

ERASMUS+ BLENDED INTENSIVE PROGRAMME 2026

BIP ECOFINANCE 2026

27 April – 15 May, 2026

VIRTUAL SESSION

18 May – 22 May, 2026

PHYSICAL SESSION

GREEN FINANCE, THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY, AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

PARTNERS

- Krakow University of Economics, Department of Sustainable Finance
- University of Helsinki, Department of Economics and Management
- University of Vigo, Faculty of Leadership and Public Management

THE BIP MODULES

- Circular economy principles and Sustainable Business Models
- Green finance and sustainable investment
- Green Finance vs. Greening Finance: Rethinking the Role of Finance in Sustainability
- Sustainability Reporting, Circular Economy Indicators, and Assurance as Foundations for Financial Decision Making
- Public Policies and Gender Equality: A Critical Factor for a Sustainable and Circular Economy
- Stakeholders Engagement for a sustainable future





UNIVERSITY
OF PARDUBICE
FACULTY
OF ECONOMICS
AND ADMINISTRATION



NAME OF THE LECTURER:

doc. Ing. Viktor Prokop, Ph.D.

University of Pardubice, Czech Republic

CIRCULAR ECONOMY PRINCIPLES AND SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS MODELS

Annotation:

This course introduces students to the core principles of the circular economy and examines how organizations can translate these principles into Sustainable Business Models and Circular Economy Business Models that support long-term value creation. Students will analyze how firms, policymakers, and other stakeholders integrate circular strategies—such as eco-design, resource loops, and product-service systems—into innovation processes and organizational practices. The course will highlight emerging trends shaping the future of circular and sustainable business, such as regenerative design, digital enablers (e.g., data platforms, IoT, AI), and the twin transition towards a green and digitally empowered economy. Based on the analysis of selected “success stories”, students will formulate practical recommendations for companies and policymakers seeking to advance circular economy principles within their innovation ecosystems.



NAME OF THE LECTURER:

Ing. Solomon Gyamfi, Ph.D.

University of Pardubice, Czech Republic

GREEN FINANCE AND SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT

Annotation:

As global environmental challenges intensify, sustainable investment has become increasingly important for the alignment of financial systems with sustainability goals and transitioning towards more inclusive and environmentally responsible societies. The topic focuses on green finance and sustainable investment. It digests the aspects of financial activities and investment strategies that integrate environmental, social, and governance (ESG) considerations into decision making processes. Furthermore, the module will outline approaches that support environmentally sustainable projects such as renewable energy, climate change mitigation and resource efficiency, while also promoting long term economic growth and social well-being. In particular, we will deal with green finance instruments such as green bonds, sustainable funds and climate-focused lending etc., which play a critical role in mobilizing capital towards sustainability and resilient economies. By completing this course, participants will gain the ability to analyze financial instruments and strategies and appreciate the principles of green finance and sustainable investments including ESG criteria. Develop insight into and appreciate the economic, environmental and policy impacts of sustainable investment.



KRAKOW
UNIVERSITY
OF ECONOMICS



NAME OF THE LECTURER:

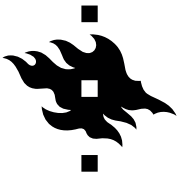
Dr Ksymena Rosiek

Krakow University of Economics,
Department of Sustainable Finance

GREEN FINANCE VS. GREENING FINANCE: RETHINKING THE ROLE OF FINANCE IN SUSTAINABILITY/ FINANCING THE GREEN TRANSITION: INSTRUMENTS AND MECHANISMS

Annotation:

The first part of the module covers the fundamentals of green finance, sustainable finance, and climate finance, explaining the differences between these concepts and the role of the financial sector in supporting environmental and climate transition. It presents the key EU regulations and instruments related to sustainable finance, including the EU Taxonomy, the DNSH principle, ESG disclosures, standards, and climate benchmarks. It also discusses major financial instruments such as green bonds, green loans, sustainability-linked instruments, climate funds, and emissions markets, while addressing the problem of greenwashing. The second part of the module introduces the main financial and market-based instruments that support the green transition. It covers tools such as green bonds, green loans, green certificates, carbon taxes, emissions trading systems, sustainability-linked instruments, public support mechanisms, and blended finance solutions. The module also explains how these instruments mobilize capital, influence investment decisions, reduce environmental pressures, and support climate and sustainability objectives in practice.



UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI



NAME OF THE LECTURER:

Dr. Inna Makarenko
University of Helsinki

SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING, CIRCULAR ECONOMY INDICATORS, AND ASSURANCE AS FOUNDATIONS FOR FINANCIAL DECISION MAKING

Annotation:

This topic introduces students to key sustainability reporting frameworks and current trends, showing how companies use established standards to disclose environmental, social, governance, and circular-economy performance. It explains how sustainability reporting supports sustainable finance decision-making by providing investors and stakeholders with credible information on resource efficiency, risks, and long-term value creation. The topic also covers the role of assurance, verification, and second-party opinions in strengthening the reliability of sustainability and circular-economy indicators, ensuring that reported data can meaningfully inform financial analysis and strategic decision-making.



NAME OF THE LECTURER:

Dr Silvia Pérez Freire
University of Vigo, Spain

PUBLIC POLICIES AND GENDER EQUALITY: A CRITICAL FACTOR FOR A SUSTAINABLE AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Annotation:

The transition towards a green and circular economy is not solely a technological or financial challenge; it is, fundamentally, a social and governance challenge. Public policies play an essential role in ensuring that this transition is just and inclusive. This lecture will propose an analysis of how incorporating a gender perspective into sustainability public policies, particularly in the design of green finance instruments, is an indispensable requirement for achieving authentic economic resilience. Based on the Spanish and European regulatory framework on equality, it will explore methodological tools (such as equality plans and gender impact assessments) that can be adapted to evaluate and correct structural imbalances. The objective is to demonstrate that gender equality is not only a fundamental right but also a key indicator of efficiency and long-term sustainability within the new economic paradigm, ensuring that the benefits of the circular economy reach all sectors of society.



UNIVERSITY
OF PARDUBICE
FACULTY
OF ECONOMICS
AND ADMINISTRATION



NAME OF THE LECTURER:

Ing. Martin Maštálka, Ph.D.

University of Pardubice, Czech Republic

STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Annotation:

The engagement of various stakeholders in the management and development of localities and micro-regions is deeply rooted in the principles of sustainable development. This lecture aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of participation by elaborating on its definition, underlying principles, various levels of engagement, as well as its potential benefits and limitations. In the practical part, we will undertake the task of formulating participation-oriented activities and developing detailed timelines tailored to specific project contexts. This approach seeks to illustrate how stakeholder engagement can be effectively structured to enhance project outcomes within local and micro-regional settings towards circular economy for a sustainable future.



NAME OF THE LECTURER:

Branislav Štefanča

Pardubice business incubator P-PINK

CIRCULAR CITIES IN PRACTICE: ENGAGING YOUTH THROUGH SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS AND COMMUNICATION

Annotation:

The workshop will focus on applying the concept of circular economy to real urban environments using the methodology of circular city scans developed within the Circular Hub. Students, working in small groups, will explore how local political representatives can actively contribute to improving sustainability and quality of life in cities. Based on selected city cases, participants will identify key opportunities for advancing a sustainable future (e.g. waste reduction, resource efficiency, community initiatives) and propose concrete measures aligned with circular economy principles. In the second part, students will design a communication strategy aimed at younger generations. The objective is to translate existing sustainability initiatives—already identified through circular scans—into engaging and accessible formats. The workshop builds on the assumption that younger audiences do not typically engage with official municipal websites or policy documents but instead consume information through social media and short-form digital content (e.g. videos). The outcome will be a set of practical sustainability actions combined with a targeted communication approach that increases awareness and engagement among young citizens.