

**Babes-Bolyai University**  
**Faculty of Political Sciences, Public Administration and Communication**  
**Department of Public Administration**

### 1. General information about the course

Program: Public Administration  
Course title: Local Economic Development  
Course code: UME2325  
ECTS (number of credits): 6  
Year and Semester: 2<sup>nd</sup> year, 1<sup>st</sup> semester

### 2. General information about the instructor

Instructor's name: Bogdan Andrei Moldovan  
Contact information: moldovan@fspac.ro  
Office hours: Tuesday 11-13, room 106 (FSPAC 2 building)

### 3. Course description

#### a. Course description:

This course develops the discussion on various issues pertaining to local economic development, and on decision-making support tools related to local governments' action in this area. A specific focus is on local governments' strategies, mainly on the economic component of the local development plans and on decision-making tools like cost-benefit analysis. The course is tackling the connection between theory and practice in the economic development of communities using practical analysis.

#### b. Course objectives:

Understanding the concepts of local economic development and applying specific decision-making support tools in shaping local economic development strategies.

The course discusses the main theories and most important concepts of local economic development, aiming at facilitating their understanding and continues with shaping the practical skills to make use of the analytical tools related to local economic development planning process.

#### c. Skills acquired by students:

Detailed knowledge on strategic local economic development planning. Use of specific tools: methods for assessing the economic performance of communities (LQ, SSA), multi-criteria analysis, cost-benefit analysis.

### 4. Bibliography

- Blakely, J. Edward and Bradshaw, K. Ted, „Planning local economic development”, 3rd edition, 2002, Sage Publications Inc., London, UK
- Blakely, J. Edward and Green Leigh, Nancy, „Planning local economic development”, 2010, Sage Publications Inc., London, UK
- Boardman, Greenberg, Vining, and Weimer. Cost-Benefit Analysis: Concepts and Practice,(4th Edition), NJ: Prentice Hall, 2011

- Andy Pike, Andrés Rodríguez-Pose, John Tomaney - Local and Regional Development- Routledge (2016)
- Moldovan, B., Lazar, D. Pavel, A. – Local Economic Development, Triton, 2013

*\* Specific readings will be uploaded on the course Moodle page before classes*

## 5. Schedule of course activities:

### Main topics covered

1. Introduction in LED, basics of Economics review
2. Decision-making in firms (cost variables)
3. Taxation policy in Romania (income, profit and activity)
4. Concepts and theories of local economic development I
5. Concepts and theories of local economic development II  
\*1<sup>st</sup> Interim evaluation – LED theories applied
6. LED planning process I– phases of planning, approaches, and roles  
\* Assessment of a strategic plan / development strategy of a community
7. LED planning process II - stakeholder analysis
8. Local economy assessment – How to use data; Tools for measuring economic performance 1 (LQ)
9. Local economy assessment - Tools for measuring economic performance 2 (SSA)
10. Decision-making tools: CBA and Multi Criteria Analysis  
\*2<sup>nd</sup> Interim evaluation – local economy assessment / profile
11. CBA - conceptual foundations of Cost-Benefit Analysis
12. CBA - valuing benefits and costs in primary and secondary markets
13. CBA - discounting benefits and costs in future time periods, net present value, internal rate of return
14. Preparing a LED detailed plan + Recap

## 6. Evaluation

20% 1<sup>st</sup> interim evaluation – LED theories applied (presentation / submission date to be announced in class)

20% 2<sup>nd</sup> interim evaluation – Local economy assessment / profile (presentation / submission date to be announced in class)

30% - group work paper - LED Strategy for a specific community (county level) – students will have to devise a local economic development strategic plan for a community, with an emphasis on the analysis of the local economy.

30% - individual – Cost Benefit analysis of a LED project

Attendance: min 70% of classes.

## 7. Optional bibliography

- Bellinger, W.K., The Economic Analysis of Public Policy, Routledge, 2007
- Blair, P. John, „Local economic development: analysis and practice”, 1995 Sage Publications Inc., London, UK
- Blair, P. John, Carrol, Michael, C. „Local economic development. Analysis, practices and globalization”, 2009 Sage Publications Inc., London, UK
- Boardman, A., Greenberg, D., Vining, A. & Weimer, D., Cost-Benefit Analysis: Concepts and Practice (4<sup>th</sup> ed.), Prentice Hall, 2011.
- Forman, M., Mooney, J., ‘Learning to lead - A Primer on Economic Development Strategies’, Washington State Community, Trade and Economic Development, Kendall Hunt Pub. Co., 1999
- Fosler, R. Scott, „Local economic development”, 1991, ICMA ed., Washington DC, USA
- Lyons, T. S., & Hamlin, R. E., “Creating an economic development action plan: A guide for development professionals”, Greenwood Publishing Group, 2001.
- Porter, D. – „The practice of sustainable development”, 2000, ULI ed., Washington DC, USA
- Stimson, R. J., Stough, R. R., Roberts, B. H., Regional Economic Development: Analysis and Planning Strategy, Revised Edition., Berlin: Springer, 2006.