political advices and maintains a political structure for the EU while putting into consideration its member states. The decision-making process involves the participation of all three components of the framework, and it is influenced by the opinions of EU citizens who can engage directly with the EU institutions through the European Citizens Initiative. The role of the Member States is also important in the decision-making process, as they are the ones ultimately responsible for implementing the policies of the EU. Despite its complexity, the EU's institutional structures and decision-making processes help to ensure that the policies of the EU are implemented fairly and transparently.

2.2 Economic integration of the European Union countries

The economic integration was a crucial part of the unification and development of the European countries and the European Union. The economic integration of the EU begun with the marking of the 1957 Treaty of Rome, which laid out the goals of financial and social cohesion, free development of products and capital, as well as shared acknowledgment of exchange and culture. As time passed, the EU continued to develop and broaden its coordinates in economic activities. This gave rise to the factors that increased the economic integration in Europe among the member states of the union (table 2.2). These factors were:

- The adoption of euro as a single currency among member states. This made it easier for members to trade across national borders with each other without having to convert

currencies every time.

- Free movement of goods and services within the eurozone countries helped facilitate increased cross-border trading activities while reducing transaction costs between businesses operating in different countries within the union.

- Expanding opportunities for external investment from outside Europe encouraged international companies to make more investments into EU markets which further drove economic growth throughout member nations' economies via increased foreign direct investments (FDI) flows determining an economic convergence cycle over all Union Countries. The establishment Customs Union, which made it easier for EU companies to trade, harmonizes customs duties on goods from outside the EU and helps to protect citizens.

Table 2.2 – The stages of the European economic integration in the years 1945-1991 [60]

Period	General Characteristics	Institutional Characteristics	Economic Characteristics	Territorial Characteristics	Integration Characteristics
1	2	3	4	5	6
1945-1957	Beginnings of realization of the European integration concept	Organization for European Economic cooperation (1948). European Coal and steel community (1952), European defense community (1952), Western European Union (1954)	Bilateral and multilateral trade agreement. Common market of coal, steel and iron (within the European steel community)	Various countries of Western Europe (depending on the agreement)	Regional autarky free trade zones. Custom union common market.
1958-1969	Building the foundation of integration	10 year period of abolition of import and export duties of member state, from July 1st 1968. Creation of common custom tariff in trade with third countries	European Economic Community (1958). European Atomic Energy community (1958)	EEC-6 (1958) founding states : Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, France, Italy and West Germany	Towards the free trade zone and custom union

Continuation of table 2.2.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1970-1985	Strengthening of economic ties	European Free Trade Association (EFTA), so-called merger treaty: Council of ministers, Commission of European communities (1965), European Council (1974), from 1972 general elections to the EU parliament, from 1978 ECY within European Monetary System, Schengen Agreement I (1955)	From 12 th October 1968, full freedom of the flow of work force, liberalization of the flow of services and capital. Harmonization of indirect taxes, Progressing of liberalization of the free flow of capital and service.	EEC-9 (1973): Great Britain, Ireland and Denmark.	Custom union towards a common market.
1986-1991	Preparation for the creation of the EU	Single European Act (1986). "Europe 1992" project	Areas without internal borders, on which free flow of goods, people, services and capital is ensured	EEC-12 (1986): Spain, Portugal. EEC-12 (1990): East-Germany.	Common market (homogenous market)

The need to boost economic growth and remain competitive in the global economy is essential for any region. This is the primary reason why the EU decided to pursue integration in the first place. The bloc wanted to create investment opportunities within Europe through the establishment of common regulations for financial services firms operating in the EU market as well as providing access to capital across different states through reduced transaction costs associated with cross-border lending activities (table 2.2).

Another reason for the economic integration was the desire to reduce or eliminate tariffs and other barriers that impede trade among member countries. By eliminating these obstacles to trade, it allows companies and individuals to benefit from economies of scale.

This helps them become more competitive on global markets and increases their potential profitability.

Economic integration also promoted innovation-led growth by creating an environment conducive to investing in research and development throughout the EU economy enabling faster technological progress which leads improved productivity levels overall.

It also promoted competition between businesses located within different parts of the region thereby raising efficiency levels which result in higher employee wages and lower consumer prices for goods and services benefitting both domestic consumers as well as foreign buyers accessing European products at more competitive prices.

Integration Process: The integration of the EU's economy requires a multi-faceted approach, and the union makes use of several different mechanisms to achieve its objectives. These include the free movement of goods, services, capital, and people between member states (free market integration policies); the harmonization of taxes and other financial regulations to facilitate cross-border transactions and investments (harmonized policies); and the use of collective legislation to weaken trade barriers and create a level playing field (unity policies).

The first step in the economic integration process was the signing of the Maastricht Treaty on Feb. 7th 1992 at Maastricht in the Netherlands by the 12 member states of the European Community and the 6 members of the European Coal and Steel Community [28]. It was the first international agreement to create a supranational financial system and to promote economic integration. The treaty provided for the creation of a common internal market, the European Economic Area (EEA), and the establishment of the European single currency, the euro. It also laid the foundations for closer cooperation between governments on issues such as justice and home affairs, the environment, and consumer protection.

The Maastricht Treaty was an important for the process of European economic integration, as it established the structures and processes for the creation of the European single market. It laid the groundwork for much of the economic and legal integration and harmonization that has followed in the EU. It marked the transition from a 'free trade area' to an 'economic and monetary union'. The Treaty set out the basic rules and framework for

a common EU economic policy consisting of policies on economic and monetary unions, foreign exchange, free movement of capital and people, taxation, competition, and the environment. It also established the European Central Bank (ECB) as the main body for the determination of the monetary policy of the EU [28].

The Treaty established the European Monetary System (EMS), an arrangement between member countries for fixed exchange rate parities against the ECU. It also established the European Court of Justice, which has the power to interpret and enforce the European Community laws. The Treaty also created the European Investment Bank, the European Development Fund, and the European Investment Fund to provide financing for economic reforms and promote economic growth. The Maastricht Treaty created a lot of committees and body which served as a guide to ensure implementations and agreements of regulations which eventually paved way to the realization of economic integration [29].

The Amsterdam treaty of 1997 also encourage economic integration and was part of the process of the economic integration in the EU. The Treaty amended the Maastricht Treaty, introducing changes to the EU's legal framework, it introduced a range of measures to encourage the convergence of EU member states' economic policies, facilitate the introduction of a European single currency, and promote the role of the European Central Bank (ECB) in the economic governance of the EU.

One of the key elements of the Treaty was the requirement that all EU member states commit to adhering to the “Stability and Growth Pact”. This was a fiscal framework to ensure sound public finances by capping budget deficits and public debt, and by setting limits on allowable levels of inflation and interest rates. The Pact also contained provisions to ensure financial stability, such as transaction and capital controls. By introducing a common set of economic goals and fiscal rules, the Stability and Growth Pact aimed to ensure a convergence of economic policies across the EU and promote economic stability. This treaty also included the introduction of a “structural funds” policy, whereby regions of the EU with low per capita incomes could receive additional funding to invest in infrastructure and other projects designed to promote growth. It also encouraged the development of “social policies”, such as labor laws and minimum wages, modernization of education systems and vocational training schemes, and programmers to reduce poverty and

promote equal opportunities.

