

EXECUTIVE CERTIFICATE IN

ECONOMICS FOR POLICYMAKERS

Blended Training

Lecture Dates:

- 14, 21 & 28 September
- 5, 12, 19 & 26 October
- 2 November 2023 (The last session will be a full-day and will take place in a Hybrid format in Florence, Italy, with possibility of online attendance)

TEACHING AND LEARNING TEAM

Scientific Coordinator

George PAPACONSTANTINOU | Professor of Political Economy and Director of Executive Education, School of Transnational Governance (EUI) | Former Finance Minister of Greece

Instructors

Maria DEMERTZIS | Part-time Professor of Economic Policy, STG (EUI) | Senior Fellow, Bruegel

Megan GREENE | Global Chief Economist, Kroll Institute | Senior Fellow at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University

Bob TRAA | Former Governor of the Central Bank of Curaçao and Sint Maarten | Former International Monetary Fund Official

Contacts:

Marina VLACHODIMITROPOULOU | Project Associate, School of Transnational Governance, EUI, marina.vlachodimitropoulou@eui.eu

Camilla MOLESTI | Trainee, School of Transnational Governance, EUI, camilla.molesti@eui.eu

EXECUTIVE EDUCATION TEAM | School of Transnational Governance, European University Institute, STG.ExecEd@eui.eu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Economic policy decisions are at the heart of policymaking. They involve options for allocating public budgets, dilemmas about how to source public revenues, concerns about the levels of public deficits and debts, understanding how fiscal and monetary policy combine in a complex global economy to achieve economic goals. But they are also about how best to ground economic policy on solid fundamentals while understanding its limits, and how to use data to examine the nature, impact, and effectiveness of different economic policymaking decisions.

Whether directly involved in the design or implementation of economic policies, or indirectly impacted by them while working in the public sector, in private companies or in civil society, policy professionals need to possess a solid understanding of the background and policy toolkit used in economic policymaking. In this context, the aim of this executive training programme is to acquaint busy policy professionals with the main dimensions of contemporary and "cutting edge" economic policy thinking and analysis and provide them with the tools for understanding, designing and/or implementing effective decision making.

The approach of the executive training programme is practical and implementation-oriented: its focus is not on economic theory; rather it is on how to use concepts, data, and policy tools in different economic policy domains to make the best possible decisions or understand how such decisions are made. The sessions are taught in a fully interactive manner by economists and policymakers with a deep expertise and long track-record in economic analysis, design, and implementation, who use real-life data and bring insights as well as practical, hands-on knowledge to economic decision making in the various policy domains.

Through **eight (8) separate thematic sessions**, this training will cover the following topics:

- **Thematic Session 1:** The Fundamentals of Economic Analysis for Policy
- **Thematic Session 2:** Quantitative Tools for Economic Policymaking
- **Thematic Session 3:** Public Finance Management I: Budget Systems
- **Thematic Session 4:** Public Finance Management II: Revenues and Tax Governance
- **Thematic Session 5:** Public Finance Management III: Debt
- **Thematic Session 6:** Monetary Policy & the Fiscal-Monetary Mix in Open Economies
- **Thematic Session 7:** Structural Policy and Competitiveness
- **Thematic Session 8:** Current Debates in Economic Policymaking

PARTICIPATION

- **Full Participation:** Participation in all **eight (8) thematic sessions**.
- **Partial Participation:** participation in any **four (4) thematic sessions**. Applicants can select their preferred thematic sessions via the registration portal.

CERTIFICATION

1. **Without ECTS Credits:** In both participation modes, participants that successfully attend all modules they enrolled in and read preparatory materials, will receive a **Certificate of Participation** from the School of Transnational Governance (EUI).
2. **With ECTS Credits:** Participants who attend all sessions (full participation mode) can earn **5 ECTS credits**. To successfully qualify for these, they will be required to read preparatory materials, undertake groupwork (in live sessions) and individual assignments completed offline within a specific timeframe, and complete a final assignment. Participants will receive feedback for their work.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this programme, and depending on the sessions followed, participants will be able to:

