

#GOVOTE

European Elections June 2024



Press Here

FIND OUT MORE!

WHY vote?

CLIMATE

HUMAN RIGHTS

SECURITY

JOBS

EUROPEAN DECISIONS AFFECT YOU

TRAVEL

HEALTH



WHAT ARE THE EU ELECTIONS?

1. An opportunity for you to **vote for the person (MEP) who will represent you** in the European Parliament. The EU Parliament is your link to decisions and laws made in Europe.



**PRESS
HERE**

**What does
an MEP do?**

2. It is how **you have a say in shaping the future** of the EU. The elected members of the European Parliament work together to address important issues, such as trade, climate change, and human rights, impacting the EU and its citizens.

3. Ireland has 14 Members of the European Parliament (MEPs). **MEPs** belong to **political groups** each with a set of values.

Political groups
in Europe

**PRESS
HERE**

**PRESS
HERE**

Which current Irish
MEPs / Parties belong
to which European
political group?

4. Candidates stand for National political parties just like in a general or local election (eg. Fianna Fáil, Sinn Féin). Most National parties are affiliated to a European-wide political group. Once elected, MEPs sit in political groups based on shared beliefs. There are seven political groups in the current parliament.

WHO CAN VOTE?

- Be a citizen of the European Union
- Be at least 18 years of age
- Be listed in the Register of Electors.

**PRESS
HERE**



Check the
register here!

Applications to register can be made online at checktheregister.ie.

**PRESS
HERE**

Q Remember! If you have any questions about voting in the EU elections, how to register, or if you are eligible to vote, you can chat online to a Youth Info Officer and they will be able to help answer questions you have?

GOOD TO KNOW

As a citizen of a country that is part of the European Union, you have the right to vote in the European elections, even if you live abroad.

If you are an Irish citizen living in another Member State, you are entitled to vote in that country's election. Currently, you cannot vote for an Irish MEP from abroad.

If you are from another EU Member State but are living in Ireland, you can choose to:

- Vote for candidates from your country of origin: Almost all Member States allow you to vote from abroad - Some require voters to pre-register with their national electoral authorities to be eligible to vote from abroad by post or at an embassy/consulate
- Vote for candidates from your country of residence: you can vote in the European election in Ireland but you must be listed on the Irish register of electors.

You can only vote once in the elections.



What issues and values are important to you?

HOW TO CHOOSE WHO TO VOTE FOR?

- ✓ Know what your values and priorities are.
- ✓ Know who is running for election in your area (candidate).
- ✓ Research what they stand for – compare their values and priorities to yours - their social media account, speeches they give, appearances where they greet and talk to voters.
- ✓ Get to know which EU political group they align themselves to. EU political groups can be described as left, right, centrist etc. and make laws and decisions in accordance to their values. Make sure whoever you vote for is the person in the EU group that best represent your values. See 'Political groups in Europe' on page 2.
- ✓ How to know what to trust and what is fair: Candidates send out messages in the hope people will vote for them. These messages contain campaign promises - things the candidate vows to do once elected. Be aware of disinformation and propaganda campaigns that seek to influence your opinion, including fake news and targeted ads. Check your facts!! Do your own research! Ask your own questions!!

- ✓ **This Time I'm Voting** - Eurodesk is an official partner of the campaign This Time I'm Voting, encouraging others to vote in 2024.

- ✓ **Walkthetalkeu.com** It's not the talk, but the walk that matters most. A website informing young people all about the EU Elections.

**PRESS
HERE**

EUROPE & Me

As an Irish citizen, you are a citizen of the EU. There are many opportunities for you!!

WORK

There are a number of supports available to people interested in working abroad, including support with finding a new job, relocating and language training if you need it. These opportunities are open to people with all levels of education and work experience.

VOLUNTEER

With free travel and accommodation available to volunteers, this could be a chance to visit a European Country, make new friends and have exciting new experiences.

www.eurodesk.ie

STUDY

Studying abroad is a real option and has many benefits that you may not have considered – it is a great way to see another country while gaining a qualification and meeting new people. Lots of colleges across Europe offer courses through English, with flexible entry requirements, free or low fees, and the SUSI maintenance grant available to students studying outside of Ireland, which can help cover accommodation and living costs.