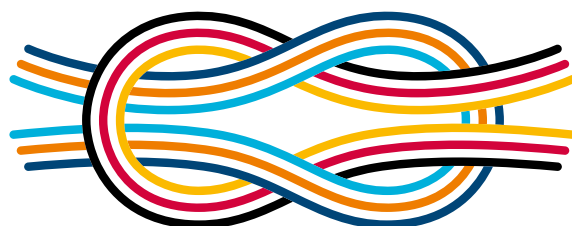


GENERAL INFORMATION

HANDOUT FOR TEACHERS



G20 GERMANY 2017

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JOACHIM
HERZ

STIFTUNG



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1. DESIGN AND STRUCTURE OF THE TEACHING MATERIALS

To mark the German G20 presidency, teaching and other in-depth materials relating to the G20 Finance Track will be published at www.global-classroom.de from March to May. In total, the materials comprise 12 teaching units (45 minutes per unit) over 6 weeks, but can also be used individually and are aimed at students aged between 14 and 18.

THE MATERIALS COVER THE FOLLOWING TOPICS

MODULE 1	MODULE 2	MODULE 3	MODULE 4-6	STARTING AFTER MODULE 6
G20 FINANCE TRACK – WHY DOES IT MATTER?	INTRODUCTION TO GLOBAL GOVERNANCE	INTRODUCTION TO GLOBAL FINANCE	GLOBAL CHALLENGES	STUDENT COMPETITION
2 units – 1 week	2 units – 1 week	2 units – 1 week	6 units – 3 weeks	MAY – JUNE NO FIXED TIME FRAME

The materials offer an opportunity to link current G20 topics to fundamental questions about the global economy and global governance and to examine global challenges that are being discussed at the events held under the German G20 presidency. As a result, the Global Classroom will provide students with the opportunity to reflect current political events through independent learning. In-depth supplementary materials will be offered on the website of the Global Classroom. Furthermore, your students are encouraged to enter a competition in which they will be asked to submit entries on selected G20 issues. More information on the competition will be published in April at www.global-classroom.de. In keeping with the ethos of a global classroom, these teaching materials are offered in the global lingua franca of English, enabling them to be used in all countries of the G20 and beyond. They are well suited to a variety of school subjects such as politics, economics, English, or geography. The materials are designed for regular teaching and are timed accordingly. The final student competition and the opportunity to travel to Hamburg in order to experience the G20 spirit at events that will be specifically offered to students, as well as the chance to meet young people from the various G20 nations offers further motivation to explore the topic in class. We hope that teachers and students alike will find the materials both informative and enjoyable.

INFO

FINANCE TRACK

Within the G20, financial issues are dealt with in the so-called Finance track. [...] Under the German presidency, the largest and most important event in the Finance Track is the meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors in Baden-Baden in March 2017. [...] Finance ministers and central bank governors meetings are prepared by the deputies of the finance ministers and central bank governors and their teams as well as several G20 working and study groups.

The results from all working areas are included in the final communiqué issued by the Heads of State and Government. Financial and economic issues continue to play a major role. Therefore, the finance ministers also attend the Summit of the Heads of State and Government. Source of excerpt.

2. GLOBAL CHALLENGES AND THEIR IMPACT ON EDUCATION

Changes on the global political stage have implications for economic and political education. To support school students in becoming responsible citizens who participate in and shape society, and in order to raise their awareness toward global responsibilities of citizenship, it is not enough to merely add the G20 to the list of institutions whose functions and practices they need to learn by heart. Rather, above-listed educational goals also require the fostering of knowledge on the global challenges that occupy political representatives today, since these challenges will influence the world that young people can and will inhabit in the future. The mental and intellectual skills necessary to face these challenges comprise, for example, the ability to see things from different perspectives, and an understanding of the need to make political compromises and the ways in which they are negotiated. They also include fundamental knowledge on the economic principles and institutions that shape these challenges, as well as the ability to employ this knowledge creatively in order to develop strategies for action.

The G20 serve as the most important forum for economic coordination on a global level. Within the G20 Finance Track, finance ministers and central bank governors are meeting in order to find solutions for issues such as the prevention of global and economic crises, and the stabilization of national economies. Hence, the G20 Finance Track provides an ideal backdrop for exploring global challenges in the classroom and offers an opportunity to study a host of political and economic issues in an interdependent manner on the basis of current examples.

