

Title of the course:	EU law and institutions		
Course ID:	VE-NPT030-N		
Level of education:	Erasmus	Academic semester:	Optional
Professor's name:	Iwona FLOREK	Academic title: PhD	
Hours per semester:	26	Credits:	4
Exam:		Pre-requisites:	-

Aims of the course

The aim of the course is to provide students with knowledge, skills and competences in the functioning of European Union institutions and the sources of EU law. The aim is also for students to acquire the ability to use sources of EU law, interpret EU law provisions, use case law of EU bodies and courts, use publicly available databases, establish a legal basis for resolving problematic issues related to the interpretation of national law provisions in order to assess compliance with EU law.

- The student possesses advanced knowledge of the EU legal order and the EU legal system.
- The student has knowledge of the EU legal system and its relationship with the laws of member states, the system of legal acts and their hierarchy. The student is familiar with the basic institutions of the European Union, their competences, and the opportunities for European citizens to influence the functioning of the Union.
- The student has knowledge of public administration at the European level.
- The student is able to locate applicable legal acts and use them correctly by searching for relevant information.
- The student is able to identify the purpose and functions of the European Union as an international organization with a significant impact on national legal, economic, social, and cultural realities.
- The student is able to apply knowledge of European law and institutions in the field of public administration.
- The student is capable of critically interpreting case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union and demonstrating its impact on the national legal order. As a result, they are prepared to practically apply their knowledge and know where to look for information to further deepen their understanding, being aware of the dynamic nature of legal regulations.
- The student is able to independently express themselves in written form, knowing the principles of drafting documents for use in public administration.

Course outline

Introduction to the subject – general information on integration:

- The origins of European integration
- The concept of European Communities law
- Rationale for the creation of Community law and its general characteristics

European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC)

- Schuman Plan
- The Treaty of Paris, main provisions
- Consequences of the establishment of the ECSC

Treaty of Rome:

- Basic principles of the European Economic Community (EEC)
- Basic principles of the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom)
- Deadlines for the implementation of treaty objectives

Treaty of Maastricht:

- Rationale for its conclusion
- Ratification issues
- Objectives of the European Union
- General comments on the treaty
- Content of the treaty

Treaty of Nice:

- Enlargement of membership
- Institutional reforms

Membership enlargement of the European Communities – accessions

- Association agreements

Sources of law:

- Primary law
- Secondary law (derivative)
- Principle of subsidiarity
- Directives
- Regulations
- Decisions
- Recommendations and opinions

Law-making procedure in the European Union

Application of law

Institutions of the European Communities (general overview of institutions):

- **European Council**
- **European Parliament:**
 - General overview
 - Competences of the Parliament
 - Institutions within the Parliament
- **Council of the European Union – Council of Ministers:**
 - General overview
 - Presidency of the Council and meeting procedures
 - Competences of the Council of Ministers
- **European Commission:**
 - General overview
 - Competences of the European Commission
- **European Central Bank:**
 - General overview
 - Competences of the ECB
- **European Court of Justice:**
 - General overview
- **Court of Auditors**

Auxiliary bodies:

- Economic and Social Committee
- Committee of the Regions

Practical works

Analysis of selected judgments of European courts and tribunals

Requirements and assessment

Recommended topics for essay (if it needs)

Grades:

Readings

1. Treaty on European Union https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:2bf140bf-a3f8-4ab2-b506-fd71826e6da6.0023.02/DOC_1&format=PDF
2. Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:12012E/TXT:en:PDF>
3. European Commission: Directorate-General for Communication and Borchardt, K., The ABC of EU law, Publications Office, 2017, <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/5d4f8cde-de25-11e7-a506-01aa75ed71a1>