



EuroMeSCO Workout Second cycle

ONLINE COURSES

MARCH – JUNE 2022

The seven online EuroMeSCO Workout courses described below are designed to be practical and interactive training programmes. Most of them involve a peer-to-peer dimension, as the majority of trainers are from the think tank and research community themselves. These courses will be **free of charge** for the selected participants, and priority will be given to researchers and think tankers affiliated with institutes or think tanks from the [EuroMeSCO network](#).

In order to apply, candidates are invited to complete the [online form](#) and submit their application before **13 March 2022** (included).

Writing Policy Recommendations	Ilke Toygür, SWP Berlin & UC3M	Mondays. 30 May – 13 June 15h00 – 17h00 CET
Mainstreaming Gender Equality into Policy Oriented Research	Beatriz Álvarez, Gender and Development Expert & Olga Martín, DG NEAR	Thursdays. 26 May – 9 June 2022 10h00 – 12h00 CET
Foresight Techniques for Research and Think Tank Work	Abdeslam Badre, Mohammed V University in Rabat	Tuesdays. 5 April – 26 April 15h00 – 17h00 CET
Effective Usage of Economic Data in Political Sciences	Katarzyna Sidlo, CASE	Mondays. 28 March – 25 April 15h00 – 17h00
Effectively Communicating Research Findings	Abdalahdi Alijla Varieties of Democracy Institute & Global Young Academy	Wednesdays. 6 – 20 April 16h00 – 18h00 CET
Funding Opportunities for Researchers	Aleksandra Chmielewska, HURIDOCS	Tuesdays. 3 May – 17 May. 15h00 – 17h00 CET
Data Analysis and Visualization (using R programme)	Bernat Salbanyà Rovira, University Pompeu Fabra / ESADE	Mondays. 25 April – 9 May 10h00 – 12h00 CET



OBJECTIVES AND STRUCTURE OF THE COURSES¹

Writing Policy Recommendations. Ilke Toygür, CATS Fellow, German Institute for International and Security Studies (SWP Berlin) & Professor, University Carlos III of Madrid.

This three-session course aims to understand the dynamics of writing policy recommendations with the ultimate idea of turning research into policy. For this aim, there are various steps a scholar should take. This course is designed to go through these steps (understanding the dynamics of policy making, defining the audience, analysing the tools available – who, what and why). The course will rely on hands-on work of the participants, in addition to getting to the heart of writing policy recommendations with the advice of a decision-maker.

Structure of the Course:

- **Session 1:** Understanding the dynamics of policy making, your audience and fitting into policy. Essential parts of publishing effective policy recommendations.
- **Session 2:** How to write policy recommendations? How to make research findings easily digestible? Key characteristics (format, length, use of accessible language and outlets). Communicating policy recommendations effectively.
- **Session 3:** What do decision makers' want? A decision-maker from EU institutions or a member state will be invited to the course to discuss what kind of policy advice they are looking for.

Mainstreaming Gender Equality into Policy Oriented Research. Beatriz Alvarez, Gender and Development Expert. This course will be delivered with the collaboration of Olga Martín, Gender Equality and LGBTIQ Coordinator, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), European Commission.

This course has two main objectives: The first is to enable participants to turn a publication into an impactful gender responsive policy contribution, particularly with clear policy recommendations. The second objective is to build up research skills and/or strengthen the capacities of think tankers and researchers in the domain of gender mainstreaming. In this sense, it aims to encourage active reflection on gender equality as a field of interdisciplinary inquiry. This course will allow participants to apply the knowledge through practical exercises providing a platform for dialogue between researchers where they can explore the importance of mainstreaming gender equality issues into their research.

¹ The structure of the courses as described in this document may be adjusted slightly ahead of the courses.





Moreover, the training will contribute to boost the role of think tanks and research institutes in gender responsive policy-making in order to reduce gender inequalities and it will also contribute to foster women's participation in the Euro-Mediterranean experts' community.

