

COURSE TITLE:
INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLICY

A short description of the course

The course covers key topics in comparative policy, especially the forms, dynamics and outcomes of democratic institutions. The basic features of different forms of democracy will be considered, including majoritarian (Westminster) democracy and consensual democracy, as well as political institutions and institutional configurations in old and new democracies and pluralist societies. The forms, functioning and results of political institutions will be analysed, especially when it comes to the relationship between the executive and the legislature, the organization of the executive branch and coalitions, legislative bodies, electoral and party systems, as well as territorial decentralization. All topics will be illustrated with prominent examples from modern old and new democracies and pluralist societies in different regions of the world, including the Balkans.

What are the educational goals of the programme?

- A broader understanding of comparative policy and its place in political and social sciences.
- Introduction to key concepts and theories in modern comparative policy.
- Application of appropriate concepts and theories to relevant examples of modern states and political institutions.



What knowledge will the participants acquire?

- Participants will be introduced to the basic forms, dynamics and outcomes of different forms of democratic institutions.
- They will distinguish between basic models of democracy and different democratic institutions and institutional configurations.
- They will get acquainted with the forms and functioning of key institutions, including electoral and party systems and various forms of horizontal and vertical government organization.
- They will test newly acquired knowledge on the examples from Serbia, other countries of our region and modern democracies in other regions.

Implementer: Nebojša Vladislavljević

Course content

- Democracy and constitutional design
- Forms of democracy
- Presidential, parliamentary and semi-presidential systems
- Governments and coalitions
- Legislative bodies
- Elections and electoral systems
- Political parties and party systems
- Unitary and federal states
- Democracy in pluralist societies
- Outcomes of democratic institutions

