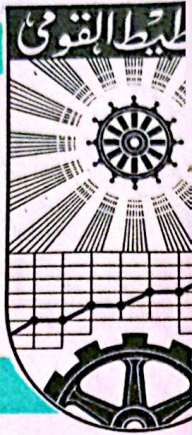


UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

THE INSTITUTE OF NATIONAL PLANNING



Memo. No. 206

The Training Program in
National Planning
At the Institut of National Planning
Berlin

by

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Training Program

in

National Planning

at the Institute of National Planning, Berlin.

I.

The High School for Economics, Berlin, is the central institution of economic academic training in the German Democratic Republic. At present, it has about 4.000 students who are trained on various lines: (i) Direct study (about 1.500).

This group consists of young people attending the High School for Economics after having passed secondary school and one year practical work at an enterprise as a worker.

(ii) Letter (correspondence) study (more than 2.000)

To this group belong students, older than 25, who are already active as planners with respective experience in the various fields of planning. They are studying without being released from their jobs.

(iii) Special courses (less than 500 students)

These students being experts in their special fields of planning with many years of practical work get some ad-

ditional training in selected subjects. In 1962, the High School for Economics is running 3 courses: officials of the Ministry of Foreign Trade;

experts of material supply matters;

directors (acting partners) of semi-state enterprises

(private capitalists with governmental shares in their enterprises which have the form of commandite companies with the State Bank or nationally owned factories as dormant partner)

The direct and correspondence study courses are full-scale, lasting 4½ and 5 years. Students having passed the final examinations get a diploma in economics. Special courses are set up on application of governmental organs. Their subjects and duration is fixed in each case, separately. As a rule, they are lasting at least 3 months and not longer than 2 years. Trainees of such courses get only a certificate.

The High School for Economics, Berlin, covers all branches of economic science; It, therefore, may be called an university of economics. This can be clearly seen from the following scheme showing its institutional structure:

Faculties

National Economy

Institutes

National Planning

Regional Planning and Economic
Geography

	Labour Economics
	Statistics
	Prices
	Commerce (Retail Trade)
	Economics of Agriculture
Economics of Industry	Economics of Industry
	Economics (Planning and Organisation) of Industrial Enterprises
	Technology
Finance	Money and Credit
	Financing of National Economy (indus- try, agriculture) and Accounting
	State Budget
	Insurance
Foreign Trade	Economics of Foreign Trade
	Economics of Foreign Trade Organisa- tions (planning and Organisation)
	International Trade
	Technology of Commodities
	Foreign Languages

In addition to this, the following institutes are not attached to any of the faculties because they are serving all students: Political Economy

Philosophy

History of National Economy

II.

The Institute of National Planning is the top-institute of the Faculty of National Economy. Its trainees are to be prepared for planning activities predominantly in regional planning authorities of the GDR. They, therefore, have to attend a great number of training courses and to do practical work in their study time as well, because the above mentioned planning institutions are concerned with coordinating plans (regional and central ones) covering all fields of economic activity.

The study program of all students at the Institute of National Planning is divided into two groups :

a) Basic studies e.g. Political economy

Philosophy

General statistics

Accounting

Technology of selected branches

(In this subject students are studying the main processes of production and the technical data of the respective equipment, e.g.

power production - generators etc.

metallurgy - blast furnaces,

castings, bloomings etc.)

b) Special studies e.g. National planning

Planning activities of regional organs

Regional planning

Investment planning

International economic cooperation

Labour economics

National statistics

The first mentioned course of special studies - national planning - is regarded as the basic one. All other special courses are related to it. They complement this course and make it more concrete. Although the training system in the economic field and, consequently, the training courses are at present under discussion with the view to improve them in correspondence with the new conditions in the GDR (more emphasis will be given to e.g./technology and mathematical methods in planning) the following scheme indicates the actual teaching program in national planning. An information about the new system of training economists and planners in the German Democratic Republic will be given later.

Out of the whole study-time (4½ years) some semesters are either partially or totally occupied by the special studies :

Regional planning (4th semester) about 30 hours

National planning (5 & 6 ") " 50 "

Planning activities of regional organs (5-6th semester) about 50 hours.

National statistics (5-6th semester) about 50 hours

(The number of hours is total sum of the respective subjects. It should be realised that, as a rule, the sum of obligatory lectures and seminars per week is :

1st year about 26-28 hours

2nd " " 25-28 "

3rd " " 22 "

4th year (practical work 4 days a week)
5th " about 10 - 13 hours ")

III.

Scheme of lectures

(National Planning)

1. Introduction

(subject and preconditions of planning)

2. General problems of planning

a) basic principles of planning

(e.g. coordination of central and regional-competences; unity of planning and managing activities)

b) organisation of planning

(functions and structure of planning institutions)

c) procedure of planning

(elaboration, implementation and control of plans).

This point discusses as a matter of fact the application of principles mentioned in a) and the functioning of the planning machinery cf. b)

d) instruments of planning (in general)

types of plans, structure of plans, coefficients, classifications etc.

