

How Europe Works: Institutions and Law in the EU (ILEU)

June 28 – July 18, 2026

Prerequisites

Upper undergraduate students of law, business and public administration, international relations and related fields (after two years of study) or graduates with good standing. Proof of English proficiency required.

Learning Outcomes

- Understand the history and status quo of the process of European integration
- Become familiar with the responsibilities of key EU institutions
- Learn about key aspects of European employment law and European human rights
- Understand important differences in employment law and workers' representation between EU member states
- Gain insights in approaches towards the protection of corporate stakeholders' interests in the EU
- Develop knowledge of corporate governance and EU harmonisation efforts concerning corporate law
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Module 1, Business Law:

EU Foreign Policy and Labour Rights under European Law

Learning Outcomes

The Students will analyse various dilemmata or typical conflicts in the law of the EU and the Council of Europe. They will gain an understanding of how EU law influences the foreign policy of the EU and of its member states. They shall see how European Law changes national law in selected employment relationships, too, concerning, e.g. the power of cartels, the protection of whistleblowers and the fight against discrimination. A focus is therefore on the European human rights' framework. The students will learn about the enforcement of international treaties, which will enable them to judge and communicate about conflicts of interest. They will recognize related similarities and differences between Germany and other European countries.

Lecturer

- Prof. Dr. Johannes Schäffer
- Prof. Dr. Torsten Tristan Straub

Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EU's Foreign Policy Framework under the Lisbon Treaty (Schäffer) • "Football Slavery" and the FIFA / UEFA as cartels under EU Law (Straub) • Study Visit The Representation of the EU in Berlin
Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Economic Sanctions (Schäffer) • Case Study: Sanctions Against Russia (Schäffer)
Day 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unveiling? Religious Clothing and Labour Rights under European Law (Straub) • Whistleblower protection under European Law (Straub)
Day 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foreign Policy vs. Trade Policy? (Schäffer) • Continued: Whistleblower protection under European Law (Straub) • Assessment: test

Literature

Literature, esp. cases, will be indicated by the professors online.

Study Visit

- The Representation of the EU in Berlin

Assessment

- Oral test in groups of max. three students with both of the professors

Module 2, Political/Economic Focus:

European Governance

Learning Outcomes

Students will discover the efforts to unite Europe in the past and will examine the process of European Integration from the European Coal and Steel Community (1952) up to the Lisbon Treaty (2009). They will learn that the Lisbon Treaty has brought about major changes in the architecture of the European Union. Students will gain insights into European governance structures by exploring the competences and decision-making powers of the European Council, the Council of

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Ministers, the European Commission and the European Parliament. Participants will also examine EU law-making process and the role of the Court of Justice in order to better understand the unique structure of the EU. The module will also look at selected policy areas: (1) environmental law and climate change, (2) internet, data protection and artificial intelligence law.

Lecturer

- Prof. Dr. Hartmut Aden

Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is governance – what is European governance?• Governance and multi-level governance in the EU; diversification of governance
Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The EU institutions and their role in the EU multi-level system• Law-making in the EU
Day 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Judicial governance: The European Court of Justice, national courts and litigants• Federal states in the EU multi-level system: the impact of Europeanisation on the German Federal Council (Bundesrat)• Study visit to the German Federal Council (Bundesrat)
Day 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EU multilevel governance in selected policy areas 1 – the example of internet, data protection and artificial intelligence law and policy• EU multilevel governance in selected policy areas 2 – the example of environmental policy and climate change: laws and new environmental policy instruments
Day 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EU multilevel governance in selected policy areas (continued)• Final discussion• Assessment: written test

Literature

- Chalmers, Damian, Davies, Gareth & Monti, Giorgio 2019: *European Union Law*, 4th edition, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Dawson, Mark & de Witte, Floris, 2022: *EU Law and Governance*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Aden, Hartmut 2022: Privacy and Security: German perspectives, European trends and ethical implications. In: Iphofen, Ron & O'Mathuna, Donal (eds.), *Ethical Issues in Covert Research and Surveillance*, Bingley (UK): Emerald Publishing 2022, pp. 119-129. <https://doi.org/10.1108/S2398-601820210000008009>
- Rhinard, Mark (2019). The Crisisification of Policy-Making in the European Union. In: *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 57(3), pp. 616-633.

Study Visit

- Bundesrat (Federal Council)

Assessment

- Written test (60 minutes in length): first part consists of multiple-choice questions (20%) and second part features questions to be answered in short (30%) and longer (50 %) essay form.

