

# Glossary

## ANALYTICAL TERMS

- Federal:** (from Latin *foedus* ‘alliance’) Organisational principle in which individual members (constituent member states) have a degree of autonomy and statehood but are united to form an overarching totality
- Horizontal vs. vertical European integration:** Typology that distinguishes market-driven horizontal and political vertical modes of European integration
- Intergovernmental:** (from Latin *inter* ‘between’) Intergovernmental relations are relations *between* governments
- International:** (from Latin *inter* ‘between’) International relations are relations *between* nation states
- Politicising [something]:** An activity that makes an issue become ‘political’ in character (see Erne, 2019)
- Supranational:** (from Latin *supra* ‘above’) Supranational law supersedes national law
- Transnational:** (from Latin *trans* ‘across’) Refers to social processes that transcend national boundaries and national systems

## EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

- Council (of the European Union):** Co-legislator and co-executive of the EU, uniting the responsible national ministers (or governments’ permanent representatives in Brussels)
- Council of Europe (CoE):** International organisation based in Strasbourg, created in 1949 to uphold human rights and democracy in Europe; not an EU institution

- Directorates General (DG) (of the Commission):** Government departments of the Commission in charge of various policy areas, e.g., economic and financial affairs (DG ECFIN), employment, social affairs, and inclusion (DG EMPL), health (DG SANTE), etc.
- EU executives:** The European Commission and Council
- EU legislators:** The European Parliament and Council
- EU social partners:** The representative organisations of management and labour that can act as co-legislators in the social policy field (Art. 154 and 155 TFEU)
- European Commission:** Principal executive arm of the EU composed of its President and its College of Commissioners and the EU's civil service
- European Council:** Institution uniting the heads of states and governments; it is not involved in everyday EU governance but defines its general direction, namely, in crisis situations
- European Parliament:** Directly elected co-legislator of the EU; no decision-making role in the EU's new economic governance (NEG) regime

#### LEGAL INSTRUMENTS OF THE EU

- Decisions:** Binding legal acts of EU institutions, e.g., on the allocation of EU funding
- Directives:** EU framework laws that must be transposed into national law to take effect
- EU Treaties:** Primary EU legislation, including Treaty on European Union (TEU) and Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)
- Recommendations:** Formally non-binding legal acts of EU institutions, which may still have significant coercive power in conjunction with other EU laws, such as the Six-Pack
- Regulations:** EU laws that do not need to be transposed into national laws to take effect

#### TOOLS OF THE EU'S NEW ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE (NEG) REGIME

- Council Recommendations (on National Reform Programmes):** containing a set number of country-specific recommendations (CSRs);

legal act outlining the NEG prescriptions that the Commission proposes in spring and the Council adopts in July every year

**Europe 2020:** Non-binding EU policy coordination and growth strategy adopted in 2010

**European Semester:** Yearly cycle of country-specific NEG prescriptions, surveillance, and enforcement, integrating MoU-, SGP-, MIP-, and Europe 2020-related NEG prescriptions in one document

**European Stability Mechanism (ESM):** Financial bailout mechanisms created in 2011 for EU member states in the eurozone

**Macroeconomic Imbalance Procedure (MIP):** Constraining EU economic governance tool institutionalised by the EU's Six-Pack laws of 2011

**Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs):** Very constraining EU economic governance tool outlining the policy conditionalities for the receipt of EU bailout funding

**NEG prescription:** Shortest segment of an MoU or a CSR outlining a specific policy instruction issued by EU executives' within the EU's NEG regime

**Six-Pack (of EU laws on economic governance):** Package of six EU laws that institutionalised the EU's NEG regime in 2011

**Stability and Growth Pact (SGP):** Constraining EU fiscal and economic governance tool created in 1997 and reinforced by the Six-Pack laws of 2011; EU executives temporarily suspended its application after the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020

#### TOOLS OF EU'S POST-COVID NEW ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE (NEG) REGIME

**National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP):** National government document used for applying for EU RRF funding; key document of the post-Covid NEG regime

**Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) Regulation:** EU law that in 2021 institutionalised the EU's post-Covid NEG regime and the conditionalities for the receipt of RRF funding

**Council Implementing Decision (CID):** Legal act endorsing the Commission's assessment of NRRPs and specifying the policy conditionalities for receipt of RRF funding

## EU EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS AND SOCIAL POLICY

See the **European Industrial Relations Dictionary** of Eurofound, the EU's tripartite foundation for the improvement of Living and Working Conditions, <https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/en/european-industrial-relations-dictionary>