

OUTREACH

Euro Challenge

The European Union Center of Excellence facilitates the participation of Miami-Dade schools in *Euro Challenge 2013*. The competition has been created by the Delegation of the European Commission to the United States and was launched with the help of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. It is designed to give students an understanding of the European economy and the euro, the currency shared by many of the 27 countries of the European Union (EU). Previously targeted to high schools in New York and in the Northeast, *Euro Challenge 2013* for the sixth time this year has been opened to students in Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Lee, and Orange Counties. **Ten** Miami-Dade, Broward, Lee and Orange counties high schools participated in the competition.



Participating High Schools

- Archimedean Upper Conservatory
- Canterbury School
- Coral Reef Senior High School
- Felix Varela Senior High School
- International School of Broward (ISB)
- International Studies Preparatory Academy
- Miami Palmetto Senior High School
- Oasis School
- Trinity Preparatory School
- Western High School



Valérie Rouxel-Laxton, Head of Economic and Financial Affairs, Delegation of the European Union to the United States; and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, MEUCE, FIU , Recruiter and Organizer of the Euro Challenge Competition in Florida

A total of 100 teams from seven U.S. states (Connecticut, Florida, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina and Pennsylvania) competed for cash awards. Regional competitions led to the final rounds at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

In addition to providing scholarships, the Moody's Foundation also sponsored a one-day trip to Washington DC for the top two teams to visit the Delegation of the European Commission, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve, and the International Monetary Fund.

► [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

► [Official Euro Challenge Website](http://www.euro-challenge.org/) - <http://www.euro-challenge.org/>

On December 7th, Valérie Rouxel-Laxton, Head of Economic and Financial Affairs, Delegation of the European Union to the United States, was the keynote speaker at the Euro Challenge Student Orientation at FIU.



At the Euro Challenge Student Orientation





Regional Competition in Miami – Thursday, March 14, 2013

The regional competition for Miami-Dade high schools was held at Florida International University on Thursday, March 14, 2013.



Judges 2013 - To view judges' bios, click [here](#)

At the end of the day, the judges selected three high schools to compete nationally:

- **Coral Reef Senior High School (Miami-Dade County)**
- **Miami Palmetto Senior High School (Miami-Dade County)**
- **Western High School (Broward County)**



The three schools chose the following country and challenge:

School	Country	Challenge
Coral Reef Senior HS	Ireland	Slow Growth
Miami Palmetto Senior HS	Italy	High Unemployment
Western High School	Spain	High Unemployment

These three Floridian high schools have been given an expense paid trip to compete in the national competition in New York City on April 12.

For more details on the competition in Miami, click on the following link:

<http://casgroup.fiu.edu/miamieuc/events.php?id=2836>



Judges 2013

Florida Euro Challenge Competition Winners 2013



CORAL REEF SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL (1st place)

- Sara Arevalo
 - Gabriela Fernandez
 - Annalie Garcia
 - Kshitij Kulkarni
 - Daniel Monteagudo
- (Rafael Birriel, Teacher)*



MIAMI PALMETTO SENIOR HIGH School (2nd place)

- Stephanie Levine
 - Angela Liu (Anqi)
 - George Liu
 - Orko Sarkar
 - Yuji Yang
- (Beth Bagwell, Teacher)*



WESTERN HIGH SCHOOL (3rd place)

- Chandra Ananya
 - Alex Cooper
 - Richie Goos
 - Urszula Krekora
 - Andrew Zhang
- (Kathryn Ramirez, Teacher)*



**Recognition Award for the 3 Florida High Schools Winners
Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta – Miami Branch
Tuesday, April 30th, 2013**



Coral Reef Senior High School students receiving their certificates and trophy for the 1st place from Tim Smith, President, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta - Miami Branch (left); on the right, teacher Rafael Birriel





Miami Palmetto Senior High School students receiving their certificates from Juan-Jose Cogolludo, Education Advisor, Consulate General of Spain; Dr. Volker Anding, German Ambassador (ret.); Vilma Pesciallo, Students Office, Consulate General of Italy; Sophie Delporte, Head of the Public Affairs Department, Consulate General of France; Hon. Adolfo Barattolo, Consul General of Italy; Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, MEUCE, FIU; and Tim Smith, President, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta-Miami Branch.



Recognition of the two Miami-Dade County teachers: Rafael Birriel, Coral Reef Senior High School (left); and Beth Bagwell, Miami Palmetto Senior High School (right)

National Competition in New-York on Friday, April 12, 2013



On April 12th, the three Florida teams, Coral Reef Senior HS, Miami Palmetto Senior HS, and Western High School, went to New York to represent Florida and compete nationally among 25 teams from around the county. The competition took place at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.



