

VIRTUAL EUROPEAN CLASSROOM

Jean Monnet Module¹

‘Perspectives on the EU’s role in the Eastern Neighbourhood: Security, Democracy, and the Rule of Law’ (Tuesday 30 May tbc)

This inaugural ‘Virtual European Classroom’ will bring together an international group of motivated students from Collegium Civitas (CC), the European Humanities University (EHU), and Tbilisi State University (TSU) for a student-led discussion on current issues concerning the EU’s role in the eastern neighbourhood and related themes to do with security, democracy and the rule of law.

Each participating university will present a paper addressing one of the ‘clusters’ of topics listed below. The topics are intended as a guide, and of course students can add additional points and examples to their papers where they see fit. A first basic draft of the paper / main bullet points should be submitted to Dr Kerry Longhurst 3 days before the Virtual European Classroom (max 2000 words) and then on the actual day of the event one or two students per university will give a 15–20-minute presentation of the paper (using power point), which will be followed by Q and A and discussion. After the event university teams will be asked to submit revised versions of the papers (which can include tables, infographics etc.) which will be edited by Kerry Longhurst and Collegium Civitas students to be published online and disseminated via social media.

Cluster one: The EU and European Security

- What are the strengths and weaknesses of the EU’s foreign and security policy toolbox?
- Has the EU’s role as a ‘security provider’ changed as a result of the war in Ukraine and is it time for the EU to pursue an independent regionalised security policy?
- What is the scope and potential of the EU's soft power?
- Should values or economic interests lead the EU’s future development as a global actor?
- What are the pluses and minuses of the EU having a feminist foreign policy in light of the current developments in the international arena?

Cluster two: EU Enlargement Issues

- What is the current ‘state of play’ in EU enlargement policy and what barriers lay in the way of the Western Balkans’ enlargement?
- Should enlargement to Ukraine and Moldova take precedence over the Western Balkans?

¹ The virtual European classroom is part of the EU-funded Jean Monnet Module ‘Debating Europe: Internal and External; Dimensions of European Integration’ (DEBUE) at Collegium Civitas (CC), Warsaw. The virtual classroom is held in cooperation with the Institute for European Studies at Tbilisi State University (TSU), Georgia and the European Humanities University (EHU), Lithuania.

- What are the pros- and cons of an ‘expedited’ enlargement to Ukraine and Moldova? Also, is it feasible and beneficial to the EU?
- Is Georgia ready to be an EU candidate state? - What needs to be done to realise this?
- What were the main achievements of the Eastern Partnership, and does the EaP have a future if Ukraine, Moldova and possibly Georgia accede to the EU?
- How does EU enlargement correlate with other, adjacent regional initiatives, such as China's Belt and Road, and Russia's Eurasian Union?

Cluster three: Rule of Law and Democracy

- What are the main problems and symptoms associated with weak rule of law in the Eastern neighbourhood?
- What are the prerequisites and conditions for democracy to take root? And how do EaP states measure up in this regard?
- What is the EU’s record in promoting values and practices to do with social inclusion and anti-discrimination (LGBTQ+, gender etc.) in EaP states? What problems have been encountered and can they be remedied?
- Should the rule of rule, non-discrimination, and tolerance be required more rigorously during the assession process / relations with EaP states?
- Can the EU promote democracy and rule of law beyond its borders, whilst at the same time deal with governments in several EU member states that challenge these core values?

Plan 30 May (TBC) (times all CET)

9.30-9.40 - Short introduction by K. Longhurst (CC)

9.40-10.00 Keynote (tbc)

10.00-10.40 Cluster one paper and discussion (chaired by CC/TSU/EHU staff member)

SHORT BREAK

10.50-11.30 Cluster two paper and discussion (chaired by CC/TSU/EHU staff member)

SHORT BREAK

11.40-12.20 Cluster three paper and discussion (chaired by CC/TSU/EHU staff member)

12.20-12.40 - Conclusions and next steps

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