

TEPSA Academy 2024 - EU enlargement

The programme has been conceptualised with the goal of providing students from all over Europe with a comprehensive overview of the key debates surrounding enlargement from the EU's perspective. By involving experts and practitioners from European institutions, think tanks and academia, it aims to create a space for brainstorming and discussion with students on why enlargement is a defining challenge, but also opportunity for the Union. We hope to open a debate and exchange between policy-makers, experts, and students on how to achieve enlargement without compromising on deepening in the EU, while focusing on the EU's **absorption capacity** and analysing specific policies that will be particularly affected by an enlarged Union. Attention will be paid to differentiated integration, the EU's transformative power in the context of enlargement, issues related to the rule of law, and the legal aspects of enlargement.

Each day is structured with an overarching theme in mind. Day 1 will serve to prepare students by introducing the main topics of enlargement, with a special focus on differentiated integration and the merits of enlargement. Day 2 will deal specifically with modes of integration as a key component in the enlargement debate, detailing how different approaches will lead to varying outcomes both for candidates and current EU Member States. Day 3 will focus on institutional reforms, discussing which changes will have to be made to make accession realistic while maintaining (and improving) the governability of the EU. Day 4 will present the opportunity to delve deeper into specific policy aspects of central importance to the enlargement debate, such as the EU budget, Common Agricultural Policy, and European security.

Every day features a synthesis and brainstorming session on the topics explored during the day with the academic coordinator. We aim to give students space to reflect and discuss all topics dealt with throughout the seminar, to stimulate critical approaches and debate on the complex issues at hand. This will also be pursued by integrating moments for Q&A during the visits and meetings with practitioners.

The four seminar days will be followed by a one-day Skills Lab on public speaking on Day 5, with the goal of offering students the opportunity to hone their practical skills with an experienced trainer.

Tentative programme

Monday, June 24: Day 1 – Setting the stage

Goal: provide an introduction on the ‘what’ and ‘why’ of enlargement.

Time	Place	Activity
13:30 – 14:00	Fondation Universitaire	Welcome session <i>Allegra Wirmer (TEPSA)</i>
14:15 – 15:45	Fondation Universitaire	Introductory lecture <i>Frank Schimmelfennig</i>
16:00 – 17:15	Fondation Universitaire	Discussion on the merits of enlargement <i>Janis Emmanoulidis</i>
17:30 – 18:45	Fondation Universitaire	Lecture on differentiated integration and brainstorm on topics discussed <i>Frank Schimmelfennig</i>

Tuesday, June 25: Day 2 – Uniform or differentiated integration?

Goal: discuss the ‘how’ of enlargement.

Time	Place	Activity
10:00 – 12:30	DG NEAR	Meeting and discussion with DG NEAR officials
14:00 – 15:30	Fondation Universitaire	Session on the model of staged accession in the context of future enlargement <i>Tinatin Akhvlediani</i>
15:45 – 17:15	Fondation Universitaire	Meeting with officials of the Belgian Presidency of the Council <i>Christophe de Bassompierre, Tom de Munck</i>
17:30 – 18:30	Fondation Universitaire	Synthesis and reflection on the topics of the day <i>Frank Schimmelfennig</i>

Wednesday, June 26: Day 3 – Institutional reforms

Goal: discuss what kind of institutional reforms might be needed to enhance the governability of the EU, how to protect the rule of law and democracy in an enlarged Union, how to reform the enlargement process to make accession realistic, how the EU can support democratic reforms in accession countries

Time	Place	Activity
10:00-12:30	General Secretariat of the Council	Meeting and discussion with GSC officials

14:00-15:30	European External Action Service	Meeting and discussion with EEAS officials
16:00-17:30	Fondation Universitaire	Lecture on the legal aspects of enlargement and institutional reform
17:45 – 18:30	Fondation Universitaire	Synthesis and reflection on the topics of the day <i>Frank Schimmelfennig</i>

Thursday, June 27: Day 4 – Policy aspects of enlargement

Goal: Provide a more specific look at select policies which will be heavily affected by EU enlargement.

Time	Place	Activity
9:00 - 10:30	Fondation Universitaire	Panel discussion on the EU Budget, CAP and Cohesion Policy: how can they be reformed to accommodate a Union of 36? <i>Moderated by Frank Schimmelfennig</i>
11:00 – 12:30	Fondation Universitaire	Panel discussion on security: the strategic implications of enlargement for the EU <i>Moderated by Frank Schimmelfennig</i>
12:40 – 14:00	Fondation Universitaire	Final synthesis and reflection session on the Academy <i>Frank Schimmelfennig</i>
15:30 – 17:30	European Parliament	Visit to the EP with an MEP

Friday, June 28: Day 5 – Skills training

Time	Place	Activity
9:00-12:00	Fondation Universitaire	Training on public speaking
12:00-13:00	Fondation Universitaire	Certificates ceremony and closing remarks