

Research Design and Methods for Public Policy II

Institution:	School of Public Policy, Central European University
Year/Term:	Year 1
Course type:	Core course
ECTS:	4

Aim and structure of the course

The course explores the philosophy of (social) science, research design and techniques of qualitative data gathering and analysis. We investigate what social scientists do and how they evaluate their theories and empirical material. In the course we explore research design (finding a research question, defining concepts and measurement and case selection), data gathering (surveys, interviews, using documents and archives, observation), data analysis and research based policy recommendation. The course consists of eleven seminars. The format is based on introductions by the lecturer(s), student presentations, class discussions and group work exercises'.

Learning Outcomes:

The general goal of the course is raising awareness of methodological problems and solutions in qualitative research. The material is based on book chapters and papers of the respective field, new contributions in the field and a selection of applied studies. As specific learning outcomes students should be able to develop a coherent research design on their own and choose the appropriate method of data gathering and data analysis tailored to their research question. In addition, students should be able to critically review research and policy papers regarding their research design and methodological choices. All written assignments must be submitted on the CEU e-learning platform for the course.