

## Geopolitics of Energy

### Language

English

### Objective

The aim of the course is to provide participants with an overview of the historical evolution of the different energy sources and to understand the new paradigms of energy and geopolitics.

### Course content

Energy has always been the lifeblood of development and high economic growth, such as the boom of the 60s, was possible thanks to abundant and cheap resources. However, energy resources have also been a tool of foreign policy used ruthlessly by some countries as for example OPEC during the oil shocks of the 70s, or recently by Russia for its energy supplies.

Geopolitics could be defined as the way a country exercise its power and influence in its relationships with other countries or regions. Such influence is not limited to control over land, sea or space but could also include control of energy resources.

The course will assess the drivers and the major players in the past and current competition for energy resources. Upcoming challenges in which competition, beside conventional energy resource, expand to rare earths and critical raw materials will be examined. The course consists of six lessons:

- The first lesson will cover the history of energy from old renewable such as wind, water and biomass, until the industrial revolution that marked the beginning of the dominance of fossil fuels. The recent considerable growth of new form of renewables sources will also be covered.
- The second and thirds lessons will provide a sectorial analysis of the production and use of various energy sources, fossil (oil, gas, and solid fuels), renewables hydroelectric, solar, wind, geothermal and bioenergy) and finally nuclear. The geopolitical relevance of the main players at global scale will be presented.
- The fourth lesson will cover the role of the main European Institutions such as the Council, the European Commission, and the European Parliament as well as the procedures for the preparation and approval of European legislation. The most important energy and climate policies of the European Union will be also presented.
- The fifth lesson will provide an historical review of the energy relation between the Former Soviet Union and Europe. Starting with construction of the first oil and gas pipelines, through the cold war, the energy crisis of 2009 and finally the implications of the recent conflict between Russia and Ukraine.
- The sixth lesson will address the latest developments in the energy arena the "energy trilemma" to reconcile security of supply, fight against climate change and availability of energy at competitive prices.

### Teaching mode

It will be possible to participate in the course exclusively in synchronous online mode.

**Final test**

The final test of the course will consist of a multiple-choice test that can be taken in presence only.

**Faculty for the course**

**Massimo Lombardini.** Between 1982 and 1993, he worked in the energy sector in Italy and other countries. From 1994 to 2019, he worked at the Directorate General for Energy of the European Commission and was involved in energy policies, infrastructure, technology and international relations.

Since 2020, he has been cooperating with ISPI as Associate Research Fellow. He is author of more than 40 papers on energy issues and he is the scientific coordinator of ISPI Master in Energy Geopolitics.

He holds a degree in geology from the University degli Studi di Milano and a Master International Relations from the Université Libre de Bruxelles.