

FISCAL POLICY AND BUDGET

Degree in Taxation

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Code: 16517

Main Scientific Area: Public administration and finance

Lecturer: Cristina Paula de Freitas Rocha

Language of Instruction: Portuguese

Regime: S1

Contact Hours: 60h Total Workload: 136h

ECTS: 7,0

Objectives

The fundamental objectives of the Curricular Unit of Fiscal Policy and Budget are analysis and understanding: of the functions of the State, in the western mixed economies of democratic societies; the institutional and financial reality of the public sector in Portugal, including the analysis of the state budget preparation, approval, execution and control; the study of the objectives, instruments, and actors of the fiscal policy with relevance for the use of taxes for the achievement of the normative criteria of equity and efficiency.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the CU, students should be able to understand the role of taxes as the main instrument of fiscal policy and of the functions of affectation, redistribution and economic stabilization; should still be capable of a critical analysis of the Portuguese tax system.

Course Contents

- 1.The role of the state in democracy
 - 1.1. The functions of the public sector: affectation, redistribution and stabilization
 - 1.2. Public Administrative Sector in Portugal (scope and structure)
2. Public expenditure
 - 2.1. Notion and elements of public expenditure
 - 2.2. Performance and efficiency
3. Government revenues
 - 3.1. Notion of public revenue
 - 3.2.Public revenues and tax system
4. Fiscal Policy
 - 4.1. Concept and actors
 - 4.2. Objectives and instruments
 - 4.3. Desirable characteristics of a tax system
 - 4.4. Efficiency and taxation
 - 4.5. Equity of the tax system
 - 4.6. The Portuguese tax system
 - 4.6.1. Recent developments: quantitative indicators
 - 4.6.2. Economic characterization
5. State Budget
 - 5.1. The Budget and Rules

- 5.1.1. Concept, elements and functions of public budget
- 5.1.2 Budgeting rules
- 5.2. Budgetary Cycle
 - 5.2.1 Formulation
 - 5.2.2 Approval
 - 5.2.3 Execution
 - 5.2.4 Control
- 6. Budgetary policy
 - 6.1 Aims and tools
 - 6.2 Budgetary policy in the UE

Recommended Bibliography

Franco, António L. Sousa, 2002, Finanças Públicas e Direito Financeiro, 4.a Edição, Almedina, Coimbra.

Pereira, Paulo Trigo et al., 2016, Economia e Finanças Públicas, Escolar Editora, 5.ª edição.

Hyde, Albert C., 2002, Government Budgeting, 3rd edition, Wadsworth: Thomson Learning.

Moreno, Carlos, 2006, Finanças Públicas: Gestão e Controlo e Auditoria dos Dinheiros Públicos. Lisboa: Universidade Autónoma de Lisboa.

Musgrave, Richard e Peggy, 1989, Public Finance in Theory and Practice, 5th Ed., McGraw-Hill.

Learning and Teaching Methods

The content inherent in each of the different points of the course program meet the objectives, whose implementation is aligned with the teaching-learning methodologies.

Assessment Methods

The continuous assessment methodology includes:

Participation and attendance - weighting factor of 10%. The participation of students in class and their attendance will be assessed.

Group written work - weighting factor of 30%. The weighting will be distributed between the presentation and the written report.

Test - 60% weighting in the final grade, where a minimum score of 8 out of 20 is required. Students who do not obtain a minimum mark (8) will be considered failed, regardless of the mark obtained in the assignment.

The assessment methodology in the exam season includes:

Group or individual written work - weighting factor of 30%. A written report will be assessed.

Exam - weighting factor of 70% in the final grade, where a minimum score of (8) on a scale of zero to twenty is required. Students who do not obtain a minimum mark (8) will be considered failed, regardless of the mark obtained in the assignment.

Students who have not undergone continuous assessment or decide to undergo only the final assessment by exam (if they have negative results in the components that carry over to the appeal period) will be able to take an exam

with a weighting factor of 100%.