

Economics of European Integration
Université libre de Bruxelles

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Syllabus

The course aims to introduce the main economic challenges facing European integration nowadays, the tools the European Union has unfolded to tackle those challenges, and their consequences for the European economy. In particular, the course will focus on the Next Generation EU and its Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) the most extensive stimulus package ever financed in Europe. The Recovery and Resilience Plans cover policy objectives that are the core issues for European economic integration for the following decades, such as the use of structural reforms to boost European productivity, the resilience of European value chains, and the implementation of the green and digital transition.

Textbook and additional readings

R.E. Baldwin and C. Wyplosz, The Economics of European Integration, 6th Edition, McGraw-Hill.

M. Buti, W. Röger, A. Turrini, Is Lisbon Far from Maastricht? Trade-offs and Complementarities between Fiscal Discipline and Structural Reforms, CESifo Economic Studies, 55(1), 2009, pp. 165–196

D. Papageorgiou, E. Vourvachaki, Macroeconomic effects of structural reforms and fiscal consolidations: Trade-offs and complementarities, European Journal of Political Economy, 48, 2017, pp. 54-73.

G. Eggertsson, A. Ferrero, A. Raffo, Can structural reforms help Europe?, Journal of Monetary Economics, 61, 2014, pp 2-22.

[European Union countries' recovery and resilience plans \(bruegel.org\)](https://bruegel.org/publications/working-papers/2022/01/european-union-countries-recovery-and-resilience-plans)

[Quantifying Spillovers of Next Generation EU Investment \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu/economy_finance/quantifying-spillovers-next-generation-eu-investment)

[Review report on the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility](https://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/review-report-implementation-recovery-and-resilience-facility)

Schedule

1. Introduction (19/09/2022)
2. Structural Reforms and Productivity (26/09/2022)
3. Antitrust Policy (28/09/2022)
4. Inside the Recovery and Resilience Facility: goals, process and tools (03/10/2022)
5. Policies for the Green Transition (10/10/2022)
6. Policies for the Digital Transition (17/10/2022)
7. Fiscal Policy (24/10/2022)
8. Project: Interim Presentation (07/11/2022 and 10/11/2022)
9. Project: Final Presentation (19/12/2022 and 22/12/2022)

Exam and Grades

The goal of the course is to allow the students to analyze the recovery plan of one EU country successfully. Each student will participate in two group works (and in two distinct groups):

The first group work will consist in analyzing a part of the recovery plan of one country. The work will be presented twice: an interim presentation in November and a final presentation in December. The final report will be due during the exam session in January. (70% of the grade)

The second group work will discuss the analysis of one of the team works during the final presentation. (30% of the grade)

Each group will be randomly selected, and the final grade is a weighted average of the two assignments. The exam is passed if the weighted average is greater or equal to 10.

Retake exam: in the retake exam, the student will retain the grade for one of the two parts if the grade is greater or equal to 10. In case of a failing grade, the student will present a reviewed analysis/discussion based on individual feedback about his performance.

Deadlines

Interim Presentation: November 7 and 10.

Final Presentation: December 19 and 22. Each group should deliver their presentation and a written copy of their analysis to the discussing group by December 12.

Written Report: January 15.