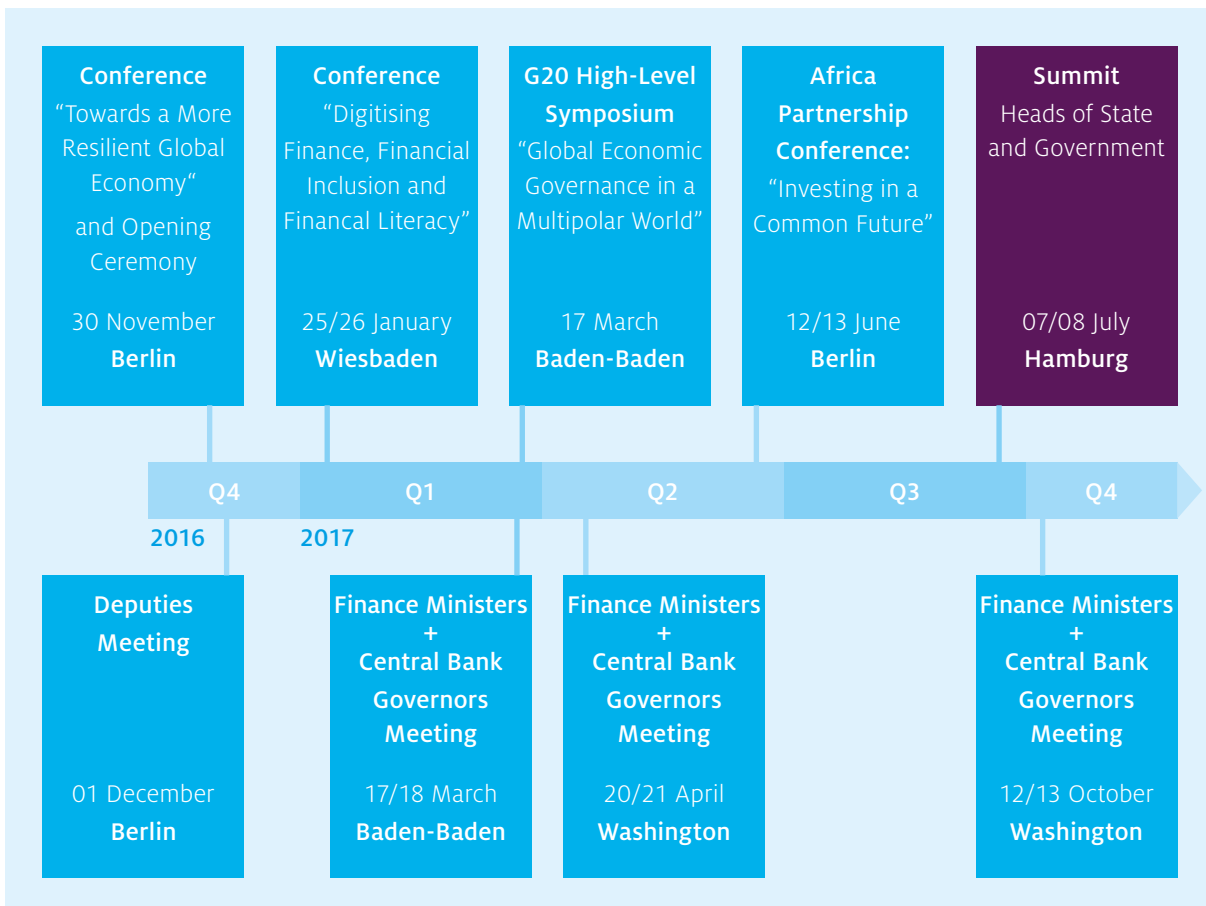


Figure 1: G20 Timeline

3. INTRODUCTION TO THE SUBJECT: SHAPING AN INTERCONNECTED WORLD – THE G20 FINANCE TRACK AND THE G20 SUMMIT IN HAMBURG

The term “G20” refers to a group of 19 industrialized and emerging market countries that play a significant role in the global economy (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States), as well as the European Union, which is a permanent member of the group. Various international committees and organizations also attend G20 meetings as guests. Alongside Spain, which regularly participates in the G20 as a permanent guest country, Germany, in its capacity the current holder of the G20 presidency, has also invited Norway, the Netherlands and Singapore. Furthermore the African Union (AU), the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), have also been invited to the Hamburg summit. Switzerland has been invited to participate in all meetings of the Finance Track.

Compared with the Group of 7 (G7), far more countries are represented at the G20. The G20 member states account for more than 85% of global gross domestic product (GDP), three quarters of world trade, and two thirds of the world’s population. The issues discussed at the G20 summit also affect countries that are not members of the G20.



Figure 2: The logo of the 2017 G20 summit

3.1 FORMATION OF THE G20

Finance ministers and central bank governors have been assuming a key role in the formation and development of the G20 right from the beginning onwards. The decision to establish the G20 was made at the meeting of G7 finance ministers and central bank governors 1999 in Berlin against the background of the financial crisis in Asia. There was a clear need for a larger forum of nations to tackle global financial crises. This forum was initiated by the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors of the countries that were to form the G20. However, it was not until almost ten years later, in 2008 when the economic and financial crisis had hit the global economy, that the first G20 summit brought together heads of states and governments in Washington D.C. Although its original objectives were primarily concerned with economic and, above all, financial issues, the G20 is increasingly becoming a forum for global politics, thereby covering more and more related issues such as the environment and climate change, the fight against poverty, labor market policy, protection for refugees, and combating terrorism. However, economic and financial issues remain at the heart of the G20’s agenda.

Unlike international organizations, the G20 is an informal forum of nations, where the member states share ideas without passing legally enforceable resolutions. Also, there is no set headquarters or administrative body. Instead, the presidency rotates among the various countries, with the current holder responsible for organizing the summit and associated events, and for setting a number of focus areas. The current holder of the presidency, their predecessor and their successor form the “Troika”, with the three countries working closely together to ensure continuity. This year, the Troika consists of China (which held the presidency in 2016), Germany (2017), and Argentina (2018).

3.2 G20 – MORE THAN JUST A SUMMIT

The annual Summit of Heads of State and Government is prepared by meetings of the finance ministers and central bank governors within the G20 Finance Track, as well as by meetings of ministers responsible for other areas throughout the year. Additional conferences and forums enable the sharing of ideas on a range of issues. During the German presidency in 2017, for example, the agriculture ministers met in January. The foreign ministers meet in February, the finance ministers and central bank governors in March, the digital ministers in April, and both the health ministers, and the labor and employment ministers, in May. Various “dialogue forums” will take place ahead of the summit. These will be explicitly aimed at civil society and address the needs of various target groups, such as the scientific community (Science20), the business community (Business20), trade unions (Labour20), think tanks (Think20), women (Women20), young people (Youth20), and nongovernmental organizations (Civil20). At the dialogue forums, recommendations will be formulated and discussed before being incorporated into specific resolutions. There will also be specialist conferences, working group meetings, and workshops that cover the areas of focus and issues that are being raised at the summit.

Financial questions that are being discussed within the Finance Track will be a key focus together with closely related issues such as climate and energy, digitalization, and health. Among the priorities of the German G20 presidency in the Finance track are the following topics:

- Strengthening economic resilience
- Improving investment conditions: “Compact with Africa”
- Taking advantage of digitalization, mitigating risks
- Making taxation fair and reliable worldwide
- Strengthening the international financial architecture
- Fostering financial market stability

In addition to the key topics listed above, Germany will be continuing the G20 agenda in a number of other areas. These will also be part of the G20 Summit in Hamburg in the interests of the G20 addressing longer-term global challenges and ensuring the benefits of globalization are enhanced and shared more broadly. Other issues on the G20’s agenda include terrorism, pandemics, climate change, geopolitical conflicts, and migration and refugees flows.

3.3 THE G20 SUMMIT IN HAMBURG

The most visible parts of the G20 process are the Summits. The Summit of the German presidency will be held on July 7 and 8 in Hamburg.

The Summit and the various other meetings require considerable organization and extensive preparation by the respective ministries as well as the “Sherpas”. The term that is inspired by the Himalayan mountain guides from the Sherpa people, refers to the high-ranking staff from the various governments who handle the essential preparations of the summit.

The priorities of the Hamburg Summit share common objectives such as “building resilience”, “improving sustainability”, and “assuming responsibility”, and include various policy items:



Figure 3: areas of focus of the G20 summit

The G20 communiqués represent official statements that contain key outcomes and that are politically binding. They have to be implemented by respective institutions such as national parliaments, before they can be legally binding, too.

