

UNIVERSITY OF TARTU Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies

Presenting the final results of NearEU Module

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University of Tartu (Estonia)

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www.neareu.ut.ee



With the support of the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

Basic information about NearEU Module

- **Program:** Erasmus+, Jean Monnet Module
- Duration: October 2020 October 2023 (36 months)
- Lead coordinator: University of Tartu, Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies
- Principal investigator/academic coordinator: Dr. Stefano Braghiroli
- Project manager: Anna Beitane
- **Budget (total):** € 39 996,60 (€ 29 997,45 EU contribution)
 - teaching costs (unit costs): € 28, 569.00
 - other additional activities: € 11, 422. 60

Visual identity



With the support of the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union



Scope of NearEU Module

The module has the aim to create new knowledge, tools, and resources related to Europeanization towards the European Union's Eastern neighbourhood, candidate countries, and - more in general - wider Europe.

Within the framework of the module, emphasis will be given to coherently and **synergically integrated innovative methods of teaching, bidirectional interactivity, blended learning, and open educational resource (OER) material**. The module offers a multi-disciplinary and a diverse methodological perspective on the process of European integration, EU's relations with its Eastern neighbourhood and Russia and with different alternative models of regionalism in Europe and Eurasia.

Partners

Experts from 6 diferent countries:

- Poland
- Finland
- Montenegro
- Albania
- Armenia
- Ukraine

UNIVERSITY OF TARTU





Stefano Braghiroli (Associate Professor in European Studies)

Anna Beitane (Project Manager) 彰 College of Europe Collège d'Europe

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Reina Shehi (Zenelaj) (Head of the Center for European Studies, Epoka University in Tirana)



FIIA FINNISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



Andriy Tyushka

(Senior Research

Fellow, European

Neighbourhood Policy

Chair (Natolin campus)







Gor Petrosyan (Research Fellow at Caucasus Institute and a PhD student at Yerevan State University)



Ryhor Nizhnikau (Senior Research Fellow, Finish Institute of International Affairs)



Nikoleta Đukanović (Faculty member of of the Department of international relations and diplomacy of the University of Donja Gorica, Podgorica)



Iryna Maksymenko (Assistant Professor at the Department of International Relations. Odessa I.I. Mechnikov National University).

Teaching and learning materials

For educators

For learners



Repository of didactical materials (course and MOOCs syllabi; teaching aids; etc.)



New NearEU courses – 'EU-Russia' mõdule in IRRS * & MOOCs



New e-book on didactics of preparing and running simulation exercises of decision making (EU and EaEU)





NeaEU master classes & EaP simulation exercise*



Study trip to Tallinn* & NearEU graduate conference

*only UT students

Expected outcomes (target numbers of each activity)

	ame of the activity	Target audience	No. of participants (in total) 80 (40 + 40) 80 (40 + 40) 2400 (3 years) - 800 per opening (500 - UT & partnering experts; 300 external) 500 - 250 per opening			
	ourse "Illiberal Turn in Europe and Russia"	BA and MA - full-time students of the J.Skytte Institute + exchange students				
	ourse "EU Enlargement and the Challenges of /ider Europe"	BA and MA - full-time students of the J.Skytte Institute + exchange students				
	OOC "Common Challenges of Competing egionalism"	All levels - UT & Jean Monnet Module partnering experts External participants				
R	OOC "Impact of Changing EU-Russia elations on the Development of Eastern artnership"	All levels UT & Jean Monnet Module partnering experts External participants				

Expected outcomes (target numbers of each activity)

Name of the activity	I Target audience	No. of participants (in total) 400 - 50 per master class			
NearEU master class series	MA - full-time students of the J.Skytte Institute + exchange students				
Eastern Partnership Summit simulation	MA - full-time students of the J.Skytte Institute + exchange students	100 - 50 per simulation			
NearEU graduate conference	BA and MA - full-time students of the J.Skytte Institute + exchange students	30 - 10 per conference			
NearEU study visit to Tallinn	MA - full-time students of the J.Skytte Institute	45 - 15 per visit			
NearEU awareness seminars	Teacher; researchers and/or PhD students; administrative and other non-teaching university staff of UT & Jean Monnet Module partnering experts, external participants	210 - 30 per events			

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Timeline: activities in 2021

