COURSE DESCRIPTION
Microfinance
Academic year 2026-2027

1. Programme-related data

1.1. Higher Education Institution	Babeş-Bolyai University
1.2. Faculty	Business
1.3. Department	Business
1.4. Field	Business Administration
1.5. Level of study	Bachelor
1.6. Degree 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			Codul disciplinei	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 assessment	Viva voce
2.7. Course status	Optional			2.8. Course type	Specialisation subject

3. Total estimated time (hours per semester of teaching activities)

3.1. Number of hours per week	3	of which: 3.2. course	2	3.3. seminar/ laboratory/ project	1
3.4. Total of hours in the curriculum	42	of which: 3.5. course	28	3.6. seminar/ laboratory	14
Time allocation for individual study (IS) and self-taught activities (ST)					**hours**
Learning from textbooks, course materials, bibliography, and notes (IS)					12
Additional research in the library, on subject-specific electronic platforms, and on-site					12
Preparing seminars/ laboratories/ projects, assignments, reports, portfolios, and essays					5
Tutoring (professional guidance)					2
Examinations					2
Other activities					-
3.7. Total hours of individual study (IS) and self-taught activities (ST)			**33**		
3.8. Total hours per semester			**75**		
3.9. Number of credits			**3**		

4. Prerequisites (where applicable)

4.1. curriculum-related	
4.2 skills-related	

5. Specific conditions (where applicable)

5.1. course-related	classroom with computer and projector
5.2. seminar/laboratory-related	classroom with computer and projector

6.1. Competencies resulting from the completion of the degree programme

Professional competencies	
Competency code	**Competency**
PC1	Gathering, processing and analysing data regarding the interaction between a company/an organisation and the external environment
PC2	Providing assistance for running a company/ an organisation as a whole
Transversal competencies	
Competency code	**Competency**
TC1	Implementation of ethical principles, norms, and values within one's own rigorous, effective, and responsible working strategy

6.2. Learning outcomes relevant to the degree programme

Learning outcomes targeted by the subject		
Competency code	**Knowledge and comprehension**	**Specific academic skills**
PC1 PC2 TC1	17. The graduate demonstrates the possession of a set of general knowledge on how to plan and manage human, material, and financial resources, how to motivate employees and monitor activities, as well as how to manage customer relations with companies operating in various sectors.	17.The graduate is able to analyse the organisational environment so that the business can adapt to the requirements and challenges they identified; the graduate can recommend appropriate strategies, techniques, and methods for solving management problems related to its core functions.

7. Subject-specific learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding
1. 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
Specific academic skills
1. 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.

8. Contents

8.1. Course	Teaching and learning 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

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
6. Reprinted from J. Green, C. H. Kirkpatrick and V. Murinde (eds) (2005), *Finance and Development*, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, pp. 304–14.
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

8.2. Seminar/ laboratory	Teaching and learning 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).
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9. 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).**

Type of activity	9.1 Evaluation criteria	9.2 Evaluation methods	9.3 Percentage in the final grade
9.4. 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%
9.5. 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%
9.6 Minimum standard for passing			
...			

10. SDG labels (Sustainable Development Goals)

	●	Sustainable Development Generic Label

1 FĂRĂ SĂRĂCIE	2 FOAMETE „ZERO”	3 SĂNĂTATE ȘI BUNĂSTARE	4 EDUCAȚIE DE CALITATE	5 EGALITATE DE GEN	6 APĂ CURATĂ ȘI SANITAȚIE	7 ENERGIE CURATĂ ȘI LA PREȚURI ACCESIBILE	8 MUNCĂ DECENTĂ ȘI CREȘTERE ECONOMICĂ	9 INDUSTRIE, INOVAȚIE ȘI INFRASTRUCTURĂ
○	○	○	●	○	○	○	○	○
10 INEGALITĂȚI REDUSE	11 ORAȘE ȘI COMUNITĂȚI DURABILE	12 CONSUM ȘI PRODUCȚIE RESPONSABILE	13 ACȚIUNE CLIMATICĂ	14 VIAȚA ACVATICĂ	15 VIAȚA TERESTRĂ	16 PACE, JUSTIȚIE ȘI INSTITUȚII EFICIENTE	17 PARTENERIATE PENTRU REALIZAREA OBIECTIVELOR	Nu se aplică nici o etichetă
○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

Date of entry:	Signature of course coordinator	Signature of seminar coordinator
22.05.2026	Lect. Cristina Balint, PhD	Lect. Cristina Balint, PhD

Date of approval in the department:	Signature of the head of department
27.05.2026	Prof. Ioan Cristian CHIFU, PhD