

## Template for summary of Tuning subject area findings

### *[European Studies]*

#### **Introduction to the subject area**

European Studies is focused on the analysis of national and transnational developments in the European continent as a whole and is both multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary in approach (see below). Because the definition of the subject area is shaped by contemporary phenomena, the curriculum is constantly evolving. For example, the terrorist attacks in Madrid and London and the responses to them, raise specific questions about external policy, migration, and civil liberties; and the defeat of the Constitutional treaty in the French and Dutch referenda give rise to renewed discussions about the nature of the EU and its popular legitimacy on its current basis. While there is variation in the disciplinary composition of the degrees, the typical subjects include law, economics, politics and international relations, history, sociology, business administration. There are also differences in the structure, content and approach to teaching / learning, both according to national traditions and the Faculty/Department in which the degrees developed (for example, Law, Economics or Politics). Finally, there are currently some differences of emphasis between the programmes in the new member states (and applicant countries) on the one hand and longer term members on the other, since there is a more urgent need for training on European integration in the former. However, there are also very considerable similarities in the objectives of the degrees and the competences they seek to foster. It is also important to note that European Studies is a relatively young subject area and new developments may be expected as a result of experience over time and mutual learning from academic staff in the different countries. Yet the European Studies subject group also believe that the diversity of approaches is beneficial and that it would be a great mistake to attempt to impose any uniformity of provision.

#### **Typical degree profiles and occupations**

##### Typical degrees offered in the subject area

<b>Cycle</b>	<b>Typical Degrees Offered</b>
First	Generally two different groups of typical degree may be identified <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bachelors in European Studies (with support and specialization courses in subject specific areas, for example law, politics, economics, history, business administration, sociology, etc.)</li><li>• Bachelors in a subject specific area (e.g. law, arts, economics, history, business administration, sociology, etc.) with specialization in European Studies</li></ul>
Second	Again two different groups of typical degrees may be identified <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Masters in European Studies (with support and specialization courses in subject specific areas, for example law, politics, economics, history, business administration, sociology, etc.)</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Masters in subject specific areas (e.g. law, politics, economics, history, business administration, sociology, etc.) with specialization in European Studies</li> </ul>
Third	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally there is not a Ph.D. cycle in European Studies and students tend to study for doctorates in specific subjects. However, there are many doctorates on topics within the field of European integration, drawing on more than one discipline, and doctoral students are often based within Departments, Centres, etc. of European Studies.</li> </ul>

#### Typical occupations of the graduates in the subject area (map of professions)

- First cycle: Public sector & governmental agencies, NGOs (national and international), international organisations and European institutions, business and other private sector, media and information centres.
- Second cycle: Public sector and governmental agencies, NGOs (national and international), European institutions and international organisations, education, research, political organizations, business and other private sector, media and information centre.

#### Role of subject area in other degree programmes

Degree programmes in many subject areas, especially in law, politics, economics, history, sociology and business administration include courses dealing with European issues. Specialists on European integration are also often asked to provide relevant courses in such programmes, particularly as a result of the Europeanisation of the curriculum. These courses may be of a general character at a relatively introductory level (particularly in bachelor degree programmes) or maybe of a specialist nature – for example, on aspects of European integration studied within a particular discipline.

#### **Learning outcomes & competences - level cycle descriptors**

As noted above European Studies is both multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary and the two may be distinguished as follows: ‘multi-disciplinary’ designates a course in which a number of disciplines relevant to, or constitutive of, European Studies are studied in parallel; ‘inter-disciplinary’ indicates a course in which some or all of these disciplines are brought into sufficiently close contact for a synthesis to take place. There are various pedagogic and practical challenges in facilitating the students’ progress in acquiring these competences, but the most typical pattern through the cycles may be shown as:

- The first cycle model proceeds from a first part in which relevant component disciplines are studied in parallel. After adequate induction, perhaps of one or two full-time years, the course ends with a moment of integration or synthesis, in which all disciplines inform each other in an appropriate pedagogic and methodological environment.
- If the second cycle recruits students who have successfully completed a first cycle course of the type above, it can be wholly inter-disciplinary.
- If, however, it caters for students who have graduated via single-subject routes, it will proceed from multi- to inter-disciplinary studies, by analogy with the first cycle programme, albeit at a higher level.

