



EXECUTIVE TRAINING SEMINAR

SCHOOL OF TRANSNATIONAL GOVERNANCE AND CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES

THE POLITICS OF THE EU PURSE: MASTERING THE MULTI-ANNUAL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK

Course Coordinators:

Cinzia Alcidi | Centre for European Policy Studies

Wolfgang Wessels | School of Transnational Governance, EUI and University of Cologne

Venue: Centre for European Policy Studies, 1 Place du Congres, 1000 Brussels

23- 24 JUNE 2020

COURSE DESCRIPTION

What will be the focus?

This Executive Training focuses on the financial framework of the European Union (EU). The deal for the new long-term budget 2021-2027 is still under discussion, while severe differences remain between the countries that are net contributors and those that are net recipients of EU funds. One issue of consideration is how the new EU budget will be allocated across the numerous policy areas. Another question is whether the EU member states will decide to raise the budget above 1 percent of the EU's combined gross national income; a threshold that perhaps comprises a severe impediment for the Union to achieve ambitious goals on issues ranging from climate change to digital transformation.

Given the current limitations and challenges concerning the formulation of the new budget, this training seminar will elaborate on the strategic role that member states and parliaments of all levels play and work on avenues for insight and influence in the ongoing negotiations on the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027. Participants will upgrade their strategic knowledge on the EU's multi-level and multi-actor playing field, develop key skills in EU monitoring and share best practices regarding these critical negotiations in a year that is critical for the EU's future. This interactive seminar discusses both the substance and the organisation of the MFF as a case study, with the aim to strengthen participants' grip on processes taking place in Brussels and in the member states.

This Executive Training offers:

- State of the play of ongoing conflictual negotiations;



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- Insiders information on the structure of the new MFF, its funding and the state of play of negotiations;
- Insights on the potential impact of the new EU budget structure on Member States;
- Understanding of member states' and institutional interests, preferences and positions;
- Identification of keys for influencing the set-up and implementation of the EU's financial framework as well as best practices of parliamentary scrutiny.
- Getting a first insight into the changed constellations in the EU's architecture with new persons at the top.
- A specific point will be the financing of the green deal e.g. the just transition fund.

Who should attend?

This training seminar is targeted towards all professionals working in or with the European Union interested in the EU's budget, finances and political context, including:

- Political group staff working in National Parliaments and in the European Parliament;
- Administrative officers working in National Parliaments and in the European Parliament;
- Officers working in the European Commission;
- Officers working in the Council Secretariat; Officers working in the permanent representations;
- Officers working in the European Economic and Social Committee;
- Officers working in the Committee of the Regions;
- Regional authorities managing European Union funds; INTERREG communities;
- Officers working in the European Central Bank;
- Officers working in Chambers of Commerce.
- Officers working in banks and investment funds.

How will you learn?

- Lectures from experts: The training gives the opportunity to gain knowledge on the latest developments both regarding the substance of the financial framework and as regards the process of EU negotiations and scrutiny from academic experts and key practitioners in the field.
- World Café: The world café sets the scene for the training seminar. In small interactive discussions, participants share knowledge and understanding of the EU budget, the negotiating procedures and the political issues of crucial importance in the negotiations up to the new programming period.
- Sharing best practices. How do different actors (at EU, national and regional level) approach the negotiations, which are their positions and what are the best practices in the scrutiny of this process? During an interactive session, we draft the political map of the MFF.
- Classroom discussion: Participants are given opportunity to interact and put forth their knowledge

and views, the perspective of the institution where they work, the position of the country where they live. This will enhance participant understanding of the MFF negotiation process and add context to the content presented by the instructors.

- **Simulation Game:** Participants will simulate a joint parliamentary meeting of the European Parliament's committees for budgetary control, for budgetary affairs, and for legal affairs with the corresponding committees of national parliaments to gather views and positions vis-à-vis the Council on the Commission's proposal for a regulation on the protection of the Union's budget in case of generalised deficiencies, as regards the rule of law in the Member States COM/2018/324 final - 2018/0136 (COD).

DRAFT PROGRAMME

23 JUNE

9.00 - 9.30

Institutional Greetings and Welcome Remarks

9.30 - 11.00

The Drivers to the MFF Proposal: Radical Change within Strong Path Dependency

Jorge Núñez Ferrer | Centre for European Policy Studies

Training Session:

In the last decade, the EU has been shaken by the financial crisis, a debt crisis, a migration crisis, and Brexit. In addition to these disruptive events, serious security concerns and increasing ambitions in the area of energy and climate policy are changing EU priorities. These challenges are to be expected to impact the EU budget in shape and value, moving away from the geographically pre-allocated funding to priorities which can address the most pressing issues. The proposed MFF appears at first sight similar in size and structure, thus just another path dependent budget. However, in the last two decades the EU budget has been reformed significantly, while the financial instruments have expanded the reach of the EU budget. What is the budget we are being proposed? How different or similar is it really and how is it addressing the challenges listed above?

