

## COURSE OUTLINE: Local government and local public policies

### 1. Overview

<b>FACULTY</b>	School of Management		
<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	Department of Business and Public Administration - MSc "Public Administration-Local Government"		
<b>LEVEL OF STUDY</b>	Postgraduate - Master		
<b>COURSE CODE</b>	DEO5122	SEMESTER	A'
<b>COURSE TITLE</b>	Local government and local public policies 7.5 ECTS credits		
<b>TEACHING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>TEACHING HOURS PER WEEK</b>	<b>CREDITS</b>	
Lectures	2	3	
Practical exercises / Simulations- Assignments	1	3	
<b>COURSE TYPE</b>	Skills development		
<b>PREREQUISITE COURSES:</b>	No		
<b>LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION AND EXAMINATIONS:</b>	Greek		
<b>THE COURSE IS OFFERED TO ERASMUS STUDENTS</b>	no		
<b>COURSE PAGE (URL)</b>	<a href="http://ddta.uop.gr/index.php">http://ddta.uop.gr/index.php</a>		

### 2 LEARNING OUTCOMES

<b>Learning Outcomes</b>
<p>Greek law sets forth, by way of example, the areas of public policy within the scope of local government, specifically: Development, Environment, Employment, Social Protection and Solidarity, Culture-Sports-Education, Quality of Life and the Proper Functioning of Cities and Settlements, Civil Protection. Local government structures are organized in such a way as to fulfill the objectives of these public policies, taking into account Greek legislation as well as the guidelines of the relevant European Union bodies.</p> <p>The aim of the course is to understand local public policies, drawing on established theoretical frameworks from the fields of Political Science and Economics and applying them to the practical and empirical functioning of public administration and the implementation of public policy.</p> <p>Emphasis is also placed on the fact that local government is a fundamental participatory institution and, as such, citizens potentially participate in the formulation of relevant public policies.</p> <p>Understanding the formulation of local government policies and decisions regarding their implementation will assist students in their work within local government agencies and structures, as well as in public administration, so that their work benefits society.</p>

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

**Knowledge:**

- Define the concept of public policy and distinguish between the different levels of public intervention.
- List the main models of public policy analysis (linear and nonlinear).
- Describe the stages of the public policy cycle (planning, consultation, implementation, evaluation).
- Identify decision-making theories and the differences between linear and non-linear models.
- Apply the above at the subnational level (regional and local)

**Understanding & Application:**

Students will understand:

- the concept of public policies at the local level
- how public policies are organized and designed
- the implementation of policies in terms of effectiveness and efficiency for the benefit of citizens
- the content of public policies that are the focus of local government activities
- the impact of the supranational level (EU) on the implementation of public policies
- Explain the structural characteristics and challenges of public policy implementation in Greece.

**Analysis & Synthesis:**

- Critically analyze a local public policy in terms of its effectiveness, legitimacy, and impact.
- Evaluate alternative decision-making approaches and select the optimal one for a given context.
- Plan the steps for developing a local policy in a specific field of socioeconomic activity.

**Generic abilities**

- Searching for, analyzing, and synthesizing data and information
- Adapting to new situations
- Decision-making
- Teamwork
- Working in an international environment
- Project planning and management
- Critical and self-critical thinking
- Promotion of free, creative, and inductive thinking

The course is organized into five sections that focus on the definition of public policy, the presentation of basic theoretical models for the formulation and implementation of public policy, specific examples of public policy at the national level, and corresponding applications at the subnational level in the Greek case.

#### **SECTION A**

- Definitions
- The different levels of intervention
- Classification of public policies according to Lowi. Categorization of public goods.
- Public Policy: Content, Process, Method
- Tools for implementing public policy
- Actors in the public policy process

#### **SECTION B**

- Linear Models of Analysis
- The public policy cycle
- Analysis of the formation of the policy agenda
- Policy Design/Formulation
- Decision-Making Theories
- Implementation of Public Policies
- Monitoring and Evaluation of Public Policies

#### **SECTION C**

- Non-linear Approaches: Subjects and Meanings.
- Integration of linear and nonlinear models.
- Evidence-based policymaking.
- Public dialogue, consultation, and negotiation.

