

Academic Year/course: 2021/22

67513 - Public decisions: e-participation and managing knowledge

Syllabus Information

Academic Year: 2021/22

Subject: 67513 - Decisiones Públicas: e-participación y gestión del conocimiento

Faculty / School: 109 - Facultad de Economía y Empresa

Degree: 523 - Master's in Sociology of Public and Social Policy

ECTS: 4.0

Year: 1

Semester: First semester

Subject Type: Optional

Module:

1. General information

1.1. Aims of the course

The subject and its expected results respond to the following approaches and objectives:

The general objective of the subject is to provide scientific rigor to the decision-making process followed in public decision-making. The combination of tangible and intangible aspects, the consideration of multiple scenarios, actors and criteria and a cognitive orientation of the decision processes are some of the characteristics of the decisional paradigm followed in the course. The cognitive orientation given to matter, always from a holistic and evolutionary perspective, is in line with the new requirements and needs of what is known as the Knowledge Society.

The interdependencies between the actors involved in solving the problem and the emotional and intangible aspects associated with the key factor of the Knowledge Society, the human factor, are some of the issues addressed in the matter. The creation, diffusion and management of knowledge and the cognitive orientation given to the exploitation of the mathematical model considered are some of the aspects that characterize the meaning given to the subject.

These approaches and aims are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 agenda, contributing to some extent to their achievement.

1.2. Context and importance of this course in the degree

The subject addresses a key aspect of the human being, which gives an idea of their degree of development and freedom: decision making. The contents and the way of proceeding of the material will be applied later in most of the subjects of the master. The design of public policies and the evaluation of the management of the administration in terms of public decision-making will be some of the contents that abode in the course.

1.3. Recommendations to take this course

The subject is eminently practical. It does not require rote effort or previous knowledge, except the basic ones provided in any career of social sciences. The development of the course is participative and the contents are adapted to the existing demands (always within the flexibility that allow the contemplated contents). The first two sessions have a provocative character, challenging the methods commonly used to justify the need for new approaches in the scientific resolution of the complex problems that arise in the public decision making regarding the government of society. The following two sessions focus on the presentation of different techniques for Statistical Analysis of Decisions and Multicriteria Analysis of Decisions. The rest of the course focuses on the applications of these tools and the development of individual and collective work.

Faculty:

José María Moreno Jiménez (responsible)

Alfredo Altuzarra Casas

Alberto Turón Lanuza

2. Learning goals

2.1. Competences

By passing the subject, the student will be more competent to ...

- Address the resolution of the complex problems that arise in the field of public decisions regarding the governance of society.
- Identify the relevant aspects and those that are not in the scientific problem resolution.
- Establish which are the controllable and non-controllable variables of the problem.
- Construct a mathematical model that represents the problem under study.
- Solve mathematical models using different analytical and simulation tools.
- Validate and implement mathematical models.
- Know how to exploit the mathematical model (incorporation of uncertainty) to extract patterns of behavior and decision opportunities that serve in the subsequent negotiation processes between the actors involved in solving the problem.
- Appreciate the differences between data, information and knowledge, including the management of the latter.

2.2. Learning goals

The student, to pass this subject, must demonstrate the following results ...

- The student should know what are the fundamentals of scientific decision-making. Specifically, the concepts of problems, processes, people and decision-making paradigms.
- The student should know the different stages considered in the modeling processes of public decisions, including the construction of mental, structural, formal and resolution models.
- The student should know different analytical tools (normative and descriptive) used in scientific decision making, and in the evaluation of public systems. In particular, some deterministic (optimization) and stochastic models (under uncertainty and risk) for decision making, and some proposals to evaluate the efficiency, effectiveness and effectiveness of the systems.
- The student should know different decision techniques with multiple actors and criteria. These techniques, in combination with ICTs, will apply them in public decisions regarding the governance of society (e-government and citizen participation).
- The student should understand the meaning of knowledge management in public administrations.

2.3. Importance of learning goals

- They affect a key aspect in the formation of the citizen: decision making.
- It presents a new attitude (cognitive) to the resolution of complex problems that arise.
- They have an unquestionable practical application.
- They allow the combination of politicians and citizens in public decision-making.
- The cognitive orientation followed allows a continuous improvement and continuous training of the actors involved in solving the problem.

