

EU TYPES OF LAWS

Lawmaking in the European Union can take different forms to let EU countries adapt the rules to their context.



REGULATIONS

EU laws that **apply to all EU countries entirely, automatically, and in the exact same way** everywhere.

They basically create “one rule for all”, when it is better to set a single identical law for all countries at once.

Regulations become part of national law and can be enforced through the national courts of each EU country.

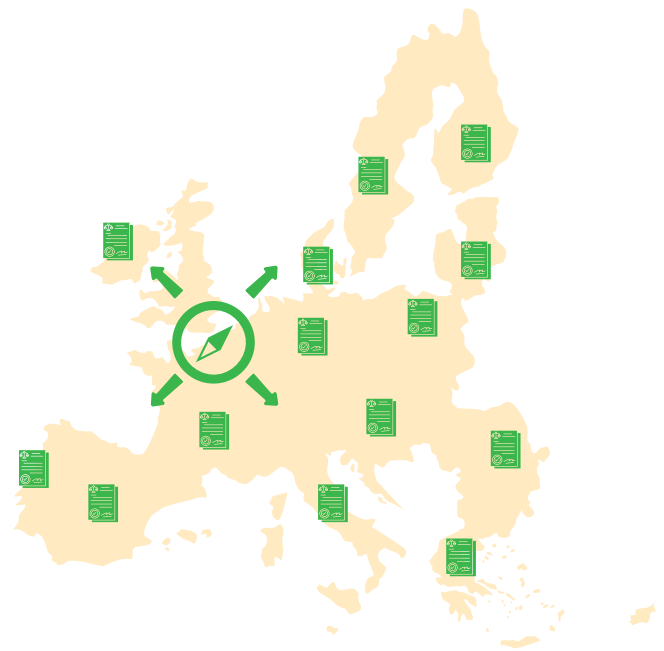
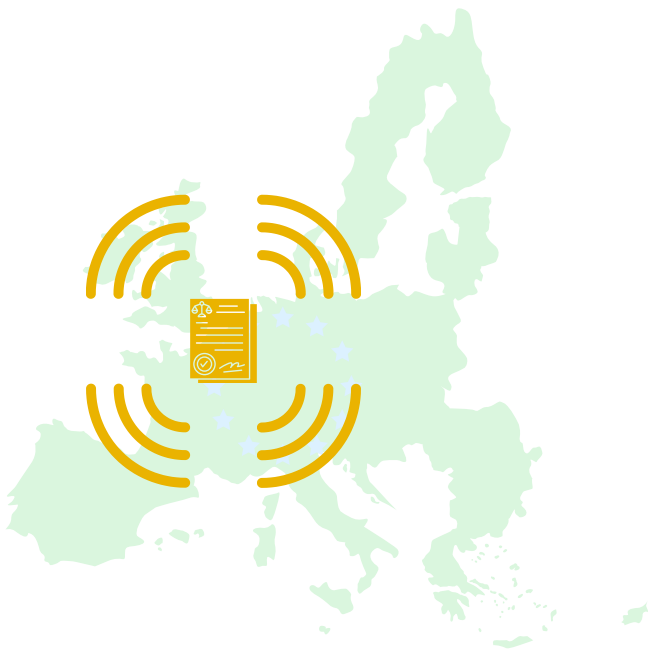


DIRECTIVES

EU laws that **set common goals for EU countries, but that they can achieve in their own way**.

Usually member states apply a directive by making their own national rules: they are **“transposing” a directive into national law**.

EU countries have more freedom, more leeway with directives to let them adjust the rules to their national traditions.



What does it mean for EU citizens? The “direct effect”

Regulations have what is called a “direct effect”: they are applicable immediately, so individuals can invoke an EU regulation before a national court in any kind of trial.

Directives do not have this privilege: before a national court, individuals must rely on the national laws “transposing” EU directives. However if an EU country has not transposed a directive in time or done it badly, it can nonetheless have a direct effect!