Online Course

EXPC-6013 From Economic Recovery to Sustainable Economic Development

1 Overview of the Course

General description:

Countries coming out of conflict are in atypical need of both financial resources and policy advice. Their societies are often extremely fragile and so it is important that the response of the international development community should be as appropriate as possible in respect of their special context and characteristics.

Post war governments are often characterized by large budget deficits, lack of financial resources and expertise in restoring the economic and political stability.

According to the recent economic theories, during the first stages of war, the state has to play a crucial role in rehabilitate the ‘state’ apparatus, the security and judicial systems and essential public services (i.e. public health and education), restore physical infrastructure, productive assets and implement post-war rehabilitation programmes, reintegrate ex combatants and returnees, clear mines, and repay outstanding loans to international creditors that have been used to finance the war.

Any intervention at this stage should aim at recreating the conditions that will allow the private sector and institutions of civil society to reinvest in commercial and productive activities. To this end the assistance is focused on macroeconomic stabilization measures, rebuilding viable financial institutions and appropriate legal frameworks and on rehabilitation urgent transportation and communication infrastructure.

These actions are justified by the belief that the assistance for economic growth will benefit the poor and victims of war through spillover effects of broadly based growth but also by the needs of the post-conflict countries for external financial resources as the internal resources have been depleted.

However to be sustainable, this process needs to take into account the principles of economic development among which the most relevant are the ones of sustainability and responsibility. This entails to put emphasis not only on financial or environmental issues but to promote a more integrated approach which considers social, economic as well as environmental issues without forgetting to respect rules of law, norms of transparency and accountability and international codes of conduct and standards which more and more evoke for a social responsible behaviour from all societal actors.

2 Intended participants

Those who apply and are accepted to the online course “From Economic Recovery to Sustainable Economic Development”

3 Pre- or co -requisites

Students should have the ability to read complex material and to write in English.
4 Date of the Course

TBA

5 Class format

5.1 Number of credits: 2 credits

5.2 Number of sessions and length of course: 6 sessions

5.3 Methodology:

The course is based on both theoretical and practical learning. The bibliography has been selected in order to combine theories with practical examples and case studies from the field. The students who attend this course, hopefully, should have already gained field experiences in either conflict or post conflict contexts; therefore their insights, inputs and lessons learnt will further nurture the interactive discussion and academic learning. The objective of the course is to challenge the current approaches to look for more 'suitable’ responses to the challenging needs of war torn societies. Therefore we expect to have an open debate on themes, topics and dilemmas which are currently characterizing and challenging the complex process of economic recovery.

The course is offered entirely online. It is meant to be interactive using the discussion forum as the base for debate and daily Q&A sessions.

Each session will be introduced with a presentation of the instructor accompanied by other digital techniques and will conclude with challenging questions to be answered during the online forum for the week.

It is expected that each student will analytically review, reflect and discuss the readings proposed for the week and propose through academic papers, or articles their answers and conclusions and lessons learnt from the field to enrich the debate and further discussions.

The Course readings are divided into two main categories:

1. Core Readings: These readings are mandatory. They constitute the minimum readings required for all students in order to enable them to solve the end of the lesson quiz.

2. Optional Readings: These readings are optional in nature and have been included in order to enable students to further broaden their knowledge on the topic for each week. They should also be useful for students in preparing for their final independent study papers.
6 Course requirements

1. For students taking the course for credits:

**Final Independent Study Paper (60%)**
The final assignment is a written academic paper of max 1,500 words.
The research question to be addressed in the final paper is the following:  
*What are the main challenges and opportunities in a war-torn society to promote sustainable peace?*  
Each student will have to chose a specific war affected country and draw recommendations from course’s lessons learnt and readings.  
Due date is Sunday 9th September.

**Attendance and Participation (40%)**
Students will have to participate and contribute on line every day at least for ½ hour. Both the time spent on line and the quality and relevance of their contributions will be assessed.

Students will be expected to participate in each online session and to complete the required assignments, including contributing to the blogs and discussion forums. Students’ participation should demonstrate familiarity with the assigned texts.

a. **Participating in the forum discussions:** On each Monday, there will be one or two questions posted on the Discussion Forum. The questions are intended to encourage discussion about the assigned readings as well as the sharing of participant’s experiences and opinions. Students must participate in each discussion and must post at least one response of no more than 3 paragraphs. There is however no limit to the number of times a student can post a response in each discussion.

b. **Maintaining a Blog:** Each student must maintain a blog on the course site, where a student is required to post one recent news article per week relevant to the theme of the week’s readings. The student should also post a short reflection of one to three paragraphs on the news article. The news articles are not restricted to events, but may also include op-ends, expert analyses etc.

c. **Contributing to other Blogs:** Each student must also post a reflection of one to three paragraphs per week, on at least one other blog entry by fellow students.

d. **Skype:** It might be used as an ultimate resource to ask specific or individual clarifications to the professor.

