



Promoting European Policies and Priorities in Education Among VET Stakeholders through European non Governmental Organisation

# EU Semester Debate Competition



EVBB is organising the EU Semester Debate Competition to inspire the values of active citizenship and participation in the democratic life among youth, through the cultivation of crucial social skills and non-formal learning actions. The central topic of the debate will be the EU Semester, and specifically the balancing of the social and economic objectives of the cycle. One of the main aims of the Debate is to inspire the values of active citizenship and participation in the democratic life among youth, through the cultivation of crucial social skills and non-formal learning actions.

The EU Semester Debate Competition aims to:

- ❖ Raise awareness about the EU Semester and the among VET learners.
- ❖ Establish communication channels among EU level stakeholders and learners, for the promotion of EU priorities.
- ❖ Motivate and boost the active participation of learners in the democratic life.
- ❖ Enhance the acquisition of a wide set of key skills and competences, including negotiation, conflict resolution and communication skills through the participation in alternative learning pathways.

### **Registration link for the EU Semester Debate**

**Competition:** <https://forms.office.com/e/RCrAawF2Jb>

The implementation of the EU Semester Debate Competition will be held in 3 rounds: A National level one, an International Level one, and the Finals. At least two teams will be formed in 10 countries and each Debate team will be comprised by 3 learners.

### **1st Round - National Debate**

Two teams will be formed, and 1 Chairperson will be assigned. In order for the learners to be selected to participate in the event, they need to be fluent in English, while also completing the above questionnaire.

Each learner will deliver one 8-minute speech (starting from the first speaker of the proposition), while after the completion of these six speeches, the first speaker of each team will deliver a 4-minute reply (starting with the opposition).

#### **Issues for the 1st (national) round:**

- ❖ Can advancements in social issues be promoted, while firmly controlling public finances?
- ❖ What is the real impact of the Semester? Is it just a reflection of the national policy priorities of each country?
- ❖ Can social and financial performance coexist?
- ❖ Do economic considerations prevail over social ones?



## 2nd Round - International Level

The winning teams from the national debate will advance to the next round. The second round will be held through ZOOM, competing a winning team of another country.

### Issues for the second round:

- ❖ Does the involvement of the trade union positively affect all countries?
- ❖ Do the trade unions adopt proactive or responsive strategies to the EU Semester?
- ❖ What is the influence of the trade union on the outputs of the EU Semester?
- ❖ Can the trade union promote a shift from economic to social objectives?

## 3rd Round - Finals

The Finals of the EU Semester Debate Competition will be conducted in Brussels, among the two highest-performing teams of the last round.

### Finals Issues for the third round:

- ❖ The cross-country spill-over effect of the EU Semester during periods of crises or economic stability.
- ❖ The balance among countries reinforcing fundamentally neoliberal economic orthodoxies versus those choosing a more progressive approach towards social goals
- ❖ The balance of power in the EU Semester budgetary models, across different countries

Since the finals will take place in Brussels, the learners will also have the opportunity to participate in study visits at the European Comision and Parliamant.



## **Award of Certificates of participation to all learners**

At the end of the Debate, and therefore the successful implementation of the Finals, all 60 learners will be given a Certificate of Participation.

## **Award of a Distinction to the winning team of learners**

The finalist team, which will win the last round of the Debate, will be awarded with a Distinction.

Therefore, 3 distinction awards will be given, after the wrapping up of the Finals in Brussels.

## **Dates:**

National round: Until 10/12

International round: Until 18/12

Finals: Until 30/12