



Center for European  
Integration Studies

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**Master in African Regional  
Integration**

**WAI-ZEI PAPER**

SPONSORED BY THE



Federal Ministry  
of Education  
and Research

**No. 20  
2015**

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## ***Master in African Regional Integration***

### ***Foreword***

The following discussion paper has been produced in the context of the third research area of the WAI-ZEI Research Cooperation: Institutional capacity development for regional integration. The key objective of this research area is the development of an innovative study program to address the urgent need for qualified personnel to implement and advance regional integration in West Africa. Developing capacity for the effective implementation of the regional integration agenda requires comprehensive and innovative training programs which develop analytical capacity to understand the implications of regional integration, the ability to handle complex processes and appreciate the different dimensions of regional integration; including economic, social, legal and political.

This discussion paper presents the overall concept and proposed structure of a Master in African Regional Integration; including a module and study plan, an overview of similar programs, proposed management structures and student prospects. It is the outcome of research, discussions and conceptual planning meetings, over the period 2013-2014, between WAI, ZEI, the University of Cabo Verde (UNICV), representatives from Cabo Verde Ministry of Higher Education Science and Innovation, WAI Fellows and other international partners with extensive experience in educating regional integration professionals.

In July 2014, WAI signed a memorandum of understanding to work together to implement the Master in African Regional Integration with UNICV. On 14 November, 2014, the University Council of UNICV approved the concept and agreed upon the opening of the new Master in African Regional Integration.

## Master in African Regional Integration

We would like to thank all who have contributed their valuable knowledge and expertise to this collaborative process. We look forward to the implementation of the Master in African Regional Integration at UNICV together with the support of WAI.

### *I. Purpose*

The important process of regional integration in West Africa requires highly skilled and trained experts in order to consolidate and improve integration processes. Individuals working in the field need to have a well-rounded understanding of the multi-dimensional complexities of integration, in order to successfully manage the challenges and utilize the opportunities provided by integration. Capacity building programs in this field of research and study are lacking, especially training with a focus on the unique challenges and opportunities of African regional integration. Therefore it is the goal of this Master in African Regional Integration to address this need and to provide an innovative study program to train future leaders of the region.

A master program offers the best opportunity for students to gain substantial knowledge and expertise in this area of growing significance for the region. The program shall be interdisciplinary and international in nature, ensuring that students gain an insightful and scientifically grounded understanding of the complexities of regional integration. The program is specifically tailored to the needs and experiences of regional integration in West Africa and has been developed through interaction and cooperation between partners across West Africa working together with international partners and experts in regional integration.

In order to produce highly qualified and employable graduates, the program combines academically challenging course work, with the development of professional skills and experiences. To ensure high academic standards students receive extensive guidance in research methodology and comprehensive and innovative training in understanding theoretical and practical legal, political and economic complexities of integration. The program will be taught by a distinguished 'flying faculty' of relevant experts including academics and professionals, along with experts from the University of Cabo Verde. The students should hold an undergraduate degree in subjects including political science, economics, law, international relations or similar fields to ensure that they

already possess background understanding. The program provides graduates with expertise which offers diverse career opportunities including; worldwide academic institutions, public institutions and regional integration institutions, national administrations, private sector actors faced with regulations, NGO's and policy consulting.

## *II. Market Analysis: Overview of Existing Training and Study Programs*

### ***Master in Governance and Regional Integration***

Pan African University Institute for Governance, Humanities and Social Science (PAUGHSS), University of Yaounde II, Soa, Cameroon.

This new master is a three year program with the stated aim of equipping African development practitioners with intellectual and practical skills in good governance and sustainable development which in turn will promote regional integration in Africa. Students select in the second year to specialize in governance or regional integration.

The degree is jointly awarded by the PAU and the host University of Yaounde II.

<http://www.pghss-pau.org/>

### ***Master in Regional Integration***

IRID Institute for Regional Integration and Development, Catholic University of East Africa (Nairobi)

The institute aims to provide comprehensive and interdisciplinary training in regional integration. The aim is to offer practical up-to-date training therefore, students are taken through practical case studies and most seminars are led by practitioners. The institute offers Executive training/ Certificate Programs, Diploma Programs and Master Programs. <http://www.cuea.edu/irid/>

### ***Training Courses***

United Nations Development Program(UNDP) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) offer a e-Learning course on “Regional Integration and Trade” (4-5 week courses, e-learning and workshops)

The learning objectives of this program include; discussion of obstacles that impede the integration process in Africa; raising awareness of and addressing economic reforms in order to achieve optimum results as well as take full advantage of existing opportunities; share experiences with other regions of the world; and examine strategies that effectively address these obstacles.