However, there are significant variations in approach. For example, in Sweden the pattern is inverted. Thus during the first two years of the first cycle, the emphasis is on inter-disciplinary study of a particular problem or set of issues, with greater disciplinary specialization at later stages. Nevertheless, all the programmes seek – to a greater or lesser extent – to provide both multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary learning outcomes.

Because of the variation in the disciplinary combinations of the degree programmes, and because some students take Masters degrees in European Studies, without having previously taken a Bachelors degree in the subject area, it is difficult to differentiate precisely between the first and second cycle subject descriptors. However, the second level descriptors emphasise a deeper level of attainment, with a greater emphasis on research.

***First cycle level descriptors***

After the completion of first cycle, students in the area of European Studies should be able to:

- a. work in an interdisciplinary area
- b. communicate orally in their own and an international language using the appropriate terminology
- c. show understanding of the multi-disciplinarity of the area and the connections between its disciplines
- d. demonstrate understanding of ideas and concepts of Europe and European integration
- e. demonstrate understanding of European institutions and decision making processes

***Second cycle level descriptors***

After the completion of the second cycle, students in the area of European Studies should:

- a. have an ability to interpret European events, developments and policies in national, regional and local frameworks
- b. have an ability to use different disciplinary methodologies in an integrated way
- c. have sufficient competences to do guided research
- d. have an ability to work independently
- e. be able critically to follow and interpret EU policies
- f. be able critically to follow and interpret ideas and concepts of Europe and European integration
- g. have an ability to communicate orally in their own and an international language using the appropriate terminology
- h. have international mobility and cultural understanding

*Note.* The identification of descriptors for the first and second cycle is based on the presumption of the existence of both bachelor and master levels. However at some universities European Studies programmes take place either only at the first cycle level or

only at the second cycle level. In these cases the specific level descriptors may be slightly modified.

#### Consultation process with stakeholders

There are now several academic and professional bodies in the European Studies area. In particular, there are national European Community Studies Associations (ECSA) in most European countries and there are also periodic ECSA World Conferences. The Jean Monnet programme has created Chairs and Centres of Excellence and has facilitated the development of modules in European integration throughout the world. In addition, there are several other bodies concerned with specific issues of relevance, such as the International Society for the Study of European Ideas. All these national and transnational bodies, bringing together specialists in the field, contribute to the enrichment of the European Studies curriculum. At the same time, there is an ongoing debate about “European issues” within particular subject areas, particularly because of the growing importance of the European Union and the increasing need for an awareness of European issues. The mutual interactions between academics and stakeholders in the public and private sectors and in NGOs (people, state representatives etc.) also feed into the development of the subject area.

#### Workload and ECTS

The workloads for degree programmes expressed in European Studies are typical for those in the ECTS system as a whole.

#### Appendix: The Core Curriculum for European Studies

The following competences should be considered as a core for first and second cycle of European Studies:

- Core of European Studies for first cycle
  - Knowledge of ideas/concepts of Europe
  - Knowledge of European integration
  - Knowledge of European institutions and decision making policies
  - Knowledge of EU policies
  - Europe in the world
  - Ability to work on an interdisciplinary area
  - Ability to communicate orally in own and an international language using the appropriate terminology
  
- Core of European Studies for second cycle
  - Knowledge of ideas/concepts of Europe
  - Knowledge of European integration
  - Knowledge of European institutions and decision making policies
  - Knowledge of EU policies
  - Europe in the world
  - Ability to use different disciplinary methodologies in an integrated way

- Ability to interpret European events, developments and policies in national, regional and local frameworks
- Ability to communicate orally in own and an international language using the appropriate terminology