2. For students not taking the course for credits:

Students will be evaluated with reference to the grades obtained from attending and contributing to forums (100%)

7 Assessment criteria for grading all assignments

- Analytical review
- Creativity
- Demonstration of understanding of relevant course learning
8 Intended learning outcomes

8.1 Learning Objectives

The aim of the course is to provide the students’ knowledge and understanding on the complexity of the economic recovery process and how this should lead to the achievement of sustainable economic development goals in a determined context.

To better understand this complex process, it is also important to reflect on aid assistance, its modalities and the actors involved as well as its impacts on the local economy.

8.1.1 The course content and process intend that learners achieve the following objectives:

- Learn through sessions about concepts of economic recovery and its relations to sustainable economic development;
- Focus on contextual analysis and appropriate response for overcoming the challenges faced by the economic recovery at macro and micro level.
- Get an introduction to the concept of sustainable economic development throughout the analysis of (post) conflict recovery.

Corresponding capacities for participants to develop include:
- Understand the overall process of economic recovery and its relation with sustainable development
- Ability to map out key stakeholders and define their own position;
- Knowledge about proper response and challenges of economic recovery.
- Learning about the complexity of achieving economic development throughout the recovery process.

Throughout the following main learning objectives:
- Identifying the status of the recovery process with respect to its limitations, challenges and opportunities
- Identifying the key causes and impacts of conflict on the recovery process, addressing the main questions of: how should we address the main causes of conflict in order to promote a sustainable recovery process? How shall we overcome the challenges of conflict’s impacts which are affecting and undermine the recovery process?
- The macroeconomic policies which promote the recovery and development process and the financial tools to implement it.
- Recommendations for policy makers to implement a successful recovery plan.
- Introducing the concept of Sustainable (economic) Development
- Reviewing new approaches to achieve sustainable development in war torn societies.

9 Instructor’s Short Bio

Nika Salvetti
She is an affiliated professor of UPEACE, currently working and researching in Bangladesh. She has been working at UPEACE as the Academic Programme Coordinator and designer of the Responsible Management and Sustainable Economic Development Master Programme
(RMSED) Among different academic activities, she is also teaching the courses on ‘Review of Economic Concepts’, ‘Economic Recovery’ and ‘Social Responsibility’ in addition of participating and contributing to several academic events related to the main topics of the Master programme. She has also been tutoring and supervising several students in completing their internships and final graduation projects on diverse topics ranging from Sustainable Development, social marketing, social responsibility, corporate social responsibility, water management, labour economics, and micro finance, among others.

She has a Msc in Post-war reconstruction from the University of York (UK). Before she got a Bsc in Economics (with specialization in labour Economics) at the University of Roma (IT). Since she graduated from college in 1992, she has been working in developing countries in Asia, Africa, Central America and Middle East managing emergency, rehabilitation and development projects in war affected countries (Lebanon, Indonesia/Aceh, Uganda/West Nile, Egypt, Jordan, Yemen, WBG, BiH, Kosovo, Serbia, Macedonia, Guatemala).

She was also research fellow of the University of York (for two research projects in Lebanon – Urban rehabilitation of Beirut, and in Indonesia/Aceh-socio-economic analysis of Aceh province) and of the University of Roma La Sapienza (independent research project on the impact of multinationals on local labour market).
## 10 Outline of Sessions

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>Session Objectives</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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| 1    | I section: From Monday to Wednesday  
   1. Economic recovery: reviewing and analyzing the concept while highlighting the relationship between relief, rehab and development.  
   II Section: From Wednesday to Friday  
   2. The historical overview of economic recovery: From the Marshall Plan and the Keynesian approach to today's strategies. | | | Shared Reflection on:  
Dilemmas and challenges of current economic recovery approaches: a reflection from practical field experiences.  
Question of debate: Which conclusions and lessons learnt can we draw from the design, application and impacts of ERP? What are the similarities and differences between the European ERP and contemporary ERPs? |
<p>| 2    | Economic causes and impacts of conflict and their interrelations with institutional and political challenges related to post-conflict rebuilding. | | | Case study analysis: economic causes and impacts of a specific conflict – Presentation of a chart/diagramme of a specific conflict case study |
| 3    | Macroeconomic policies: an analysis of the strategies of the institutional donors for economic recovery and development. | | | Are SAPs the most adequate policies to sustain and promote peace? |</p>
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<th>Analysis of different financial instruments to support the recovery and development plans.</th>
<th>Financial approaches and methods to economic recovery and development: what are the main challenges according to your personal experience? How to overcome them in practical terms?</th>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Recommendations for policy makers on a successful recovery plan. Compiled ideas, suggestions and contributions from practitioners and researchers.</td>
<td>Sharing findings and lessons learnt through our open forum</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>New approaches to achieve sustainable development in war torn societies</td>
<td>In brief share with the other participants your experiences with one of the different business approaches, high lightening challenges, opportunities and areas of improvement</td>
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