

## THE BROCHURE FOR THE TRAINERS

The brochure consists of the materials using during the trainings for educators.

The partners' countries (Belgium, Poland, Portugal) have different history of freedom and independence. The project is the opportunity to discuss about the experiences.

The materials shows how important are EU values like freedom and dignity.



**Funded by  
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# Dignity and Freedom

The material prepared by the project team



**Fundacja  
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Asturia vzw

# Dignity and freedom are the value of European Union





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# The road to independence of BELGIUM





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## Revolution and independence

At the Congress of Vienna, in 1815, Belgium (The Southern Netherlands) and the Northern Netherlands (Holland) were united to form one State. This new state was ruled by King William I. Although his policy was beneficial to the Belgian bourgeoisie, there was protest. The Catholics objected against the interference of the protestant king in clerical matters. The Liberals demanded more freedom. In 1828 Catholics and Liberals drew up a concerted programme of demands. The association between Catholics and Liberals was called unionism.



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## Revolution and independence

After a series of incidents, the revolution erupted in Brussels in 1830. William I sent in his troops, but they were expelled on September 27th, 1830. The rebels received support from volunteers outside the city. Following this rising Belgium separated from the Northern Netherlands. A provisional government declared independence on October 4th, 1830. On November 3th of the same year, a National Congress was elected by an electorate of 30,000 men, who paid a given level of taxes or who had special qualifications. On February 7th, 1831 the national congress adopted a constitution which, for its time, was very progressive.



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## 1830 to 1908

A diplomatic conference on the future of Belgium opened in London on the November 4th. The great powers of the time recognised the secession of Belgium from the (Northern) Netherlands. Leopold I of Saxe-Coburg became the first King of the Belgians (1831 - 1865). In 1865 he was succeeded by his son Leopold II (1865 - 1909). Under their reign Belgium became the second most important industrial power.



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## 1830 to 1908

Both kings wanted to secure Belgium's economic independence by promoting colonial expeditions, but they were not successful in this until the end of the 19th century. It was at this time that Leopold II backed expeditions by Henry Stanley to the Congo basin. He entered into agreements with local chiefs which resulted in a confederation of states. At first the Belgian government and parliament had no hand in the king's operations. Since Leopold II had been the first occupant of areas in Central Africa, he held a strong position at the Conference of Berlin in 1884. His demands were met. In 1885 the Belgian parliament agreed that Leopold II should become the head of state of the Congo. In 1908 control of Congo was transferred to the Belgian state.



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## World Wars

Although the great powers forced Belgium to remain neutral when it became independent, it couldn't escape World War I. The Belgian army under the command of King Albert I (1909 - 1934) was too small a match for the Germans, it nevertheless could managed to halt the enemy at the river Yser. Belgium suffered greatly during the war. The Yser region was laid waste.



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## World Wars

The years after the war were very difficult. The international economic crisis affected the country. When Adolf Hitler came to power in Germany, the dangers posed by that country rose again. From 1936 onwards Belgium took a neutral stance, just as it had done before the 1914 - 1918 war, but Germany invaded again on May 10th, 1940. After 18 days king Leopold III (1934 - 1951) decided to capitulate. This decision provoked a rupture with the government. After the war the royal question dominated politics. In 1951 Leopold III abdicated in favour of his son Baudouin I. This king reigned until his death in 1993. On August 9th, 1993 his brother Albert II became the sixth King of the Belgians.



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## A federal state

The question of relations between the communities has played a highly important part in recent Belgian history. Following four state reforms Belgium was transformed into a federal state. The political scene is also dominated by economic problems and increased internationalisation. Belgium played an important role in the creation of the Belgian-Luxembourg Economic Union, the Benelux and the European Union. As a member of the United Nations, and in the service of world peace, Belgium often sends its troops on peace missions or sends its observers to areas over the world.



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## Historical outline of the federalisation

The territory of Belgium has always been subject to the influence of both the German and Latin world. That brings a cultural pluralism in its wake. So when Belgium was created in 1830-31, that pluralism was already there. It is precisely those differences in language, culture and so on between the various parts of the country that led to the reform of the State.



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## Historical outline of the federalisation

A major step in the reform of our State were the laws on the use of official languages. These were enacted between 1873 and 1963. Those laws recognise French, Dutch and German as official languages of Belgium. These laws also laid down the use of the languages.



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## Historical outline of the federalisation

But laws about language alone do not really reform a State. The Constitution needed to be amended. It forms the foundation of the State system. That amendment is referred to as the Revision of the Constitution. With the Revision of the Constitution of 5 May 1993, the Federal State was created. Work started on this federalisation over 40 years ago: first with a wide-ranging reform in 1970, which was intensified in 1980 and continued in 1988-89 and later in 2001 and 2012.



