

ERASMUS INTENSIVE PROGRAMME

COURSE TITLE: ECONOMIES OF THE SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

Bachelor (Final year) and Master Course

ECTS credits: 6 ECTS

Lecturer: Polona Domadenik, Irena Ograjenšek, Tjaša Redek, all FELU, Darja Boršič, Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Maribor and guest lecturers

Aims of the course:

The course 'Economies of the South-Eastern Europe' focuses on the analysis of the economic performance in economies of the South-Eastern Europe (SEE). The starting point of the analysis is the socialist period, which defined the initial conditions for transition. This introductory discussion is followed by the analysis of the transition process itself. Then, factors of future growth and competitiveness in SEE economies are dealt with: success of structural reforms (especially those concerning the labour market), favourable business environment, FDI and trade. Finally, two pressing groups of issues the SEE countries are currently facing are addressed in a systematic way: (1) EU accession demands and (2) financial crisis and its consequences; both in order to determine the main SEE challenges for the future.

Course syllabus:

1. General course framework
2. SEE economies today
3. A jump to the past: the pre-transition period
4. Transition and structural reforms
5. Factors of the economic growth and development in SEE:
 - a. Business environment
 - b. Labour market situation in SEE and labour market reforms
 - c. FDI and their role for economic growth in SEE
 - d. Trade and exchange rate in SEE and their relationship with growth
 - e. Accession to the EU
 - f. Financial crisis in WEB
 - g. Environmental changes as a challenge to future growth
6. From theory to practice: snapshots from the guest speakers' perspective

Bibliography:

A selection of articles and book chapters. The literature is updated on a yearly basis conditional on recent developments in the field.

Teaching methods:

The course will use a combination of standard lectures, in-class work (case studies), and individual at-home work (assignments, a seminar paper).

Prerequisites:

The students are expected to be familiar with introductory levels of macroeconomics and microeconomics.

Examination methods:

The students will be expected to:

1. be actively involved in class work (group work) and prepare homeworks: 10 pt
2. prepare and present a seminar paper (see detailed paper preparation guidelines): 35 pt for the paper, 15 pt for presentation
3. take and pass the written exam: 50 pt

Students can collect a total of 110 points. To pass the course, students must get at least 25 points on the written exam and collect at least 60 points overall.

Grading scale:

0-60:	fail
61-68:	6
69-76:	7
77-84:	8
85-92:	9
93-100:	10

The course is supported by EU project Erasmus Intensive Programme

