SSE RIGA

Course Outline Academic Year 2023/2024

Title	**Eco-Innovation, Social Responsibility, and Sustainable Management**
1. Course Director	Dr. Xavier Landes
2. Department	Business and Management
3. Lecturer(s)	Daiga Brakmane (University of Latvia) Maija Krastina (Zero Waste Latvija), maiakrastina@gmail.com Dr. Xavier Landes, xavier.landes@sseriga.edu Dr. Jana Simanovska (Ecodesign Competence Center / Vidzemes University of Applied Sciences), jana.simanovska@gmail.com
4. Teaching Assistants	N/A
5. Credit Points	**2 National CP/ 3 ECTS CP**; elective course (also, part of the Specialisation: Entrepreneurship course) Student Workload (SWL):

Structured SWL		**Unstructured SWL**
Lectures (count and length in academic hours- 45 min.)	Seminars (count and length in academic hours- 45 min.))	Estimated time of self-studies (in hours)

6. Duration	***From mid-September***
	4 weeks
7. Re-exam Date	**TBC**
8. Sign-up Deadline	***17-Aug-2023***
9. Max. No. of Students	12-50. Enrolment priority will be given to students from partner Universities.
10. Course Prerequisites	The course is open to all students from partner Universities with no pre-requisites for entry. Students from non-partner Universities must provide proof that attending the course will not interfere with their regular studies. Non-students must have attained at least EQF Level 4 qualification.

11. Research Skills Needed and Developed	- Academic reading - Critical analysis - Idea development - Presentation skills - Project management - Teamwork
12. IT-skills Needed	- Word processing software - Spreadsheet software - Presentation tools
13. Related Courses	- Academic Studies and Critical Thinking - Business Ethics and Sustainability - Specialisation: Entrepreneurship
14. Students Eligible	Year 1/ 2/ 3 or older and exchange students, as well as debtors from previous study years
15. Introduction (Course Objectives)	In a world experiencing depletion of natural resources (fish stocks, arable lands, etc.), severe pollution issues (plastics, chemicals, etc.), and drastic climate changes due to greenhouse gas emissions, sustainable development has become an imperative for societies and businesses. Such challenges form the background for this *Eco-Innovation and Sustainable Management* course. Its goal is to prepare students to a changing world by supporting their creativity and entrepreneurship skills in a direction that is conducive to sustainable development. Eco-innovation is the keystone of the European Union response to those global challenges. The European Commission defines it as: > any innovation resulting in significant progress towards the goal of sustainable development, by reducing the impacts of our production modes on the environment, enhancing nature's resilience to environmental pressures, or achieving a more efficient and responsible use of natural resources. Eco-innovation is requiring basic knowledge about products life cycle, environmental impacts, eco-design tools, assessment methods in order avoiding regrettable innovations e.g. where overall adverse environmental impact is not really reduced. In 2021, Latvia ranked 18th in the Eco-Innovation index (90 points), ahead of Lithuania (88 points), but behind Estonia (97 points) but still below the EU-average of 121 points[1]. Of the ranked criteria, Latvia is scoring well on socio-economic outcomes, but below average for all the others, and sometimes quite substantially (e.g. eco-innovation inputs and activities). There is a strong potential for

	improving and supporting eco-innovation in Latvia, especially within enterprises. Therefore, this course is designed to give an overview of contemporary environmental and sustainability challenges as well as preparing future eco-innovators. Students will be introduced to essential areas and topics (including eco-design, supply chain management, regulation, climate change) and will undergo a practical teamwork where they will formulate an environmental problem, identify an entrepreneurial opportunity, and propose a product/service that addresses this problem. https://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecoap/indicators/index_en

16. Content

WEEK 1 (3rd week of September)

