

Projects and Public Policies Engineering

Option: Territorial Development and Projects

Organized by

Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Montpellier

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Aims

The recent evolutions of the rural world have indeed favoured the emergence of numerous institutions of rural and local development which implement programmes and operations aiming at the development and planning of rural territories. Actually, these structures look for highly qualified persons with expertise in rural development.

As a matter of fact, decentralization resulting in new assignments to local governments have generated growing training needs in order to help decision-making in the field of agriculture and the management of rural zones. New structures of local governance have appeared, they elaborate and implement participative projects of rural development, therefore they look for the most pertinent available competencies. Civil society, recognized as a major partner for the rural zones development is now both an actor of decision-making and a project operator. And decentralized decisions on rural development are now more and more articulated to the Common agricultural policy of the European Union. All these institutional innovations and trends require a strong knowledge of the various actors of rural development and of their specific assignments. They create a need for more available competencies and expertise which are to be both specialized and operational.

Objectives

This course aims at :

- providing training in the field of rural development engineering ; it is available for current or future project managers or engineers in charge of development programmes, for those responsible for local development or in charge of studies within local government structures, and broadly all kind of organizations and institutions concerned with agricultural and rural development.
- At teaching to economists and engineers the common language needed for team work.

To reach these goals, the education programmes includes both the use of theoretical and practical tools as well as the acquisition of professional experience (individual and collective training), allowing trainees to be in contact with local actors and field realities, so as to be immediately operational at the end of the course. More exactly, this course permits to acquire:

- Knowledge : analysis of the socio-economic functioning of a rural zone development process;
- Know-hows :
 - o how to make a territory diagnosis, lead surveys, elaborate development programmes and operations, constitute files, carry out the economic and financial evaluation of a rural development operation;
 - o how to behave in multi-disciplinary working teams, how to act as interface between the technical and socio-economic aspects.

Part 1

Postgraduate specialisation programme

The programme is organized in 9 units (60 ECTS)

Prerequisites September '09

- Upgrade in economics and management (microeconomics, accounting, financial analysis and statistics)
- Upgrade in computer use (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Internet)
- Introduction to documentary research

Unit I
1-9 Oct. '09

ECONOMICS FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (3 ECTS)

Content:

Acquisition of the main tools allowing the analysis of a rural development process:

- Definition of the rural space,
- Spatial approach to development (per zone, territorial and regional development),
- Internal and external functioning of a production unit (reproduction Plan),
- Introduction to rural development problematics,
- Courses and collective reflection based on case studies.

Learning outcomes:

- *to gain the knowledge of the main implements to analyse:*
 - *a rural development process*
 - *the relation between rural and global development*
- *to be able to identify the new paradigms on which to rely when initiating a rural development process.*

Evaluation procedure:

Classroom examination

PREDIAGNOSIS AND DATA ANALYSIS (2 ECTS)

Content:

- This course shows the methods used for a quick diagnosis applied to a rural zone,
- Introduction to data analysis.

Learning outcomes:

- *to be able to identify the resource people of a given territory and to carry out interviews,*
- *to be able to carry out a pre-diagnosis,*
- *to be able to identify a development problematic from the analysis of existing information, to master data analysis.*

Evaluation procedure:

Collective reports and classroom examination

Unit III

26 October to
20 November '09

DIAGNOSIS ANALYSIS OF A RURAL ZONE (6 ECTS)

Content:

This course deals with the diagnosis analysis of a rural area: how to analyse the area's functioning; how to highlight the local advantages and constraints and subsequently identify the elements allowing to elaborate a development strategy.

It introduces to the methodology for diagnoses and to the methods for carrying out surveys.

It includes real-life scenarios and applications through the diagnosis analysis of a Mediterranean rural area (in France):

- elaboration of a Questionnaire based on the problematics of the case studied,
- on-the-field training: socio-economic survey carried out among the actors and producers of the area studied,
- introduction to the use of the STATBOX software followed by the correction, capture and processing of the data obtained during the survey (group work),
- results analysis and interpretation,
- writing the thematic reports and oral rendering to the actors of the area of the results of the study.

