MASTER BDEEM | COURSE SYLLABUS

Competition Policy

Economic reasoning and enforcement in markets

PROGRAMME	SEMESTER	CREDITS	CONTACT HOURS
Master 1	Semester 1	3 ECTS	21h Lectures

Course Description

This course examines how competition policy protects competitive market processes, consumer welfare and innovation. It introduces the economic and institutional foundations of antitrust enforcement and analyses how firms may restrict competition through coordination, exclusionary conduct or market consolidation.

Particular attention is paid to horizontal collusion: why cartels form, the conditions that make coordination sustainable, the incentives to deviate, and the methods used by competition authorities to deter and detect unlawful agreements. Real cases and contemporary market settings connect economic theory with evidence, enforcement practice and policy debate.

This course is shared with Master 1 QAE

Learning Outcomes

- Explain the objectives, institutions and economic rationale of competition policy.
- Identify market structures and business practices that may weaken effective competition.
- Analyse the formation, stability and breakdown of horizontal collusion using economic reasoning.
- Evaluate evidence and screening methods used to detect coordinated conduct.
- Assess the effects of anticompetitive behaviour on prices, innovation and consumer welfare.
- Apply competition-policy concepts to real cases, including digital and data-intensive markets.
- Develop and defend a structured policy or enforcement recommendation orally.

Indicative Content

1. **Foundations**: objectives of competition policy, welfare standards, market power and enforcement institutions.
2. **Market analysis**: market definition, concentration, barriers to entry and competitive constraints.
3. **Horizontal collusion**: cartel formation, repeated interaction, stability, punishment and deviation incentives.
4. **Detection and deterrence**: economic screens, evidence, leniency programmes, sanctions and compliance.
5. **Case application**: critical analysis of decisions, evidence and policy remedies.

Teaching & Learning Approach

Interactive lectures combine economic models, guided case analysis and policy discussion. Students practise moving from facts and market evidence to a reasoned assessment of competitive harm, while considering alternative explanations, enforcement constraints and proportionate remedies.

Assessment

Oral presentation