February - March

- Delivery of the course "Illiberal Turn in Europe and Russia"
- Delivery of the course"EU Enlargement and the Challenges of Wider Europe"
- Working on the MOOC and marketing "Common Challenges of Competing Regionalisms in the Context of European Neighbourhood"
- □ Preparing for NearEU master classes
- □ Update our sisu page

April - May

- Delivery of the MOOC "Common Challenges of Competing Regionalisms in the Context of European Neighbourhood" + didactic material
- □ (April) NearEU master classes (videotaped and live streamed)
- □ (April) 1-day NearEU Graduate Conference for master's students and early stage researchers
- □ (May) NearEU master classes (videotaped and live streamed)

June - July

- □ Work on updating material for the course "Integration Processes in Europe and Eurasia"
- □ (June) NearEU master classes (videotaped and live streamed)
- □ (June) Two 2-day NearEU Eastern Partnership Summit simulation exercises

August - September

- Work on updating material for the MOOC "Impact of Changing EU-Russia Relations on the Development of Eastern Partnership"
- Preparation of didactic material for the e-book

September - December

- (October) 2-day study visits to Tallinn
- Delivery of the course "Integration Processes in Europe and Eurasia"
- D Preparation of didactic material for the e-book
- □ Apply for HITSA e-course quality mark for the new MOOC!
- Update our sisu page

Timeline: activities in 2022

February - March

- Delivery of the MOOC "Impact of Changing EU-Russia Relations on the Development of Eastern Partnership" + didactic material
- D Preparation of didactic material for the e-book
- (March) One E-book on didactics of preparing and running simulation exercises
- D Preparation for the master class
- (March*) NearEU awareness seminars at partner organizations* - 1

April - May

- Delivery of the MOOC "Common Challenges of Competing Regionalisms in the Context of European Neighbourhood"
- (April) NearEU master classes (videotaped and live streamed)
- (April) 1-day NearEU Graduate Conference for master's students and early stage researchers
- Update our sisu page

September - December

- (October) 2-day study visits to Tallinn
- Delivery of the course "Illiberal Turn in Europe and Russia"
- Delivery of the course"EU Enlargement and the Challenges of Wider Europe"
- (September- October) preparation for the master classes
- (November) NearEU master classes 2x (videotaped and live streamed)
- (December) NearEU awareness seminars at partner organizations 2

Timeline: activities in 2023

January

- Update our sisu page
- □ NearEU master classes (videotaped and live streamed)
- Two 2-day NearEU Eastern Partnership Summit simulation exercises
- Apply for HITSA e-course quality mark for the updated MOOC!
- □ NearEU awareness seminars at partner organizations 3

February - March

- Delivery of the MOOC "Impact of Changing EU-Russia Relations on the Development of Eastern Partnership"
- Preparation for master class
- □ NearEU awareness seminars at partner organizations 4, 5

April - May

- Delivery of the MOOC "Common Challenges of Competing Regionalisms in the Context of European Neighbourhood"
- (April) NearEU master classes (videotaped and live streamed)
- (April) 1-day NearEU Graduate Conference for master's students and early stage researchers
- NearEU awareness seminars at partner organizations 6
- □ Update our sisu page
- July
 - (last one) NearEU awareness seminars at partner organizations - Tartu - 7

Project implementation

Platform	Purpose
<u>NearEU Moodle page</u>	 Project documentation Storing and accessing templates and project material Downloading slides and logos Budgetary and financial documents
<u>NearEU MS Teams group</u>	 Module meeting (except our first virtual kick-off meeting); Instant chat option Scheduling meetings Any urgent and quick communication.
NearEU sisu page (link will be available soon) + social medias	 Outreach portal "Landing page" for project deliverables Didactic material

NearEU MOOCs

Common Challenges of Competing Regionalisms – SVJS.TK.025



The course focuses on the multifaceted nature of regionalism in different geographical and geo-political contexts in Europe and Eurasia and on its conceptual and theoretical definition by looking at the relevant cleavages in contemporary societies and at the fluid and ever changing nature of inter- and intra-state interaction and supranational/intergovernmental trends of integration. Impact of Changing EU-Russia Relations on the Development of Eastern Partnership – SVJS.TK.031



The course introduces participants to the logic and structure of Eastern Partnership as well as its evolution in light of geopolitical developments in the region and changing dynamics of EU-Russia relations. The course provides an interdisciplinary overview of the main factors, and decision-making patterns and issues of European and Russian policies in both problem-oriented and regionspecific aspects in the timeframe, starting with the initiation of Eastern Partnership and expanding its focus to present day developments.

NearEU MOOCs



Common Challenges of Competing Regionalisms

- Fully online (run on Moodle), 6 weeks
- Pre-recorded video lectures (including guest interviews from NearEU partnering experts from Albania, Montenegro; Ukraine, Finland and Georgia).
- Enrolled students: 1538 (in total), 77 countries represented
- Recipient of the e-course quality mark 2022; won the "E-course of the Year 2022" title, nominees for Enlight Teaching and Learning award.
- Free of charge + possibility to get 2 ECTS and digital certificate

Impact of Changing EU-Russia Relations on the Development of Eastern Partnership

- Fully online (run on Moodle), 5 weeks
- Pre-recorded video lectures (including guest interviews from NearEU partnering experts from Poland, Finland and Armenia).
- Assignments: quizzes; forum contributions; final exam
- Enrolled students: 1521 (in total), 60 countries represented
- Recipient of the e-course quality mark 2023; nominee for the "E-course of the Year 20223 title
- Free of charge + possibility to get 1 ECTS and digital certificate

NearEU Master classes and NearEU Talks



NearEU Talk with Toomas Hendrik Ilves

- Master classes and talks are aimed to favour public discussion, awareness and debate with leading regional experts and practicioners.
- Past master classes and talks inlcuded such speakers as former President of Estonia *Toomas Hendrik IIves*; Special Advisor to EU High Representative and Vice President of the Commission Josep Borrell *Nathalie Tocci*; Estonian Members of the European Parliament, and others.
- Information and schedule of speakers is listed on NearEU website

List of NearEU master classes

- "Western Balkans: Quo Vadis?" by Dr. Nikoleta Đukanović from University of Donja Gorica - May 2023.
- "Armenia and Georgia: Far and close neighbours in times of global uncertainty" by Dr. Gor Petrosyan from Caucasus Institute, Yerevan) and guest lecturer Dr. Shota Kakabadze (Georgian Institute of Politics, Tbilisi) - April 2023.
- "Future of the Eastern Partnership and EU Enlargement process" by Dr. Ryhor Nizhnikau from Finish Institute of International Affairs); Dr. Iryna Maksymenko (Odesa I.I. Mechnikov National University) and Mr. Gor Petrosyan (Caucasus Institute) and Dr. Nikoleta Djukanovic (University of Donja Gorica) - September 2022





List of NearEU master classes

- "Regional Security and Conflict Management: The Experience of Western Balkans" by Dr. Reina Shehi from Epoka University (Albania, Tiranë) -October 2021
- "Ukraine EU Relations. The long path of Ukraine's return to the European family" by Dr. Iryna Maksymenko from Odesa Mechnikov National University (Ukraine) – December 2021.
- "The EU, Ukraine and (geo)politics of EU association" by Dr. Andriy Tyushka from the College of Europe (Natolin) - May 2021.





NearEU Graduate Conference

- Aim: to provide the its graduate students with the opportunity to present their works, research projects or papers in the format of an academic conference and receive specialized feedback from fellows, faculty staff, and doctoral students.
- Structure: the conference consists of open panels the exact number of which is defined on the basis of the proposals received. Each panel consists of max. four presenters, a chair, and a discussant.
- Prize: at the conclusion of the event, the board of the conference will select and announce the presentation awarded with the "NearEU GradConf Prize" consisting of a 100 EUR voucher valid for the purchase of books, audio-visuals, and other material. The board's assessment takes into account the quality and originality of the presentations.
- Format: hybrid (on site in Tartu for UT students + online for students from NearEU partner institutions)

NearEU Graduate Conference

- NearEU module has also successfully launched three NearEU graduate conferences (spring 2021, 2022 and 2023).
- In total, 30 conference participants presented their papers to the NearEU conference committee.
- Each graduate conference included a key-note speaker, which included a NearEU partnering experts, these included speakers Dr. Andriy Tyushka from College of Europe, Natolin (spring 2021); Dr. Reina Shehi from Epoka University (spring 2022); and Dr. Ryhor Nizhnikau from Finnish Institute of International Affairs (spring 2023).





