



Course title:

EU Internal Market and Competition Policy

Lecturer:

Prof. Dr. Harri Kalimo

Type of course:

Optional (part of the specialisation option "European Economy")

Course content:

The course explores the two core elements of the European economy -- the internal market and competition. These areas entail the governance of the public (state) and private (company) sides of the economy. The analysis takes an interdisciplinary approach that integrates political science, economics and law. Considering the turbulent state of the European economy and democratic governance, the course pays special attention to how the classic "hard economic issues" are increasingly intertwining – also at the international level – with the governance of softer non-economic matters such as social concerns, environmental standards and data protection. BREXIT, CETA and the Facebook/WhatsApp merger case are examples of this trend.

The course starts off by deepening the students' understanding of the economics of the four freedoms. The discussion will then shift to the general policies and law of the EU's internal market (e.g. Arts 34, 36, 110 and 114 TFEU), and further to concrete aspects that are fundamental to the Union's competitiveness and creation of jobs, such as the Digital Single Market and the Banking Union. In terms of the competition, the course also begins with core economics, exploring main notions such as efficiency, welfare and market power. The main schools of thought of competition policy will also be covered before expanding to key EU competition law and policies: restrictive agreements (101 TFEU), abuse of dominant position (102 TFEU), mergers and state aid (107 TFEU). Comparative perspectives to the United States and global economy are offered throughout the course.

Learning outcome:

The course equips students with *knowledge, skills* and an *enquiring attitude* to understand and address matters of European internal market and competition policy, law and economics during their subsequent professional careers.

The obtained *knowledge* allows the students to independently and critically address issues of internal market and competition policy for both academic and practical purposes. The students acquire a good interdisciplinary knowledge of the main theories, concepts and debates of the areas. They will learn to understand and analyze the internal market and competition in its larger econo-political context, in particular as

regards the evolution and challenges of the European integration policies. They will understand the fields' relevance to commercial actors, as well as the interlinked frameworks of legislative, enforcement and judicial actors, instruments and decision-making processes. The course also provides the students with the basic *skills* to deal with concrete enforcement questions relating to e.g. barriers to the free movement of goods and services, restrictive agreements between undertakings and the abusive behavior of dominant companies. The students obtain an *appreciation* of the functioning of EU's internal market and competition policy as the economic core of the entire integration project, as well as the public and private constraints and cohesion related questions that the integration process is faced with. The students will also learn to better engage in the English language in basic tasks relating to EU economic policy, such as drafting and communicating memoranda, policy analyses and position papers, and advising non-economic decision makers. All in all, the knowledge, skills and critically enquiring attitudes develop the students as interlocutors in a sustainable European economy.

