Course Descriptions None 2025-2026

Course Title	Participatory Methods
Course Code	SSP4012
ECTS Credits	1,0
Assessment	Pass / Fail

Period

Period	Start	End	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
3	12-1-2026	23-1-2026	C				

Level	Intermediate
Coordinator	Veronique Vasseur For more information:veronique.vasseur@maastrichtuniversity.nl
Language of instruction	English
Goals	After studying the SA skills course the students are able to: * Apply some widely-used methods/tools of sustainability assessment; * Discuss the strengths, weaknesses, and pitfalls of these methods/tools; * Reflect on the contribution of the methods/tools to a sustainability assessment.
Description	Sustainable development is a future oriented multidimensional process of change that requires an ongoing debate in science, policy and society. Participation is therefore an important condition for policymaking in pursuit of sustainable development. Without participation no sustainable development, is the common opinion. However, what is participation and how can it be used in policymaking? How to organise and facilitate a participatory process? Who should be involved in such a process? What methods and tools can be used? These questions among others will be discussed and practiced in this Skills course.
Literature	Compulsory literature https://lithgow-schmidt.dk/sherry-arnstein/ladder-of-citizen-participation_en.pdf Originally published as Arnstein, Sherry R. "A Ladder of Citizen Participation," JAIP, Vol. 35, No. 4, July 1969, pp. 216-224. The article is quite old, but never-the-less of great value to anyone interested in issues of citizen participation. Be aware that the vocabulary used in the article refers very much to the situation in the United States in the 1960s. In 2022 it can be considered quite offending. -Reed, M. (2008) Stakeholder participation for environmental management: a literature review. Biological Conservation 141: 2417-2431. Doi: 10.1016/l.biocon.2008.07.014 http://www.comap.ca/kmland/display.php?ID=250&DISPOP=VRCPR -Reed, M., Graves, A., Dandy, N. Posthumus, H. , Hubacek, K., Morris, J., Prell, C., Quinn, C., Stringer, L. (2009) Who's in and why? A typology of stakeholder analysis methods for natural resource management. Journal of environmental management 90: 1933-1949. Doi: 10.1016/j.jenvman.2009.01.001 http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0301479709000024 Further reading -HarmoniCOP, Learning together to manage together. Improving Participation in water management (see http://ecologic.eu/1625) -B.A. van Asselt Marjolein, Nicole Rijkens-Klomp (2002), A look in the mirror: reflection on participation in Integrated Assessment from a methodological perspective, Global Environmental Change 12 (2002) 167–184, Elsevier -Participation Handbook for humanitarian field workers (ALNAP) http://www.urd.org/IMG/pdf/MP_GB_CHAPITRE1.pdf -Biodiversa handbook for stakeholder engagement: http://www.google.nl/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&ved=0CCoQFjABahUKEwi-6qSY1tPIAhXCWxQKHV4YA8c&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.biodiversa.org%2F698%2Fdownload&usg=AFQjCNH-GtIIf8RMr9nyruyjloiHgAgPZQ&sig2=KjUwkzpIyXZ4yvqD8EUH6g -Journal: http://www.iied.org/natural-resources/key-issues/empowerment-and-land-rights/participatory-learning-and-action
Prerequisites	Exchange students should refer to the International Relations Office via email in case they would like to register for this course: iro-incoming-sbe@maastrichtuniversity.nl. Only limited spots available, first-come first-serve principle.
Keywords	
Transitional Regulations	
Teaching methods	Assignment / Papers / Groupwork
Assessment methods	Participation / Assignment
Evaluation in previous academic year	For the complete evaluation of this course please click http://iwio-sbe.maastrichtuniversity.nl/rapporten.asp?referrer=codeUM

This course belongs to the following programme / specialisation

Master Sustainability Science, Policy and Society - Business for Sustainability	Compulsory Skills
Master Sustainability Science, Policy and Society - Policy for Sustainability	Compulsory Skills
SBE Exchange Master	Master Exchange Courses