1. **Introduction (Monday; 105 minutes)** [Maija Krastina and Xavier Landes]
2. **Lecture 1: *Sustainability and SDGs* (Monday; 60 minutes)** [Xavier Landes]
3. **Lecture 2: *Education for Sustainable Development and Collective Leadership* (Tuesday; 120 minutes)** [Daiga Brakmane]
   - **Task:** Prepare a short up to 3 min presentation on SDGs in Baltics and Europe
4. **Lecture 3: *Business Models for Sustainability* (Wednesday, 60 minutes)** [Maija Krastina]
5. **Case Study in Sustainability and Eco-Innovation 1 (Thursday, 105 minutes)** [guest from a company]
6. **Lecture 4: *The Foundations of the Circular Economy* (Friday, 120 minutes)** [Jana Simanovska]
7. **Lecture 5: *Teamwork and Research Skills* (Friday, 105 minutes)** [Xavier Landes]
   i. **Task 1:** Constitute a team (3-4 people)
   ii. **Task 2:** Identify potential sources, databases, websites with eco-innovation examples
   iii. **Task 3:** Select one eco-innovation project and prepare a short presentation to the class (5 minutes, 2 slides)

WEEK 2

8. **Sustainability Pitches Followed by Tutor Feedback (Monday morning, 3 hours)** [Daiga Brakmane, Maija Krastina, and Xavier Landes]
9. **Lecture 6: *Biodiversity Loss* (Tuesday, 60 minutes)** [Daiga Brakmane]
10. **Lecture 7: *Case Study – Ecosystem Services* (Tuesday, 60 minutes)** [Daiga Brakmane]
11. **Lecture 8: *(Re)Formulating Sustainability Problems* (Wednesday, 105 minutes)** [Xavier Landes]
12. **Case Study in Sustainability and Eco-Innovation 2 (Thursday, 105 minutes)** [guest from a company]
13. **Lecture 9: *Eco-design I: Product Life Cycle, Eco-design Tools, and Benchmarks* (Friday, 120 minutes)** [Jana Simanovska]
    - Environmental life cycle impacts, social life cycle impacts, life cycle costs

i. **Practical task 1:** look at your project from life cycle perspective, identify biggest environmental and social impacts, how to reduce them?
ii. **Practical task 2:** read a life cycle assessment report/environmental product declaration related to your project – new ideas for your project? (Practical work, to be discussed in the next progress presentations)
iii. **Practical task 3:** Eco-design ideas for your project (practical work for next session, Practical work, to be discussed in the next progress presentations)

WEEK 3

14. **Team Project Progress Presentations + Tutors' Feedback (Monday morning, 3 hours)** [Daiga Brakmane, Maija Krastina, and Xavier]
    - Reports on tasks 2 and 3
15. **Field Trip to Getliņi (Monday afternoon)** [Daiga Brakmane and Xavier Landes]
16. **Lecture 10: *Sustainable Management* (Tuesday, 90 minutes)** [Daiga Brakmane and Xavier Landes]
17. **Lecture 11: *Eco-Design II: Building Sustainable Supply Chains* (Wednesday, 120 minutes**) [Jana Simanovska]
    - Basics, internal green procurement, green claims, sustainability criteria
      i. **Practical task 4:** look at product related to your project: generate proposals for improvement
      ii. **Practical task 5:** make sustainability criteria for your supplies (in your project)
18. **Lecture 12: *Regulation and Policy: Case Study on Plastic Recycling* (Friday, 90 minutes**) [Maija Krastina]

WEEK 4

19. **Team Project Progress Presentations + Tutors' Feedback (Monday morning, 3 hours)** [Daiga Brakmane, Maija Krastina, and Xavier Landes]
    - Reports on practical tasks 4 and 5

