

History of European Integration

Lecture 1. Introduction. Theories of European integration.

- The module is realized in the frame of the project "Enhanced Skills and COmpetences in European Studies for Landscape ARchitects, environmental specialists and managers" (project number: 611545-EPP-1-2019-1-RU-EPPJMO-MODULE), Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Actions.





What is integration?

Economic and
monetary union

Common Market

Customs union

Free zone trade



- Tasks:
 - Economic Development and Growth
 - Political stability within the region
 - Strengthening the position of the group in the world
- Principles of building process:
 - Project community
 - The need for a quality institutional mechanism
- Contradictions:
 - Common and national interests
 - Sovereignty and interests of the group
 - Integration Progress and Integrity, Equality of Statuses
 - Legal capacity and democracy
 - Open / closed to expansion



What is European integration?

European integration is the process of industrial, political, legal, economic, social and cultural integration of states wholly or partially in Europe or nearby.



The research field of European integration: theoretical approaches and conceptual lenses

- EIT - European integration theory
- FPA- traditional foreign policy analysis
- IR - International Relations theory

Theories of Integration

- ❖ Federalism
- ❖ Neofunctionalism
- ❖ Liberal intergovernmentalism
- ❖ Social constructivism
- ❖ Normative theory
- ❖ Critical political economy

- ❑ The nation states have lost their property rights since they cannot guarantee the political and economic safety of their citizens
- ❑ Integration is understood as a process. Decisions are taken by rational and self-interested actors
- ❑ The development of European integration is determined by states' interests and the outcomes of EU bargaining
- ❑ Identity is a core part of states' decisions to integrate at the European Union
- ❑ The EU is an 'ideational' actor characterised by common principles and acting to diffuse norms within international relations
- ❑ Structural power asymmetries of the EU manifest in the multiple crises in Europe

The majority of European integration theories emphasizes

1. *The importance of distinctly European-level factors*
2. *Specific European decision-making structures and governance systems*
3. *The existence of collectively held European norms and ideas*

Empirical analysis of the effects of European integration

- Is it the result or cause of integration?
- Whether economic integrations are ‘good’ or ‘bad’
- How legal changes foster / impede integration
- How do social changes affect
- Does the European Constitution matter?
- Fragmented but discernible multilevel European polity



What is Europe?

- Europe is a political project trying to unite people while respecting their diversity
- Europe is a community of shared values
- The European Union can be perceived as a unique but complex system of governance with a policy mix of supranational and intergovernmental elements
- Political consensus might give coherence to its actions, legitimacy to its institutions and inspire the citizens of Europe



RUDN
university



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