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FACULTY

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BRIEF COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course covers several facets and methods of public policy, with an introduction to quantitative evaluation of policy interventions. First, the interest of the students is meant to be raised with a few examples, then we place public policy in a wider web of endeavours and disciplines, and links to related fields (e.g. law, economics, sociology, political science) are shown. Then the four key elements of the policy context are discussed: institutions, actors, ideas and instruments of policy. Next, the concept of policy cycle along with limitations and alternatives is introduced. During the next lessons steps of the policy cycle process (agenda setting / policy formulation / decision / implementation / evaluation) are discussed in detail. Case studies and examples taken from the experience of different countries and addressing different public policy issues are presented to help participants relate to the approaches presented. Alternative models of policy formation are also discussed. The second half of the course is devoted to an introduction to quantitative evaluation methods. After the fundamentals and main principles of evaluations are demonstrated, the importance of random experiments is stressed. Evaluation methods using observational data (matching methods, difference-in-differences, instrumental variables, regression discontinuity) as well as the assessment of distributional and equilibrium effects of policy interventions are also demonstrated.

Aims of the course: what will you have learnt?

- You should have an appreciation for the different tasks arising around the public policy process as well as the pitfalls occurring during it.
- You should be able to communicate with colleagues and partners with different backgrounds, both domestic and international, about policy goals, alternatives and decisions,
- You should acquire a certain understanding of several methods in the toolbox of a policy analyst.
- You should, with guidance, be able to procure and judge the appropriateness of quantitative evaluation exercises on your own.

Central European University's summer school (CEU SUN), established in 1996, is a program in English for graduate students, junior or post-doctoral researchers, teachers and professionals. It offers high-level, research-oriented, interdisciplinary academic courses as well as workshops on policy issues for professional development, taught by internationally renowned scholars and policy experts (including CEU faculty). Application from all over the world is encouraged. Financial aid is available.

For further academic information on the course and on eligibility criteria and funding options please visit the web site at

<http://summeruniversity.ceu.edu/policyeval-2016>

CEU Summer University

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