Structure of the Course:

- **Session 1:** Relevance of gender equality in the policy area of research.
 - a) Gender inequalities – Main issues (Gender segregation, Gender-related career challenges, Gender bias in access to research funding, Gender-blind and gender-biased research and organisational culture and institutional process).
 - b) Regulatory framework on gender at international and EU level (EU Gender Equality Strategy (2020-2025), Gender Action Plan III for external actions (2021-2025)).
 - c) Gender mainstreaming in research: Gender balance in research teams; Gender balance in decision-making; Gender dimension in research content.
 - d) Overview of EU funding instruments for promoting gender equality in research.

- **Session 2:** How to engender research in five phases.
 - e) Selection of research topics and objectives (Identification of stakeholders, Research question formulation, Designing gender indicators).
 - f) Choosing the research methods - evidence-based (Quantitative and qualitative methods).
 - g) Evaluating and analysing data (Conducting gender analysis).
 - h) Communicating results (Building political will- Policy oriented analysis and recommendations, Raising public awareness).
 - i) Engender your research.

- **Session 3: Engender your Research. Practical Exercise.**
Finalisation of the practical exercise and presentations. Conclusion and evaluation.

Foresight Techniques for Research and Think Tank Work. Abdeslam Badre, Expert in Policy Development and Associate Professor, Mohammed V University in Rabat.

This is a 4-session online course on Foresight Techniques. It aims to strengthen the knowledge and practices of think tankers and researchers in terms of foresights techniques and processes. The participants will have hands-on practice on strategic foresight as an approach to explore, address, and leverage future uncertainty in strategy and policy development. They will be trained on how, why, and when to use strategic foresight through a combination of dedicated discussion time and skill-building exercises on a case study. On this ground, each session has an underlying goal, which will be translated into specific objectives.



Structure of the Course:

- **Session 1:** Complexities of the political environment of policy-making.
- **Session 2:** How different variables affect the choices and selection of insight techniques and strategies in the policy formulation and implementation phases.
- **Session 3:** Framing issues to offer practical advice based on the best available evidence and convince policy-makers on the best courses of action by sharpening critical thinking, research, and communication skills to more effectively present policy briefs while planning the participatory process so that diverse stakeholder interests are represented and engaged fairly and effectively in policy formulation and implementation.
- **Session 4:** Using Foresight to monitor trends, uncertainties, weak signals, and wildcards; exploring alternative futures under complexity; building future visions; identifying key scientific and technological areas; developing new products and services; and recommending policies and strategies.

Effective Usage of Economic Data in Political Sciences. Katarzyna Sidlo, Director of the Middle East and North Africa Department, Center for Social and Economic Research (CASE).

This course aims at improving the understanding and usage of economic concepts and data in analytical work of researchers working in political sciences. Instead of focusing on economic theory, the course will be structured around practical exercises. All sessions will be interactive and require active participation of the participants, who will – individually or in groups – work on tasks to put into use knowledge gained during the course.

Structure of the Course:

- **Session 1:** Introduction to how economic data is used in politics and political sciences. During this introductory session we will discuss, using real-life examples, how data can be used and misused. We will also talk about the most common data bias and critical reading of economic data.
- **Session 2:** This session will focus on providing an overview and critical assessment of the most commonly used economic indicators. Participants will learn how to select the most relevant economic indicators depending on their research question (e.g. unemployment or labour market participation rate? GDP or GDP per capita?), as well as how to search for and work with data. The session will end with exercises on calculating various basic economic indicators based on raw data (% changes in GDP, percentage point changes in labour market participation rate, exchange rates, etc.).





- **Session 3:** During the first part of this session, we will continue working with data and focus on pivot tables – their advantages and applications for political scientists. The second part of the meeting will be dedicated to discussion on missing data, inclusive data and new types of data, with a focus on the importance of disaggregating data by gender, age, and other parameters.
- **Session 4:** The session will start by working in groups on assignments geared at applying knowledge gained thus far, i.e. finding and using data to help answer a research question (e.g. Has the situation of women on the labour markets in MENA improved or deteriorated amid the pandemic?).

Effectively Communicating Research Findings. Abdalhadi Alijla, MENA Research Associate and Regional Manager for Gulf at Varieties of Democracy Institute (V-Dem).

