

## European Law & ICT (B001516)

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

**Credits 4.0**                      **Study time 120 h**

**Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027**

A (semester 2)	English	Gent	lecture
			independent work

**Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027**

Lievens, Eva	RE21	lecturer-in-charge
Verhenneman, Griet	RE23	co-lecturer

**Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027**

	<b>crdts</b>	<b>offering</b>
<a href="#">Master of Science in Teaching in Social Sciences(main subject Laws)</a>	4	A
<a href="#">Master of Laws in Laws</a>	4	A
<a href="#">Master of Laws in International and European Law(main subject Comparative Law and Transnational Dispute Resolution)</a>	4	A
<a href="#">Master of Laws in International and European Law(main subject European Union Law)</a>	4	A
<a href="#">Master of Laws in International and European Law(main subject International Business Law)</a>	4	A
<a href="#">Master of Laws in International and European Law(main subject International and Human Rights Law)</a>	4	A
<a href="#">Master of Laws in International and European Law(main subject International and National Legal Orders)</a>	4	A
<a href="#">Exchange Programme in Law</a>	4	A

**Teaching languages**

English

**Keywords**

Information- and communication technologies (ICT), internet, artificial intelligence, fundamental rights, freedom of expression, privacy, data protection, cybercrime, electronic commerce, consumer protection, liability, internet governance

**Position of the course**

The pace with and extent to which information and communication technologies (ICT) are created, adopted and embedded in professional and private spheres lead to the constant emergence of legal issues. The course aims to offer students the knowledge and skills to 1/ identify the correct legal questions, 2/ critically assess the applicability of the current legislative framework and case-law, and 3/ evaluate whether new legislative or regulatory initiatives are required with regard to a selection of ICT-related themes.

The course focuses on historic, recent and actual developments in international and European policy and legislation related to ICT, with a specific focus on the legislative framework of the Council of Europe and the European Union and case-law of the relevant courts.

**Contents**

The course aims to offer students an insight into the legal dimension and aspects of information and communication technologies. This includes the development of critical thinking and a legal reflex with regard to networks, platforms, products, services, content and behaviour that are used, produced or facilitated by ICT. Each year, the course discusses timely themes that may a.o. be linked to the following subjects: 1/ human rights, 2/ data protection, 3/ cybercrime, 4/

platforms (liability, responsibility, digital labour), 5/ artificial intelligence and 6/ vulnerable groups (e.g. children). Each part consists of an introduction, a description, analysis and discussion of relevant legal principles, policy documents, legislation, enforcement mechanisms, case-law and practical implications. In addition, international developments and frameworks (a.o. UN, SDGs) are considered, and where relevant, national practices or case-law are used by means of illustration.

### Initial competences

Basic knowledge of civil and criminal law

Interest in EU and human rights law

### Final competences

- 1 Have a thorough knowledge of the relevant legal principles, instruments and case-law with regard to (phenomena stemming from) specific information and communication technologies.
- 2 Critically reflect on the legal dimension and aspects of existing and emerging information and communication technologies, on the law *de lege lata* and *de lege ferenda*.
- 3 Formulate a legal reasoning for analysing and solving issues in the field of European law & ICT.
- 4 Collect and critically analyse legal sources and doctrine related to a judgment, application, current issue or development in the field of European law & ICT, from an international or European law perspective.
- 5 Write a critical and well-argued essay on a topic within the field of European law & ICT.
- 6 Develop a lifelong learning attitude in relation to topics related to European law & ICT.
- 7 Paying attention to and respecting multiculturalism, diversity, pluralism and tolerance.

### Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

### Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

### Teaching methods

Lecture, Independent work

### Extra information on the teaching methods

Classes are preceded by preparation by the students, and consist of lectures by the lecturers and interactive discussions. Students write a critical essay on a topic within the field of European law & ICT.

Given the level of interactivity of the course, no class recordings are provided.

### Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Media & Technology Law Codex

Indicative price: € 45

Optional: yes

Language : English

Author : Eva Lievens, Valerie Verdoodt, Aleksandra Kuczerawy, Peggy Valcke (eds)

ISBN : 978-9-07220-176-8

Online Available : No

Available in the Library : Yes

Available through Student Association : Yes

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : regularly

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : one-time

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally

Type: Slides

Name: European Law & ICT  
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty  
Optional: no  
Language : English  
Available on Ufora : Yes  
Online Available : Yes  
Available in the Library : No  
Available through Student Association : No

Type: Reader

Name: European Law & ICT  
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty  
Optional: no  
Language : English  
Available on Ufora : Yes  
Online Available : Yes  
Available in the Library : No  
Available through Student Association : No

## References

See course material

## Course content-related study coaching

The lecturer will provide information and guidance regarding the format of the lectures and the individual assignment. The lecturer is available to answer questions before or after the lectures, or by appointment.

## Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Oral assessment

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

Oral assessment

## Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Assignment

## Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

## Extra information on the examination methods

End-of-term evaluation (40%):

- Oral examination: students prepare a presentation on a self-selected topic which is linked to a theme that was discussed during the lectures and answer questions about the topic and presentation

Continuous assessment (60%):

- Independent work (40%): on an individual basis, students write a well-argued essay in which they critically reflect on a topic within the field of European law & ICT.
- Participation (20%): participation in each group discussion during every class, about the studied themes and the group discussion or student conference on the essays

Guidelines on the use of generative AI tools provided by the lecturers must be respected.

## Calculation of the examination mark

- **Continuous assessment:** 60% (20% participation, 40% independent work).  
2nd chance: it is only possible to submit a new or modified essay, points for participation are taken into account.
- **End-of-term evaluation:** 40%

The student is obliged to participate in all evaluations (both non-periodic and periodic); otherwise, he/she will be declared "failed" for the course. This means that if the final score is ten or more (out of twenty), this score will be reduced to the highest non-passing grade.

### **Facilities for Working Students**

In the course of the academic year, working students can make an appointment with the lecturer to obtain more information on the course material.