
Introduction

What is this course about?

This two-day seminar will provide a detailed overview of the EU decision-making process in the budgetary field, and of the different ways in which the EU institutions interact to elaborate, decide and discharge an EU budget. The seminar starts with a detailed analysis of the revenue and expenditure sides of the EU budget. Participants will be given a clear and concise explanation of the budgetary principles and procedures in place, and the role of the different actors involved. Moreover, participants will be given an insight into the linkages between political strategy and the elaboration of the budget and the possible tensions that it engenders.

The seminar will be delivered through lectures with Q&A sessions and debates. A workshop will allow the participants to mobilize and apply the knowledge acquired during the seminar to a concrete budget/MFF issue. The budget/MFF discussions are further developed through an analysis of key policy challenges and their relation to the MFF framework.

The seminar is supported by a selected reading list, a glossary and seminar handouts.

How will it help you?

At the end of the seminar participants will have gained an overall view of the complexity of the decision-making process in the budgetary field and will be able to identify the relevant actors involved as well as understanding their roles. Furthermore, they will be able to identify the main issues at stake in relation to the development of political strategies and the management of budgetary resources. The participants will be familiar with the relevant changes from the Lisbon Treaty as well as those triggered by the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020, its execution and revision.

Programme

TUESDAY 3 OCTOBER 2017 / THURSDAY 5 OCTOBER 2017

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| 09.00 | Welcome, general introduction and opening of the seminar
<i>Dr Theo Jans, Associate Professor, EIPA Maastricht</i> |
| 09.15 | Key characteristics of the EU budget <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comparing the EU budget to national budgets• Key budgetary principles and actors• History and context |
| 11.00 | Coffee break |
| 11.15 | The legal framework for budgetary decision-making <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Treaty provisions, the budget cycle, multiannual financial framework, own resources• Explaining the jargon: commitments, payments, RAL, reserves, transfers, pilots, carry-overs, assigned revenues, joint undertakings, etc.• Budget procedures 2011-2016• Issues, dynamics and inter-institutional balance |
| 13.00 | Lunch |



- 14.00 **Essential features of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 (MFF)**
The presentation offers an overview of the key characteristics of the EU MFF 2014-2020. Key concepts and their interrelation will be clarified, this will include a discussion of ceilings, multiannual spending programmes, the relation with annual budget, with the interinstitutional agreement and with own resources, net balances and flexibility.
- 15.45 Coffee break
- 16.00 **Workshop: addressing new policy challenges**
Participants work in groups on a mock cases tailored on current events (e.g. migration and refugee crisis, security issues), in which major new policy challenges need to be tackled and additional financial resources need to be mobilized in the budget whilst respecting the requirements of the MFF. The participants will be asked to identify the options and instruments available (and their consequences) to ensure financing for the new challenges. The group exercise will be followed by a collective debriefing.
- 17.00 End of the first day

WEDNESDAY 4 OCTOBER 2017 / FRIDAY 6 OCTOBER 2017

- 09.00 **Outstanding issues from the first day**
- 09.15 **Key thematic issues in the MFF mid-term package**
The session concentrates on key policy challenges and how these are being addressed in the MFF mid-term package. The following issues will be presented by the lecture with questions for participants which will be the basis for a group discussion:
 - Migration and refugee crisis
 - Youth unemployment
 - European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) and financial instruments*Jorge Nunez Ferrer, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS).*
- 11.15 Coffee break
- 11.30 **New Own Resources for the EU.**
 - The High Level Group on Own Resources
 - Discussion of candidates for new Own resources on the basis of their respective strengths and weaknesses.*Jorge Nunez Ferrer, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS).*
- 13.00 Lunch
- 14.00 **Adapting to Brexit: financial implications and scenario's**
 - Budget implications of Brexit: scenario's and consequences*Jorge Nunez Ferrer, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS).*
- 15.00 Coffee break
- 15.15 **The Future of Europe debate and post-2020 MFF issues**
 - The Commission reflection paper on EU finances
 - Post-2020 MFF issues: EDF budgetisation, duration MFF, flexibility and (crisis) reserves, financial instruments, main expenditure policies, etc.*Jorge Nunez Ferrer, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS).*
- 17.00 **Evaluation and end of the course**