

European Economic Integration (F000673)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2025-2026

A (semester 2)	English	Gent	group work
			independent work
			lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Merlevede, Bruno	EB21	lecturer-in-charge
Muyllé, Pablo	EB21	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Science in Business Economics	5	A
Bachelor of Science in Economics	5	A
Bachelor of Science in Economics (Double Degree)	5	A
Master of Science in Complementary Studies in Economics	5	A
Master of Science in Public Administration and Management	5	A
Exchange programme in Economics and Business Administration	5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

European Union, European Economy, European policy, regional economic integration

Position of the course

This course analyses, within an economic framework, the history, the institutions and the policy of the EU. It builds upon the knowledge acquired in a solid introductory course on Economics (covering the most important macro and microeconomic principles).

Contents

PART I: HISTORY, FACTS AND INSTITUTIONS
 History, Facts, law, institutions and the budget
 Decision making
 PART II: THE MICROECONOMICS OF ECONOMIC INTEGRATION
 Essential microeconomic tools
 The essential economics of preferential liberalisation
 Market size and scale effects
 Growth effects and factor market integration
 Economic integration, labour markets and migration
 PART III: EU MICRO POLICIES
 The Common Agricultural Policy
 Location effects, economic geography and regional policy
 EU competition and state aid policy
 EU trade policy

Initial competences

The most important macro- and microeconomic principles
 Students should have at least an elementary background in statistics.

Final competences

- 1 To interpret the efficiency and allocation of (European) decision-making procedures
- 2 To interpret the trade-effects of economic integration
- 3 To interpret the effects of economic integration on growth, labour markets and migration
- 4 To interpret different policy areas of the EU: common agricultural policy, regional policy, competition policy and external trade policy.
- 5 To be able to translate theoretical concepts to causal empirical validation
- 6 To analyse the impact of new developments in the European integration process.
- 7 Retrieval and process data in group using empirical analysis
- 8 Incorporate own research findings a research paper in collaboration with group members.
- 9 Construct the theoretical concepts and arguments in English.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Group work, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

- Lecture
- Student teams write and present a report on a theme related to the course. Teams discuss other teams' work and presentation. There is one compulsory and one optional fixed interim feedback session. Students may contact the lecturer for further guidance in between these dedicated feedback moments. Detailed guidelines are made available through the online platform and lectures.
- Students cover the institutional context themselves by means of a chapter in the textbook. The institutional context is then used and discussed in various topics covered in class.
- Students prepare classes on EU micro policies through audio embedded powerpoints and clips. In class theoretical concepts are further developed and linked to recent and seminal scientific research articles.

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: slides

Indicative price: € 5

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

Additional information: Slides available via the online learning platform. Students who prefer a printed copy need to take into account printing costs.

Type: Reader

Name: Scientific articles

Indicative price: € 5

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

Additional information: Scientific articles available via the online learning platform. Students that prefer a hard copy need to take into account printing costs.

References

References will be distributed through Ufora.

Furthermore, the textbook contains for each chapter a limited number of references.

Course content-related study coaching

Questions can be raised during class, via email or through an appointment.

With respect to the team assignment, there is one compulsory and one optional fixed interim feedback session. Students may contact the lecturer for further

guidance in between these dedicated feedback moments.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Presentation, Peer and/or self assessment, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is not possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Written exam that aims to test the way in which students are able to

- explain various topics
- analyse a specific problem/theory and translate it into a causal empirical analysis

Students write a report on a topic introduced during the first class. The report is presented and each group discusses the work of another group.

Calculation of the examination mark

a) Exam (written, 70%)

b) Report + presentation + discussion (30%)

Participation in both parts a) and b) is mandatory to be able to pass. Non-participation in part b) will result in a total score of 9/20 should the score on part a) be 10 or more.

The result of part b) is transferred to the second exam period in case of resit.

Facilities for Working Students

Students may opt for an individual assignment instead of the teamwork