

EXECUTIVE TRAINING SEMINAR

The Politics of the EU Purse: Mastering the Multiannual Financial Framework

21-23 October 2019

Scientific Coordinators: **Cinzia Alcidi** | Centre for European Policy Studies and **Wolfgang Wessels** | European University Institute and University of Cologne

Venue: Centre for European Policy Studies, Brussels

■ COURSE DESCRIPTION

What will be the focus?

This Executive Training focuses on the financial framework of the European Union (EU). In an interactive setting, we will examine the strategic role that member states and parliaments on all levels play in the ongoing negotiations on the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). Participants will upgrade their strategic knowledge, develop key skills and share best practices 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:

- 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.



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Who should attend?

- Political group staff working in National Parliaments and the European Parliament;
- Administration staff working in National Parliaments and the European Parliament;
- Staff working in the European Commission;
- Staff working in the Council Secretariat; staff working in the permanent representations;
- Staff working in the European Economic and Social Committee;
- Staff working in the Committee of the Regions;
- Staff of offices of regions and of parties;
- Regional authorities managing EU funds; INTERREG communities;
- Staff working in the European Central Bank;
- Staff working in Chambers of Commerce;
- Staff working on 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 European Parliament 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).

■ PROGRAMME

21st of October

Chair: Professor Wolfgang Wessels (EUI and University of Cologne)

14.00 - 14.30

Institutional greetings and welcome remarks

14.30 - 16.00 **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?

16.00 – 16.30 *Coffee break*

16.30 – 18.00 **The Drivers to the MFF Proposal: Radical Change within Strong Path Dependency**

Jorge Núñez Ferrer | Senior Research Fellow, 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?

19.00 – 21.00 Dinner with keynote speaker (tbc)

22nd of October

09.00 – 10.30 **The new MFF and its potential impact on Member States**

Cinzia Alcidi
Head of Economic Policy Unit, Centre for European Policy Studies

Training session:

The European Commission proposal of the new MFF puts forward new policies and initiatives (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. These 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 provides an overview of these principles, as opposed to economic and social cohesion, and presents the potential impact on Member States. The course participants will be invited to engage in a discussion to debate how such changes could affect the success of the negotiations.

10.30 – 11.00 *Coffee break*

11.00 – 12.30 **What funding for the EU Budget?**

Jorge Núñez Ferrer | Senior Research Fellow, Centre for European Policy Studies

Training session:

The European Commission has proposed new own resources for the 2021 to 2027 Financial Framework. This proposal is much less ambitious than the Monti report on own resources. Yet, it introduces a new resource through a levy to governments for non-recycled plastics, which could mark a *shift in* funding the EU budget. This session reviews the main source of funding of the EU budget and discusses the political reasoning behind the new proposal and the potential influence the European Parliament could have in the negotiation process. The discussion will focus on the quality of the proposal and possibility that new finding sources will emerge.

12.30 – 14.00 *Lunch break*

14.00 – 17.00 **How to scrutinize the EU's budget?**

Mendeltje van Keulen
Professor, The Hague University of Applied Sciences

Training session:

In the complex, multilevel playing field in which the EU's financial framework is shaped, a myriad of different players follow the ball. Professionals working for EU institutions, regional and national governments and parliaments, NGO's and commercial stakeholders; all struggle for pro-active information and influence. During this interactive session, we will map the playing field of political intelligence in the European Union together. We discuss the state of play in terms of negotiating positions and scrutiny processes, with the aim to facilitate participant's understanding and grip. 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.

23rd of October

9.00 – 10.30 **Simulation Game: Legitimising the conditions for spending of Europe's Resources**

Andreas Maurer
Professor, 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.

10.30 – 11.00 *Coffee break*

11.00 – 13.00 **Simulation Game: Legitimising the conditions for spending of Europe’s Resources**

Andreas Maurer
Professor, University of Innsbruck

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 European Parliament 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).

13.00 - 13.30 **Award of Certificates and Wrap Up Session**

■ TRAINERS

Cinzia Alcidi is Senior Fellow 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 is professor ‘Changing role of Europe’ at the The Hague University of Applied Sciences. 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. She worked as a senior research fellow for the Netherlands Institute for International Relations ‘Clingendael’ and 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 is a 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 is a 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.

Wolfgang Wessels is a part-time professor at 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. He was also a member of the high level group of the European Commission for the reform of the CFSP and for the revision of the Treaty of Maastricht. 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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