



European Identity and Intercultural Communication

FIU, May 7th, 2013



Liberté • Égalité • Fraternité

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

Consulate General of France in Miami

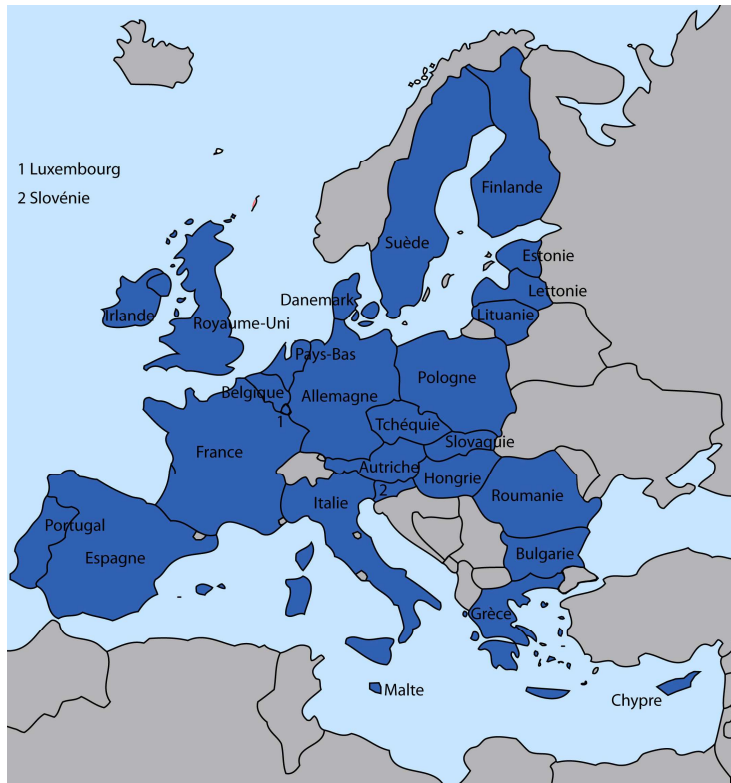
The European Union



- The European Union is a **unique economic and political partnership between 27 democratic European countries**, with the goal of **peace, prosperity and freedom**.
- The EU has developed a system of laws which apply in all member states, ensuring the free movement of people, goods, services, and capital



- Seventeen member states have adopted a common currency, the euro
- France and the EU works to spread **prosperity, democratic progress, the rule of law and human rights.**
- The European Union is the world's **biggest trading power.**



Erasmus program

- Celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2012, ERASMUS is the most successful student exchange programme in the world.
- Each year, more than 230 000 students study abroad thanks to the Erasmus programme.
- More than 2.5 million students have experienced what it means to do an ERASMUS term in one of more than 4 000 higher education institutions in 33 participating countries. These include all the EU Member States as well as Croatia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey.
- It also offers the opportunity for student placements in enterprises, university staff teaching and training, and it funds co-operation projects between higher education institutions across Europe.
- Periods abroad should contribute to qualifications at home and help students get to know different cultures and languages as well as gain vital experience.



Franco-German relations

- **In 2013, France and Germany are celebrating 50 years of friendship**
- The Franco-German friendship is essential to give an impetus to the European project.
- The government has a daily and ongoing dialogue with the German government to establish the necessary convergence for the deepening of the European project. The goal should be to reach an agreement to move forward Europe.
- During the last months, we have seen the strength of the Franco-German friendship:
 - It enabled the realization of the tax on financial transactions, in which 11 countries are now engaged.
 - This dialogue also has led to a joint initiative to strengthen European legislation against money laundering.



Geography

- **550,000 km²: largest country in Western Europe**
Located at the heart of the European Union, crossroads of Europe, France borders Belgium, Spain, Italy, Germany, Switzerland and Luxembourg
- **A temperate climate**
Oceanic, in the West
Mediterranean, in the South
Continental, in the Centre and the East
- **Exceptional diversity of landscape:**
5,500 km of coastal shores: North Sea and the Channel, Atlantic Ocean, Mediterranean
Extensive mountain ranges: the Alps, Pyrenees, Jura, Massif Central, Vosges
Large plains: Beauce, Picardy, Berry, and vast areas of forest
- **A country that protects its natural heritage**
7 national parks
136 natural reserves
37 regional nature parks



Demographics

- **63.8 million in habitants**
- **The French Republic is made up of:**
 - **The metropolis (the main land)**
 - 22 regions, 96 departments
 - 57 urban areas with over 100,000 inhabitants
 - **Overseas departments (DOM)**
Guadeloupe, Martinique, French Guiana, Reunion, Mayotte
 - **Overseas collectivities (COM)**
French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Wallis and Futuna, the French Southern and Antarctic Territories, St Pierre and Miquelon, Saint Martin and Saint Barthélemy



France in the centre of European Union !

