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Minor Law and Justice in the European Union

More or less integration in the EU

Do we want more or less integration in the EU? Both as lawyers and as citizens, we are all confronted with this question on a daily basis. Current challenges within the continent and at a global scale, such as growing inequality, seem to call for “more” and “less EU” at the same time.

The minor ‘Law and Justice in the European Union’ investigates integration and disintegration dynamics, their drivers and consequences in specific policy areas and for the Union as a whole, and explores the various ways in which European Union increases and reduces inequality, with a specific focus on the EU private law as an agent of inequality and equality.

This minor helps you to boost your learning of the law in its social, political and economic contexts. At the same time, it enhances your ability to read, listen, write, and argue in English about legal issues, an indispensable skill in many working environments. The minor culminates in an intensive moot court exercise, in which you will experience the law in practice.

Facts & Figures 2023 – 2024

Name	Minor Law and Justice in the EU
Credits	15 ECTS
Duration	6 months
Language	English
Start	September

sStudy programme Law and Justice in the EU

Integration and Disintegration within European Union Law

Sem. 1 Sem. 2 ECTS 6

European Private Law & Inequality

Sem. 1 Sem. 2 ECTS 6

Moot Court in European Union Law

Sem. 1 Sem. 2 ECTS 3

Questions?

For any questions about the contents of this minor you can contact one of the minor coordinator Rodrigo Vallejo Garretón. E-mail: r.j.vallejogarreton@uva.nl.

Courses

Integration and Disintegration within European Union Law (6 ECTS)

For a long time, the European Union was perceived to travel on a linear journey toward deeper integration. However, at the latest since the financial crisis, economic divergence and political controversy have dominated the debate on Europe. Populist parties are on the rise. Several Member States are structurally in breach of fundamental EU values, such as the rule of law, democracy and human rights. The most drastic example of a political force pulling the EU apart is the Brexit vote in the UK in 2016. It is fair to conclude that there is no political consensus on deeper integration – if it ever existed. We identify currents of integration and disintegration and their drivers. We discuss different possible limits of European integration, as well as different scenarios of how the European Union could and should develop in the future and what that may mean, amongst others in terms of (democratic) legitimacy and effectiveness. These are overarching questions and challenges for the EU, which we investigate both as general institutional and political challenges and in specific policy fields.

European Private Law & Inequality (6 ECTS)

This course explores the various ways in which the private law of the European Union increases and reduces inequality. Thus, the focus is on EU private law as an agent of equality and inequality. We visit salient examples of inequality, where EU private law is (or could be) either part of the problem or of the solution. After a general introduction into the theme of the course, we focus on very real instances of inequality with EU private law in a central role. These may include, for instance, consumer protection, green energy transitions, non-discrimination law, access to credit and housing or modes of social dumping in EU trade or commercial law. Each class makes clear in what respect the problem under discussion is a problem of inequality and what role EU private law plays in causing it or could play in reducing it.

Moot Court in European Union Law (3 ECTS)

In the moot court, you simulate, in a small group, the judicial procedure before the European Court of Justice. You take the role of one of the actors before the Court, i.e. the parties, the intervening Member States and European Commission, the Advocate-General, or the Justices of the Court. You produce written briefs and present oral arguments, with regard to a real or hypothetical case before the Court of Justice. A panel gives feedback on your efforts and pronounces the winning group.



“ Whether and how a particular level of European integration or even EU membership can be justified is subject of controversial debate. This minor allows you to understand the complexities of this question in very different policy fields and with a particular focus on inequality.”

mw. prof. dr. Christina Eckes
Lecturer

Entry requirements

The course is open to Law students and students on a law track in an interdisciplinary study such as PPPE, AUC, European Studies or Business Administration. We also particularly welcome exchange students. If you are currently enrolled in a university Bachelor's programme but fail to meet the admission requirements for this minor, please contact the coordinator. HBO (higher education with applied emphasis) students are ineligible for this minor.

Examination

The final mark for each of the two core courses is based on an exam (70%) and a written assignment (20%). In successive discussions, students will be asked to explain or specify their answers to the written assignment. The class discussions are part of the assessment. Additionally, each student will in one week, based on the reading assigned for that week, prepare written questions to be discussed in class (10%). The final mark of the moot court course is based on the written and oral pleadings of the moot case.

Further information

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