



INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Preparation Course to Competitions for European Institutions

Why working for the EU?

Since Ireland's adhesion to the European Community in 1972, many Irish nationals have made a significant contribution to the strengthening of the European project through working in the various European Institutions. Working as a civil servant in the European Commission, the Council, the European Parliament or the Court of Justice means a great variety of tasks, very challenging responsibilities and a direct contribution to the EU's broad range of activities in a relatively small, dynamic and truly multi-cultural environment. In addition, conditions and salaries are very attractive.

Why such a course?

Most of the Irish nationals working for EU institutions were appointed following their success at the open competitions that are organised on a regular basis by the European Personnel Selection Office, EPSO. As these are highly competitive and demanding, thorough preparation is required in order to boost your chances of success.

The Institute of Public Administration is now offering a specific preparation course to the open competitions for positions within the EU institutions. This product, unique in Ireland, is adapted to the needs of the candidates and actualised on a regular basis to take into consideration the most recent competitions and their evolution.

What course?

The IPA will offer you comprehensive training on how to prepare for the written and oral tests, including the pre-selection test, designed along the lines of the G-mat.

The focus will be on topical issues, such as the latest developments in certain EU policies and changes in the EU institutional design, as well as the current debate about the future of the EU. The training will also provide

tips and tricks on how to pass the verbal and numerical reasoning tests, write a good essay and pass the oral examination. It will also offer practical exercises, recreating the atmosphere of the competition, to offer the opportunity to familiarise yourself with the format and time pressure of a real-life testing situation (see course programme).

What target group?

The preparation course is designed mainly for those applying for positions in the EU institutions at the level of Administrator grades ("AD" grades). Applicants should already possess an understanding of the EU institutional structures, the main policies and challenges, however, the training will not require specific professional experience. EU Competitions for AD grades are open for people with no significant professional experience and there are also competitions at higher grades for those with a minimum of three years professional experience.

The course may also interest those applying for other grades or those who simply wish to update their knowledge of EU affairs and to obtain a more comprehensive overview.

Course Logistics

- The training will be held at the IPA's Training & Education Centre in Dublin and will be conducted in English.
- The cost of the two day course is €550
- Course dates are as follows:
1-2 March 2011