Module 3, Business Law: EU Corporate Law

Learning Outcomes

Students will learn about the attempts by the EU to harmonise national legislation regarding corporate law matters. Students will gain insights of how a European Company (SE) is structured and how the ECJ affects corporate mobility in the EU. Further, they will get to know the current debate about the corporate purpose of a company. Finally, students gain insight in the different approaches of national legislators towards corporate governance, especially regarding co-determination and diversity matters. The different corporate legal systems in EU member states will be compared. Students will return to their home universities with ideas about how to build a corporate law system, which serves both the interests of companies and the interests of stakeholders.

Lecturer

- Prof. Dr. Sascha Stiegler, LL.M.

Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to EU Corporate Law: European legal forms, corporate mobility within the EU
Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Corporate Governance models in the EU: one-tier and two-tier system• The “corporate purpose”-debate in a comparative legal context
Day 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Corporate Governance Worker co-determination in the EU• Corporate Governance: Corporate board diversity
Day 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Case Studies: cross-border mobility of companies; formation of a European Company (SE); comply or explain-approach to Corporate Governance; board composition of corporations• The German corporate law landscape
Day 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assessment

Literature

- Dammann/Eidenmüller, *Codetermination and the Democratic State*, European Corporate Governance Institute – Law Working Paper No. 536/2020 (online available – open access)
- Drązki/Tyrowicz/Zalas, *Gender board diversity across Europe throughout four decades*, Scientific Data (2024) 11: 567 (online available – open access)
- Gow/Larcker/Watts, *Board Diversity and Shareholder Voting*, European Corporate Governance Institute – Law Working Paper No. 716/2020 (online available – open access)
- Eidenmüller/Engert/Hornuf, *The Societas Europaea: Good News for European Firms*, European Corporate Governance Institute – Law Working Paper No. 127/2009 (online available – open access)
- Ferrarini, *Corporate Purpose and Sustainability*, European Corporate Governance Institute – Law Working Paper No. 559/2020 (online available – open access)
- Lombardo, *Regulatory competition in European company law. Where do we stand twenty years after Centros?*, European Corporate Governance Institute – Law Working Paper No. 452/2019 (online available – open access)
- Lund/Pollmann, *Corporate Purpose*, European Corporate Governance Institute – Law Working Paper No. 711/2023 (online available – open access)

Study Visit

- TBC

Assessment

- Presentation of results of case studies (15 minutes)

Additional Module: German Culture & Society: Intercultural Perspectives

15 hours of German Culture & Society (study visits and class)

Topics & Learning Outcomes

This module will deal with German culture and society through many different site visits, and explore topics such as the Berlin Wall and Cold War era, Nazi-Germany, Prussia and its kings, German stereotypes, German university system, German politics, contemporary art or pop culture in Germany. In reflective papers, the students will have the opportunity to contemplate and highlight the differences and similarities between the students' home cultures and their new host culture/the cultures of their classmates. This module will help students to reflect upon and deepen their intercultural experience.

Study Visits

- One visit per week; sites may include: Schloss Charlottenburg, Park Sanssouci, Sachsenhausen concentration camp, Berlin Wall Memorial, Dark Worlds: bunker tour, Reichstag (German parliament) Urban Nation (street art museum) and Pergamon Museum.

Assessment

- Reflective papers (one per week). Pass or fail grade.

Grading

Grades will be based on active participation and regular attendance in class and class excursions, on self-study and homework assignments, and on the official assessments. If students miss more than two classes, their final grade may be downgraded. If students attend and pass all the assessments they will be issued a certificate of attendance including a transcript of the grades received. Students with less than 80% attendance will not receive a certificate of attendance. Grades are awarded according to the German university and ECTS grading systems.

Credits

75 contact hours in total:

- 60 contact hours business programme including study visits (6 ECTS credits)
- 15 contact hours German culture & society (1 ECTS credit)

Equivalent to up to 7 ECTS credits

Optional Credit (extra)

(to be completed after the programme, available for an additional fee)

Students may gain an additional credit by completing an extra assignment (in addition to the tasks listed above) i.e. handing in a paper. This paper is due max 4 weeks after the end of the on-site programme. This option allows students to receive a total of 7 ECTS rather than 6. Price: 60 Euro for a regular credit (Bachelor level)

Current (post-) graduate students may be able to receive a graduate certificate by completing an extra assignment (in addition to the tasks listed above) i.e. handing in a graduate-level paper. This paper is due max 4 weeks after the end of the on-site programme. Price: 100 Euro for (post-) graduate certificate of transcript.

* Please note that all course content and teaching staff may be subject to change