<http://www.unitar.org/event/undp-unitar-online-course-regional-integration-trade>

### ***Forums and Seminars***

The Center for Studies on the SADC Regional Integration Law (CEDIR), Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique

The Center focuses on research, education and training on the implementation of programs of regional integration and harmonization of law in the SADC region. A research seminar was conducted on the ‘Harmonization of legislation and economic business.’

[http://www.uem.mz/index.php?option=com\\_frontpage&Itemid=1](http://www.uem.mz/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1)

### ***Training Workshops***

The Centre for Regional Integration in Africa (CRIA), based in the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA)

Offers capacity training workshops aimed at providing senior and middle level policy makers, managers, advisors, entrepreneurs and civil society groups with the requisite technical and analytical skills to effectively plan, implement, monitor and evaluate regional integration policies, strategies, programs and projects. The primary objective is to foster understanding of economic integration as a

key element of African development and to build national and regional capacity for effective management of the process of regionalism in Africa.

<http://www.cria-africa.org>

### *III. Study Plan*

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This proposed study plan is based on the concept of a two year (four semesters) Master program which corresponds to 120 credit points, according to the European System of Credit Transfer. As such, it is compatible with international programs, ensuring the possibility of degree recognition from other Universities.

It is designed taking into consideration the specific Master program structure of the University of Cabo Verde. In accordance to which the program is divided into two stages; the first year involves course work equal to 60 credits. The second year of the program involves a further 8 credits of course work and the remaining time is to be spent on the preparation of the Master Thesis. During the final semester students could choose to return to their home country and remain in contact with their supervisors through regular and scheduled email and conference calls.

The program is divided into fundamental and specialized courses. Fundamental courses cover central topics and equip students with the basic tools and understanding. Specialized courses have a more narrow focus and therefore have a smaller workload. All subjects are compulsory to ensure the high standard of all graduates upon completion.

The program is designed to provide students with theoretical and practical knowledge of the complex multi-dimensional challenges of integration. To ensure a holistic understanding of the various motivations, structures, institutions and processes involved the program combines political, legal and economic theories and examples. Students also receive extensive training in research methodology and skills.

It is envisioned that this program will be taught through direct classroom contact by a distinguished 'flying faculty' of relevant experts including academics and

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professionals, along with experts from the University of Cabo Verde. There is an initial focus on the development of the language skills of students during the first year of study, to ensure that students receive training in all three ECOWAS languages. The students should hold an undergraduate degree in subjects including political science, economics, law, international relations or similar fields to ensure that they already possess a level of background understanding. Student recruitment should focus on strengthening and developing research capacities across West Africa by attracting junior academics to the Master program who return to their home Universities and share their new expertise in regional integration.

In the following section each proposed module is outlined in terms of learning goals, course content and suggested reading, in order to identify potential teaching candidates and have a clear overview of the objectives of each module.

**First Year***1st Semester*

<b>MODULES</b>	<b>WORKING TIME (HOURS)</b>		<b>CREDITS</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>	
Theoretical approaches to regional integration	216	40	8
Measuring Integration I : Quantitative economic methods	108	20	4
The experience of African regional integration	216	40	8
Research skills	108	20	4
Language courses	162	30	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>810</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>30</b>

*2nd Semester*

<b>MODULES</b>	<b>WORKING TIME (HOURS)</b>		<b>CREDITS</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>	
Measuring Integration II : Normative and applied methods	108	20	4
Management of regional integration and practical skills (Seminar Series)	216	40	8
Legal dimensions of regional integration	108	20	4
Regional economic policy, monetary policy and development	108	20	4
Regional security governance and conflict prevention	108	20	4
Language courses	162	30	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>810</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>30</b>

**Second Year***1st Semester*

<b>MODULES</b>	<b>WORKING TIME (HOURS)</b>		<b>CREDITS</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>	
The politics of regional integration, policy formulation and multi-level governance	108	20	4
Regional integration and global governance	108	20	4
Master thesis tutorial	189	35	7
Thesis	405		15
<b>Total</b>	<b>810</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>30</b>

*2nd Semester*

<b>MODULES</b>	<b>WORKING TIME (HOURS)</b>		<b>CREDITS</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>	
Thesis	810		30

*IV. Modules*

***Theoretical Approaches to Regional Integration***

*1. Learning Objectives*

This module introduces the evolution of theoretical approaches to regional integration, largely framed in the context of the European integration experience but developed in light of other regional experiences around the world.

