INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Basic data of the subject	
Academic Unit:	Faculty of Life and Environmental Sciences
Course title:	Integrated rural development
Study program:	Agribusiness Management
Level:	Master (MSc)
Course status:	Obligatory (O)
Study year:	1 year / 1 semester
Number of hours per week:	3 + 2
Credit value – ECTS:	6 ECTS
Time / location:	To be announced
Lecturer:	Prof. Asoc. Dr. Ekrem Gjokaj
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Course description:	Integrated Rural Development addresses key objectives such as economic growth, poverty alleviation, elevating the living standards of rural communities, and ensuring essential minimum basic needs. The harnessing of modern technology holds significant potential for achieving these goals. To attain the aims of integrated rural development, there is a crucial need to modernize agriculture and the rural economy. This course is designed to provide students with a foundational understanding of integrated rural development and the performance of rural businesses. Encompassing a comprehensive approach, the curriculum will delve into various policies and analyse the contributing factors that enhance the economic and social well-being of rural populations. Specific focus areas include stakeholder analysis, effective management, strategic planning, and policymaking within the context of rural development. Through these studies, students will be equipped to contribute to the sustainable progress of rural areas.
Course objectives:	The primary objective of this course is to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the rural economy, encompassing its structure, significance, and the factors contributing to rural backwardness. The course aims to facilitate the analysis and comprehension of the rural economy, including natural resources and other rural industries. Additionally, the curriculum will focus on examining the rural population and its labor force, addressing issues related to rural labor, and exploring policy measures aimed at improving their conditions. The course will delve into the complexities of rural unemployment, categorizing types of unemployment, and assessing governmental policies in this regard. Furthermore, there will be an exploration of rural poverty and migration, emphasizing their consequences on rural society. Through these studies, students will gain a nuanced perspective on the multifaceted aspects of the rural economy, enabling them to critically analyze and propose solutions to challenges faced by rural communities.

Learning outcomes:	By the conclusion of this module, students will have developed key professional competencies, including the ability to: ▪ Discuss the Role, Structure, Meaning, and Resources of National and EU Rural Economies: o Articulate insights into the roles, structures, meanings, and available resources within both national and European Union rural economies. ▪ Analyze Issues in the Rural Sector: o Conduct a thorough analysis of challenges in the rural sector, including backwardness, income inequalities, regional imbalances, and gender disparities. Propose and assess remedial measures. ▪ Evaluate Economic Behavior at Micro and Macro Levels: o Critically evaluate the economic behaviors of consumers and producers, considering both micro and macroeconomic perspectives. ▪ Analyze Social Structure and Factors of Social Change: o Examine social structures, stratification, various theories, and factors influencing social change within the national and EU rural sectors. ▪ Acquire Practical Knowledge for Competitive Examinations: o Develop practical knowledge and skills required for competitive examinations at both state and central levels, aligning with program outcomes. ▪ Discuss Rural Industry and Entrepreneurship: o Analyze and discuss key aspects of rural industry and entrepreneurship, considering their roles and impact on rural development. ▪ Evaluate Rural Development Policies and Programs: o Assess different categories of rural development policies and programs, examining their implications on rural poverty and unemployment.

Contribution on student load (must correspond with learning outcomes)			
Activity	**Hours**	**Days/week**	**Total**
Lectures	3	14	42
Exercise theoretical/laboratory	2	14	28
Practice work	/	/	/
Contact with lecturer/consultations	1	13	13
Field exercises	8	1	8
Mid-terms, seminars	/	/	/
Homework	1	13	13
Individual time spent studying (at the library or home)	2	12	24

