AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD POLICY ANALYSIS

Basic data of the subject	
Academic Unit:	Faculty of Life and Environmental Sciences
Course title:	Agricultural and food policy analysis
Study program:	Agribusiness Management
Level:	Master (MSc)
Course status:	Obligatory (O)
Study year:	2 year / 3 semester
Number of hours per week:	3 + 2
Credit value – ECTS:	7 ECTS
Time / location:	To be announced
Lecturer:	Prof. Dr. Engjëll Skreli
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Course description:	Module focuses on public (agricultural) policy cycle as well and as making use of different policy analysis tools in each stage of the cycle. Main topics discussed include: public policy cycle, justifying the need for public intervention in agricultural and food sectors, public policy instruments, stakeholders' analysis, benefit cost analysis, multi-criteria analysis, and expert choice analysis as an instrument of policy option analysis, policy monitoring – result based management, public policy evaluation.
Course objectives:	This course will provide students with the knowledge, skills, and abilities regarding agricultural and food policy analysis.
Learning outcomes:	Upon completion of this course, students will be able to: ▪ Improved knowledge on public policy cycle, market failures in agriculture and rural development and instruments of public policy in agriculture; ▪ Improved knowledge on policy monitoring and evaluation; ▪ Improved knowledge on public policy analysis tools in agricultural and food sectors; ▪ Increased skills regarding public policy analysis in agricultural and food sectors; ▪ Improved writing and communication skills regarding agricultural and food policies (policy papers).

Contribution on student load (must correspond with learning outcomes)			
Activity	**Hours**	**Days/week**	**Total**
Lectures	3	13	39
Exercise theoretical/laboratory	2	13	26
Practice work	3	3	9
Contact with lecturer/consultations	1	15	15

Field exercises	8	1	8
Mid-terms, seminars	3	1	3
Homework	1	15	15
Individual time spent studying (at the library or home)	2	15	30
Final preparation for the exam	1	15	15
Time spent in evaluation (tests, quiz, final exam)	3	2	6
Projects, presentations, etc.	3	3	9
Total			**175 hours (7 ECTS)**
Teaching methods:	Lectures, exercises, discussions, consultations, course projects, homework, exams		
Evaluation methods:	▪ Regular and active attendance: 10%, ▪ Course project: 30%, ▪ Final exam: 60%.		
Literature			
Basic Literature:	Skreli, E. (2006). Politikat e bujqësise dhe ushqimit: Aspekte teorike dhe praktike. Universiteti Bujqësor i Tiranës. Young, E., & Quinn, L. (2002). Writing effective public policy papers. Open Society Institute, Budapest. Bardach, E., & Patashnik, E. M. (2023). A practical guide for policy analysis: The eightfold path to more effective problem solving. CQ press. Kraft, M. E., & Furlong, S. R. (2019). Public policy: Politics, analysis, and alternatives. Cq Press. Patton, C., Sawicki, D., & Clark, J. (2015). *Basic methods of policy analysis and planning-Pearson EText*. Routledge.		
Additional Literature:	Dodgson, J. S., Spackman, M., Pearman, A., & Phillips, L. D. (2009). Multi-criteria analysis: A manual. Department for Communities and Local Government: London. DFID (2002). Tools for Development – A handbook for those involved in development activities. EC (European Commission). (2004) Project Cycle Management Guidelines. EC (European Commission). 2006. Evaluation methods for the European Union's external assistance - Methodological bases for evaluation Alexander, J. M., & Saaty, T. L. (1989). Conflict Resolution–The Analytic Hierarchy Process. NY: Praeger.		

Designed study plan:		
Week	**Lectures**	**Exercises**
First week:	Introduction to module content and evaluation policies Short summary of module content, learning outcomes (knowledge, understanding and skills). Students' obligation and evaluation policies	– Discussion: Module content objectives and learning outcomes – Students' obligations and evaluation policies – Discussion: Course project description
Second week:	Policy cycle Policy cycle phases: problem identification, problem analysis and option development, selection of best policy option, policy reparation, policy implementation and monitoring, and policy evaluation; policy cycle will be a kind of platform where to embed policy analysis tools	– Discussion: Basic concepts agricultural and food policy analysis – Discussion: Course project requirement
Third week:	Instructions on writing policy papers Types of policy paper – policy analysis and policy studies. Description of policy papers' structure: subject and audience, sketching, structure: introduction, analysis (analysis framework, policy options and their evaluation, selection of best alternative), conclusions and policy implications. The topic is intended to help students write policy studies and analysis in a professional way. Students are required to write and present a policy analysis paper as part of their course obligations.	– Discussion: phases on Public policy cycle – Discussion: policy options and policy instruments – Exercise: Problem analysis and option development; – Exercise: SWOT and PEST analysis and option development.
Fourth week:	Policy cycle & Market, government and policy instruments Market, government and public policy. Arguments justifying government intervention in markets, including in agricultural markets based on market failures. Main market failures discussed are: income distribution, imperfect competition, public gods (club and common pool resources goods), externalities, information asymmetry and imperfect information. Preferred instrument for each market failure will be discussed, including free market instruments, information-education-advice; direct government intervention, economic instruments and, legislation and rregulation. Discussion on policy instruemst will be preceded by theories of human behaviour and policy instruments.	– Discussion: policy analysis and policy studies reports – Discussion: structure of a policy analysis report – Advices on technical/academic writing

