

# Learning Design for: EUSID\_Portugal\_ROM5\_Brexit-Consumer Rights European Court of Justice Simulation

## Context

Topic: Brexit - Consumer Rights.

Total learning time: 30 minutes

Designed learning time: 30 minutes

Size of class: 28

Description: The teaching scenario is divided in 2 activities:

- Activity 1: Students watch a Prezzi presentation on the subject;
- Activity 2: Students form teams of 4/5 and answer multiple choice questions shown in a prezi

Mode of delivery: Classroom-based

## Aims

- to raise questions about the future of consumer rights;
- To analyse and evaluate the benefits and costs of the UK's membership of the EU in the context of Brexit

## Outcomes

Summarise (Comprehension): Consumer rights and commerce with eu and to the uk in the event of "no-deal";

Reflect (Evaluation): Effects on currency; Inflation Rates; National productivity; The housing market.

Identify (Knowledge): the sectors affected by a withdrawal without any agreement.

## Teaching-Learning activities

### ***Prezi presentation: Brexit - Consumer Rights.***

*Read Watch Listen   15 minutes                      28 students      Tutor is available              F2F*

Brexit is an abbreviation for "British exit," referring to the U.K.'s decision in a June 23, 2016 referendum to leave the European Union.

Since its referendum, the UK has given a withdrawal notice to the EU and since tried to find a common ground between the country's demands and the final withdrawal agreement that has to be consented by the European Parliament. As of today, that agreement has not yet been achieved. This approach would be a "deal" approach;

Conversely, a "no deal" would mean that the UK had failed to find a common agreement on the terms of its exit from the EU. At first, this would mean that there would not be period of transition after Brexit and the UK would cut its bonds with the EU abruptly. While it is a possibility, in reality neither the UK nor the EU would favour a no deal approach because it signals a poor political relationship between the two parties.

A) CONSUMER RIGHTS AND COMMERCE WITH EU AND TO THE UK IN THE EVENT OF "NO-

## DEAL"

A no-deal Brexit would bring "chaos" to both sides of the English channel as consumers, businesses and public bodies would have to respond immediately to changes as a result of leaving the EU.

### Lack of safety inspection

In the event of no deal, the government's main priority would be to keep trade flows moving, rather than paying any attention to the quality of the products being introduced to the market without proper health and safety inspections. This, has very harmful consequences as it would weaken people's rights to take action when they purchase faulty or dangerous products from outside the UK.

### Increased costs and risks

As the country is leaving the single market, this would mean hard borders and new burdens, as the preexistent free trade deals with countries such as Canada, Japan and South Korea would be null, this resulting on new tariffs on products. These free trades would take at least five years to be reinstated leading to five years of increased costs for UK businesses what potentially could be the downfall of many small businesses operating inside the country. It has been announced by the UK government that 8 million pounds will be invested to support broker training, help customs intermediaries and traders based in the UK.

### Cross-border services

The 310 mile border between the UK and Ireland is a matter of great political, security and diplomatic sensitivity. Both countries agreed that whatever happens as a result of Brexit there should be no new physical checks or infrastructure at the frontier. However, as Ireland is still part of the EU, its strict rules on checking certain food products to protect consumers, businesses and national budgets may prove to be a potential problem. A solution to this would be "the backstop" which is a position of last resort, to maintain a seamless border until December 2020 on the island of Ireland in the event that the UK leaves the EU without securing an all-encompassing deal. It would involve the UK retaining a very close relationship with the EU for an indefinite period. If an agreement is not reached between the UK and the EU there could be issues that would affect the entire Irish population like the rail travel, the electricity supply, fishing, agriculture and livestock and cattle.

### EU mutual recognition regulation

Companies exporting to EU countries will have to meet each country's national requirements because the EU mutual recognition regulation will no longer be applied. This regulation stated that if a product is made to comply to a country's national requirements and is sold in that country than it can be lawfully marketed in other EU countries even though those countries may have different national requirements for that specific product.

## B) INFLATION RATES AND NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY, THE HOUSING MARKET

### Effects on currency

As we can see in this graphic by the BBC the pound fell sharply following Britain's decision to

leave the EU. A wide consensus regards that sterling would take an immediate hit as soon as it became clear no deal was to be a reality. Currency experts think that a softer Brexit could provide a boost to the economy by providing confidence and certainty to companies and consumers. But there are other factors that influence the current status of this currency, for example interest rates when there is a higher foreign investment and money-printing which does not reduce the value of a currency substantially.

