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Course Package “[Economic Research Methodology]”

Work Package	WP3: Development of Course Materials for the Reformed MA Programmes, Deliverable 3.1
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Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education Project:

“Reforming Master Programmes in Finance in Armenia and Moldova” (REFINE)

www.reforming-finance.eu | Project No. 585784-EPP-1-2017-1-AT-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

Document History

Version	Date	Author(s)	Description
1	30.11.2019	Galina Ulian	First draft of WP3 output - Development of Course Materials for the Reformed MA Programmes
2	29.01.2020	Galina Ulian, Gazda Vladimir	Second draft of WP3 output - Development of Course Materials for the Reformed MA Programmes
3	27.02.2020	Galina Ulian	Third version of WP3 output - Development of Course Materials for the Reformed MA Programmes
4	29.05.2020	Galina Ulian	Final version of WP3 output - Development of Course Materials for the Reformed MA Programmes

Disclaimer:

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication [communication] reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

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1. General information about the course

Explanation: Please fill in the table below.

Title of the course (as specified in the reformed curriculum)	Economic Research Methodology
Name of the teacher	Galina Ulian
Novelty of the course (please select as appropriate)	This course is an updated and revised version of a course which already existed in the curriculum
Year of the course in the curriculum	YEAR the 1st
Semester of the course in the curriculum	The 1 st semester
Language of instruction of the course	Romanian/ Russian/ English
Number of ECTS credits	7

2. Learning outcomes of the course

Explanation: Please specify the learning outcomes of the course.

Transversal competences:

TC 3. Identification of personal development opportunities for diversification and enrichment of professional competences.

Professional competencies:

PC 1. Advanced use of the concepts, principles and approaches on which the practice in the field of financial management and accounting is based.

PC.2 Funding, designing and applying of strategies, programs and complex projects regarding the management of business by using the theoretical and practical knowledge.

Learning outcomes:

- applying of scientific research methods in the economy;
- evaluating of the stages of conducting scientific research in the economic field.
- applying of concepts, theories and methods for carrying out research in the economic field.
- creating of economic and financial projects with the use of concepts, theories and methods, procedures and research tools.
- integrating of concepts, theories and methods in explaining business research;
- applying the stages of elaboration and implementation of business management projects.
- integrating of concepts, theories and methods for substantiating business management decisions.
- formalizing economic processes and development models for economic and financial policies.

3. Syllabus of the course

Explanation: Please provide a detailed syllabus of the course (broken down in weeks) – maximum 2 pages

Title of the course: Economic Research Methodology
Semester: I
Number of ECTS credits: 7
Language of instruction: Romanian/Russian/ English
Type of course: obligatory
Teaching methodology: Individual works, projects, consultations Case Study. Masters will build a research project on the proposed topic. The requirements and deadlines for elaboration and presentation are contained in the discipline curriculum in Chapter VI "Individual Work".
Learning outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • applying of scientific research methods in the economy; • evaluating of the stages of conducting scientific research in the economic field. • applying of concepts, theories and methods for carrying out research in the economic field. • creating of economic and financial projects with the use of concepts, theories and methods, procedures and research tools. • integrating of concepts, theories and methods in explaining business management; • applying the stages of elaboration and implementation of business management projects. • integrating of concepts, theories and methods for substantiating business management decisions. • formalizing economic processes and development models for economic and financial policies.
Brief summary of course contents: 1. Contemporary science, human knowledge and scientific research. Object of economic science. 2. Dynamics of economic science and evolution of economic research methodology. 3. Construction and realization of the research project. Stages of the research process. 4. Scientific documentation and its forms. 5. Own research. Quantitative and qualitative methods for analyzing economic phenomena. 6. Writing and public support of a scientific work.
Main references and reading: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Blaug M. The Methodology of Economics, Or how Economists Explain: Cambridge University Press, 1992 2. Feyerabend P. 1975 Against Method: Outline of an Anarchistic Theory of Knowledge 3. Kothari C.R. and Gaurav Garg. Research Methodology : Methods And Techniques,

