Course title: Immigration, Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship

Objective
To obtain a conceptual understanding of the role of history, culture and language on issues of immigration, innovation and social entrepreneurship.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. To obtain a conceptual understanding of the role of history, culture and language on issues of social innovation.
2. To answer the following questions: why has innovation acquired such a central place in our society or, put differently, where precisely does the idea of innovation come from?, why did innovation come to be defined as technological innovation?.
3. To analyze the role of social innovation in society.
4. To stimulate students to think critically about cultures and societies and to develop capacity to encourage abilities and thoughts.
5. To review the definitions of Innovation and Social Innovation in the European context and its evolution over the past decade.
6. To understand the European Social Innovation regulation and how it has developed since its inception.
7. To study the mechanisms of funding from the European social innovation, both in the public sector and the private sector.
8. To identify the main Programmes, action plans, supporting existing schemes and its flagship projects.
9. To understand the best European practices in social innovation in the 12 key areas of implementation: Health, Environment Climate, Energy, Citizen and Democracy, Consumption, Habitat, Mobility, Agriculture, Economy and Finance, Industry, Employment and Entrepreneurship and Education.
11. To critically analyze how foresight and innovation concepts have been evolving in time.
12. To critically analyze how participatory foresight is shaping innovation and social entrepreneurship ecosystems.
13. To understand how foresight and creativity tools can be used in order to foster social innovation processes.
Required Texts


Optional Texts

Course Content

COURSE TOPICS                     HOURS

Block 1:                          8 hours
  • Introduction. Definitions and concepts of Social Innovation.
  • Identification of the concepts that define innovation through history, and that have let to innovation as a central category of modern society
  • History of Social Innovation: imitation, invention and innovation.
  • Types of innovations.
  • Stages of the innovation process
  • Main authors
  • Social innovation real examples.

Block 2: Social Innovation In Europe  7 hours
  • Innovation and Social Innovation in Europe: a decade of changes.
  • Social Innovation Regulation in Europe
  • Funding mechanisms for Social Innovation in Europe.
  • Workshop: critical evaluation of European Social Innovation projects.

Block 3: Participatory Foresight & Open Innovation  15 hours
  • Social Reality as a construction.
  • Change and Complexity.
  • Foresight and Open Innovation Ecosystems.

Block 4: Creative Futures Methodology  15 hours
  • Diagnosis: Internal + External Analysis (SWOT)
  • Prognosis: Trend Analysis (Technology, Economy, Culture, Politics, Ecosystem, Security) + Future Scenarios.
  • Therapy: Creativity + UX Evaluation (FLUX-3D).
  • Prototyping: Final Proposal + Presentation.
Activities, Learning Objectives and Grading

Activities in block 1.

1. **Theoretical sessions. (30%)**. Students will have to attend to class and to participate actively. They will have to answer individually, and/or in couples, teacher's questions.

2. **Individual participation in group activities and discussions (10%)**.

   Despite all the assignments will be carried out per groups, personal commitment and involvement in all in-class activities and discussions will be taken into account. Students have to do practical exercises and some readings in the classroom.

3. **Examples, review and evaluation of real social innovation projects (60%)**.

Activities in block 2 will allow students to consolidate the contents of the theoretical sessions. To do this, students will demonstrate the understanding of the key concepts studied through the resolution, in teams, of different types of exercises that will take place in the classroom.

Through team-based learning methodologies, students will have the opportunity to review real European innovation projects in different fields (Health, Environment, Energy, Citizenship and Democracy, Consumption, Habitat, Mobility, Employment and Entrepreneurship and Education) and evaluate them in terms of innovation, means, up-scaling, involvement and long-term sustainability. Description of the activities and grading parameters are the following:

1. **Theoretical sessions assignment (30%)**. Students will have to complete, in teams, different activities related to the theoretical contents of the block. To do this, they will have to solve multi-choice exercises and carry out information searches to exemplify and understand in depth the essential concepts of the unit.

2. **Individual participation in group activities and discussions (10%)**. Despite all the assignments will be carried out per groups, personal commitment and involvement in all in-class activities and discussions will be taken into account.

3. **Review and evaluation of European social innovation projects (60%)**. Students will have the opportunity to review real social innovation projects and, using the concepts learned during the theoretical sessions, assess their impact and scalability. To do this, each team will analyse two projects in different fields of action and different European countries. They will investigate both the proposed innovations and the management model under which the projects take place. Each group of students will complete and assignment in which the conclusions of the analysis will be included. The results will also be presented to peers in the classroom.
Activities in block 3 and 4 are mainly based on teamwork, so teams will be set since the beginning of these two blocks and they will work together in every activity and assignment.

Description of the activities and grading parameters are the following:

1. **Theoretical sessions assignments (30%)**. During every theoretical session teams will have to complete an assignment related to the theoretical content of the session. They will need to use systematic processes for collecting and analysing data, to form and support their own conclusions regarding each topic. They should read and analyse diverse sources and present different points of view in each of the assignments.

2. **Individual participation in group activities and discussions (10%)**. Despite all the assignments will be carried out per groups, personal commitment and involvement in all in-class activities and discussions will be taken into account.

3. **Group Presentation Final Assignment (60%)**. Main output of the course will be a final project to be developed under a problem-solving approach, and based on a real case proposed by a local NGO working with migrants. This project involves all the theoretical principles and tools that will be used during blocks 2 and 3 of this course. In this regard, three main aspects will be taking into account: teamwork, content and presentation (20 min).