

## Course program

<b>Course title:</b> Economic and Social Spatial Structure of Europe	<b>Neptun code:</b> GTERG4011A
	<b>Course type:</b> Required for specialisation
<b>Name and position of course coordinator:</b> Prof. Dr. G. Fekete, Eva	
<b>Name(s) and position(s) of teaching assistant(s):</b> Dr. Siposné Nándori, Eszter	
<b>Suggested semester:</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> , Spring	<b>Prerequisite course(s):</b>
<b>Weekly lecture+seminar hours:</b> 2+0	<b>Evaluation method:</b> exam
<b>Credits:</b> 5	<b>Study format:</b> full time and part time
<p><b>Course objectives:</b></p> <p>The geographical approach has become an essential element in making economic decisions. Understanding roots and characteristics of spatial processes forming and raising regional differences in Europe necessary to both macro-level answers on global challenges and micro-level choice of good location or successful business strategies. Beyond the better understanding of factors shaping spatial processes, background of goings in Europe, the course introduces into the EU regional policy, provides guidance to analyze related documents, and develops skills necessary for strategic planning.</p>	
<p><b>Course content and structure:</b></p> <p>After clarifying the concept of spatial structure, the territory of the European integration as a whole is placed in a global context and it is followed by an analysis of social and economic disparities in Europe. Great attention is paid to the uneven natural conditions, the different social structure and exploration of these differences in the economic context. These layers projected onto each other allow to map of the spatial structure of Europe as well, summarize development processes shaping that zones and to understand policy interventions. Finally, we summarize the current regional political intentions and initiatives to change the European spatial structure.</p> <p><i>Main subjects:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Introduction:</i> Factors which determine regional patterns of society and economy. Terms of social, and economic space, their models, regional inequalities. The concept of spatial structure, methods to clarify that. Natural and cultural factors of development and their effects on shaping spatial structure of economy.</li> <li>2. <i>Europe in the World:</i> Cultural characteristics of Europe. Position of the European economy within the spatial structure of the world economy. Globalisation and displacement of action center of the world economy.</li> <li>3. Social and economical spatial differences in Europe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spatial characteristics of the natural environment.</li> <li>• Unlike organization of societies: spatial patterns of population. Cultural differences. Differences in social structures. Different governance practices.</li> <li>• Uneven location of dominant economic sectors in the European Union. spatial structure of agriculture, traditional industries, tourism, high-tech industries and services.</li> <li>• Interactions among environmental, social and economic differences. Geographical disparities in the social well-being.</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Spatial structure of Europe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Core regions of the European economy.</li> <li>• Transition regions of the European economy.</li> <li>• Lagging regions of the European economy, the peripheries.</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. Basics of European regional policies. European Spatial Development Perspectives (objectives, principles and documents)</li> </ol>	
<p><b>Evaluation method:</b></p> <p>colloquium</p> <p><b>Course assignments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activity in class</li> </ul>	

- Making an analysis on spatial structure of one of the economic branches (5-8 pages).
- Preparing 2 reviews on books or papers dealing with spatial structure of European economy issues.

**Course point distribution, examination format:**

oral exam

evaluation by 5 grades (activity in classes: 10 points, papers: 30 points, oral exam: 60 points)  
(pass: 61-70%, medium: 71-80%, good: 81-90%, excellent: 91-100%)

**Required reading:**

- Combes, P.P. – Overman, H.G.: The spatial distribution of economic activities in the European Union. In: Henderson-Thisse (eds): Handbook of Urban and Regional Economics, Volume 4, Cities and Geography. Elsevier, 2004. 2845-2909.
- Faludi, A. (2005): Polycentric territorial cohesion policy. In: Faludi A. (szerk.) Territorial Cohesion: An Unidentified political objective (Special Issue). Town Planning Review 76 (1) 107–118.
- Kincses, Á. – Nagy, Z. – Tóth, G.: The Spatial Structures of Europe, ACTA GEOGRAPHICA SLOVENICA 53: (1) pp. 1-36. Paper UDC: 711(4).
- Dühr, Stefanie - Colomb, Claire - Nadin Vincent (2010) European Spatial Planning and Territorial Cooperation. Routledge Part I. 1-39.

**Suggested reading:**

- ESDP (1999): European Spatial Development Perspective. Brussels. European Commission. (Adopted by the European Council of EU Ministers Responsible for Spatial Planning, in Potsdam, 10-11/05/99. [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docoffic/official/reports/som\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/reports/som_en.htm)
- G.Fekete, Éva – Siposné Nándori, Eszter (2013): Spatial Structure of Society. E-learning material Miskolci Egyetem [www.edu.uni-miskolc.hu](http://www.edu.uni-miskolc.hu)
- TSP: Territorial State and Perspectives of the EU) [http://www.ccre.org/docs/territorial\\_state\\_and\\_perspectives.pdf](http://www.ccre.org/docs/territorial_state_and_perspectives.pdf)
- Territorial Agenda [www.territorial-agenda.eu](http://www.territorial-agenda.eu)
- Waterhout, B. 2008: The institutionalisation of European spatial planning. Delft University Press, Amsterdam