

Study Project on „Infrastructure Financing“

1. Organisational Frame

- You will earn 10 ECTS for completing this project successfully. This means a time effort of 300 hours for each student (30 hours per ECTS).
- Time Schedule:**

Thursday, April 7th, 2011, 13:30-15:00	Organisational introductory lecture, introduction to the task, M7b, seminar room 103
Until Wednesday, April 13th, 2011, 12:00	enrolment
Thursday, April 14th, 2011, 13:30	Publication of group assigning, note at the blackboard next to the Chair of Construction Economics (pin board of the Knowledge-Centre@Weimar, M7a, room 111), handing out of documents, official start of the study project
Monday, May 9th, 2011 to Friday, May 13th, 2011	excursion to the EIB in Luxembourg: project week together with students from Università degli Studi di Milano and Universidad de Cantabria
Friday, May 13th, 2011	1. interim presentation at the EIB in Luxembourg
Thursday, June 9th, 2011, 13:30-16:45	2. interim presentation, M7b, seminar room 103
Monday, July 4th, 2011, till 12.00	Handing in of the study projects to B. Wüdsch, M7a, room 111
Thursday, July 7th, 2011, 13.30-16.45	Final presentation, M7b, seminar room 103

- Consultations are always welcome and can take place according to prior agreement with the tutors via email: bjoern.wuendsch@uni-weimar.de or nico.grove@uni-weimar.de.
- Every student of each group has to present a part of the interim presentations as well as of the final presentation. There is a time limit of 20 minutes at maximum for each presentation, to leave a few minutes for questions and discussion. (The observance of the time limit will be marked as well.) The students are expected to attach importance to a professional way of preparing the presentation and the presenting itself. Both interim presentations have to be sent to Prof. Nico Grove and Björn Wüdsch by 12.00 noon the day before the presentation in a digital version (preferably as a PDF or PowerPoint, compatible with the 2003 version).
- On July 4th, 2011 a written, printed conclusion (80 pages at maximum) and a digital version (preferably as a PDF) presenting the research results as well as the concept for the exhibition have to be handed in. Not the quantity but the quality of a reasonable choice of material and presentation of the results will be marked.
- The students will work together in teams of five at maximum. The group assigning as well as the assigning of topics will be made by the tutors after the enrolment procedure.
- The marking procedures will take place after the final presentation. All students of each team will receive the same mark. The final mark will be based on the exhibition (60%) and the written conclusion (40%). Participation in all presentations is a requirement to pass the study project. Exceptions are only allowed for through agreement in advance with the tutors.
- Documents for the study project will be provided on the server in digital version.
- If individual students ask questions regarding the content via email, the response will be sent to all students participating in the study project.

2. Project Information

In line with the study project the students are expected to research on the topic of the European infrastructure financing (probably in English). This project will be elaborated in a European context together with the European Investment Bank in Luxembourg as well as with students from other European universities, particularly students from the Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy, and Universidad de Cantabria, Spain.

For research possibilities and the conjoint initiation of the international collaboration a common project week in Luxembourg at the beginning of the summer term is planned.

Regarding the content, the study project concerns the various instruments of financing public infrastructure in the different sectors (e.g. water/waste water, roads, railways, energy, telecommunication etc.). The various financing instruments will be identified, analysed and discussed descriptively in case studies.

Major questions are:

- The role of national infrastructure financing within the European context?
- Influencing factors for the initiation of the various instruments for infrastructure financing?
- What has been the impact on the outcome of the various instruments of infrastructure financing?

Minor questions are:

- What was the idea behind the various instruments of infrastructure finance? (technical/financial innovation)
- What was the vision behind the drivers of the financing instruments?
- How did the demand develop?

Within the first interim presentation the national teams are supposed to present their initial research results in Luxembourg using PowerPoint. The second interim presentation is to also include possible concepts for the presentation of the results in the course of the exhibition. The final presentation takes place as a kind of exhibition opening. The choice of media is free.

The best student teams will get the chance to publish their projects or rather to present their case studies in line with the international travelling exhibition of the “Bond and Share Society” (IBSS).

3. Task

The following tasks have to be handled in the course of the project work:

(1) Research

Each team researches within one infrastructure sector (e.g. water/waste water, roads, railways, energy, telecommunication etc.) on the various instruments of infrastructure financing in a European-historical context, especially regarding the essential questions mentioned before. The research will proceed in two steps. First, general frameworks are going to be examined by research based on literature and then concluded. Based on the sector specific results, information on various case studies and financing instruments can be found within the archives of the EIB during the project week in Luxembourg.

(2) Analysis

After the widespread research, the gathered information will be structured and analysed. A major aim is to develop a focus on the case studies to work on in the following (e.g. the consideration of the application of a specific financing instrument within a sector in different countries, or the consideration of the application of various financing instruments within a sector in the course of time in a specific country).

(3) Case Studies

Each team is going to work on at least 3 and at most 5 case studies, which apply to the focus decided on beforehand. The 3-5 case studies shall be presented in a similar way.

(4) Preparation in the interim presentations

During the first interim presentation, the teams are expected to present their initial research results in Luxembourg using PowerPoint. The second interim presentation should also include possible concepts for the presentation of the results in the course of the exhibition.

(5) Final Presentation

The final presentation includes the handing in of the written conclusion on July 4th, 2011, and the presentation by means of an exhibition on July 7th, 2011. The written work is supposed to comprise the scientific part on the instruments of infrastructure financing and the case studies, as well as the concept of how to present the results in the exhibition. Each team's exhibition on one specific sector is meant to be part of an overall exhibition on the infrastructure financing of all sectors. The choice of media is free (e.g. poster, video, audio etc.). The final presentation takes place as a kind of exhibition opening, where each team has to explain its exhibition piece.

Note:

The task is not meant to be a chronological work schedule!

The written conclusion must not be a summary of all ideas that come up during the work, but has to be conceived as a logical, concluding presentation of the favoured and finally pursued project idea.

4. Marking

The marking of the study project is based on the following aspects:

- (1) Content and structure of the work: 40%**
- (2) Scientific methods and quality of the work: 40%**
- (3) Working with sources und compliance with formalia: 20%**

The mentioned aspects are valid for the written conclusion as well as the presentation as an exhibition. The final mark will be made up of 40% of the mark for the written part and 60% of the mark for the exhibition presentation.