Federal Reserve Bank in New York



Federal Reserve Bank in New York



At the **Recognition and Awards Reception**, on the 20th Floor of the Moody's Foundation (7 World Trade Center), the Florida teams had the privilege to meet and talk to Ambassador João Vale de Almeida, Head of Delegation, European Union Delegation to the United States of America.



Miami Palmetto Senior High School team, Teacher Beth Bagwell, with Ambassador João Vale de Almeida, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United States (center)

**Recognition Award for the two Miami-Dade High Schools Winners
by Dr. Lawrence Feldman, Miami-Dade County School Board Member -District 9
Thursday, May 23rd, 2013**



At Miami Palmetto Senior High School Recognition Award Ceremony— From left to right: Teacher Beth Bagwell; Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, The School Board of Miami-Dade County-District 9; Stephanie Levine, one of the Miami Palmetto Senior HS winners; Dr. Volker Anding, Former Consul General of Germany in Miami; Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, MEUCE. FIU; Right picture: Miami Palmetto Senior HS students receiving their medals.

A Recognition Award Ceremony for the two student team members in Miami-Dade-District 9 who won the regional divisions of the 2013 Euro Challenge Competition—Coral Reef Senior High School and Miami Palmetto Senior High School was held at the two respective schools on May 23rd. **Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman**, Miami-Dade County School Board Member -District 9, awarded the students a medal and a letter of recognition. Dr. Feldman congratulated and thanked the students for their effort and the great job they did to represent Florida at the National Competition in New York on April 12th. He was very proud that two schools from his District 9 were selected at the national level.



At Coral Reef Senior High School Recognition Award Ceremony—From left to right: Teacher Rafael Birriel, Ms. Adrienne Leal, Principal, Coral Reef Senior HS, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, MEUCE. FIU awarded of an “exemplary” medal from Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman (right), The School Board of Miami-Dade County-District 9; Right Picture: Coral Reef Senior HS students receiving their medals.



TESTIMONY – June 2013

MIAMI PALMETTO SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL



Beth Bagwell

AP European History teacher

Miami Palmetto Senior High School

The Euro Challenge Competition is a unique opportunity for ninth and tenth grade students to dig deeply into economics and to learn about the European Union. It teaches students not only economic concepts and research skills but requires teamwork and presentation skills. Students who volunteer for this experience are self-motivated students who have a love of learning. It is an amazing process for the teacher to watch students research a country, an economic challenge, and see students create viable economic solutions for the challenge. The most creative part of the process is crafting a scenario for the presentation and then writing the script. It is actually watching the birth of a program and the flowering of intellectual, interpersonal and presentation skills in a group of highly motivated 10th grade students. The trip to the Federal Reserve in New York City is a wonderful reward for our students. This has been a wonderful experience for me and my students.



Stephanie Levine

Miami Palmetto Senior High School

Grade 10

Euro Challenge required dedication from the beginning. At first glance, it may seem like an impossible task that few students are ready to undertake. Learning the basics of economics, becoming aware of the current European economic situation, and solving a part of a country's economy are a few aspects that the competition entails. However, although it was difficult at times, it was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. With my newly acquired knowledge of the Eurozone and the European Union, I was able to open my eyes to another part of the world I was not yet familiar with. Participating in the Euro Challenge Competition, while simultaneously taking AP European History, allowed me to understand the background of European integration as it developed into today's situation. I am now able to carry on conversations with both my peers and family concerning the European state of affairs and have developed a great interest in the field of economics. In addition, I learned new skills that will be of great use throughout my life, such as public speaking, researching a topic thoroughly and answering difficult questions I am presented with.

The value of this knowledge and skills cannot be matched except with the memories and friendships I have made. The Euro Challenge Competition did not lie on any sole person's shoulders; it was a team effort. Each member of the team contributed substantially as we worked together to complete our presentation. We formed bonds with one another that only strengthened as the competition continued on. Following our success in the regional competition, we then traveled to New York City for the Semi-Finals. We created the greatest memories while there and each day was a new adventure in the city. The hard work and dedication put into the Euro Challenge Competition rewarded us greatly with knowledge and satisfaction. Years from now, I will look back and remember the wonderful memories I have made through this experience and reflect on how it impacted my life in the long run.

MIAMI PALMETTO SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL



Angela Liu
Miami Palmetto Senior High School
Grade 10

Euro Challenge was a fantastic experience. The entire process was extremely rewarding and I have learned so much from it. Researching the history of the EU and the current financial crisis has introduced me to economics and I have developed an interest for it. Additionally, I am more aware of the connections within different countries, industries, and governments. Euro Challenge also helped me with presentation skills and answering questions on the spot. I feel like a much better public speaker. Any student who receives the opportunity to participate in Euro Challenge should definitely take advantage of that because it is an introduction to an entirely different world that is generally not covered in high school until senior year.