Participants deepen their analytical skills and their understanding of current theoretical approaches to the concept of regional integration in the fields of economics, law and political science.

*2. Course Content*

Theoretical foundation for understanding regional integration concepts from an economic, legal and political point of view, whereby the three main academic disciplines dealing with regional integration issues should be embedded in research fields such as area studies, international relations, sociological and cultural studies. The course may consist of three blocks, examining in turn political science and international relations approaches (15h), economic approaches (15h) and legal approaches (10h). Linkages should be found and

new correlations established. The concept of measuring regional integration, instruments for research studies, theories of policy-implication and the application of theoretical insights (case studies) will be presented.

### 3. *Suggested Reading*

- Farrell, Mary et al. (eds.) *Global Politics of Regionalism: Theory and practice*. Pluto Press, 2004.
- Laursen, Finn. *Comparative Regional Integration: Theoretical Perspectives*. Ashgate, 2004.
- Kühnhardt, Ludger, *Region-Building, Vol I: The Global Proliferation of Regional Integration*, Oxford/New York: Berghahn Books 2010: 11-70.

## ***Measuring Integration I: Quantitative Economic Methods***

### 1. *Learning Objectives*

Participants will become familiar with quantitative methods in the context of comparative regional integration as well as with advanced statistical methods. Participants will develop and deepen their analytical and theoretical skills and learn how to apply various econometric methods in order to measure and assess regional integration.

### 2. *Course Content*

The course will give an overview of quantitative methods and techniques which are core to the analysis of empirical data. This module introduces the current state of empirical social science methods and their application to comparative regional integration. Regional integration groupings worldwide are examined and academic methods used to assess and measure them from comparative and multi-disciplinary perspectives.

### 3. *Suggested Reading*

- De Lombaerde, Philippe. Flores, Renato. Iapadre, Lelio and Schulz, Michael. The Regional Integration Manual - Quantitative and Qualitative Methods, Routledge, 2011.
- McNabb, David E. Research Methods for Political Science: Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches, M. E. Sharp Inc, 2009.
- DeRosa, Dean A. Regional Integration Arrangements: Static Economic Theory, Quantitative Findings and Policy Guidelines, The World Bank Policy Research Working Paper, 2007.

## ***The Experience of African Regional Integration***

### 1. *Learning Objectives*

The political system of regional groupings will be discussed, with particular focus on the African experience, but also in light of concepts of regional governance elsewhere; the wide range of regional governance experiences will be studied on the basis of most relevant cases; the economic principles, effects and concepts of African regional integration, including the building blocks, will be analyzed.

Participants will become familiar with the history and evolution of African regional building blocks and the evolution of the African Union in a comparative perspective. Establishes a sound basis of knowledge about the different African examples of regional governance for further comparative regional studies.

### 2. *Course Content*

The history and development of African regional integration and how this impacts upon further integration; the political system of the different regional structures in Africa and their links to national political systems in Africa; policies and competencies; the particular characteristics of supranational governance and political decision-making processes in African regional groupings; political identity and the development of an African public sphere; the role of key-

players in the African Union and its building-blocks; the prospects for monetary integration in Africa.

### *3. Suggested Reading*

- Gabriel, Akwen/Boniface, Ortindi, *The African Union and the Challenges of Regional Integration in Africa: what Hope for Africa's Development*, Saarbrücken: LAP Lampert Academic Publishing, 2011.
- Abass, Ademola. *ECOWAS and the Regional Integration Experiences in the World*. WAI Critical Analysis and Action Studies, No 2, 2013.
- <http://www.westafricainstitute.org/index.php/en/2012-11-08-18-10-01/wai-books>.
- Bankole, F. *Regionalism and cooperation in West Africa*. Grin Verlag, 2010.