3. Assessment (1st and 2nd call)

3.1. Assessment tasks (description of tasks, marking system and assessment criteria)

The student must demonstrate that he / she has achieved the expected learning outcomes through the following assessment activities

A global assessment test will be conducted at the end of the course, which will include theoretical-practical issues of the contents seen throughout the course. To pass the test requires a minimum of 5 points out of 10.

In order to facilitate the evaluation of the subject, it will be allowed to eliminate the contents in the individual and group tests that will be carried out during the course, according to the following structure and assessment:

- Individual Works (maximum three), with a maximum rating of 40% of the final grade. These individual works will reflect a reflection on some of the decisional topics raised in class and the application of the tools seen in class.
- A group work (up to 60% of the grade) in which all the analytical and computer tools seen throughout the course are applied in a case study as real as possible.

Finally, volunteer work on topics related to the subject will be allowed. These works can get to raise the final qualification a maximum of 10%.

These tests/works are expected to be carried out in person but if the health circumstances require it, they will be carried out semi-on-site or online. In the case of online assessment, it is important to note that, in any test, the student may be recorded, and he or she may exercise his or her rights by the procedure indicated in:

https://protecciondatos.unizar.es/sites/protecciondatos.unizar.es/files/users/lopd/gdocencia_reducida.pdf

4. Methodology, learning tasks, syllabus and resources

4.1. Methodological overview

The methodology follows the approaches of the paradigm of the multicriteria procedural rationality. The stages contemplated in it respond, basically, to the stages of the scientific method used in the scientific decision-making.

4.2. Learning tasks

The course includes the following learning tasks:

- Autonomous work (48 hours)
- Theory and practice sessions (27 hours): Attendance is compulsory.
- Practical cases, software and applications (10 hours): Attendance 80%.
- Assignment (5 hours): Attendance is compulsory. It consists on the presentation, discussion and defense of a work.
- Group tutorials (10 hours)

In principle, the teaching delivery methodology is expected to pivot around face-to-face classes. However, if necessary, for health reasons, face-to-face classes may be taught semi-face-to-face or online.

The necessary software will be used to check the originality of the activities carried out. The detection of plagiarism or copying in an activity will imply the rating of 0 points in it.

4.3. Syllabus

The course will address the following topics:

Topic 1: Foundations of Public Decision Making

- 1.1 Presentation (objectives, syllabus and assessment)
- 1.2 Decision Making Problems, Processes and Models
- 1.3 Paradigms of rationality
- 1.4 Case Studies

Topic 2: Analytics and Informatics Decisional Tools

- 2.1 Deterministic models
- 2.2 Stochastic models
- 2.3 Statistical Decision Analysis
- 2.4 Multicriteria Decision Analysis
- 2.5 Decisional Tools (Analytics)

Topic 3: Electronic Government. Electronic Participation

- 3.1 Introduction
- 3.2 Knowledge Society
- 3.3 e-Government and e-Citizen Participation
- 3.4 e-Administration and e-Governance
- 3.5 e-Democracy and e-Cognocracy

Topic 4: e-Participation Experiences

- 4.1 Introduction
- 4.2 Participatory Budgets
- 4.3 Location of Services
- 4.4 Design of Public Policies
- 4.5 Real Case Study

Topic 5: Public Knowledge management

- 5.1 Introduction
- 5.2 From Data to Knowledge
- 5.3 Knowledge Management Platforms
- 5.4 Social Networks. Basic Concepts
- 5.5 Social Network Analysis. Representativeness and metrics

4.4. Course planning and calendar

Calendar of face-to-face sessions:

- Session 1: Presentation and Programming. Ftos. Of Decision Making
- Session 2: Public Decisions. Tools-I
- Session 3: Public Decisions. Tools-II
- Session 4: E-participation. Electronic Government

- Session 5: E-participation. Experiences
- Session 6: Knowledge Management

Presentation of works:

- Individual presentations: at the end of Sessions 3 and 5.
- Group presentations: at the end of Session 6.
- Optional presentations: before the end of Session 6.

The subject will be taught during the first semester, starting in December, in sessions of 5 hours. in the afternoon.

The activities and key dates for the evaluation of the subject will be presented to the students in the first session of the course. Further information concerning the timetable, classroom, office hours, assessment dates and other details regarding this course, will be provided on the first day of class or please refer to the Moodle website (<https://moodle.unizar.es>);