

MASTER European Innovations for a Sustainable Management of Albanian
Territories, Rural Areas and Agriculture: Instruments, policies, strategies

Module description V.2

D3.3

Module 1

Institutions and actors in Territory

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1. *Description of the module - objectives and procedures*

1.1. OBJECTIVES OF THE MODULE

The new territorial reform and the new development agenda in the EU integration framework require new social organisation architectures. The existing and the new ones need a deeper analysis from the academia and professional viewpoint. From a theoretical viewpoint, the module entitled "Institutions And Actors In Territory"(IAT) has twofold objectives in general. Firstly will give the students a background related to the role played by the actors and its importance in the Territory and economic development. Secondly, this module will offer the students instruments and tools to advance analyses of actors and institutions dealing with territory development using qualitative and quantitative methods and approaches.

1.2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

Successful completion of this module should enable students to:

- Deeply understand the institutions' framework and defining the role of the actors in different territory development approaches applied in developing and developed countries
- Critically assess the role of actors and institutions in sustainable development and its application in Albania and other developed and developing countries
- Understand the Institutional Analysis Development Framework and apply it in different institutional settings
- Advanced understanding of the impact of institutions on economic performance, critically assess the indicators and use them in real applications
- Advanced understanding of the role of social capital in territory development and assess indicators linked to it in Albania and other territories
- Apply different approaches in actor analysis such as cohesive and network approaches in local development policies, innovation in rural and urban areas and environment protection

1.3. DESCRIPTION OF THE MODULE

In this module, the students will find information on the following issues (a short explanation for each topic that is going to be discussed):

First part: Territory development and the role of actors and institutions

Chapter 1: Territory development and the role of actors

Chapter 2: Sustainable development and the role of institutions and actors

Chapter 3: Governing the commons and the role of the collective action

Chapter 4: Actors identification and analysis

Second part: Institution and territory development

Chapter 5: Introduction to institutions

Chapter 6: Institutions, economic theory and economic performance

Chapter 7: Analysis of the institutions (IAD)

Third part: Social capital and territory development

Chapter 8: Conceptual foundation of social capital

Chapter 9: Forms of social capital

Chapter 10: Social capital and territory development

Chapter 11: Measurement of social capital through cohesive approaches (Case study Gjirokastra cheese)

Chapter 12: Social network analysis

Chapter 13: Measurement of social capital through SNA an application to local development policies (Case study)

Chapter 14: Measurement of social capital through SNA an application to innovation in rural areas (Case study)

Chapter 15: Application of SNA to environment protection

1.4. PREREQUISITES

The prerequisites that are required to follow the module.

1.5. STUDENTS OBLIGATIONS AND THE EVALUATION METHOD

The student will be evaluated for the work he/she has provided during the whole semester and from a final exam as it is explained on the table below:

Nb.	<i>(the evaluation grid is only indicative, the pair of lecturers will decide of the final module evaluation grid)</i>	Evaluation in %	Maximal amount
1	Participation to teaching hours	%	10
2	Mid-term exams	%	30
3	Individual research work	%	20
4	Final exam (written)	%	40

1.6. REQUESTS TO THE STUDENT

A. Theoretical skills

B. Practical skills

1.7. EVALUATION OF LEARNING *(calculation of ECTS)*

Nb.	Learning elements	Work (hours)
I	<i>Learning elements (in the institution)</i>	
	Theoretical class	
	Practical class	
	Individual/ team research project	
	Midterm exams	
	Total I	75
II	<i>Individual work from the student</i>	
1	Individual work	70
2	Preparation for the exams	5
	Total II	75
	Total (I+II)	150/250
	Numbers of ECTS	6/10

2. Calendar of the module

Date	Theoretical/ practical class	Teaching materials/ literature
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3. Content of the module

The IAT module is structured in three main parts: the first part is a general introduction to all the Smart-al module compendium, focusing on the institutions and the actors in the Territory. It is composed of four chapters. Chapter one will analyse the concept of territory development, how it has evolved, is conceived and defined by different perspectives: geography, economic anthropology, etcetera. The emphasis of this chapter will be the evolution of the territory development concept from the institutional actor's perspective. At the end of the first part, the students will be able to understand how the concept of Territory has evolved, the approaches of territory development, the role of the actors in the sustainable development in governing the commons and finally, how to identify and analyse the different stakeholder taking place in the development processes. Students will be able to understand the difference between local development and territory development. In the second part of the module, we will present the concept of the institutions, the difference with the organisation, their role in territory development. Specific importance will be conferred to the role of institutions in development, innovation, entrepreneurship, trust and social capital development, economic development, etcetera. In the third part, students will be acknowledged with the concept of social capital and its effect on territory development. Cohesive approaches and network approaches will be introduced and case study analysis.

Topic 1 - Territory Development and the role of actors in this process

The first topic will focus on the concept of Territory and its evolution; the students will be able to distinguish between territorial development and local development from the stakeholder's viewpoint and their participation in the process. The student will be introduced to Integrated Rural Development Programmes, Sustainable Livelihoods approach, Community Based Natural Resources and in the francophone tradition Gestion de Terroir, Rural Territorial Development and Local Economic Development, Leader programme of EU and the FAO methodology of participatory and Negotiated Territorial Development Methodology. The analysis of the conceptual development of territorial approaches will be undertaken from the actors and institutional perspective.

