**COURSE DESCRIPTION FORM**

1. **GENERAL**

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| **SCHOOL** | APPLIED ECONOMICS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES | | |
| **DEPARTMENT** | AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS & RURAL DEVELOPMENT | | |
| **STUDY LEVEL** | *Undergraduate* | | |
| **COURSE CODE** | **1570** | **SEMESTER** | 7th |
| **COURSE TITLE** | CO-OPERATIVE ECONOMICS | | |
| **INDEPENDENT TEACHING ACTIVITIES** | | **WEEKLY TEACHING HOURS** | **ECTS** |
| Lectures | | 5 | 5 |
|  | |  |  |
|  | |  |  |
| **COURSE TYPE** | Scientific area | | |
| **PREREQUISITES** | None | | |
| **LANGUAGE** | Greek and English | | |
| **IS THE COURSE OFFERED for ERASMUS STUDENTS?** | YES | | |
| **COURSE WEB PAGE** | <http://openeclass.aua.gr> | | |
| **COURSE GOALS** | | | | |
| Τhe lesson aims at the familiarization of students with the cooperative as an institution as well as with the principles, values, philosophy and practical application of cooperatives and collective forms of entrepreneurship in rural areas.  By successfully completing the course students will be able to:   * Describe, distinguish and explain the fundamental concepts of cooperatives, * Explain and employ theories/approaches and methodologies used to analyse and assess the collective forms of entrepreneurship in rural areas. * Assess and explain the multiple roles of cooperatives in modern agriculture and agri-food value chains as well as in rural development. * Understand and define the development phases (and course) of a cooperative and distinguish the critical parameters that differentiate cooperatives from conventional enterprises in rural areas. * Describe and suggest national and EU policies to promote cooperatives and social economy enterprises; and * Explain the role of social finance in developing cooperative solutions in rural areas. | | | | |
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**COURSE CONTENTS**

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|  | |  | *Total Hrs* |
| 1. | Content and forms of co-operatives |  | 6 |
| 2. | The framework of cooperative development |  | 6 |
| 3. | Cooperatives in a national and EU/international context |  | 6 |
| 4. | Structure and activities of cooperatives |  | 6 |
| 5. | Cooperative legislation (comparative analysis) |  | 6 |
| 6. | Cooperative Management |  | 6 |
| 7. | New forms of cooperation/cooperatives in rural areas and new generation cooperatives |  | 8 |
| 8. | Financing cooperative and collective forms of entrepreneurship in rural areas (Social Finance) |  | 8 |

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| **TEACHING METHOD** | | | | **EXAMINATION** | |
| *Hours* | | | |  | *Weight* |
| Class |  |  |  | Written exam | 50% |
| Seminar |  |  |  | Orals |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Collaboration with lecturer | 16 |  |  | Personal assignments | 50% |
| Laboratory | 0 |  |  | Group assignments |  |
| TOTAL Hours: | 16 |  |  | ΣΥΝΟΛΟ / TOTAL: | 100% |

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| **BIBLIOGRAPHY** | S. Gogio & Y. Alexopoulos (2012) *Financial co-operatives and sustainable local development*, Routledge, UK |
|  | Peter Davis (1999) *Managing the cooperative difference*, ILO – cooperative branch, Geneva |
|  | Edgar Parnell (1995) *Reinventing the Co-operative. Enterprises for the 21st century*, Plunkett Foundation. Oxford, UK  Selected articles from Journals:  Annals of Public and Cooperative Economics <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/%28ISSN%291467-8292>  Journal of Entrepreneurship and Organisational Diversity <http://www.jeodonline.com/>  Journal of Rural Cooperation <http://departments.agri.huji.ac.il/econocen/en/jrc.htm>  International Journal of Cooperative Management <http://www.newharmonypress.coop/> |
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| **NOTES** | The course is usually taught with personal collaboration with the lecturer. |
|  | All course material, assignments and examinations are in English. |