In sum, the Amsterdam Treaty of 1997 was instrumental in furthering the economic integration of the EU. It provided the legal and fiscal framework for the establishment of a single currency and for the convergence of economic policies across the EU, [70] while also introducing measures intended to support economic and social development in less prosperous countries and promote social cohesion. The Treaty thus marked a major step towards the creation of a unified European economic and monetary union.

The Lisbon treaty signed in 2007 also paved way and encouraged economic integration. This treat gave birth to the “four Freedoms” which allowed for the free movement of goods, services, capital and people throughout the EU. This created immense potential for increased economic opportunity, as it enabled the region to develop stronger internal trade relations, eliminate barriers to cross-border commerce and create a more level playing field within the single market for businesses. This opened up new paths of investment and opportunity, helping to spur economic growth.

The Treaty also established the European Union’s new Common Commercial Policy (CCP), which focused on developing a range of common trade rules and strategies. This reduced the costs associated with trading within the single market, while simultaneously creating a single set of common trade rules for all EU member states, making it easier for businesses to trade goods and services between them. This, in turn, helped to promote economic growth and strengthen EU-wide economic ties.

In addition, the Treaty gave EU institutions greater powers when it came to implementing coordinated economic policies across the Union. This included strengthening the European Commission’s ability to research and recommend economic policy measures, introducing new mechanisms for the sharing of economic data between EU member states, and establishing a Political and Economic Coordination Committee (PECC) to promote cooperation among EU member states [71]. This helped to ensure that the Union’s economic policies were better coordinated and that there was less risk of individual member states pursuing policies which ran counter to the greater emerging EU-wide economic objectives.

Finally, the Lisbon Treaty also sought to ensure that the implications of economic integration were equally shared among EU members. This included the introduction of the

‘solidarity clause’, which provided for greater assistance for countries facing challenges to their economies or to their social cohesion. This clause was designed to encourage strong economic growth throughout the region and to ensure that all EU members could benefit from economic integration. The Lisbon treaty made a great impact on the EU economic integration, its provisions helped to create a more integrated and competitive single market, while simultaneously encouraging greater collaboration and coordination among EU members.

Lastly The Rome Treaty of 1957 also played a role in the economic integration of the EU. The signatories of this treaty (Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and France) did not just aim for economic integration by this single market, but they looked ahead to create provisions for broader cooperation that would improve all aspects of the countries involved. The main provisions of the Treaty of Rome that enabled such cooperation were the internal rules governing competition, the replacement of European customs duties, and the arrangement of a free trade area for goods, services, capital and persons [74]. The internal rules governing competition were arguably the most effective of all the provisions under the Treaty of Rome. These rules aimed to create an equal playing field for all the countries within the EEC by limiting the use of state subsidies, monopolies and restrictive practices to an absolute minimum. This also included the introduction of anti-dumping legislation, mutual agreement between member countries about the application of uniform standards, and the setting of fair and equitable access to markets. These rules helped create an environment of fair competition, which in turn encouraged investment and growth within the market. The free flow of goods, services, capital and people in the Treaty of Rome ultimately paved the way for economic integration between the member countries of the EEC.

The Treaty of Rome also implemented the Common Agricultural Policy shared by all member countries. This policy was partly responsible for the dramatic increase in food production in Europe. It also stimulated the growth of agricultural industry by introducing incentives like lower tariffs and increased financial support [74]. This policy allowed farmers across the continent to produce more efficiently, beneficially impacting average citizens through higher wages. The Treaty also sought to replace the traditional customs

duties with a single, standardized tariff between the member countries. Prior to this, tariffs had been based on a wide variety of different national tariffs, which further complicated cross-border trade and negotiations among countries, by replacing those tariffs with one single rate, the Treaty of Rome enabled free trade between all of the countries involved and created a uniform market with greater economic efficiency.

The Treaty of Rome was one of the most significant economic agreements of the 20th century and continues to influence the way that global economies interact today. It provided an infrastructure for the encouragement of economic integration and demonstrated the tremendous possibilities that could arise from increased cooperation between nations. By establishing uniform rules for competition, replacing customs duties and encouraging agricultural production, the Treaty of Rome ultimately provided a framework for the integration of the European economies that has helped create a highly integrated European Union today.

Even with the advantages the economic integration in Europe brought about, there were still challenges the Europe faced in trying to achieve its goal in economic integration. Some were:

- Differences in language, culture, and legal systems make it difficult for businesses from different countries to interact seamlessly with one another. This results in an uneven playing field when it comes to competition between nations within the EU's internal market.
- Substantial differences remained between the various regions across Europe when it came to economic development levels and social attitudes towards business activity which made harmonizing regulations sometimes difficult as differing policies hindered completion amongst member states leading some manufacturers stating they are better off outside than inside of the system due fragmentation along national lines that hinders cross-border trade among members.
- A lack of coordination when it comes to taxation structures and other fiscal matters, which can lead to market distortions due to competition among nations rather than at an EU-wide level.

Despite these challenges, The EU was able to achieve a great number of success from the economic integration and majorly was able to achieve its goal for the union and Europe

at large.

The EU integration process has brought various benefits to its member states, such as the foundation of a single market and the advancement of peace and security. Be that as it may, the method has moreover confronted criticism and challenges, such as concerns approximately the EU's equitable authenticity and the require for regulation change.

Finding the balance between the good, the bad, and the challenges of EU integration requires a comprehensive and facilitated approach. By advancing greater straightforwardness and responsibility, tending to the concerns of citizens, and upgrading participation on security and natural issues, the EU can proceed to advance thriving, steadiness, and peace among its member states.

In conclusion, the European Union has worked hard to bring around economic and cultural integration of the countries that shape its participation. With the creation of the European Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) in 1999, the nations of the EU are progressively connected financially and sharing common monetary standards. The presentation of the Euro has driven to expanded financial integration, making it much simpler for businesses, citizens, and educate to conduct exercises and move capital over borders.

This economic integration has too driven to a development in social trade between the nations of the EU, as businesses and firms that work in more than one nation are uncovered to distinctive societies and hones. In expansion to this, a number of EU part states have begun to participate more closely on cross-border ventures and activities, such as the Erasmus Understudy Trade Program and the European Territorial Advancement Finance.

The EU too works to guarantee that the gracious rights and freedoms of all citizens inside its purview are regarded, notwithstanding of nationality. This has been accomplished through making a coordinate legitimate system and fortifying legal participation.

Besides, by making a single market, citizens of the EU are able to benefit from access to a wide range of products and administrations, as well as the opportunity to move and work around the landmass.

This moreover implies that businesses can take advantage of the bigger potential client base and economies of scale when it comes to generation and dissemination.

The globalization of the world economy since the late 20th century has implied that competition has gotten to be ever more strongly. This has driven to doubt between a few EU part states, driving to expanded protectionism and a center on national interface [57]. Be that as it may, in show disdain toward of this, there's still incredible potential for assist financial and social integration between the nations of the EU. By fortifying the commitment to shared values and concepts, working together to combat cross-border dangers, and seeking after way better integration of arrangements, the EU can proceed to bring its member states together and advantage its citizens.