#### **SECTION D**

- Multilevel governance (theory and practical application in Greece)
- Case study (policies for knowledge and innovation & Smart Specialization Strategy)
- Introduction to the Functioning of Local Government
- Sectoral Local Policies (Part A)

#### **SECTION E**

- Sectoral Local Policies (Part B)
- Weaknesses in the division of responsibilities between the national and subnational level in Greece
- Contemporary Challenges

## **4 TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS – ASSESSMENT**

<p><b>TEACHING METHODS</b></p>	<p>Teaching is carried out with modern distance learning methods through the university digital education platform uop e-class. Where the methods of both asynchronous and synchronous distance learning are utilized In particular, it includes:</p> <p>Lectures, and discussion with postgraduate students with synchronous distance learning (75% of the ECTS credits of the course)</p> <p>Case Studies and simulation exercises for practical application of methodologies taught using asynchronous distance learning (25% of ECTS credits of the course).</p>													
<p><b>USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES</b></p>	<p>The overall learning process is carried out through the e-class platform, while synchronous teaching is carried out using the Teams platform. All kinds of educational material (notes, manuals, bibliography, articles, etc.) are posted on the course website and in the e-class multimedia and are constantly available to students.</p>													
<p><b>COURSE STRUCTURE</b></p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="638 1093 979 1128">Activity</th> <th data-bbox="979 1093 1315 1128">Semester Workload</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="638 1128 979 1164">Lectures</td> <td data-bbox="979 1128 1315 1164">83</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="638 1164 979 1568">           Practicing and exercises that focus on           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the application of methodologies and tools and               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the analysis and presentation of simulations and case studies in individual exercises</li> </ul> </li> </ol> </td> <td data-bbox="979 1164 1315 1568">56</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="638 1568 979 1603">Individual Projects</td> <td data-bbox="979 1568 1315 1603">56</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="638 1603 979 1639">Individual study</td> <td data-bbox="979 1603 1315 1639">30</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="638 1639 979 1729">Total Course (30-35 hours of workload per credit)</td> <td data-bbox="979 1639 1315 1729">225</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Activity	Semester Workload	Lectures	83	Practicing and exercises that focus on <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the application of methodologies and tools and               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the analysis and presentation of simulations and case studies in individual exercises</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	56	Individual Projects	56	Individual study	30	Total Course (30-35 hours of workload per credit)	225
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<p><b>STUDENT EVALUATION</b></p>	<p>The final grade of the course is composed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The active participation of students in the lectures of the course, weighted 10%.</li> <li>• From the intermediate exercises/tasks of asynchronous training weighted 20%.</li> <li>• From the final research project in field applications (45%)</li> </ul>													

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From its public presentation weighted 25%.</li> </ul> <p>The thesis is initially prepared in Greek, but there is also the possibility of preparation in English or French in case of foreign language students.</p> <p>The evaluation of the final dissertation has formative dimensions because there is a continuous discussion both individually and, in the class, involving the students and the instructor but also because its final submission is made after its oral presentation that permits improvement through the incorporation of comments made during the presentation.</p> <p>In the final score of the work, the following parameters are taken into account:</p> <p>a) The methodological and scientific completeness of the research and development of the topic, the adequate substantiation of the positions expressed, and the appropriate use of bibliographic references.</p> <p>b) Originality and creativity: development and conclusions.</p> <p>c) The satisfactory structure and organization of the material, arguments, and conclusions.</p> <p>(d) Correct wording and linguistic clarity and precision with the correct use of scientific terms, satisfactory syntax, and spelling.</p> <p>-Communication during the preparation with students is done by phone at specified times and hours, via email and through the e-class platform.</p> <p>- At the end of each semester, an evaluation of both the course and the instructor is carried out, based on the applicable provisions and procedures established by the University of Athens under the supervision of the Quality Assurance Unit.</p>
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## 5 SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bardach, E. &amp; Patashnik, E.M. (2024). A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis: The Eightfold Path to More Effective Problem Solving (7th ed.). SAGE Publications.</li> <li>2. Knill, C. &amp; Tosun, J. (2024). Public Policy: A New Introduction (2nd ed.). Bloomsbury Publishing.</li> <li>3. Kraft, M.E. &amp; Furlong, S.R. (2024). Public Policy: Politics, Analysis, and Alternatives (8th ed.). CQ Press.</li> <li>4. Martin, K., Lee, K.E., Jr. &amp; Hall, J.P. (2021). Public Policy: Origins, Practice and Analysis. University of North Georgia Press</li> </ol>
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5. Galanos, G. et al. (2023). Roadmap for a Structural Administrative Reform of Local Government in Greece. Athens: Dianosis
6. Ladi, S. (2015). Citizen Participation in Public Policy: From Theory to Practice. *Science and Society: Journal of Political and Ethical Theory*, 24, 79–98. <https://doi.org/10.12681/sas.904>