



SYLLABUS
Microfinance
Academic year 2025-2026

1. Information regarding the program

1.1. Higher education institution	Universitatea Babeș Bolyai
1.2. Faculty	Business
1.3. Department	Business
1.4. Field of study	Business Administration
1.5. Study cycle	Bachelor
1.6. Study programme/Qualification	Business Administration /Bachelor in Economic Studies
1.7. Form of education	Full time

2. Information regarding the discipline

2.1. Name of the discipline		Microfinance				Discipline code	ILE0042	
2.2. Course coordinator			Lect. Cristina Balint, PhD					
2.3. Seminar coordinator			Lect. Cristina Balint, PhD					
2.4. Year of study	2	2.5. Semester	1	2.6. Type of evaluation	C	2.7. Discipline regime	elective	

3. Total estimated time (hours/semester of didactic activities)

3.1. Hours per week	3	of which: 3.2 course	2	3.3 seminar/laboratory	1
3.4. Total hours in the curriculum	42	of which: 3.5 course	28	3.6 seminar/laboratory	14
Time allotment for individual study (ID) and self-study activities (SA)					hours
Learning using manual, course support, bibliography, course notes (SA)					12
Additional documentation (in libraries, on electronic platforms, field documentation)					12
Preparation for seminars/labs, homework, papers, portfolios and essays					5
Tutorship					2
Evaluations					2
Other activities:					-
3.7. Total individual study hours					33
3.8. Total hours per semester					75
3.9. Number of ECTS credits					3

4. Prerequisites (if necessary)

4.1. curriculum	
4.2. competencies	

5. Conditions (if necessary)

5.1. for the course	classroom with computer and projector
5.2. for the seminar /lab activities	classroom with computer and projector



6.1. Specific competencies acquired

Professional/essential competencies	<p>C1. Gathering, processing, and analysing data regarding the interaction between a company/ an organisation and the external environment</p> <p>C1.1. Description of economic paradigms, concepts, and theories regarding the influence of the external environment on companies/ organisations</p> <p>C1.2. Explanation and interpretation of the economic influence of the external environment on companies/ organisations</p> <p>C1.3. Use of appropriate tools to analyse the influence of the external environment on companies/ organisations</p> <p>C2. Providing assistance for running a company/ an organisation as a whole</p> <p>C2.1. Identification of economic concepts and theories related to companies/ organisations</p> <p>C2.2. Explanation and interpretation of the relationships among various entities within companies/ organisations</p> <p>C2.3. Use of appropriate tools to solve problems concerning the relationships among various divisions within companies/ organisations</p>
Transversal competencies	<p>CT1. Implementation of ethical principles, norms, and values within one's own rigorous, effective, and responsible working strategy</p>

6.2. Learning outcomes

Knowledge	<p>The student has general knowledge in macro- and micro-economic areas with an impact on business life and activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The student researches the impact of microfinance on poverty reduction and local economic development, and analyzes the effectiveness of different microfinance programs in various geographical and cultural contexts
Skills	<p>The student demonstrates having the ability to understand the effects of macroeconomic policies, thus being able to infer their implications at microeconomic level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The student monitors the impact of microfinance programs and conducts analyses of the financial needs of low-income clients to support entrepreneurial development and access to financial services.
Responsibility and autonomy:	<p>The student is able to make decisions according to their position and to take responsibility towards higher hierarchical levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The student demonstrates the ability in managing microfinance programs, ensuring that they respond to the real needs of disadvantaged communities

7. Objectives of the discipline (outcome of the acquired competencies)

7.1 General objective of the discipline	Presentation of the microfinance programs correlated with the commercial entities and their geographical localization
7.2 Specific objective of the discipline	<ul style="list-style-type: none">General information regarding microfinanceAdvantages and disadvantages of the microfinance programsThe correlation between the commercial entities and the types of financing programs