#### Inflation Rates

The current fall in sterling would push up inflation. That would likely be intensified by the sudden disruption to trade and migration, which would probably drag supply of goods and services below demand, pushing up prices, raising rates despite the economic slowdown which would weigh on growth. The hit from the sudden introduction of tariffs and border crossings will push inflation markedly higher, made worse with the weaker currency. This would be damaging to the British population as products that are crucial to our daily lives and proper housing might not be affordable to the lower working class.

#### National productivity

Productivity is considered an important driver of improved living standards over the long term, enabling companies to pay higher wages as they are able to produce higher revenues with the same or fewer resources. Economists are concerned a decline in business investment, caused by Brexit, will hamper future productivity gains. Although economic growth has remained stagnant, employment has increased to record highs. Unemployment has dropped to the lowest levels since the start of 1975. This is bad for productivity, as the measurement divides economic output by labour input. With the uncertainty that results from Brexit it is predicted that the immigration rate will decrease. And lower immigration means lower productivity in the immediate term as companies struggle to fill vacancies leading to a significant decline in national productivity.

#### The housing market

Polls have said that a no-deal would knock the housing market. In the case that the UK leaves with a deal its overvalued housing market will undergo a modest correction and prices are expected to rise slowly despite the general inflation. On the contrary, if a deal is not reached the prices are bound to drop substantially which is more noticeable in London with a decline of 3%. This fact will allow Londoners to be able to afford a house in this previously overpriced housing area.

## CONCLUSION

All things considered, if Great Britain leaves the European Union without a withdrawal agreement it would immediately affect all sectors. As it is concerned for consumers : the quality of products in the british market will not be ensured; these products will become more expensive due to new trade tariffs, the declining value of sterling and the inflation of the market; there will be problems concerning the nowadays seamless border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland and the EU's safety checks necessary at this border; the EU mutual recognition regulation will no longer be prevailing; Companies will employ more people decreasing the national productivity rate; and, lastly, the housing market will be at its lowest allowing more people to move back to the capital.

*Linked resources*

PRezi \_ Brexit : Consumer Rights

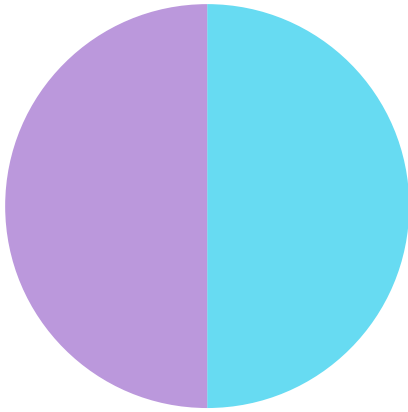
*Practice*                      *15 minutes*                      *28 students*      *Tutor is available*                      *F2F*

Students form teams of 4/5 and answer multiple choice questions shown in a prezi

*Linked resources*

Prezi QQuestions: Brexit and consumer rights

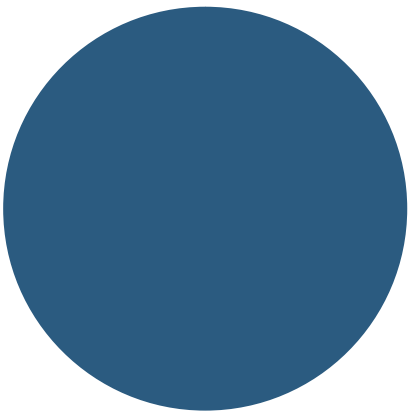
## Representations of the learning experience



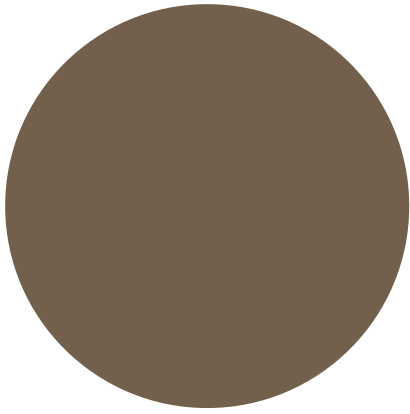
Learning through	Minutes	%
Acquisition (Read, Watch, Listen)	15	50
Investigation	0	0
Discussion	0	0
Practice	15	50
Collaboration	0	0
Production	0	0



	Minutes	%
Whole class	30	100
Group	0	0
Individual	0	0



	Minutes	%
Face to face	30	100
Online	0	0



	Minutes	%
Teacher present	30	100
Teacher not present	0	0