UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Public Policy Analysis

2526-1-F6303M035

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.
The Dublin Descriptors implied are mainly DdD 1 (Knowledge and Ability to Understand), DdD 2 (Applied Knowledge and Ability to Understand), and DdD 5 (Learning skills). Through attending the course, students learn the method of public policy analysis and evaluation and can put it into practice in exercises concerning some specific policies. Moreover, by having the opportunity to contact subjects from regional institutions directly, students can develop critical judgment skills (DdD3) about the decision-making processes that characterize public policies today. The exercises then include moments devoted to public policy evaluation communication techniques and in-class group work presentations that complement the student's communication skills (DdD4). Finally, by teaching students the interpretation of public decision-making, those who attend the course are able to analyze all the elements of the social context that are influenced by a public decision and can learn the influence that politics has on society.

Contents

The course starts with the definition of public policy and the discussion of the basic concepts and the logic underlying the approach of policy evaluation as a tool to improve the design and make more effective the implementation of public policies.

The legal and institutional frameworks at different levels of governance are also analysed, together with issues related to the design, implementation, and communication of evaluation programs.

The discussion of some regional cases in different fields (welfare, transport, education and environment) completes the course.

Detailed program

- Basic concepts: what a pulic policy is - the life cycle of public policies - the main institutional and policy actors.
- the logic of public evaluation
- Policy evaluation in Lombardy region: the legal framework
- Policy evaluation in Europe
- The access to information: issues of privacy and transparency
- How to design project evaluation: data collection
- How to communicate policy evaluation
- Accountability of public policies
- Policy evaluation in Lombardy: case studies from welfare, transport, agriculture, envrironment, education and local development policies.

Prerequisites

none.

Teaching methods

Face to face lessons, discussion of case studies, training and interactive sessions with selected guest speakers. Face to face lesson cover about 70% of total classes, while the remaining 30% is devoted to active learning activities, e.g. discussion of case studies, and training and ineractive sessions with selected spakers. Up to 30% of the whole classes might be delivered remotely.

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

Assessment methods

Continuous assessment through training and interactive sessions
online test made of multiple choice questions and at least one open question.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

During the lessons, materials and slides will be constantly provided.
Useful texts could be:

· di Carpegna Brivio E. (2021), Rappresentanza nazionale e valutazione delle politiche pubbliche, G. Giappichelli Editore, capp. 1-3.

· Martini A., Sisti M. (2009), Valutare il successo delle politiche pubbliche, Il Mulino, capp- 1-5.

· Regonini G. (2012), Scienze del pubblico e istituzioni, in Rivista Italiana di Politiche Pubbliche, n. 1/2012, pp. 5-32, doi: 10.1483/36733

· Regonini G. (2012), Parlamenti analitici, in Rivista Italiana di Politiche Pubbliche, n. 1/2012, pp. 33-88, doi: 10.1483/36734

· Regonini G. (2001), Capire le politiche pubbliche, Il Mulino, Parte I: Vedere le Politiche Pubbliche.

Semester

first semester.

Teaching language

italian

Sustainable Development Goals