

Circular Society Challenges in the Economy 4.0 – Blended Intensive Program

Title of the program: *Circular Society Challenges in the Economy 4.0 (CSCE40)*

Number of credits: 3 ECTS

Aim of the program:

The main aim of the Erasmus BIP CSCE40 is to provide students with a more in-depth theoretical frame for a systematic study of the green development in general, as well as in the context of related study fields as Economics, Management, Public Administration. The IP course should point upon recent trends in the mentioned fields and interlink the theory with the practice of regional development design proposals. The students participating at the CSCE40 should acquire knowledge, competences, and methods of regional development, specifically in the circular society.

The course is based on principal EU documents in circular economy trends.

Theoretical backgrounds:

❖ **Dimensions of the project:**

- UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Millennium Development Goals
- CEDEFOP report (2019) Skills for green jobs
- ICT Skills and Employment New competences and jobs for a greener and smarter economy OECD 2012
- MoE SR, 2020, Greener Slovakia - strategy of environmental policy of the Slovak Republic until 2030
- Proposal for a Council Recommendation on Environmental Sustainability 2021
- Kollár, V., Matúšová, S. Labour and Education Markets in Industry 4.0. 2023.

The industrial model of the linear economy system is based on the production-consume-liquidate model, which brings its costs. Global sustainable growth over the last two millennia has been accompanied by economic growth, as measured by rising GDP, which is also associated with extreme use of natural resources and excessive waste production.

The circular economy, often called the economy of the future, can bring solutions not only to producers but also to consumers. Unlike the currently prevailing linear economy, the circular economy focuses primarily on maintaining value (not constantly creating it), optimizing inventory (not flow) and increasing the efficiency of product use (not

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production). The focus of circular management on maintaining the value and usefulness of assets for as long as possible is a key differentiator.

Universities also play an important role in achieving the set goals arising from the above-mentioned supranational and national documents. However, their orientation towards sustainability, on the other hand, also requires innovative teaching methods, ICT equipment and other support leading to the support of critical thinking, interdisciplinary approach and integration of practice requirements - companies, non-profit sector, local communities, public sector.

The current situation is thus unsatisfactory in several respects, because when introducing new trends into education, it is natural to develop these first at the level of tertiary education and to transfer trends and know-how from it to lower levels in a natural way. It is also necessary to introduce and implement innovations in education in the form of an interdisciplinary approach - when interdisciplinary new elements, new skills and knowledge are introduced into the curricula of already accredited study programs, which develop and go beyond the traditional division of sciences and disciplines. Such cooperation developed across the social sciences, natural sciences and humanities and with the practical sphere of civil society, business, trade unions, professional organizations, territorial and specialized administration - will not only increase student engagement in the circular economy, but also increase the value orientation of students and later workers and entrepreneurs.

DAY 01 and DAY 02 – Online activities

Meeting place: Webex online

DAY 01 – 14.04.2023

❖ *Online opening ceremony.*

❖ *Introductory session*

- Access to the moodle information system and instructions how to use and find materials.
- Introduction and adaptation

DAY 1 - DAY 5 – 17.04.-21.04.2023

Each day divided into two sessions starting at 09am and at 2pm, lunch break between 12:30 and 2pm, small breaks each cca 1,5 hour.

DAY 1 - 17.04.2023

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- ❖ ***Opening of the ERASMUS+ CSCE40***, presentation of all participating parties (coordinator, partner 1, partner 2), the goal of ERASMUS+ IP, the aims of CSCE40, greeting speeches. (Rector, Vice-Rector Welcome)
- ❖ ***Introduction of teachers and students***, students' selection into multinational working groups, introduction of all staff, division of responsibilities during the BIP
Introduction games (Warming-up session)
- ❖ ***Interdisciplinary character of the project*** (sustainability, life quality, social science, regional economy, regional development, enterprise management, public administration)
Introduction to the project issues (general knowledge and common goals)
All Teachers – all partners
- ❖ ***Example of the project outputs made by students*** – „What we would like to achieve together?“ „How to present ideas efficiently“

❖ ***19.00 Ice-breaking Dinner***

DAY 2

- ❖ ***What are Circular challenges of the nowadays world?*** Interdisciplinary character of the project
 - Circular Economy – linked with Adam Smith
 - Circular Society – from Economics into social sciences and to show how we can reach the “stars! if we are connected together
 - Working with technology
 - Engagement of students into social participationFormat: Presentation and discussion, problem solving – case studies
- ❖ ***Individual aspects of the project Presentation of group work outcomes***
 - Basic info about each participating country Specification of individual profile of each country
 - Circular Economy in our own country, current status new ideas, results (Examples of successful approaches/projects in circular themes in all partner countries)
 - Format: Presentations, posters, discussions of all students and teachers. Group work in multinational working groups,

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DAY 3

❖ ***Excursion - Waste management entity***

Visit to regional partner company, discussion with representatives on the development potential of the region in circular themes. Examples of successful development project in the micro-region.

Format: discussion, case study

❖ ***Business Lunch***

❖ ***Field trip – Bratislava city – round trip Petržalka***

The largest housing settlement in the middle of the Europe, eco-diversity, ecotypes – Malý Draždiak, Bunker, Slniečnice.

Format: sightseeing and excursion

DAY 4

❖ **Group work,**

Topic: The Analysis of the university potential in circular themes

❖ **Multinational working groups**

DAY 5

❖ ***Presentation of individual project proposals, group discussion***

❖ ***Overall assessment of individual projects, group capacities***

❖ ***Evaluation of the program and course***

❖ ***19.00 – Dinner, Farewell party***

DAY 02 – Online Webex (28.04.2023)

❖ 10:00 – 11:30

Online presentation of group results

Certification ceremony

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Organizational Instructions

Students

All students from partner universities are welcome to participate at the BIP, after accepting their nomination prepared by the partner university. BIP participation documents are – Application form and Learning Agreement prepared based on the recommendations of the sending university.

Notes: Distribution of credits (3 ECTS) is conditional on participation on all components of the educational program. For all participants a Certificate will be prepared referring the attendance at the BIP CSCE4.0

Teachers

All teachers participating at the education components need to be nominated by the partner university and their education program needs to fit either one of the following topics: Economics, Management, Circular Economy, Circular Society, Regional Development, Environmental Management. Specific topics please consult with our Institutional Erasmus+ Coordinator at: erasmus@vsemba.sk Standard Teaching Agreement based on the requirements of the sending institution should be prepared prior the mobility.

Staff

All university staff participating at the BIP are welcome in following areas: International relations, Erasmus+ office, Students' support. Specific topics please consult with our Institutional Erasmus+ Coordinator at: erasmus@vsemba.sk Standard Staff mobility agreement based on the requirements of the sending institution should be prepared prior the mobility.

After acceptance of the nomination presented by the partner university, please fill in this application for participation:

<https://forms.office.com/e/F9HZ4y8nDL>

