

# Public policies

ECTS: 7

Number of hours: 42

## Abstract

This course provides an introduction to the economic analysis of public policies. The course focuses attention on the role of government and the key policy issues related to the spending, taxing and regulatory activities of government are explored. Special emphasis is given to public procurement, education and welfare policies.

The course will offer an international perspective based on official sources (Eurostat, Oecd) as well as on the analysis of specific case studies.

## Learning Goals

This course aims at making students aware of the main dimensions of the public sector and of the relevant policy dilemmas arising in this field, in close connection with the political and economic debate. By the end of the course the students should be also able to understand the implications of different policy designs in crucial areas such as education, health and public procurement.

## Course contents

- Equity, efficiency and the role of the state (12 hours)
  - Market failure
  - Public choice
  - Government tools (public expenditure, tax-expenditure and regulation)
- Public Procurement (10 hours)
- Education policy (10 hours)
- Welfare policies (10 hours)

## Course materials and references

Slides will be provided during the lectures.

This course is not based only on the study of a textbook but also relies on various sources on up-to-date policy issues.

The course readings include only few basic selected chapters of a textbook (either Rosen, H. S., *Public Finance*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition, McGraw Hill or Stiglitz J.E., *Economics of the Public Sector*, Norton, New York, 2000) and further readings -journal articles and official documents- which will be suggested at the beginning of the course.

## Examination

The final examination is an assignment consisting in two short essays.