

Syllabus

Course description

Course title	Non-profits and Cooperatives
Course code	27614
Scientific sector	SECS-P/08
Degree	Master in Public Policy and Innovative Governance (LM-63)
Semester and academic year	a.y. 2025/2026 Semester: TBD
Year	2
Credits	6
Modular	No

Total lecturing hours	36
Total lab hours	6
Total exercise hours	
Attendance	Attendance is recommended but not mandatory.
Prerequisites	None required.
Course page	Course Offering - enrolled from 2024 / Free University of Bozen-Bolzano (unibz.it)

Specific educational objectives	<p>The course refers to the complementary educational activities chosen by the student and belongs to the scientific area of Business Administration (SECS-P/08).</p> <p>This course provides a detailed examination of the economic and management theories relevant to non-profit organizations and cooperatives. It equips students with the knowledge to tackle governance and management challenges through case studies spanning various public policy fields. The curriculum emphasizes the importance of inclusivity, equality, and equity, preparing students to implement these principles across non-profit, cooperative, and even private sectors. Additionally, the course enhances analytical, problem-solving, and independent learning skills, while also developing communication, management, and leadership abilities through group presentations, discussions, and writing tasks. These competencies prepare students for advanced roles in research, management, and policy-making.</p>
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Lecturer	TBD
Scientific sector of the lecturer	TBD
Teaching language	English

Office hours	18, please refer to the lecturer's web page and see timetabling
Lecturing assistant	
Teaching assistant	
Office hours	
List of topics covered	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Definitions and characteristics of non-profits and cooperatives and their roles in economy and society; 2. Theoretical foundations of the non-profit and cooperative sector; 3. Governance and leadership principles and practices of non-profits and cooperatives in a multi-level policy environment; 4. Non-profit and cooperative management challenges and opportunities in selected policy fields and places.
Teaching format	Frontal lectures with classroom discussions, student group projects and presentations.

Learning outcomes	<p>Knowledge and understanding Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of key principles related to management and governance of non-profit and cooperative organizations. They will also demonstrate understanding of the importance and contribution of these types of organizations for sustainable socio-economic development.</p> <p>Applying knowledge and understanding Upon completion of the course, students will have the ability to navigate different stakeholder relationships and promote values linked to participation, inclusivity, equality and equity within non-profit and cooperative organizational contexts.</p> <p>Making judgments Students will be able to critically judge the governance and management of organizations in non-profit and cooperative sectors and also examine alternative management and governance approaches within given multi-level policy environments.</p> <p>Communication skills Students will be able to clearly communicate scientific knowledge and derived recommendations related to the non-profit and cooperative governance as well as critical management aspects in non-profit and cooperative sectors to different types of audiences, such as professional colleagues or policy makers.</p> <p>Learning skills Students will have learning skills to independently plan and conduct governance and management analyses on the</p>
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	<p>non-profit and cooperative sector and autonomously establish links between relevant topics in this knowledge area.</p>
<p>Assessment</p>	<p>For attending students:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Individual written exam (60%): consists of open and closed questions based on the lectures and related literature. Group case analysis and presentation (40%): case studies with questions will be assigned to small groups of students. Groups will present their case analysis to the class at designated times during the course lectures and will have to deliver their presentation slides beforehand. <p>For Non-attending Students:</p> <p>They must contact the lecturer within the first four weeks of the course. Non-attending students are graded based on the individual written exam (70%) and an individual case analysis (30%) which has to be submitted as a written report.</p>
<p>Assesment language</p>	<p>English</p>
<p>Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks</p>	<p>Individual written exam: clarity of answers, ability to evaluate and summarize, and establish relationships between topics.</p> <p>Group case presentation: quality and clarity of problem identification and analysis, ability to apply theoretical concepts during the analysis and to summarize in own words, participation in teamwork.</p> <p>Individual case report: quality and clarity of problem identification and analysis, ability to apply theoretical concepts during the analysis and to summarize in own words.</p>
<p>Required readings</p>	<p>Selected chapters in:</p> <p>Gemma Donnelly-Cox, G. et al. (eds) (2021) Research Handbook on Nonprofit Governance, Edward Elgar.</p> <p>Novković, S. et al. (eds) (2023) Humanistic Governance in Democratic Organizations. Palgrave Macmillan.</p> <p>Lecture slides will be made available through the Teams channel of the course.</p>
<p>Supplementary readings</p>	<p>Further supplementary reading material will be published in the Teams channel of the course.</p>