

EXECUTIVE TRAINING SEMINAR

THE EU RECOVERY PLAN: UNDERSTANDING THE NEW BUDGETARY ARRANGEMENTS, THEIR GOVERNANCE AND FUNDING TOOLS

19-20-21 May 2021, online, over 3 afternoons

COURSE DESCRIPTION

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

This executive training seminar focuses on the new EU budgetary arrangements as well as its governance and funding tools developed to help the EU recover from the Covid-19 economic crisis. It examines and analyses the ambitious and complex innovations introduced in the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF, 2021-2027) and especially in the mission-specific **Next Generation EU (NGEU)**, in particular the **Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)**.

In an online setting and through various perspectives and approaches, participants will deepen their knowledge, gain new insights, and share best practices on EU budgetary arrangements in a period critical for the future of the Union and its member states. This interactive seminar discusses both the substance and the organisation of the EU's new budgetary instruments to strengthen participants' understanding of key processes in Brussels and in the member states.

What you will learn

- A broader understanding of the structure, content, and governance mechanisms of the new EU budgetary tools, in particular the RRF, as well as funding and implementation procedures.
- Analysis and insights on how governance structures relating to the new EU budgetary tools are put in place in member states, along with associated political and administrative engagement.
- Knowledge regarding key issues in the implementation phase concerning the application of conditionality, the combination of investments with associated reforms, and the nature of projects relating to the green and digital transition.

How you will learn

- Presentations from academic experts and roundtable discussions with key practitioners from EU institutions and member states: an opportunity to gain knowledge on the latest developments regarding the substance of the budgetary package as well as legal procedures and processes of the EU policy cycle, i.e. preparing, deciding, implementing, and controlling the available funds.
- Through peer-to-peer exchanges aimed to better understand the new budgetary arrangements and their implementation processes, participants share their knowledge and views, the perspective of their country/institution, and the challenges they face. These peer exchanges will help to better understand the new budgetary arrangements and their implementation processes.

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Work within the new EU budgetary framework e.g. the new MFF, NGEU, RRF, and the processes for assessment during the implementation phase;
- Discuss the national recovery plan and analyse best practices of different EU Member States in designing and implementing the national recovery and resilience plans;
- Assess issues in implementation of the national RRFs and the future of EU fiscal governance.

Who should attend?

- Staff in member states: officials in national administrations and subnational entities, political group and administrative officers in national parliaments and Chambers of Commerce.
- Staff working in European institutions: European Commission, Council, Representations, European Economic and Social Committee, Committee of the Regions, European Court of Auditors, political group and administrative officers in the European Parliament.
- Private sector and NGO professionals involved in regulatory EU issues and EU funding.

PROGRAMME

19 MAY

DAY 1 - THE EU SETTING (4.00 PM - 7.15 PM)

**Session 1
(4pm-5.30pm)**

The new EU budgetary package. This first session will examine the overall new EU budgetary framework: the new MFF and NGEU, and particularly the RRF. It will focus on financial, fiscal, and political provisions, as well as on the role of the European Council and other EU institutions in their design, negotiation, and implementation oversight.

Welcoming remarks:

Alex Stubb | Director of the School of Transnational Governance, EUI

George Papaconstantinou | Director of Executive Education, STG, EUI

Moderator:

Wolfgang Wessels | Professor STG; visiting Professor College of Europe

Speaker from EU institutions:

Gert Jan Koopman | Director-General Budget, European Commission

External speakers:

Daniel Gros | Distinguished Fellow, Center for European Policy Studies

Michèle Chang | Professor, College of Europe

**Session 2
(5.45pm-7.15pm)**

The new EU governance. The new budgetary instruments incorporate a new policy cycle and processes for assessment during the implementation phase. This session will examine requirements in terms of sound finances, rules for proper and efficient spending under the new framework, and the economic governance architecture taking shape at EU level to accompany the EU budgetary package.