Learning outcomes:

- *to carry out a diagnosis analysis of a rural territory through a field survey and the application of rural development theoretical and methodological implements,*
- *to work out a survey adapted to a given problematic,*
- *to analyse data and to explain the results obtained,*
- *to analyse precisely the socio-economical functioning of a rural area and to emphasize the elements (problems, assets, evolution prospects) enabling the elaboration of a local development strategy,*
- *to make a restitution of the results obtained from the analysis, in a synthetic way, using the communication tools provided by the actors involved in the given territory.*

Evaluation procedure:

Written report and oral presentation.

Unit IV

23 November to
18 December '09

MARKETS, POLICIES AND NEGOTIATIONS (6 ECTS)

Content:

The objective is to provide basic knowledge and capacity for critical analysis regarding the three aspects of political economy concerning the agricultural issue *stricto sensu*. This course includes lectures, case analyses, group work and a simulation game on an agricultural negotiation. Courses serving as a link between the three sections ensure the problematic continuity of these three fundamental parts of public policies.

This course is thus structured around three parts.

1) The 1st part deals with “markets”

Based on the case analysis of two large markets of agricultural produce (wheat, fruit and vegetables), the course develops the main analytical problems concerning the analysis and regulation of international markets: competition and competitiveness, segmentation, protection, oligopoly and oligopsony effects.

2) The second part deals with “policies”

Based on a thorough analysis of the common agricultural policy and European mechanisms concerning rural development, this part also takes as counterpoint an agricultural policy in a Mediterranean third country. Special attention is paid to environmental questions and their incidence on public choices in rural, agricultural and food concerns.

3) The third part deals with “negotiations”

Based on the analysis of WTO and its different bodies functioning, this part proposes a simulation game on negotiation around the constitution of positions about particular ‘Dossiers’ elaborated during group work.

Learning outcomes:

- *to master the basic knowledge (concepts and methods) of the various themes that have been studied,*
- *to be initiated to the international political economy.*

Evaluation procedure:

Classroom examination and ‘Dossiers’ elaborated during group work.

Unit V
4-15 Jan. ‘10

**DEVELOPMENT AND DURABILITY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN
(3 ECTS)**

Content :

- Critical analysis of the “sustainable development” concept, of its origins and its various definitions and dimensions.
- Presentation of the “patrimonial management” method : introduction to the theoretical basis and application through role-playings.
- Analysis of the specificity of the sustainable development concept application in the framework of territorial development.

Learning outcomes :

- *to gain the knowledge of the various application methods and indicators of sustainability,*
- *to master the analysis methods of patrimony management and to be able to apply it within particular contexts,*
- *to be able to integrate the environmental specificities and constraints of a territory within a rural development process.*

Evaluation procedure:

Classroom examination

Unit VI
18-29 Jan. '10

METHODOLOGY AND PROJECTS ELABORATION (3 ECTS)

Content :

- Acquisition of the diagnosis analysis methods in the view of elaborating a strategy and rural development projects.
- Acquisition of the necessary implements for a project elaboration and initiation to the "logical framework" and to the participative methods.
- Application through a collective elaboration of a development project and through case studies.

Learning outcomes:

- *to use and to implement the methods for a project elaboration recognized by the most important international backers: problems tree, logical framework, etc.*
- *to use and to implement the participative approach and to be able to integrate it within the elaboration of a project,*
- *to be able to use the diagnosis analysis of a rural area for the elaboration of rural development project.*

Evaluation procedure:

Written report and oral presentation

Unit VII
1-26 Feb. '10

FINANCIAL EVALUATION OF A RURAL DEVELOPMENT OPERATION (6 ECTS)

Content:

This course allows:

- the acquisition of the various concepts and methods of financial evaluation for a development operation (profitability, taking into account inflation and risks, financing mechanisms...);
- the use of these methods through data processing: introduction to the EVALPRO software;
- Computer-based applications.