3. Natural elements of production and their planning

a) population and manpower

b) raw material basis of the national economy

This lecture is meant to analyze the growth and structure (by sex, age, regional distribution etc.) of the

population of the GDR with the view to give the students a concrete idea of the labour force potential which the planners dispose of. It implies a short description of the main coefficients used for planning labour force as well as the general balance-sheets in this field. Besides it is given an information on the policies of the government in this respect.

Point (b) is on the same line as far as the raw material basis of the GDR is concerned. It involves problems of substitution, international coordination and cooperation, balancing.

Both a) and b) should be regarded as preparatory or introductory discussions for No. 6 a) + b) which are closely related to the special planning problems of manpower and raw material supply of the various branches of production. This is why No. 3 deals with problems of this kind common to all of these branches, more or less.

4. Planning of productive forces

a) technical progress

This chapter gives both theoretical and practical views of planning the technical progress, preferably in the long run, which proved to be the very starting point of long-term planning. It, consequently, deals with the following problems e.g. : relations between technique and economy, actual tendencies of technical progress in selected branches, actual tendencies of skilled labour

in connection with technical development, methods and organisation of planning of technical progress.

- b) Social conditions and their influence on productive forces

Here, predominately, problems of organisation of national production are discussed implying specialisation and combination of enterprises (both national and international aspects), large series and mass production etc.

5. Planning of the main proportions of the national economy

- a) Planning and balances of population
- b) " " " of national income
- c) " " " of consumption
- d) " " " of interbranch relations.
- f) Balances of foreign trade relations
- g) Financial balances

This theme often has been partially united with theme No. 6. It gives, first, the theory of national balancing including the various balance sheets and, second, the actual policies in the various fields on the basis of an analysis of the national economy. This chapter results in a description of the equilibrium to be reached within a planning period. As a matter of fact, this chapter deals with the frame-work of the plan consisting of the main data, coefficients and proportions from which, finally, the tasks for the various branches organisations and enterprises are derived in either direct

or indirect manner.

6. Planning of branches of production

- a) Sources and uses of raw material and semifinished goods
- b) Sources " " of equipment
- c) " " " of manpower

Point a) of this theme discusses planning of production of goods, broken down by branches. Basic to this is chapter 5 b) which described the national (general) proportions of production being the starting point for planning of branch-production on the one hand and the result of these planning activities on the other.

Attention is paid to policies, analytical problems and planning methods (techniques) e.g. : material balances, coefficients of interbranch relations, coefficients of raw material consumption, contracting system, organisations in the field of raw material supply etc. Special emphasis is given to the problems of sources and uses of equipment which can be summed up by "investment planning". In this point the students are given both theoretical and practical ideas in this field: analysis of available fixed assets, value and technical structure of fixed assets.

(There are at present 3 classifications:

- (i) "Cost(value) structure of investments"
consisting of 3 elements:

equipment

construction

other cost

(ii) classification of the accounting system in the industry of the GDR consisting of the following elements of fixed assets:

building

power equipment

long line (transport) systems

processing equipment

tools, models

transport equipment

office furniture and fixture

real estate developments

(iii) classification of production of equipment, containing several hundred elements, This is part of the general classification used for planning in the GDR.)

methods of balancing capacity, output and planned volume of production;
calculating of the investment fund;
planning of single projects etc.

(The problem of investment planning, being most essential, has been extended and amplified to limits which called for improvements of the training system. It has been decided, recently, to have at

the Institute of National Planning a separate cathedre (department) for investment planning which already started its work.) Point c) deals with manpower planning on a branch level including analysis of manpower available;balancing of working time, number of manpower and demand of manpower with respect to planned production and productivity; planning of qualification of manpower etc.

The chapter No. 6 is the central theme of the whole series of lectures on national planning considering theoretical and practical problems, long-term and short-term planning, policies and methods applied etc.

7. Planning of consumption
8. Coordination of material and financial funds
This lecture has been introduced only recently. It discusses, first, the theory of the a.m. coordination and, briefly, the policies followed in this field. It resumes, finally, the financial balances dealt with already in chapter No. 5.

These teaching activities are complemented by special lectures on current problems of planning and by seminars. The seminars are dealing, partially, with the same topics as the lectures do. In addition to this, they discuss other problems of planning.

The proportions of time of the course in National Planning usually differ due to the method of work of the professors and lecturers and due to the fact that they give different emphasis to the themes of the general scheme :

1. Introduction 1 hour
 2. General problems
of planning 6 hours
 3. Natural elements
of production and
their planning 2 hours
 4. Planning of pro-
ductive forces 12 hours
 5. Planning of the
main proportions of
the national econ-
omy. 8 hours
 6. Planning of bran-
ches of production 14 hours
 7. Planning of consump-
tion. . . 4 hours
 8. Coordination of ma-
terial and financial
funds 3 hours
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Course of National

Planning (total of lectures) 50 hours

Seminars (total) 24-32 hours

S.Z.