

# The Euro Challenge Competition Overview

2015 Euro Challenge



Delegation of the European Union to the United States  
[www.euro-challenge.org](http://www.euro-challenge.org)

# What is the Euro Challenge?





## And More Specifically?

### **An exciting opportunity to learn about:**

- The European Union (EU)
- The Euro and the “euro area”
- Economic concepts and challenges
- The global economy



# Overview of the Euro Challenge

- Teams of 3 to 5 students
- Ninth and tenth grade global studies, European studies, world geography, economics & world history students
- One (1) team per school
- 15 minute presentation (plus 10 minutes of Q&A during Semifinal & Final Rounds)
- Presentation format: Preliminary Round, in-person or via video; Semifinal & Final Rounds in-person.

## What's New in 2015



- Virtual presentations in Preliminary Round
- Regions to determine the Preliminary Round format (Virtual competition only or combination of virtual and on-site {"Hybrid"})
- No Q&A during Preliminary Rounds
- New Country – Lithuania
- National student webinars



# Preliminary Round Format by Region

Region	Competition Format
Connecticut, New Jersey & New York	Hybrid Competition
Florida	Hybrid Competition
Maryland, Virginia & Washington, DC	TBD
Michigan	Hybrid Competition
Midwest	Hybrid Competition
New England	Virtual Competition
North Carolina	TBD
Pennsylvania	Hybrid Competition
Texas	Virtual Competition

# Virtual Presentations

- For hybrid regions, any school can submit a video or present on-site (no minimum or maximum distance)
- Technology platform: Vimeo (Password protected; dedicated Euro Challenge account)
- Video: Any camera or video editing software
- Videos cannot be prepared by a paid or unpaid external agency
- Detailed rules and procedures to follow

# Three-part Challenge Question



## Euro Challenge Question: Part I

1. Describe the **current economic situation** in the “euro area” (the economic region consisting of the 19\* EU member countries who have adopted the euro).

\*19 countries as of January 2015





2. Select one **economic-related challenge confronting the euro area** as a whole (see list on next slide), and pick one of the 19 member countries of the euro area to illustrate that challenge.

