

HUM-361

Introduction to social entrepreneurship

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Cursus	Sem.	Type
Humanities and Social Sciences	BA6	Opt.

Language of teaching	English
Credits	2
Session	Summer
Semester	Spring
Exam	During the semester
Workload	60h
Weeks	14
Hours	2 weekly
Courses	2 weekly
Number of positions	60

Summary

This course provides an introduction to social entrepreneurship. By adopting a process perspective - from initial problem recognition all the way to establishing an impactful social venture - this course offers a holistic overview of the steps involved in creating businesses for societal change

Content

The class will cover the following topics:

- Introduction to social and environmental problems
- Identifying and developing opportunities for sustainable development
- Social design thinking
- Social business models
- Funding and scaling social ventures

Keywords

social entrepreneurship, technologies for impact, new firm creation

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, the student must be able to:

- Analyze the potential for addressing social and environmental problems entrepreneurially
- Develop a business plan for a social venture
- Assess / Evaluate the impact potential of technologies
- Identify opportunities for sustainable development
- Compare different funding possibilities and their respective advantages/ disadvantages

Transversal skills

- Evaluate one's own performance in the team, receive and respond appropriately to feedback.
- Make an oral presentation.
- Plan and carry out activities in a way which makes optimal use of available time and other resources.
- Communicate effectively, being understood, including across different languages and cultures.

Teaching methods

To steer this active learning experience, the course will combine classical lectures with several interactive teaching methods, including group work, student presentations, individual reflection exercises, case studies, as well as guest speaker experiences.

Expected student activities

Active participation of students in class;
Business idea generation individually and in groups;
Development of a business project in groups;
Presentations in class

Assessment methods

40% Business plan project (group project incl. three presentations and one final written report)
40% Individual assignment
20% Peer-to-Peer Feedback

Supervision

Office hours	Yes
Assistants	Yes
Others	Office hours upon request

Resources

Websites

- <http://entc.epfl.ch>