

Second year of the Executive Master in EU Studies

The EU as global actor: roles in international organisations and negotiations dealing with international crises and neighbourhood conflicts

Topic	The EU as global actor: roles in international organisations and negotiations dealing with international crises and neighbourhood conflicts
Expert:	Prof. Wolfgang Wessels , University of Cologne (Jean Monnet Chair/ CETEUS)
Character:	Specialisation course
Teaching methods:	Lecture and online course material, seminar and discussion at the presence workshops, guided forum, webinars.
Assessment methods:	Elective: final exam at the end of the term, assignments, active participation in workshop and forum discussion, methodology seminar, Master Thesis
Skills and competences	Understanding the patterns and ways the EU is participating and dealing with crises and conflicts in and through international organisations like the UN or international conferences like the G8. Interdisciplinary approach, methods of research and writing, developing practical policy strategies (how to write a policy brief) and “debating society exercises”

Learning outcomes, methods and course content:

When working in national, European and international administrations executive masters need to understand how the EU deals with crises and conflicts (e.g. in the Middle East or its southern and eastern neighbourhood) and with fundamental global issues like trade and climate policies. Major arenas are international organisations like the UN and multi-lateral conferences like G 20 and TTIP.

Given its size and economic importance, the EU has increasingly played a role in policy making at the international level. Trade and development policy have traditionally been the most visible areas of the EU's external action. The Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), including its defence counterpart (CSDP), have been developing only slowly and are still a long way from what the name suggests. Furthermore, the EU's neighbourhood policy (ENP) has added to the EU's sphere of influence beyond its borders.

European and International Studies

Master students will learn about the relevant legal architecture of the EU's external action and the forces and factors shaping the real performance. This specialisation module focusses on the role of the EU in international organisations and multilateral negotiations. This module raises key questions as to the role the EU currently plays, can and should play. It engages in the debate on the nature of the EU as either a "civilian" or "normative" power – as opposed to military power.

Executive master students will learn to identify, analyse and explain the opportunities and constraints of how the EU can influence policies and politics outside its own borders.

The Executive masters will develop conceptual rigour through written assignments, oral presentations, small working groups and discussions with their peers and the professors of the programme. Particularly, two forms have been chosen to teach future executives to use the practical application of the knowledge gained: writing a policy brief and holding a structured debate on topical policy issues. These skills are useful to enhance employability prospects in the EU-related labour market.