## ***Research Skills***

### *1. Learning Objectives*

This module establishes the methodological basis for the research projects of all participants and shall help students to meet the high standards set for obtaining a degree. Participants develop their practical skills and gain a well-structured overview of the international requirements for a sound academic research.

### *2. Course Content*

Basic methods and knowledge for conceptualizing an individual Master-Thesis; defining a hypothesis for such a project; identifying, selecting, studying and reflecting on primary sources and academic literature; drafting a comprehensive bibliography; structuring chapters and sub-chapters; identifying a methodology; writing a literature report with an overview of the field of research results; formulating a concise work plan/time-line; identifying problems and potentials of comparative working methods; reflecting on the research design of fellow researchers. Students will be trained in the use of reference management software and the methodology of comparative research in social sciences.

### 3. Suggested Reading

- De Lombaerde, Philippe/Van Langenhove, Luk, *Indicators of regional integration: conceptual and methodological aspects*, in: Philippe de Lombaerde (ed.), *Assessment and Measurement of Regional Integration*, London: Routledge, 2005.
- Bhattacharjee, Anol. *Social Science Research: Principles, Methods, and Practices*. Global Text Project, 2012.
- Blaikie, Norman. *Designing Social Research*. Polity Press, Cambridge, 2010.

## Language Courses

### 1. Learning Objectives

Students will receive intensive training in ECOWAS languages other than their native language. Students will develop their subject specific language and communication skills and build upon their current level of proficiency.

### 2. Course Content

This module involves improving the listening, speaking, reading and writing skills of students in the ECOWAS language of their choice. Offered at various levels.

### 3. Suggested Reading

- Baleyte, Jean. Kurgansky, Alexandre. Soindler, Jacques. Laroche, Christian. *Dictionnaire économique et Juridique: français-anglais*. L.D.G.T (5th Edition) 2000.
- Hyland, Ken. *English for Academic Purposes: An Advanced Resource Book*, Routledge, Oxon, 2006.

- Cunha, Celso and Cintra, Lindley. Breve gramática do português contemporâneo, Edições João Sa da Costa, 2006.

## ***Measuring Integration II: Normative and Applied Methods***

### ***1. Learning Objectives***

Participants will become familiar with methods of measuring and monitoring regional integration processes. Including assessment of issues such as rule of law and human rights. Use of trans-disciplinary methods to examine the goals and aims of regional integration. Students will develop skills in the application and use of various qualitative methods for examining and measuring regional integration

### ***2. Course Content***

Methods for measuring and assessing the normative aspects of regional integration applied to the African experience. Comparisons with other regions. Training in observational and experimental approaches. Provides an introduction into normative, conceptual and critical methodologies. Qualitative methods such as participant observation, in-depth interviews and focus groups. Designing and planning qualitative research.

### ***3. Suggested Reading***

- De Lombaerde, Philippe. Flores, Renato. Iapadre, Lelio and Schulz, Michael. The Regional Integration Manual - Quantitative and Qualitative Methods, Routledge, 2011.
- Berg, Bruce L. and Lune, Howard. Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences (8th Edition), Pearson Education Limited, 2011.
- Paillé, Pierre en Mucchielli, Alex. L'analyse qualitative en sciences humaines et sociales. Armand Colin, 2012.

***Management of Regional Integration and Practical skills  
(Seminar series)***

***1. Learning Objectives***

Students will become familiar with the structure and management of a public sector organization and working procedures. With a special focus on the effective internal processes and practical skills required in regional integration organizations.

Participants will learn about the functioning of public sector organizations in the field of regional integration and develop practical skills and awareness.

Students develop practical skills in negotiation techniques and strategies

***2. Course Content***

During the course of this seminar series students will be taught by professionals working in regional integration the necessary skills and opportunities and challenges of working in an international and multicultural environment. Models of internal organizational structures, strategic human resource management, marketing and fundraising, controlling, management of decision-making, micromanagement of small policy units, strategic planning, institutional development, public finance management, accountability and good governance.

Simulations and specific training will develop negotiation skills. Theoretical insights will be combined with practical experiences through the contributions of practitioners from regional integration institutions inside and outside Africa (case-studies).

***3. Suggested Reading***

- Chanie, P. and Mihyo, P.B (eds). *Thirty Years of Public Sector Reforms in Africa: Selected Country Experiences*. Fountain Publishers, Kampala, 2013.

