

Promising practice

University: Università degli Studi di Sassari

Academic discipline: Sociology

Course title: Responsible Social Research and Innovation and Community based action research

Course description:

The course develops along during first and second semester and is articulated in two modules that are conceived as complementary but can be done independently.

The first semester module is about Responsible Social Research and Innovation. RRI keys and process requirements are introduced and discussed thoroughly with students on the basis of literature and case studies. Testimonials from professional world and CSOs will be invited to stimulate collective reflection, notably concerning social innovation practices.

The second semester module is about Community based action research. Students will be involved in real life experiences and observation activities that will eventually evolve into action research projects. Notably, this will be pursued by means of flipped classrooms, community meetings and community walks.

Learning outcomes

Students are expected to learn about issues that are crucial to responsible and effective research and innovation practices. They will acquire methodological competences connected to practices that are anchored in societal engagement, ethical tension and respect of the other.

They will acquire research skills that are crucial to an effectively participatory approach. In order to do so, not only will they learn about RRI process requirements, but they will learn to value the other's – and notably the dispossessed's – point of view and capabilities. They are also expected to develop a professional and research ethos based on humility and respect.

How students' learning is assessed

Common activities and group discussion will provide a basis for assessment of learning acquisitions. A final exam at the end of each semester is provided for each of the two 6 ECTS modules.

How students learn with civil society organisations through this course

Study visits will bring students to directly interact with CSOs and professionals that will guide them through their approach and philosophy. Testimonials will work the same way. Community walks and community meetings are usually planned and organized to encourage disadvantaged community members to speak up for themselves and to be involved in activities as main experts.

How students learn about dimensions of RRI through this course

Students will have the possibility to interact continuously through group work and discussion. Constant reference to actual situations will be made by means of active observation and participation in real-life experiences. CSOs, social workers, practitioners, community members as well as other professors will be invited to interact with students during the course, by means of different kind of activities such as seminars, testimonials, flipped classrooms, study visits, community walks and community meetings.

RRI keys integrated in the course:

Public Engagement; Ethics; Social Justice; Governance;

RRI process requirements integrated in the course:

Anticipation; Reflexivity; Responsiveness; Inclusion.

To find out more, contact:

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