- Recall the basics of economic policymaking and recognise the different objectives and limitations of government intervention through economic policies;
- Select the right data toolboxes to be used in different economic policymaking scenarios and identify best practices in the use of quantitative information;
- Comprehend the main elements in the operation of budget systems;
- Define the main concepts and implementation challenges of government tax policy and tax governance;
- Discuss the main conceptual issues impacting public debt, the cost of debt and debt sustainability, and the practical issues in debt management;
- Define the main concepts of monetary policy and that of a fiscal-monetary policy mix in the context of open economies and understand the dilemmas and trade-offs that surround their implementation;
- Demonstrate a good understanding of the role of different structural policies, their impact on competitiveness and implementation challenges;
- Outline the most important debates in current economic policy issues, such as environmental investments, energy-related taxes, addressing inequalities, and more, and identify the advantages or disadvantages of each alternative policy option.

LEARNING METHODS

- Interactive sessions and discussions with the instructors;
- Peer-to-peer learning via group work in online break-out rooms;
- Actual country examples and case studies;
- Comparative analyses;
- Individual work outside of the classroom;
- Relevant readings and academic articles.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Public sector officials addressing economic issues and working with economic policy tools in national and subnational administrations, other government agencies, international organisations, public-sector consultancies, etc.;
- Public officials from European institutions, including the European Commission, European Parliament, Accredited Parliamentary Assistants, Advisors, etc.;
- Professionals in the consultancy sector or the private sector with a role related to the impact of economic policy change or economic interests' representation.

PREREQUISITES

- This executive training programme is taught at an intermediate/advanced level. Participants should have some familiarity with economic policy concepts and tools, including data and quantitative tools, though no expertise in these is required.

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

- This executive training will take place on the **14, 21 & 28 September, 5, 12, 19 & 26 October**, and **2 November 2023** in a **blended format**. Thematic Sessions 1-7 will be delivered online via **Zoom** over 7 afternoons while the last session, Thematic Session 8, will be delivered over a full day in a **hybrid mode**. Participants will be able to participate in this full-day session from the EUI campus in Florence, Italy or join online via Zoom;
- This programme includes approximately **12-27 hours** of in-session training, depending on the participation track. Participants following under the ECTS certification scheme, will be required to also complete offline work and readings that will take approximately 90 hours to complete, for a total of 125 hours (equivalent to 5 ECTS);
- Additional live **practical sessions** will be taking place each week following the live sessions;
- Participants should take note that the official timings of this training are scheduled on **Central European Summer Time** (CEST - Italian time) so time differences might apply when joining from different time zones;
- Participants will be enrolled to the EUI's **Virtual Learning Environment** (Brightspace) to access the materials of the course and will be given access to the full selection of the **EUI's library resources** via an EUI-domain login 7 days before the start of the training.

PROGRAMME AGENDA

THEMATIC SESSION 1: Fundamentals of Economic Analysis for Policy

Thursday, 14 September 2023 (14.00 – 18.00 CEST)

Online (Zoom)

Introduction: George Papaconstantinou

Main Trainers:

- Bob Traa
- Maria Demertzis

The first session starts with the basics of economic policymaking: the different objectives of government intervention, the role and associated instruments and tools of various types of economic policy, the why's, the how's and the limits of government intervention. It then focuses on a host of practical issues in the life cycle of economic policymaking: constructing, implementing, monitoring, communicating, and evaluating policies that support the public good, while being aware of the constraints and requirements for policy sustainability.

THEMATIC SESSION 1: Practice Session

Tuesday, 19 September 2023 (16.00 – 17.30 CEST)

Online (Zoom)

THEMATIC SESSION 2: Quantitative Tools for Economic Policy Makers

Thursday, 21 September 2023 (14.00 – 18.00 CEST)

Online (Zoom)

Main Trainers:

- Bob Traa
- Maria Demertzis

Evidence-based policy making starts with good data and statistics. The second session focuses on the data toolbox for economic policy and good practices in the use of the different tools. It examines conceptual issues such as the limits of information and of confidence and the appropriate use of modelling in driving decision-making. It then explores best practices relating to the use of quantitative information: the role of institutions such as independent budget offices or fiscal councils; of academic input and independent forecasters, the use of tools for regular monitoring; scenario analysis to explore risks, including black swan events.