In conclusion, the EU has done a great deal in economic integration of its member states. The making of the Euro a common currency for member states was a big economic integration for the EU as this brought about better trading among the member states without the difference in currency being a barrier. The economic integration of the EU is seen to be beneficial even through some hurdles and disadvantages. Overall, the economic integration of the EU is said to be advantageous to its member states and citizens.

Conclusions for chapter 2

In chapter 2, the finding of the institutions of the EU were discussed. The foremost vital institutions of the EU are the European Commission, the European Parliament, the European Council, and the Court of Justice of the European Union.

The European Commission is the official body of the EU which proposes and implements laws, oversees EU arrangements, and speaks to the EU in worldwide issues.

The European Parliament is the authoritative body of the EU which speaks to the citizens of the EU and passes laws.

The European Parliament has the control to favor or dismiss enactment proposed by the European Commission.

The Court of Justice of the European Union is the legal body of the EU which deciphers EU law and guarantees that it is connected accurately in all part states.

Interaction of the Political Structure of the European Union: The political structure of the EU is planned to guarantee a adjust of control between its educate and to advance participation and collaboration among its part states.

The European Commission, the European Parliament, the European Board, and the Court of Equity all work together to guarantee the smooth working of the EU.

The European Commission proposes enactment which is at that point sent to the European Parliament for endorsement.

The European Commission, the European Parliament, the European Committee, and the Court of Equity all have critical parts in guaranteeing the smooth working of the EU.

The interaction of these educate and bodies guarantees that the EU can successfully address complex issues and advance peace and participation among its part states.

This chapter also explained the finding on economic the integration of the European Union and how the treaties helped in the economic integration of the EU. The treaties brought about the common currency (Euro) which brought about increased economic integration, making it much easier for businesses, citizens, and institutions to conduct activities and move capital across borders, it also created an integrated economic system of free movement of goods, services, capital, and people amongst Member States (provided they remain compliant with EU law), harmonizing certain economic policies amongst the Member States; and setting up the European Single Market, which facilitates the free movement of goods and services between consumers and businesses across the continent.

The advantages of the economic integration were beneficial to the EU member states however, there were also challenges that hindered it, examples were, differences in language, culture, and legal systems make it difficult for businesses from different countries to interact seamlessly with one another, Substantial differences remained between the various regions across Europe when it came to economic development levels and social attitudes towards business activity, a lack of coordination when it comes to taxation structures and other fiscal matters.

Even with these challenges, the economic integration of the EU is seen to be a success in as these challenges still linger, the EU was able to tackle it and ultimately make the integration a success.

CHAPTER 3

PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION PROCESSES

3.1. The European Union as the center of global labor migration

The EU may be a critical goal for migrant specialists around the world, giving business openings for millions of individuals each year. The EU's open borders arrangement permits laborers to move openly between part states, making it an alluring goal for those looking for business openings. The EU has too set up approaches and controls to secure the rights of vagrant specialists, counting get to social and wellbeing administrations, break even with treatment, and reasonable compensation. These approaches make the EU an appealing goal for transient specialists who are regularly misused in other parts of the world [49].

The migrants are responsible for most of the jobs in the European countries as migrants account for 17% of the entire EU labor force. An estimated 1.6 million persons are free movement temporary migrants within the EU working outside their country of usual residence. This number has largely increased over the years and it becomes more evident that migrants make up more than half of the labor force in the EU.

Be that as it may, the EU moreover plays a critical part in forming worldwide movement patterns. Approaches such as the EU's Blue Card conspire, which gives a fast-track to work grants for exceedingly talented laborers, energize movement to the EU [42]. The EU too gives money related help to nations exterior the EU to assist them oversee their movement streams. This budgetary help is regularly given to nations that are the source of huge numbers of transients to the EU, such as Morocco and Tunisia.

The EU does not unequivocally empower worldwide work relocation, but its approaches and directions make an environment that's alluring to vagrant specialists. The EU's open borders approach and its directions securing the rights of vagrant laborers give an inviting environment for those looking for work openings. Also, the EU's monetary help

to nations exterior the EU makes a difference make the conditions essential for financial development and work creation, diminishing the need for individual emigrate.

The European Union has gotten to be a goal for worldwide labor relocation due to different variables. These incorporate financial openings, statistic changes, political soundness, and the EU's endeavors to advance labor portability among its part states. Here are a few key focuses that clarify why the EU is considered the center of worldwide labor movement [25]:

1. Financial Openings: the EU is one of the world's biggest financial coalitions, with a combined GDP that positions among the best economies all inclusive. It offers a wide run of work openings in different divisions such as fabricating, administrations, healthcare, and innovation. Numerous laborers from non-EU nations are pulled in to the EU due to the prospect of higher compensation, way better working conditions, and get to social benefits.

2. Statistic Changes: the EU is encountering statistic changes, such as maturing populaces and declining birth rates, which have come about in labor deficiencies in certain divisions. To address this, the EU has looked for to pull in outside specialists to fill the crevices within the labor advertise, especially in zones such as healthcare, farming, and development.

3. Political Steadiness: the EU is known for its political soundness and run the show of law, which make it an appealing goal for labor relocation. Compared to locales with political precariousness or strife, the EU offers a secure and secure environment for specialists and their families, with a well-established lawful system that secures workers' rights.

4. EU Labor Versatility Approaches: the EU has actualized different approaches to advance labor portability among its part states, such as the rule of free development of laborers. This permits citizens of EU part states to work and live in other EU nations without requiring a work allow. Moreover, the EU has built up programs such as the Blue Card, which encourages the passage and work of profoundly talented specialists from non-EU nations in segments confronting labor deficiencies.

5. Authentic Ties: a few EU part states have verifiable ties with previous colonies or domains exterior of Europe, coming about in relocation streams from these nations to the

EU. For illustration, nations like France, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom have authentic associations with their previous colonies in Africa, the Caribbean, and Asia, separately, coming about in noteworthy labor movement from these districts to these EU nations.

Be that as it may, the EU's arrangements on relocation are not without their faultfinders. Migration within the European Union is a highly contentious political issue that has created a number of challenges for both migrants and EU member states, as well as for the EU as a whole. While movements within the European Union have been largely free since 1985, when the Schengen Agreement came into being, the increase in member states, following the collapse of the Soviet Union, and the dual crisis of the euro and the refugee camps in Greece and Turkey have led to a much greater influx of migrants into Europe than ever before [1]. This has created a number of different challenges for those seeking to enter and work in Europe, as well as for the member states themselves in terms of regulating the influx of migrants and trying to ensure that everyone is getting a fair deal [52]. Some of the challenge migrants face in regards to employment and job opportunities are:

Employment Rights: One of the biggest challenges facing migrants across the European Union is the issue of employment rights. EU migrants are not always protected by the same employment rights as their indigenous counterparts, leading to issues such as unequal pay and discriminatory practices. This has been an issue of particular concern in countries such as the UK, where a number of multi-national employers have come under scrutiny for paying lower wages to their migrant workforce than to their local ones, leading in some cases to protests and calls for greater protection of migrant workers.

Below will show the overall representation of the EU immigrants and EU citizen in different occupation and work sector, these tables will show different occupation and the percentage in each of them that the non-EU citizens and EU citizens occupy (tables 3.1 and 3.2).