NearEU Simulations & study trips

- Aim: to expose our students to the practical implications of national and European political conversations and to bridge formal learning with the 'real world'. Focus on policy making and policy analysis.
- Structure: the study visit consisted of two days in Tallinn that combined visits to institutions and thinktanks, meeting with experts and stakeholders, and city walks.
- Format: online and in-person

Visits include Estonian Parliament, Estonian School of Diplomacy, Estonian Centre for Eastern Partnership, European House – Euroopa Experience, Italian Embassy, Delfi, etc.



Challenges and adjustments in the project

- The start of the project collided with the covid-19 pandemic (October 2020) → The format of the planned activities at the start of the project had to be readjusted to either full online format or conducted in a hybrid mode.
- Another change was related to the start of the war in Ukraine as a result of Russia's illegal invasion of the country and accession prospects of Ukraine and Moldova to become members of the European Union → The topics and focus of the master-classes and some video lectures of the MOOCs had to be updated to meet the most recent geopolitical reality and provide students with the most relevant and update information on the subject matter.

Challenges and adjustments in the project

 Considering that one of the project partners is an expert based in a Ukrainian higher education institution – the leaders of the project immediately reached out to the partnering expert at the start of the war to provide assistance and accommodate expert with the commitments to the project's activities. Despite very difficult situation, partnering expert from Ukraine managed to fulfil all project activities in which she had to contribute with her input, except the awareness seminar which could not take place in Ukraine but instead was transferred to online environment.

Conclusions

- The NearEU contributed to both development of new courses and significant restructuring and update of existing courses with the aim of giving students a wider and fresh perspective on the most recent developments in the comparative regionalism and models of regional integration in Europe and Eurasia.
- The module brought together a diverse poll of in-house and external experts (coming from EU, candidate, and partner country's HEIs including Albania; Montenegro, Poland, Finland, Ukraine and Armenia).
- The module contributed to development of new digital material (video lecturers, MOOCs, etc.) and innovative teaching techniques (simulation exercises; problem-based and challenge based learning) that increased students' engagement in the study process.
- In total the NearEU Module developed 47 actions, reaching the audience of more than 4800 participants in Estonia and more than 77 countries around the world (statistics taken from attendance forms and MOOCs surveys from 2021-2023).
- The quality of learning digital content of the Module was also confirmed and reassured by the nomination of the two NearEU MOOCs to the "E-course of the Year " awards in 2022 and 2023 by Estonian Quality Agency for Education, as well as nomination to the Teaching and Learning Award of the European Universities Alliance – Enlight in 2022.

New Jean Monnet Action – Center of Excellence 'Rejuvenating Democracy in Europe' (Repair)

- Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence will improve teaching and research in the area of EU Studies by analysing and seeking solutions to a wide range of contemporary challenges to democratic politics and governance in the European Union.
- the Centre will pay particular attention to **developments in the Baltic region and Central and Eastern Europe** more broadly; it will also focus on **democratic and authoritarian tendencies in the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood**.
- REPAIR will foster dialogue between the academic world, the public sector, civil society and different levels of education and media by modernizing and expanding EU-focused curricula and courses at the University of Tartu, generating new policy-relevant knowledge about contemporary threats to democracy as well as viable solutions, and launching a comprehensive training program for civics teachers in Estonian schools.



Co-funded by the European Union



Three stars aligned

- European Parliament elections
- 20 years since the 2004 enlargement
- Tartu: European capital of culture 2024







European Capital of Culture

Working packages

- Project management and coordination
- Excellent research in European studies
- University-level teaching on European studies
- Enhancing EU studies in Estonian civics education
- Outreach, communication and dissemination

Check it out: <u>https://skytte.ut.ee/en/sisu/repair-rejuvenating-democracy-eu</u>

Master's programme reformed







Contemporary Challenges to European Integration (6 ECTS)

Lecturer: Stefano Braghiroli (stefano.braghiroli@ut.ee) - Teaching assistant: Anselm Schmidt (anselm.schmidt@ut.ee)

DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE:

The purpose of the course is to discuss a number of contemporary policy issues that currently define the EU political agenda, such as Russia's wa 19 crisis, post-Brexit Britain's relations with Brussels, and migration. Students are trained to analyse various current EU policy problems and to de issues.

