

Name	SUSTAINABILITY AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY
Component modules	-
Scientific-disciplinary sector	ECON-07/A
Year of course and semester of provision	3 rd Year, 1 st Semester
Teaching language	English
Didactic load in university formative credits	8 CFU
Number of hours of total assisted teaching activities divided between DD and ID	Delivered Didactic: 48 hours Interactive Didactic: 8 hours
Lecturer	Course Director: Prof. Domenico De Fano Prof. Domenico De Fano, 4 CFU – (Module of Sustainability). Prof. Andrea Roberto Bifulco, 4 CFU - (Module of Circular Economy)
Specific learning outcomes	At the end of the course, students will be able to comprehend and analyze key topics such as stakeholder engagement and ESG risk management. They will gain a thorough understanding of the theoretical frameworks on corporate sustainability, including strategies for sustainability, theory of change, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They will also map material and value flows, identify circularity gaps, select appropriate circular strategies and evaluate circular design and business model solutions. Life Cycle Assessment and Material Flow Analysis will be introduced as tools to support evidence-based decisions. Throughout the course, students will develop a business idea based on the pillars of circular economy and sustainability. This project will integrate theoretical knowledge with practical application, fostering skills that are essential for real-world business scenarios. Specifically, students will: - Learn to independently plan and measure the effects of sustainability strategies on overall enterprise performance and its key stakeholders. - Gain proficiency in presenting and defending sustainability strategies, demonstrating their potential to generate social, environmental, and economic value. - Acquire technical vocabulary and specialized terminology relevant to sustainability and circular management. - Understand and apply key principles of the Circular Economy in practical business ideas. - Engage effectively with stakeholders to implement sustainable and circular business practices.
Program	The course is structured in two complementary modules. The Sustainability module presents the main theoretical frameworks of corporate sustainability. It explores how organizations identify, assess and manage sustainability issues and integrate them into business strategy and decision making. The module covers Corporate Sustainability, Theory of Change, Sustainable Development Goals, Stakeholder Engagement, Materiality and Double Materiality, and ESG Risk Management. The Circular Economy module explores how companies can redesign products, operations and business models to reduce resource dependency, preserve value and generate measurable environmental and economic impact. The module covers Circular Economy principles, material and value flow analysis, circular

	design, circular business models, carbon credits, and the implementation and measurement of circular transformation. Concepts and tools will be applied through real company cases and practical examples from different industries.
Types of didactic activities and relative methods of carrying them out	The course is structured in 48 hours of lectures (DE) that take place according to the academic calendar. The teaching method - focused on the discussion of the main related-theories, case studies, and scientific papers - will enable active learning of methodologies and tools. Some lectures will be conducted by practitioners and experts in sustainability and circular management, with practical case analyses to ensure full contact with the real operations of businesses oriented towards sustainability and the circular economy. Additionally, 2 project presentation sessions will be held for 4 hours each. Attending students are required to practically apply the knowledge acquired through group work on a specific circular business idea; each group typically consists of 5-6 students.
Learning evaluation methods and criteria	Evaluation criteria vary for attending and non-attending students. <u>Attending students</u> Attendance status is achieved through active participation in the field project. The assessment for attending students comprises two parts: field project and a mandatory written exam. The field project examination involves writing and presenting a comprehensive circular business idea, which must be completed in a group. Each group member is responsible for specific parts or activities, which should be clearly identified and documented in the project report. Additionally, each member must present their respective contributions during a final classroom presentation, demonstrating their understanding and involvement in their assigned areas. This approach ensures that all students are engaged and can showcase their individual competencies within the collaborative effort. <u>Non-attending students</u> A written exam, to be completed in 60 minutes, consists of 11 multiple-choice questions and 4 open-ended questions about the entire program. The field project involves writing and presenting a comprehensive and original circular business idea as a group. The group project report will be evaluated based on content quality, assessing the comprehensiveness, feasibility, relevance, and innovation of the business idea; analytical rigor, evaluating the thoroughness of analysis, including sustainability assessments and potential impact evaluations; and documentation and clarity, which involves clear identification and documentation of each member's contributions, along with the overall coherence and presentation of the report. In the multiple-choice questions, students must demonstrate their understanding of the correctness of solutions using sustainability and circular economy management theories and tools. They should also show their knowledge and comprehension of the assumptions underlying the main theories related to sustainability and circular economy management. In the open-ended questions, students must independently demonstrate their ability to resolve questions related to the main developments in sustainability theories explored during the course. They should also apply key circular economy models and tools focused on recent managerial approaches. Answers should be presented with clarity and proper language, formulating effective solutions to the strategic decisions that companies face in the context of sustainability and the circular economy.
Criteria for measuring learning and assigning the final grade	<u>Attending students:</u> The assessment comprises two parts: field project and written exam. The case studies account for a maximum of 24 points (24/30), while the written exam, which lasts 30 minutes, includes one open question worth 3 points and four multiple-choice questions worth 4 points. <u>Non-attending students:</u> The final grade is awarded on the basis of the following criteria: up to 11 points are awarded through 11 multiple-choice questions; up to 20 points are awarded through 4 open-ended questions. "30 e lode" is awarded to non-attending students who achieve a grade of 31 points on the written exam.
Prerequisites	No prerequisites

Didactic material used and recommended didactic material	<u>Attending students:</u> Readings and materials provided by the instructors on the course platform <u>Non-attending students:</u> M. TONELLI, N. CRISTONI, Strategic Management and the Circular Economy, 2019, Routledge Readings and materials provided by the instructors on the course platform
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