THEMATIC SESSION 2: Practice Session

Tuesday, 26 September 2023 (16.00 – 17.30 CEST)

Online (Zoom)

SESSION 3: Public Finance Management I - Budget Systems

Thursday, 28 September 2023 (14.00 – 18.00 CEST)

Online (Zoom)

Main Trainers:

- Bob Traa

The third session focuses on the operation of budget systems and explores the main elements involved: the perimeter and time horizon of budget analysis; diagnostic tools for spending reviews; cash vs. accrual data, arrears and below-the-line operations; methods for prioritising and assessing efficiency of expenditures; introducing spending caps and budget monitoring processes; transparency and publication of general government budget data.

THEMATIC SESSION 3: Practice Session

Tuesday, 3 October 2023 (16.00 – 17.30 CEST)

Online (Zoom)

SESSION 4: Public Finance Management II - Revenues and Tax Governance

Thursday, 5 October 2023 (14.00 – 18.00 CEST)

Online (Zoom)

Main Trainers:

- Bob Traa

The fourth session examines tax policy and administration: the different dimensions/sources of revenue (income, wealth, consumption-based taxes, non-tax revenues); the distribution of tax incidence; the efficiency of the tax structure and of the system of revenue administration; its broadness, coverage, and exemptions; its public image and acceptance. It also addresses particular topics such as tax arrears, collection methods, tax probity and combating tax avoidance/evasion, and the use of environmental taxes.

THEMATIC SESSION 4: Practice Session

Tuesday, 10 October 2023 (16.00 – 17.30 CEST)

Online (Zoom)

SESSION 5: Public Finance Management III: Debt

Thursday, 12 October 2023 (14.00 – 18.00 CEST)

Online (Zoom)

Main Trainers:

- Bob Traa

The evolution of sustainable public debt and debt management are at the core of public finances. This session examines the conceptual issues impacting public debt: the nature of

public deficits, the cost of debt, the economic growth trajectory, and its determinants. It also addresses practical issues in debt management: the operation of debt administrations and of independent debt offices, constant monitoring of costs, duration, structure, cash-flow needs, debt holders; and the tools and limits of debt sustainability analysis.

THEMATIC SESSION 5: Practice Session

Tuesday, 17 October 2023 (16.00 – 17.30 CEST)

Online (Zoom)

SESSION 6: Monetary Policy and the Fiscal-Monetary Policy Mix in Open Economies

Thursday, 19 October 2023 (14.00 – 18.00 CEST)

Online (Zoom)

Main Trainers:

- Maria Demertzis

The monetary policy stance and the appropriate fiscal-monetary policy mix represent core and much contested issues in economic policymaking. This session will explore these in the context of open economies that are integrated through trade and investment linkages, taking into account balance of payments issues and the role and operation of different exchange rates systems. The focus will be highlighting policy dilemmas and trade-offs and elucidating the role of different tools.

THEMATIC SESSION 6: Practice Session

Tuesday, 24 October 2023 (16.00 – 17.30 CEST)

Online (Zoom)

SESSION 7: Structural Policy and Competitiveness

Thursday, 26 October 2023 (14.00 – 18.00 CEST)

Online (Zoom)

Main Trainers:

- Bob Traa
- Megan Greene

This session will focus on structural policies in product, labour, and financial markets. It will explore how competitiveness is impacted by structural reforms; explore benefit and social security systems, demographics, and growth; as well as the parameters of the public sector and policies related to privatisation and the operation of public sector enterprises. In addressing these, emphasis will be given to alternative policy options in policy design, on issues in reform implementation, as well as on the political economy of reforms.

THEMATIC SESSION 7: Practice Session

Tuesday, 31 October 2023 (16.00 – 17.30 CET)

Online (Zoom)

SESSION 8: Current Debates in Economic Policymaking

Thursday, 2 November 2023 (9.00 – 18.00 CET)

In-residence (at the EUI campus in Florence, Italy) & Online (Zoom)

Main Trainers:

- George Papaconstantinou
- Megan Greene
- Bob Traa
- Maria Demertzis

The final session will examine some of the ongoing high-profile economic policy issues and the corresponding contemporary debates. It will address issues such as: inflation and the current macroeconomic policy mix; environmental investments, energy-related taxes, and subsidies; addressing inequality and protecting people at the bottom. The focus will be on the options and policy trade-offs in each case, on the existing tools in place and on their limits.