- Simson, Rebecca Sharma, Natasha & Aziz, Imran. A guide to public financial management literature: For practitioners in developing countries. Overseas Development Institute, December 2011. <http://www.odi.org.uk/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/7542.pdf>
- Guilherme, Manuela. Glaser, Evelyne and Méndez García, María del Carmen. Eds. The Intercultural Dynamics of Multicultural Working. Multilingual Matters, 2010.

## ***Legal Dimensions of Regional Integration***

### ***1. Learning Objectives***

Participants gain an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework of African regional integration; Including a critical study of the legal frameworks of regional integration in other regions of the world. Students will be trained in understanding and analyzing legal texts and in preparing legal opinions. Consideration of primary and secondary sources of law

### ***2. Course Content***

Examine and compare, in a comparative context, legal aspects of political and economic integration in various regions. Focus upon African institutional and procedural legal framework. Aspects of commercial and public law will be examined, including trade agreements, competition policy and regulation. The role of national and regional level courts and consideration of the challenges of implementation, the roles of national governments and the judiciary. Students will also examine the challenges of integrating different legal systems and implanting legal frameworks.

### ***3. Suggested Reading***

- Opong, Richard Frimpong, Legal Aspects of Economic Integration in Africa, Cambridge University Press, 2011.

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- OHADA (Organisation pour l'Harmonisation en Afrique du Droit des Affaires) (ed.). *Traité et actes uniformes commentés et annotés*. Futuroscope Cedex: Juriscope, 2012.
- Drexl, Joseph (et al) (eds). *Competition Policy and Regional Integration in Developing Countries*, Edward Elgar Publishing, 2012.

## ***Regional Economic Policy, Monetary Policy and Development***

### ***1. Learning Objectives***

Participants shall compare developments in this sector in different regional integration schemes in order to draw conclusions for economic and monetary policy management and to distinguish and implement effective processes.

Participants shall gain deeper knowledge of economic and monetary processes on a regional level and the legal issues associated with them.

### ***2. Course Content***

The legal governance and regulation framework required for crucial economic topics like the realization of a common market, the establishment of a common currency, trade and customs issues, the role of a regional competition policy, the significance of structural and regional policy etc. Furthermore special policy fields like agricultural, labor markets (formal sector), migration as an economic factor, the role of the informal sector and the impact of regional integration upon it. Regional integration and development economics and the opportunities and challenges in the context of development cooperation. Comparative examination of policies and development cooperation in regional integration projects.

### ***3. Suggested Reading***

- Seck, Diéry, *Proposed Architecture for an ECOWAS Common Currency Union*, WAI-ZEI Paper, No. 9, Bonn: Center for European Integration Studies, 2013. [www.zei.uni-bonn.de/publikationen/wai-zei-paper](http://www.zei.uni-bonn.de/publikationen/wai-zei-paper) und ZEF/ZEI

- Ayuk, Elias T and Kaboré, Samuel T. *Wealth through Integration: Regional Integration and Poverty-Reduction Strategies in West Africa* (Insight and Innovation in International Development, Springer, 2012).
- Oshikoya, Temitope W. *Monetary and Financial Integration in West Africa*, Routledge, 2010.

## ***Regional Security Governance and Conflict Prevention***

### ***1. Learning Objectives***

Participants focus on the meaning of security in a regional context and approaches and strategies in regional security. They analyze conflicts and changing patterns of security, including the vanishing division between internal and external security. The course will discuss the broad spectrum of security related issues from military aspects and peacekeeping, to the role of the environment or energy security and specific security challenges for the ECOWAS region. The course will also discuss the tension between freedom and security at the regional level.

Participants shall strengthen their knowledge of peace and security issues in the context of regional integration along with the role of regional integration in conflict prevention.

### ***2. Course Content***

Supranational problems like migration from a security perspective including border security, energy security and climate change, human trafficking and other forms of organized crime, regionalized conflict and international terrorism. The course also examines peace-building and peacekeeping, conflict prevention, monitoring, good governance and crisis management as a comprehensive approach to solution; comparative examples and case-studies are used to highlight specific regional issues including causes, consequences and prevention of conflict.

