

## **Research Design and Qualitative Methods I**

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

### **Brief description:**

For both academic scholars and practitioners of public policy skillful processing of information is a key qualification. Methodological and analytical knowledge is of paramount importance to evaluate policies on basis of available data: reports, expert opinions, descriptive or inferential statistics etc.

This course introduces students to the basics of research design, and to the quantitative methods that can be used in addressing policy - relevant research questions.

The class will give an overview of issues related to measurement, causal inference, quasi-experimental research, sampling and survey research, as well as practical skills in applying statistics.

### **Learning outcomes**

The course has one major goal: To enhance students' 'passive' literacy of quantitative research methods. In this respect students will learn how to evaluate the adequacy of a given research method for a given research question. They will learn how to judge the quality of reports and academic studies on basis of typical flaws different research techniques may have.

A second goal is to give students some active skills and to show them how to apply techniques to original policy studies of their own.