

European Economic Integration and Regional Integration Analysis (F000954)

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

Credits 9.0

Study time 270 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

Dewitte, Ruben

EB21

co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

[Master of Science in Economics of Globalisation and European Integration](#)

crdts

9

offering

A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

European Union, European Economy, European policy, regional economic integration, gravity model, empirical analysis in international economics, policy analysis

Position of the course

This course analyses, within an economic framework, the history and institutions of the EU, trade integration in the EU and the most important microeconomic policy domains 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

Module 1

Part 1

- History, facts, law, institutions and the budget
- Decision making

Part 2 – Microeconomics of integration

- The essential economics of preferential liberalization
- Market size and scale effects
- Growth effects and factor market integration
- Integration, labour markets and migration

Part 3 - EU micro policies

- Common Agricultural Policy
- Regional policy and economic geography
- EU competition and state aid policy
- EU external trade policy

Module 2

Part 1 - The Gravity Model: empirical analysis in international economics

- The gravity model of International Trade

Part 2 - Regional integration analysis in R/STATA

Initial competences

The most important macro- and microeconomic principles
Students should have taken a basic course in statistics/econometrics

Final competences

- 1 To explain the history of European integration, the logic of various steps in the integration process, and the institutional structure of the EU
- 2 To analyze and interpret the efficiency and allocation of (European) decision-making procedures.
- 3 To analyze and interpret the trade-effects of economic integration
- 4 To analyze and interpret the effects of economic integration on economic growth
- 5 To analyze and interpret different policy areas of the EU: common agricultural policy, regional policy, competition policy and external trade policy.
- 6 To be able to translate theoretical concepts to causal empirical validation
- 7 To be able to perform and analyze empirical analysis of trade integration

Conditions for credit contract

This course unit cannot be taken via a credit contract

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

Ex cathedra teaching

- 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 power-point slide shows and clips. In class theoretical concepts are further developed and linked to recent and seminal scientific research articles.
- Student study under supervision topical academic empirical papers related to the course.
- Student teams write and present a report on regional integration containing an analysis in R/Stata. Student 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.

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 the UGent online learning platform.
The textbook contains for each chapter a limited number of additional 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

Oral assessment, Peer and/or self assessment, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Written exam that tests

- specific knowledge of course content;
- to what extent the student is able to use the tools offered in the course to analyse an issue related to European integration;
- to what extent the student is able to analyse an issue related to European integration within the broader framework of the course

Written exam mid-semester that tests

- specific knowledge of course content;
- to what extent the student is able to use the tools offered in the course to analyse an issue related to the course;
- to what extent the student is able to analyse an issue within the broader framework of the course

Students write an assignment in teams, present their own work, and discuss the work of other teams.

Calculation of the examination mark

- Exam module 1 (written, 45%)
- Exam module 2 mid-semester (20%)
- Report on regional integration containing analysis in R/Stata + presentation + discussion (35%, peer-assessment)

Participation in parts a), b), and c) is mandatory to be able to pass. Non-participation in any part will result in a total score of 9/20 should the score on other parts be 10 or more. In case of resit scores of successful subparts can be transferred to the second exam period. Resit for part c) involves upgrading the empirical analysis and report.