



Master of Science in European Project and Public Management

Course Syllabus Winter Term 2014/15

Title of the Course:

Foundations of the European Union I: European Regional Policy

ECTS and Contact Hours:

ECTS: 4

Course units total: 30

Presence Units: 20

E-Learning Units: 10

Workload estimate based on ECTS [1 ECTS = approx. 25 hours of student work. These include course work, e-learning, self-study, homework, assignments, research, writing papers, learning for exams, etc.]

Lecturer:

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Short Description of the Course:

One of the major endeavours as well as one of the consequences of the European integration process is to reduce the differences in development between individual countries and regions and to support the less developed areas in catching up with the others. This process requires joint action to strengthen the predominance of free market forces, as well as the establishment of a support system for the regional policy managed at EU level. An effective common regional policy is crucial to the future development of an integrated EU.

In order to be efficient in European Project Management, one should know the following three frameworks:

1. Political framework (strategic orientation and policies of the EU – challenges)
2. Financial framework (financial sources – financial instruments)
3. Management of European projects (planning, preparation, management)

This course is focusing primarily on the first framework, partially also to the second one..

Learning Outcomes:

The objective of the course is to provide students the fundamental information about the regional aspects of European integration and about the role of the regional policy within the provision one of the basic integration objective - economic and social cohesion. Special attention is dedicated to the role of the structural funds EU within the support of the regional development and the mechanism of the EU's support to the different regions.

Upon successful completion of this course students will:

- understand the theoretical foundations of European regional policy
- understand the impact and independently discuss current issues of Strategic and Economic Policy Framework of European Funding (Lisbon Agenda/Strategy 2020)
- perform independent research on topics within the field of related policies

- be able to combine Incentives and Financial Instruments from a Policy Perspective with the needs of organizations/local communities/regions

Course Contents:

- 1 Strategy 2020 – a framework for policy areas.
 - 32 policy areas (green and white papers, action plans, legislation addressing the challenges of the EU)
 - a. Horizontal Policies
 - b. Sectoral Policies
 - c. External Policies
 - Key documents
 - Classification by theme
 - Practical consideration: Strategic orientation of your company/ institution and Strategy 2020
- 2 Incentives and Financial Instruments – An Overview from a Policy Perspective
 - Direct vs. Indirect support:
 - Programmes covering the whole EU or seeking the common interest of the Community are typically managed by the Commission or by an implementing authority appointed by the EC. 22% of the budget is allocated to direct support managed at European level. In these cases, competition is at EU-level. Interested potential applicants should refer to the website of the relevant programme.
 - If money is allocated to a country, a national authority is responsible for implementation, from issuing the calls, to evaluation, grant agreement negotiation, payment and audits. This is the case for the Structural Funds, agricultural support and some parts of the IPA. Indirect support accounts for more than 76% of the budget. In case of indirect support, competition is on a national level and interested proposers should contact the implementing authority to get information on application procedures and priorities.
 - Overview of Community programmes
EU Funds fully correspond with the main priorities of the EU, with most of the money allocated to Community programmes earmarked for Research, Innovation and Education. The main Community programmes are the Horizon 2020, Erasmus, Youth in Action and Creative Europe.
 - Agricultural supports
Agricultural support continues to receive a large amount of the EC budget but changes have been introduced progressively and new funds have been created aiming to place more focus on rural development and competitiveness.
 - EU regional policy:
 - Cohesion Fund
 - ERDF
 - ESF

Regional support has been restructured and funding is now available through two Structural Funds (European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF)) and the Cohesion Fund. New initiatives have been created in order to try new solutions to solve common problems at EU level while some of the old ones have been incorporated under different funding mechanisms (e.g. Equal, Interreg).
 - Community Initiatives
 - JAPERS
 - JEREMIE
 - JESSICA
 - Regions for Economic Change
 - External support
 - Development Cooperation Instrument
 - European Neighbourhood Partnership Instrument (ENPI)
 - European Development Fund (EDF)
 - Humanitarian Aid
 - Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA)

- Instrument for Stability
- Support for third countries has been highly simplified with the creation of one single instrument for pre-accession, the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) for Candidate and Potential Candidate Countries.

Teaching Methods:

Face to face:

- This course is based on a combination of instructor-led lectures, individual and group work as well as group discussions.

E-learning sessions:

- Participants are required to complete during the course:
 - several home assignments
 - seminar (final) paper.

Literature and Relevant Web sources:

- Economics of the European Union (edited by Michael Artis and Frederick Nixson). 2007. Oxford University Press. Chapter 7: Regional policy.
- The European Commission. 2010. EUROPE 2020 A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Brussels: COM(2010) 2020 (pdf document).
- Deloitte. 2014. A Quick Guide to EU Funding. Nicosia: Deloitte Ltd. (pdf document).
- http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.htm (The European Commission's regional policy website)
- http://ec.europa.eu/policies/index_en.htm

Evaluation Criteria

• Classroom Participation	–	10 %
• Short in-class Assignments	–	40 %
• Final SeminarPaper	–	50 %
• <u>TOTAL</u>	–	<u>100%</u>

Late Submissions of Assignments, Papers, or other course requirements

Late submission of assignments, papers and other course requirements as stated in the syllabus leads to a deduction of points according to the following calculation scheme:

Per week of delay 5% of the points awarded to the specific course requirement are deducted from the points awarded.

Example:

Assignment A:
Maximum Points 100
Achieved Points 80
Delay 2 weeks: -10%
Final points: 72

The grading scale applied in this course is the following:

(1)	Excellent	100 – 93 %
(2)	Good	92 – 85 %
(3)	Satisfactory	84 – 71 %



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| (4) | Sufficient | 70 – 61 % |
| (5) | Failed | 60 – 0% |

Graz, August 20, 2014

Lecturer: dr. Vito Bobek