### 3. *Suggested Reading*

- De Vos, Johannes Nicolaas, A Security Community in Africa: A critical Assessment of the African Union's contribution towards the Construction of a Potential Security Community since 2002, Stellenbosch University, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, 2012. [www.scholar.sun.ac.za/handle/10019.1/20159](http://www.scholar.sun.ac.za/handle/10019.1/20159).
- Francis, David J. Uniting Africa: Building Regional Security Systems, Ashgate, 2006.
- Iwilade, Akin and Uchechukwu Agbo, Johnson, ECOWAS and the Regulation of Regional Peace and Security in West Africa, in: Democracy and Security, Vol. 8, Issue 4, Oxford/New York: Routledge, 2012.

## ***The Politics of Regional Integration, Policy Formulation and Multi-Level Governance***

### 1. *Learning Objectives*

Participants will learn about why regional integration is taking place at all, how it is advancing and why, at times, it is failing. Driving, enabling and vetoing actors and factors will be discussed along with structural pre-conditions for and obstacles to integration, factors/actors which prevent or slow down integration schemes and the interplay of economic, legal and political factors. Students further develop their policy evaluation and analysis skills and moreover they shall consolidate their knowledge about the mechanisms of internal developments, policy formulation, decision making and policy implementation in selected regional groupings, inside and outside Africa. Against this background, essential deficits of integration and challenges to the implementation and sustaining of integration decision will be examined.

### 2. *Course Content*

The process of interest formulation and representation; joint definition of shortcomings and future challenges; finding regional compromises; case-studies from selected policy fields and an examination of the impact and consequences

of integration. Agenda-setting; prioritizing; decision-making. Conditions for and obstacles to the implementation and sustaining of, integration plans. The mechanics of multi-level governance; policy formulation, decision making and policy implementation in a comparative perspective; the role of civil society and political lobbying in regional integration, as well as the setting and changing of priorities and how policy makers at each level share or compete for responsibility. The module will emphasize case-studies and the evaluation and analysis of policies by students in order to better understand matters of varying political identities and the role of different actors on different levels in the political process.

### 3. *Suggested Reading*

- Vogl, M. and W. Ouattara 2012. *Obstacles to sustainable regional integration in West Africa*. GREAT Insights, Volume 1, Issue 9. November 2012 [http://www.ecdpm.org/Web\\_ECDPM/Web/Content/Content.nsf/0/FD921CD94A523CD8C1257AAD0046E809?OpenDocument#sthash.n4NIGaQH.dpuf](http://www.ecdpm.org/Web_ECDPM/Web/Content/Content.nsf/0/FD921CD94A523CD8C1257AAD0046E809?OpenDocument#sthash.n4NIGaQH.dpuf)
- Owusu, George, *Factors shaping Economic Integration and Regional Trade in West Africa*, in Sohn, Rike Oppong, Ama Konadu (eds.) *Regional Trade and Monetary Integration in West Africa and Europe*. WAI-ZEI Paper, No 6, 2013.
- Piattoni, Simona, *The Theory of Multi-Level Governance; Conceptual, Empirical and Normative Challenges*. Oxford, 2010.

## **Regional Integration and Global Governance**

### 1. *Learning Objectives*

Participants will study obstacles to regional integration and try to better understand the role of political decision making inside regions and the impact on the external relations of regions. They will also focus on the role of non-governmental actors and on relationship with other international organizations and the management of this institutional setup.

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Participants will increase their analytical skills regarding the consequences of a world of regional integration systems (changes in global security, global power shifts, need for new governance strategies).

### 2. Course Content

Case studies from several regional groupings worldwide; the potential of bi-regional cooperation and association; experiences with the links between economic, legal and political calculations in regional integration and their influence on the structure of global governance. Interplay between regional groupings, international organizations and NGO's. Role of internationally crucial issues (i.e. human rights, democracy and the rule of law) and their interconnection and implementation on a global and regional level. Inter-regional connections including the impact of foreign investment and connections to leadership summits and cooperation.

Continuities and changes in various systems and the future of regional integration.

