

Summer Curriculum Workshop

European Union Center, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Session: Primary Source Documents. Tuesday, June 29, 2021, 12 noon (CT)

Presenter: Lucas Henry, Academic Programs Coordinator, EU Center
lhenry3@illinois.edu

The European Union is a very transparent system of government, so primary source documents regarding EU laws and policies are simultaneously plentiful and overwhelming. This handout is meant to be a helpful resource for finding and locating useful primary source documents for use in your research or in your classroom.

University of Illinois Libraries

First and foremost, the University of Illinois library system is a very helpful space to find materials. The EUC's librarian, Paul Carns, has created a very helpful library guide for the European Union that will help you find both primary and scholarly resources regarding the study of the EU.

<https://guides.library.illinois.edu/c.php?g=1065173&p=7748767>

The Library also has several topical guides that also engage with European and European Union Studies.

<https://guides.library.illinois.edu/eu>

EUR-Lex

EUR-Lex is the EU's repository for legislation and legal publications of the EU. It is huge, but the filters are helpful for you to find materials by language, topic, Commission portfolio, and Parliament/Council working group.

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html>

Treaties

The European Union's treaties are very often the first and best resources for the classroom, as they clearly lay out the EU's goals in a number of areas, and explicitly state the competence that the EU institutions have in developing and enforcing policies in these areas.

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/collection/eu-law/treaties/treaties-force.html>

Eurobarometer

The Eurobarometer is a routine measure of the public opinion of European Union citizens. Data is often listed by EU member state, by the EU as a whole, and broken down by demographics. There is a semi-annual general **Standard Eurobarometer** that queries opinions on the EU, its institutions, and general Europeanization policies; and one-time surveys called **Special Eurobarometers** that research opinion on special topics. Both are useful in the classroom, as the institutions typically use these reports to help develop both domestic and external EU policies. They are good to pair with the treaties and legal documents.

<https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/screen/home>

Publications Office of the European Union

The EU's Publication Office is also a great classroom resource, containing links to laws (EUR-Lex), open data sources, informational EU publications, results from research projects funded by the European Union, the official directory of primary members of the EU institutions (commissioners, parliamentarians, councilpersons, judges, etc.), and other publicly available information. There is also a useful **Teachers and Students** section, and even a **Kids Corner** for younger students in the EU Publications section.

<https://op.europa.eu/en/home>

European Commissioners and Directorates-General

The European Commission, the European Parliament, and the Council of the European Union work closely through the Directorates-General (DG) of the EU. The DGs work across Commission portfolios and Parliament/Council working groups within specific topics to develop, implement and enforce policies. Each one produces publicly available documents with important information about the topic in which they are charged. This can sometimes be an easier way to find primary source material for use in your classroom than EUR-Lex or the Publications Office.

European Parliament Committees:

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/home>

European College of Commissioners:

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024_en