

CHALLENGE 2024

Local Florida Euro Challenge Competition 2024

Monday, April 1st, 2024 | 8:00 a.m.—5:30 p.m. | FIU



From left to right: Gloria Guzman, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Markus Thiel, and Volker Anding

As part of our grant, on April 1st, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence was proud to hold in-person the local Florida Euro Challenge Competition, one of the EU Delegation's most important outreach programs for youth in the United States. This is the 18th year in which the Preliminary Round-Competition has taken place at Florida International University and the 17th year that the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence partnered with the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta-Miami Branch. Nine schools from Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, and Leon Counties participated in this year's competition on site at Florida International University on April 1st, and five schools from Alachua, Orange and Palm Beach Counties presented via video conference at FIU on March 28 afternoon, in total, 14 schools.

The competition draws 9th and 10th grade high school students who have a variety of academic interests, including law, international relations, economics, and the humanities. In addition to their normal course work, students must find time to form teams (three to five students), research their respective economic problem topics at the country level (among the 20 EU member countries that have adopted the Euro), identify policies for responding to that problem, and practice their presentations and public skills.

Students chose the following economic problem topics this year:

- Climate Change and Going Green
- What Role does Inflation Play in an Economy?
- Managing Migration Flows
- Inequality, Social Mobility and the Gender Gap
- Innovating for Long-Term Growth and the Future of Work

and the following EU countries: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain.

"We've been preparing for the competition for about a year, and are thrilled to compete in-person and present our project *Ireland and Managing Migration Flows*," said one of the students.

In addition to students from local schools, the competition also draws leading figures in the community and diplomats to serve as judges, among them, Dr. Volker Anding, Ret. Ambassador of Germany; and Gloria Guzman, Senior Economic & Financial Education Specialist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta Miami Branch.

Aside from the students' knowledge of the facts and figures pertaining to EU member states, the euro, economies and politics, the judges also take into account the team members' ability to clearly communicate with one another.



► More Information on the Euro Challenge, [click here](#)

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Archimedean Upper Conservatory School: 3rd place in Florida

"Each year, the presentations get better and better. As judges, we're looking for their understanding and management of the concepts and economic indicators of their countries, as well as their presentations, the flow of the overall presentation, public speaking and their ability to work as a team," said Volker Anding, a repeat competition-judge and Ret. German Ambassador.

Four schools were selected in Miami to advance to the national competition in New York this year. The 2024 winners of the preliminary round were Maclay School (1st place), followed by Benjamin High School (team 1—2nd place), Archimedean Upper Conservatory High School (3rd place), and PK Yonge High School (4th place). Those four teams were proud to advance and represent Florida at the national final held in New York on April 30, 2024.

The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence has been participating in this wonderful project since the beginning. Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director at the MFJMCE, is the recruiter and organizer of the preliminary competition in Florida. She has very proudly stated "Since 2008, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence has selected one hundred thirty Florida high schools from Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, St. Lucie, Lee, Alachua, Orange and Leon counties, and sent thirty-two to New York to compete nationally. One Hundred and sixty-one students have gone to New York representing their Florida schools. This competition has become a showcase for our Florida

schools, and it will continue to grow due to the tremendous response we have received from our local schools. In addition, this competition has been a transformative experience for the students that significantly contributed to their personal and academic growth. We are extremely proud of our schools in Florida."

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



Maclay School: 1st Place in Florida

From left to right: Suhani Gawde, Nishi Bhandari, and Reid Roberts

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Archimedean Upper Conservatory School — Teams 1 & 2



International Studies Preparatory Academy



Gulliver Preparatory School



Florida Atlantic University High School



Palm Beach Gardens Community High School

Local Florida Euro Challenge Competition 2024 | Testimonials

The members of the teams shared with us their experiences during the competition and the significance of their participation in the Euro Challenge Competition for their personal and professional life.

THE BENJAMIN SCHOOL



Annabelle, Sage, Isabella, and Madison
The Benjamin School Team

Annabelle Persson, 10th grade
Sage Ponchock, 10th grade
Isabella Pedroni Spinola, 9th grade
Madison Lambert, 10th grade

Three members of our team competed in the Euro Challenge in 2023 and progressed to the National competition in 2024. This year, we added another student to our team. We progressed again to the National Competition where we placed 4th overall with our presentation regarding "Climate Change and Going Green in Greece". The Euro Challenge was an incredible experience that we have enjoyed immensely for the past two years. We have enjoyed every minute of it and are sad that we can no longer compete. However, we will continue to value the experience and knowledge we have gained about the Euro Area and the economics surrounding the zone. The suggestions and mentoring we were given from skilled financial advisors and energy specialists were invaluable and incredible to receive. We hope that many other students will take this incredible opportunity to partake in the Challenge.

