

UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS - VARNA
MASTER DEGREE CENTER
DEPARTMENT „GENERAL ECONOMIC THEORY“

ACCEPTED BY:

Rector:

(Prof. Dr. Plamen Iliev)

SYLLABUS

SUBJECT: “ECONOMY AND SOCIETY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION”;

DEGREE PROGRAMME: „International business and economics“; MASTER’S DEGREE

YEAR OF STUDY: 6; SEMESTER: 11;

TOTAL STUDENT WORKLOAD: 150 h.; incl. curricular 45 h.

CREDITS: 5

DISTRIBUTION OF WORKLOAD ACCORDING TO THE CURRICULUM

<i>TYPE OF STUDY HOURSE</i>	WORKLOAD, h.	TEACHING HOURS PER WEEK, h
CURRICULAR:		
incl.		
) LECTURES	30	2
) SEMINARS (lab. exercises)	15	1
EXTRACURRICULAR	105	-

Prepared by:

1.
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2.
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3.
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. ANNOTATION

The module “Economy and Society in the European Union” gives insights into the most important economic, social and demographic issues in the EU during the last decades. The module elaborates on the business implications of political, social, economic and cultural changes in contemporary European and global contexts. It gives students essential knowledge, rich information and potential for critical analysis of the current fundamental tendencies, which are underway in the EU. Based on the theoretical and the practical aspects, the module focuses on key concepts, basic theories, as well as on practical comparative analysis of the economic, social and demographic processes, typical to the EU country-members.

The aim of the module is to help students acquire and develop:

-) Ability to gather and analyse actual information for different countries and regions in the EU.*
-) Capacity to identify the crucial social-economic problems of the contemporary EU.*
-) Knowledge and ability to distinguish between the regional and country differences in EU.*
-) Capability to comprehend the responsibilities of the European nations and individuals when facing the challenges of today.*
-) Competencies and skills to critically appraise a wide range of contemporary social phenomena, standards and tendencies in Europe.*
-) Ability to adapt and demonstrate proficiency in the use of the language applied in social-economic analysis.*
-) Capacity to analyse case studies and demonstrate creativity and intellectual curiosity in the debates organized during programme realization.*

II. THEMATIC CONTENT

No.	TITLE OF UNIT AND SUBTOPICS	NUMBER OF HOURS		
		L	S	L.E.
UNIT 1. EUROPEAN UNION FOUNDATIONS AND GENERAL EVOLUTION		3	1	
1.1.	Foundations and historical evolution of European integration.			
1.2.	Institutional structure of EU.			
1.3.	Current state of EU.			
UNIT 2. THE ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION		3	1	
2.1.	European monetary union: development and institutional structure. Cost and benefits of EMU membership.			
2.2.	Fiscal coordination in EU: tax systems, evolution of economic governance, European semester.			
2.3.	Current issues and possible solutions – the future of EMU and EU fiscal policy.			
UNIT 3. EU MEMBER STATES: COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS		3	1	
3.1.	Geographical conditions and natural resources.			
3.2.	Economic power and centres of influence.			
3.3.	Macroeconomic conditions: employment, prices, productivity, R&D, trade.			
4.4.	Public finance.			

UNIT 4. THE SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES IN THE EUROPEAN UNION		3	1	
4.1.	Regions and globalization - the increasing importance of place.			
4.2.	Complex location strategies: learning regions, industrial clusters, location choice triad.			
4.3.	Regional disparities in EU.			
4.4.	Cohesion policy – aims, funds, special support instruments.			
UNIT 5. EUROPEAN UNION IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY		3	1	
5.1.	Current trends in the global economy: globalization and emergence of three new centres of gravity.			
5.2.	EU role on a global scene: economy, trade and investment.			
5.3.	EU declining competitiveness.			
UNIT 6. DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES IN THE EU		4	1	
6.1.	Basic demographic equations			
6.2.	Natural increase of EU population			
6.3.	The Ageing of the EU population			
6.4.	Dependency ratios			
UNIT 7. MIGRATION TRENDS AND MIGRATION POLICY IN THE EU		4	1	
7.1.	Types of EU migration			
7.2.	EU migration trends			
7.3.	Determinants of EU migration			
7.4.	EU migration policy			
UNIT 8. ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF EU DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES		7	3	
8.1.	The economic effects of the ageing EU population			
8.2.	Labour market dynamics: regional and country differences			
8.3.	Unemployment in the EU			
8.4.	The quantity and quality of human capital in the EU			
UNIT 9. SOCIAL POLICY IN EU – PRINCIPLES, APPROACHES AND EVOLUTION		4	1	
9.1.	Theoretical bases of the social policy in Europe			
9.2.	Stages of evolution and development of jurisdictional documentation of the common social policy.			
9.3.	Basic social spheres of regulation in the EU			
9.4.	Contemporary social issues in the EU and their implication on economic growth			
UNIT 10. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE SOCIAL PRACTICE IN SELECTIVE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES		8	2	
10.1.	Scandinavian welfare social model			
10.2.	German social model			
10.3.	Latin countries social model			
10.4.	Anglo-saxon social policy			
UNIT 11. THE SOCIAL PROFILE OF THE EUROPEAN NATIONS		3	2	
11.1.	Social differentiation and its impact on market behaviour			
11.2.	G. Hofstede's classification of national social features			
11.3.	Comparative analysis of the social behavioural characteristics of the European nations			
Total:		30	15	

. FORMS OF CONTROL:

No. by row	TYPE AND FORM OF CONTROL		extra-curricular, h.
1.	Midterm control		
1.1.	Coursework	1	30
1.2.	Test	1	15
Total midterm control:		2	45
2.	Final term control		
2.1.	Exam	1	60
Total final term control:		1	60
Total for all types of control:		4	105

V. LITERATURE

REQUIRED (BASIC) LITERATURE:

1. Jovanovic, M. N. (2005). The Economics of European Integration - Limits and Prospects. Edward Elgar Publishing Limited.
2. Brady, H. (2008). EU Migration Policy: An A-Z. Centre For European Reform.
3. Darvas, Z. and W. Guntram (2014). Europe's Social Problem and Its Implications for Economic Growth. Bruegel Policy Brief 2014/03.

RECOMMENDED (ADDITIONAL) LITERATURE:

1. Jovanovic, M. N. (2009). Evolutionary Economic Geography - Location of production and the European Union. Routledge.
2. Dallago, B. and P. Blokker (2009). Regional Diversity and Local Development in the New Member States. Palgrave Macmillan.
3. Denis, C., K. Mc Morrow and W. Röger (2006). Globalisation: Trends, Issues and Macro Implications for the EU. Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs, EC, Brussels, Belgium.
4. Ferreiro, J., G. Fontana and F. Serrano (2008). Fiscal Policy in the European Union. Palgrave Macmillan.
5. Rica, S., A. Glitz, Fr. Ortega (2013). Immigration in Europe: Trends, Policies and Empirical Evidence. IZA Discussion Paper No. 7778.
6. Fihel, A., A. Janicka, P. Kaczmarczyk and J. Nestorowicz (2015). Free movement of workers and transitional arrangements: lessons from the 2004 and 2007 enlargements. University of Warsaw.
7. European Commission (2015). Employment and Social Developments in Europe 2014. Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion - Chapter 2. Investing in human capital and responding to long-term societal challenges.
8. Maslauskaitė, K. (2013). Social Competition in the EU – Myths and Realities, Studies and Reports N 97, Notre Europe- Jacques Delors Institute.