The course has two main parts, which will run parallel. During the first part of each meeting, seven specific EU cases will be put central in the cou topics will be made as late as possible in order to stay close to actual developments. Students will be provided (on the course website) with basic areas, as well as relevant background academic resources (papers, articles). Each case is introduced and discussed, using the expertise of policy-second part of each meeting, following a students' presentation on the same topic, a seminar will be held, and students will get small (group) assi beforehand. These assignments will vary for each case (preparation of some questions, policy note, presentation). Students will be assigned diffe (presenter/discussant, advocate/opponent) for these class meetings. Second, students are trained in understanding and using some simple tool: and communication, by means of four specific (group) assignments on the cases/issues.

European Studies (120 ECTS) 3094

Confirmed • Updated: 03.10.2023

Level of study	Master's studies
Standard duration in years	2
Study form	Block mode study
Study languages	Estonian
Other necessary languages	English
Programme director	

Admission requirements

Applicants should have a Bachelor's degree or equivalent level of education. Requirements as specified at the university's webpage.

Description

Study languages Estonian Other necessary languages

English

General objectives

The aim of the Master programme on European Union is to provide knowledge on the European Union, their major socio-economic trends and future challenges in different policy areas. The programme combines the problem-based learning methodology with active learning techniques that allow students to acquire skills and competencies for higher competitiveness on a labour market.

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the curriculum successfully, a student will have acquired:

 - independent learning skills and knows the principles of functioning of the European Union, the most important socio-economic trends and future challenges in different policy areas of the European Union Member States;

- the ability to approach the European Union relates issues from the perspective of social sciences, to use practical experience in various policy areas, and understand correlations;

 ability to assess the European Union's future dilemmas and potential alternatives, to analyse issues of policy making and implementation considering interests of both Estonia and the European Union;

 - competencies to apply various research methods while analysing the situations and to present and justify own position correctly, both orally and in writing;

Voting calculator

○ A https://euvote.eu

80% 🖒

EU30+ voting calculator: modeling Council votes after enlargement

Select voting countries: OEZ20 (eurozone) OEU27 (current members) OEU33 (EU27 + 6 Western Balkans) OEU36 (EU33 + Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine) OEU37 (EU36 + Türkiye)

Select voting rule: 🖲 Qualified majority 🔿 Reinforced qualified majority 🔿 Simple majority 🔿 Unanimity

Number of voting countries: 36, voting results: yes: 30 (83.33% of countries, 68.95% of population), no: 6, abstain: 0

Voting	Pop %	Yes	No	Abstain	Vo	ting	Pop %	Yes	No Abstain		Voting
🗹 Albania	0.54%	0	\bigcirc	0	\checkmark	Latvia	0.37%	0	00		APPR
🗹 Austria	1.78%	0	0	0	\checkmark	Lithuania	0.56%	0	$\circ \circ$		
🗹 Belgium	2.29%	0	0	0	\checkmark	Luxembourg	0.13%	0	00		
🗹 Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.68%	0	0	0	\checkmark	Malta	0.11%	0	$\circ \circ$		
🗹 Bulgaria	1.26%	0	0	0	\checkmark	Moldova	0.49%	0	00		Cour
🗸 Croatia	0.75%	0	0	0	\checkmark	Montenegro	0.12%	0	•		Cour
✓ Cyprus	0.18%	0	0	0	\checkmark	Netherlands	3.47%	0	00	(
🗹 Czechia	2.11%	0	\bigcirc	0	~	North Macedonia	0.36%	0	00	,	0
🗹 Denmark	1.16%	0	0	0	\checkmark	Poland	7.17%	0	00		8
🗹 Estonia	0.27%	0	0	0	✓	Portugal	2.04%	0	00		
Finland	1.09%	0	\bigcirc	0	\checkmark	Romania	3.72%	0	00		
France	13.27%	0	0	0	~	Serbia	1.3%	0	00		
🗹 Georgia	0.73%	0	0	0	\checkmark	Slovakia	1.06%	0	00		Dopu
🗹 Germany	16.45%	0	\bigcirc	0	✓	Slovenia	0.41%	0	00	(Popu
✓ Greece	2.03%	0	0	0	\checkmark	Spain	9.37%	0	00	(
🗹 Hungary	1.87%	0	0	0	\checkmark	Sweden	2.05%	0	00	,	0
Ireland	1.01%	0	0	0		Türkiye					
🗹 Italy	11.48%	0	\bigcirc	0	~	Ukraine	7.99%	0	00		
🗹 Kosovo	0.35%	0	\bigcirc	0				Re	eset all data		



UT points of contact:

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Check our website!