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BELGIUM has been a member of the  
European Union since 1 JANUARY 1958 and  
member of Schengen since 26 March 1995.



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# The road to independence of POLAND



In November 1918, after 123 years of absence on European political maps, Poland regained its independence.



Europe in 1914 (before 1st world war)



In June 1918 in Versailles, a declaration was adopted by the countries of the Western coalition, according to which the creation of an independent Polish state, composed of three partitions with access to the sea, was recognized as one of the military objectives of the allied countries.





On 11 November 1918, Germany signed the Armistice putting an end to the war operations of World War I. The Regency Council was resolved three days later, passing all of its authority and power over the Kingdom of Poland to Józef Piłsudski. He started organized the emerging Polish Army on November 11 – It's the day celebrated Poland regained independence.



On the morning of 1st September 1939, German soldiers, dressed as Poles, had attacked a radio station in the border town of Gliwice. It gave Hitler an excuse to attack Poland.





In accordance with the secret protocol as the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact, the new allies – Germany and the Soviet Union – were to jointly invade Poland. Soviet troops advancing into Poland only 17 days after the Germans hit.



As the Soviet troops advanced into Poland, they arrested and disarmed units of the Home Army. Polish officers were murdered or deported eastwards to Soviet concentration camps.





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The struggle for independence continued on Polish territory until the 1950s while the last known partisan was killed by the occupying Soviet forces as late as 1963.



In early August 1980, a wave of strikes resulted in the founding of the independent trade union **“Solidarity” (Solidarność)**. Lech Wałęsa became the president of the organization. The government of Wojciech Jaruzelski declared martial law in December 1981.



However, with the reforms of Mikhail Gorbachev in the Soviet Union, increasing pressure from the West, and economic problems, the regime was forced to negotiate with its opponents. The 1989 Round Table Talks led to Solidarity's participation in the 1989 election.





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A silhouette of a person in a dark suit, seen from the back and slightly to the side, with their right arm raised and fist clenched. The background is a bright, hazy sky at sunrise or sunset, with a city skyline visible in the distance.

Solidarity elected representative  
Tadeusz Mazowiecki was appointed  
prime minister and confirmed by the  
assembly on 24 August 1989. The new  
government led by a non-communist,  
the first of its kind in the Soviet Bloc, was  
sworn into office on 13 September



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In December 1989, changes to the Polish constitution were made, officially eliminating the “socialist” order.



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Poland has been a member of the European Union since 1 May 2004 under the Accession Treaty signed in Athens on 16 April 2003.



The Schengen Agreement is a treaty which led to the creation of Europe's Schengen Area, in which internal border checks have largely been abolished. It was signed on 14 June 1985.

The Republic of Poland joined the Schengen Agreement on 21 December 2007.





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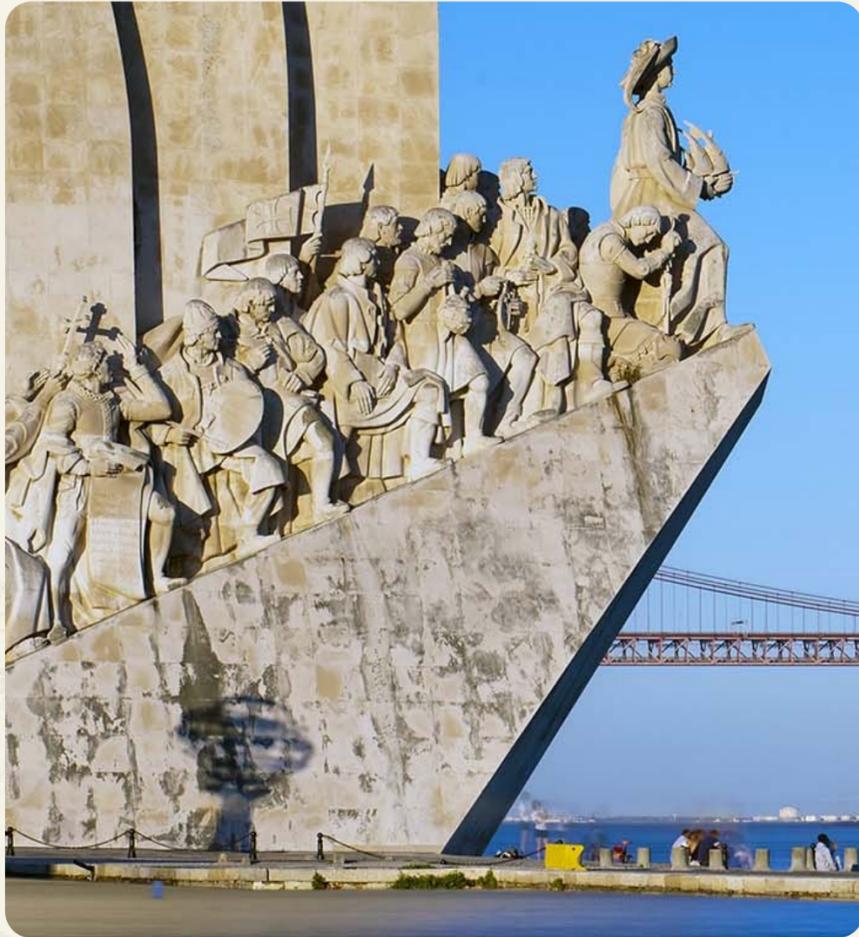


