

Second year of the Executive Master in EU Studies – Specialisation phase in Political Science

Professional Track

Topic of specialisation: **Formats of professional practice – Working in the EU political arena**

Participants apply practical skills – both written and oral – needed in a professional environment such as international and national administrations, NGOs, lobbies and think tanks

Experts: **Prof. Wolfgang Wessels**, University of Cologne (Jean Monnet Chair ad personam / CETEUS)

Mr Thomas Traguth, MA (oxon), MA (College of Europe)

Character: Specialisation course within the professional track, focusing on improving professional skills, writing of an assignment and a final paper

ECTS-Credits: 12 ECTS

Teaching methods: Lectures and online course material, seminar and discussion at the presence workshops, guided forum, webinars.

Assessment methods:

- Written assignments (policy briefs, one pagers, scenario buildings, group papers, active participation in presence workshops;
- regular (short) written contribution to the moderated forum discussion;
- methodology seminar with own presentation and development of professional skills;
- oral presentation of drafts of final paper;
- peer review and commentary of final papers;
- presentation of own final paper in the form of SWOT analyses, policy analyses and studies and policy briefs

Skills and competences:

- application of interdisciplinary approach between political science, economics and law;
- identify, analyse and practice different formal and informal rules and formats for policy-making, analysis and communication
- methods of academic research and writing;
- formulation of practical policy strategies (how to write a policy brief) and “debating society exercises”;
- writing and presenting of an in-depth final paper of 25-30 pages

European and International Studies

Learning outcomes, methods and course content:

The practical component of this course will focus on relevant practical skills necessary in the political arena, esp. skills in writing a policy briefs, memos, political party declarations, press releases, resolutions in parliament position papers, drafts of European Council conclusions and as applications for EU-funded projects.

- Participants will learn to identify, analyse and explain the opportunities and constraints of how the EU can influence policies and politics outside its own borders.
- Furthermore, they will prepare and present own work of practical relevance, e.g. a proposal for a chosen policy and a strategy for its enactment or implementation in the policy cycle in policy briefs, memos, declarations, press releases and drafts of political documents, such as EC conclusions etc.
- They will examine and evaluate real-life examples from political making or political agency
- They will apply their knowledge to own topics in formulating a 30-page in-depth analysis or study or a SWOT analysis and relevant policy briefs for the policy making arena.
- Overall, the participants develop conceptual rigour through written assignments, oral presentations, small working groups and discussions with their peers and the professors of the programme. These skills are useful to enhance employability prospects in the EU-related labour market.