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# A Flipped Course on EU: Utilizing EU Project Funds for Blended and Online Teaching

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**Istanbul  
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LAUREATE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITIES

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Erasmus+ Programme  
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- A Jean Monnet Module, awarded:
  - Grant to support an action initiated under the Jean Monnet Activities within the Erasmus + Programme for three years
- Started on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016
- Ends on August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019

- Submitted an application to the Erasmus+ Programme – "Jean Monnet Modules, Chairs and Centres of Excellence", 2016 call for proposals for the action in February 2016
- Received decision in July 2016
- According to the letter, in the 2016 application period, the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) received 737 applications for this action
- Out of the 737 applications, 147 have been selected for funding for this action.

- General objectives of our project is to:
  - Promote innovation in teaching and research (e.g. cross-sectorial and/or multi-disciplinary studies, open education, networking with other institutions)
  - Disseminate EU-related subjects throughout the curricula proposed by higher education institutions to their students
- Our priority target groups:
  - Students who do not automatically come into contact with European Union studies (in such fields as science, engineering, education, arts and languages, and vocational programs)

- The project establishes the first blended course on the EU that utilizes the flipped classroom approach. This approach also aims to promote innovation in teaching.
- This system allows the students to learn in their own time and the instructors to deploy an instructional strategy and resources that places a higher order cognitive demand on the students, since it engages the students with more creative, evaluative and analytical exercises.

- The course was designated as a General Education (GE) elective course open to students from the target audience programs.
- The training and design phase: Ozge Onursal Beşgül and Mehmet Ali Tuğtan went through the Blackboard LMS system faculty training (August 2016) and guided by the UZEM project management team, proceeded with the design of the course GE 112 Introduction to EU. To that end, UZEM oversaw the content production and implementation into Bilgi Learn Blackboard LMS system (September, early October 2016)

# Flipped Course on EU

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## 1. Preparing the content of the course:

This course aims to examine the history of the European integration process;

- to analyse the institutions of the European integration;
- and to introduce students to different theoretical outlooks of the European integration.

At the end of this course the students will be able to state the important turning points in the history of the European integration process;

- to explain the evolving treaty framework;
- to explain the different institutions of the European Union;
- to examine the European integration process through different theoretical outlooks.

### 2. Teaching with the blended method:

- The blended course design is a fixed capital investment, because the online material created for the course by the instructors and the students can be easily re-positied and re-used for similar academic purposes. Once implemented, the online content of a blended course can be migrated across academic years with minor updates and modifications as desired.
- This module fosters the use of new methodology and tools of teaching. The design and content of the module can be used by other instructors or institutions, contributing to accumulation of know-how on blended teaching design on EU. Thus it will increase the capacity to teach on EU matters and attract a diversified group of students into EU studies.



### 3. Teaching to:

An undergraduate course in the General Education (GE) curriculum of Bilgi University. The GE curriculum aims to introduce students from different faculties and programs to common issues in humanities and sciences.

The minimum number of students enrolled in each section of the course per year will be around 60 students, in total of 120 students each year in two sections taught by Ozge Onursal Besgul and Mehmet Ali Tugtan.

The module will be conducted entirely in English, meaning that Erasmus students, Laureate exchange students and international students can also take it.

One of the few flipped courses in the university.

- Student Satisfaction with the Course (From the Fall 2016 Student Evaluation Survey Course Satisfaction Scores)

### Overall Scores:

- \* University average for all courses: 3.86
- \* Online and blended courses: 3.46
- \* GE 112 Introduction to EU: 4.12

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Results of the exit survey conducted to the first group of GE  
112 students (January 2017)

\* Nr of Responses: 47/61

\* Avg. Exposure to blended or online courses: 2

\* Avg. Satisfaction with blended and online courses: 3.68/5

\* «Blended / Online learning helps me better understand course  
material»: 3.45/5

\* «Generally, I understand course requirements better in an  
blended / online course»: 3.42/5

\* «Generally, I am more engaged in my blended /online  
courses»: 3.35/5

At the end of the project the aim is to launch the first MOOC on EU Studies in Turkey.

The Massive Online Open Course that will be generated with the material of the blended course will help to disseminate the information and basic skills thought to the wider public. At the end of the project, it will be accessible to anyone interested and willing to enhance their knowledge on basic issues and concepts of the EU. By providing Turkish subtitles to lectures in English, the language barrier will be removed both for the non-English speaking Turkish audience and for the non-Turkish speaking foreign audience.

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First six months of the project:

Fall 2016 : 61 students enrolled

Spring 2017: 57 students enrolled

Follow our BILGI EU Institute website for the latest developments:

<http://eu.bilgi.edu.tr/>

A separate website for the project will be coming soon.

Thank you!

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