

Course Descriptions None 2026-2027

Course Title	Multi Criteria Analysis																
Course Code	SSP4015																
ECTS Credits	1,0																
Assessment	Pass / Fail																
Period	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Period</th> <th>Start</th> <th>End</th> <th>Mon</th> <th>Tue</th> <th>Wed</th> <th>Thu</th> <th>Fri</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>4-1-2027</td> <td>22-1-2027</td> <td>C</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Period	Start	End	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	3	4-1-2027	22-1-2027	C				
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3	4-1-2027	22-1-2027	C														
Level	Introductory/Intermediate																
Coordinator	Filippo Oncini For more information: filippo.oncini@maastrichtuniversity.nl																
Language of instruction	English																
Goals	<p>After studying the SA skills course the students are able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 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	In this Sustainability Assessment Skills (SAS) sub-course we focus on policy analysis and introduce a specific approach suitable for integrated sustainability assessments: Multi-criteria analysis (MCA). MCA is a method for evaluating multiple (conflicting) criteria in a policy context. This skills sub-course focuses on MCA, and critically evaluates its application to real-world sustainability problems. The course starts with an introduction lecture providing an overview on the field of and different approaches to policy analysis, and a brief introduction to the specific method of MCA. Throughout three tutorials, students will then deepen their understanding of the specific steps of an MCA (tutorial 1), jointly elaborate a design for MCA in relation to a real-world sustainability problem (tutorial 2), and apply the chosen design to a simulation game where students take the role of MCA facilitators and stakeholders (tutorial 3).																
Literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Runhaar et al. (2006). Policy analysis for sustainable development: The toolbox for the environmental social scientist. International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education 7(1): 34-56. - Department for Communities and Local Government: London, (2009), Multi-criteria analysis: a manual, Wetherby: Communities and Local Government Publications. Only read chapter 6 (pp 46-72): https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7612/1132618.pdf - Participative multi-criteria analysis for the evaluation of water governance alternatives. A case in the Costa del Sol (Málaga) http://www.upo.es/ghf/giest/GIEST/publicaciones/573_Ecological_economics.pdf (Links to an external site.) - Combining participative and institutional approaches with multicriteria evaluation. An empirical study for water issues in Troina, Sicily https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0921800900001622 (Links to an external site.) - Multi-criteria analysis of heating sector sustainability in Northern Europe https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2210670721001165 - Application of Multi-Actor Multi-Criteria Analysis for Transition Management in Energy Communities https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/13/4/1783 (Links to an external site.) - Stakeholder engagement and multi-criteria decision aiding in the electricity transmission grid https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09640568.2017.1395317 - Value Measurement Analysis of Energy Tradeoffs in South Africa https://dlc.dlib.indiana.edu/dlc/bitstream/handle/10535/9941/V.%20Prado%20%28et.%20al%29%20%20Valu - A social multi-criteria evaluation of non-conventional water alternatives in Metropolitan Barcelona https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0959652611003519 (Links to an external site.) - A degrowth approach to urban mobility options: just, desirable and practical options https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13549839.2022.2025769 																
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	<p><div class="trreg"><ul class="trcohorts">Master Sustainability Science, Policy and Society [2025-2026 and earlier]In 2026-2027 education and exam/resit opportunities are offered.In 2027-2028 exam/resit opportunities are offered.From 2028-2029 onwards, the course is cancelled.<p>Note that from 2026-2027 onwards, SSP4016 "Participatory Multi-Criteria Analysis" is offered as a replacement course.</p><table><col style="width: 200px;"><col style="width: 120px;"><col style="width: 120px;"><thead><tr><th>Academic Year</th><th>Education</th><th>Exam/Resit</th><th>Replacement(s)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>2026-2027</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>SSP4016 "Participatory Multi-Criteria Analysis"</td></tr><tr><td>2027-2028</td><td>&nbsp;</td><td>X</td><td>SSP4016 "Participatory Multi-Criteria Analysis"</td></tr><tr><td>2028-2029 onwards</td><td>&nbsp;</td><td>&nbsp;</td><td>SSP4016 "Participatory Multi-Criteria Analysis"</td></tr></tbody></table></div></p>																
Teaching methods	PBL / Lecture / Assignment / Groupwork / Skills																
Assessment methods	Attendance / 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	<table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Master Sustainability Science, Policy and Society - Business for Sustainability</td> <td>In transition - Compulsory Skills</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Master Sustainability Science, Policy and Society - Policy for Sustainability</td> <td>In transition - Compulsory Skills</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SBE Exchange Master</td> <td>Cancelled</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Master Sustainability Science, Policy and Society - Business for Sustainability	In transition - Compulsory Skills	Master Sustainability Science, Policy and Society - Policy for Sustainability	In transition - Compulsory Skills	SBE Exchange Master	Cancelled										
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