Science Diplomacy has increasingly been an essential part of international organisations, think tanks, researchers, and policymakers. This course explores the different approaches in communicating science and scientific findings from the start of the research project to research publishing in peer-reviewed journals, research reports, briefing papers, Op-eds, teasers, social media, presentations, and other formats. Communicating research and scientific findings to policymakers and the media is key in science diplomacy. This course explores how science can be communicated outside the scientific community and put at the service of sustainable development, influencing the public, and increasing trust in science in the community. The course will provide the participants with a tool book to communicate their research and findings along their research journey.

Structure of the Course:

- **Session 1: Introduction to Science Communication and Science Diplomacy.** Different approaches, definitions, methods of communicating science and how it is related to science diplomacy in general. Critical aspects of science communications, challenges, and possibilities. Different regional strategies of communicating science.
- **Session 2: Good Science communicator?** Necessary skills needed from each part of publication, practical insight on science communication and diplomacy and how effective the different tools are. Participants will select their best research [if available] and choose to prepare 1) a social media video, 2) a short article 3) a brief Op-ed or 4) a 3 minutes presentation.
- **Session 3: Using Stories.** The power of using stories in science communications as a compelling strategy. Participants will learn how using a compelling story can benefit policy advocacy. Participants will learn how to merge between stories and evidence in a concise and compelling way.





Funding Opportunities for Researchers. Aleksandra Chmielewska, Donor Relations & Partnerships Officer, Human Rights Information and Documentation Systems, International (HURIDOCS).

This course aims at giving the participants an overview of EU funding opportunities for researchers, with a focus on the Horizon Europe programme. The attendants will be given an overview of different Horizon Europe programmes, learn where to find key documents, how to identify crucial aspects in the call and effectively plan the writing process. The course will also offer some tips on how to address typical challenges that can be encountered during the project writing phase, as well as what aspects should be considered in the key sections in the application form. Each session of the course will end with 20 minutes Q&A with the participants. Lastly, attendants will be able to apply and practice the knowledge acquired through a pitch exercise organised during the final session.

Structure of the Course:

- **Session 1: Getting Started.** This session focuses on the overview of Horizon 2020 architecture, as well as key documents to be considered while searching for suitable call for proposals. It offers guidance on how to analyse and understand the expectations of the call and read between the call lines based on several examples.
- **Session 2: Plan Your Project.** This session focuses on the key steps in the project's preparation and writing process. Critical components the attendants will learn are how to prepare a sound project sheet, build an internal work plan, secure a winning consortium, identify deliverables and milestones, define work packages, design a Gantt Chart, and maximise the impact of the project.
- **Session 3 Practice Your Skills.** This session focuses on putting the developed skills to the test with fellow participants. Attendants will be divided into breakout rooms and tasked to deliver a short, persuasive presentation intended to spark interest in the project, after which they will receive feedback and improve the presentation. Each peer exchange will last 5 minutes. Overall, each participant will participate in 6 exchanges. The lessons learned from the exercise will be commented on in the main room.

Data Analysis and Visualization (using R programme). Bernat Salbanyà Rovira, Associate Professor, University Pompeu Fabra (UPF) & Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Operations, Innovation, and Data Sciences at ESADE.

Data is everywhere and understanding and analysing it is a mandatory skill for researchers. R program may help researchers to think in an analytic manner. This course introduces the main components and steps of the data analysis visualization, paying particular attention to model evaluation and the statistical significance of models. Participants will learn what Data Analysis is and how researchers use it to solve classification or regression problems.





Structure of the Course:

- **Session 1: Introduction to R and Data Preparation.** The basics of the tool, objects in R (Numbers, Texts, Vectors, Arrays, Factors, Data Frames, Lists, etc.), data import and export, operators and functions.
- **Session 2: R programming and Data Analysis.** Conditional and Loops, Apply functions, Good practices and efficiency.
- **Session 3: Data Visualization.** Basic package: plot(). Other basic charts: hist(), barplot(), boxplot(), pie(). Advanced package: ggplot2

