



Scuola Militare Teulié

Battaglione Allievi

3^a compagnia allievi



European Union Military Secondary School Forum's (EUMSSF's) Writing Competition

Brussels, 12th September 2025





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ESERCITO

The importance of defending the principles of rule of law, democracy and human rights in the European Union

Mariachiara Triaca, Scuola Militare Teulié (Milano)



1. THE ORIGIN OF EUROPEAN VALUES



2. THE PRINCIPLES OF RULE OF LAW, DEMOCRACY, AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE EU

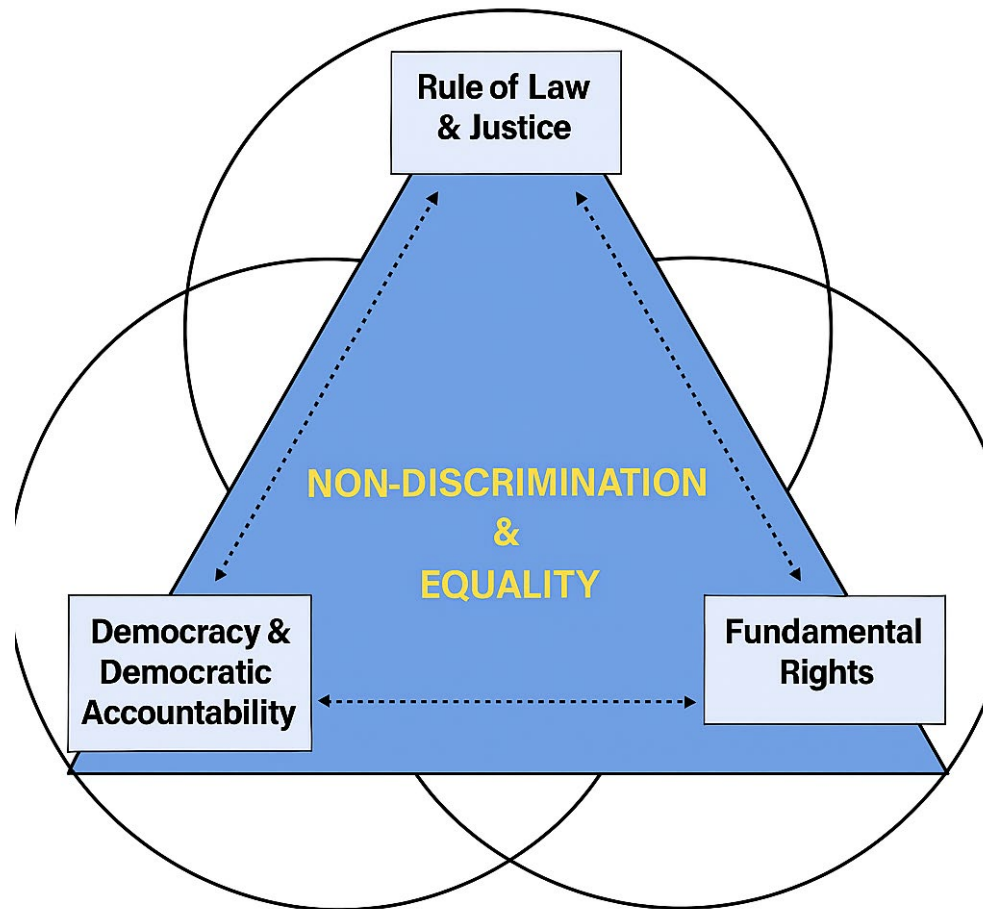
“The Union is founded on the values for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights including the rights of persons belonging to minorities”

-Article 2 of the Lisbon Treaty

Three pillars of the European Union



The triangular relationship between the rule of law, democracy and fundamental rights



3. CHALLENGES TO THE PRINCIPLES OF RULE OF LAW, DEMOCRACY, AND HUMAN RIGHTS

World Justice
Project

RULE OF LAW INDEX 2023

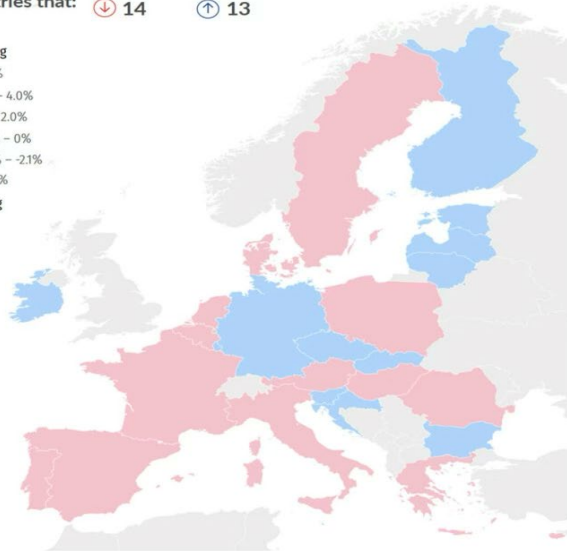
Rule of Law Changes in the European Union from 2022 to 2023