## Choose one of ten economic challenges

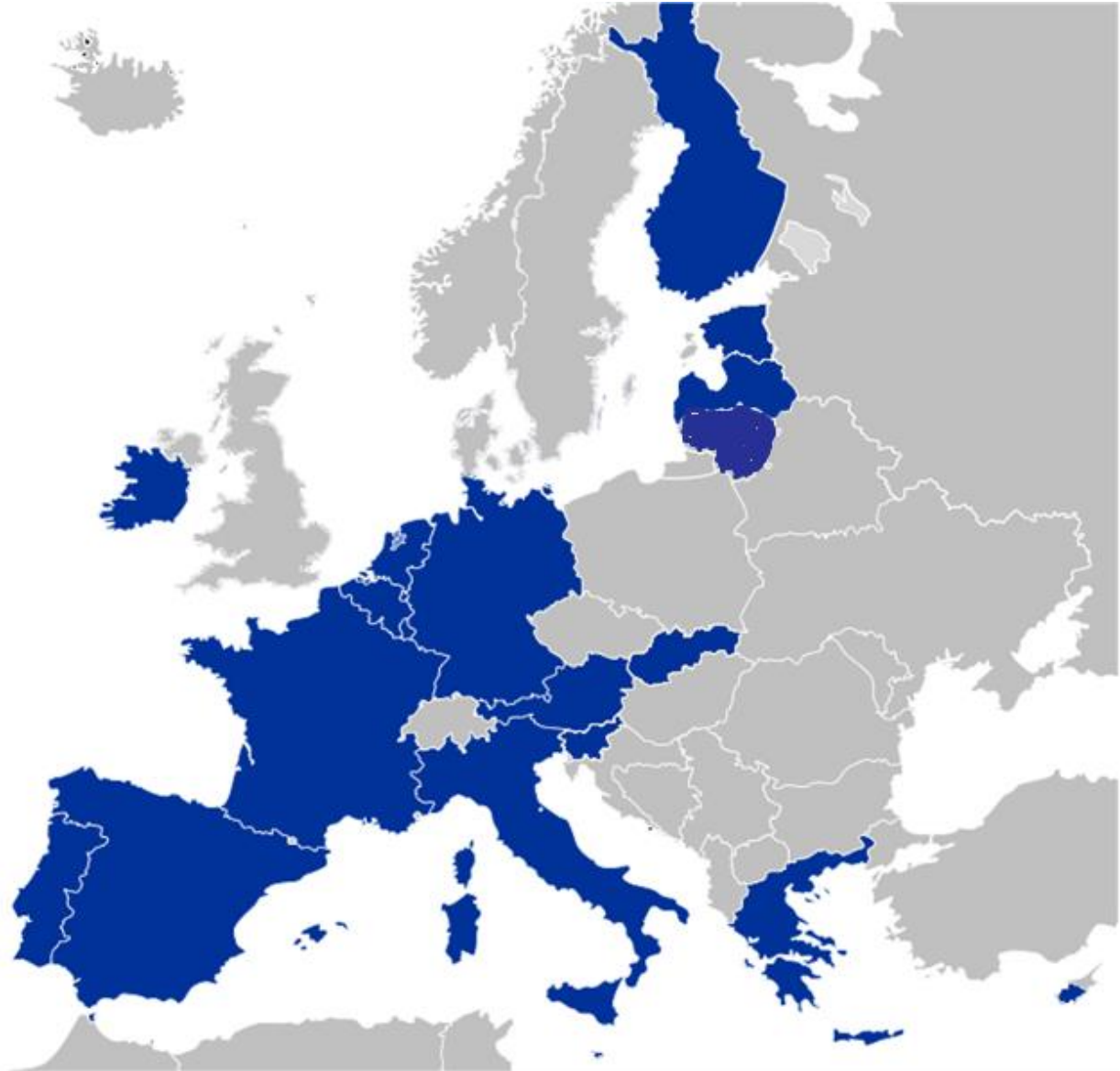


- Slow growth
- High unemployment
- Inflation
- Adapting to technological change (raising productivity)
- Globalization (including immigration)
- Aging (including health care)
- Living with a single monetary policy
- Sustaining the social system (welfare state)
- Banking sector weakness
- High government deficits and debt



Use one country in the euro area to illustrate your challenge

-  Austria
-  Belgium
-  Cyprus
-  Estonia
-  Finland
-  France
-  Germany
-  Greece
-  Ireland
-  Italy
-  Latvia
-  Lithuania
-  Luxembourg
-  Malta
-  The Netherlands
-  Portugal
-  Slovakia
-  Slovenia
-  Spain






## Euro Challenge Question: Part III



**3.** Recommend a **policy** or policies for addressing the challenge you identified in the country you selected.

(Be sure to include in your recommendation a discussion of how having a single currency may or may not affect the policy choices for addressing the challenge.)

# How will the teams be scored?

- 
- A black and white soccer ball is shown hitting the net of a goal, with the net's ropes visible in the foreground.
- Knowledge about the EU, the euro, and related economic concepts
  - Quality of presentation
    - Depth of research and analysis
    - Teamwork and cooperation
  - For semifinal & final rounds only:  
Responses to judges' questions

## Feedback from Judges

- Keep the current social and political context in mind
- State the chosen issue clearly
- Select a country in which the chosen issue is relevant
- Make sure you address and answer ALL the Challenge Tasks
- Be Innovative, but recommend a solution that is feasible



# What can you win in the Euro Challenge?

- Cash prizes for winning teams (from \$250 to \$1,250 per student)
- Trip to Washington, DC, for the top two winning teams.
- Recognition and awards reception for all semi-final teams





# Tentative Timeline for All Teams

What	Where	When
Current Economic Situation in the Euro Area	Webinar	Monday, December 15 3:30PM
Key Economic Concepts	Webinar	TBD
From Europe to the Euro	Webinar	TBD
First Round Competition	Varies by Region	March 2015
Finals and Semi-Finals	New York Fed	Thursday, April 30, 2015
Recognition and Award Reception	Moody's	Thursday, April 30, 2015

# What Level of Economic Knowledge is Required?

## **Basic economics, and don't forget social and political aspects**

Knowledge about the EU, the euro area, and the role of the ECB – basic economic concepts: growth, inflation, unemployment.

## **Strive for the level of a good economic press article**

(New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Financial Times, The Economist)





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**Euro Challenge Website**

[euro-challenge.org](http://euro-challenge.org)





**Enjoy Your Euro Challenge  
Experience!**