### 3. Suggested Reading

- Hänggi, Heiner et.al. (eds.), *Interregionalism and International Relations*, Abingdon/New York: Routledge, 2006.
- Fioramonti, Lorenzo (Ed.) *Regionalism in a Changing World - Comparative Perspectives in the New Global Order*, Routledge, 2012.
- Van Langenhove, Luk. *Building Regions - The Regionalization of the World Order*, Ashgate, 2011

## ***Master Thesis and Tutorial***

### ***1. Learning Objectives***

Independent processing of a larger scientific topic within a specified period of time

Students work independently and deal scientifically with secondary literature

Students receive support in the form of weekly tutorials to ensure students have a well-developed concept and plan for their Master thesis.

Support students in defining a hypothesis for the thesis and identifying appropriate research and methodology.

### ***2. Course Content***

Depends on the topic of the master thesis.

## ***V. Research***

An important outcome of the Master program is not only the highly skilled graduates but also the research and findings they generate and produce. As a part of their studies students will undertake individual research for their Master thesis on issues relating to various aspects of regional integration. Below is a list of possible thematic areas under which students may select and formulate their research questions. These research topics will be subject to further methodological discussion and refinement, in line with the specialties and research focus of lecturers and thesis supervisors.

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- Regional Integration and Socio-Economic Development
- Regional Integration: The issue of environment and climate change
- Regional Integration: ECOWAS free movement rule and migration management
- Regional Integration and Gender Issues. How can Regional Integration promote Gender Equality?
- Regional Integration versus Decentralization?
- Regional Integration and Trans-border cooperation
- Regional Integration and free movement of capital
- Regional Integration: Health and Education Policies
- Regional Integration and Higher Education Policies
- Regional Integration and Management of Maritime Issues
- Regional Integration and the Issue of Peace and Security
- Regional Integration and Youth Unemployment: how to reverse the trend?
- Regional Integration and Cultural Identity
- Regional Integration and Citizenship

## ***VI. Management Structures and Faculty***

### ***Program Management***

#### ***Advisory Board (Course Commission)***

The unique and innovative nature of the Master in African Regional Integration requires unique management and organizational structures, in line with existing ones at UNICV. For this reason it is recommended that an Advisory board is established in order to make decisions and advise on the development of the

program. The Chair of this advisory board would be a distinguished individual and other members would include regional leaders, UNICV leaders (including the appropriate Dean and Scientific Council president) and international partners. The establishment of such a board would follow the structures and decision making processes in line with UNICV rules, along with helping to boost the regional and global profile of the program and assist in the realization of funding partners.

### *Academic Director (Course Director)*

The course requires an academic director with expertise and knowledge in the area of African regional integration. As the academic director they will be responsible for all academic and planning elements of the program, ensuring the high standard of teaching and education received by students. This role includes but is not limited to; recruitment of faculty, distribution of faculty workloads, overseeing research lines, liaising with internal and external partners. The Academic Director will also serve as a lecturer, in a subject according to their expertise and experience, and as the coordinator of tutorials of courses taught by external and foreign lecturers.

### *Full Time Course-Coordinator*

The international orientation and nature of the proposed program requires significantly more time and support for both staff and students. In the absence of an international office at UNICV this role will need to be filled by the course coordinator. The extra support and assistance needed by international students and a 'flying faculty' requires that this is a full time position.

### *Flying Faculty*

The flying faculty concept involves renowned academics and professionals teaching subjects in intensive block periods. The extensive WAI network of fellows and experts in the field of regional integration will ensure that students receive the very best instruction by international experts in each subject. Lecturers will come to UNICV for a period of around a week, during which intensive lectures and tutorials will be held. Lecturers remain in contact with students via email and are also available for Master thesis supervision through

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email and conference calls. To ensure the high standards and quality of teaching lecturers must fulfill the following profile.

### *Lecturer Profile:*

Candidates will have an outstanding research record in regional integration and social transformations. They will also have the vision, leadership, experience and enthusiasm to provide quality lecturing and a leading research presence. They will hold a PhD or equivalent postgraduate qualification. They will have a formal teacher qualification and at least 5 years of teaching experience in higher education.

The professorial duties include teaching and research, examining, supervision and administration. In particular, followings capacities will be asked:

- Expertise in their own subject area;
- Delivering lectures, seminars and tutorials
- Designing, preparing and developing teaching materials
- Supervising students' research activities
- Assessing students' coursework
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Excellent analytical skills
- Fluent in English and French or Portuguese
- Establishing collaborative links outside the university with regional institutions and civil society organizations linked with regional integration and social transformations.