Final preparation for the exam	1	13	13
Time spent in evaluation (tests, quiz, final exam)	3	1	3
Projects, presentations, etc.	3	2	6
Total			**150 hours (6 ECTS)**
Teaching methods:	Interactive teaching, Presentations, Easy/critical papers, assignments, final exam.		
Evaluation methods:	The grading breakdown for the course is as follows: **Regular Attendance: 10%** • Students will be assessed on their consistent attendance throughout the course. **Presentations/Interactivity: 10%** • Evaluation based on active participation, presentations, and engagement in interactive sessions. **Essays and Critical Papers: 40%** • Assessment of written work, including essays and critical papers, representing a substantial portion of the final grade. **Final Exam: 40%** • The culmination of the course assessment, where students' understanding of the entire course content will be evaluated. **Total: 100%** The overall course grade will be calculated based on the weighted contributions from each assessment component. This grading structure aims to provide a comprehensive evaluation of students' performance, considering various aspects such as attendance, participation, written assignments, and a final examination. Students are encouraged to actively engage in the course, submit thoughtful essays, and prepare thoroughly for the final exam to achieve a well-rounded understanding of the subject matter.		
Literature			
Basic Literature:	Shanna E. Ratner Wealth Creation A New Framework for Rural Economic and Community Development, 1st Edition, Published by Routledge (2020). Don E. Albrecht. Building a Resilient Twenty-First-Century Economy for Rural America, Utah State University Press, 2020 Dannenberg, P. Kulke, E. Economic Development in Rural Areas: Functional and Multifunctional Approaches (The Dynamics of Economic Space) 1st Edition, Kindle Edition (2016). Kratzer, A. Jutta Kister, K. Rural-Urban Linkages for Sustainable Development (The Dynamics of Economic Space) 1st Edition, Kindle Edition, Floor Brouwer, C. Martijn van der Heide. Multifunctional Rural Land Management Economics and Policies, 1st Edition. Published by Routledge (2013). Riad El-Ghonemy, M. The Crisis of Rural Poverty and Hunger: An Essay on the Complementarity between Market- and Government-Led Land Reform for its Resolution (Routledge Studies in Development Economics) 1st Edition, Kindle Edition David W. Pearce, R. Kerry Turner, Economics of Natural Resources and the Environment,		

	Integrated Rural Development, Volume 1, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2010, ISBN 9251005567, 9789251005569
Additional Literature:	Ellis F, Biggs S (2001) Evolving themes in rural development 1950s–2000s. Development Policy Review 19(4) 437–448. IFAD (2010) Introduction. In: Rural Poverty Report 2011. International Fund for Agricultural Development, Rome, R. C Arora Integrated rural development Unknown Binding – Import, 1986 ODI (2008) Beyond the Village: The Transition from Rural Investments to National Plans to Reach the MDGs: Sustaining and Scaling up the Millennium Villages. ODI Report, November 2008, Overseas Development Institute**.**

Designed study plan:		
Week	**Lectures**	**Exercises**
First week:	Rural economy – Economics of rural areas	Discussion and distribution of the semestral project topics.
Second week:	Rural resources in the context of sustainable rural development	Assignments, quizzes and case studies related to the topic of the first week lecture.
Third week:	Rural population and Labour	Assignments, quizzes and case studies related to the topic of the second week lecture.
Fourth week:	Integrated rural development – Rationale, methods and results	Assignments, quizzes and case studies related to the topic of the third week lecture.
Fifth week:	Rural unemployment, rural poverty and migration	Assignments, quizzes and case studies related to the topic of the forth week lecture.
Sixth week:	Gender equity in rural areas	Assignments, quizzes and case studies related to the topic of the fifth week lecture.
Seventh week:	Rural infrastructure	Assignments, quizzes and case studies related to the topic of the sixth week lecture.
Eighth week:	Rural diversity	Assignments, quizzes and case studies related to the topic of the seventh week lecture.
Ninth week:	Approaches and policies for rural development	Assignments, quizzes and case studies related to the topic of the eight week lecture.

Tenth week:	Programmes for rural development	Assignments, quizzes and case studies related to the topic of the ninth week lecture.
Eleventh week:	Area development programmes (territorial approaches)	Assignments, quizzes and case studies related to the topic of the tenth week lecture.
Twelfth week:	Rural development and welfare schemes	Assignments, quizzes and case studies related to the topic of the eleventh week lecture.
Thirteenth week:	The evaluation of the EU LEADER Programmes	Assignments, quizzes and case studies related to the topic of the twelfths week lecture.
Fourteenth week:	International best practices in integrated rural development	Assignments, quizzes and case studies related to the topic of the thirtieths week lecture.
Fifteenth week:	Presentation of course projects.	Presentation of the course projects.

Academic policies and rules of conduct:

- Students should be aware of and respect the institution and **Code of ethics**.
- Students should respect the schedule of lectures, and exercises and be attentive.
- It is mandatory to possess and presents a student ID card in the mid-terms and exam,
- During the compilation of course projects, students must adhere to the instructions given by the professor.
- During the exam is forbidden the use of mobile phones.