

Executive training course

An Introduction to the EU Financial Union

18 - 20 March 2024

Location: European University Institute, Florence (Italy)

Organisers & Faculty

- Maria Ana Barata (EBF and EUI)
- Thorsten Beck (EUI)
- Nicola Bilotta (EUI)
- Eliana Canavesio (EUI)
- Livia Hinz (EUI)
- Valerio Novembre (ESMA and EUI)
- María del Carmen Sandoval Velasco (EUI)
- Waltraud Schelkle (EUI)
- Pierre Schlosser (EUI)

Course coordinator

- Livia Hinz (EUI)

Introduction

Financial integration in Europe has taken many twists and turns and so has the European financial governance steering this process. Our new course on the European Financial Union, entirely taught by FBF team members, has been designed for an introductory and interdisciplinary audience of non-specialists keen to gain a strategic and sound overview of the EU Financial Union. The course therefore provides both a broad but also systematic treatment of the different dimensions of what has been referred to in the 5 Presidents Report of 2012 as the 'EU Financial Union'.

The course aims to retrace and explain the key stages in the EU's financial integration trajectory since the Maastricht Treaty and highlights some of the institutional, regulatory and policy issues that have contributed to strengthening financial integration in the EU. Course participants will therefore dive into the architecture and governance of the EU Financial Union, which consists of the European Banking Union on the one hand and of the Capital Markets Union on the other.

Monetary integration will be the starting point of the course. The architecture of the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) will therefore be recalled and its strong links with a rules-based but also incomplete Fiscal Union (FU) will be reviewed. While recalling the impact of the global financial crisis and of the Eurozone sovereign debt crisis, course participants will then be guided through the EU regulatory response to such crises by learning the pillars of the half-completed European Banking Union (EBU) and of the embryonic EU Capital Markets Union (CMU). The final part of the course will give ample room to discuss current policy proposals to complete the Financial Union and will debate future challenges. This frontier conversation will include the dilemmas posed by the capacity of the EU financial sector to weather through both digital and green transitions.

Learning Objectives:

- Be exposed to the drivers and patterns of financial integration in the European Union and the economic and financial architecture set-up, introduced since the Maastricht Treaty
- Discuss the concept of “European Financial Union” and understand its various dimensions, building blocks (including economic, monetary, financial and fiscal domains) and their interrelations
- Become familiar with the key features and institutional actors of the European Banking Union and of the Capital Markets Union
- Be able to evaluate new policy and legislative initiatives, also in view of aiming to create a truly single market in financial services
- Critically reflect on the caveats and limits of the current EU financial governance set up
- Analyse the current state of the European Financial Union, assess the changes in EU financial integration trajectory, identify missing components
- Critically evaluate future policy challenges in light
- More marginally: be exposed to the most central academic debates on financial integration in the EU.

Target audience:

Generalist profiles in EU institutions and in the three ESAs, ministries of finance, central banks, national and supranational development banks, communication staff in central banks, emerging scholars, private sector practitioners (e.g. trade associations, journalists, law firms, consultancies, banks, investment funds).

Level: Introductory

Approach: Qualitative

Programme

Day 1 - Monday 18 March 2024

12:30 – 13:30 Light lunch

13:30 – 14:30 Presentation of the School and the course followed by a *Tour de Table*, the outline of the course, ice-breaking activity and concept mapping exercise (after that, distribution of glossary and list of acronyms).

14:30 – 16:00 Session 1 – The EU's financial integration path and progress towards building an EU Financial Union

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee Break

16:30 – 17:45 Session 2 – Financial integration in the context of Economic and Monetary Union & the Fiscal Union

From 18:00 – Dinner session at the EUI with **Keynote**

Day 2 - Tuesday 19 March 2024

9:15 – 10:45 Session 3 – Towards a European Banking Union – History, politics, framing and trade-offs

10:45 – 11:15 Coffee Break

11:15 – 12:45 Session 4 – The European System of Financial Supervision, the SSM and the Single Rulebook

12:45 – 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:30 Session 5 – The SRM, and the backstop challenges

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:30 Session 6 – From banking to sovereigns and back

17:30 - Visit to the Historical Archives of the EU at Villa Salviati cocktail

Day 3 - Wednesday 20 March 2024

9:15 – 10:45 Session 7 – Towards a European Capital Markets Union

10:45 – 11:15 Coffee Break

11:15 – 12:45 Session 8 – The Sustainable Finance pillar of the Capital Markets Union

12:45 – 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:30 Session 9 – Group activity

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:30 Session 10 – The way forward – What are the Key Challenges for the European Financial Union to be a reality in the future?

17:30 – 17:45 Closing remarks and end of the course

Selected references

- Maria Ana Barata, Thorsten Beck, Nikita Divissenko, María del Carmen Sandoval Velasco, Pierre Schlosser, **‘Thirty years after Maastricht: financial integration in the European Union’**, *EUI Working Paper*, Robert Schuman Centre, European University Institute, 2023.
<https://cadmus.eui.eu/bitstream/handle/1814/75682/%28pb%29%20WP%20GPP%20%202023.43.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>
- Thorsten Beck, María del Carmen Sandoval Velasco and Pierre Schlosser, **‘The impact of the Ukraine crisis in the EU Economic and financial union’**, *EUI Policy Brief*, Robert Schuman Centre, European University Institute, 2022.
<https://cadmus.eui.eu/handle/1814/74815>