



STUDY PROGRAMME

ECO-EPPA + POL-EPPA

ACADEMIC YEAR

2023-2024

SEMESTER

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COURSE TITLE

PUBLIC ECONOMICS AND PROGRAM EVALUATION

COURSE PROFESSOR

Prof. Dr. Jean Michel JOSSELIN

COURSE ASSISTANT

SHANAWAR RANA

NATURE OF COURSE (COMPULSORY, OPTIONAL)

COMPULSORY

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

ENGLISH

ECTS CREDITS

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1. COURSE OBJECTIVE

Public economics theory is about the efficient and welfare-enhancing provision of various types of collective goods, from the local to the supranational scale. In practice, public good provision goes through public policies that involve practical implementation, programs and often equipment and facilities. The specificities of public goods usually prevent competitive market pricing from optimally allocating resources. Nevertheless, non-competitive mechanisms for resource allocation can be welfare-improving, providing that public interventions are properly evaluated. Hence the need for program evaluation.

This course links theoretical insights in public good provision to the appraisal of investment projects. It provides a self-contained introduction to the main methods required for conducting evaluations of public programs, which are advocated by the World Bank, the European Union, the OECD, as well as many governments.

2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

ECO-EPPA students will acquire:

- a) An understanding of public goods provision in a multi-level government setting,
- b) An understanding of the design of non-market evaluation of resource allocation,
- c) The skills to select appropriate evaluation methods; to read, analyse, and critically assess an evaluation.

The learning outcomes for this course are in line with the following learning outcomes for the European Economic Studies programme, with a specialisation in European Public Policy Analysis:

- Use economic theory to assess current problems and policies,
- Describe, explain, and illustrate the usefulness and limitations of economic theory applied to economic conditions and problems in Europe.



POL-EPPA students will acquire:

- a) An understanding of the economic rationale for private-public allocation of scarce resources in a multi-level government context,
- b) An understanding of the need to evaluate public policies and programs,
- c) The skills to select appropriate evaluation methods; to read, and analyse an evaluation.

The learning outcomes for this course are in line with the following learning outcome for the European Political and Governance Studies program, with a specialization in European Public Policy Analysis:

- Students can flexibly apply theories and analytical frameworks from different disciplinary perspectives to the main issues of EU politics and policies.

3. COURSE CONTENTS (Indicative)

- a) Public good provision in a multi-level government context
- b) From public goods to public policies: The rationale for program evaluation
- c) Methods of evaluation: how to choose the appropriate one
- d) Doing evaluation: case-studies (e.g., transport and environment, health technology assessment, security, etc.)

4. TEACHING METHOD(S)

Lectures with class participation, numerical exercises, collective discussion of real-life case-studies.

5. COURSE MATERIAL

Public economics:

Jean HINDRIKS and Gareth MYLES (2013) Intermediate Public economics. The MIT Press

Jean Michel JOSSELIN and Alain MARCIANO (2004) Federalism and subsidiarity, in national and international contexts, in *Jurgen G. BACKHAUS and Richard WAGNER*, The Handbook of Public Finance. Kluwer

Program evaluation:

Maurice BASLE, Jean Michel JOSSELIN and Benoît LE MAUX (2019) Les évaluations des politiques publiques : guide pratique et citoyen. Ellipses

Jean Michel JOSSELIN and Benoît LE MAUX (2017) Statistical Tools for Program Evaluation. Methods and Applications to Economic Policy, Public Health, and Education. Springer

European Commission (2013) The resource for the evaluation of Socio-Economic Development.

European Commission (2014) Guide to Cost-Benefit Analysis of Investment Projects.

European Commission (2015) Guidance document on monitoring and evaluation.

Occasional teaching and technical notes will be made available before or after class on the course website.

6. EVALUATION

The evaluation will be based on a closed-book written exam, three hours in length, which will take place during the November - December first examination session. The closed-book exam will consist of essay-type questions and numerical exercises. The second session examinations will also consist in a closed-book written exam.