wcm260 - Comparative Research and Planning Practice

Module contents

The aim of this course is to compare planning systems, practices and cultures in different countries (with a focus on Europe and Asia) and to draw lessons from such comparisons. A supplementary aim of the course is to provide students with the methodological tools (e.g. lesson drawing; policy transfer) to do international comparative research. Comparative analysis allows students to determine the possibilities of transferring planning (best) practices from one specific national/planning context to another, to critique different systems as well as to draw other generic lessons from the comparisons.

After completion of the course students will be able to (6A) (6B):
1. Compare the historic, cultural and political contexts that shape different planning systems (2I) (5C)
2. Describe how specific planning tools and techniques operate within a particular context (3A) (3C) (3D)
3. Apply concepts, tools and techniques from 'lesson drawing', 'policy transfer' and 'comparative research' (1B) (2K) (2L) (5C) (6C)
4. Evaluate the opportunities and challenges for cross cultural learning with regard to particular themes/tools/techniques (1B) (3D) (3F)
5. Collaborate in a systematic way in planning and presenting results of a comparative research project and evaluate comparative analysis produced by peers on their completeness, accuracy and relevance and critically reflect on own research process and outcomes (3E) (6C) (D).

Assignment: After completing this assignment, the student is able to (2D) (2E) (2F) (2G) (2I) (2L) (4A) (4C) (4D) (5A) (5B) (6B):

- Develop a sound problem definition that expresses the relevance and urgency of analyzing a specific spatial planning problem in an international context (1A) (2A) (3G) (4B)
- Assess to what extent a comparison of planning system, policies and practices between two countries is feasible and reliable (1D) (2B) (3A) (5C)
- Compare the historic, cultural and political contexts that shape different planning systems (1F) (5C)
- Describe how specific planning tools and techniques operate within a particular context (1F)
- Identify opportunities and barriers for successful policy transfer (2K) (5D) and Collaborate in a systematic way in planning and presenting results of a comparative research project and evaluate comparative analyses produced by peers on their completeness, accuracy and relevance and critically reflect on own research process and outcomes (3E) (6C) (6D)
policy transfer as useful methods to analyze, understand and draw inspiration from different national planning systems and practices. In addition to completing a written exam, students are expected to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of doing comparative research by completing a group assignment with the focus on transferring a (successful) policy/drawing lessons from one national/institutional/cultural context to another while being sensitive and critical towards national/institutional/cultural differences, opportunities and limitations.

Reader’s advisory
Journal articles will be supplied.

Links

Languages of instruction

Duration (semesters)
1 Semester

Module frequency
unlimited

Module capacity
This course is part of the second year of the Double Degree Master Water and Coastal Management and takes place in Groningen.

Reference text
See https://www.rug.nl/ocasys/frw/vak/show?code=GEMCOMPRPP for more information about this course.

Modullevel
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Modulart
je nach Studiengang Pflicht oder Wahlpflicht

Lern-Lehrform / Type of program

Vorkenntnisse / Previous knowledge

Examination
Final exam of module
Type of examination
Examination with open questions, Group assignments (and pitch & video/presentation)

Course type
Seminar

SWS

Frequency

Workload attendance
0 h