8. Content

8.1 Course	Teaching methods	Remarks
Basic information regarding microfinance	Interactive presentation, multimedia, exemplification	1 lecture
Financing schemes – part I	Interactive presentation, multimedia, exemplification	1 lecture
Financing schemes – part II	Interactive presentation, multimedia, exemplification	1 lecture
The need of financing	Interactive presentation, multimedia, exemplification	1 lecture
Supply and demand in microfinance	Interactive presentation, multimedia, exemplification	1 lecture
The financing of the commercial entities – general information	Interactive presentation, multimedia, exemplification	1 lecture
The existing financing programs for the commercial entities	Interactive presentation, multimedia, exemplification	1 lecture
The attractiveness of the financing programs	Interactive presentation, multimedia, exemplification	1 lecture
Microfinance versus bank loans	Interactive presentation, multimedia, exemplification	1 lecture
Microfinance – SWOT analysis (part I)	Interactive presentation, multimedia, exemplification	1 lecture
Microfinance – SWOT analysis (part II)	Interactive presentation, multimedia, exemplification	1 lecture
The existing regulation for obtaining a financing	Interactive presentation, multimedia, exemplification	1 lecture
Bibliography 1. Arun, T. and D. Hulme (2003), 'Balancing supply and demand – the emerging agenda for microfinance institutions', <i>Journal of Microfinance</i> , 5(2). 2. Ellis, F. (2000), <i>Rural Livelihoods</i> , Oxford: Oxford University Press. 3. Edegbe, Uty (2014) - <i>Microfinance and Poverty Reduction</i> , Diplomica Verlag, Hamburg 4. Green, C. J., Kirkpatrick, C. H. and Murinde, V. (eds) (2005) <i>Finance and Development, Surveys of Theory, Evidence and Policy</i> , Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd. 5. Mersland, Roy, Strom, Oystein (2014) - <i>Microfinance institutions : financial and social performance</i> , Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire ; New York, NY : Palgrave Macmillan 6. Reprinted from J. Green, C. H. Kirkpatrick and V. Murinde (eds) (2005), <i>Finance and Development</i> , Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, pp. 304–14. 7. Astha, A. (2016), <i>Microfinance. Battling a wicked problem</i> , Editura P.I.E. PETER LANG 8. Watkins, T.A. (2018), <i>Introduction to microfinance</i> , Editura World Scientific		
8.2 Seminar / laboratory	Teaching methods	Remarks
Presentation of the evaluation method and the structure of the project	Exemplification, discussions	1 seminar
Microfinance programs for the Romanian commercial entities	Exemplification, discussions	1 seminar
The need for microfinance programs for the Romanian commercial entities	Exemplification, discussions	1 seminar
Risks in microfinance	Exemplification, discussions	1 seminar
Advantages and disadvantages of the microfinance programs	Exemplification, discussions	1 seminar
Microfinance supply and demand	Exemplification, discussions	1 seminar
Project presentation	Exemplification, discussions	1 seminar
Bibliography		



1. Arun, T. and D. Hulme (2003), 'Balancing supply and demand – the emerging agenda for microfinance institutions', *Journal of Microfinance*, 5(2).
2. Ellis, F. (2000), *Rural Livelihoods*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
3. Edegbe, Uty (2014) - *Microfinance and Poverty Reduction*, Diplomica Verlag, Hamburg
4. Green, C. J., Kirkpatrick, C. H. and Murinde, V. (eds) (2005) *Finance and Development, Surveys of Theory, Evidence and Policy*, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd.
5. Mersland, Roy, Strom, Oystein (2014) - *Microfinance institutions : financial and social performance*, Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire ; New York, NY : Palgrave Macmillan
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7. Astha, A. (2016), *Microfinance. Battling a wicked problem*, Editura P.I.E. PETER LANG
8. Watkins, T.A. (2018), *Introduction to microfinance*, Editura World Scientific

9. Corroborating the content of the discipline with the expectations of the epistemic community, professional associations and representative employers within the field of the program

- Knowledge of various types of microfinance
- Understanding the criteria on which the microfinance programs can rely on
- The ability to correlate a certain type of commercial entity with the needed type of microfinance program in order to achieve the desired result

10. Evaluation

- The same evaluation criteria are maintained for all exams sessions. The components of the evaluation process carried out during the semester cannot be recovered/redone in the examination sessions.
- To be able to accumulate the points obtained during the semester, it is mandatory to obtain a minimum of 5 (five) in the final exam (written/oral).

Activity type	10.1 Evaluation criteria	10.2 Evaluation methods	10.3 Percentage of final grade
10.4 Course	- correct logical and coherent application of the concepts learned - logical and accurate explanation and interpretation of the results;	Exam (last week of the semester)	50%
10.5 Seminar/laboratory	- the ability to apply concepts learned in practice - correct logical and coherent application of the concepts learned - economic explanation of the results; - interest in the individual preparation throughout the whole semester	Project (during the semester)	35% (compulsory to be presented)
		Application test (during the semester)	15%
10.6 Minimum standard of performance			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• knowledge of the basic terms and their application• economic interpretation of the obtained results			



11. Labels ODD (Sustainable Development Goals)¹

	General label for Sustainable Development							

Date:
28.03.2025

Signature of course coordinator
Lect. dr. Cristina Balint

Signature of seminar coordinator
Lect. dr. Cristina Balint

Date of approval:
10.04.2025

Signature of the head of department
Prof.dr. Ioan-Cristian Chifu

¹ Keep only the labels that, according to the [Procedure for applying ODD labels in the academic process](#), suit the discipline and delete the others, including the general one for *Sustainable Development* – if not applicable. If no label describes the discipline, delete them all and write „Not applicable.”.