

Contemporary European Politics
ESSCA 2021

'Solving Europe' Group Presentation Comments and Marks

Overall comments. Many of the presentations lacked a global overview of the problems involved, and the solutions proposed were often rather vague. Consequences of your policies were difficult if the policies weren't clear. In general, the PowerPoint presentations were well designed and covered the main points of your subject; they were also, in general, well presented orally in class.

Group A presentations

Water availability

Kim, Samet, Manon and Thomas

Cover Page. Yes. Missing the ESSCA logo

Style. Well presented

Content. Good data. Needs to show water use percentage by Citizens / Agriculture and Industry

Proposals. Too vague. Different countries have different problems – e.g. among southern and northern countries. What is 'improving drought management'? Households – nothing on the cost / pricing of water. This is more of an educational campaign than EU regulations.

Consequences. Again, rather vague. Since the policy isn't clear, then its impact can't be clear either.

Mark 14/20

Immigration

Célie, Hugo, Caoimhe and Erdal

Cover Page. Missing your names and the ESSCA logo

Style. Clear slides. Easy to read.

Content. Shows intra-European migration, but not external migration into the EU. Doesn't show where the main flows come from and go to.

Proposals. Good proposals. Good idea for temporary humanitarian visas. "We should help countries in bad conditions" – vague. What help? How? Minimum salary – good idea. Quota system – good idea.

Consequences. Good to separate the consequences per proposal. Quota system – what about Schengen – and the free movement of people within Schengen?

Mark 16/20.

EU Debt

Cristina, Eline, Florine and Mélodie

Cover Page. Missing the ESSCA logo

Style. Clear slides. Easy to read.

Content. Good content page. Good Covid debt data (but remember that debt is relative to the previous year). Should start with the Maastricht criteria and Stability Pact (60% GDP debt max) then the 2008 Sub-primes crisis which was the start of EU debt.

Proposals. Eurobonds – good – but should you tie in conditionality to Eurobond loans (for example, that a certain percentage should be only for Green Energy investment)? EU Banking system – good.

Consequences. Good comments.

Mark. 17/20

Inequality

Louis, Luis (and Laetitia). Timothé absent.

Cover Page. Missing ESSCA logo.

Style. OK – but keep to 1 graph per slide, otherwise they are too small to read (e.g. Education and Inequality page).

Content. Good to show Gini data. Good median wealth map. Use GDP as a % of population, not a total amount.

Proposals. “Invest more in Tertiary education”. Too vague. “Increase minimum wage”; Too vague. Why not suggest a % of the average salary? Tax systems are currently national, not European. Can we change that? Increasing the minimal wage does not necessarily lead to inflation. No suggestion of a wealth tax or inheritance tax.

Consequences. Because the proposals are vague, then the consequences are vague as well.

Mark. 15/20

Pollution

Bastien, Thomas, Jason and Leo

Cover Page. Missing ‘EU’ and the ESSCA logo.

Style. Clear slides. Keep the Pesticides map on its own (too small).

Content. Need to separate pollution from Global Warming. ½ million deaths – in the EU? NB Electric cars are also polluting – where does the electricity come from? Impact of pesticides good – include neonicotinoids and its effect on bee populations.

Proposals. Not clear at all. Be specific. For example, how will you increase public transport and reduce personal transport? What about taxing aeroplane kerosene and maritime fuel? What about methanisation plants on farms above a certain size? Pesticides – not specific enough. See the lobbying example on RoundUp by Monsanto.

Consequences. Difficulties for implementing change in countries with high debt. Use EU public funding. Doesn't include political / economic / social / environmental consequences

Mark 14/20

Health and Disease

Jake, Iason, Manuel and Noel

Cover Page. Use ESSCA logo.

Style. Clear, but lacking graphs / maps

Content. “Pandemic showed us there is a lot to improve”. Needs more precision. Problem of outsourcing our producers (masks, medication etc from China). Lacking debate / data about reduction of investment in public health.

Proposals. Totally vague. Develop the idea of a European Health Union. What does it mean? What does it involve?

Consequences. Not related to health. There should be clear EU proposals on health measures followed by Political / Social / Economic and Environmental consequences of your policy.

Mark 12½/20

Food Security

Eloi, Lucas and Oscar

Cover Page. Use ESSCA logo

Style. Some pages have text that is very difficult to read.