This table shows EU citizens and non-EU citizens (migrants) and the different employment sectors of the economy of the EU member states as a whole, the tables gives a figure representation on how much representation each sector gets from each party (EU citizens and non-EU).

Table 3.1 – Over-represented sector of in the EU member state countries [61]

Sector	Overall employment for non-EU citizens	Overall employment for EU citizens
Accommodation, food service activities	10.2%	3.7%
Administration and support service activities	7.7%	3.8%
Domestic work	6.7%	0.7%
Constructions	9,2%	6,6%

Table 3.2 – Overall representation by occupation in the EU member states [61]

Occupational group	Overall employment for non-EU citizens	Overall employment for EU citizens
Cleaners and help	11.8%	2.9%
Personal service workers	6.3%	3.7%
Personal care workers	5.7%	3.0%
Building and related trade works	6.5%	3.7%

The table 3.3 shows EU citizens and non- EU citizens (migrants) and the different employment sectors (a detailed occupation) of the economy of the EU member states as a whole, the tables gives a figure representation on how much representation each sector gets from each party (EU citizens and non-EU).

Table 3.3 – The EU citizens and non-EU citizens and the different employment sectors of the economy of the EU member states [61]

Sectors	Overall employment for non-EU citizens	Overall employment for EU citizens
Public administration and security defense	1.3%	7.5%
Education	3.8%	7.7%
Human health and social work	8.3%	11.3%
Professional, scientific and technical activities	3.5%	5.9%

The tables 3.4 give a figure representation on how much representation each sector gets from each party (EU citizens and non-EU). Non-EU citizens were under represented in these other occupational sector of the EU economies.

The table gives a figure representation on how much representation each sector gets from each party (EU citizens and non-EU).

These tables above show the percentage of the work distribution in the EU between the Citizens and the migrants.

Table 3.4 – The EU citizens and non- EU citizens and the different occupational groups of the economy of the EU member states as a whole [61]

Occupational group	Overall employment for non-EU citizens	Overall employment for EU citizens
Teaching professionals	2.4%	5.6%
Business Professionals	2.7%	6.9%
General& keyboard clerks	1.6%	4.4%
Science & engineering professionals	1.7%	3.6%
Business and administrative professionals	2.2%	4.4%
Health professionals	1.4%	3.1%

Language: Another significant challenge that migrants face in the EU is the language barrier. This can cause problems in terms of daily life, as well as when it comes to accessing employment opportunities. It is not uncommon for migrants to struggle to understand or communicate with service providers, employers, and potential employers, making it difficult for them to make the necessary arrangements for their needs [52]. This is especially true for those seeking lower skilled employment, as employers may not take the time to learn enough of a language to conduct the necessary interviews.

It is also worth mentioning that language can be a barrier to understanding and complying with EU regulations, which are often complex and far more demanding than local regulations. Many migrants are unaware of the rights and entitlements they have, and this lack of knowledge can lead to them being exploited by employers, or mistreated by public authorities [59].

Education: Another problem for migrants across the European Union is education. Many migrants come from countries with far lower levels of educational attainment than the EU average, making it difficult for them to obtain a job with good pay and benefits. Furthermore, many countries have complex regulations and restrictions when it comes to the hiring of migrants, making it even harder to gain employment. many migrants are unable to find suitable education options due to a lack of language skills and financial difficulties. This can lead to a two tiered system of educational attainment, with those from more privileged backgrounds able to access higher levels of education and those from poorer backgrounds unable to do the same. This can in turn have an impact on their ability to earn a living and to access job opportunities at a higher level [59].

Migration is a complex and controversial topic in the EU. With the number of people migrating across the continent increasing steadily, the question of its influence on the EU economy has become more important than ever. Global migration has both positive and negative effects on the EU economy.

On the positive side, global immigration on the EU economy is the increased number of workers. Immigration adds labor to the market, which in turn helps to drive economic growth. This influx of workers has the potential to add the equivalent of 1.8 trillion euros to the EU's GDP, boosting production, creating jobs, and increasing consumer spending [37].

Migrant workers also contribute to economic growth across the EU by paying taxes and consuming goods and services. In some cases, migrant workers bring new skills and knowledge to her EU, helping to foster innovation and economic growth.

Immigration can also help to stimulate investment and boost trade. It has been suggested that immigrants have contributed to increased foreign direct investment into the European Union, as well as increased trade between members and non-members.

On the negative impact of global migration on EU economy. The influx of migrant workers could depress wages, especially in low-skilled occupations. This can lead to increased unemployment and social tensions.

There is also a risk that wages may be depressed as a result of the influx of immigrants. With increased competition for jobs, employers may be less willing to pay higher wages, meaning lower earnings for existing workers. This could lead to increased poverty and social exclusion, as well as a decrease in tax revenues [80].

Immigration can also have an impact on public services, particularly health and education. With increased pressures on the existing healthcare and education systems, there is a risk of reduced quality of service for native residents. This could lead to an increase in social tension and unrest, as well as an increase in government spending on public services. The costs of providing social and health services to migrant workers can be high, especially in countries with large numbers of immigrants [81].

In conclusion, it is clear that global immigration has both positive and negative impacts on the EU economy. Overall, it appears that the positive impacts outweigh the negative, but this should not be taken as an excuse to ignore or overlook the potential risks

posed by increased immigration. The debate around immigration in the EU is set to intensify in the coming years, and it is crucial that a balance is struck between the needs of the economy and the needs of native residents. The aim should be to ensure that the economy benefits from the influx of immigrants, while ensuring that native workers' rights are not compromised. Only with a carefully considered balance between the two can the full potential of global immigration be realized.

As the world becomes a more interconnected and globalized place, the regulation of migration into the European Union has become an increasingly important issue. The EU has set in place a range of regulations and policies designed to ensure the security of its borders, and to reduce the inflow of illegal immigrants.

Is global labor mobility favorable to the EU? The answer to this question is not easy. Depending on the circumstances, global labor mobility can be both beneficial and difficult for the EU. When migrant workers fill labor shortages and contribute to economic growth, they are undoubtedly beneficial to the EU. However, migrant workers undercut wages and strain social and health services, which could pose a challenge to the EU.

One of the main tools the EU uses to regulate the flow of migration to its territory is the Eurodac Regulation, which is an EU-wide fingerprint database used to help identify asylum seekers between member states. The database stores the fingerprints of all migrants that enter the EU and facilitates easier identification for those seeking asylum. If an asylum seeker has their fingerprints taken by one-member state, they cannot be identified a second time in another member state, ensuring that asylum seekers are not unfairly treated unfairly [15]. In addition, the Schengen Agreement, which was approved in 1985, allows for open and free movement of EU citizens and some non-EU citizens within the union, without the need for further border controls. This means that citizens of an EU member state can travel freely to another without having to pass through a border check. However, the Schengen Agreement also establishes measures to make sure that its borders are well protected by setting up an external border control system. This is done through strict visa and document controls that are enforced by the EU's border agency, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) [12]. The agency has the power to monitor and control the movement of people in and out of the EU, and to deport those without the required visas and documents.