11.00 - 11.30

Coffee break

11.30 - 13.00

World Café

Training Session:

The MFF is a complex case-study of EU negotiations. It combines a delicate interplay of institutional and national power and interests, which plays out in different procedures and negotiations. Member states often struggle to shape and co-ordinate common positions and priorities while the EU institutions strive to find an acceptable compromise. The world café setting will offer the opportunity to participants to share knowledge and understanding of the EU budget and of the negotiating procedures as well as to present the issues they believe are of crucial importance for achieving a sensible MFF for the new programming period. The main scope is to identify significant issues on the

agenda. What will be the shared priorities for MSs to reach an agreement? Will the current Commission proposal go through? Will there be any role for National and regional Parliaments? How the new composition of the EP will affect the process and the final outcome?

13.00 - 14.00

Lunch break

14.00 - 15.30

The New MFF: EU Objectives and Member States Priorities

Cinzia Alcidi | Centre for European Policy Studies

Training session:

The European Commission proposal of the new MFF puts forward new objectives and policies (e.g. European Defence Fund, budget instrument for convergence and competitiveness) to be funded through EU common resources, in addition to traditional cohesion and structural funds and the common agriculture policy. Such changes reflect the definition of new principles guiding EU resource allocation, namely EU value added, excellence, and need for reforms in Member States. This session, through active involvement of participants, will illustrate how the interplay between EU objectives and national perspectives can shape the MFF negotiations.

15.30 - 16.00

Coffee break

16.00 - 18:00

How to Scrutinise the EU's Budget?

Mendeltje Van Keulen | The Hague University of Applied Sciences

Training Session:

This part of the programme delves into the process of MFK negotiations as a case study of EU policy shaping. The playing field on which the EU's financial framework is shaped features a myriad of different players actively following the ball and attempting to determine its direction. Professionals working for the EU institutions, within regional and national governments and parliaments, NGO's and private stakeholders; all struggle for pro-active information and influence on to what happens before, during and after negotiations. During this interactive session, we will map the playing field of political intelligence in the European Union together, by shaping our individual knowledge and insights into synergy. Participants are invited to contribute and share information, experiences and best practices in order to clarify existing opportunity structures in this particular EU negotiating process. We discuss the state of play in terms of negotiating positions and scrutiny processes, with the aim to facilitate understanding and grip.

19.30 - 21.30

Dinner: Keynote speech by Sven Giegold | European Parliament (tbc)

24 JUNE

9.00 - 10.30

The New Green Deal: A Budgetary Dimension

Andreas Schwarz | Directorate General for Budget, Revenue and Multiannual Financial Framework, European Commission

10.30 - 11.00

Coffee break

11.00 - 12.30

Training Session:

The European Commission has proposed to further strengthen the climate action into the new MFF 2021-2027. Working through groups, this interactive session will attempt to highlight the political dynamics behind the New Green Deal, what it means for the MFF and its implications for EU. At the same time, will provide soft skills to participants in order to:

- Better understand how climate actions are integrated into all spending areas of the new MFF and how they affect all policy areas;
- Track progress towards the spending targets for the New Green Deal into the MFF;
- Highlight trade-offs and obstacles which could affect the success of the Deal;
- Formulate and propose options for enhancing the climate relevance of EU budget.

12.30 - 14.00

Lunch

Keynote speech by Jim Cloos | Council of the European Union

14.00 - 17.00

Simulation Game: Conditionalizing Spending of Europe's Resources

Andreas Maurer | University of Innsbruck

Introduction:

Participants will receive individualised “kick-off” instructions to prepare their starting positions for the simulation game. Delegations meet to prepare their positions and negotiation strategies.

Simulation game:

Effective respect for the rule of law is a prerequisite for confidence that EU spending in member states is sufficiently protected. On 3 May 2018, the Commission put forward a proposal for a regulation on the protection of the Union's budget in the event of generalised deficiencies as regards the rule of law in a Member State. The proposal addresses, from a budgetary perspective, generalised deficiencies as regards the rule of law. Participants will simulate a joint parliamentary meeting of the European Parliament's committees for budgetary control, for budgetary affairs, and for legal affairs with the corresponding committees of national parliaments to gather views and positions vis-à-vis the Council on the Commission's proposal for a regulation on the protection of the Union's budget in case of generalised deficiencies, as regards the rule of law in the Member States COM/2018/324 final - 2018/0136 (COD).

