

## First year of the Executive Master in EU Studies

### Sustainable Development in the EU

Theme/Topic:	Sustainable Development in the EU
Expert:	<b>Ms. Gyöngyver Gyene</b>
Character:	Optional
ECTS Credits:	3 ECTS credits
Teaching methods:	Lecture, seminar and discussion at the presence workshop
Assessment methods:	final exam at the end of the term, assignments, active participation in workshop and forum discussion
Skills and competences	identifying drivers of the sustainability dialogue, composing argumentative pieces of writing and distinguishing between emotional and factual presentation. Presentation/Interest representation exercises in : Designing of arguments and picking the right priorities Strategies and peer reviews, mind maps, Creating a strategy (Problem trees, Objectives, Participation)

#### Objective and course content:

Repeated efforts have been made in Europe to steer development in a sustainable direction and position the European Union at the forefront of greening. Already in 1997, SD became a fundamental objective of the EU when it was included in the Treaty of Amsterdam which also declared that „environmental protection requirements must be integrated into the definition and implementation of the Community policies and activities”. To implement these objectives, the first Europe-wide sustainable development strategy was adopted in 2001. The strategy was seen as a catalyst for policy makers and public opinion, to change society’s behaviour. While SD objectives were later reinforced in the Lisbon Treaty, in power since 2009, a shifting focus from the balanced approach of the 2001 strategy to a more growth conscious orientation is apparent in recent EU policy documents. This course will present how EU SD policies are rooted in the international environmental movement, present its global context and explore the potential for SD to be “the overarching objective of EU policies”, the factors influencing this potential, as well as the meaning of sustainable development for these policies. Students will be expected to review examples of EU sustainability documents of the past decade and reflect on the key issues related to identifying and implementing SD objectives.

#### **Bibliographical advice**

- European Union: European Commission, Communication of the Commission: [Sustainable Europe for a Better World: A European Union Strategy for Sustainable Development](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2001/com2001_0264en01.pdf): (Commission's proposal to the Gothenburg European Council), 16 May 2001, COM(2001)264 final. Available from: [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2001/com2001\\_0264en01.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2001/com2001_0264en01.pdf)
- European Union: Council of the European Union, [The renewed European Sustainable Development Strategy](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/data/press_data/en/06/10917_06.pdf), 26 June 2006, 10917/06

## European and International Studies