Besides the new information I learned, just the actual experience in itself was amazing. I was on a team with my best friends and we grew even closer through this experience. We had to work extremely hard on our presentation and rehearse it many times, but we pushed each other and were ecstatic when we received the opportunity to go to Nationals in New York. The trip to New York was wonderful and I will never forget it. We went to the Metropolitan Art Museum, MOMA, Times Square, and countless other places. The actual competition took place inside the Federal Reserve Bank and it was such a privilege to be able to see that. I will always remember my first trip to New York and I'm grateful to my team, my teacher, and Euro Challenge for giving me that opportunity. Euro Challenge is definitely an experience I'll never forget.



Orko Sarkar
Miami Palmetto Senior High School
Grade 10

My name is Orko Sarkar, and I participated in the Euro Challenge competition for the 2012-2013 school year. Quite frankly, that was one of the best decisions I have made in my life. Over the course of preparing for the competitions, I learned an incredible amount of economics; a field which I have always desired to possess more knowledge in, but never had gotten around to doing. This learning was achieved by almost complete immersion; my group chose Italian unemployment as our topic, and after the choice was made, I spent countless hours in front of a computer screen, researching not only the hard numbers of Italy's economy, but also the lifestyle. I even found myself reading things that may not have been directly related to our topic – after getting a taste of this amazing subject, I needed more!

The other aspect of Euro Challenge has to do with people. Over the course of this competition, I got to know certain people extremely well. My team comprised of 5 best friends, so we had the experience of our lives, getting to research, produce a product, present, and win! This brings me to another highlight of doing Euro Challenge, the trip to New York. To put it simply, New York was the chance of a lifetime, one that I could only have dreamed of having. Not only did we get to go to New York, and go sightseeing, but the team got to know each other better, as well as meeting members from other teams. We even got to meet a countless number of foreign dignitaries, people so important that I had never even dreamed of getting to meet them.

All in all, choosing to compete in Euro Challenge this year was a decision I don't regret, and produced many memories which I am sure I will look fondly upon for years to come. It is definitely something I would recommend to any aspiring freshmen or sophomores.

CORAL REEF SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL



Kshitij Kulkarni
Coral Reef Senior High School
Grade 10

Very few times in one's life does an experience come along that changes his view of the world. Such was the Euro Challenge. As I walked into the Federal Reserve Bank of New York City, I felt a rush of academia, knowledge, information, and a want for betterment of the world. My interaction with my fellow peers from around the country made me sense the same characteristics in them.

Being involved in Euro Challenge not enhanced my perspective of the relationship between the United States and the Euro Zone, but also enlightened me on the problems surrounding our world as a whole, and potential solutions to these very important issues.

I started out with my team with a limited knowledge of the euro, most of it stemming from my AP European History class. However, as I bonded closely with my group, we began discovering important pieces of information about this highly intricate system of economics. Our first task, much like any other team, was to learn more about economics as a whole, on which we were expected to be well versed. After this momentous task, our focus shifted to applying these concepts to our country of choice, Ireland.

As we made our way to New York City, a kind of anxiety was present over all of my team mates, but at the same time, we knew that whatever the result, we would be sure to have an amazing time. After watching the winning team's presentation, we felt quite amazed and were enthralled!

I sincerely thank the Moody's Foundation, and the European Union for the experience that I received and I hope that I am able to spread the knowledge I have gained to people I meet, so that we all become better informed about the status of global diplomacy and economics.

The Euro Challenge is truly a contest that inspires an entire generation, and I hope for its further popularization in the years to come, as I potentially think about a career in economics.



Leila Zakaria
Coral Reef Senior High School
Grade 10

Euro challenge has unequivocally changed my life, as well as my outlook into the modern day European Union.

As a child, I was first introduced to the EU through my German language classes in elementary and high school. I learned a few important dates, like when the Euro was established and the rights given to European Union members. However, I never delved deep into the meat of the current economic situation. Now, this might

seem a bit ironic coming from a person who wants to live in Europe as an adult!

This competition can be compared to throwing a group of people into a pit of sharks--and then telling them to find a way out. Our team was thrown into the declining economy of Ireland, and we had to come up with practical long- and short-term solutions to generate an economic turnaround. Thus began the process of research and meetings, until I can say that I memorized the net emigration rate and its effect on the Irish economy by heart!

Although I was only an alternate, I feel like everyone in the club worked together to foster a project that was representative of our individual strengths and weaknesses. We were able to evade the sharks by working together. And this teamwork extended itself into the creation of lasting friendship between the rest of the group and me.

Finally, I want to sincerely thank the Federal Reserve Bank, the Moody's Foundation, and the European Union Center of Excellence for making the Euro Challenge possible. Without them, I could not have had such a great experience that expanded my knowledge of the place that I want to live in when I grow up!