WEEK 5

	20. Final Team Presentations (Monday morning, 3 hours) [Daiga Brakmane, Maija Krastina, and Xavier Landes]
17. Structure and Format	See above
***18.* Literature and Other Resources**	https://stockholmuniversity.app.box.com/s/0hkuwr7t8p5g3ygcktvafb8olw81wuqf Turner, G. M. (2008). A Comparison of *The Limits to Growth* with 30 years of reality. *Global Environmental Change*, 18(3): 397-411.
19. Learning Outcomes	Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to: 1. Understand the main contemporary environmental and sustainably challenges, 2. Understand the basic principles of eco-innovation, 3. Understand how such challenges can be addressed by existing companies and entrepreneurs, 4. Explain the foundational principles and primary methods for transitioning business processes and strategies to be more environmentally friendly through concrete examples, 5. Plan and defend an eco-innovation project on a level of a small firm/project.
	Knowledge - The concept of eco-innovation and its practices - The concept of sustainability, its importance and demands - The UN Sustainable Development Goals - The different steps for building a sustainable project, from the identification of an issue to the crafting of a business plan - The main challenges related to eco-innovation - Various concrete initiatives in eco-innovation
	Skills - Problem identification and innovative problem solving - Teamwork, task division and time management - Efficient communication - Business plan crafting
	Competences - The ability to identify an unsustainable or perfectible (from a sustainability point of view) product, service, or process - The ability to work in team in order to craft and develop a concrete plan for improving such product, service, or process

	- The capacity to present such solution in a convincing manner in order to involve potential stakeholders (e.g. authorities, investors, business partners, clients)
20. Attendance	Students from SSE Riga and those living in Riga need to be physically present to the lectures and commit to teamwork. One cannot miss more than 2 lectures. Those who are not from SSE Riga and who live outside Riga can attend online while still committing to teamwork. But they need to inform the course director first.
21. Electronic Devices Policy	Students are evaluated on the final presentation of their project. Grades can reflect the degree of involvement in the course.
22. Requirements and Grading	Students are evaluated as follow: • 50%: individual participation • 50%: collective final presentation
23. Dates for Posting the Grades	Final results: **October 17th** Re-exam grades: **TBC**

Course Director

Responsibilities	*Assistance*
☐ ***Organization of the course*** *(Course plan – lectures, seminars, tutorials, guest lectures, exam, re-exam)*	The course plan ("Preliminary Schedule") should be sent to the Programme Director *Elīna Vecumniece (BSc Programme Director, Room 316)* *Elina.vecumniece@sseriga.edu* *+ 371 67015892*
☐ ***Preparation of the course materials***	*Christopher Rieber (Director of Information Services, Library)* *christopher.rieber@sseriga.edu* *+ 371 67015830*
☐ ***Posting the course materials on E-learning platform updating the course section***	*Ēriks Tomsons (Head of IT Department, Room 504)* *eriks.tomsons@sseriga.edu* *+ 371 67015813*
☐ ***Sending materials for copying***	If there are any materials to be copied, please send them in advance (at least 24 hours before the lecture) to *Ramona Ozolina (Administrative Assistant, Reception)* *ramona.ozolina@sseriga.edu* *+ 371 67015800*
☐ ***Preparation of the Examination***	Should be sent to the Programme Manager at least two weeks before the examination *Jekaterina Silkalna (BSc Programme Manager, Room 316)* *jekaterina.silkalna@sseriga.edu* *(+371) 67015804* In case you would like to organize digital examination, please send the exam material two weeks before the exam date to: *Ēriks Tomsons (Head of IT department, Room 504)*

	eriks.tomsons@sseriga.edu *+ 371 67015813*
☐ ***Preparation of one Re-examination***	**Should be sent to the Programme Administrator at least two weeks before the examination** ***Jekaterina Silkalna (jekaterina.silkalna@sseriga.edu)***
☐ ***Correcting exams, re-exams***	***Course Director***
☐ ***Reporting RESULTS to the Academic Department*** ***(OVERALL Results calculated according to the course requirements, reported in Excel file, sheet named "RESULTS")***	**If there are several course components that are graded, than the Assistance in grading can be required (if agreed with the Rector) from the Teaching Assistants** **The FINAL RESULTS should be sent to** ***Jekaterina Silkalna*** ***jekaterina.silkalna@sseriga.edu*** ***(+371) 67015804*** ***Submission deadline:*** **Exam results- two weeks after the exam** **Term paper- four weeks after the end of the course** **Total grade- four weeks after the end of the course (if there is a term paper to be graded)** **Re-exam- two weeks after the re-exam**