

CALL for Participation
Framework and application Rules

Course Title:

Financing Sustainable Blue Economy and Integration of Policies and Development

Course Description:

Embark on a thrilling adventure into the realm of the Blue Economy!

This comprehensive course, "Financing Sustainable Blue Economy and Integration of Policies and Development," is tailored to equip students from diverse backgrounds with a deep understanding of the complex maritime economy, its global and European significance, and the policies driving its growth. As we navigate the intricate dynamics between economic progress and environmental stewardship, participants will gain practical insights into sustainable ocean resource management and financing strategies.

Methodology

Hybrid class in real time.

Financing Sustainable Blue Economy and Integration of Policies and Development will be conducted primarily through an expository teaching method, which will be employed both by Professor Ruben Eiras and by a selection of guest experts who specialise in various relevant topics. This approach is designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter and expose the students to key players in the fields of knowledge.

These guest speakers will bring a wealth of knowledge and real-world experience, enrich the learning environment and providing students with diverse perspectives.

Student Project: Pitch Development

Alongside the expository teaching method, a key component of the course will be the development of a student-led project. Over the duration of the course, students will collaborate in groups of three to design and pitch a Sustainable Blue Economy project that reflects the knowledge and insights gained from the topics covered. The project will provide a step-by-step, class-by-class opportunity to apply the theoretical concepts explored in the course.

The project will culminate in the final session, when student teams will present their proposals to a panel of experts and real-life investors. This setting will allow students to demonstrate creativity, critical thinking, and presentation skills, while also receiving constructive feedback from the panel.

Final Presentation to Expert Panel

The final presentation will not only serve as a platform for students to demonstrate their understanding and application of the course material but will also provide them with invaluable experience in public speaking and professional presentation. The expert panel will consist of individuals with extensive knowledge and experience in the relevant fields, who will evaluate the pitches based on criteria such as innovation, feasibility, and presentation quality.

This interactive and dynamic format aims to simulate real-world scenarios where individuals must effectively communicate their ideas and persuade others of their value. It is an excellent opportunity for students to refine their skills in a supportive yet challenging environment, preparing them for future professional endeavours.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, students will achieve the following objectives:

a) Theoretical and Empirical Knowledge:

Acquire a robust understanding of the World Ocean Economy, including its structure, dynamics, and significance in the context of sustainable development.

b) Quantitative and Qualitative Assessment:

Develop the ability to assess maritime and marine economic sectors quantitatively and qualitatively, considering various geographical scales, including global, EU, and specific producer and consumer countries.

c) Analytical Methodologies:

Learn and apply analytical methodologies to evaluate the success of maritime clusters, focusing on aspects such as activity distribution, competitiveness, human development, governance, and innovation through real-world case studies.

d) Mastering Financing Sources:

Gain expertise in identifying and understanding the main sources of financing for maritime and marine sectors worldwide, including traditional and innovative funding mechanisms.

e) Understanding EU Policies:

Familiarize yourself with the EU's Integrated Maritime Policy and the Common Fisheries Policy, including their priorities, key investment funding sources, and practical case studies that illustrate their application.

f) Evaluating Portugal's Ocean Economy:

Understand the potential and threats to Portugal's ocean economy, critically assessing various policy alternatives to promote sustainable development and economic growth.

Enrolment

Only students from EUTOPIA universities can apply. Each application comprises 3, third year students or Master's Students and the identification of a local teacher that will in charge of this group.

The application form is available here: [Financing Sustainable Blue Economy and Integration of Policies and Development 2026 – Preencher o formulário](#)

Only two groups will be selected.

Important dates

Enrolment until 13th February.

The selected groups will be invited to come to Lisbon and pitch their projects in the room, with travelling and accommodation expenses assured.

Criteria for Application Requirements

In the application for participation in the course, the assessment of academic merit will be based on two key components, which will contribute to the overall evaluation of each applicant. The first component, Academic Merit will account for 30% of the total assessment, while the second component, Motivation and justification, will constitute 70% of the evaluation criteria.

1. Academic Merit (30%):

The first criterion for evaluation will be the academic performance of each application, which will be measured by the average grades of its elements. It is essential that applicants provide verifiable documentation of their academic records, including transcripts or certificates, to substantiate their claims regarding their performance.

2. Motivation Letter and Justification for Group Participation (70%):

The second and more substantial component of the evaluation will be the motivation letter submitted by each group. This letter should articulate the participants' collective reasons for wanting to be in the course and provide a compelling justification for their group's inclusion. The motivation letter should address the following points:

- The applicant's interest in the course and how it aligns with their academic and professional goals.
- The relevance of the course content to the applicant's field of study or career aspirations.
- The anticipated benefits of participating in the course, both for the applicant personally and for their group.
- Any previous experiences or skills that the applicant brings to the group, which may enhance the collaborative learning environment.

The resulting assessment will determine the group's enrolment or exclusion.

Subject Overview:

1. The World Maritime Economy:

We will begin by exploring the vast and dynamic world maritime economy, which encompasses a wide range of activities related to the oceans, seas, and coastal areas. This section will cover the economic significance of maritime trade, shipping, fisheries, tourism, and renewable energy, highlighting the interconnectedness of these sectors and their contributions to global GDP.

2. The European Maritime Economy in the Global Context:

In this segment, we will analyse the European maritime economy's role in the context of a broader global framework. Students will learn about the EU's strategic position in maritime trade, its regulatory environment, and how it interacts with other major maritime economies around the world.

3. The Main Maritime Sectors:

This section will provide an in-depth examination of the primary maritime sectors, including social, economic, and geographical indicators. We will discuss recent developments, emerging trends, and future projections for sectors such as shipping, fisheries, marine tourism, and offshore renewable energy.

4. Maritime Clusters:

Students will investigate various maritime clusters, which are geographic concentrations of interconnected maritime businesses and institutions. Through case studies, we will explore different approaches to cluster development, their successes, and the lessons learned from various regions.

5. The EU Integrated Maritime Policy:

This part of the course will focus on the EU's Integrated Maritime Policy, tracing its origins, principles, and recent evolution. We will discuss the strategic importance of the EU Maritime Basins Strategies and how they aim to promote sustainable maritime development.

6. The Common Fisheries Policy:

We will delve into the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), examining its objectives, regulations, and impact on sustainable fishing practices. Students will learn about the balance between economic viability and environmental sustainability in fisheries management.

7. Main Sources of Financing Worldwide:

Understanding the financial landscape is crucial for the sustainable development of the Blue Economy. This section will cover the various sources of financing available globally, including traditional funding mechanisms and innovative green and blue financing options.

8. EU Integrated Maritime Policy Funding Lines:

We will explore the funding lines available under the EU's Integrated Maritime Policy, analysing case studies that illustrate successful financing strategies for maritime projects.

9. Construction of 'Sea Satellite Accounts':

Students will learn about the construction and significance of 'Sea Satellite Accounts,' which provide a framework for analysing the economic impact of

investments in the maritime sector. This tool is essential for policymakers and stakeholders to understand the value of ocean resources.

10. The Oceanic Economy of Portugal:

Finally, we will focus on Portugal's ocean economy, examining its evolution, current investments, and future perspectives. We will discuss Portugal's role within the EU Atlantic Basin Strategy and the opportunities and challenges it faces in harnessing its maritime potential.

This course goes beyond an academic endeavour; it invites students to engage with the most pressing challenges and opportunities of our time. You will develop the knowledge and skills needed to contribute to the sustainable management of ocean resources, helping to ensure that the Blue Economy can flourish for generations to come. Join us in exploring the seas, where the future of our planet's economy and environment are deeply intertwined!