UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Networks, Local Community and Social Innovation

2627-2-F8804N013

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding: to provide concepts, methods of analysis and examples relating to polycentric development and forms of social, entrepreneurial and housing innovation affecting inland and mountainous areas, at Italian and European level.
Ability to apply knowledge and understanding: in addition to the analysis of the literature and the presentation of some key concepts, some examples and territorial cases (social enterprises, residential training schools, artistic residences, forms of co-living and co-working, etc.) will be discussed and analysed - where possible, also through visits and field activities, in order to understand the dynamics addressed by the course and the place-sensitive forms of intervention put in place by the actors involved, with particular attention to the spatial-territorial dimension and to the policy field in which the practices analysed are placed (e.g. with respect to the implementation of the NRP-National Resilience and Recovery Plan).
Autonomy of judgment: the students will improve their capability of critical and independent judgment by proposing a critical reading of texts; by analyzing collectively good practices and by preparing autonomously research reports and papers
Communicative ability: the students will improve their communicative capability by orally presenting and discussing, by carrying out research projects in small group, and by writing research reports
Ability to learn: the students will be supported in their learning process by critical reading of texts, by reflexively discussing together upon good practices and the research material collected

Contents

The course intends to provide students with the theoretical and methodological tools to understand, analyse and intervene, with a participative approach, in inland and mountainous areas, with respect to the topic of social innovation and the activation of local and trans-local (metro-rural and metro-mountain) networks supporting sustainable and inclusive territorial development.
The students will therefore be confronted with a number of theoretical concepts, such as "social networks", "place-sensitive social innovation", "territorial cohesion", "place-based local development", "marginal areas", "peripheries",

"metro-mountain", etc., and then apply them to the study and detailed analysis, oriented towards the search for practicable solutions, of a number of concrete cases.

Detailed program

The course is structured in three parts.
The first part is dedicated to the presentation and discussion of the basic concepts outlined above, through face-to-face lessons - where reference will also be made to recent research and data bases on the topics dealt with - and exercises in small groups, aimed at facilitating the understanding of the theoretical elements through peer-to-peer comparison among participants.
In the second part, a number of case studies on networks and social innovation in inland, mountain, remote and marginalised areas, at Italian and European level, will be introduced and presented in detail, where possible including interventions and classroom testimonies by subjects directly involved in the cases analysed.
Lastly, in the third part, the students will be accompanied by the lecturer in group work, leading to a collective paper, aimed at considering a specific case study in greater depth, in order to propose concrete intervention and optimisation measures, also through possible field visits, within the framework of sector policies.

Prerequisites

Attendance at the course does not require any previous skills but will benefit from knowledge already assimilated in the field of sociology, particularly with regard to spatial-territorial issues.

Teaching methods

The course is structured in three parts.
The first part (concepts and research tools, 12 h.) is dedicated to the presentation and discussion of the basic concepts outlined above, through face-to-face lessons (4x90min)- critical reading of texts (4x60min) - and plenary discussion (4x30min), aimed at facilitating the understanding of the theoretical elements through peer-to-peer comparison among participants.
In the second part (research practices and case studies, 12 h.), a number of case studies on networks and social innovation in inland, mountain, remote and marginalised areas, at Italian and European level, will be introduced and presented in detail , where possible including interventions and classroom testimonies by subjects directly involved in the cases analysed (4x90min).
Lastly, in the third part (workshop and research work, 25 h.), the students will be accompanied by the lecturer in group work, leading to a collective paper, aimed at considering a specific case study in greater depth, in order to propose concrete intervention and optimisation measures, also through field visits (13h., 2 days), within the framework of sector policies.

Frontal lessons: 25%
Interactive lessons: 75%

Assessment methods

For students who participated in working groups, the assessment will be based on the evaluation of the collective paper produced by the participants and on an additional oral test on their project and assigned readings.
For students who did not participate in working groups, the examination will consist of an oral test on the texts indicated by the lecturer: for clarification about the syllabus and readings students should contact the lecturer by e-mail in the months before the exam.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

The reading materials are provided at the beginning of the course

Sustainable Development Goals

LIFE BELOW WATER | LIFE ON LAND