



EUFest Teachers Training Programme

Module 3 - Activity: EU Law in Practice - Case Studies



EU Law in Practice: Case Studies

Duration: 35-40 minutes

Group Size: Small groups of 3–4 participants

Materials

- Case Studies Summary
- Case Studies Worksheet

Learning Purpose

To deepen participants' understanding of the fundamental principles of EU law through the analysis of authentic Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) judgments. Participants collaborate to identify the legal principle illustrated by the case, discuss its implications for citizens and Member States, and connect legal concepts with real-life situations before sharing their conclusions with the group.

Instructions

Step 1	Distribution of Cases Each group receives a different case. Suggested cases: - Group A – Van Gend en Loos (1963) - Group B – Costa v ENEL (1964) - Group C – Cassis de Dijon (1979)
Step 1	Read the Case • Divide participants into small groups of 5. • Each group reads the case assigned. • Focus on: – What happened?

	– What legal question had to be answered? – Which principle of EU law is involved?
Step 2	Analyse the Case Each group discusses the following questions and complete the worksheet. 1. What is the main issue in this case? 2. Which principle of EU law does this case illustrate? 3. How did the Court resolve the case? 4. Why is this judgment important for Member States? 5. Can you think of a situation where this principle might apply in everyday life?
Step 3	Share Findings • Each group presents in 2–3 minutes: - the case; - the legal principle; - why the decision is important; - one key takeaway for teachers. • After the presentations, facilitate a discussion comparing the three principles and highlighting how the CJEU contributes to the uniform application of EU law.

Case Studies Worksheet

Case Name

Background

[Case Studies handout]

1. What was the main issue in this case?

Describe the problem in your own words

2. Which principle of EU law does this case illustrate?

- ☐ Primacy of EU law
- ☐ Direct Effect
- ☐ Subsidiarity
- ☐ Relationship between EU and national law
- ☐ Other: _____

3. What did the Court decide?

Summarise the Court's decision in one or two sentences.

4. Why is this decision important?

How does this judgment contribute to the application of EU law across Member States?

5. Who is affected by this decision?

- ☐ Citizens
- ☐ Businesses
- ☐ National governments
- ☐ EU institutions
- ☐ All of the above

Explain your answer.

6. Can you think of a real-life situation where this principle might apply?

Give one practical example.





7. Why is this principle important for European cooperation?

Discuss with your group and write your main conclusion.

8. Share your findings

Prepare a 2-minute presentation for the rest of the participants and include:

- A brief summary of the case.
- The EU law principle illustrated.
- Why the Court's decision is important.
- One practical example that helps explain the principle.

Reflection

A. What is the most important thing you learned from this case?

B. How could you explain this case to your students in a simple and engaging way?

