

## European Economic Integration (K000989)

**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	independent work
			lecture
			group work

**Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026**

Merlevede, Bruno	EB21	lecturer-in-charge
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**Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026**

	<b>crdts</b>	<b>offering</b>
<a href="#">Master of Science in Teaching in Social Sciences(main subject Political Science)</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Master of Science in EU-Studies</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Exchange Programme in Political and Social Sciences</a>	5	A

**Teaching languages**

English

**Keywords**

European Union, European Economy, European policy, Regional integration

**Position of the course**

This educational component analyzes, within an economic framework, the history, the institutions and the policy developed by the EU in an number of important policy areas.

**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 final competences of the courses 'Economics' and 'International Economics'

**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 analyse and interpret the efficiency and allocation of (European) decision-making procedures
- 3 To analyse and interpret the trade-effects of economic integration

- 4 To analyse and interpret the effects of economic integration on growth, labour markets and migration
- 5 To analyse 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 Be able to explain and to analyse the European integration process, the relationship between various policy areas and to develop the ability to situate new developments within a historical perspective and to analyse the impact of these developments.

#### **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**

- Lectures
- 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. Specifics are communicated via the online learning environment.
- 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: Academic articles

Indicative price: € 5

Optional: no

Language : English

Available on Ufora : Yes

Additional information: Articles are electronically available via Ufora. Printing costs for a hard copy of the material if students prefer this.

#### **References**

References will be distributed through the online learning environment.

#### **Course content-related study coaching**

- Questions can be raised during class or via email
- There is one compulsory and one optional fixed interim feedback session w.r.t. the teamwork.

#### **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**

Peer and/or self assessment, Assignment

**Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

not applicable

**Extra information on the examination methods**

testing

\* the knowledge of the material

\* the extent to which students are able to plumb the depths of a given problem

\* the degree to which students are able to interpret a specific problem and identify a coherence within the larger whole of the course

**Calculation of the examination mark**

Exam (written) (70%)

Report + presentation + discussion (30%)

**Facilities for Working Students**

Possibility to discuss an alternative to the team work.