

Newsletter No. 14

It's already late March and in no time, another academic year begins.

We're looking forward to the final six months of our JMM project, as we hope to finish the three-year-long EU-funded project that KGU received in 2019 with a couple of impressive events. It would be great to see as many of you there!

Here are some of the forthcoming activities:

Teaching:

This term is the last chance for KGU students to take one of our JMM courses.

Everyone interested in studying rural development, don't miss this chance.

While the seminars are offered at the Department of Economics, Policy Studies, and International Studies, they are open to students from all backgrounds, so have a look if the topics sound interesting to you!

Our first class, **Declining Regions in the EU**, is offered at the Department of Economics on Tuesday, 2nd period, at room B-204. We will look at rural development in different EU countries, analysing the chances and problems many remote areas have. In groups, we will work on different ideas on how to promote rural areas (e.g. through entrepreneurship) and compare regional development in Europe with Japan. For more information, please check LUNA.

The second JMM class is on **Labour Mobility and Population Imbalance in the EU** (総合政策課題研究 I A). It is offered at the Department of Policy Studies and takes place on Thursday, 2nd period, in room I-101. This course is highly recommended to students who are interested in migration and labour mobility and want to learn more about the movement of people in the EU. We will analyse different kinds of migration with special focus on European East-West labour mobility. A major focus will be the impact migration has on the sending and recipient countries.

The third JMM teaching module also focuses on migration but is offered as **Virtual Exchange** (VE) subject with students from **Oxford University and LMU (Munich University)**. You will have several opportunities to work in pairs/groups with students from Germany and the UK and conduct interviews together. If you are interested, join this class on Tuesdays, 3rd period, at G-IS208. You can find this course on LUNA under the title 'The European Union: History, Politics & Economy'.

Past events:**Conferences:**

On March 29th, we held a major academic online conference. Jointly organised with KGU's Jean Monnet Chair, which is led by Prof. Holger Bungsche, the conference combined different perspectives on rural development. Under the title "Rural Revitalisation: Industrial, Economic and Social Perspectives", the six presenters (from Japan, Germany, the UK, and Bangladesh) provided valuable new ideas and insights into the potential for development in different localities. The conference was very well received among the participants and the audience, who enjoyed listening to the many examples of how rural areas could turn their (remote) location into a strength. You will find a detailed report on the conference with some of the presentation slides here soon:

<https://global.kwansei.ac.jp/jm/news>

On February 17th, I also had the chance to present some of my research on renewable energies at the inauguration meeting of Tanba City's *Silitan Valley* Project. I introduced the concept of energy-autonomous villages, and presented a case study on Germany, highlighting that it is possible to generate all the energy one village needs (and much more!) from renewable energies. Thanks to Tanba City for inviting me as a guest speaker.

That's it. We will have more events, especially in June, when we're taking part in the EU-Japan Friendship Week coming up, so check our website for more information.

See you soon,

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