Number of
Countries that: Declined Improved
↓ 14 ↑ 13

Improving

- ≥ 4.1%
- 2.1% – 4.0%
- 0% – 2.0%
- 2.0% – 0%
- 4.0% – -2.1%
- ≤ -4.1%

Declining



Country/jurisdiction	Overall Score [*]	Annual % Change in Overall Score [*]
Bulgaria	0.56	1.7%
Slovenia	0.69	1.6%
Luxembourg	0.83	0.8%
Latvia	0.73	0.7%
Finland	0.87	0.4%
Lithuania	0.77	0.4%
Croatia	0.61	0.3%
Ireland	0.81	0.3%
Slovak Republic	0.66	0.3%
Czechia	0.73	0.1%
Malta	0.68	0.1%
Germany	0.83	0.0%
Estonia	0.82	0.0%
Italy	0.67	0.0%
Hungary	0.51	-0.2%
Denmark	0.90	-0.3%
Netherlands	0.83	-0.3%
Austria	0.80	-0.3%
France	0.73	-0.4%
Sweden	0.85	-0.4%
Romania	0.63	-0.4%
Poland	0.64	-0.6%
Spain	0.72	-0.8%
Portugal	0.68	-0.9%
Cyprus	0.68	-0.9%
Belgium	0.78	-1.0%
Greece	0.61	-1.4%

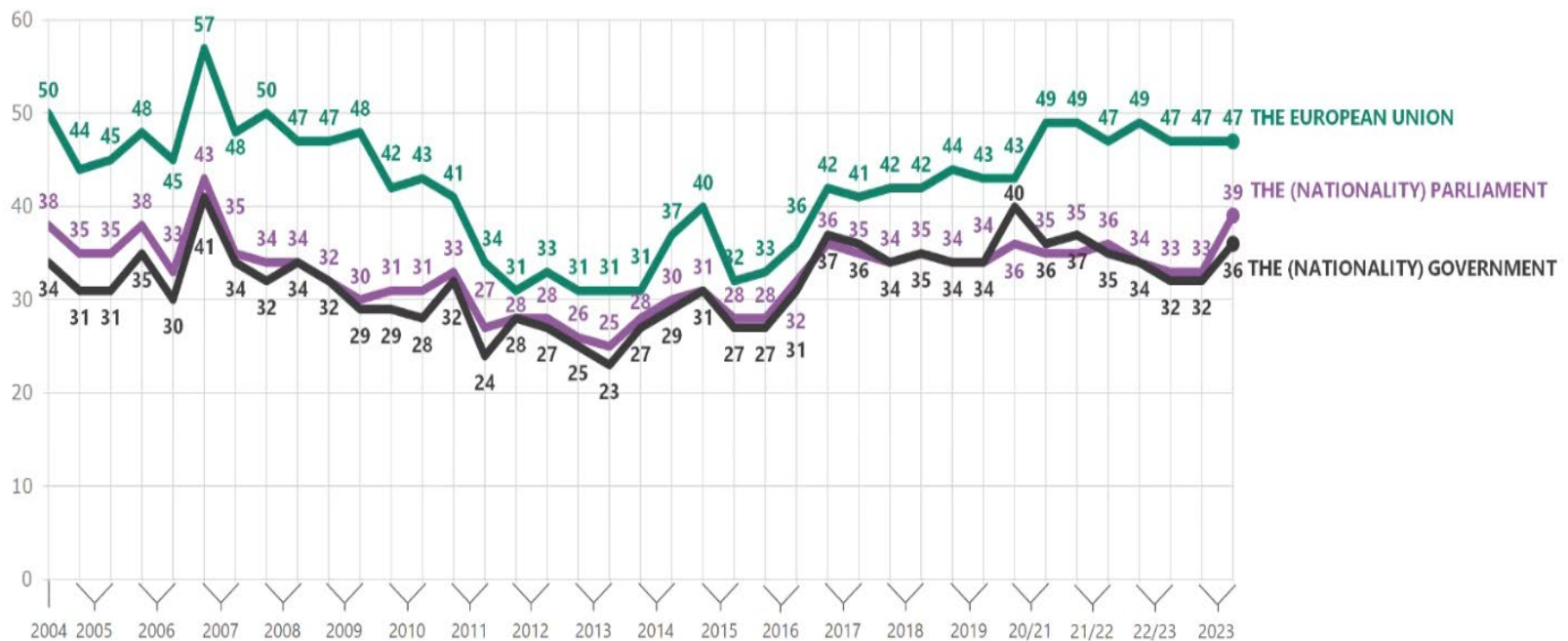
^{*} Scores are rounded to two decimal places. Annual percentage change in score is rounded to one decimal place. Countries with annual percentage changes in scores that round to 0.0% have been graphed according to their unrounded score in order to show changes.

Source: WJP Rule of Law Index 2023

Internal Threats : Weakening Trust in Institutions

Trust in national governments, national parliaments, and the European Union

QA6 How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?
(% - EU - TEND TO TRUST)



External Threats : The Rise of Authoritarianism



4. SOLUTIONS FOR A BETTER EUROPE