ARCHIMEDEAN UPPER CONSERVATORY



Riana Hazra

Archimedean Upper Conservatory
9th grade

Participating in Euro Challenge has been an incredibly eye-opening experience for me. Through Euro Challenge, I have learned public speaking and the importance of teamwork, all while gaining extensive economic knowledge. My favorite part was the competition day, which was exhilarating and enjoyable at both the regional and semifinal levels. The thrill of competing and sharing our in-depth research on Ireland was immensely rewarding. I encourage every high school student to join the Euro Challenge and embark on this journey, gaining knowledge that will benefit them for years to come.



Gabriela Rosa

Archimedean Upper Conservatory
9th grade

Participating in Euro challenge as a freshman has been an absolutely instrumental experience, to my journey in high school. The competition allowed me to explore new and exciting fields of interest, and discover new passions. It has undoubtedly been one of the most enjoyable academic competitions I have participated in, and I would urge any student to take a chance on it! It has also cultivated me into a more informed and cultured student, by pushing me to learn about foreign nations, and their economies. Overall, participating in the Euro challenge competition was both a rewarding and pleasurable experience, and I can't wait to participate in it next year!!



Dylan Suster Sanchez

Archimedean Upper Conservatory
9th grade

Hello, my name is Dylan Suster Sanchez and I participated in the 2024 Euro Challenge competition for Archimedean Upper Conservatory. My team qualified for the national level from performing well in the FIU Florida regional's. But besides that, I'd like to briefly talk about my personal experience with Euro Challenge. At the beginning of the year, being a freshman, I didn't know it even existed. Euro Challenge taught me a lot, from improving my Research skills, to working well with my amazing teammates. Overall, the Euro Challenge experience is a challenging-but rewarding one!

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P.K. Yonge Development Research HS



Valeria Andrade

P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School
11th grade

The Euro Challenge competition has helped me grow immensely as a student and person. It has helped me develop into a person with strong presentation and public speaking skills, which I can use to further benefit my academic career.

The Euro Challenge also has helped me think outside the box and has shown me how looking at a problem through different perspectives can generate a creative solution.

I love participating in this competition because we as a team get to showcase our hard work and knowledge and build camaraderie between each other.



Purni Hasitha Tumati

P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School
11th grade

Participating as a semifinalist in the Euro Challenge Competition was a transformative experience that significantly contributed to my personal and academic growth. This journey provided me with a profound understanding of economic principles and the multifaceted factors that influence global economies daily. One of the most impactful aspects of the competition was the in-depth research required to analyze and present on specific economic challenges faced by the Eurozone. This process immersed me in the complexities of economic policies, fiscal strategies, and monetary regulations. It was through this rigorous research that I learned to appreciate the delicate balance policymakers must maintain to ensure economic stability and growth. Understanding the dynamics of inflation, unemployment, and GDP growth within the Eurozone, for instance, sheds light on the interconnectedness of global economies and the ripple effects that policy decisions in one region can have worldwide.

The competition also enhanced my communication skills. Presenting our findings to a panel of judges required clarity, confidence, and the ability to engage an audience. This experience taught me how to convey complex information effectively, a skill that is essential in any professional setting. The constructive feedback from judges and peers helped me refine my presentation techniques and boosted my confidence in public speaking.

Working as part of a team was another significant learning experience. Collaborating with peers to research, discuss, and present our topic highlighted the importance of teamwork and diverse perspectives. Each team member brought unique insights and strengths to the table, and learning to integrate these effectively was a key to our success. This experience underscored the value of collaboration and the power of collective intelligence in tackling complex issues. Beyond the technical and interpersonal skills, the Euro Challenge fostered a deeper awareness of current global economic issues. It instilled in me a sense of responsibility to stay informed about economic developments and to understand their broader implications. This awareness is crucial in today's interconnected world, where economic events in one part of the globe can have significant repercussions elsewhere.

In reflection, my time as a semifinalist in the Euro Challenge Competition was a period of substantial growth. It equipped me with a robust understanding of economic factors, enhanced my analytical and communication skills, and taught me the importance of teamwork. More importantly, it sparked a lasting interest in economics and global affairs, encouraging me to continue exploring how economic policies shape our world every day. This experience has undoubtedly laid a strong foundation for my future academic and professional endeavors.



