UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Evaluation of Public Policies

2425-1-F6302N053

Learning objectives

In different contexts of work and education students may be asked to examine, understand, describe and evaluate the impact of public interventions and identify best practices for policy design. Several qualitative and quantitative methods are usually adopted to provide policy makers and stackeholders with consistent information on policy outcomes and the course aims at making participants able to understand and use such methods.

This course is part of a broader training path (96 hours) organized in two separate courses. The first **Policy Analysis** (48 hours, 6 CFU) aims at introducing students to policy analysis and to the critical analysis of the implementation of public policies, while the second, **Policy Evaluation** (48 hours, 6 CFU), is devoted to quantitative approaches to policy evaluations (experimental and quasi-experimental techniques). Thus, the whole path integrates qualitative and quantitative methods to analyse and evaluate projects and programs and explores both theoretical and empirical issues by alternating formal lectures, case studies discussions and training sessions.

The training path is included among the elective courses and it is offered to all students interested in acquiring a specific competence in all aspects related to policy evaluation. Although not compulsory, participation in all three courses is recommended.

At the end of the course student will be able to carry out autonomous evaluation research and practice by discussing projects and using common software packages.

Contents

The course introduces students to the main tools of counterfactual evaluation used to study the impact of public policy. Both quantitative (experimental and quasi-experimental).

At the end of the course students will also learn how to effectively communicate the quantitative results of a policy

evaluation.

The application of the main evaluation tools to some regional policies (welfare, transport, education and environment) will also be presented.

Detailed program

Evaluating the effects of public policies.

Counterfactual evaluation: experimental methods.

Randomized Controlled Trials: design and examples.

Counterfactual evaluation: quasi-experimental methods (Instrumental variables, differences-in-differences and *Regression Discontinuity Design*).

Case studies: counterfactual policy evaluation in Lombardy and the EU.

How to communicate policy quantitative evaluation

Prerequisites

Attendance of the whole educational path (two courses) is strongly recommended, though not compulsory.

Teaching methods

Face to face lessons (24 hours) that will cover the theory of impact evaluation, and intercatvie activities (24 hours) such as case discussion, training and interactive sessions with selected guest speakers.

Assessment methods

Online test made of open questions, take-home assignments and group project-works.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

They are indicated in class.

Semester

Second Semester

Teaching language

Italian

Sustainable Development Goals

NO POVERTY | QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY | DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH