

Second year of the Executive Master in EU Studies - Specialisation phase in Political Science

Professional Track

Topic of specialisation	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 ad personam / CETEUS) Mr Thomas Traguth , MA (Oxon), MA (College of Europe)
Character:	Specialisation course within the professional track, focusing on improving professional skills, writing of an assignment and a Final Paper
ECTS-Credits:	12 ECTS
Teaching methods:	Lecture and online course material, seminar and discussion at the presence workshops, guided forum, webinars.
Assessment methods:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One written assignment; active participation in presence workshops;• regular (short) written contribution to the moderated forum discussion;• final exam on the specialization course content at the end of the term;• methodology seminar with own presentation and development of professional skills;• oral presentation of drafts of final paper;• peer review and commentary of final papers;• presentation of own final paper in the form of SWOT analyses, policy analyses and studies and policy briefs
Skills and competences:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• understanding of the processes and patterns of EU participation in and dealing with crises and conflicts in and through international organisations (e.g. UN, IOs, agencies or international conferences like the G8);• application of interdisciplinary approach between political science, economics and law;• methods of academic research and writing;• formulation of practical policy strategies (how to write a policy brief) and “debating society exercises”;• writing and presenting of an in-depth final paper of 25-30 pages

European and International Studies

Learning outcomes, methods and course content:

This module raises key questions as to the role the EU currently plays, can and should play. When working in national, European and international administrations participants 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, and how it acts in international organisations.

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. Furthermore, the EU's neighbourhood policy (ENP) has added to the EU's sphere of influence beyond its borders. It engages in the debate on the nature of the EU as either a "civilian" or "normative" power – as opposed to military power.

The practical component of this course will focus on relevant practical skills necessary in the political arena, esp. skills in writing a policy briefs, memos, political party declarations, press releases, resolutions in parliament position papers, drafts of European Council conclusions and as applications for EU-funded projects.

- Participants learn about the relevant legal architecture of the EU's external action and the forces and factors shaping the real performance.
- Participants will learn to identify, analyse and explain the opportunities and constraints of how the EU can influence policies and politics outside its own borders.
- Furthermore, they will prepare and present own work of practical relevance, e.g. a proposal for a chosen policy and a strategy for its enactment or implementation in the policy cycle in policy briefs, memos, declarations, press releases and drafts of political documents, such as EC conclusions etc.
- They will examine and evaluate real-life examples from political making or political agency
- They will apply their knowledge to own topics in formulating a 30-page in-depth analysis or study or a SWOT analysis and relevant policy briefs for the policy making arena.
- Overall, the participants develop conceptual rigour through written assignments, oral presentations, small working groups and discussions with their peers and the professors of the programme. These skills are useful to enhance employability prospects in the EU-related labour market.

Bibliographical advice and links :

Keukeleire, S. and Delreux T. (2014): *The Foreign Policy of the European Union*, 2nd edition, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Hill, C. and Smith M (2011): *International Relations and the European Union*, 2nd edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Regelsberger E, and Jopp M (2011): *The Common Foreign and Security Policy of the EU – Fusion Trends and Future Perspectives*, in: Diedrichs, U, Faber, A. and Tekin, F. (eds.): *Europe Reloaded: Differentiation or Fusion?* Baden-Baden, Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft, pp. 396-416.

Stross S, and Den Hertog L. (2013): *Coherence in EU External Relations: Concepts and Legal Rooting of an Ambiguous Term*, in: *European Foreign Affairs Review* Vol. 18(3), pp. 373-388