

# Attachment: Syllabus

## 1. Name of the Teaching Module

Energy and the public.

## 2. Brief description of the subject matter

Energy policies, projects and facilities often attract attention, spark public debates and provoke protests. Even though they may have direct impact only on a particular population or social group, some of their aspects often concern larger society as a whole. The quantitative distribution of views on energy issues can be studied with the help of public opinion surveys and the social data they produce.

The energy governance in Europe takes place in a multi-level political framework of democratic institutions. Groups of people affected by decisions about energy can organize to make their voice being heard. Social sciences provide useful background for understanding of how such “stakeholders” emerge and what is their impact on the process of governance. And they also offer a variety of good practices that help to prevent or mitigate conflicts among stakeholders. These practices concern organization of communication among stakeholders, enhancements of their participation in the decision-making, introduction of measures to benefit stakeholders or issues associated with local community planning. As the case studies from the field of nuclear energy illustrate, to reach social acceptability can be very challenging.

## 3. Complete SSH problems description

- The concept of public opinion, its measurement and relation to energy issues; key features of public opinion surveys methodology; interpretation of social data from public opinion surveys.
- Democratic framework of the decision-making about energy in the EU; stakeholders – their definition, emergence, typology and role in the decision-making.
- Organization of communication among stakeholders and their participation in decision-making; participative practices; measures to benefit stakeholders, local community planning.

## 4. Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites except the interest for the theme. The module is intended for master and PhD students. However, also bachelor students may attend.

## 5. Learning outcomes

### a) Knowledge

Students will learn the basics of public opinion surveys methodology. They will acquire general knowledge of the energy governance framework in Europe and its stakeholders. They will familiarize with approaches to organization of communication among stakeholders and their participation in the decision-making.

### b) Skills

Students will gain self-confidence in analysis and evaluation of social data related to energy. They will become responsive to various impacts that energy projects may have on stakeholders and local communities. And they will be able to assess and design various practises of stakeholders' engagement.

### c) Social competencies

Group work and project work in all sessions will teach students to perceive social impacts of energy issues, to verbalize their observations, to exchange their views and defend arguments.

## 6. Form of classes

- The module consists of three interlinked sessions. First two are designed for 90 minutes long session each, the third one for 180 minutes.
- To explore thoroughly the area of energy and the public, it is recommended that the stages follow one after another connectedly or in three single days. However, each stage is optional and it is also possible to select only one separate stage without going through the others.
- Sessions combine lectures and presentations of materials with interactive elements and with group and project work..
- Each session is accompanied with pre-readings, which help teacher to prepare for the class. Pre-readings may also be suitable and useful for students attending the class. Teacher may assign students to read some of them before the class. Additional references to specialized literature and other sources give both teacher and students hints for expanding their knowledge in particular fields of

interest.

- Optimal number of students is from 6 to 15 in the class.

## 7. Teaching methods

- Lecture
- Presentation
- Discussion
- Exercise
- Group work
- Project

## 8. Detailed classes plan

*Stage 1: Public opinion on energy issues in a nutshell*

Contents:

- public opinion surveys / polls as a source of social data,
- their application in relation to energy issues,
- key features of public opinion measurement,
- selected methodological features,
- how to read reports from public opinion surveys.

*Stage 2: Energy governance in the EU and its stakeholders*

Contents:

- energy governance in the EU and the project of “energy union”,
- international, national, regional, local level,
- definition and role of stakeholders,
- impact of energy policies and project on stakeholders,

- potential tensions and conflicts.

### *Stage 3: Communication among stakeholders and their participation in the decision-making*

#### Contents:

- energy and participative democracy,
- process of communication about energy issues ,
- practices for participation of stakeholders in the decision-making,
- measures to benefit the local community,
- questions associated with local community planning.

#### *Required materials & equipment*

- Power Point presentation,
- computer, projector,
- flipchart or board,
- internet connection.

## **9. Literature and other materials**

### **1. Public opinion on energy issues in a nutshell**

1.1. European Commission. 2017. Climate Change. Brussels. <http://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/yearFrom/1974/yearTo/2018/surveyKy/2140>

1.2. European Commission. 2018. SMEs, resource efficiency and green markets. Brussels. <http://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/yearFrom/1974/yearTo/2018/surveyKy/2151>

### **2. Energy governance in the EU and its stakeholders**

2.1. Leal-Arcas, Rafael, Jan Wouters. 2017. Research Handbook on EU Energy Law and Policy. Cheltenham – Northampton: Edward Elgar Publishing.

2.2. Martell, Meritxell, Gianluca Ferraro. 2014. Radioactive Waste Management Stakeholders Map in the European Union. European Commission: Joint Research Centre.

<https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/publication/eur-scientific-and-technical-research-reports/radioactive-waste-management-stakeholders-map-european-union-report-may-2014>

2.3. Müller, Wolfgang, Paul W. Thurner. 2017. The Politics of Nuclear Energy in Western Europe. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

### **3. Communication among stakeholders and their participation in the decision-making:**

3.1. Andersson, Kjell. 2008. Transparency and Accountability in Science and Politics. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.