The EU has also implemented several strategies to reduce the inflow of illegal immigration. These include measures such as the development of an EU-wide system for registering and tracking asylum seekers, providing assistance to countries in Eastern Europe, Africa, and the Middle East to help strengthen border security and management, and imposing stricter measures on smugglers and traffickers.

The European Commission also runs a series of programs and projects aimed at providing legal and humanitarian support to refugees and other vulnerable populations. These include providing emergency assistance to refugees through the Emergency Support Instrument, and providing technical assistance to governments and organizations to improve the management of migration flows [12].

In order to regulate and control the high number of migrants as a result of the migration crisis in 2015, the EU annually directs its efforts to develop an effective European migration policy. One of the main principles of migration policy is the principle of solidarity, which is expressed in respect for natural human rights, in the coordination of political and social forces in solving the migration issue. The creation of a migration policy and its functioning is based on the collection of data about the current state of affairs, in particular the statistics of the number of legal and illegal migrants who have crossed the borders of the European Union. Despite the fact that migration policy is internally determined, it also serves as an international regulator because it is related to crossing state borders. Accordingly, events at the international level directly affect the development of this type of policy.

In 2020, the European Commission, at the request of the European Parliament, proposed a series of reforms to the existing system through a comprehensive approach anchored on three mainstays: 1) Efficient asylum and return procedures, 2) Solidarity and fair share of responsibility, and 3) Strengthened partnerships with third countries.

The EU complies with the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, which is the main legislative act establishing the status and rights of refugees. According to the key provisions of the legal act, the main apparatus in the regulation of situations with refugees is the government. They are obliged to preserve the rights and freedoms of internally displaced persons and refugees, but at the same time monitor the creation of such

a legal provision that is used by all foreigners who have arrived in a foreign country on a common basis

The European Union has a broad regulatory framework through which it distributes refugees in Europe. Currently, Dublin III regulations are being implemented revised and amended by European Union member countries in 2016. The Dublin Regulation enables a state to return an asylum seeker in the first Member State where the asylum seeker transited (so-called readmission). This provision was included to put pressure on border states in order to compel them to exercise better control on the external borders of the EU. Landmark ruling of the European Court of Justice upheld the right of member states to return asylum seekers who crossed the EU external border to the member state in which they first arrived 'irregularly'.

The EU set up, in 2011, a Common European Asylum System (CEAS) to unify minimum standards related to asylum. Since 1999, refugees entering Europe have been subject to the laws in place in accordance with the Common European Asylum System (CEAS). These laws were established to prohibit European Union Member States from sending individuals back to where they came from at risk of persecution, and to offer international protection to those who were granted refugee status through the course of the law. The latter, however, is still left up to EU Member States the discretion to establish procedures for obtaining and withdrawing international protection. Upon arrival in an EU Member State, individuals and families seeking refugee status were subjected to a comprehensive assessment of their life in their country of origin. The CEAS is tasked with assessing if an individual is truly eligible for refugee status, or if, for example, they were an economic migrant, that is, someone who emigrates solely to improve their economic status. If through this highly bureaucratized process an individual was deemed a refugee, they were subsequently granted international protection. For this status and protection to be granted, the potential danger and harm that could follow suit after a person's return to their country of origin had to be established. If Member States did not find this to be true of an individual's conditions, they are mandated under the CEAS to return said individual to the country of origin, as they had therefore been deemed an "irregular economic migrant". However, due to many migrants' lack of paperwork or documentation, it was often difficult for EU Member

States to actually execute this mandate, and some "irregular economic migrants" managed to continue their journey through the EU. Twelve EU countries already have national lists of safe countries of origin.

The European Union's agency, titled European Border and Coast Guard Agency, provides a reserve of European border guards and technical equipment.

The agency may purchase its own flagged vehicles. The Member States where this equipment is registered (bigger equipment such as patrol vessels, air crafts, etc.) are obliged to put it at the Agency's disposal whenever needed. This enables the Agency to rapidly deploy the necessary technical equipment in border operations. A rapid reserve pool of border guards and a technical equipment pool is at the disposal of the agency, intending to remove the shortages of staff and equipment for the Agency's operations. The Agency is able to launch joint operations, including the use of drones when necessary. The European Space Agency's earth observation system Copernicus provides the new Agency with almost real time satellite surveillance capabilities alongside the current Eurosur border surveillance system.

Frontex regularly releases reports analyzing events related to border control, irregular border crossing and different forms of cross-border crime. The general task of assessing these risks has been laid out in Frontex founding regulation, according to which the agency shall "carry out risk analyses in order to provide the Community and the Member States with adequate information to allow for appropriate measures to be taken or to tackle identified threats and risks with a view to improving the integrated management of external borders". Frontex's key institution with respect to intelligence and risk assessment is its Risk Analysis Unit (RAU) and the Frontex Risk Analysis Network (FRAN), via which the Frontex staff is cooperating with security experts from the Member States.

In conclusion, the EU plays an important role in global labor migration. Its policies and regulations create an attractive environment for migrant workers and provide financial support to countries outside the EU to manage migration flows. Global labor mobility is both a benefit and a challenge for the EU, but it is clear that the cross-border movement of people will not end anytime soon.

3.2 Problems and prospects for further EU enlargement

The EU was created with the intention of promoting economic and political integration among its member states, and now serves as a major global economic and political force. One of the EU's central goals is to expand its membership in order to increase its influence in global affairs and promote the spread of democracy and economic prosperity. The idea of enlargement of the EU has been debated for many years, and the prospect of expansion continues to generate both excitement and apprehension among European nations.

Proponents of EU enlargement argue that it has the potential to bring about positive economic and political change in countries that are often plagued by poverty, instability, and corruption.

This, in turn, could facilitate trade and investment, promote positive social change, strengthen regional security, and further cement the political and economic ties between different countries.

Furthermore, enlargement could provide the EU with access to new sources of labor, commodities, and markets, which could bolster the economies of both the existing and new member states, and create a positive spillover effect in terms of jobs, innovation, and investment.

It is also suggested that by welcoming new countries into its midst, the European Union will become stronger economically as more markets are opened up to trade between existing members.

Furthermore, with an increasing population comes both diversity amongst cultures and enhanced security as countries cooperate on matters such as border control and immigration.

It is also believed that further integration could strengthen ties within Europe by creating greater unity among citizens from different nations – encouraging closer diplomatic relations between former rivals in place of ongoing hostility or tension [30].

Below is a table 3.4 showing the past enlargements of the EU from its 6 member to

the 27 members and its particularities for enlargements.

Table 3.4 – Enlargements of the EU [65]

Country	Member since	Particularities
Belgium France Germany Italy Luxembourg Netherlands	1958	Original signatories to the 1957 treaty of Rome
Denmark Ireland UK	1973	
Greece	1973	Greece accession consolidated democracy in the country
Portugal Spain	1986	This enlargement consolidated democracy in Portugal and Spain
Austria Finland Sweden	1995	
Cyprus Czech Republic Estonia Hungary Latvia Lithuania Malta Poland Slovakia Slovenia	2004	Intended to reunite the continent after the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of the Soviet Union, this enlargement was launched by the European Council meeting of December 1997. Negotiations were conducted separately with each country, based on a single negotiating framework
Bulgaria Romania	2007	The pace of reform in Bulgaria and Romania did not allow these countries to join in 2004. A ‘cooperation and verification mechanism’ in key areas – judicial reform, the fight against corruption and the fight against organized crime (the latter applying only to Bulgaria) – was put in place to monitor progress after accession.

