



INSTITUTE FOR  
EUROPEAN  
STUDIES

*Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence  
at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel*

www.ies.be

**Course title:**

The Greening of the European Economy

**Type of course:**

Optional (part of the specialisation option "European Economic Governance")

**Course content:**

Students acquire a thorough knowledge of the most important features of EU environmental policy (objectives, principles, institutional frameworks), instruments and the main theories that underlie it. This cross-cutting, theory-based expose of European environmental policy is framed against the EU's objectives to promote the circular economy and move to a low-carbon society. In the course, we explore the core substantive areas of this vast field, focusing on the most topical and societally fundamental sectors such as the energy sector, the circular economy and transport. The course concludes with a practical case study, where the theoretical and sectoral perspectives are given a real-life contextualisation by invited experts from industry, policy fields and civil society.

**Learning outcome:**

The course enables students to better understand and address matters of European environmental policy, law and economics during their subsequent professional careers. The students will be able to independently and critically address issues of environmental policy for both academic and practical purposes. They will be able to understand and analyze the larger econo-political context of European environmental protection policy (historical background, current situation, future perspectives) as well as the complicated, interlinked and multi-level frameworks of the actors, institutions, instruments and decision-making processes of EU environmental law and policy within the European integration process. Finally, students will be able to better engage in the English language in basic tasks relating to EU environmental policy, such as drafting memoranda, policy analyses and position papers, and advising non-environmental decision makers. Overall, the students will develop a positive attitude towards becoming members of a sustainable European society.