



# **JEAN MONNET MODULE ON LEGAL ENVIRONMENT OF DOING BUSINESS IN EU**

**(Co-funded by the European Union)**

**Activity Report for AY 2022-2023 to 2024-2025**

**Prepared By**

**Dr. Bindu S. Ronald (Module Coordinator)**

**Dr. Abhijit Vasmatkar (Member)**

**Ms. Lasya Vyakaranam (Member)**

**Symbiosis Law School, Pune**  
**Symbiosis International (Deemed University), Pune**

## **Report on the Activities under the Jean Monnet Module on Legal Environment of Doing Business in EU**

### **1. Roundtable on Curriculum Development on Jean Monnet Module on Legal Environment of Doing Business in EU (LEDBEU) on 20th April 2022:**

On April 20, 2022, Symbiosis Law School, Pune hosted an online roundtable and workshop to review the draft curriculum for the Jean Monnet Module on the Legal Environment of Doing Business in the EU (LEDBEU). The event, held virtually at 5 PM IST, included experts from India and the EU. The Director, SLS-Pune delivered the welcome address, highlighting importance of EU-India collaboration in trade, business and education. JM Module coordinator then introduced the module's content, learning outcomes, and pedagogy, before opening the floor for panel discussions on the syllabus.

Scholars from EU and India have noted general comments on the draft syllabus. A structured discussion was facilitated on the contents of the module further to specific questions asked to the experts.

#### **Main achievements of the Roundtable discussion are as follows:**

The roundtable discussion has achieved in terms of bringing value to the curriculum of the LEDBEU Module. Summary of the discussion, as follows:

1. Experts have concurred that a specialized course on “Legal Environment of Doing Business in EU” is incumbent due to the idiosyncrasies of the EU common market, it’s specific rules and regulations, which are definitively different from other markets.
2. Experts confirmed that there are very few universities across the EU that are offering specialized course on the lines of LEDBEU. However, the LEDBEU module is a very specifically designed to cater to the requirements of incubation and start-ups from India.
3. Suggestions were given by experts to make curriculum more effective addressing emerging needs of the EU market. They suggested to include case studies, small group discussion, mock business plans, short internships, etc. to have more practise based approached. On a substantive line, it was recommended to add a Private Law dimension to curricula, providing a necessary perspective on EU Commercial Law.
4. Integrate values, skills, experiential learning is identified as a need of an hour, so experts recommended to have 50% of theoretical approach, 30% for practical approach, 20% for

cultural importance. Additionally, recommended the selection of a few EU member states as case studies bearing in mind that setting up a business in the EU is regulated under each EU member State law. The students must be oriented that any business in the EU must operate from a selected member State, as the EU is not a country.

5. The discussion has also suggested use of pedagogy to include seminars, Socratic method, case studies, discussion groups (both online and face-to-face). A training on handling of live matters and the application of theoretical knowledge would be beneficial to the participants. Assessment plan shall include a practical assignment, individually researched and written by the students.
6. Experts have also deliberated on innovative and best practices to be integrated into the delivery of the curriculum. Guest lectures by experts, small group discussion, experiential learning, Case Study, seminars, group exercise, collaborative research activity, visit to ministry etc. can be integrated so as to cater to the diverse learning needs.
7. Moreover, an intense discussion on increase the employability/ entrepreneurship of the students was facilitated between experts to suggest more practical based approach and encouraging internships.
8. Experts have also suggested to conduct capacity building programmes/orientation programmes for faculty members who would be conducting this module. It was suggested for faculty members to refer to the reading material provided by EU on their website including some case studies. Faculty members were also encouraged to have regular visit and consult companies that have already established their base in EU so as to understand legal compliances to establish and start a business in EU. It is also suggested to have collaborations with Universities with EU and companies so as to make use of their expertise in training teachers and students. Suggestions were also provided on study material and online videos by students.

Thus, the round table discussion on 20th April 2022 has contributed in effectively designing curriculum for the JM module by integrating domain expertise of experts from EU and India. Many suggestions are received on altering contents of the module to make it effective, 21st Century pedagogy, experiential learning, evaluation strategies, etc. The said activity has provided a base for all three years to conduct JM Module effectively.

## **2. Online Workshop on Curriculum Review conducted on 20th April 2022:**

The online workshop was conducted as a part of the ‘training the trainers’ event under the deliverables of the Jean Monnet Module - LEDBEU. Experts from European Union were invited to equip the Module coordinators and other participants with the knowledge and skills pertaining to teaching EU Law and the pedagogy to be adopted.

