

Module Layout

DEE 111 / Institutional Law of the European Union

Faculty	SOED	Faculty of Economics and Management	
Programme of Study	DEE	European Union Law	
Module	DEE 111	Institutional Law of the European Union	
Level	Undergraduate	Graduate	
		Master	Doctoral
		√ (Joint programme)	
Language of Instruction	Greek		
Teaching Method	Distance Learning		
Module Type	Mandatory	Optional	
	√		
Number of Cohort Tutorial Meetings	Total	Physical Presence	Web conferences
	4	2	2
Number of Exercises			
Number of Assignments	2		
Final Grade Calculation	Exercises	Assignments	Final Exams
	0 %	30 %	100 %
Number of European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)	15		

Module Description

Module DEE 111 “Institutional Law of the European Union” is the first module of the mandatory curriculum of the programme of study «European Union Law». The goal of the module is to understand the institutional structure of the European Union and the principles which govern it.

The module begins with the study of the initial idea for the creation of the European Union and analyses the process of European integration until today. It also considers the mutual relationship between the European Union and its Member States, and the obligations and rights that flow from it. Then the issue of EU powers is investigated and the way in which they are carried out both within the EU territory (internal dimension) and internationally (external dimension). Following that the composition, function and powers of key EU institutions are analysed, namely the European Council, the Council of the European Union, the European Parliament, the European Commission and the European Court of Justice. In addition, extensive reference is made to the sources of EU law (primary and secondary EU law) and the law making process. Finally, special emphasis is given to examining the two fundamental features of Union law, namely direct effect and supremacy.

Module Prerequisites

-

Final Grade Composition

Assessment Method	Percentage on Overall Grade	Workload	
		Hours	ECTS
Weekly Study (14 weeks *~18 hours) (2 weeks *~25 hours)	0 %	~275 - ~330	11
Exercise 1	-	-	-
Exercise 2	-	-	-
Assignment 1	15 %	~50 - ~60	2
Assignment 2	15 %	~50 - ~60	2
Final Exam	70 %	3	-
Total	100%	~375 - ~450	15

Grading Policies and Evaluation Methods

- Students are evaluated with 10, if they collect 100% of the possible grade.
- Students are evaluated with 9, if they collect 90% of the possible grade, meaning, $90\% \times 10 = 9$, etc.
- Passing rate
 - Students are allowed to participate in the final exam of a Module, if they have overall collected the minimum grade ($\geq 50\%$) in their assignments.
 - 50% of the Final exam

If a student gains a grade with decimal points, then it is rounded to the nearest half unit.

Main Competencies that needs to be developed

The students who will successfully complete this Module, are expected that they will be able to:

- Understand the philosophy and stages of European integration.
- Evaluate the sui generis character of the European Union and the relationship of this supranational construct with the legal systems of the Member States.
- Recognise the fundamental legal principles of the European Union.
- Critically approach the institutional structure of the European Union and identify precisely the role and functions of key EU institutions.
- Analyse the way in which the European Union creates law and describe its characteristics.
- Use practically the text of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to take advantage of rights against EU and national authorities.

Intended Learning Outcomes

The students who will successfully complete this Module, are expected that they will be able to:

Knowledge

- Refer to the founding treaties and highlight their main contribution to European integration.
- List the substantive and formal conditions for joining the European Union.
- Identify the fundamental principles of the EU legal order.
- Appreciate the difficulties of adopting a Constitution for the European Union.
- Describe the institutional structure of the European Union.
- Define the sources of EU law.

Comprehension

- Distinguish between exclusive and shared competences of the European Union.
- Compare the role of the European Council with the Council of the European Union and the Council of Europe.
- Differentiate between Directives, Regulations and Decisions.
- Understand the function and importance of the principle of subsidiarity.
- Explain the content and the practical implications of the principle of proportionality.
- Identify the differences between supranational and transnational cooperation.

Application

- Apply the case law of the European Union on the direct effect and supremacy in practical cases.

- Solve problems pertaining to the division of powers between the Court, the General Court and the Tribunal.
- Use the text of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to assert rights against EU and national authorities.
- Apply specific concepts to explain the specific nature of the EU legal order.
- Categorise the powers of the European Union.
- Identify the legally binding acts of secondary EU law.

Analysis

- Analyse the problem of the direct effect of directives.
- Evaluate the symbolic and practical importance of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.
- Consider the question of expulsion of a Member from the European Union.
- Discuss the essential content of the principle of sincere cooperation as a concept that binds the European Union and its Member States.
- Summarize the problem of comitology.
- Demonstrate the legal and political importance of the democratic legitimacy of the European Parliament.

Synthesis

- Propose solutions to problems arising from the rejection of the horizontal direct effect of directives.
- Formulate proposals for further institutional strengthening of the European Parliament.
- Utilise in parallel the principles of direct effect and supremacy of EU law in order to gain an overall view of their simultaneous function.
- Collect the different aspects of the basic principle of delegated powers of the European Union.
- Combine the different views of the supreme courts of the Member States on the question of the primacy of EU law over national law.
- Define the role it the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy should have played.

Evaluation

- Assess the success of European integration so far.
- Evaluate the critical role the EU law principles of direct effect and supremacy play.
- Critically approach the principles and objectives of EU external action.
- Suggest ways for better functioning of the EU institutional structure.
- Compare the European Union with other constructs of international cooperation.
- Appreciate the future development of the EU legal order.

Bibliography

Sachpekidou Eugenia, "European law" Sakkoulas, Athens-Thessaloniki, latest edition