- New Age International Pvt Ltd Publishers; 2nd ed. edition (1 Oct. 2012), pp 418.
4. Kuhn T. S. The Structure of Scientific Revolutions. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 2nd ed. 1970.
 5. Popper, K., 1959. The Logic of Scientific Discovery. - Routledge.
 6. Popper, K., 1957. The Poverty of Historicism. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul.
 7. Popper K. and Eccles J., 1977. The Self and Its Brain. Berlin: Springer-Verlag.
 8. Nadejda Şişcan, Galina Ulian „Istoria şi metodologia ştiinţei economice”, Manual, CEP USM, ISBN 978-9975-71-871-4, Chişinău, 2016.-220p.
 9. Ulian Galina, Şişcan Nadejda – ”Abordări metodologice ale cunoaşterii ştiinţifice a proceselor economice” Analele USM, 2006

Form of assessment:

Current evaluation will be performed through:

2 control papers – written tests;

Elaboration and submission of the product of individual work;

Assessment as a result of seminars attending

Final assessment – written exam, which includes 2 subjects from the course studied. Each subject of the test includes tasks to: a) knowledge; b) application; c) integration.

The overall score will be determined as a weighted average in the following way:

- Current evaluation, including the product of individual work – 60%;
- Final evaluation – 40%

Teacher(s) of the course: ULIAN Galina, dr. hab, prof. univ.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISCIPLINE

Code of discipline of the study plan	Title of the course	Responsible for discipline	Semester	Total hours				Assessm ent	Number of ECTS credits	
				Total	inclusive					
					C	S	L			IW
F.01.O.03	MCE	Ulian Galina	I	210	30	30		150	ex.	7

ORIENTAL TIMETABLE AND ORIENTAL DISTRIBUTION OF HOURS

Nr	Content units	Number of hours per week		
		Lecture	Seminars	Individual Work
1.	Contemporary science, human knowledge and scientific research. Object of economic science.	2	2	10
2.	Dynamics of economic science and evolution of economic research methodology.	4	4	30
3.	Construction and realization of the research project. Stages of the research process.	6	6	30
4.	Scientific documentation and its forms.	6	6	36
5.	Own research. Quantitative and qualitative methods for analysing economic phenomena.	6	6	24
6.	Writing and public support of a scientific work.	6	6	20
Total		30	30	150

4. Teaching methodology of the course

Explanation: Please explain the teaching methodology and pedagogical approaches of the course – maximum ½ page

The teaching-learning process is student-centered and takes place during seminar, laboratory, counseling, and individual work hours. Apart from the traditional teaching and learning methods (laboratory works, individual works, e-learning educational platform, projects, consultations), most interactive forms, including discussions, are applied; analysis of test results, control papers, reports, case studies, etc. There are also a number of recommended methods such as: Method of Teaching / Mutual Learning, Zigzag Method, Pair Change Method, Pyramid Method, Case and Effect Chart, Brainstorming, etc.

The class meetings may be conducted in a seminar format. Each class meeting, assigned subjects could be discussed. The teacher would lead the discussion. In addition, students could be randomly assigned to a study group, and each group will be responsible for leading the discussion of one subject during the term. It is highly recommended that groups prepare PowerPoint slides and/or hard-copy hand-outs for distribution to the rest of the class. The purpose of these discussions is to apply the current theories to real-world situations, to identify specific problems in countries and organizations, and to develop suggested solutions to those problems.

Teaching methodology of the course include new methods, practical teaching and learning:

- „*Mozaic*” *method*, students will work in groups (team) on the study of a new material and will consider the issues resolved;
- „*Filips 6 – 6*” *method*, the student should submit a concise information material on the subject;
- *Interrogation test* , students will use Interrogation test (questionnaires) regarding topic of the course.