Content. “A global problem” – show a map of world food security. Good to use poverty levels (but needs definition). Good graph of size of EU farms. Requires better argumentation of ‘industrial’ versus ‘small and local’. You don't include the EU Food Bank system.

Proposals. Needs to be more specific. What new regulations will there be?

Consequences. Need graphs on separate pages – or at least larger. Types of EU crop production should be in the Contents’ section. With no clear EU policy, it is difficult to judge the consequences. Anyou going to regulate on factory farming?

Mark 15/20

Group B presentations

Culture in crisis

Roxane, Clément and Tobias

Cover Page. Lacking ‘EU’ and ESSCA logo.

Style. Clear, easy-to-read slides

Content. Needs to show that this is related to the Covid pandemic. What is the situation of ‘culture’ in the EU overall?

Proposals. Only Covid-related. There is no clear EU policy on enhancing culture. Why not propose EU fiscal policy on cultural events?

Consequences. Good to show the Multiplier Effect, but needs better explanation that government investment is not ‘lost’, but comes back via taxation. Since there is no clear EU policy, it is difficult to see the consequences.

Mark 13½ /20

EU Defence

Jessica, Thomas, Hugo and Jules

Cover Page. Missing ESSCA logo

Style. Clear and well designed

Content. Current situation – good. NATO vs EU good. Good analysis of weaknesses.

Proposals. Clear. What % of EU budget? Who decides on EU action?

Consequences. Well thought-out consequences to your policy proposals.

Mark 18/20

Global Warming

Amanda, Aurélie, Quentin and Louis

Cover Page. Use ESSCA logo

Style. Clear and well-designed.

Content. Existing situation – good. Good map of future global warming. Good to point out the use of and weaknesses of the ETS system.

Proposals. Tax increase. Needs to be more specific. Carbon footprint tax? Problems with the WTO if you tax countries differently. Overall proposals rather weak.

Consequences. You are meant to show the Political / Economic / Social and Environmental of putting your proposals into place. Unfortunately, you haven't done this.

Mark 14/20

EU Fishing Policy

Hadrien, Joseph and Théo

Cover Page. Good

Style. Clear slides

Content. The constant video is not relevant and is distracting. History of EU Fishing Policy – good. Too much time spent on Brexit which is a minor problem. No data on EU fish resources and over-fishing.

Proposals. Brexit solution OK – but would result in retaliation with UK import duties on EU fish. No clear solutions shown for over-fishing – except for seasonal fishing which needs more data and explanation. No clear solution for electric fishing. No clear solution for fish farming.

Consequences. With no clear policies, it is difficult to show the consequences. There should be Political / Economic / Environmental and Social consequences to your policies. These are not shown.

Mark 13/20

Water Availability

Joséphine, Victor, François and Paul

Cover Page. No names. No ESSCA logo.

Style. Good slides

Content. Lacking data on current water availability in the EU. No data on rainfall, river capacity, drought areas etc. Who uses how much water as a % by people / farming and industry?

Proposals. Unclear. Be specific. Special funds for southern countries? Legislation on water appropriation from rivers running into other countries? Protecting wetlands is off subject. Irrigation efficiency – policy proposals?

Consequences. The consequences are meant to show what happens when you implement your proposals. Because your proposals are unclear, it is obviously difficult to estimate the consequences.

Mark 13/20

ERASMUS and Education
Hippolyte, Paul, Anna and August

Cover Page. Missing ESSCA logo

Style. Clear slides. Easy to read.

Content. What is the EU budget for ERASMUS? Needs more slides and explanation on Young Entrepreneurs.

Proposals. The proposals are good – but - where is the new budget? “Make it accessible for everyone” – explain and budget. “Remove language barriers” – How?

Consequences. The cost? Needs data. What % of the EU budget? Political – countries in favour of or opposed to increasing the budget.

Mark 14/20

Global Warming
Issae, Philippe and Lorena

Cover Page. Needs ESSCA logo

Style. Clear, easy to read slides

Content. English mistakes. Not checked. Show all EU countries, not just Germany. Temperature rising – how much, since when? Drought, fire and flooding – show maps and data. EU Emissions Trading needs more explanation. Explain measurement in CO² of gases like methane. What are the sources of CO² emissions?

Proposals. Good overall ideas but specific enough.

Consequences. Poor. Should show Political / Economic / Social / Environmental consequences of the policies you propose.

Mark 14½/20