LOCAL PUBLIC FINANCE

MSc Degree in Municipal Management

Code: 21702

Main Scientific Area: Public administration and finance

Lecturer: Soraia Marla Ferreira Gonçalves

Language of Instruction: Portuguese

Regime: S1

Contact Hours: 45h Total Workload: 119h

ECTS: 6,0

Objectives

The main objective of the course is to understand the financial activity of the local public sector, taking into account the legal framework of local finances and local public activity.

Learning Outcomes

1. Acquire in-depth knowledge of the local finance system, including revenue, expenditure and the sources of funding for local entities;

2.Understand the framework of local finances in public finances;

3. Understand the system of financial transfers to local authorities resulting from budgetary federalism;

4. Develop skills in analyzing and interpreting local budgets;

5. Understand the legal regulations governing local finances, particularly in terms of budgetary transparency;

6. Understand the limits of municipal indebtedness and their consequences in terms of budget balance;

7. Develop research skills in the areas of local finance.

Course Contents

1. Introduction to Public Finance for institutional subsectors

2. Fiscal Federalism and decentralization

3. Intergovernmental Grants

4. Local Finance Law: Financial Autonomy

5. Municipal indebtedness

6. Local budgetary process

7. Challenges of local budgeting reform

Recommended Bibliography

Baleiras, R. Nuno (coordenador), R. Dias e M. Almeida, 2018. Finanças Locais: Princípios económicos, instituições e a experiência portuguesa desde 1987. Colecao Livros do CFP, vol. 1.

Cabral, Nazaré Costa, 2013. A Teoria do Federalismo Financeiro, Almedina, Coimbra.

Learning and Teaching Methods

The syllabus contents and the learning objectives presented show a structured coherence in the development of the skills needed to understand the financial activity of the local public sector:

- Objective 1) is aligned with Contents 1) and 2);

- Objective 2) is supported by Contents 3), 4) and 5);

- Objective 3) is linked to Content 3);

- Objective 4) is linked to Content 5);

- Objective 5) is directly related to Content 4);

- Objective 6) is aligned with Content 5);

- Objective 7) cuts across all the syllabuses.

Assessment Methods

The evaluation of the curricular unit will be done through the performance of individual work.

Written report - weighting final grade 70%

Oral presentation (compulsory) - weighting final grade 30%