### **Main Achievement of the Online Workshop on Curriculum Review:**

- Experts have provided an overview of “Introduction to the EU market and the fundamentals of the EU system”. There was an in-depth orientation and discussion on the laws, rules and regulations created by the EU. Experts have highlighted combined importance of The Treaty on European Union (TEU) and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) being foundational treaties that govern the European Union. Together, they define how the EU functions, including the legal basis and procedures for law-making. They stressed on the unification and harmonization element of the international private law and its importance. A wide range of topics covered that include non-contractual obligations, civil procedural laws, European enforcement order for uncontested claims, creation of secondary law in terms of order for payment procedures, small claims procedures, etc.
- Experts have also bolstered the discussion by explaining types of association, tax regimes, environmental standards and dispute resolution. There was a special emphasis on European Company Law Directive, EU primary and secondary legislations, issues relating to corporate governance and other allied areas.
- There was a detailed session on “Contract Law in EU and Competition Law Policy in EU”. Additionally, the role of digital economy and money exchanges between the states that plays a very important role in starting a business in EU. The discussion has further emphasised upon the role of fragmented tax systems and heavily fragmented private law in EU.
- The last session on “Banking regulations and compliances for setting up of new business in EU” has provided insights on the issue of merger control with competition law under one banner. A detailed orientation provided on how are Banking and Insurance regulations are harmonised within the EU. Role of EU Banking Authority which supervises the biggest banks in Europe has been explained, and national regulators who

regulate the smaller banks. Additionally, many other areas are covered including consumer protection during discussion and EU standards in respect of that are covered.

Thus, the workshop has provided a detailed insight to the module coordinator and members in relation to working of EU institutions and different area that are to be prioritized while teaching LEDBEU Module. This workshop has created basic understanding in relation to certain legal regulations and compliances in EU for starting and doing business in EU.

### **3. Certificate Course on Legal Environment of Doing Business in EU:**

A certificate course under the JM Module on LEDBEU was conducted successfully for three years from 2022. Entrepreneurs, corporate employees, lawyers, teachers and students of different universities in India are encouraged to register for the certificate course. This course has received overwhelming response in terms of registration. The certificate course had a target of training 90 participants in three years, however 140 participants were trained considering overwhelming response to the course. For first academic cycle it was conducted between 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022 to 20<sup>th</sup> November 2022; for second academic cycle between 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 to 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and for third academic cycle between 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024 to 9<sup>th</sup> November 2024. JM Module Coordinator and JM Module members have conducted the certificate course. Additionally, experts from EU and India were invited to deliver guest lectures.

The course delivery integrated 21st century teaching skills that stimulated learning beyond classroom and conventional methods. Objective was to equip students with competencies that align with the demands of the modern world and mainly EU. These skills facilitated critical thinking and problem solving, collaboration and communication, creativity and innovation, leadership and responsibility and global and cultural awareness. The course had contemporary evaluation strategies including formative assessments, project-based assessments, rubrics and performance-based criterion. On the basis of performance, participants were issued with certificates with grades.

#### **Main Achievements of the Certificate Course of Legal Environment of Doing Business in EU:**

- The certificate course on LEDBEU has received overwhelming response registering 140 participants against a target of 90 intake for three years owing to its practical utility and relevance to the contemporary developments in trade and commerce.
- The certificate course has provided in-depth knowledge of EU law and institutions mainly the European Commission, European Parliament, and the European Court of Justice in regulating standards governing business in EU.
- Participants have gained expertise in trade regulations, investment, labour standards, taxation, competition rules, banking, etc. Additionally, the relevance of the Customs Union in providing “Constitutional Freedoms” that include trade in goods, services, intellectual and people.
- Moreover, participants learnt risk management skills and importance of compliance to EU directives and regulations. It minimized the risk of penalties and other ramifications for non-compliance to EU laws and regulations.

Thus, this course has provided an immense opportunity to the participants to bridge the gap between theoretical and practical understanding of EU regulations. A holistic understanding of ease of doing business in the EU from the legal perspective, its problems and prospects have provided improved career opportunities to the participants.

#### **4. Essay Competition:**

To foster academic engagement and promote in-depth research on the legal aspect of doing business in the European Union (EU), an annual essay competition was organized over three successive years: 2022, 2023, and 2024. This initiative aimed at knowledge dissemination, encouraging participants to explore contemporary issues, and providing opportunities for publication and presentation of research outcomes in conferences. The competition served as a platform for students and early-career professionals to critically analyse dynamic aspects of the EU's business environment from legal, economic, and socio-political perspectives. Additionally, It cultivated interest in EU legal and policy frameworks and encouraged interdisciplinary research linking law, economics, technology and human rights.

The inaugural year focused on geopolitical and regulatory themes critical to understanding the foundational environment of doing business in the EU. Topics reflected urgent global developments and their impact on EU law and business. The second cycle addressed recent

developments in the global political economy and regulatory landscape, emphasizing the EU's evolving role in cross-border governance, trade, and rights protection. The final cycle focused on emerging technologies, labor integration, and sustainability, reflecting the EU's proactive response to digital transformation and socio-economic inclusion.

### **Main Achievements of the Essay Competition:**

The competition enhanced interdisciplinary awareness of EU legal systems, regulatory norms and compliances required to establish a business in EU. Numerous participants presented their work at national and international conferences of national and international repute. Selected essays were considered for publication in peer-reviewed journals and academic compilations. The initiative fostered a strong research culture and encouraged critical engagement with contemporary legal and policy issues in the EU.