France is renowned for the quality of its transportation infrastructure:

- European airport hub Paris Charles-de-Gaulle ranked 1st for the amount of cargo, 2nd for number of passengers in Europe
- 2 ports in European Top 10 by tonnage: Marseille (4th) and Le Havre (7th)
- The longest high-speed rail network in Europe with 2,000 km of lines, and the highest number of international connections
- The 3rd longest highway network in EU-27 countries (11,000 km), and the 2nd best road network in the world after Singapore



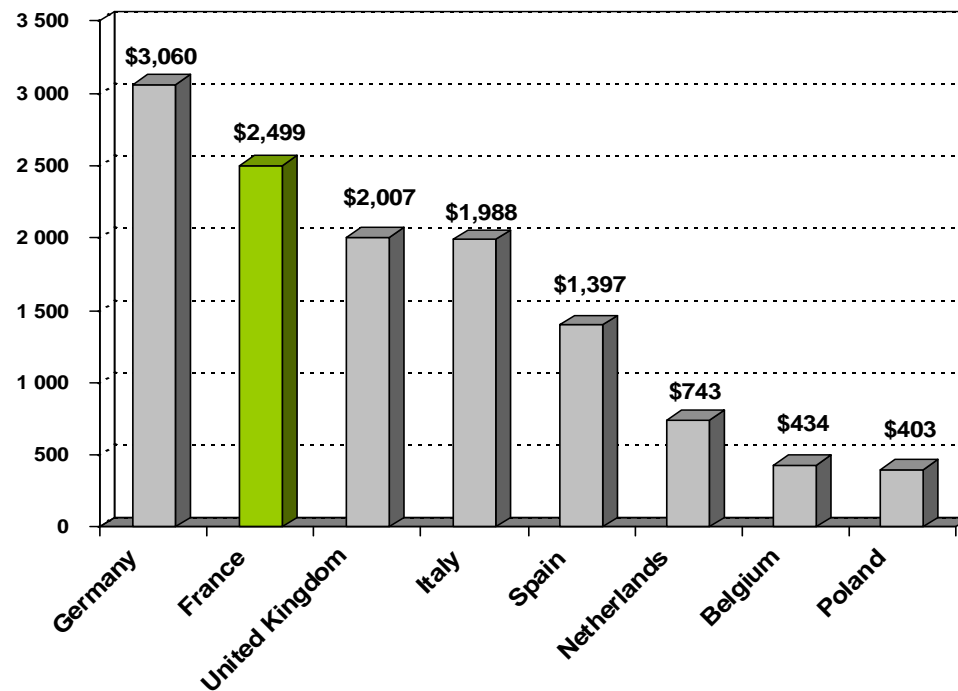


France's Economy

- France is the **world's fifth largest economic power** and **second at European level** in terms of GDP. The country's assets are varied and include:
 - Transport
 - The TGV (SNCF – Alstom)
 - Automobile companies like Renault (Nissan), Peugeot, Citroën,
 - Telecommunications
 - Aerospace : Airbus, Ariane
 - Agrifood
 - Pharmaceutical industries (Sanofi Aventis)
 - Banking and insurance
 - Tourism
 - Traditional luxury products (leather goods, fashion, perfumes, fine wines, etc.)
 - Designers and companies like Hermès, Louis Vuitton, Jean-Paul Gaultier, Yves Saint Laurent, Lacoste...