### *Internships*

Students will be encouraged and supported by the Course Coordinator and Course Director to undertake a voluntary internship to gain valuable practical experience. The internship gives students the opportunity to apply knowledge to practice, enriching classroom learning by combining academic research with

practical professional experience. This could occur during the final semester as students prepare their master thesis or following the completion of their studies. Students will be provided with assistance and contacts for finding suitable internships in African regional integration institutions and other relevant organisations.

## *VII. Student Recruitment and Career Prospects*

### ***Student Recruitment***

#### Admission Requirements

- Students must hold a bachelor's degree
- The selection jury can examine other diplomas and their equivalences for working professionals who may wish to apply
- Students must have an academic level proficiency of English. A TOEFL test will be required.

#### Selection criteria

- Educational background should be in a relevant subject; including political science, economics, law, international relations or similar fields to ensure that students already possess a sufficient level of background understanding. This will be subject to an overall individual assessment in order to establish if the academic areas are covered to a sufficient extent.
- Proven academic excellence – above average undergraduate degree
- Very good knowledge of ICT
- Proof of excellent knowledge of English and knowledge of at least one other official ECOWAS language

### ***Career Prospects***

In an increasingly competitive job market a graduate degree alone is often no longer enough for secure employment prospects. Therefore an important consideration in the development of graduate education programs such as the Master in African Regional Integration, are the opportunities for students on completion and their employability. Employability is a combination of skills, knowledge and attributes which contribute to graduates being more likely to gain employment and be successful in their chosen career.

### ***Specialized Knowledge***

Graduates will gain specialized knowledge in the field of African Regional Integration, with a specific focus on West Africa. This knowledge and understanding of the complex yet increasingly important nature of regional integration is an important foundation for future employers. The program also develops the strategic and analytical thinking skills of students. Graduates are trained in understanding and conceptualizing theoretical perspectives and then applying them to real life scenarios and case studies. Further, the multi-disciplinary nature of the course ensures that graduates have a well-developed and holistic understanding of complex global issues and are able to draw upon this knowledge in order to better deal with challenges.

### ***Professional Skills***

Graduates will be trained in applying their knowledge in a practical and meaningful way. This is developed through lecturers who are practitioners and through the examination of case studies; further professional skills such as planning; controlling and organizational structures are also included in the curriculum. Students will also develop valuable transferable skills in quantitative and qualitative analysis.

Through the practical focus of the modules graduates will have highly developed skills such as preparing reports, proposals, positions papers and presentations. Group work will also develop the problem-solving, team work and collaboration skills of graduates.

## ***Attributes***

The international nature and outlook of the Master will help to produce graduates who are sensitive to cultural differences and are able to work together with people of different nationalities and backgrounds. The ability to effectively communicate and be respectful of cultural differences will increase the prospects and success of graduates entering international career paths. The international 'flying faculty' will also contribute to broadening the understanding and inter-cultural skills of graduates.

The program provides graduates with expertise, skills and attributes which prepare graduates for a diverse range of career opportunities including; worldwide academic institutions, public institutions and regional integration institutions, national administrations, media, private sector actors, NGO's and policy consulting.

The program provides graduates with the foundation for a network of experts working in the field of regional integration; through classmates, alumni and teaching staff. Following graduation students returning to their home country will have established contacts with individuals across the region and potentially around the world.

The Master in African Regional Integration prepares graduates for a wide range of exciting and challenging career paths. On completion graduates can demonstrate to future employers not only their expertise and specialized knowledge but also a broad range of professional skills and attributes.





The **West Africa Institute (WAI)** is a research center offering research, capacity-development and social dialogue on regional integration in West Africa. WAI is promoted by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), ECOBANK and the Government of Cape Verde. WAI is based in Praia Cape Verde.

The **Center for European Integration Studies (ZEI)** is an interdisciplinary research and further education institute at the University of Bonn.

WAI-ZEI Papers are published in the framework of the research cooperation both institutes conduct on “Sustainable regional integration in West Africa and Europe” in the years 2013-2016. They are intended to stimulate discussion about regional integration processes in West Africa and Europe from a comparative perspective and about the development of European-West African relations in the political and economic sector. Papers express the personal opinions of the authors.

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**ISBN 978-3-941928-52-7**