Thus, the Essay Competition on the Legal Environment of Doing Business in the EU successfully achieved its objective of nurturing scholarly discourse, bridging theory with practice, and engaging young researchers with global legal challenges. By aligning topics with real-time geopolitical and technological developments, the competition created a vibrant platform for learning, collaboration, and innovation.

## **5. Dissemination Activities and Future Sustenance of JM Module: Legal Environment of Doing Business in EU (LEDBEU)**

There are three dissemination activities conducted as a part of LEDBEU Module.

### **a. Dissemination at the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> International Annual Research Conference – SYMROLIC, Pune, India**

The dissemination activity was conducted during the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> International Annual Research Conference on the Rule of law in Context: Rethinking Law and Policy with reference to Quality of Life - Global Economic Justice held on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and 20<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> April 2025, respectively. The Conference emphasizes Law & Life Interface in the spheres of Innovation, Science, Technology, Management, Human Behaviour, Global Policy, Governance and Climate Change. The award-winning essays under the JM Module on LEDBEU were presented at the track 2 on Business, Trade, Commerce, Management and Law.

Target audience for the dissemination conference included faculty members from different discipline, law students, researchers of Symbiosis law School, Pune, Symbiosis law School, NOIDA, Symbiosis law School, Hyderabad, Symbiosis law School, Nagpur, Law colleges across the country and International partners of Symbiosis law School, Pune. This dissemination activity immensely helped participants in highlighting their research findings to the academic fraternity.

**b. Dissemination during the 26th Annual Conference held by the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration at Sofia University, Bulgaria on Transforming Futures: Sustainability, Innovation and Governance on 22nd Nov 2024.**

Second Dissemination was held during the 26th annual conference: Transforming Futures: Sustainability, Innovation, and Governance. The conference focused on the intersection of sustainability, innovation, and governance – these pillars that are playing a vital role in navigating the complexities of today's global landscape. A special track was organized on the Legal Environment of Doing Business in EU. The Conference itself was held in a hybrid mode allowing a larger participation.

The presentation from the part of Symbiosis Law School Pune, Symbiosis International (Deemed University), SCIE was made by JM Module Coordinator and members.

Main achievements of the presentation and discussion during the conference included the benefits received by the participant on the module, explored possibilities of sustaining the initiatives beyond the Module lifetime through various initiatives, encourage research and collaborations with partner Universities and the Business enthusiasts, establishing a platform for a dialogue between representatives of academics and business in India and Bulgaria.

**c. Dissemination meeting with Stakeholders and Legal stalwarts at Brunswick European Law School (BELS), Ostfalia University of Applied Sciences, Wolfenbüttel, Germany**

The third Dissemination activity through the Meeting with the stakeholders and legal stalwarts at Brunswick European Law School (BELS), Ostfalia University of Applied Sciences, Wolfenbüttel, Germany to highlight outcomes under LEDBEU Module for a period of 3 years starting from AY 2022-2023 was held on 23rd January 2025. The visit was conducted between 21st January 2025 to 26th January 2025 (including travelling days) to BELS, Germany. It covered a detailed discussion on 3 proposals for the sustenance of the Module beyond the grant period, to be sponsored jointly by BELS and Symbiosis International Deemed University, Pune (SIU).

One of the achievements of LEDBEU Module has been to establish a link between the theoretical and practical aspects of establishing and doing business in the European Union by meeting the needs of the European Union Common Market. The objective of dissemination meeting was also to cascade to partner universities the number benefits participants of the module on LEDBEU received by participating in the module and thereby understand the learning legal rules, regulations and compliances to do business in EU. The dissemination meeting also discussed and explored possibilities to encourage research and activities for future sustenance of the module through collaborative activities between the partner universities.

Following post-meeting actions are planned, aimed at future sustenance of the LEDBEU module:

1. To initiate a value-added course on the contents of the LEDBEU Module to the students of BELS and SIU.
2. To design a MOOC on the lines of LEDBEU Module accommodating students across India and Europe.
3. To conceptualize 'Incubation and Start-up support Centre' for small and middle scale enterprises from India who wish to have trade in EU. Also, it would help EU entrepreneurs in understanding legal environment of doing business in India and help in ensuring regulatory compliance.
4. To encourage joint research activities in the areas covered by LEDBEU Module.

**Main Achievements of the Dissemination Activities:**

The LEDBEU Jean Monnet Module has significantly contributed to understanding the legal environment of doing business in the EU among Indian students and professionals. Through international dissemination, the module has gained visibility, expanded its academic network, and created avenues for sustainable development. The planned initiatives such as value-added courses, MOOCs, and incubation support centres are promising steps toward ensuring that the knowledge and efforts developed during the grant period continue to generate impact beyond its lifetime.

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