



FACULTY OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Developing a SQF and learning outcomes in EU Studies: The case of Ghent University

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Overview of presentation

1. Sectorial learning outcomes (SLO)
2. Programme-specific learning outcomes (PLO)
3. Relation between SLOs and PLOs
4. Current programme of M.Sc. in EU Studies



Flemish QS & the development of SLOs

>Decree on Flemish Qualification Structure (2009):

- HEIs in FL have to jointly define the SLOs of BA & MA programmes
- SLOs need to be validated by the “Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders” (NVAO)
- Process coordinated by the “Flemish Universities and Colleges Council” (VLUHR)



Characteristics of sectorial learning outcomes

1. Global: at the level of the discipline (and not at level of course units, modules,...)
2. Generic: although specific aspects of same disciplines remain possible
3. Related to Flemish Qualification Structure
4. Prototypical: focus on characteristics of a discipline
5. Adequate basis for Quality Assurance
6. Distinctive: makes profiles more clear
7. Sustainable and open for evolution
8. Basis for international comparison



Development of Flemish SLOs for EU Studies

- Three components/benchmarks:
 - Consultation with labour market (alumni, employers, staff members)
 - Comparison with international examples
 - SLOs of BA programme in Political Science and MA programme in Political Science
- Decision by VLUHR, validation by NVAO, and acceptance by Flemish Agency for QA



Sectorial learning outcomes (SLOs)

- Strong link with BA in Political Science
 - SLOs Bachelor's partially prepare for SLOs Master's
 - SLOs Master's build on SLOs Bachelor's
 - Role of diploma BA in Political Science (studies, labour market)
- Different SLOs for different Master's programmes: EU Studies vs. (Inter)national Politics

Flemish sectorial learning outcomes for EU Studies

SLO 1. In-depth knowledge of political scientific theories and concepts in EU studies and relevant related disciplines

SLO 2. Knowledge of and insight in the main institutions, actors and decision- and policy-making processes in the European Union

SLO 3. Ability to understand and explain societal problems related to the EU in political scientific terms, translate this into research questions, and find answers to these questions through scientific research

SLO 4. Ability to reflect critically and in a nuanced way on political developments in the EU, and to develop a well-founded opinion

SLO 5. Ability to present and report in a clear, concise and scientific way (written as well as orally)

SLO 6. Ability to map EU-related developments and to follow and analyse their impact on policy development

SLO 7. Insight in the EU dimension of current societal issues and ability to enter into meaningful discussion

SLO 8. Ability to situate the EU's role in the world and critically reflect on this



Development of PLOs for EU Studies

Eight factors determined the development of PLOs:

- Vision and uniqueness of the MA programme
- SLOs (as validated by NVAO)
- Comments on previous PLOs from peer review committee - e.g. integration of strong points from previous PLOs
- Building on expertise of research group (=Centre for EU Studies)
- Ghent University's competence model
- Ghent University's educational concept "Creative knowledge development"
- Own profiling of programme vis-à-vis SLOs



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Development of PLOs for EU Studies

At the basis of the PLOs is the **own vision and unique character** of the MA programme:

- A disciplinary core in a multi-disciplinary surrounding
- Interaction between education and research
- Interaction between education and society
- Guided autonomy within a creative knowledge development

= **4 foundations** of the MA programme



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Ghent University Competency Model

In line with:

- Framework of Qualifications for the European Higher Education Area (Dublin Descriptors)
- European Qualification Framework for Lifelong Learning (EQF)
- Flemish qualification structure
- Flemish Decree on the restructuring of higher education in Flanders



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6 university-wide competency areas (CA)

- Competency in one or more scholarly disciplines
- Scholarly competency
- Intellectual competency
- Collaboration & communication competency
- Societal competency
- Profession-specific competency



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Programme-specific learning outcomes

Five competency areas (cf. university-wide model):

1. Political science and related disciplines
2. Scholarly competency
3. Intellectual competency
4. Collaboration and communication
5. Societal competency

Competency 1: Political science and related disciplines: *The student is familiar with political science and related knowledge and has the ability to activate, apply and further expand this knowledge.*

MEU 1.1. Advanced understanding of political scientific theories and the *capita selecta* of EU studies.

MEU 1.2. Knowledge and understanding of the functioning and dynamics of the political system and institutions of the EU.

MEU 1.3. Knowledge and understanding of the EU's external action.

MEU 1.4. Knowledge of the relevant related disciplines for EU studies (in particular, Law and International Relations) and understanding of their relevance for EU studies.

