

Policy Strategies and Implementation for Water Governance and other Sustainability Issues

Lecturers :

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Course description:

- Course objectives

The purpose of this course is to teach the characteristics of sustainable development as a policy challenge, the various policy strategies for water governance and other sustainability issues, analysis of the governance context and its implications for the implementation these strategies, including monitoring and evaluation and the tuning to the existing political, economic and social frameworks across developed and developing countries.

- Subject

Analysis of the challenges of present situations as a policy problem and a context for implementing projects and policy strategies for water governance and other sustainable development issues in these contexts. Subjects include both water system and water chain (sanitation) issues.

- Content / topics

The topics dealt with in this course are:

- sustainable development as a special challenge to public policy processes, including dealing with uncertainty and citizens (consumers) as target groups and the analysis of the policy domain,
- the characteristics of and experiences with regulatory, market based and negotiated (water, environmental and energy) policy strategies and projects, and the analysis of their implementation processes
- the analysis of (water) governance structures in the context of the situation in various countries, including stakeholder participation

- Course learning objectives

The primary learning objective of this course is that graduates get knowledge of and insight in the relevant key concepts and theories of policy studies and law and can describe and categorise relevant policy instruments, describe the legal basis of common policy instruments used in environmental and energy management and are able to assess their usefulness and feasibility in various contexts. This is applied in this course predominantly on matters of water governance, both in the water system and the water chain management.

Course materials:

In this course readers with additional separate articles are used as course material. Except for some illustrative articles, these papers are – often peer reviewed – scientific articles and book-chapters that cover the subject area.

Instructional working methods:

In this course several lecture days are involved. The first ones focus on the theoretical part and the remaining ones include both concepts and exercises. Apart from class lectures by the teachers, also guided discussions on selected issues and cases play a role here. Three assignments provide ample room to exercise with the course contents and to learn to apply it (see also under assessment).

Assessment:

The course is assessed on the basis of one assignment with three sub-questions. There will also be an in-class group assignment. The mark will be the average of the three sub assignment and the group assignment.

Relationships with other courses:

The course focuses to a large extent on policy strategies towards water governance, thus relating to the water specialization track and to the Environment and Technology, including water Technology course. But next to this also strategies towards industrial sectors and firms, interaction between firms and government is a key element and this complements the courses on environmental management and management that focus more specifically on the firm level. Furthermore the course builds upon basic knowledge acquired by) the students in the course Environmental Law. The course takes into account the role of the knowledge infrastructure, and the availability of technical options and expertise, thus gain building upon contents from the course Environment and Technology, including Water Technology.

Relation of course with final attainment targets:

• Primary relationship

- Graduates have knowledge of and insight in the relevant key concepts and theories of policy studies and law and can describe and categorise relevant policy instruments, describe the legal basis of common policy instruments used in environmental and energy management and are able to assess their usefulness and feasibility in various contexts. (1)

• Secondary relationship

- Graduates understand the concept of sustainable development and the relationships between resource utilization, production processes, societal processes and environmental pressure and are able to apply combinations of concepts and theories in environmental, energy or water management to the situation in the home country or other specific real life situations. (5)
- Graduates are able to integrate knowledge from various disciplines and to understand interrelationships in sustainable development processes, and are capable of formulating an action programme, policy, project or recommendations for environmental, energy or water management issues in their context based on this integrated knowledge. (6)
- Graduates are able to independently access relevant scientific literature to obtain additional knowledge and apply this to the problem at hand. (8)
- Graduates are able to give a structured written and oral presentation in English about individual or team work. They also adhere to existing academic traditions, such as providing proper credits and references. (12)

• Tertiary relationship

- Graduates are able and willing to recognise the ethical aspects related to their activities. (11)