

First year of the Executive Master in EU Studies

Sustainable Development Policy and the European Green Deal

Theme/Topic:	Sustainable Development Policy and the European Green Deal
Expert:	Ms Gyöngyvér Gyene , Consultant
Character:	Optional
ECTS Credits:	3 ECTS credits
Teaching methods:	Lecture, seminar and discussion at the presence workshop, guided forum
Assessment methods:	Final exam at the end of the term, assignments, active participation in workshop and forum discussion
Skills and competences:	Current sustainability and climate change issues and institutions, presentation and debating skills, fundamentals of writing policy briefs

Objective and course content:

Course content covers sustainable development policy in Europe, explained against a background of global sustainability trends, focussing primarily on the European Green Deal, the leading policy package aimed at addressing sustainability issues at the European level, as well as a brief review of the key documents featuring sustainable development over the past decades. (Treaty of Amsterdam, 1997: „environmental protection requirements must be integrated into the definition and implementation of the Community policies and activities”; the first Europe-wide sustainable development strategy, adopted in 2001; sustainable development objectives in the Lisbon Treaty in 2009; EU contribution to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, “Transforming our world”, and subsequent member state SD strategies).

The European Green Deal, published in 2019, sets the ambitious objective of transforming the EU into a fair and prosperous society, with a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy. We discuss key objectives and related documents covering the wide range of issues included in the Green Deal: no net emissions of greenhouse gases in 2050; economic growth decoupled from resource use; protect, conserve and enhance the EU's natural capital, and the health and well-being of citizens from environment-related risks and impacts, just and inclusive society, leading international efforts and building alliances with the like-minded, maintaining security of supply and competitiveness.

The course discusses these developments under the following main headings:

1. Sustainability – an emerging global vision
2. Milestones of global sustainable development policy
3. Overview of sustainable development policy in the EU: overarching and competing objectives
4. The European Green Deal
5. The efficacy of policy tools in implementing the objectives of sustainable development in the EU

Bibliographical advice

European Commission, Communication of the Commission: **Sustainable Europe for a Better World: A European Union Strategy for Sustainable Development**. Commission's proposal to the Gothenburg European Council), 16 May 2001, COM (2001)264 final. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52001DC0264&from=EN>

Communication From The Commission To The European Parliament, The European Council, The Council, The European Economic And Social Committee And The Committee Of The Regions **The European Green Deal**. COM/2019/640 final <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52019DC0640&from=EN>

Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
<https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>