MEU 1.5. Ability to explain and critically contextualize contemporary phenomena, developments and issues in EU politics from a historical and international perspective.

MEU 1.6. Ability to explain and critically contextualize contemporary phenomena, developments and issues in EU politics from a the perspective of recent political scientific literature.

Competency 2: Scholarly competency. *The student has competency in political science, with new knowledge production and problem solving as central aims.*

MEU 2.1. Ability to apply political scientific concepts, theories and approaches from EU studies in own research and analysis of EU-related topics.

MEU 2.2. Ability to independently translate EU-related topics into relevant research questions or hypotheses.

MEU 2.3. Ability to independently apply adequate research designs and methods on an EU-related research question.

MEU 2.4. Ability to independently set up and correctly execute a research project on an EU-related topic, as well as critically interpret the research results.

Competency 3: Intellectual competency. *The student has the competency to analyse, reason, judge, and critically reflect and has a positive attitude towards life-long learning. These competencies are to be acquired in the context of political science, and are subsequently universally applicable.*

MEU 3.1. Ability to independently recognize and understand (recurring) dynamics in EU-related phenomena, developments and issues.

MEU 3.2. Ability to recognize the EU dimension in current developments.

MEU 3.3. Ability to critically reflect and adopt a nuanced position towards EU-related phenomena, developments and issues.

MEU 3.4. Willingness to permanently update knowledge on EU-related topics.

Competency 4: Collaboration and communication competency. *The student has the competency to work for and with others. This requires good communication, presentation and writing skills, a responsible attitude, etc.*

MEU 4.1. Ability to write down own insights related political science and EU studies in an academic report of high quality.

MEU 4.2. Ability to present and justify own insights related political science and EU studies.

MEU 4.3. Ability to constructively negotiate or actively participate in a role game covering an EU-related topic.

MEU 4.4. Ability to collaborate with peers, including formulating constructive criticism for peers and effectively dealing with criticism received from peers on EU-related topics.

Competency 5: Societal competency. *The student is aware of the interaction between the temporal and societal context on the one hand and science on the other hand, and integrates this insight into his/her own work.*

MEU 5.1. Recognition of policy relevance and policy implications in own research.

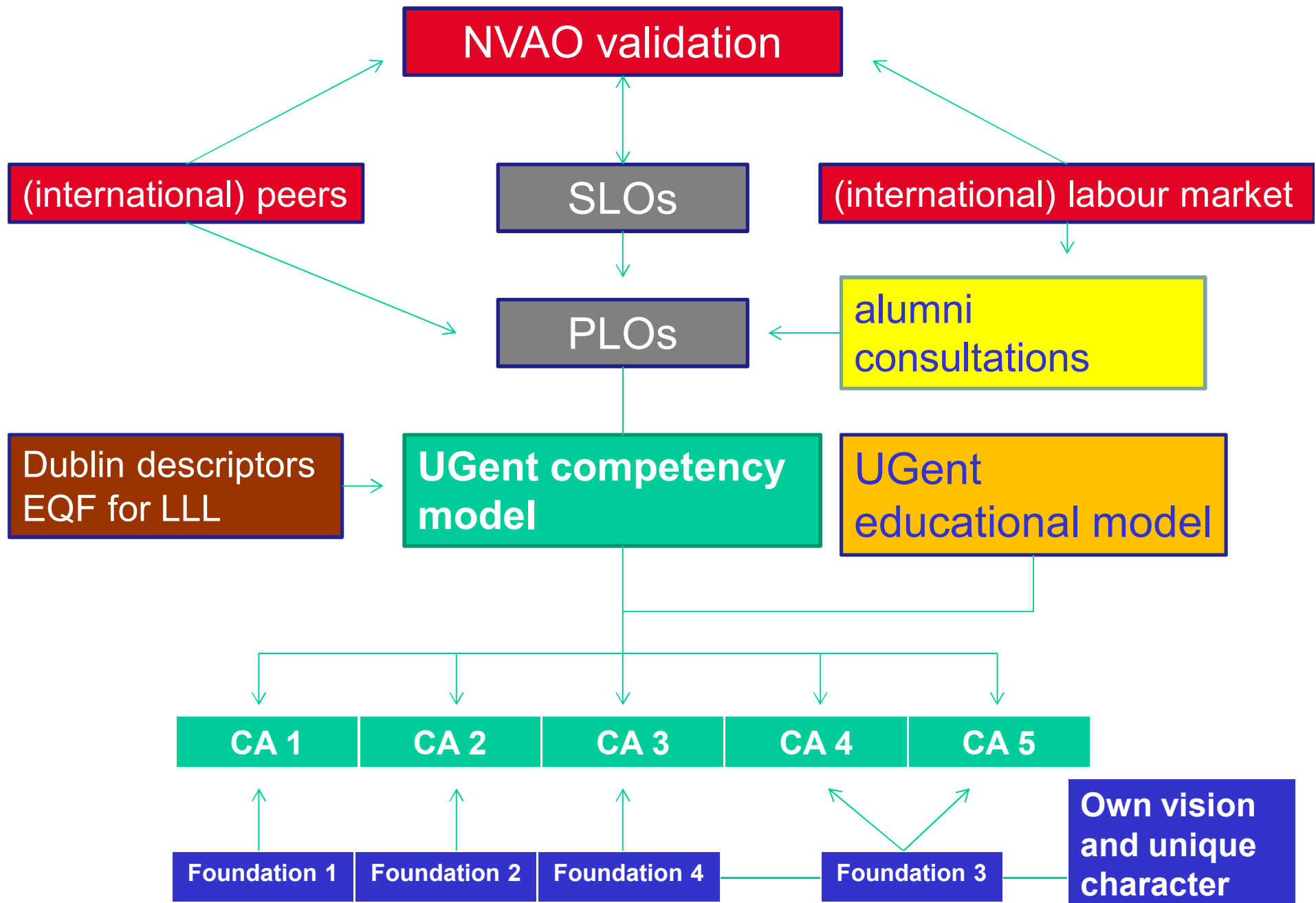
MEU 5.2. Ability to contribute to the societal debate relevant to EU politics in a deontologically justified way, as well as ability to enter into dialogue or discussion with policy makers.