The table 3.5 explains the peculiarities member states and negotiations held to enter into the EU, this tables briefly shows the expansion of the EU over the years to recent time.

The opponents of the EU enlargement have a different approach which insinuates that the costs associated with integrating an additional state into the Union could outweigh the benefits.

Table 3.5 – Member countries of the Euro Area and the Schengen Area [16]

	Euro	Schengen Area
Austria	+	+
Belgium	+	+
Hungary		+
Germany	+	+
Ireland	+	
Spain	+	+
Italy	+	+
Iceland		+
Luxembourg	+	+
The Netherlands	+	+
Portugal	+	+
Poland		+
Finland	+	+
France	+	+
Greece	+	+
Denmark		+
Norway		+
Sweden		+
Slovenia	+	+
Cyprus	+	
Malta	+	+
Slovakia	+	+
Czech Republic		+
Estonia	+	+
Latvia	+	+
Lithuania	+	+
Liechtenstein		+
Switzerland		+
<i>Countries that are not members of the EU, but officially use the euro in accordance with agreements with the European Central Bank</i>		
Andorra	+	
The Vatican	+	
Monaco	+	
San Marino	+	
Saint Pierre and Miquelon	+	
<i>Countries and territories unofficially using the euro</i>		
Kosovo	+	
Akrotiri and Decelia	+	
Saint-Barthélemy	+	
Saint Martin	+	
Montenegro	+	

Concerns have been raised about the economic strain associated with admitting poorer nations, whose labor force and infrastructure need investment in order to compete and become integrated with the rest of the Union. Such investments could represent considerable

burden on the budget of the already existing member states, which have already made considerable investments in integrating and supporting the more recent members of the Union.

Another challenge that the EU may face in its further enlargement is political and financial constraints. The broadening preparation requires the agreement of all the existing member states, which may be troublesome to attain given their divergent interface and needs. This will lead to delays, vetoes within the promotion arrangements. Besides, the enlargement process requires the satisfactory financing and assets from the EU budget, which may be constrained due to the competing demands and needs of the existing member states. This will lead to disagreements and imbalances within the conveyance of the EU funds and benefits.

Also, it also requires the arrangement of the candidate countries' policies and controls with those of the EU, which may result within the misfortune of sway and character for the candidate nations.

The cultural and social constrains: the enlargement topic raises the concerns of the EU citizens about the impact of the candidate countries' cultures and values on the existing EU member states. This could lead to the rise of patriotism, populism, and xenophobia, as well as the disintegration of the EU's magnanimous and pluralistic values [4]. Furthermore, the extension handle requires the integration and absorption of the candidate countries' populaces into the EU society and culture. This could lead to the misfortune of differing qualities and character for the candidate nations, as well as the resistance and segregation from the existing EU member states. It also requires the recognition and regard of the candidate countries' dialects, societies, and conventions. This will lead to the advancement of the EU's social and phonetic differing qualities, as well as the conservation of the candidate countries' legacy and character.

Another challenge confronting the EU is the issue of integration and cohesion. As more nations join the alliance, it gets to be progressively troublesome to preserve a common sense of reason and course. New member states regularly have distinctive financial, political, and social frameworks, which can make pressures between existing and modern EU individuals. Also, disparities in financial performance and standards of living between

diverse member states can put a strain on the EU's inside cohesion [4].

The potential for inner clashes is another challenge constraining the EU. When new member states join the EU, existing member states may see them as a danger to their claim economic and political interface. This may lead to clashes between member states and can weaken the EU's capacity to act as a bound together substance. Moreover, enlargement can lead to a weakening of the EU's center values, such as popular government, human rights, and the run the show of law [11].

The impact of Brexit on the prospect of EU enlargement has been varied. On one hand, there are those that argue that it will have a negative effect due to the lack of UK involvement in any further integration projects with new member states. The destabilizing effects of Britain leaving the Union make it difficult for European leaders to plan for the future since the political implications of 'Brexit' are largely unknown, and the economic effects are yet to be fully felt. This means that EU enlargement to potential members such as Albania, North Macedonia and Serbia may, at least provisionally, take a back seat. As a result, countries looking to become European Union members, will need to reassess their expectations of how soon membership may become a reality [2].

On the other hand, some argued that because Britain was not keen on continued expansion and had pushed for limits on free movement when joining the EU. In any case, it is clear that there are potential ramifications arising from Brexit which must be considered by prospective applicants in terms of their long-term strategy to join the European Union and benefit from its advantages or face multiple uncertainties related to accession talks due to growing nationalism across Europe and opposition towards additional countries joining.

There also has been potential solution to counter some of the challenges in regards to the further enlargement of the EU.

Firstly, the EU can embrace a more adaptable and separated approach to the extension prepare, which takes into consideration the particular needs and circumstances of each candidate nation. This could decrease the burden and the resistance of the candidate nations, as well as upgrade the benefits and the back of the existing EU part states. Furthermore, the EU can cultivate a more comprehensive and participatory discourse with the EU citizens and the gracious society organizations, which locks in them within the

broadening handle and addresses their concerns and desires. This may increase the authenticity and the responsibility of the EU institutions, as well as the believe and the participation among the EU citizens and the candidate nations.

Secondly, the EU can advance a more key and coherent vision of the extension prepare, which aligns it with the EU's needs and destinations, such as the climate alter, the advanced change, and the worldwide administration. This will upgrade the significance and the adequacy of the EU broadening approach, as well as the effect and the impact of the EU within the world.

Thirdly, the EU must embrace a comprehensive and proactive approach to broadening. This incorporates making a viable system for integration, advertising support to new member states, and advancing discourse among part states. The EU must too guarantee that new member states comply with its measures and values, counting respect for democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

Another arrangement to tackle the challenges of enlargement is to actualize a staged approach to integration. This would include a continuous handle of integration, with modern part states continuously receiving the EU's arrangements and guidelines over time. This would offer assistance to form more grounded bonds between part states and advance greater cohesion inside the EU.

Finally, to increase support for new member states through focused on venture and improvement programs. By contributing in foundation, instruction, and social programs, the EU can offer assistance unused part states create their economies and diminish incongruities in measures of living between diverse part states. This would offer assistance to address a few of the fundamental pressures that can emerge from extension.

The European Union (EU) has expanded a number of times throughout its history by way of the accession of new member states to the Union. To join the EU, a state needs to fulfil economic and political conditions called the Copenhagen criteria (after the Copenhagen summit in June 1993), which require a stable democratic government that respects the rule of law, and its corresponding freedoms and institutions. According to the Maastricht Treaty, each current member state and the European Parliament must agree to any enlargement. The process of enlargement is sometimes referred to as European

integration. This term is also used to refer to the intensification of co-operation between EU member states as national governments allow for the gradual harmonization of national laws.

