Erasmus Mundus Master of Arts
EUROCULTURE

Erasmus Mundus MA Euroculture
Eurocompetence I and II and III

Overview:

Introduction

The Eurocompetence modules are presented across the first, second and third semesters of the MA Programme Euroculture. For the completion of Eurocompetence I and II a student will receive 5 ECTS credits each, and for the completion of Eurocompetence III 10 ECTS credits.

Eurocompetence modules are characterized by an interdisciplinary and problem-oriented approach. As a module of the Euroculture programme, it was designed with the goal of preparing Euroculture students for a) their entry as experts of the European integration process and European culture into the job market, b) their development into committed (European) citizens willing to research, learn and work towards the improvement and innovation of multicultural societies.

Learning outcomes (expressed as competences) identified for Eurocompetence overlap to a large extend with other Euroculture courses, because of the interdisciplinary approach of the programme. Certain competences are reflected on during the Eurocompetence modules, but specifically trained through the internship, the IP and the writing of the MA thesis, for example.

The focus set for each of the Eurocompetence module is as follows:

Eurocompetence I: training of a number of core competences required in the field as Euroculture graduate (semester I)

Eurocompetence II: training intercultural communication competences through setting up and performing a group project (semester II)

Eurocompetence III: individual project application (semester IV)

In accordance with the core competences and learning outcomes formulated by the Tuning process for the study area European Studies – in which Euroculture can be categorized, and the competences set for the Euroculture programme itself, the following learning outcomes, formulated as competences, are of specific relevance to the Eurocompetence module (although they may refer also to competences developed further in other Euroculture course modules):

1. Ability to communicate in writing and orally in English and the student's own mother tongue about relevant, European related issues, such as European integration.
2. Ability to define suitable research topics contributing to debates on the European integration process and European culture and execute and report on the results of this research in an efficient and relevant manner.
3. Ability to identify and utilize appropriate sources of information and the relevant retrieval tools.

4. Ability to work in a multicultural team (including the ability to work in an international context).
5. Ability to work in an interdisciplinary team on the one hand and to work independently on the other hand.
6. Ability to select and apply relevant (scientific) methodologies to conduct field-related research and project management.
7. Ability to reflect on one's own values and capacity to question held concepts, ideas and theories.
8. Capacity of self-analysis and awareness of one's own competence profile
9. Awareness of and respect for points of view deriving from different European and non-European national and cultural backgrounds.
10. Ability to analyse and interpret European (cultural) events, developments and policies in national, regional and local frameworks and apply this knowledge into practice.
11. Use relevant IT skills as study and communication tools.
12. Transfer knowledge to required audiences in an appropriate manner and choose the right moments and ways to do so and also to accept the responsibility for the choice of a specific form of knowledge transfer.
13. Manage project, communicate the outcome of the project and evaluate the project.

Together with these competences, one can also include a number of personal competences such as time management, the ability to adapt to new situations, decision making, self-reflexivity, etc.

Eurocompetence I

Because of student mobility across the consortium, it is necessary to streamline the Eurocompetence module across the Euroculture network.

Therefore, the following 'core modules/topics' are proposed for Eurocompetence I. These are topics that have to be dealt with during the first semester, and may be complemented with additional topics if possible/required.

- Introduction Eurocompetence

- Personal competences and skills
    – reflection and identification
    – time management
    – CV writing
    – Job application and interview

- Conventions of academic and non-academic writing
    - (Academic) argumentation
    - Referencing and bibliography
    - Plagiarism
    - Introduction IP topic

- Presentation skills
    - Public speaking
    - Making effective use of powerpoint

- Introduction placement (orientation for professional track)

- Excursion to EU/EC or RS relevant institution/conference/

It is highly recommended to discuss the function and goals of the Eurocompetence seminars with the students at the start of the first semester, in order to give them a better understanding of this module. It might also be useful to integrate Eurocompetence workshops with existing assignments, such as writing assignments, presentation assignments, etc. given in other courses of the Euroculture programme.

Eurocompetence II

The main focus of Eurocompetence II is on developing a specific 'Euroculture' competence of inter- and transcultural communication. This is done by means of focusing on European cultural project management. For this part of the programme students are required to reflect on the process of intercultural communication, familiarize themselves with European cultural projects and the management of such programmes (via policies, for example). Finally, students will be required to set up and conduct a cultural project of their own during the second semester, for example an exhibition, seminar, conference, excursion, etc.
For this part, students will, as a group, need to submit a proposal, manage the financial side of the project, execute it and report on the outcomes of the project.

- Intercultural communication
- European cultural projects:
    - How the field works (policy, etc)
    - Excursion to EU/EC or RS relevant institution/conference where possible
- Group project

Eurocompetence III

This Eurocompetence module is about the independent preparation and writing of an appropriate professional or research project application, depending on the track chosen by the student. This step is seen as a bridging step to the start of either a professional career or a research career. The purpose of Eurocompetence III is to have each student write a suitable, clearly defined project application which could be submitted to an existing European programme within the framework of bigger projects *Life Long Learning* for example, or *Youth in Action*. Alternatively, a student may write a project proposal related to research. In this context one could of proposals to be submitted in the framework of the Marie Curie Inter-European Fellowships programme and/or the DG Research programmes.

If you already have a workshop on a particular core module or topic which works well, it should of course not be replaced by the suggestions given in this guide book. If you would like to share your teaching material with the network, please forward it to the University of Groningen (Euroculture@rug.nl). Any comments or suggestions about the material presented here, or other information, tips, guidelines, etc. that you think might be of interest can also be forwarded to the above-mentioned e-mail address.

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