Seminar on   
Policy Analysis and Planning

**Overview**

The National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR), along with certain regulatory steps approved by the Italian government, has established privileged channels for recruiting PhD holders, especially in STEM disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), into public administrations. Prestigious institutes like SVIMEZ have underscored a critical shortage of highly skilled technical staff in these administrations, a gap that jeopardizes the feasibility of both current and future national recovery projects under the PNRR.

The demand for STEM PhDs, engaged on multi-year contracts to manage and report on PNRR projects, is particularly high.

Recruited PhDs will undertake significant roles in shaping and implementing public interventions and public policies within their respective entities. However, these roles demand an understanding of public administration structures and operations, as well as expertise in key concepts and methodologies for the design, execution, and analysis of public interventions.

**Challenges and Need for Additional Training**

The current technical knowledge imparted by universities, except for notable institutions like the Polytechnic University of Milan and Turin, falls short in public policy design and implementation, where political decision-makers and various stakeholders play crucial roles. This complexity exceeds the bounds of standard technical design. STEM PhDs, typically accustomed to technical-scientific rationality, find the logic and dynamics of public policy implementation markedly different.

**Seminar Proposal**

To address these gaps, a specialized seminar on the analysis and design of public interventions is proposed, primarily targeting STEM PhD students but open to others interested. The seminar aims to equip attendees with essential skills for effective engagement in public entities or in cooperation with them, and to contribute to the accurate design of policies and public interventions.

**Seminar Structure**

The seminar is divided into three parts:

1. Introduction to Public Administrations:
   * Structure, tasks, and main activities of public administrations.
   * Detailed understanding of public interventions and policies, including tools and involved actors.
2. Methodologies and Case Studies:
   * Methodologies for policy problem analysis and public intervention design.
   * Examples in network analysis, stakeholder analysis, and system dynamics.
   * Real case studies and experiences, possibly featuring testimonies from local administrators and technicians.
3. Artificial Intelligence in Public Sector:
   * Exploring the role of AI in reorganizing public administrations.
   * Opportunities for enhancing and modernizing public services.

**Logistics and Requirements**

* The seminar will primarily be held in-person, with the possibility of online sessions if required.
* Scheduled from April 3, 2024, to April 30, 2024.
* Participants seeking credit or required attendance must complete a final written assessment.

**Instructor**

Dr. Roberto Di Quirico, RTI of Political Science at the Department of Mechanical, Chemical and Materials Engineering, and former lecturer of Policy Analysis at the Faculty of Political Science of the University of Cagliari, will lead the seminar.

**Seminar Contents**

The key focus areas include:

1. Nature of public administrations.
2. Understanding public policies.
3. Various types of public policies.
4. The interplay between state, market, and public policies.
5. Key policy actors and tools.
6. The process of formulating public policy.
7. Examining the policy cycle.
8. Insights into the decision-making process.
9. Roles of various policy actors.
10. Stages in public policy design.
11. Diverse design approaches.
12. Tools for policy design.
13. Case studies and practical experiences.
14. Fundamentals of Artificial Intelligence.
15. AI's potential in public services.

**Registration**

Interested participants should register by emailing

[diquirico@unica.it](mailto:diquirico@unica.it)

by March 15, 2024, with the subject “registration seminar 2024”. A confirmation email with further instructions will follow within three days of registration.

**Syllabus**

All lessons will be organised in Aula Didattica DIMCM, Blocco L Cittadella Universitaria di Monserrato

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Day** | **Lesson** | **Time** | **Hours** |
| 3 April | Introduction to the course | 9-12 am | 3 |
| 5 April | Describing public administrations | 9-12 am | 3 |
| 8 April | Some definitions of public policies | 9-12 am | 3 |
| 9 April | The classification of public policies | 9-12 am | 3 |
| 10 April | State, market, and public policies | 9-12 am | 3 |
| 15 April | Policy actors and policy tools | 9-12 am | 3 |
| 16 April | The process of public policy planning | 9-12 am | 3 |
| 17 April | Examining the policy cycle | 9-12 am | 3 |
| 22 April | Insights into the decision-making process | 9-12 am | 3 |
| 23 April | Case studies and practical experiences | 9-12 am | 3 |
| 24 April | Methods for public policy design | 9-12 am | 3 |
| 26 April | Fundamentals of Artificial Intelligence | 9-12 am | 3 |
| 29 April | AI's potential for public services | 9-13 am | 4 |
|  |  |  | Tot 40 |

Participation is mandatory for at least 75% of lessons.