



EU FEST

Celebrating the EU through
Teaching and Learning

EU Fest Teachers Training Programme

Module 4 - Activity: The €10 Billion Challenge



The €10 Billion Challenge

Duration: 30 minutes

Group Size: Small groups of 3–5 participants

Materials

- M4.3 – €10 Billion Challenge: Budget Worksheet
- Priority cards / descriptions
- Calculator
- Computer/tablet/mobile phone
- Padlet for publishing group decisions

Learning Purpose

This activity enables participants to:

- understand that the EU budget involves strategic choices and competing priorities;
- identify how funding can support major European priorities;
- justify budget decisions using EU strategic priorities;
- consider the trade-offs involved in allocating limited resources;
- practise collaborative decision-making and communication.

Instructions

Your challenge

Imagine that you are part of a European decision-making team responsible for allocating a fictional €10 billion budget. You cannot fully fund every priority. You must decide where the money is most needed and explain why.

Your group must allocate the entire €10 billion across the six priority areas below¹.

¹ These categories are simplified for the purposes of the simulation. They do not represent the official structure of the EU Multiannual Financial Framework.

1. **Cohesion** - Reducing economic, social and territorial inequalities
2. **Education & Mobility** - Education, skills, teacher development and European mobility
3. **Green Transition** - Climate action, environmental sustainability and the transition to a greener economy
4. **Digital Transformation** - Digital skills, infrastructure, technologies and innovation
5. **Health & Resilience** - Health systems, preparedness and resilience to major challenges
6. **Research & Innovation** - Scientific research, innovation and development of new solutions

Use the priority cards/descriptions.

Step 1	Discuss your priorities Before allocating the money, discuss: • Which areas should receive the most funding? • Which areas are essential but may receive less? • Which priorities can reinforce each other? • What are the most important challenges facing Europe? Your group must agree on its overall strategy.
Step 2	Allocate the €10 billion Distribute the full €10 billion between the six priorities. You may allocate different amounts to each area, including €0, but your group must be prepared to explain why. ✓ You must allocate exactly €10 billion. ✓ You must fund at least four of the six priorities. ✓ Your group must identify its top two priorities. ✓ You must justify every allocation. ✓ You must identify at least one trade-off (something you chose to fund less because you prioritised something else).
Step 3	Justify your decisions For each priority receiving funding, answer: <i>Why does this area deserve this level of investment?</i> Your justification should refer to one or more of the following: – European strategic priorities

	– European challenges – expected impact on citizens – long-term European development – cooperation between Member States – sustainability – inclusion – innovation – digital transformation Avoid simply saying: "We think this is important." Instead, explain why the investment would create European value.
Step 4	Identify your trade-off Every budget decision means that something else receives less funding. Discuss: <i>What did you choose not to prioritise, and why?</i>
Step 5	Publish your decision on Padlet Go to the <i>EU Fest Budget Challenge Padlet</i>². Your group should publish: – Group name – Our top priority – Our main justification – Our biggest trade-off
Step 6	Compare After all groups publish their decisions, look at the other groups' allocations. Discuss: – Did other groups make very different choices? – Which allocation do you find most convincing? Why? – Which priority was consistently given the most funding? – What does this tell us about EU budget decisions?

² The facilitator should create a padlet. Here's an example: <https://padlet.com/danielamartins18/eufest-budget-challenge-n63vesou01mjt01i>

Budget Allocation Worksheet

Group Name

Part 1 - Our European strategy

What are the most important challenges that our budget should address?

- 1- _____
- 2- _____
- 3- _____

Our two main priorities are:

- 1- _____
- 2- _____

Why?



Part 2 - Allocate the €10 billion

Priority	Allocation (€ billion)	Why should this receive this amount?
Cohesion	€_____	
Green Transition	€_____	
Digital Transformation	€_____	
Health & Resilience	€_____	
Research & Innovation	€_____	
TOTAL	€_____	

CHECK

- ☐ Our total is exactly €10 billion
- ☐ We have funded at least four priorities
- ☐ We have identified our two main priorities

Part 3 - Strategic justification

Choose the arguments that best support your overall budget strategy:

- ☐ European strategic priorities
- ☐ Economic development
- ☐ Social inclusion
- ☐ Territorial cohesion
- ☐ Climate and environmental sustainability
- ☐ Digital transformation
- ☐ Education and skills
- ☐ Innovation and competitiveness
- ☐ European cooperation
- ☐ Resilience and preparedness
- ☐ Other: _____

Explain your overall strategy:

Our budget reflects our priorities because...

Part 4 - The trade-off

A budget cannot fund everything equally.

The area we funded least was:

Why?

We decided to invest more in:

Instead of investing more in:

Because:

Part 5 - Our decision for Padlet

Group Name

Our allocation

Priority	Allocation (€ billion)
Cohesion	€ _____
Green Transition	€ _____
Digital Transformation	€ _____
Health & Resilience	€ _____
Research & Innovation	€ _____

Our top priority and why

Our biggest trade-off





Reflection

A. Which group's allocation did you find most convincing? What made it convincing?

B. Did your group change its opinion during the discussion?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, what changed?

C. What does this activity show about EU budget decisions?