The EU's predecessor, the European Economic Community, was founded with the Inner Six member states in 1958, when the Treaty of Rome came into force. Since then, the EU's membership has grown to twenty-seven, with the latest member state being Croatia, which joined in July 2013. The most recent territorial enlargement of the EU was the incorporation of Mayotte in 2014. Campione d'Italia joined the EU Customs Union in 2020. The most notable territorial reductions of the EU, and its predecessors, have been the exit of Algeria upon independence in 1962, the exit of Greenland in 1985, and the withdrawal of the United Kingdom in 2020.

As of 2022, accession negotiations are under way with Albania (since 2020), Montenegro (since 2012), North Macedonia (since 2020), Serbia (since 2014) and Turkey (since 2005). Serbia and Montenegro have been described by former President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker and Enlargement commissioner Johannes Hahn as the frontrunner candidates, and projected that they would join by 2025, during the next mandate of the European Commission. Negotiations with Turkey are ongoing, but have effectively paused due to objections from the EU to the Turkish government's response to the 2016 coup d'état attempt, and democratic backsliding.

Bosnia and Herzegovina submitted an application for membership in 2016, as did Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova in the first few weeks of the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine. In June 2022, Ukraine and Moldova were recognised as official candidates while Bosnia and Herzegovina and Georgia were recognised as potential candidates and were asked to complete additional reforms before becoming official candidates for membership. In December 2022, Bosnia and Herzegovina received official candidate status while Kosovo submitted a membership application.

According to the EU treaties, membership of the European Union is open to "any European State which respects the values referred to in Article 2 and is committed to promoting them". Those Article 2 values are "respect for human dignity, freedom,

democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities." This is based on the 1993 "Copenhagen criteria" agreed as it became clear many former Eastern Bloc countries would apply to join:

Membership requires that candidate country has achieved stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights, respect for and protection of minorities, the existence of a functioning market economy as well as the capacity to cope with competitive pressure and market forces within the Union. Membership presupposes the candidate's ability to take on the obligations of membership including adherence to the aims of political, economic and monetary union.

In December 1995, the Madrid European Council revised the membership criteria to include conditions for member country integration through the appropriate adjustment of its administrative structures: since it is important that European Community legislation be reflected in national legislation, it is critical that the revised national legislation be implemented effectively through appropriate administrative and judicial structures.

Finally, and technically outside the Copenhagen criteria, comes the further requirement that all prospective members must enact legislation to bring their laws into line with the body of European law built up over the history of the Union, known as the *acquis communautaire*.

Today the accession process follows a series of formal steps, from a pre-accession agreement to the ratification of the final accession treaty. These steps are primarily presided over by the European Commission (Enlargement Commissioner and DG Enlargement), but the actual negotiations are technically conducted between the Union's Member States and the candidate country.

Before a country applies for membership it typically signs an association agreement to help prepare the country for candidacy and eventual membership. Most countries do not meet the criteria to even begin negotiations before they apply, so they need many years to prepare for the process. An association agreement helps prepare for this first step.

In the case of the Western Balkans, a special process, the Stabilization and Association Process exists to deal with the special circumstances there.

When a country formally applies for membership, the Council asks the commission to prepare an opinion on the country's readiness to begin negotiations. The council can then either accept or reject the commission's opinion (The council has only once rejected the commission's opinion when the latter advised against opening negotiations with Greece).

If the Council agrees to open negotiations the screening process then begins. The commission and candidate country examine its laws and those of the EU and determine what differences exist. The Council then recommends opening negotiations on "chapters" of law that it feels there is sufficient common ground to have constructive negotiations. Negotiations are typically a matter of the candidate country convincing the EU that its laws and administrative capacity are sufficient to execute European law, which can be implemented as seen fit by the member states. Often this will involve time-lines before the Acquis Communautaire (European regulations, directives and standards) has to be fully implemented.

A chapter is said to be closed when both sides have agreed it has been implemented sufficiently, however it can still be re-opened if the Commission feels that the candidate has fallen out of compliance.

To assess progress achieved by countries in preparing for accession to the European Union, the European Commission submits regular reports (yearly) to the European Council. These serve as a basis for the council to make decisions on negotiations or their extension to other candidates.

Once the negotiations are complete, a Treaty of Accession will be signed, which must then be ratified by all of the member states of the Union, as well as the institutions of the Union, and the candidate country. Once this has been completed it will join the Union on the date specified in the treaty.

The entire process, from application for membership to membership has typically taken about a decade, although some countries, notably Sweden, Finland, and Austria have been faster, taking only a few years. The process from application for association agreement through accession has taken far longer, as much as several decades (Turkey, for example, first applied for association in the 1950s and has yet to conclude accession negotiations).

On 18 October 2019, France vetoed starting of negotiations with Albania and North

Macedonia, citing problems with the current enlargement process. In November 2019, France proposed a seven-stage accession plan for membership. The reformed accession strategy proposes participation in different programs, such as Erasmus, Banking Union, Capital Markets Union, Customs Union, etc.

Enlargement has been one of the EU's successful foreign policies, yet has equally suffered from considerable opposition from the start. French President Charles de Gaulle opposed British membership. A later French President, François Mitterrand, opposed Greek, Spanish and Portuguese membership, fearing that the former dictatorships were not ready and that the countries' inclusion would reduce the union to a free-trade area.

The reasons for the first member states to apply, and for them to be accepted, were primarily economic while the second enlargement was more political. The southern Mediterranean countries had just emerged from dictatorships and wanted to secure their democratic systems through the EEC, while the EEC wanted to ensure the same thing and that their southern neighbours were stable and aligned to NATO.

These two principal forces, economic gain and political security, have been behind enlargements since. After the large enlargements in 2004, public opinion in Europe turned against further expansion.

It has also been acknowledged that enlargement has its limits; the EU cannot expand endlessly. Former Commission President Romano Prodi favoured granting "everything but institutions" to the EU's neighbour states, allowing them to co-operate deeply while not adding strain on the EU's institutional framework. This has in particular been pushed by France and Germany as a privileged partnership for Turkey, membership for which has faced considerable opposition on cultural and logistical grounds.

Thus, it is important for the EU to weigh the potential benefits of enlargement against the potential costs before making a decision to pursue it. It is also important to be mindful of the fact that although the trade and investment opportunities offered by enlargement are appealing, they could bring challenge to social cohesion and stability and economic balance of the European Union.

Hence, enlargement policy must be carefully crafted in order to ensure that the economies, cultures, and security of all member states are taken into account. With careful

assessment of the costs and benefits, taking into account the cultural, social, and economic impacts, the EU can make the right decision as to whether or not to pursue enlargement in the future.

Conclusions for chapter 3

The European Union EU has become the center for global movement, especially work movement. The EUs liberalized versatility arrangements have pulled in migrants from different districts, contributing to the in general financial improvement of the alliance. This article gives a rundown of how the EU has gotten to be a magnet for work relocation.

The EUs Single Showcase approaches have made a common showcase for products, administrations, capital, and individuals. This has permitted for the liberalization of portability approaches, making it less demanding for citizens of EU part states to move and work in other nations without the need for visas or work grants. The EUs portability approaches have too energized transients from non-member states to look for work and settlement within the alliance.

The EU has moreover been proactive in empowering work relocation from non-member states through different activities such as the Blue Card Conspire and the Erasmus program. The Blue Card Plot offers exceedingly gifted laborers from non-member states the opportunity to live and work within the EU for up to four a long time. The Erasmus program, on the other hand, gives openings for understudies and youthful individuals to consider, prepare, and work in other EU part states.

