

EXECUTIVE TRAINING SEMINAR

DIFFERENT PLANS, COMMON CHALLENGES: SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF NRRPs IN THE CONTEXT OF NGEU

9, 10 & 11 November 2022, Hybrid (in presence in Florence or online)

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

Speakers and Trainers (to be completed):

Jos DELBEKE | Part-time Professor, STG, European Investment Bank Chair on Climate Change Policy and International Carbon Markets (EUI) | Former European Commission Director General on Climate Action

Maria DEMERTZIS | Part-time Professor, STG | Deputy Director, Bruegel

Andrea RENDA | Part-time Professor of Digital Policy, STG (EUI) | Senior Research Fellow and Head of the CEPS Unit on Global Governance, Regulation, Innovation, and the Digital Economy (GRID)

Christopher HURST | Senior Visiting Fellow, STG (EUI) | Director General, Project Directorate, European Investment Bank

CONTACTS

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

This executive seminar belongs to a series of activities that the STG has been conducting with a focus on the **EU Recovery Plan** following the Covid-19 pandemic. It follows a high-level policy dialogue in 2020 and an executive training seminar conducted in 2021 with participation and interventions by officials from EU institutions, Member States, and outside experts.

With the emphasis now on the challenges arising in the implementation phase of the **National Recovery and Resilience Plans (NRRPs)** of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), this interactive executive training will enable participants to address the critical issues in implementing the plans "on the ground". It will focus on two sets of issues:

- Cross-cutting horizontal governance and implementation challenges relating to capacity building, as well as to the use of tools for project management, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting; and
- "Deep dives" in the critical areas of the green and digital transition, and to advancing social cohesion. These will also each involve a mix of horizontal issues of interest (e.g. application of the do-not-significant-harm principle, how to combine reforms and investments to best effect), and selected case studies and/or country examples.

Gathering high-level public officials working on the Recovery portfolio from EU institutions and Member States who will share their experience, as well as renowned experts in specific project areas, this training will serve as a platform where participants get to know the 'state of play' in implementing the National Recovery and Resilience Plans (NRRPs) across the EU, discuss common challenges in this process, foster a "community of practice" exchanging best practice, provide a forum for sharing experience with EU officials, and learn from cutting-edge practice.

The executive training seminar will be structured over 2,5 days, focusing on peer exchange and best practices in specific aspects of the national RRFs. It will be delivered in **full hybrid mode**, with trainers in Florence and participants able to attend in presence or online.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE:

Module 1 - Taking Stock:

This first module/half day will provide an overview of the latest developments on the EU's Next Generation package, and in particular the developments regarding the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility. High-level stakeholders working on the plans in the EU institutions and in Member States will give short presentations on the issues and challenges, while outside experts will discuss the broader macroeconomic aspects and challenges of the Next Generation EU initiatives, including on how they fit into the broader EU fiscal architecture.

Module 2 - Deep Dive - Projects and Reforms Aimed at the Green Transition:

The second half-day will be dedicated to examining best practices in projects and reforms aimed at contributing towards the green transition at member states and for the EU as a whole, across a number of dimensions: climate change mitigation and adaptation; sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources; transition to a circular economy; pollution prevention and control; protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems. The module will crucially also address how existing projects and reforms in NRRPs need to evolve and adapt in the context of the RepowerEU initiative.

Module 3 - Deep Dive - Projects and Reforms Aimed at the Digital Transition:

The third half-day will be devoted to exploring projects and reforms in the digital sphere, based on the flagship areas identified by the Commission. These include: connectivity - starting from 5G, but also addressing a wider technology mix to increase broadband penetration; Artificial Intelligence strategies, aimed at promoting AI deployment to boost productivity and innovation while respecting fundamental rights and controlling security risks; edge/cloud architectures in the context of deepening industrial digital transformation; and digital administration for modernising governments and developing citizen-centric public services.

Module 4 - Deep Dive - Projects Aimed at Social Inclusion:

The fourth half-day will focus on RRF projects and reforms aimed at social sustainability and inclusion. It will examine best practices in two broad areas: education and health. It will focus on projects and reforms aimed at providing education, literacy, apprenticeships, upskilling, reskilling and inclusiveness for the digital age; in health care investments and long-term care provision; in the development of regional infrastructure and services; in crisis preparedness and resilience building in the health sector.

Module 5 - Implementation and Communication Issues:

The final module/half-day will be dedicated to horizontal issues that are important for the successful implementation and communication of NRRPs, focusing on overall governance, on structures to monitor spending and progress in the implementation of projects and reforms as well as indicators of impact and performance, and communication with stakeholders and the general public. Issues to be addressed include: the interplay between the implementation of the RRF and the surveillance under the European Semester; the need to take a strategic view to ensure broad coherence in the context of the structures and bodies set up by Member States to coordinate NRRPs; capacity building for sound financial and project management, monitoring, evaluation and reporting; risk assessment issues and techniques; environmental and social due diligence; as well as issues related to communication structures and methods.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this programme, the participants will be able:

- To assess the state of play of NRRP implementation, and the challenges ahead.
- To relate NGEU to the broader effort to shape the future EU fiscal architecture.
- To effectively pinpoint critical issues in the implementation of NRRPs.
- To best combine reform initiatives with investment projects along NRRP guidance lines.
- To evaluate NRRP projects and reforms aimed at the green and digital transition and at social inclusion.
- To review overall management practices in NRRP implementation.
- To assess communication strategies and methods for NRRPs.

Learning Methods

- Discussion and exchanges with representatives of EU institutions responsible with the monitoring and evaluation of NRRPs;
- Knowledge transfer sessions on specific reform and project policy areas led by accomplished practitioners and academics working on the topic;
- Peer-exchanges with correspondents from Member States working on NRRPs who will explore challenges and opportunities arising from their plans.

Who Should Attend

- EU National Administrations & Implementing Agencies (e.g. Ministry of Finance, Environment, Digital, Labour, etc.) | Heads of Unit, Directors, Administrators, involved in the implementation of NGEU funds;
- EU Commission (DG ENV, DG BUDG, DG ECFIN, DG CLIMA, DG GROW, DG REGIO, etc.) | Mid- and Senior Policy Officers, Heads of Unit, Administrative Personnel involved in the implementation of NGEU funds;
- European Court of Auditors | Auditors, Directors, Managers, Senior Administrators, Members involved in the auditing of NGEU funds;
- European Parliament (BUDG, CONT, ECON, EMPL, REGI, ENVI, etc.) | Political Staff, Administrators, Policy Advisors, Members involved in the scrutiny of NGEU Funds;
- Professionals in the consultancy sector working on the implementation of NRRPs and the NGEU project;
- Private sector professionals in key sectors addressed by the NRRPs (climate and digital) involved in NRRP projects or regulatory compliance.
- Researchers, Academics, PhDs with interest in the topic.