# THE ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE

## *PORTUGAL*



# Preliminary Information



Portugal is a country in southern Europe, occupying a total area of 92,212 km<sup>2</sup>.  
The Portuguese territory includes two autonomous regions: the archipelagos of Madeira and Azores.

# Historical Context

## 05 October 1143: Treaty of Zamora

Portugal was founded in 1143, year of the Zamora's Treaty signing, marking a significant milestone in the founding of Portugal. The treaty, agreed upon by D. Afonso Henriques, the first King of Portugal, and Alphonse the VII of León and Castile, recognized Portugal as an independent kingdom.



**After the tragic death of the King D. Sebastião, in a battle at Alcácer Quibir, in the North of Africa, the resultant vacant throne was occupied by Spanish Kings, who united the two states under the same government for 60 years.**

## 01 December 1640: Restoration of Independence

**A revolutionary group called The Forty Conspirators prevents Castile's Philippine Dynasty from abolishing Portugal's independence.**

**Their efforts culminated in the successful restoration of a Portuguese monarch, D. João IV, who reclaimed the throne and restored the country's independence.**

## 13 February 1668: Treaty of Lisbon

Spain officially recognized Portugal's independence through the Treaty of Lisbon, ending the Portuguese Restoration War and solidifying the reign of John IV and the sovereignty of the Portuguese crown.

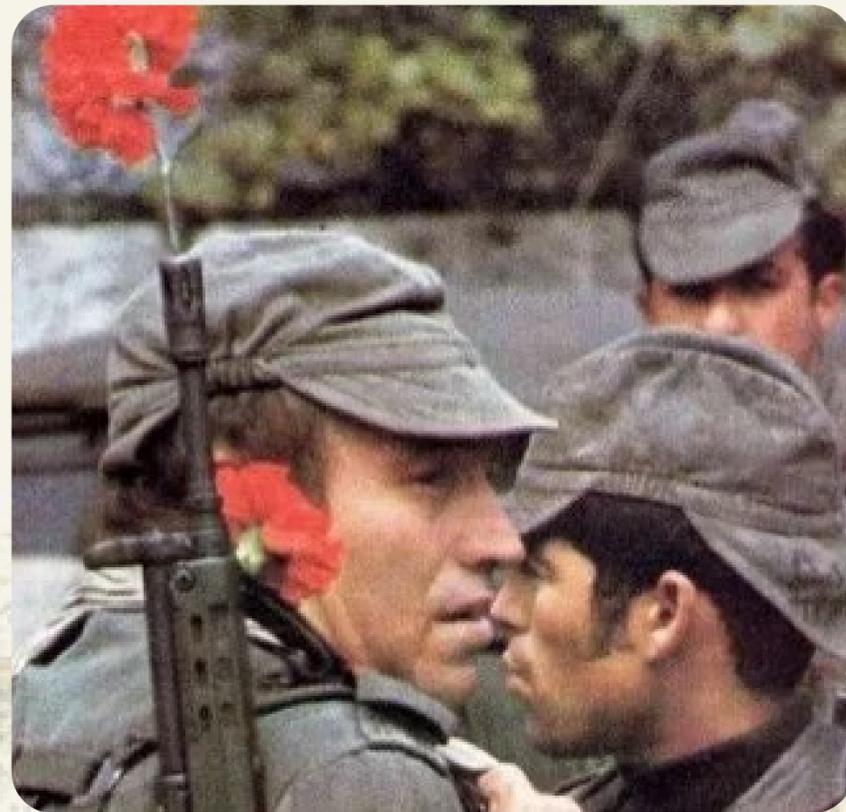
## 18 October 1807: Napoleonic Invasion

In the early 19th Century, Napoleon's troops invaded Portugal and the court moved to Brazil, in order to ensure the Portuguese dynastical continuity and independence.



## 1930 - 1974: Salazarism

After a troubled period and the Portuguese participation at the First World War, a military coup caused the “Estado Novo” to emerge. This was an authoritarian, one party regime dominated by António Oliveira Salazar, who governed the country for almost half a century.



## 25 April 1974: Carnation Revolution

The «Carnation Revolution» returned freedom and democracy to the Portuguese, swiftly recognizing the independence of the former African colonies.

# THE ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE

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