THEORIES OF INFORMATION SOCIETY

Summary syllabus

Study programme and level: Informatics in Contemporary Society, first cycle
Course type: Obligatory

The main purpose of the course is to familiarise students with the main concepts of information society from historical, legal, economic and sociological perspectives. It also introduces the emerging issues of Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals, as well as relevant EU policies and their implementation in different national, regional and local contexts, in which the technological innovations, also in the sphere of information technologies, can play a vital role.

The course consists of 30 teaching hours. They will be delivered as follows:

1. **Concept and key characteristics of European information society** *(Hours 1-12)*
   - relationship between technology, social structure and processes in implementation of grand strategy;
   - the question of technological determinism, continuity and discontinuity of the information society in relation transition to Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals;
   - integration, community, networks, inclusion and exclusion in the information society, choice, control, autonomy, planning, guidance and strength at an individual and (sub) system level in the information society, and its impact on implementation of strategic visions;
   - de-centred control centres in the information society in view of the European Union principle of solidarity;
   - the relationship between market mechanisms and regulatory strategies and its impact on adoption of Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals.

2. **Networked politics and governments in the European information society in implementation of Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals** *(Hours 13-20)*
   - government in the information society in the European Union
   - e-democracy
   - online social networks and bottom-up politics as tools of European Union public diplomacy
   - information society and collective action as tools of European Union public diplomacy
   - empowering European citizens of the internet age for public diplomacy

3. **Networked businesses, industries and economies in contemporary Europe** *(Hours 21-25)*
   - the digital divide and employment in the European Union countries
   - the emergence of start-up culture in European global cities: selected cases
   - critical perspective on the potential of the internet in adoption of Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals

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4. Technological and regulatory histories in Europe and futures for adoption of Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals *(Hours 26-28)*

- next-generation content for next-generation
- social media challenge to internet governance
- EU frameworks and regulations of internet and information society.

5. Monitoring and reporting SDGs in the context of the European Union and the information society, and particularly SDG 9 (Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation) *(Hours 29-30)*

Intended learning outcomes:

The student:

- comprehends the concept of information society;
- acquires basic insight into complex relationships among technology, society, culture, economy and politics, in European contexts as well as its impact on implementation of Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals.
- is aware of problems based on relying on exaggerated simplistic correlations and determinisms when dealing with the mentioned notions;
- knows stresses on continuity and discontinuity of modern information society with previous social structures, impacting adoption and implementation of Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals in European Union and beyond its borders.
- is aware of some key dilemmas of information society, including tackling the challenges of achieving Sustainable Development Goals and can reflect them critically at least on the basic level;
- knows and comprehends key theories of information society, compares them and can link them to empirical findings.

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