

Syllabus WB-EU Path, Jean Monnet Module

General information

Credits: Certificate

Dates: 25.03.2023 - 24.06.2026

Final assessment: non-differentiated

(pass/fail)

Target audience: interested stakeholders and the general public interested on WBs' EU integration patterns and prospects. Hence, this task aims to reach the following priority target group: higher education students of European Union Studies, higher education students who do not automatically come into contact with EU studies
Language: English

Course homepage: Moodle

MOOC coordinator: Avdi Smajljaj, Reina Shehi Zenelaj, Jubjana Vila

(Moodle forum & communications)

Lecturers: Avdi Smajljaj, Reina Shehi Zenelaj, Jubjana Vila

Guest lecturers: TBD

Course Description

The WB-EUPath Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) will be coordinated by the module management team at EPOKA University and delivered through the Moodle platform. While the main topics will be taught by the Teaching Staff of EPOKA University, the contribution of the experts from partner HEIs will be highly valuable regarding didactic material and seminars.

The course will be offered for three years to the students of the HEIs participating in the proposed module, interested stakeholders and the general public interested on WBs' EU integration patterns and prospects. Hence, this task aims to reach the following priority target group: higher education students of European Union Studies, higher education students who do not automatically come into contact with EU studies (in fields beyond law, economics, and political sciences).

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The course is designed with a purpose to enhance knowledge and promote learning on EU studies not only among students but also wider society. The aim of the course is to explore the EU integration process of Western Balkans to understand their progress toward EU integration through a comparative approach. It focuses on the role that country-based and regional issues and dynamics have on their EU integration path.

Course format

The course will combine various formats of e-learning possibilities, which could be grouped in the following categories:

Knowledge clips - short videos commentary on basic definitions and concepts (around 45 minutes per each), which will give participants of the course a general overview of key concepts related to comparative regionalism, actors and factors related to integration processes in the Western Balkans. It will also contain references for further exploration of the topic. The following format of material will be provided in the moodle platform.

Academic commentary/round-table discussions – video lectures with interventions from academic experts will provide a more in-depth and critical overview of integration process and comparative dimension between EU and the Western Balkans in terms of regional integration. The video lectures are up to 30 minutes in length and will be uploaded to moodle platform.

Guest interviews - video interviews are aimed at providing specific perspectives on different case studies in the context of competing regional integration projects. The interviews will include academic representatives from the region and from the EU member states.

Each interview is between 15-30 minutes in length and will be provided in the moodle platform.

Additional background material - links and references to relevant documents and interactive material, which provide additional context to the course topics.

In addition to video material, students will have access to readings, course glossary, course supporting materials (course syllabus, tips for studying online and completing the course successfully, support material for preparing written assignments; video clip on navigating through Moodle for external participants) as well as

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communication platform in the form of Moodle forum.

Recommended background

Basic knowledge of the Western Balkans and integration processes in the EU are suggested. However, the course will provide useful background material to any participant. In addition, participants should have at least basic web communication skills and basic familiarity of using digital tools for information searching and learning. Participants should be able to work independently; and be able to work and contribute to a discussion in a multicultural online environment.

Course objectives

The course is designed with a purpose to enhance knowledge and promote learning on EU studies not only among students but also wider society. The aim of the course is to explore the EU integration process of Western Balkans to understand their progress toward EU integration through a comparative approach. It focuses on the role that country-based and regional issues and dynamics have on their EU integration path.

Learning outcomes

Comprehend the current state of affairs of the Western Balkan countries in the EU
Identify the EU integration strategy towards the Western Balkans
Compare Western Balkan countries in the progress and standoff towards EU integration
Analyze the domestic dynamics within the Western Balkan countries in the EU integration process

Assignments and grading policy

The course consists of 100 points. In order to pass the course students need to get at least 51 points accumulated from all assessed assignments. The course assignments are comprised of the following elements:

Short response paper to be submitted online and short written assignment to be submitted online.
Students can track their progress and access their grades on Moodle.

Course certificate

Students who complete all compulsory tasks and who meet at least the minimum

passing threshold criteria (51 points from the overall grade) will receive the digital certificate from the Epoka University.

Course Topics

Introduction to MOOC

The current context and EU integration

The relevance of the EU integration instruments in WB countries

Need for regional or state-specific EU integration strategy in WBs?

Status of WB countries in comparative perspective

The role of domestic dynamics on EU integration progress

Future of EU-WB relations and EU enlargement strategy

Readings list:

Ker-Lindsay, J. et.al. 2019. The National Politics of EU Enlargement in the Western Balkans, Routledge.

Bieber, F. 2018. EU Conditionality in the Western Balkans. Routledge.

Džankić, J., Keil, S. 2019. The Europeanisation of the Western Balkans: A Failure of EU Conditionality? Palgrave Macmillan.

Wunsc, N. 2018. The EU Enlargement and Civil Society in the Western Balkans: From Mobilisation to Empowerment, Palgrave Macmillan.

Zoppi, M. 2022. Futures of the Western Balkans: fragmentation and integration in the region and beyond, Springer.

European Union External Action

https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/western-balkans_en#9519

Additional reading materials will be provided consistently to the students.