

Methods of Analysis of Development Policies

How can we determine whether a development policy actually works? This course introduces students to the analytical tools needed to move from political objectives and development challenges to evidence-based policy assessment.

Students learn how to identify a policy problem, formulate relevant research questions, define indicators, use quantitative and qualitative evidence, compare policy alternatives and assess implementation and results. The course also addresses the limits of measurement in development policy: data may be incomplete, political and institutional contexts differ, and apparently similar interventions can generate very different outcomes.

A strong emphasis is placed on practical application. Students work with real policy challenges and learn to connect analytical methods with the decisions faced by governments, international organisations, European institutions and development practitioners.

By the end of the course, students should be able to approach development policies critically and systematically, distinguish between objectives, outputs and outcomes, evaluate available evidence and formulate policy recommendations that are both analytically sound and relevant for decision-makers.