Launched in the US in 2006, the Euro Challenge competition on European economic and monetary policy provides high school students the opportunity to learn about the euro, the single market, and other concepts central to the European Union and economics.

► **More Information on the Euro Challenge, [click here](#)**

EURO CHALLENGE 2024

National Euro Challenge Competition in New York | April 30, 2024



Maclay School team at the finals; from left to right: Suhani Gawde, Reid Roberts, and Nishi Bhandari

EU Ambassador

Following regional contests, 25 HS teams from across the country travelled to New York City to participate in the national Euro Challenge semi-finals hosted at the New York City Bar Association and the final round on April 30. Among them, our four teams from Florida HS were thrilled and proud to have been selected at the local Florida Euro Challenge Competition on April 1st in Miami, and participate in the national competition in New York and represent Florida. In total 17 students and 4 teachers from Florida. For some of the students, it was their first experience in New York, and for them, it was an unforgettable trip and experience, "a once in a lifetime opportunity."

Maclay School presented *What Role does Inflation Play in an Economy and Greece*; Benjamin High School presented *Climate Change and Going Green and Greece*; Archimedean Upper Conservatory presented *Managing Migration Flows and Ireland*; and PK Yonge HS presented *Latvia and Inequality, Social Mobility, and the Gender Gap*.

Students were impressed by the level of the competition and the opportunity to present their economic challenge and European country before a panel of prestigious judges from the European community: ambassadors, consuls, EU Delegation officials, financial and economic experts. Among them, Ben Carliner, Senior Economist at the Delegation of the European Union to the U.S., Bruce Kasman, Chief Economist and Head of Global Economic Research at JP Morgan Chase & Co, and Dana Peterson, Chief Economist at the Conference Board.

After a long day of competition, all the students were invited to the Recognition and Award Reception at the New York City Bar Association where Her Excellency Jovita Neliupšienė, Ambassador of the European Union to the United States, announced the finalists, and congratulated the five best teams and all Euro Challenge participants for their remarkable performances. Among them, two of our Florida schools proudly won 3rd and 4th places at the final: Maclay School and The Benjamin School. Ambassador Neliupšienė also recognized the teachers' efforts and dedication in coaching their teams in extracurricular hours.

"Participating in my first Euro Challenge as a new Ambassador in the U.S. was a wonderful experience," said Ambassador of the European Union to the United States Jovita Neliupšienė. "I'm amazed that high school students are not shying away from proposing solutions for German labor force problems, delve into solving energy diversification problems and fostering Greek olive oil production. Even discussing European Central Bank policies is not too complicated a question for them. I hope they not only choose to study economics or international studies, but will become true believers in transatlantic cooperation and work to strengthen the EU-U.S. bond."

In Florida, we are looking forward to participating in next year competition!

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



Maclay School won 3rd place at the finals in NY

From left to right: Suhani Gawde, Amb. Neliupšienė, Nishi Bhandari, and Reid Roberts

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The Euro Challenge promotes economic literacy, introduces students to the European Union, and underscores the importance of transatlantic ties. The Euro Challenge is one of the EU Delegation's most important outreach programs for youth in the United States. Since its inception, more than 7,000 U.S. students across the United States have benefited from participating in the event, which also engaged over 1,000 teachers. This year's 78 teams collectively represented high schools from 20 U.S. states (Arkansas, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin). The five winning teams received awards and trophies. The first and second place teams will also enjoy a trip to Washington, DC, to present their recommendations to the embassy of the country they researched.

The Euro Challenge is a program launched and supported by the Delegation of the European Union to the United States, and is managed on the Delegation's behalf by W|se (Working in Support of Education). Partners are BNP Paribas, Florida International University, the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Illinois, the University of Texas at Austin, the University of Washington, the World Affairs Council of Charlotte, the World Affairs Council of Seattle, and the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta (Miami Branch).

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez

Students from Okemos High School (MI) Won 2024 Euro Challenge

Five High School Teams Received Awards for their Knowledge of the Euro and Euro Area

- 1st place: Okemos High School in Michigan
- 2nd place: Marlboro High School in New Jersey
- 3rd place: Maclay School in Florida
- 4th place: The Benjamin School in Florida
- 5th place: Mt. Hebron High School in Maryland



The Benjamin School won 4th place at the finals in NY

From left to right: Madison Lambert, Isabella Pedroni Spinola, Amb. Jovita Neliupšienė, Anabelle Persson, and Sage Ponchock



► More Information on the Euro Challenge, [click here](#)