Key Action: Jean Monnet Activities
Action Type: Jean Monnet Modules

Project Title

COPFUTUREU - Challenges and Opportunities for the Future of Europe

Project Coordinator

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Project Information

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Project Summary

Entitled as “Challenges and Opportunities for the Future of Europe” (COPFUTUREU), this module aims to expand and disseminate knowledge on EU and stimulate further research in different dimensions of the future of the EU. COPFUTUREU intends to build a module that scrutinizes the most recent political, economic and social developments of the Union that have high potential to shape the future of European and global relations; by doing that engaging several actors (young people, civil society organizations, policy makers, professionals, etc.) to comprehend the complexity of future challenges and opportunities and encourage them to be an active agent of the change and solutions. Since its foundation, The Union have encountered countless political, economic and social challenges and managed to overcome them. Nevertheless, today’s globalized and digitalized world have significantly more complex problems, meaning that enhanced with European values, more sophisticated solutions are required. It is also important to note that most of these contemporary complex problems, such as; environmental degradation, aggressor nation-states, international terrorism, pandemics, etc., could only be solved by transnational cooperation and collaboration. Thus, the efforts to reach a better future necessitate engaging several different social groups, connecting societies and empowering individuals with democratic values and critical thinking. By focusing on the future challenges and opportunities of European and global politics, this module aims to stimulate future-oriented interests for the target groups, i.e., in order of priorities, higher education students of International Relations and Political Science, youth groups, civil society organizations, academic circles, and media representatives.
The module is designed as an area elective course for Political Science and International Relations departments and it will be offered as a general elective to all departments and faculties of Istanbul University. Teaching will be constituted of two courses at different levels (Bachelor’s and Master’s) which will be scheduled in different semesters. Teaching activities will require intensive participation of the students through leading and participating in class discussions. Active student participation is an innovative idea particularly at Turkish universities as students are used to a highly hierarchical teaching mostly based on lectures, and there is limited space for discussion and student’s voice. By fostering active participation of students, the course will promote critical and innovative thinking, which is not commonly nurtured throughout the education system in Türkiye. Furthermore, the lectures will consist of several debates, brainstorming and team-based learning activities that will be used to engage students for understanding EU institutions, policy implications, decision-making mechanisms.
In the short term, it is expected that the module students will act as multipliers as they will use their acquired knowledge in their social communications and we will encourage them to direct their research interests towards the COPFUTUREU module subject matters. In addition, the expected mid-term effects are focusing on the academic community and civil society especially. The diverse participation both from academic community and non-academic audience such as NGOs, civil platforms, policymakers in respective ministries, municipalities, experts at the EU Delegation in Türkiye and general public will provide an important added value to otherwise almost-exclusively academic events. The long-term impacts of the module are likely to go beyond the boundaries of academia by shaping the perceptions of potentially next generation of decision-makers in Türkiye. Given that some students take up positions as policy-makers, initiators, key decision makers; become actors influencing key decision makers; or work in EU institutions, governmental institutions

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