

# Do's and Don'ts of the Euro Challenge Competition

The Euro Challenge is an exciting opportunity to learn about the current economic conditions in Europe and to analyze how the "euro area" and its member countries are coping with specific economic-related challenges. While the competition might seem a daunting task at first, remember that everyone comes into it with little or no prior knowledge of the required concepts. Here are some tips for your team to be successful:

- DO** choose a challenge first. Choose one that really interests you, because you will be spending a lot of time on it. Then pick a country for which that challenge is relevant.
- DON'T** assume the judges will know what your challenge is. Be clear during your presentation, which challenge and country you have chosen.
- DO** answer all three parts of the question. For each question, try to identify a few key messages that you would like to communicate to the judges.
- DON'T** neglect the policy recommendation for your challenge (part 3 of the question). Know your supporting evidence and be ready to counter any arguments from the judges.
- DO** use graphics to illustrate your points. In a presentation, a picture can be worth a thousand words.
- DON'T** use too many fancy gizmos in your presentation, as it can distract the judges and detract from the substance of your presentation.
- DO** watch the winning presentations from the previous years' competitions on our Vimeo Channel ([vimeo.com/channels/eurochallenge](https://vimeo.com/channels/eurochallenge)).
- DON'T** try to imitate or copy other people's presentations (including ones given at orientations). You can use them for inspiration, but come up with your own ideas for how to present your material.
- DO** use the Euro Challenge forum ([euro-challenge.org/forum](https://euro-challenge.org/forum)) – you will get precise answers that correspond to what the judges would like to hear.
- DON'T** be afraid to ask any question about the challenge or any of the related economic concepts in the forum.
- DO** check out the articles that we post on Delicious ([delicious.com/eurochallenge](https://delicious.com/eurochallenge)) every day – you can keep up with all the latest news about your chosen challenge and country.
- DON'T** be discouraged by the wide array of available literature. You will be able to narrow down your focus as soon as you start reading through a few articles.
- DO** present more than one side of an argument in your presentation. Most economic issues do not have a single "correct" answer.
- DON'T** base all your research on just one source. Try to find different opinions on, and explanations for, each issue.
- DO** rehearse your presentation several times, at least a week before the competition to allow enough time to make final changes.
- DON'T** read from your notes; use them only to refer to occasionally.
- DO** take turns playing devil's advocate as training for the Q&A after the presentation. Test each other on the core economic concepts related to each challenge.
- DON'T** rely on one or a few team members to answer the questions. Participation in the Q&A by all team members will get you a higher score from the judges.
- DON'T** be afraid of economics! The issues are less complicated than you think, and over time you will gain a really good understanding of them. Just persevere and don't be discouraged.

Above all,

- DO** make sure you have fun!