

## **X3014EUA Seminar on European current affairs**

---

**3 ECTS**

### **Objectives – Course description**

The 'seminar on European current affairs' is the third prong of the three-pronged EU public affairs and business lobbying programme.

The objectives of this seminar is to train students researching, analysing and debating about EU-driven hot topics, in particular in the context of European public affairs management.

The seminar aims at enabling students to get a better understanding about how a topic/issue is debated at the European level and how to get properly involved in such a debate.

### **Learning content**

Students will get familiarised with the great variety of sources of information - institutional, business, think tanks, press - existing at the EU level. They will learn about relevant current decisions adopted by European Institutions and how to analyse current topics based on existing information and develop a framework on these issues, arguments and opinions. They will learn how to identify relevant pieces of information, organise a debate, put forward arguments and consider others' arguments.

### **Learning outcome**

At the end of this module, students are able to:

- Identify and profile the relevant sources of information in relation with a European topic
- Prepare a review of the various angles and opinions related to a topic
- Develop critical thinking
- Participate in and chair a debate

### **Methodology**

The seminar is geared towards a practical approach and organized following a hands-on learning process.

- For the first four weeks, each student will read daily EU-relevant news and they will respond to a multiple answer questionnaire with the main hot EU news of the respective week.

- For the next weeks, based on a list of proposed topics, students (organized in working groups) will conduct in-depth research of existing information related to a specific topic; students will develop and compile a portfolio about this topic; they will present orally an analysis of the collected information (taking into account different perspectives, the historical dimension-background, the legal framework, scientific results of the investigation, potential developments, the various actors,

opinions and arguments about the topic; they will organize and chair a debate with the other participants about the chosen topic.

### **Learning material**

The professor will provide students with a full case-study guiding them towards the various steps of the work.

The professor will provide students with press files and other documents supporting the learning process

The students will also be given on-going coaching and guidelines during the process.

### **Evaluation**

50% First term continuous assessment Regular questioning during face-to-face class periods

50% Continuous assessment of the first term Set of assignments or work