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2.3. STRINGS ATTACHED OF EU MEMBERSHIP - IMPLICATION TO NATIONAL POLICIES

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REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
Permanent Representation
of the Republic of Croatia in the EU

We are a member state! what now ?

- ❑ Structures in the state administrations had to be kept to high level of efficiency
- ❑ Mission of Republic of Croatia to the EU in Bruxelles became
PERMANENT REPRESENTATION
- ❑ In the first years – many young people left to search for better life in other Countries of EU (Germany, Austria, Ireland) – massive emigration
- ❑ Croatian citizens could work for EU institutions - EPSO test



European Personnel
Selection Office

Euro „indifference“

- ❑ Euro-sceptic or Euro-enthousiastic ?
- ❑ Magic word – European funds
- ❑ Chapter 23 closure brought new rules on salaries of civil servants working on EU funded projects
- ❑ How to be active in the EU?
- ❑ Significant role of activist organizations in the first years of membership
- ❑ Students as the biggest profitters of EU membership + SMEs and agricultural sector



Being part of the single market in practice...Croatia

- ❑ Strong competition on EU level
- ❑ Many smaller companies not competitive , need for digitalization and adaptation
- ❑ Public procurement scrutinized
- ❑ Access to capital on a lower rate
- ❑ Tourism as the most important branch of economy



Sucess stories of Croatian companies in EU market

❑ Franck (coffee)

❑ Vegeta (spices)

❑ Argeta pate

❑ Jana water



Are there border controls...?

- ❑ Joining EU does not mean joining schengen
- ❑ For Croatia (still not part of Schengen), police control stays, but there are no more customs control between Croatia and other Member States
- ❑ Joining Schengen is one of the most important foreign policy objectives of Croatia
- ❑ Croatia is using the Schengen instrument to apply measures on EU external borders once it will be part of Schengen area



Does every EU member state have to adopt the Euro...?

- ❑ Eurozone is not European Union
- ❑ Treaty foresees that EU members states should adopt Euro (if no opt –out clause (DK, UK)
- ❑ Currently Eurozone has 19 members
- ❑ 8 MS of the EU continue to use their own national currencies
- ❑ Strict rules to join Eurozone



Croatia and the Western Balkan ...

- ❑ Entering European Union and/or leaving the Balkans ?
- ❑ Alignment of foreign policy with EU's foreign policy
- ❑ Croatia strong supporter and active member of NATO
- ❑ Opportunity for Croatian experts to work in the WB(on EU matters, Acquis etc)
- ❑ Language and history ...



Thank you for your attention!

My contacts:

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send me an email, discuss, debate.....

Questions for discussion ...

- ☐ Do you think that every EU member state should join the Eurozone?
- ☐ Do you think Schengen is the one of the most successful achievement of the EU ?
- ☐ Do you think small Member states like Croatia can make a difference in the EU ?
- ☐ Do you think there is more positive or negative strings attached to EU membership?