Moderator:

Wolfgang Wessels | Professor STG; visiting Professor College of Europe

Speakers from EU institutions:

Declan Costello | Deputy Director-General, ECFIN, European Commission

Tuomas Saarenheimo | President of the Eurogroup Working Group

Vanessa Auhehla | Committee on Budgets, European Parliament

External speakers:

Daniel Gros | Distinguished Fellow, Center for European Policy Studies

Thu Nguyen | Policy Fellow, Institutions and Democracy, Delors Centre

20 MAY

DAY 2 - THE NATIONAL SETTING (4.00 PM - 7.00 PM)

Session 3 (4pm-5.30pm)

The national Recovery and Resilience Plans. This session will examine the role, structure, content and provisions of the national recovery and resilience plans (RRPs) currently negotiated between member states and the EU institutions. It will focus on how they are designed, assessed, and adopted, taking stock and exchanging national best practices in terms of successes, as well as concerns and risks.

Moderator:

George Papaconstantinou | Director of Executive Education, STG, EUI

Speaker from EU institutions:

Céline Gauer | Director-General, Head, Recovery & Resilience Task Force, European Commission

External speaker:

Silvia Merler | Head of Policy and Research, Algebris

Country presentations:

Isabel Riaño, Deputy Director-Cabinet of the Vice-President and Minister of Economic Affairs and Digitalisation, **Spain**

Alex Patelis | Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister, **Greece**

Katja Lautar | Head of Office for Fiscal and Economic Policy, Ministry of Finance, **Slovenia**

Session 4 (5.45pm-7.15pm)

National governance arrangements. In this session, participants will examine best practices in the different governance structures that EU Member States are putting in place for the design and implementation of the national recovery and resilience plans.

Moderator:

Wolfgang Wessels | Professor STG; visiting Professor College of Europe

External speaker:

Mandeltje van Keulen | Professor, Hague University of Applied Sciences

Country presentations:

Anne Blondy-Touret, Head, Macroeconomic Policy and European Affairs, Ministry of Economy and Finance, **France**.

Conceição Moreno, Chief of Staff, Ministry of Planning, **Portugal**

21 MAY

DAY 3 - IMPLEMENTATION & NEXT STEPS (4.00 PM -7.00 PM)

**Session 5
(4pm-5.30pm)**

Issues in implementation of the national RRPs. This session will examine critical issues in implementing the national RRP "on the ground" (performance indicators, timelines, reporting, evaluation). These revolve particularly around the required joint implementation of reforms and investments throughout the RRP, as well as the digital and green transition.

Moderator:

George Papaconstantinou | Director of Executive Education, STG, EUI

Speaker from EU institutions:

Mario Nava | Director-General, DG Reform, European Commission

External speaker:

Silvia Merler | Head of Policy and Research, Algebris

Country presentations:

Aline Pannisi | Recovery Fund, Ministry of Economy and Finance, **Italy**

Marius Vasiliu, State Secretary, Ministry of European Investments and Project, **Romania**

**Session 6
(5.45pm-7.15pm)**

Where do we go from here? In light of the structure and provisions of the new EU budgetary framework, this final session will explore the options and debates around a number of issues that together define the future of EU fiscal governance: amongst these, the revised SGP rules, the role of the European Semester, the move to new EU own resources.

Moderator:

George Papaconstantinou | Director of Executive Education, STG, EUI

Panel discussion:

Marco Buti | Head of Cabinet of Commissioner Paolo Gentiloni, European Commission

Daniel Gros | Distinguished Fellow, Center for European Policy Studies

Brigid Laffan | Director, Schuman Center for Advanced Studies, EUI

Jean Pisani-Ferry | Tommaso Padoa-Schioppa Chair, EUI

Alex Stubb | Director of the School of Transnational Governance, EUI

Wolfgang Wessels | Professor STG; visiting Professor College of Europe

ORGANISERS

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CONTACTS

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