Topic 2 - Sustainable development and the role of institutions and actors

Students will be introduced to sustainability and the importance of institutions in Territory sustainable development in the second topic. *Students will be acquainted with sustainable development objectives applied to a given territory. The issues connected with widely understood institutions are nowadays one of the most discussed problems in the social sciences. Especially the role of institutions in creating economic performance and economic development in the context of sustainable development is crucial. In this chapter, the students will acknowledge the role of institutions in sustainable development.*

Topic 3- Governing the commons and the role of the collective action

In the third topic, students will acknowledge the concept of the tragedy of the commons and the role of cooperation among stakeholders. Theoretical concepts such as the tragedy of the commons, the prisoner's dilemma and the logic of collective actions will be introduced to understand and explain how communities of individuals approach different ways of governing the commons.

Topic 4- Actors identification and analysis

In the fourth topic, students will learn the process of stakeholder inventory and analysis according to stakeholders attributes in the Territory. During practical course hours, students will be able to analyse the potential projects and stakeholders in the old and new territorial Albanian administration. This chapter makes the transition in the second part of the module. Within different territory approaches, it is imperative to make clear to the students the meaning of social capital in economic development and consequently in the development of the Territory. The second part of this course will focus on: institutions, governance, social capital and actors. Understanding the theoretical concepts and the use of practical tools to measure the impact of social capital, governance, and institutions in growth will be discussed.

Second part: Institution and territory development

Topic 5- Introduction to institutions

In this part of the module, we will present the concept of the institutions, the difference with the organisation, their role in territory development. Specific importance will be conferred to the role of institutions in development, innovation, entrepreneurship, trust and social capital development,

economic development, etcetera. Also, in this part the students will learn how to analyse institutions.

Topic 6- Institutions, economic theory and economic performance

This topic introduces the role of institutions in economic development and presents why different countries show different economic performances. Students will be able to use several indicators of institutions development and how they impact the economy of a particular country. In this topic, the student will be able to review the scientific research on a given institutional framework's impact on economic development. **At the end of this chapter, the students will be able to:** To understand the role of institutions in Cooperation, Reducing uncertainty, Innovation Entrepreneurship, Social capital and Territory and rural development

Topic 7- Analysis of Institutions

In this topic, students will gain additional knowledge by applying the institutional analysis tool developed by Elinor Ostrom on the Common Pool Resources. The students will apply this tool in the Territorial Reform of 2014 that has taken place in Albania. The tool aims to analyse the institutions that have a bearing on the core issue of an intervention project or policy. The tool will help the students think critically about how different institutions influence a given intervention. It is important to note that there are no other 'widely accepted' tools for analysing institutions, even though the institution concept is crucial to social change-focused development.

Third part: Social capital and territory development

Topic 8- Conceptual foundation of social capital

In topic eight, we will introduce the concept of social capital, explore its economic and political functions and origins, and make some suggestions for how it can be cultivated. By the end of the chapter, students will be able to define social capital, explore its economic and political functions, Understand the Functions of Social Capital Play in a Free-Market Liberal Democracy and introduce the know-how to measure social capital.

Topic 9- Forms of Social capital

This topic will introduce the economics of social capital and the indicators, the application of social capital indicators and its measurement. In this topic, students will comprehend the tools and instruments of research methods that can measure social capital from qualitative and quantitative perspectives.

Topic 10- Social capital and Territory development

One of the main objectives of this topic is to introduce to the students the role of social capital in territory development. In recent years the interest of researchers has increased to analyse the impact of the institutional context on economic development. These analyses are done often referring to social capital in several sectors of the economy. Often we refer to the term capacity to cooperate, to trust and to civic participation. In some cases, it is used as an indicator for developed societies. In other cases, social capital is a network of links between actors who cooperate to achieve common objectives. These links can promote cooperation by positively influencing local development but may also constitute a barrier.

Social capital indicators will be analysed in this topic, and their composition and use will be the particular focus. The analysis of the radius of trust and trust variable in economic and Territory development will be analysed.

Topic 11- Measurement of social capital through cohesive approaches (Case study Gjirokastra cheese)¹

In this topic, students will be able to analyse and use the cohesive approaches in Social Capital measurement to use primary and secondary data to elaborate social capital indicators linked to a particular territory.

Topic 12- Social network analysis

In this topic, students will understand that a social network is a social structure made of nodes that are generally individuals or organisations. The ties between the nodes represent the relationships

¹ Case study of social capital measurement case study attached to the booklet

between the actors in the network. The graphic display of the network serves to visualise ways in which the actors are connected. Students will acknowledge the concept of networks and their analysis in the context of territory development. Students will also learn the basics of social network analysis and the tools to understand these interactions and interdependencies that affect the development processes in a given sector: Territory, rural, food sector, and waste management.

Topic 13- Measurement of social capital through SNA an application to local development policies (Case study 1)

In this topic, students will acknowledge the concept of networks and their analysis in the context of local development. Students will also learn the basics of social network analysis and the tools to understand these interactions and interdependencies.

Topic 14- Measurement of social capital through SNA an application to innovation in rural areas (Case study 2)

In this topic, students will acknowledge the concept of networks and their analysis in the context of innovation in rural areas. Students will also learn the basics of social network analysis and the tools to understand these interactions and interdependencies in the innovation processes.

Topic 15- Application of SNA to environment protection (Case study 3)

In this topic, students will acknowledge the concept of networks and their analysis in the context of environmental protection. Considering that communities with a higher stock of social capital tend to give greater attention to the environment, social network analysis will mainly clarify this process toward ecosystems and ecosystem services.

4. Planning of the practical teaching classes

The part of practical teaching is considered an essential arena for learning, and it emphasises connections between theory and experience. It consists of interactive assignments that are done and presented during the class (mostly in teams) and are supervised by the professor.

5. Individual research project (if applied)

The aim is to check and critically understand what has been presented in the theoretical courses. Case studies are based on desk research and fieldwork, and tutorial workshops, will be discussed during classes. Revising the bibliography and applying case studies as introduced in topics 11-15 will nourish this learning process.