

Course guide

240666 - 240666 - Social Economy and Development Cooperation

Last modified: 07/07/2024

Unit in charge: Barcelona School of Industrial Engineering
Teaching unit: **Degree:** BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING (Syllabus 2010). (Optional subject).

Academic year: 2024 **ECTS Credits:** 4.5 **Languages:** English

LECTURER

Coordinating lecturer: Jordi Olivella Nadal

Others: Bruno Domenech Sanz

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The course will utilize the methodologies that follow:

- Discussions and Debates. Discussions and debates on ethical dilemmas, social responsibility, and the role of engineers in creating a more sustainable and equitable world.
- Project-Based Learning (PBL). Students will collaborate to devise a solution-oriented plan for a social concern they have identified.
- Case Studies. Analysis of real-life case studies of successful social enterprises, cooperative initiatives, and foundation-led projects.
- Guest Lectures. Experts from the social economy, including NGO leaders, cooperative members, foundation representatives, and social entrepreneurs, will be invited to share their experiences and insights.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES OF THE SUBJECT

General objective

To empower future engineers to understand, collaborate with, and potentially lead initiatives within NGOs, cooperatives, and foundations that leverage social economy principles for sustainable development.

Specific objectives

- Introduce students to the roles, structures, and operational models of NGOs, cooperatives, and foundations in the context of the social economy. Analyse their unique strengths, challenges, and areas of impact.
- Examine the specifics of cooperative enterprises and other solidarity-based organizations. Explore their governance structures, financial models, and social impact measurement practices.
- Guide students in applying engineering knowledge and skills to solve challenges faced by NGOs, cooperatives, and foundations. Emphasize the importance of technical solutions that are culturally appropriate, environmentally sustainable, and economically viable.
- Equip students with the communication and interpersonal skills needed to build effective partnerships with these organizations. Encourage participation in real-world projects, internships, or volunteer experiences to gain practical insights.
- Examine successful initiatives led by NGOs, cooperatives, and foundations in diverse sectors like renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, community development, and social entrepreneurship. Dissect their strategies, impact assessments, and lessons learned.
- Inspire students to explore entrepreneurial opportunities within the social economy. Nurture their potential to become leaders who can drive positive change through innovative solutions and collaborative approaches.



CONTENTS

1. Foundations of the social economy.

Description:

Introduction to the social economy. Principles, values, and goals.
Historical and theoretical perspectives on the social economy.
The global landscape of the social economy. Diverse models and movements.

Full-or-part-time: 6h

Theory classes: 3h

Self study : 3h

2. Understanding NGOs, cooperatives, and foundations.

Description:

The role of NGOs in the social economy. Advocacy, service provision, and development.
The cooperative model. Principles, structures, and governance.
Foundations. Types, funding mechanisms, and grantmaking strategies.

Full-or-part-time: 6h

Theory classes: 3h

Self study : 3h

3. Technical expertise and social impact.

Description:

Engineering for social good. Identifying challenges and opportunities.
Designing and implementing sustainable solutions. Technical, social, and environmental considerations.
Measuring and evaluating social impact. Tools, frameworks, and case studies.

Full-or-part-time: 6h

Theory classes: 3h

Self study : 3h

4. Collaboration and partnership building.

Description:

Effective communication and stakeholder engagement
Building trust and mutually beneficial relationships
Project management and implementation. Working with NGOs, cooperatives, and foundations

Full-or-part-time: 6h

Theory classes: 3h

Self study : 3h



5. Social entrepreneurship and innovation.

Description:

Identifying and evaluating social business opportunities.
Developing a social business plan. Financial models and impact measurement.
Pitching and fundraising for social ventures.

Full-or-part-time: 6h

Theory classes: 3h

Self study : 3h

ACTIVITIES

Case study discussions.

Description:

Case study sessions in this course will explore real-world examples of social and environmental challenges tackled through social enterprise initiatives. Students will analyse the context, root causes, and impact of these problems.

The case studies will cover the varied manifestations of poverty and marginalization across different regions and socioeconomic contexts, including unequal access to basic necessities, gender-based discrimination, and systemic economic disparities in both Western and low-income countries.

Full-or-part-time: 30h

Self study: 15h

Practical classes: 15h

Social economy project.

Description:

The project will directly address a social or environmental problem like poverty, lack of access to basic necessities, pollution, waste management, or community health. Students will develop practical, measurable solutions that empower communities and promote sustainability. These solutions will leverage engineering expertise to design innovative technologies or processes, while also considering social and economic factors. Projects will encourage collaboration, both among students and with external stakeholders, to ensure that solutions are relevant, effective, and scalable. Ultimately, the projects aim to create lasting positive change and inspire students to use their skills for social good.

The project performed will include the elements that follow:

- Identify. Teams brainstorm and select a specific social concern to address.
- Research. Gather data and analyse the root causes, impacts, and existing solutions.
- Ideate. Brainstorm and evaluate potential solutions, focusing on feasibility and impact.
- Develop. Create a detailed plan outlining goals, activities, resources, and evaluation metrics.
- Present. Share the final plan with a panel of experts and receive constructive feedback.

Full-or-part-time: 52h 30m

Self study: 37h 30m

Practical classes: 15h

GRADING SYSTEM

Class participation. 25% (general discussions) + 25% (case studies) = 50%

Project 50%