France: A Thriving Market at the Heart of Europe

Top 8 economies in the European Union
GDP in 2009 (current prices, US \$bn)



64.3 million inhabitants

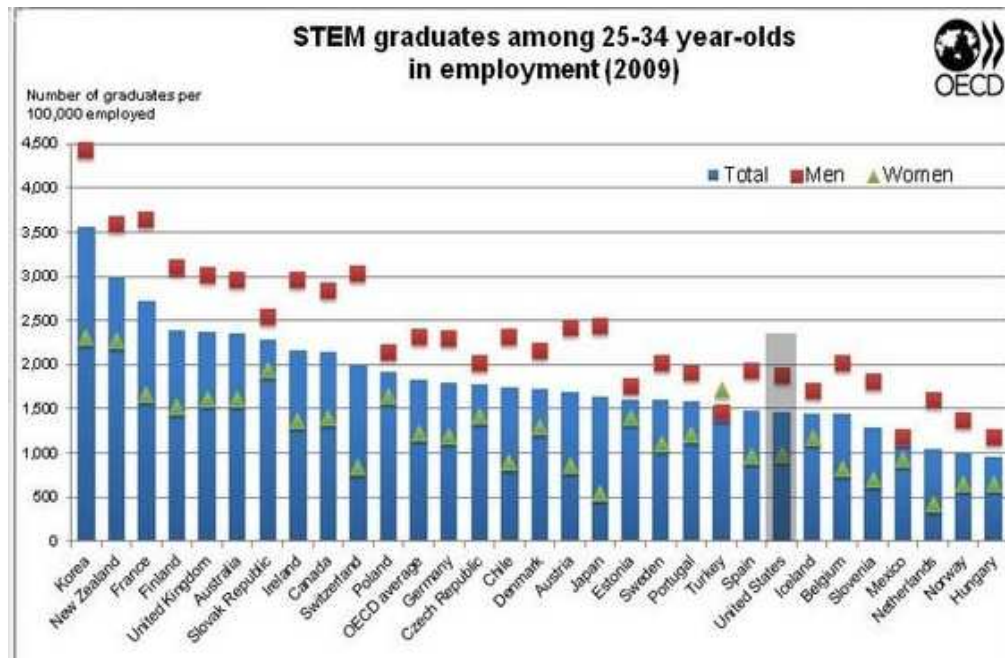
3 million companies

40 French companies among the world's leading 500 (Germany: 39; United Kingdom: 26)

Second only to Tokyo, and ahead of Beijing and New York, Paris is home to more head offices of Fortune Global 500 companies than any other city in the world.

74 million tourists (2009) annually

A Highly Qualified Workforce - Driving the Knowledge Economy



- France ranks among the **top 5** for the number of employees with higher education degrees in OECD countries.
- France is ranked **#1** for young employees with science degrees in Europe, and **#2** in the world.
- France ranks **5th** worldwide, before the U.S. (6th), Germany (26th) and the U.K. (32nd) for availability of scientists and engineers.

France is attracting international talent



■ *International mobility:*

3 multi-year residence permits, valid 3 to 10 years (since 2007)

- “Skills and Expertise” residence permit
- The “Expatriate Employee” temporary residence permit
- A 10-year residence permit for foreign managers who have made an “exceptional economic contribution” to France, which is also extended to their immediate family



France is investing in the Future

€ 460 bn invested by 2020 as part of France's "Green New Deal"

23% of France's energy consumption replaced with renewable energy by 2020 (vs. 10% in 2009)

Target: 75% of renewable energy by 2020

- **Ongoing reforms, and an investment-led recovery:**
 - **1,000 stimulus plan projects** worth **€28 billion** launched since late 2008
- **A sustainable capital:** the "Grand Paris" project
- **Going Green:** France's "Green New Deal", which opens the way to developing eco-buildings, renewable energies, green technologies and sustainable transportation:
 - €200 billion for household energy improvement and energy-positive buildings
 - Nuclear progress: a 2nd EPR; the ITER nuclear fusion energy project, involving 34 countries and €10bn of investment
 - Creating a dozen new innovation clusters in 2010 specializing in green technologies
 - Transportation: CAREX-Cargo Rail Express project at Paris Charles de Gaulle airport

French culture



- France has a long tradition of supporting **art and culture** and dedicated an entire **Ministry to culture** as early as 1959.
- France, and in particular Paris, has played an important role as a centre of **high culture and of decorative arts** since the seventeenth century.
- From the late nineteenth century, France has also played an important role in **modern art, music, literature, cinema, fashion and cuisine**.
- France houses some of the world's most prized museums. ***The Louvre, the Chateau de Versailles, the Centre Pompidou and the Musée d'Orsay*** alone welcome 15 million people annually.



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Consul Général de France à Miami



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