5. Labour market relevance of the course

Explanation: Please explain the labour market relevance of the course (linked to findings of WP1) – maximum ½ page

For a broader awareness of the processes that take place in the real economy, scientific knowledge is needed. The formation of this type of thinking involves: interpreting the essence of economic processes, studying the laws and their evolution, the perception of the economic body as a multilateral system of different levels. In the scientific interpretation of economic relations, the methodology within the course "Economic Research Methodology" has a special importance. Masters students will choose skills from the advanced use of concepts, principles and approaches on which financial and accounting practice is based.

Attending this course will result in development of critical thinking, analytical skills and the ability to work in a team (these competencies were also indicated during the survey of employers in the results WP 1 p. 11, 25 Figure 2, 6, Annex 1B, Figure 16-17), which will allow future specialists to be more competitive in the labor market.

From this perspective, the course seeks to provide solutions for the formalization of economic projects and development models for policy making in the economic and financial field. This course deepens the knowledge obtained in the field of micro and macroeconomics, enterprise finance, analysis of economic and financial activity, the basics of financial management, etc.

6. Assessment and grading

Explanation: Please explain the form of assessment of the course – maximum ½ page

The current evaluation will be carried out by supporting / presenting the individual work, the evaluation as a result of the active participation in the discussions within the seminar as well as during the semester at least 2 control works (tests) are organized.

The marking at the courses will depend on the efficiency of participating in the discussions during the classes and seminars. Not only the number and frequency of contributions, but also their quality, will be taken into account.

Students answers based on comments will be appreciated, referring to various opinions of local and foreign scientists and scientific publications, on new and relevant perspectives or on promoting valuable syntheses. The relevant and qualitative interventions will be appreciated in the discussion of the case studies.

The final evaluation will be materialized in a written exam, which includes 2 subjects from the studied course. The exam test is very comprehensive in terms of the problems addressed and includes some of the topics discussed during the course. Each subject of the test comprises tasks of: a) knowledge; b) application; c) integration.

The general grade will be determined as a weighted average as follows:

- Current evaluation, including the product of the individual work - 60%;
- Assessment at the final exam - 40%

7. References

Explanation: Please provide the main references and recommended reading for the course – maximum 1 page

1. Blaug M. The Methodology of Economics, Or how Economists Explain: Cambridge University Press, 1992
2. Feyerabend P. 1975 Against Method: Outline of an Anarchistic Theory of Knowledge
3. Kothari C.R. and Gaurav Garg. Research Methodology : Methods And Techniques, New Age International Pvt Ltd Publishers; 2nd ed. edition (1 Oct. 2012), pp 418.
4. Kuhn T. S. The Structure of Scientific Revolutions. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 2nd ed. 1970.
5. Nowak L. "On the (Idealizational) Structure of Economic Theories." Erkenntnis (1975-), vol. 30, no. 1/2, 1989.
6. Popper, K., 1959. The Logic of Scientific Discovery. - Routledge.
7. Popper, K., 1957. The Poverty of Historicism. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul.
8. Popper K. and Eccles J., 1977. The Self and Its Brain. Berlin: Springer-Verlag.
9. Psacharopoulos G. (ed.), 1985. Economics of Education. Research and Studies. Oxford: Pergamon Press.
10. Мокий М., Никифоров А., Мокий В. Методология научных исследований : учебник для магистратуры— Москва : Издательство Юрайт, 2019. — 255 с.
11. Nadejda Șișcan, Galina Ulian „Istoria și metodologia științei economice”, Manual, CEP USM, ISBN 978-9975-71-871-4, Chișinău, 2016.-220p.
12. Eugenia Feuraș „Metodologia cercetării economice” . Editura ASEM. Chișinău, 2008, 303p.
13. Dumiru Moldovanu. Ulian Galina (coordonatori) „Gîndirea economică contemporană principalele curente (note de curs), Chisinau, ASEM, 2001- 180 p.
14. Ulian Galina, Șișcan Nadejda – ”Abordări metodologice ale cunoașterii științifice a proceselor economice” Analele USM, 2006

8. Course assignments

Explanation: Please provide two assignments for the course (e.g. group work, project, essay, case study, homework).