Learning outcomes:

- *to master the methods of financial evaluation of a rural development process,*
- *to apply these methods using computer programmes,*
- *to be able to analyse the financial situation of a project.*

Evaluation procedure:

Classroom examination

Unit VIII
23 January to
19 February '10

ECONOMIC EVALUATION METHODOLOGY 1: prerequisites for evaluation in general and detailed evaluation (2 ECTS)

Content :

- acquisition of the necessary concepts and methods for economic evaluation: costs-benefits analysis, development methods, effects methods.

Learning outcomes :

• *to be able to use the adapted evaluation method regarding the context and the nature of a project.*

Evaluation procedure :

Classroom examination

Unit VIII
1-26 March '10

ECONOMIC EVALUATION METHODOLOGY 2: evaluation of policies and regional multipliers (4 ECTS)

Content :

- Learning of the detailed evaluation concepts and methods to evaluate economic policies, to measure the impact on tourist projects, to evaluate the level of social usefulness of OESS (*Organisations pour l'Économie Sociale et Solidaire – Organisations for social and faire economy*).

- Application of the evaluation methods to two or three local development projects identified in the area of the diagnosis.

Learning outcomes :

• *to implement the economical analysis of a territorial development process or project,*

• *to be able to use the adapted evaluation method regarding the context and the nature of a project,*

• *to be able to explain the results of an evaluation to the involved actors and to provide them reflection orientations for the future of the project.*

Evaluation procedure :

Classroom examination

Unit IX

PREPARATION OF THE TECHNICAL DOSSIER AND OF THE PROPOSAL FOR THE INDIVIDUAL TRAINING PERIOD IN A FIRM (25 ECTS)

Written technical dossier on a subject connected with the professional training period proposed (theoretical work).

Written proposal for the professional training period presenting: the *Training Order*, the area to be studied, the context, the methodology, the work schedule. This written proposal is to be defended before an examining board consisting of IAMM teachers.

ACADEMIC STAFF

During the first part of the programme, instruction is given by prestigious visiting lecturers from different countries, coming from higher education institutions, private companies, research centres, international organizations and administration bodies.

The international character of the program is also strengthened by the origin of attendants who come mostly from CIHEAM Mediterranean member countries but also from other parts of the world.

Part 2

The Master of Science thesis

Professional training period in a firm, thesis and its defence (60 ECTS)

This includes :

- Written technical 'Dossier' (10 ECTS);
- Defence of a thesis before a jury of teachers-researchers and professionals (50 ECTS).

INDICATIVE MASTER THESES ALREADY ACHIEVED IN “TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROJECTS”

1. **Title** : Diagnosis analysis of the implementation of community rural development projects in the area of the Ain Romana community (2008)
Author : BELAISSAOUI Scherahzed (Algerian)
Place of Realization : Direction the department of agricultural services of Blida, Algeria
Thesis director : Omar BESSAOUD

2. **Title** : Study of the possibilities of activation of a SYAL (SYstèmes Agro-alimentaires Localisés, Localised Agri-foof Systems) and its impacts on the rural development of the Mixteque region (Mexico) (2007)
Author : COTO SAURAS Maria (Spanish)
Place of Realization : CIRAD, France
Thesis director : Tahani ABDELHAKIM

3. **Title** : Analysis of supply and demand of support services provided to the rural organisations of the area of Huetar Norte, Costa Rica (2008)
Author : GURUCETA AIZPURUA Oihane (Spanish)
Place of Realization : CIRAD, France.
Thesis director : Pierre CAMPAGNE

4. **Title** : Diagnosis of local products in the area of Permet (Albania) (2008) **Author** : KOKTHI Elena (Albanian)
Thesis director : Hélène ILBERT

5. **Title** : Transformation and future of the rural sector in Romania (2008)
Author : SCHERRIER Marie (French)
Place of Realization : University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Cluj-Napoca, Romania
Thesis director : Pierre CAMPAGNE

Detailed additional information is available at
http://www.iamm.fr/enseignement/master_of_science

