



Master of Science in “Agricultural Economics and European Policies ”

“ Learn Economics, Think Differently, Impact the World”

Master Program in " Agricultural Economics and European Policies”

The Master of Science in **Agricultural Economics and European Policies** represents an advanced and specialized academic program designed to provide in-depth theoretical, analytical, and practical training in the fields of agricultural economics, rural development, and European Union policies.

The program is closely aligned with the structural challenges of the agri-food sector in Albania and the country’s European integration process, aiming to prepare specialists capable of analyzing, designing, and implementing development policies in accordance with EU standards.

It integrates in a balanced way:

- advanced economic theory,
- agri-food market analysis,
- public policy instruments and EU frameworks (CAP, IPARD),
- modern data analysis and decision-making tools.

A key component of the program is its research dimension, materialized through the preparation and defense of the Master’s thesis, which aims to develop students’ analytical, critical, and methodological skills in addressing complex issues in the agricultural sector and development policies.

The program is based on an interdisciplinary approach, integrating knowledge from economics, public policy, finance, rural development, and data analysis, in line with European best practices and modern higher education models.

Overall, the program aims to educate highly qualified professionals and experts capable of contributing to the modernization of agriculture, rural development, and Albania’s European integration process.

Main goals of the program

The main objectives of the Master of Science program in “Agricultural Economics and European Policies” are:

- To provide advanced theoretical and practical training in agricultural economics and public policy.
- To develop specialized competencies in the analysis and evaluation of agricultural and rural policies.
- To equip students with analytical and methodological skills through the use of statistics and econometrics.
- To provide in-depth knowledge of EU policies and instruments (CAP, IPARD).
- To develop research and critical thinking capacities in addressing agri-food sector challenges.
- To promote an interdisciplinary approach to rural development and economic analysis.
- To prepare professionals capable of contributing to economic development and European integration processes.

The main competencies acquired

Students graduating from this program will gain:

- Advanced knowledge in agricultural economics and rural development.
- Skills in policy analysis and evaluation (ex-ante, monitoring, and ex-post).
- Competencies in econometric methods and data analysis.
- Operational knowledge of EU institutions and policy instruments in agriculture and rural development.
- Skills in project design and management, including EU-funded programs (e.g., IPARD).
- Competencies in agri-food market and value chain analysis.
- Ability to formulate policy recommendations and strategic interventions

Career opportunities

➤ Public institutions

- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Minister of State for Local Government

- Paying agencies and public bodies
- Policy-making and planning institutions
- **Local government**
 - Municipalities and rural development units
- **Private sector**
 - Agri-food companies
 - Export-oriented businesses
 - Consulting firms
- **Financial institutions and development projects**
 - Agricultural finance institutions
 - EU-funded and international development projects
- **Academic and research institutions**
 - Universities and research centers
 - Research centers and policy analysis institutions
 - NGO
- **International organizations**
 - FAO, EU institutions, GIZ, UNDP, etc.

Program structure

The program is delivered over **two academic years (four semesters)** and comprises **120 ECTS credits**, ensuring a structured progression from theoretical foundations to practical applications and research.

First Year

Focuses on building theoretical and methodological foundations:

- Advanced microeconomics and macroeconomics
- Agricultural economics
- Public policy and EU instruments
- Research methods and data analysis

Second Year

Focuses on applications and specialization:

- Agricultural and rural development policies
- International trade and European integration
- Policy analysis and evaluation
- Master's thesis preparation and defense

The program ensures a balanced combination of:

- theoretical knowledge,
- practical application,
- scientific research.

Interdisciplinary approach

The Master Program in “**Agricultural Economics and European Policies**” is based on an interdisciplinary approach that aims to prepare specialists capable of understanding, analysing and managing the complex processes related to agricultural development, agri-food systems, public policies and European integration. This approach considers agricultural economics not only as an economic field related to agricultural production and markets, but as a broader discipline that interacts with public policy, rural development, finance, the environment, innovation and data analysis.

Within this program, interdisciplinarity is expressed through the integration of knowledge from economics, agricultural economics, European policies, public policy, finance, fund management, data analysis, rural development and environmental sustainability. This combination enables students to develop a comprehensive understanding of how the agricultural and agri-food sector functions within the context of market economies, national and European policies, and challenges related to climate change, natural resource management and territorial development.

The interdisciplinary approach of the program is centred on the connection between economic analysis and policy design. Students are trained to analyse agricultural and rural development problems by using economic concepts, public policy instruments, research methods and empirical data. This enables them to understand not only how markets and agricultural value chains operate, but also how public policies, subsidies, European Union funds and regulatory instruments influence sectoral development and the wellbeing of rural communities.

An important element of this approach is the orientation towards European policies and the European integration process. The program prepares students to understand and analyse the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union, rural development policies, financial support instruments, European standards and the requirements for aligning the Albanian agricultural sector with the European framework. In this way, the program responds to the need for professionals who can contribute to the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs related to agriculture and rural development.

The program also gives particular importance to finance and fund management, especially in the context of EU-funded and donor-funded programs. Students acquire knowledge on financial planning, project management, cost-benefit analysis, expenditure monitoring and impact assessment of investments in the agricultural and rural sectors. This prepares them to work in public institutions, development agencies, international projects, consulting organizations and structures that manage or implement support programs for agriculture and rural areas.