8.1 Assignment 1

INDIVIDUAL WORK - CASE STUDY

A case study will be conducted on one of the topics presented below:

1. The role of financial management.
2. Theoretical aspects of the economic and financial analysis of the company.
3. Financing of the company in the medium and long term.
4. Productivity and efficiency.
5. Financing of small and medium-sized enterprises.
6. The financial policy of the company.
7. The financial results of the company and optimization ways.
8. The investment policy of the company.
9. Financial diagnosis - tool for evaluation and optimization.
10. Management of commercial credits within the company.
11. The economic-financial importance in the decision-making process.
12. Management of fixed assets at the company.
13. Management of investment processes within the company.
14. Long-term financial planning at the company.
15. The function of control of the finances of the company.
16. Their investments and financing.
17. Risk in the financial activity of the company.
18. Bank loans as a financing source of the company.
19. Depreciation as a source of financing for the activity of the company.
20. Evaluation of the financial status of the company.
21. Management of current assets.
22. The lending mechanism of economic entities.
23. Impact of mergers and acquisitions of companies on their financial performance.

Requirements for carrying out:

1. Determine the scientific problem;
2. Argue the actuality of the researched topic and identify the research methodology;
3. Formulate the purpose and objectives of the research;
4. Formulate the name of the chapters;
5. Present the bibliography for the requested topic.

Table 1. Criteria for evaluating the case study

Evaluation criterias	Performance descriptors		
	9-10	7-8	5-6
1. Structure of the product	Respects the component parts of the case	It respects all the component parts, but one is not realized according to the strategies	One of the component parts is missing
2. The relevance of the methodology applied	It is relevant It corresponds to the investigated case and led to the complete settlement of the case (90-100%)	It is adequate for the purpose, but it led to the partial settlement of the case (70-80%)	Without concrete aspects
3. Degree of solving the case	Very good With full compliance with the case solving algorithm 90-100%	Good With respect to the algorithm of solving the case 70-80%, but contains some non-essential deviations	Partial About 50-60% of the tasks formulated for solving the case were not performed partial
4. Degree of argumentation of solutions	Very good Arguments based on a thorough case study	Good Concrete solutions, but which require little concretization	Partially argued solutions, some general ones without arguments.
5. Evaluation of the way of solving the case	Demonstrates thorough knowledge of the case.	Contains conceptual errors in solving the case	Failed to formulate clear and consistent solutions on how to resolve the case.
6. Formalization of the product	According to the formulated requirements	With non-substantial deviations from the regulatory requirements	With substantial deviations from the regulatory requirements

8.2 Assignment 2

INDIVIDUAL WORK - ESSAY

Themes proposed for research in the form of a report

1. The historical approach of the methodology of economic research.
2. Philosophy - the methodological basis of economic science.
3. Classification of economic sciences. Positive and normative economic science.
4. The essence and role of qualitative analysis in economic research.
5. The essence and role of methods of quantitative measurement procedures.
6. Econometric model - modern instrument of economic analysis.
7. The essence of logical empiricism.
8. Karl Popper's logic of falsification.
9. Thomas Kuhn's view on scientific revolutions.
10. Paul Feyerabend's epistemological anarchism.

REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING INDIVIDUAL WORK - SCIENTIFIC ESSAY

The writing of the individual work must meet the following requirements:

- The individual work is perfected using the Time New Roman font with the size of 12 pt. The line spacing is 1.5 intervals. The text is leveled by both side fields.
- The pages have the following field: on the left - 30mm, up - 25mm, on the right - 15 mm, down - 25 mm.
- The title of the chapters are written in capital letters (14 pt., Bold, centered), of the paragraphs - in small letters, except for the first letter (14 pt., Bold. Central). The chapters are numbered in Roman numerals. As needed.
- All tables, formulas, figures (drawings, charts, etc.) are numbered, indicating the number of chapters and their order number. For example, Table 1.2 (table two of the first chapter).
- The name of the table is placed above the table and of the figure sub-figure. It is compulsory to indicate the units of measurement, with the accepted general abbreviations: mln. , e.g., approx. , etc.
- The formulas / equations will be centered and their numbering will be placed at the end of the row. The explanation of the symbols used is presented in the formula in the order in which they follow. Figures that exceed 2/3 of the pages are attached
- If the table cannot be placed on a single page, its continuation will start with the indication "Continuation of table 2.1". The name of the columns in this case is not respected, indicating only their number.
- All pages are numbered, starting with the title page and ending with the last page, without admitting their lack or repetition. The title page does not include the page number. The page number is indicated in the field to the right of the page below. The numbering starts with page 3, Introduction and is unique throughout the paper.
- The letters with diacritics specific to the Romanian language (ă, â, î, ș, and their capital letters) are obligatory.
- Word abbreviations are not accepted.

- No notes, corrections, letter accounts, deletions, stains, page additions, etc. are allowed.
- Print on paper must be qualitative.
- The individual work must be exposed in a professional language, avoiding grammatical errors. The sentences must be concise and clear. The material is exposed from the third person, using impersonal language.
- The individual work is covered in a single copy in a map.

Table 2. Requirements regarding the structure, implementation strategies and terms of the presentation of the product of the individual work

Product Structure	Realization strategies
1. Title Sheet	1. Choosing the theme
2. Contents	2. The Bibliographic Study
<p>3. Introduction (displayed on 0.5-1 pages), which will contain:</p> <p>3.1 The justification of the theme (briefly presented in an paragraph);</p> <p>3.2 The purpose (mirrors the purpose of the investigation carried out) and the concrete objectives of the investigation (which designates the results expected from the analyses, calculations);</p> <p>3.3.The object of the investigation (it reproduces the domain, sphere, sector, field of activity, economic entity, etc. to which it refers);</p> <p>3.4.The applied research methodology, which includes:</p> <p>a) informational basis (legislative and normative framework, methodological, monographic sources, scientific papers, statistical databases, etc.)</p> <p>b) the research methods used (quantitative and qualitative);</p> <p>3.5. Keywords.</p> <p>4. Exposure of the structured content into compartments / chapters, corresponding to the subject or theme investigated.</p> <p>5. Conclusions, opinions, suggestions and / or personal recommendations (1-2 pages). In this section, solutions are suggested regarding the problems found and the possible directions for further investigation.</p> <p>6. References to the bibliographic sources, cited in the basic text of the report, prepared in the appropriate way, not less than 5 sources.</p> <p>7. Attachment</p>	<p>3. Delimitation of the study area:</p> <p>3.1. the temporal dimension (the period under analysis);</p> <p>3.2. the spatial dimension (an economic entity, a field of activity, the local budget of a district, the EU, the CIS space, etc.);</p> <p>4. Formulating the objectives of the investigation</p> <p>5. Selecting the methodology required for the investigation (reading, observation, document analysis, questionnaires, etc.);</p> <p>6. Planning the investigation;</p> <p>7. Analysis and processing of accumulated information;</p> <p>8. Writing the content according to the Drafting Norms and the actual drafting of the project;</p> <p>9. Realization of the final product of the investigation in the requested form (on paper support in volume of max. 10 pages), PPT, in electronic format (document format Word, Excel), etc.)</p> <p>10. Presentation of the product and its support within the established deadlines; For the presentation of the product the doctoral student will prepare a verbal communication of 5 - 7 minutes in which he will briefly report the main results of the investigation carried out.</p>

Annex: Presentation slides

Explanation: Please provide presentation slides for your course (this can be done in a separate document, e.g. Power Point (Minimum: 25 slides))