

SYLLABUS

The Geography of Economic Development

University year 2025-2026

1. Information regarding the programme

1.1 Higher education institution	Babeş-Bolyai University
1.2 Faculty	Geography
1.3 Department	Geography Doctoral School
1.4 Field of study	Geography
1.5 Study cycle	Doctoral studies
1.6 Study programme / Qualification	Doctoral degree
1.7. Form of education	Învățământ cu frecvență

2. Information regarding the discipline

2.1 Name of the discipline	The Geography of Economic Development						
2.2 Course coordinator	Prof. dr. József Benedek						
2.3 Seminar coordinator	Prof. dr. József Benedek						
2.4 Year of study	I	2.5 Semester	II	2.6 Type of evaluation	Exam	2.7 Type of discipline	Compulsory

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	36	Of which: 3.5 curs	24	3.6 seminar/laboratory	12
Time allotment for individual study (ID) and self-study activities (SA)					hours
3.5.1. Learning using manual, course support, bibliography, course notes					36
3.5.2. Additional documentation (in libraries, on electronic platforms, field documentation)					32
3.5.3. Preparation for seminars/labs, homework, papers, portfolios and essays					24
3.5.4. Tutorship					6
3.5.5. Evaluations					2
3.5.6. Other activities					0
3.7 Total individual study hours	100				
3.8 Total hours per semester	200				
3.9 Number of ECTS credits	8				

4. Prerequisites (if necessary)

4.1 curriculum	-
4.2 competencies	-

5. Conditions (if necessary)

5.1 for the course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The course classes will be held in the main building of Faculty of Geography according to the official timetable
5.2 for the seminar /lab activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The practical classes will be held in the main building of Faculty of Geography according to the official timetable in a hall with computer network connected to the Internet and with online access to international data basis and archive (statistical data and maps)

6.1. Specific competencies acquired

Professional competencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The course aims at obtaining fundamental knowledge in the field of space-based economic development and policy.
Transversal competencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ability to structure information; ability to analyze and synthesize information; ability to work in a team and coordinate with colleagues.

6.2. Learning outcomes

Knowledge	The student knows the theories and concepts of spatial economic development.
Skills	The student is able to use the theories and concepts of spatial economic development. The student is able to generate explanations for the spatial economic development.
Responsibility and autonomy:	The student has the ability to work independently to resolve complex problems of the economic and spatial development. The student is able to work in team. The student has the ability to use a combination of analysis and visualisation instruments of data and information.

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

7.1 General objective of the discipline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the knowledge of the students in the spatiality of economic development and policy, accumulation of new knowledge in the field of sustainable development.
7.2 Specific objectives of the discipline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introducing the students in the interpretation of the new theoretical perspectives on spatio-economic development and policy. Introducing the students in the analysis and interpretation of processes generating socio-spatial inequalities. Introducing the concepts and principles of sustainable development.

8. Content

8.1. Course	Teaching methods	Time
1. Introduction: definitions, economic growth, economic development, sustainable development.	Oral presentation	2 hours
2. Theories of economic development: localization theories neoclassical school	Oral presentation	2 hours
3. Theories of economic development: behavioural theories	Oral presentation	2 hours
4. Theories of economic development: neoclassical school	Oral presentation	2 hours
5. Theories of economic development: New Economic Geography	Oral presentation	2 hours
6. Theories of economic development: regional polarization theories	Oral presentation	2 hours
7. Theories of economic development: historical-evolutionary theories	Oral presentation	2 hours
8. Economic development – empirical findings at international scale	Oral presentation	2 hours
9. Economic development – empirical findings in Romania and Central and Eastern Europe	Oral presentation	2 hours
10. Economic development – policy interventions I	Oral presentation	2 hours
11. Economic development – policy interventions II	Oral presentation	2 hours
12. Economic development – policy interventions III	Oral presentation	2 hours

Bibliography

1. Clark G., Feldman M., Gertler M. (2000): The Oxford Handbook of Economic Geography. Oxford University Press, Oxford.
2. Gunton Th. (2009) Natural Resources and Regional Development: An assessment of dependency and comparative advantage paradigms. *Economic Geography*, 79:1, 67-94.
3. Knox P., Agnew J. (1994) The geography of world economy. Second edition. Arnold, New York.
4. Krugman P. (1999) The role of geography in development. *International Science Review*. 22:2, 142-161.
5. Wojcik D. (2012) Where governance fails: advanced business services and the offshore world. *Progress in Human Geography*. 37:3, 330-347.
6. World Bank, Commission on Growth and Development (2008) The Growth Report. Strategies for Sustained Growth and Inclusive Development. Washington.

8.2. Seminar	Teaching method	Time
1. Sources of statistical documentation	Working with statistical sources	2 hours
2. Theories of development	Debate, argumentation	4 hours
3. Measurement of the index of sustainable development	Statistical analysis	4 hours
4. Measurement of the index of well-being	Statistical analysis	2 hours

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

- The discipline is corroborated with the professional standards established by the geographic community.

10. Evaluation

Type of activity	10.1 Evaluation criteria	10.2 Evaluation methods	10.3 Share in the grade
10.4 Cours	Verification of the level of sistematization and the professional use of the basic concepts.	Oral examination during the semester: - Evaluation conversation - Oral questioning	20 %
	Logical coherence	Written examination in the examination period: - Written testing.	30 %
10.5 Seminar/laboratory	Capacity to operate with the accumulated knowledge in practical activities	Presentation fo seminar theme, elaboartion of research miniproject.	40 %
		Active participation in the seminars	10%
10.6 Minimum performance standards			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To know the basic teoretical and methodological aspects of economic development. 			

11. Labels ODD (Sustainable Development Goals)¹

	General label for Sustainable Development							
								
								

Date

Signature of course coordinator

Signature of seminar coordinator

30.09.2025

prof. dr. József Benedek

prof. dr. József Benedek

Date of approval

Signature of the head of departament

30.09.2025

prof. dr. Iulian Holobacă

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.”.