Fifth week:	Market, government and policy instruments Idem	– Discussion: argument giving rise to government intervention in markets – Exercise: public goods and externalities in agriculture and rural areas; information asymmetry (moral hazard, adverse selection and principal agent problem) as manifested in agriculture and rural areas, imperfect information and other reasons.
Sixth week:	Stakeholder consultation and Stakeholder analysis Discussion the reasons justifying stakeholder consultation; typical policy stakeholders; discussion on consultation procedure (when, who, what for, how); discussion about Albanian practice related to stakeholder consultation; Stakeholder analysis instruments: Stakeholder analysis matrix, power-interest matrix, attitude-activity matrix, SWOT analysis, cobweb diagram, Venn diagram; examples.	– Discussion: behavioral theories and policy instruments – Discussion: Market failures and best policy instruments by market failure
Seventh week:	Policy option evaluation using benefit-cost analysis Steps in a benefit-cost analysis: benefit and cost identification, evaluation of benefits and costs (financial and economic evaluation, evaluation methods for tradable and non-tables, market and non-market valuation). Calculation of net present value and internal rate of return. Case study: benefit cost analysis for Hazard Analysis in Critical Control Points (HACCP)	– Exercise: Power-Interest and Attitude-Activity Matrixes as stakeholders analysis tools – Discussion: Other tools for stakeholder analysis (Venn diagram, Cobweb, etc.)
Eighth week:	Policy option evaluation using benefit-cost analysis Idem	– Discussion: Steps in conducting a Benefit Cost Analysis as a method to evaluate public policy options – Discussion: Financial and Economic analysis – the difference between economic and financial prices and consideration of non-market effects – Exercise: Calculation of economic prices for tradable and non-tradable input/products
Ninth week:	Policy option evaluation using Multicriteria analysis Steps in conducting a Multicriteria analysis: determining decision making context; option	– Exercise: Non-market valuation – contingent valuation, hedonic prices and value of statistical life, etc. – Discussion: Steps in

	identification; objectives and criteria identification; describing expected performance of each policy option by each criterion; weighting/ranking criteria; calculation of a summary results for each policy option; Results examination and developing an sensitivity analysis.	conduction a multi-criteria analysis – Discussion: Organization value tree and switching from it to organization objectives and criteria in a multi-criteria analysis setting
Tenth week:	Policy option evaluation using "Expert Choice" Steps in conducting a option evaluation exercise using Expert Choice; objectives and criteria and policy options in Expert Choice. Evaluation procedures: ranking the objectives/criteria using their comparison in pairs; policy option comparison in pairs by each objective/criterion. Synthesizing option evaluation after alternatives have been ranked by each objective/criteria. Sensitivity analysis. Integrating Expert Choice analysis into policy analysis.	– Discussion: objectives and criteria in a multi-criteria analysis setting – Discussion: Policy option development and criteria and option evaluation
Eleventh week:	Policy monitoring Policy monitoring. Monitoring indicators: input, output, outcome and impact indicators. Important monitoring concepts: efficiency, effectiveness, impact and relevance. Use of monitoring results: demand and supply for monitoring. Monitoring indicators of Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union.	– Discussion: Steps for installing and using "expert choice" – Practice: expert-choice installation – Practice in using "expert choice" software
Twelfth week:	Policy monitoring Idem	– Practice in using "expert choice" for policy options evaluation – Course project
Thirteenth week:	Advices on course proejct presentation The lecture focuses on advices related to project course presentation	– Presenting course project
Fourteenth week:	Policy evaluation Definition of policy evaluation. Evaluation: intervention logic and evaluation questions. Research design for policy evaluation: change analysis, contribution analysis, attribution analysis and meta-analysis. Evaluation tools. Evaluation of EU projects: Evaluation process, evaluations tasks, and evaluation questions	– Presenting course project
Fifteenth week:	Introduction to module content and evaluation policies Short summary of module content, learning	– Presenting course project

	outcomes (knowledge, understanding and skills). Students' obligation and evaluation policies	

Academic policies and rules of conduct:

- Students should be aware of and respect the institution and Code of ethics.
- Students should respect the schedule of lectures, and exercises and be attentive.
- It is mandatory to possess and presents a student ID card in the mid-terms and exam,
- During the compilation of course projects, students must adhere to the instructions given by the professor.
- During the exam is forbidden the use of mobile phones.