



Freedom, Security and Justice within the European Union

- with special emphasis on criminal justice

Prof. Dr. Karsai Krisztina, DSc

University of Szeged; Faculty of Law



Learning Goals

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Why study the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice? Why learn European Criminal Law?

The Area of Freedom, Security and Justice is a specific policy field of the European Union; its study requires a radically different and specific approach. What is the content of these fields of policies and legal branches?

European Criminal Law is not among criminal law subjects learnt during legal studies. It is something different.

- ▶ Place and role of criminal law within European integration
- ▶ Functional connections between national criminal law and European law
- ▶ The policy field of the area of freedom, security and justice (harmonization of criminal law and criminal justice; joint combat against transnational crimes, judicial, and police cooperation)
- ▶ Protection of the financial interests of the EU by means of criminal law
- ▶ Protection of fundamental rights in criminal procedures at an EU level

While studying ECL & AFSJ we gain an understanding of legal connections between states in matters of criminal justice; we learn to identify the innovative power of European integration in filling old ('traditional') gaps of cooperation between states in criminal matters. We also learn how pure European law can affect traditional national criminal law; and we come to understand how EU law in criminal courtrooms emerges and how politicians influence criminal justice issues.



For law students, the ability to identify and analyze situations where European law and national criminal law overlap is essential – as it requires special legal approaches for finding solutions.

Students of non-legal majors will learn how to differentiate relevant legal and non-legal arguments and implications in a given situation, and how to integrate social and moral issues into decision-making with regard to criminal justice.



Preparation

Although this course does not focus on general studies on European integration, nor in political or in legal fields, it does however build upon prior knowledge of it. To acquire the basic information on European integration in this regard, you should cover the online learning materials on the Basics of European Law.

These materials are available here: [xxx](#)

You can also follow the online learning package on European Public Policy as well.

These materials are available here: <http://eta.bibl.u-szeged.hu/3317/>

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Reading Lectures build Your Learning Route

The proper approach is to follow the learning route by working on the reading lectures grouped into modules. You should start with Module 1 Reading Lecture 1 and follow the instructions therein.

Within the reading lectures, you will find the following:

- video lectures (not in every reading lecture)
- further readings with guiding questions
- interim quizzes and exercises (graded and non-graded)
- task assignments for short and long essays (deadlines will be scheduled throughout the semester)
- questions for review



In each reading lecture, you will find the estimated time of completion: these timeframes have been calculated as an average, if you have more prior knowledge



on the topics, then you should be able to complete the lecture in less time, but newcomers should spend – at least – the recommended time with the material in order to achieve the learning outcomes (knowledge, skills, responsibility and attitude).



Broadening Your Horizon

It is useful to follow the EuroNews channel (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) for recent news and the homepage of the European Commission for recent developments and their background information.

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Ask Questions

You can reach me

on webuni - you can contact me either offline (messages) or during the online chat hours according to the schedule for this semester and

on Coospace – you can contact me either offline (messages) or during the online chat hours according to the schedule for this semester.

Prof. Dr. Karsai Krisztina, Jean Monnet Chair (2016-2019)

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