

<b>University:</b> Comenius University in Bratislava	
<b>Faculty:</b> Faculty of Natural Sciences UK in Bratislava	
<b>Code:</b>	<b>Title of course:</b> Geography, Public Policy and Urban Development
<b>Form of Study:</b> lectures+seminars	
<b>Number of contact hours:</b> <b>per week:</b> 3 (2 lecture hours + 1 seminar hours) <b>per level/semester:</b> 39	
<b>Method of Study:</b> face-to-face/distance/hybrid mode	
<b>Number of credits:</b> 4	
<b>Semester:</b> S	
<b>Degree/Level:</b> Master	
<b>Prerequisites:</b> -	
<b>Grading (Assessment/Evaluation)</b> 1. seminars (20% weight on the overall evaluation): elaboration of semestral work and its presentation; 2. written exam (80% weight on the overall assessment): test (open questions). The course has a standardized grading system which is identified below: A (91-100%): Outstanding, excellent work (exceptional performance with strong evidence of original thinking and obvious capacity to analyze, synthesize and evaluate); B (81 – 90%): Good, competent work; laudable performance with evidence of some original thinking, good problem solving ability, exhibiting a serious, responsible engagement with the course content; C (73 – 80%): Adequate, reasonably satisfactory work; fair performance but infrequent evidence of original thinking or the capacity to analyze, satisfies the minimum requirements of the course; D (66 – 72%): Less acceptable work; relatively weak performance with little evidence of original thinking or ability to analyze or synthesize course material; E (60 – 65%): Minimally acceptable work; very weak performance with little evidence of original thinking, showing an inadequate grasp of some basic elements of the course. Fx (under 60%): Inadequate work; poor performance that indicates a lack of understanding or misunderstanding of essential subject matter.	
<b>Objectives and outcomes:</b> The course synthesizes knowledge of the geography of public policy, administrative analysis, governance, new public management, urban development, etc. We focus on spatial aspects of public policies and primarily urban development issues. The student became familiar with theoretical frameworks, principles, tools, problems, actors, and selected case model solutions. More attention is paid to fundamental issues of urban development, property market and housing policies. The subject develops experience with specific forms of analysis, the student receives preparation for alternative solutions to various categories of problems in the context of public policy, the provision of public services and the development of the territory.	
<b>Brief outline of the course:</b> Geography and public policy - Geography and public policy; levels of public policy; the public policy cycle; the main public policy instruments (economic, financial, information, legislative, administrative); public policy clusters; types of documents in public policy; the problem of implementation, citizen participation; Current concepts and trends in the geography of public policy – governance, institutionalism, new public management – basic features and criticism of concepts (e.g. local governance, multilevel governance); Administrative analysis in public policy – basic characteristics, public good and public authority; basic forms of provision of public services; administrative analysis; rule-making, analysis of their performance, partial issues e.g. consumer sovereignty, self-control, cross-sanctions,	

Bureaucracy, technocracy, adhocracy, leadership - bureaucracy - typical and modern features; technocracy – meaning, a relationship of expertise and politics; professional and political nominations in the public sector; the role of the scientific sphere in public policy; adhocracy – emergence, boom, basic forms; the role of leaders in public policy - typologies;

Negotiation and legal influence in public policy - the theory of negotiation/strategies, types of negotiators, collective bargaining, interest and pressure groups; lobbying as a legal influence – objective, development, principles, lobbyists, lobbying in the EU;

Information policy, transparency, ethics and corruption - information and transparency in public policy; corruption, sources of corruption, types and examples, clientelism and conflicts of interest; the harmfulness of corruption and the consequences; prevention and fight against corruption, examples of corruption in urban development – critical issues;

Spatial aspects of public policies and the provision of public services - models of public service provision; market vs. state and space in the provision of public services; supplier selection; public-private partnership; regulation, monitoring of implementation; selected sectoral policies spatial impacts;

Current concepts of urban development – development, ideological background, principles, economic, social and political context and impacts of selected concepts – e.g. shrinking cities, smart cities, low carbon cities, financialization, urban regions, urban resilience; follow-up strategies and policies; the projection of these concepts into practice in urban development;

Housing stock, housing and real estate market – housing, housing stock and housing policy; real estate substance, sub-markets, specifics of ownership, market actors; the functions of the real estate market, the geographical breakdown of the market, supply and demand; state interventions in the real estate, housing policies – overview of concepts and tools, practices, social housing;

Investment, developers and property management in urban development - basic categories of investments, investing as a decision-making process, investors behaviour, public sector investments; developer - goals, risks, main tasks, a choice between investment alternatives, approaches to project evaluation; financial aspects; property management, property life cycle, property administration,

Conflict and cooperation in urban development – interests in space and their clash, typical areas – new vs. old physical structures, planning, cultural heritage, public spaces, location conflicts (localization of services and facilities); the framework for conflict regulation in Slovakia,

Seminars - analysis of selected public policy and urban documents (e.g. transport, industrial, environmental, research and innovation, employment, social, foreign and European, migration, national reform programmes), in form of semestral work, its presentation, discussion and evaluation.

**Recommended literature:**

- Balchin, P., Rhoden, M. 2019. Housing Policy: An Introduction. Routledge.
- Baldwin, R. et al. 2003. Economic geography and public policy. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Bitonti, A., Harris, P. 2017. Lobbying in Europe. Public Affairs and the Lobbying Industry in 28 EU Countries. London: Palgrave.
- Buček, J. 2017. Why and When Countries Implement Local Public Administration Reforms: A Long-Term View of Reform Dynamics in Slovakia, 1990–2015. In: Silva, C. N., Buček, J. eds. Local Government and Urban Governance in Europe (pp. 33-70). Cham: Springer
- Fisher, R., Ury, W., Patton, B. 1991. Getting to Yes: Negotiating Agreement without Giving In. Houghton Mifflin.
- Hood, C. 1986. Administrative analysis. New York: Harvester Wheatsheaf.
- Malíková L., Jacko, T a kol. 2013. New Public Management a Slovensko. Bratislava: Univerzita Komenského.

Miles, M. E., Berens, G., Wiess, M. A. 2000. Real Estate Development. Washington: Urban Land Institute.

Mossberger, K., Clarke, S. E., John, P. (eds.). (2012). The Oxford handbook of urban politics. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Pallagst, K., Wiechmann, T., Martinez-Fernandez, C. eds. 2014. Shrinking cities: international perspectives and policy implications. London: Routledge.

Pierre, J. 2011. The Politics of Urban Governance. New York: Palgrave.

Voss, C., Raz, T. 2016. Never Split the Difference: Negotiating As If Your Life Depended On It. Harper Business.

Weimer, D. L., Vining, A. R. 2010. Policy Analysis: Concepts and Practice. Upper Saddle River: Pearson.

Wollmann, H., Kopric, I. Marcou, G. 2016. Public and Social Services in Europe. London: Palgrave.

**Language of instruction:**

English/Slovak

**Additional information:** The course will be conducted in face-to-face or distance (or hybrid) mode according to current conditions.

**Course evaluation**

**Total number of students evaluated:**

A	B	C	D	E	FX
a	b	c	d	e	f

**Lecturers/Instructors:** prof. RNDr. Ján Buček, CSc., RNDr. Martin Plešivčák, PhD.

**Last updated:** 21. apríla 2023

**Approved by:** prof. RNDr. Ján Buček, CSc.