In an era where more and more issues require solutions at global level (cf. info-box on global public goods below), the G20 has established itself as an important forum for international politics. In keeping with the notion of global governance, the G20 is associated with the ability to reach agreement among its members so as to deliver workable solutions for issues beyond the scope of national politics. Due to the need to coordinate different interests, this is not always easy – but it is always based on the hope of being able to ease the problems facing the world and cooperate better in ways that benefit citizens.

The G20 also provides an opportunity for the engagement of civil society organizations. As mentioned above, dialogue takes place within various independent groups such as B20, W20, and Y20. Responsibility for the opinion-forming process lies entirely in the hands of these groups. Within the Finance Track of the German G20 Presidency, additional forums for civil society dialogue are envisaged, e.g. educational events held at schools in Baden-Baden where the finance ministers and central bank governors are meeting, or the art initiative “Global Stone Garden”. Independently organized talks, conferences, and other events offer further opportunities for members of civil society to advocate positions with regard to issues under discussion within the G20.



Figure 4: Australian environmentalists protesting against G20 climate policy

Organizing a large scale international event such as the G20 Summit in Hamburg requires considerable planning and organization. These costs are offset by the benefits that arise due to enhanced political and economic cooperation on an international level.

INFO:

GLOBAL PUBLIC GOODS

In a globalizing world, problems and solutions reach across national borders, resulting in a growing need for international collective action. During recent years, the concept of Global Public Goods (GPGs) has become an increasingly important part of international policy making. The concept appears in the agendas of UN agencies, the IMF/ World Bank, and Non-governmental organizations. Everyone depends on public goods, neither markets nor the wealthiest person can do without them. Clean environment, health, knowledge, property rights, peace and security are all examples of public goods that could be made global. The concept remains criticized for being too academic and abstract but it has also brought about enthusiasm and strong advocacy. Questions remain unanswered regarding financial aspects and how to provide global public goods. Some fear that money will be taken from international aid while others suggest global taxes as means for distribution.

This text and more information can be found at <https://www.globalpolicy.org/social-and-economic-policy/global-public-goods-1-101.html> (last accessed: 1/18/2017)

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- Page 4 *Figure 1:* <http://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Featured/G20/events-of-the-g20.html>
- Page 5 *Figure 2:* https://styleguide.bundesregierung.de/Webs/SG/Content/Downloads/PrintStyleguide/Kampagnenlogos/ReadMe_pdf_zur_ansicht-G20.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=5
- Page 7 *Figure 3: German Federal Ministry of Finance (2016): G20 Presidency 2017. Finance Track priorities. In: To the point. Information from the Federal Ministry of Finance. Accessible at:* http://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Press_Room/Publications/To_the_point/to-the-point-g20-presidency.html (last accessed: 1/19/2017, also available in German).
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PUBLISHER

JOACHIM HERZ STIFTUNG

Langenhorner Chaussee 384

22419 Hamburg

Germany

www.joachim-herz-stiftung.de

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Last updated: 03/2017

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E-MAIL

globalclassroom@joachim-herz-stiftung.de

AUTHOR

Jun. Prof. Dr. Vera Kirchner

LAYOUT

Q. Gute Grafik, Köln

JOACHIM HERZ STIFTUNG

The Joachim Herz Stiftung is an economically and politically independent nonprofit foundation. It was founded in 2008 and promotes education, science and research in the fields of economics and business administration as well as in the natural sciences. Educating and empowering individuals are the common goals of all programs.

www.joachim-herz-stiftung.de

GLOBAL CLASSROOM IN THE G20 FINANCE TRACK

The Global Classroom is a joined project of the German Federal Ministry of Finance and the Joachim Herz Stiftung. It provides teaching materials covering up-to-date topics of the G20 Finance Track 2017, like different aspects of economic growth and financial stability as well as the role of international organizations in global and national politics. The materials can be used in all social science classes such as economics and politics, but are also well suited for languages (especially English) and bilingual lessons.

www.global-classroom.de

JOACHIM HERZ STIFTUNG

Langenhorner Chaussee 384

22419 Hamburg

Germany

T. +49 40 533 295-0

F. +49 40 533 295-77

info@joachim-herz-stiftung.de

www.joachim-herz-stiftung.de

JOACHIM
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