Numerous migrants are pulled in to the EU due to its high measures of living, well-functioning social welfare framework, and alluring work advertise openings. The EU has set up least work guidelines that must be watched by part states, guaranteeing that laborers are treated decently and have get to satisfactory social assurance.

In this chapter, The EU's further enlargement, the challenges the EU might face and potential solutions were discussed. Within the past few decades, the European Union has

experienced critical development through the increase of a few member states. Be that as it may, this handle has not been without challenges. The EU's further enlargement has been constrained with financial, political, and social challenges, which have demonstrated to be troublesome to overcome. In this article, we are going to talk about the challenges and arrangements to the EU extension.

One of the greatest challenges of EU extension is the financial burden that it places on the existing member states. Each new member state comes with a significant financial burden that must be shared by the other part states. This will make pressures inside the EU and lead to resistance to broadening. To address this issue, EU pioneers have actualized approaches to guarantee that modern part states have the fitting financial conditions to connect the EU effectively.

Another challenge of EU extension is the political flimsiness that it can make. Modern part states may have different political frameworks and conventions, which may be at chances with the existing EU individuals. This could make pressures and indeed lead to political precariousness inside the EU. To address this issue, the EU has actualized arrangements to promote popular government and great administration in unused part states.

Social challenges are another issue that emerges with EU broadening. Unused part states regularly have distinctive societies, dialects, and values. This will make grinding between unused and existing part states, driving to social tensions. To address this issue, the EU has executed arrangements to advance social cohesion and social trade between part states.

In spite of these challenges, there are arrangements to guarantee that the EU broadening is effective. One arrangement is to guarantee that unused part states have the suitable financial, political, and social conditions to join the EU effectively. This can be accomplished through approaches that advance financial development, law based values, and social cohesion in new member states.

Another arrangement is to guarantee that existing EU individuals are open to unused part states and willing to share the burden of extension. This may be accomplished through approaches that advance solidarity and participation between part states. Moreover, the EU can work to teach its citizens around the benefits of extension and the significance of sharing

financial, political, and social burdens. In other words, the EU broadening postures noteworthy challenges to the existing part states. Be that as it may, with the suitable approaches and arrangements, these challenges can be overcome. The EU can proceed to extend, whereas keeping up its financial, political, and social steadiness. It is crucial that the EU works together to address these challenges and advance an effective extension that benefits all member states.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the study, the following conclusions, which reveal the theoretical aspects of the study of European integration and its role in the world economy.

In chapter one, the findings of the evolution of the European Union, how the EU was formed, what led to the formation of the EU and how countries of Europe were able to build such a union were discussed.

The EU was formed to keep and maintain world peace because as countries of Europe engaged in conflict, it ultimately spread chaos across other continents of the world. The union fulfilled its main goal in keeping peace and proceeded to make the union beneficial to its members. It created an umbrella where member states would look out for each other and subsequently integrate each other into a common market taking into example its unifying its currency and making EU a single market.

This equally brought about free trade among member states and made EU zone a more attract area for both foreign investment and this also encouraged domestic trade among member states as there was no restriction on currency.

The union also brought about political stability among member states and also improved economic stability among member states also. Economic stability meant a higher standard of living, this enabled the citizens of each member states to enjoy the benefits of the unified Europe.

In this chapter also, the findings of the integration theories of the European union, Neofunctionalism, Intergovernmentalism and Liberal-intergovernmentalism were discussed. The theories helped understand the complexity of the EU, each theory shed light of different aspects on the European integration of the member states. It gives insight to how the European states were able to adapt to each other despite cultural differences, political differences and even down to economic differences. The theories explained how the EU as a union operated, how the made decisions for the whole member state and yet still allowing each member state to be an independent state with its national rule. The theories didn't just come about to be but took years and year of the continuous growth of the European union

and its complexity as it grew to the innovation of these three major concepts in understanding it.

In chapter 2, the findings of the institutions of the EU were discussed, the foremost vital institutions of the EU are the European Commission, the European Parliament, the European Council, and the Court of Justice of the European Union.

The European Commission is the official body of the EU which proposes and implements laws, oversees EU arrangements, and speaks to the EU in worldwide issues.

The European Parliament is the authoritative body of the EU which speaks to the citizens of the EU and passes laws.

The European Parliament has the control to favor or dismiss enactment proposed by the European Commission.

The Court of Justice of the European Union is the legal body of the EU which deciphers EU law and guarantees that it is connected accurately in all part states.

Interaction of the Political Structure of the European Union: The political structure of the EU is planned to guarantee a adjust of control between its educate and to advance participation and collaboration among its part states.

The European Commission, the European Parliament, the European Board, and the Court of Equity all work together to guarantee the smooth working of the EU.

The European Commission proposes enactment which is at that point sent to the European Parliament for endorsement.

The European Commission, the European Parliament, the European Committee, and the Court of Equity all have critical parts in guaranteeing the smooth working of the EU.

The interaction of these educate and bodies guarantees that the EU can successfully address complex issues and advance peace and participation among its part states.

This chapter also explained the finding on economic the integration of the European Union and how the treaties helped in the economic integration of the EU. The treaties brought about the common currency (Euro) which brought about increased economic integration, making it much easier for businesses, citizens, and institutions to conduct activities and move capital across borders, it also created an integrated economic system of free movement of goods, services, capital, and people amongst Member States (provided

they remain compliant with EU law), harmonizing certain economic policies amongst the Member States; and setting up the European Single Market, which facilitates the free movement of goods and services between consumers and businesses across the continent.

The advantages of the economic integration were beneficial to the EU member states however, there were also challenges that hindered it, Examples were, differences in language, culture, and legal systems make it difficult for businesses from different countries to interact seamlessly with one another, Substantial differences remained between the various regions across Europe when it came to economic development levels and social attitudes towards business activity, A lack of coordination when it comes to taxation structures and other fiscal matters.

Even with these challenges, the economic integration of the EU is seen to be a success in as these challenges still linger, the EU was able to tackle it and ultimately make the integration a success.

In chapter 3, the findings of the European global migration were discussed. The European Union has become the center for global movement, especially work movement. The EUs liberalized versatility arrangements have pulled in migrants from different districts, contributing to the in general financial improvement of the alliance. This article gives a rundown of how the EU has gotten to be a magnet for work relocation.

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In spite of these challenges, there are arrangements to guarantee that the EU broadening is effective. One arrangement is to guarantee that unused part states have the suitable financial, political, and social conditions to join the EU effectively. This can be

accomplished through approaches that advance financial development, law based values, and social cohesion in new member states. Another arrangement is to guarantee that existing EU individuals are open to unused part states and willing to share the burden of extension. This may be accomplished through approaches that advance solidarity and participation between part states. Moreover, the EU can work to teach its citizens around the benefits of extension and the significance of sharing financial, political, and social burdens. In other words, the EU broadening postures noteworthy challenges to the existing part states. Be that as it may, with the suitable approaches and arrangements, these challenges can be overcome. The EU can proceed to extend, whereas keeping up its financial, political, and social steadiness. It is crucial that the EU works together to address these challenges and advance an effective extension that benefits all member states.

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