Computer analysis of sociological information

What will be studied?

• Principles and algorithms of quantitative analysis of empirical sociological data.
• Use of specialized software (incl., SPSS) in the process of analyzing social information.
• Procedures for testing explanatory (causal) hypotheses.
• Data analysis using multidimensional methods (regression, factor, cluster, variance, discriminant analysis, etc.).
• Preparation and writing of analytical texts (reports) on the basis of the analysis of numerical data.
• Graphic presentation of analytical results.
• Statistical expertise and sociological interpretation of the obtained results.

Why is it interesting / necessary to study?

 The ability to find, process and analyze information becomes a vital competence for every conscious citizen and educated person. Understanding what is behind these or those numbers, whether they really are an objective reflection of social realities, is a task that everyone must solve in order to make the right choice, plan their lives wisely and not be the object of cynical manipulation. In fact, every highly qualified specialist has to work with large amounts of diverse information. You will learn how to analyze quantitative data effectively and with the usage of state-of-the-art methods, how to become an active and competent user of socially significant information, capable of critical and creative perception of data.

What can you learn (learning outcomes)?

 ➢ Practical skills and abilities to work with a variety of numerical information that characterizes social structures, processes and phenomena.
 ➢ Ability to use specialized programs to create their own databases and work with ready-made large arrays of social information that are available on the Internet.
 ➢ Basic skills and abilities of processing and analysis of statistical and sociological data.
 ➢ Ability to work critically and creatively with large amounts of information, to reveal hidden social connections and patterns, to be able to see individual facts of social reality through the prism of broader socio-cultural and socio-political processes.

How to use the acquired knowledge and skills (competencies)?

Students will be able to more effectively use a variety of numerical information about various spheres of life (economic, financial, social, demographic, political processes, views, attitudes and values of people, consciousness and behavior of groups, etc.) in their professional activities and daily life. This will not only contribute to a more conscious and creative use of information, improve skills in its collection, processing, transformation, modification, analysis and interpretation, but also to the acquisition of new competencies that will help you feel more confident in the labor market.