MEU 5.3. Ability to follow up relevant societal phenomena, developments and issues in EU studies, and integrate these into own political scientific functioning.

Relation between SLOs and PLOs

- Each SLO covered by at least one PLO
 - PLOs are situated explicitly within the SLOs
- > How?
1. PLOs as '**particularisations**' of SLOs
 2. PLOs as partly '**particularisations**' and partly **additions** to SLOs
 3. PLOs as **additions** to SLOs (past/present developments, policy/societal relevance, cooperation & communication)

PLO	Sectorial learning outcomes relevant to Master EU studies							
	SLO 1	SLO 2	SLO 3	SLO 4	SLO 5	SLO 6	SLO 7	SLO 8
MEU 1.1.	X							
MEU 1.2.		X						
MEU 1.3.		X						X
MEU 1.4.	X							
MEU 1.5.								
MEU 1.6.				X				
MEU 2.1	X		X					
MEU 2.2			X					
MEU 2.3			X					
MEU 2.4			X					
MEU 3.1								
MEU 3.2				X		X	X	
MEU 3.3				X		X	X	
MEU 3.4				X		X		
MEU 4.1					X			
MEU 4.2					X		X	
MEU 4.3								
MEU 4.4					X		X	
MEU 5.1								
MEU 5.2								
MEU 5.3						X		



2015-2016 Programme of M.Sc EU Studies

No.	COMPULSORY COURSES	Semes ter	Contact hours	Study hours	Credits
1	Long-term Patterns in World Politics	1	45	180	6
2	Contemporary Issues in EU Politics	1+2	45	150	5
3	Decision making in the European Union	1	45	180	6
4	Theories of European Integration	1	45	150	5
5	European External Policy	1	45	180	6
6	European Law	1	30	90	3

ELECTIVE COURSES

9

Majors:

9

- Specific EU Issues
- National Politics
- International Politics
- Work Placement

Study programme abroad (Erasmus+)

9

MASTER'S DISSERTATION

20

Master's dissertation seminar

3

Master's dissertation

17

No.	Major “Specific EU issues”	Semester	Contact hours	Study hours	Credits
1	EU Justice and Home Affairs	2	45	150	5
2	European Economic Integration	2	45	150	5
3	European Common Foreign and Security Policy	1	45	150	5
4	Workshop: Decision Making in the EU	2	45	150	5
5	European Common Agricultural Policy	1	60	150	5
6	Advanced Qualitative Techniques	1	45	150	5
7	European Union Trade Policy	2	45	150	5
8	The EU’s International Development Policy	2	45	150	5
9	European Media Policy	1	26	120	4
10	EU-East Asia relations	1	45	150	5
11	Research Seminar in EU Studies	2	45	150	5