Course Title

**Governance and Institutional Development**

Rome 2024

Course Overview

The course (21 hours) will focus on the impact of governance and institution building on development, in a perspective incorporating public planning theory and concepts such as informal institutions and sustainability. It will provide an overview about the conceptual underpinnings for governance and institutional development policies and planning practice. Using case studies, participants will discuss the practical implications of theoretical debates.

Prerequisite(s)

There are no pre-requisites for this course.

Course Aim

The course will address the topic of governance and institutions-driven development on the basis of a multidisciplinary framework, emphasizing planning theory, and underlining the spatial dimension of development, the role of formal vs informal institutions, and critical perspectives on institutionalism.

Course Objectives

On completion of this course students should:

-Understand the concept of governance/institutional development

-Learn the contemporary traditions of public planning theory and understand their practical implications

-Learn the debate on the role of social resources in fostering (sustainable) development

Course Assignment

The course assignment (not more than 6 pages, in essay form) aims at evaluating the participants’ understanding about the main issues raised during the course. The assignment has to be submitted at the very latest by May 31.

Key Readings

Friedmann, J. (1987). *Planning in the Public Domain*. Princeton University Press.

Hadjimichalis, C. (2006). Non-Economic Factors in Economic Geography and in ‘New Regionalism’: A Sympathetic Critique. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 30.3: 690-704.

Lang, T., Burneika, D., Noorkõiv, R., Plüschke-Altof, B., Pociūtė-Sereikienė, G., Sechi, G. (2022). Socio-Spatial Polarisation and Policy Response: Perspectives For Regional Development In The Baltic States. *European Urban and Regional Studies*, 29(1) :21-44. doi:10.1177/09697764211023553.

North, D. (1990). *Institutions, Institutional Change and Economic Performance*. Cambridge University Press.

SWYNGEDOUW, E. (2016). Civil Society, Governmentality and The Contradictions Of Governance-Beyond-The-State: The Janus-Face Of Social Innovation. In: Mac Callum, D., Moulaert, F., Hillier, J. & Vicari Haddock, S. (eds) *Social Innovation and Territorial Development*. Routledge: London & New York, p. 63-78.

Course Schedule

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|  | **April 15** | **April 16** | **April 17** | **April 18** | **April 19** | **April 22** | **April 23** |
| **10-11h** | *Introduction: institutional economics and planning theory* | *Social and institutional factors in growth and development ((I)* | *Social and institutional factors in growth and development (II)* | *Public planning and development: the debate on decision making in planning theory* | *Institutions and development: critical perspectives* | *Institutions and development in the post-transition region* | *Course summary and introduction of the final assignment* |
| **11-12h** |
| **12-13h** |

Course Instructor

Guido Sechi is a researcher at the Department of Human Geography of the University of Latvia. He has a PhD in Urban and Territorial Planning from the Technical University of Bari (2011). His main research interests are in the domain of urban and regional studies, with a focus on socio-spatial (in)justice and neoliberal policies in the context of post-socialist transition. He has worked as a consultant for urban and regional development projects. He also works on cultural projects focused on Soviet/socialist urban planning heritage and its afterlives.