17.00 - 17.30

Award of Certificates and Wrap Up Session

TRAINERS

Cinzia Alcidi

Head of Economic Policy Unit at the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) in Brussels, where she leads the Economic Policy Unit, and fellow at LUISS - School of European Political

Economy. Prior to joining CEPS, she worked at the International Labour Office in Geneva and she taught International Economics at University of Perugia (Italy). Her expertise includes international macroeconomics, economic policy and EU governance. Since 2015 she manages, and teaches at, CEPS Academy, the education arm of CEPS, which offers graduate and post-graduate training and other educational activities on a wide range of EU policy areas. Cinzia holds a Ph.D. in International Economics from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, Switzerland.

Mendeltje Van Keulen

Professor 'Changing role of Europe' at the The Hague University of Applied Sciences, member of the EUI stakeholder group on national parliaments and associate of the public consultancy group Berenschot EU in Brussels. She has a PhD and MA in European Public Administration (College of Europe, EUI Florence, University of Twente). Her dissertation focused on Dutch EU interest representation in the 1990s and she regularly publishes and speeches on national EU policy and the European roles and functions of professionals within governments, national parliaments and in public affairs. She worked as a senior research fellow for the Netherlands Institute for International Relations 'Clingendael' where she coordinated EU research and training projects for various public and private actors and the European Commission. As clerk and team leader of the EU unit in the Dutch House of Representatives, she gained abundant practical experience in parliamentary processes of Europeanisation and change management. Mendeltje van Keulen regularly trains professionals on how to organise, co-ordinate and influence European affairs.

Andreas Maurer

Professor and Jean Monnet Chair for Political Science and European Integration at the University of Innsbruck. Previous engagements at the Institute for European Politics, Bonn (1994-1997), the Jean Monnet Chair for Political Science at the University of Cologne (1997-2001), the Trans European Policy Studies Association - TEPSA, Brussels (1999-2001), and the German Institute for International Politics and Security (2001-2013). Within the European Parliament, Andreas worked as a detached national expert (2007-2008) and as a contractual administrator (2009-2011) for the Secretariat of its Committee on International Trade. Andreas received the Science Award of the German Bundestag (2003) and the Media Prize of the Foreign Press Association, Berlin (2007). His research focuses on the European Parliament and interparliamentary cooperation in EU affairs, the theory and practice of multi-level parliamentarism, the EU's and EFTA trade policies and the frameworks for European Soft law and interinstitutional agreements.

Jorge Núñez Ferrer

Senior Research fellow at the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) and holds a PhD from Imperial College of the University of London. He is specialised in EU budgetary and financial

instruments, but has also worked in the areas of national and regional strategic planning, public financial management, trade policy and smart cities. He has worked as academic, EU Commission official and consultant for governments, international institutions and governments. In 2016 he led the background study for the High Level Group on Own Resources led by Mario Monti. During his career, Jorge has given numerous training courses to EU and national officials on the EU budget, as well as teaching as visiting professor at the Central European University in Budapest.

Andreas Schwartz

Director for 'Revenue and Multiannual Financial Framework' in DG BUDG as of 1 August 2019. He joined the Commission on a permanent basis in 2003. His career has, to a large extent, evolved around the EU budget - he has been Deputy Head of the private offices of two Commissioners responsible for the EU budget - Mr Janusz Lewandowski and Ms Kristalina Georgieva - and has participated in the negotiations of two consecutive long-term budget frameworks (for 2014-2020 and for 2021-2027). Since November 2016, Mr Schwarz has been Head of the Unit 'Multiannual Financial Framework' in DG BUDG and since July 2018, he has been heading the directorate 'Revenue and Multiannual Financial Framework' in an acting capacity.

Wolfgang Wessels

Faculty member of the School of Transnational Governance (STG). He is Visiting Professor at the College of Europe, Bruges and Natolin and Director of the Centre for Turkey and European Union Studies (CETEUS) at the University of Cologne. Previously, he was Director of the Institut für Europäische Politik in Bonn and Head of the Department of Political and Administrative Studies at the College of Europe in Bruges. From 1994 to 2016, he held a Jean-Monnet-Chair at the University of Cologne; in 1999 he held the Chaire Européenne at Sciences Po Paris, and was Jean Monnet Visiting Professor at the Robert Schuman Center for Advanced Studies at the European University Institute in Florence the following year. Currently, he is the Chairperson of the Executive Board of the Institut für Europäische Politik (IEP) and Vice-President of the German consortium for the foundation of the Turkish-German University, Istanbul. Prof. Wessels has received several prestigious awards, including the Jean Monnet medal in gold for lifelong learning; an Ad personam Jean Monnet Chair; the UACES Award for Lifetime Achievement in Contemporary European Studies; the 'Universitätspreis Forschung' by the University of Cologne, and the Vision for Europe Award of the Prague European Summit

CONTACTS

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