

## First year of the Executive Master in EU Studies

### Interest Representation in the EU

Theme/Topic:	Interest Representation in the EU
Expert:	<b>Prof. Justin Greenwood</b> , Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen
Character:	Optional
ECTS Credits:	3 ECTS credits
Teaching methods:	Lecture, seminar and discussion at the presence workshop, guided forum
Assessment methods:	final exam at the end of the term, assignments, active participation in workshop, forum directed activities, synthesis and group discussion, case study analysis and problem solving
Skills and competences:	Groupwork, problem solving, presentation, skills in identifying and trade off of different interests, synthesis, critical appraisal, content summation, exercises in working with the Transparency Register.

#### Objective and course content:

The course will examine:

- why the EU has become dependent upon organised civil society interests;
- the mechanisms through which organised civil society interests contribute to EU policy-making;
- the impact which such interests have upon policy-making outcomes;
- the ways in which the properties of the EU political system, and the architecture of EU decision making, structures the character and *modus operandi* of EU interest representation;
- the use made of interest organisations by EU political institutions to achieve their goals;
- whether one type of interest can routinely dominate in the EU's multi-governance system;
- the consequences of dependence upon organised interests for different kinds of legitimacy;
- the limitations of interest organisations as sources of legitimacy;
- the impact of the administrative instruments which govern the interaction between EU political institutions and outside stakeholders;
- the impact of the European Citizens' Initiative as a change agent for the EU system of interest representation;
- the factors explaining the political behaviour of different interest constituencies;
- the extent to which the EU interest representation system is unique, or shares features to be found in other political systems as a result of the presence of common elements.

Bibliographical advice and links:

- Greenwood, J. (2017) *'Interest Representation in the European Union'* 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan
- Greenwood, J (2019) *'Interest Organizations and European Union Politics'* in the Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics, Oxford University Press. doi:  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.013.1162>
- Transparency portal of the European Commission, gateway for the EU's procedures of engagement  
[https://ec.europa.eu/info/about-european-commission/service-standards-and-principles/transparency\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/about-european-commission/service-standards-and-principles/transparency_en)
- The Transparency Register:  
[http://europa.eu/transparency-register/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/transparency-register/index_en.htm)
- Interest Groups in EU decision making, Council blog,  
<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/documents-publications/library/library-blog/posts/interest-groups-in-eu-decision-making/>
- Heidbreder, E (2012) *Civil Society Participation in EU Governance, Living Reviews in European Governance*, vol. 7, (2012), No. 2, <http://www.europeangovernance-livingreviews.org/Articles/lreg-2012-2/>