



STUDY PROGRAMME

ECO-EPPA + ECO + ECO-EEIB

ACADEMIC YEAR

2023 - 2024

SEMESTER

2

COURSE TITLE

EU ECONOMIC POLICY ADVICE : CASE ANALYSES

COURSE PROFESSOR

KOEN JONKERS

COURSE ASSISTANT

DMYTRO KAZAKOV

NATURE OF COURSE (COMPULSORY, OPTIONAL)

**COMPULSORY (ECO-EPPA)
OPTIONAL (ECO + ECO-EEIB)**

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

ENGLISH

ECTS CREDITS

4,5

1. COURSE OBJECTIVE

This module provides students with a practical introduction to economic advice to policy makers in the European institutions – with practical case studies. We will cover theory about the nature of scientific advice to policy and the specificities of economic knowledge, how to impact policy and how as a policy maker to make use of economic advice. This is followed by a series of case studies with practical examples on the use of behavioural insights in EU policy making, economic indicators, micro-economic impact assessments, macro-economic modelling, monetary and fiscal policy, competitiveness and innovation, competition policy, and economic advice by the European Commission to member states.

2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

On completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Identify and compare the main approaches towards Economic Advice to policy
2. Identify some of the challenges underlying the interaction between economists and policy makers.
3. Discuss and describe how economic knowledge is used across various policy areas in the EC commission at different phases of the policy cycle.
4. Evaluate different practical instances of economic advice to policy as well as the impact economic advice has had in different instances.
5. Demonstrate how to responsibly formulate economic advice to policy makers through discussion in class and a written policy brief.

The learning outcomes for this course tie in with the following learning outcomes for the European Economic Studies programme:

1. Use economic theory to assess current problems and policies;
2. Understand the normative assumptions, implications and limitations of economic theory and economic policy making.
3. Learn how to acquire relevant information in related disciplines (law, political science).
4. Ability to demonstrate independent learning skills, communicate and work in a group, discuss and negotiate.



5. Find, select, critically evaluate and use references, data and other sources of information within a short amount of time and of suggesting possible actions that contribute to problem-solving in a creative way
6. Be autonomous in their preparation and review of materials for the courses as well as in their completion of assignments bearing different requirements in terms of methodology, workload and evaluation of the final work.
7. Think innovatively and provide constructive analytical commentary as well as potential recommendations on the evolution of the EU and its possible future development.
8. Recognise, analyse, explain and critique the impact of economic advice on EU policy making.

3. COURSE CONTENTS

1. What is Economic advice to policy making?

Introduction to scientific advice to policy making
The specific nature of economic advice
Economic advice to policy making: practical approaches and co-creation.

2. Behaviour insights and EU policy making

The evolution of behaviourally informed policy making in the EU
Understanding the importance of values, from researchers, policy makers and the public
Guest speaker: behavioural insights (Marianna Baggio)

3. Economic indicators

The ethics of quantification
The benefits and drawbacks of simplification
Supporting narrative economics with indicators to achieve impact
Guest speaker: composite indicators (Michaela Saisana)

4. Micro-economic impact assessments

The Policy Cycle and better regulation
The use of counterfactual impact assessment in "better regulation"
Guest speaker: counterfactual impact assessment employment policy (Paolo Paruolo)

5. Macro-economic models

The Policy Cycle and better regulation
Responsible use and presentation of models
The benefits and challenges of using models
Guest speaker: energy policy (Miguel Gil Tertre)

6. Monetary and fiscal policy

Economic advice in fiscal and monetary policy
Economic advice in the establishment of the EMU
Guest speaker: the use of economic evidence in current monetary and financial policy (Joao Nogueira)

7. Competitiveness and innovation policy

Recent trends in economic advice to innovation policy
Rankings and Scoreboards
The role of the OECD
Guest speaker: competitiveness (Roman Arjona)

8. Competition policy

Shifting influence of economic ideas that shape competition policy
Economic vs legal advice and advisors
Guest speaker: A practical example of the use of economic evidence in competition policy (Adriaan Dierx)

9. Economic advice by the European Commission to Member States

The European Semester
The Recovery and Resilience Facility
Guest speaker: what (type of) advice has been taken by Member States (Julia Le Blanc)

10. Presentations of policy briefs

Presentation and discussion of policy briefs by the students



College of Europe
Collège d'Europe



Natolin

Brugge

ECTS CARD

4. TEACHING METHOD(S)

Lectures with class participation, student presentation and discussion of policy briefs, lectures and Q&A with senior guest speakers from the EU institutions.

5. COURSE MATERIAL

Lecture notes and readings.

6. EVALUATION

The course evaluation will be based on:

- A Policy Brief report of max 2000 words, accounting for 60pc of the final grade.
- A presentation for the class, representing a policy audience, representing 30pc of the final grade.
- An assessment of participation in class, representing 10pc of the final grade.

The College of Europe reserves the right to change the delivery and assessment of the course in case of restrictions related to a pandemic. Any communication from the Department in this regard takes precedence over the information provided in this ECTS card.