

SYLLABUS

Name of course	RESEARCH METHODS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT				
Code of course					
University					
Faculty					
GENERAL INFORMATION					
Degree level	Master				
Year of study		Semester	2		
Subject of study	Research methods				
Language required for the course	English				
List of degree programs					
ACTIVITIES					
Number of credits, ECTS					
Lectures, hours	36	Seminar Practices (laboratories, workshop), hours	9	Project, hours	20
Per week	4	Per course	45		
COURSE DESCRIPTION					
<p>Sustainability is a key concept used by scientists interested in interactions between human society and the environment. Sustainable development covers the three pillars of a corporate sustainability strategy: the environmental, the socially responsible, and the economic. Systematic research and comprehensive analysis allow to monitor the implementation of the sustainable development goals. The focus of this course is on furnishing solutions and equipping students with both conceptual understanding and technical skills. This course describes how to use qualitative and quantitative methods in sustainability research. The theoretical basis of methods is presents e.g. the essences of each methods. The methods for example a focus group, sampling, survey design and development, data analysis.</p>					
AIM OF COURSE					
<p>This course aims to enhance a student's skills and body of knowledge of how to conduct research and equip students qualitative and quantitative methods in the area of sustainable business management.</p> <p>Students should</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) be able to formulate research questions and conceptual framework as well as to design suitable methods for data collection and analyses of relevant issues related to sustainable business management and sustainability as overall 2) understand research ethics of applying different research methods 3) be able to conduct both quantitative and qualitative methods can be applied in business studies 4) be able to develop report/academic paper, references, etc 					



CONTENT		
Topic 1: Introduction to the research methodology		
Topic 2: Identified research focus on sustainable development		
Topic 3: Research paradigms and stages		
Topic 4: Stages of conducting research		
Topic 5: Theory and conceptual framework		
Topic 6: Data collection for qualitative research methods I		
Topic 7: Data collection for qualitative research methods II		
Topic 8: Questionnaire methods		
Topic 9: Measurement		
Topic 10: Quality of research		
Topic 11: Quantitative data analysis		
Topic 12: Qualitative data analysis		
EVALUATIONS (<i>add lines as needed</i>)		
1	Assignment	25%
2	Class participation and discussion	20%
3	Mini-project	25%
4	Final exam	30%
ASSESSMENT CRITERIA		
The assignment will be distributed to students every lecture. It is individual work. Mini-project will be the showcase to test student understanding on how to apply appropriate methods. The final exam will evaluate all methods.		
PRE-REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS		
No-prerequisite course		
LEARNING OUTCOMES		
<p>Competencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The students should be able to apply appropriate research methods into different context -The students should be able to systematically design, collect, and analyze data to support sustainable development <p>Skills:</p> <p>Statistical and mathematical skills, application of computer technology, operational research, and statistics to solve problems.</p>		
LEARNING STRATEGIES		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Powerpoint - Additional journals and supplementary readings will be provided during the class. 		
RECOMMENDED SOURCES		
<p>Compulsory literature:</p>		



Frances Fahy and Henrike Rau (2013) *Methods of Sustainability Research in the Social Sciences*, (p.232) SAGE Publications Ltd.

Jingzheng Ren (2021) *Methods in Sustainability Science Assessment, Prioritization, Improvement, Design and Optimization* (p.426), Elsevier, ISBN 978-0-12-823987-2
<https://doi.org/10.1016/C2020-0-00430-5>

Janette Hartz-Karp and Dora Marinova (2017) *Methods for Sustainability Research* (p. 352)
ISBN: 978-1-78643272-8

Schindler, P. S. (2022). *Business Research Methods* (14th ed.). McGraw-Hill/Irwin. [SPS]

Suggested reading:

Ducham Developmental Editor, Christina Kouvelis Managing Developmental Editor.
Gericke, N., Pauw, J., B., Berglund, T., Olsson, D. (2018, 2019). The Sustainability
Consciousness Questionnaire: The theoretical development and empirical validation
of an evaluation instrument for stakeholders working with sustainable development.
Sustainable Development, 27(1), 35-49. <https://doi.org/10.1002/sd.1859>

Gericke, N., Pauw, J., B., Berglund, T., Olsson, D. (2018, 2019). The Sustainability
Consciousness Questionnaire: The theoretical development and empirical validation
of an evaluation instrument for stakeholders working with sustainable development.
Sustainable Development, 27(1), 35-49. <https://doi.org/10.1002/sd.1859>

Jupp, V. (Ed.) (2006). *The Sage Dictionary of Social Research Methods*. SAGE Publications

Khaldi, K. (2017). Quantitative, Qualitative or Mixed Research: Which Research Paradigm to
Use? *Journal of Educational and Social Research*, 7(2) DOI:10.5901/jesr.2017.v7n2p15
URL: <http://archive.sciendo.com/JESR/jesr.2017.7.issue-2/jesr.2017.v7n2p15/jesr.2017.v7n2p15.pdf>

Marshall, J., Coleman, G., & Reason, P. (2011). *Leadership for Sustainability: An Action
Research Approach*. New York: Routledge.

Selected internet sources:

Arman Bidarbakhtnia, *Measuring Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): an inclusive
approach*, available at

https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/ece/ces/ge.32/2020/mtg1/W_2_B_ENG_Measuring_SDG_progress_ESCAP.pdf

UNECE, 2020, *Measuring and Monitoring progress towards the Sustainable Development
Goals*, available at https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/2012761_E_web.pdf

UN, 2023, *SDG Indicators*, available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/>

GROUP OF COURSE DEVELOPERS

Course Leader: ICO NIDA

Board:

Date of approval the course



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Education and Culture Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.