

Faculty of Economic, Social and Political Sciences



TRAV2219 Research methods in labour science

[30h] 4 credits

Teacher(s): Catherine Gourbin, Godelieve Stroobant
Language: French
Level: Second cycle

Aims

- a) To present the various methodological stages of a process of research in social sciences, and of their linkage.
- b) To introduce students to research techniques in social sciences, and to the conditions and limitations of their validity and relevance.

Main themes

- a) The methodological approach will focus on the construction of an issue in relation to a research topic.
- b) The course will help students to identify the main statistical sources of economic and social data and the processing of quantitative data (an introduction to descriptive statistical analysis: measuring concentration and dispersal, chronological series, the constitution of simple and complex indexes, and the presentation and comprehension of data (e.g. tables, graphs and histograms)). Training also opens the way for an analysis of regression and correlation, and is an introduction to the calculation of probability and theories of sampling.
- c) Research techniques incorporate the processing of observation data and qualitative surveys, historical criticism and documentary analysis, and statistical analyses.

Content and teaching methods

In the theoretical section, the course presents the various stages of a research process: from the starting point to the conclusions, and passing through epistemological rupture, the construction of an analytical model (concepts, hypotheses and indicators), and the phase when it is compared with reality (observation and collection of data, data analysis, and conclusions).

Steps will be taken at every stage to identify the principles to be abided by, but usually to identify the key features that will guide researchers in their work. The expositions will be accompanied by numerous examples and exercises.

Research techniques incorporate the processing of observation data and qualitative surveys, historical criticism and documentary analysis, and statistical analysis.

In the more practically-based second part, students will be asked to put forward a concrete contribution, alone or in a group, to the realisation of a research project currently in progress. This contribution may concern either stage of the research process, including fieldwork (e.g. interviews and observations).

Other information (prerequisite, evaluation (assessment methods), course materials recommended readings, ...)

Recommended reading: R Quivy & L Van Campenhoudt, 'Méthodes de recherche en sciences sociales', Dunod, Paris, 1995.

Assessment will focus on the way students make their contributions to the project. The contributions will be the subject of a brief report to be presented for examination.

The teaching methodology will reflect the specific characteristics of the IST student body

In respect of both written support (applications to the economic and social experience) and

the way the course is organised (active and participative methods, supervision in sub-groups, and exercises applied to 'meaningful' data relating to the socio-economic experience).

Practical work sessions relating to the contributions to the research project will be run by an Assistant.

Supervision of this course will be given by scientific staff.

This course forms part of a study programme given in the evening and/or on Saturdays.

Other credits in programs

TRAV1PM	Année d'études préparatoires au master en sciences du travail	(4 credits)	Mandatory
TRAV21	Première licence en sciences du travail	(4 credits)	Mandatory
TRAV2M1/GE	Master en sciences du travail (option générale)	(4 credits)	