UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Circular economy: innovation and impacts

2223-BbetweenSDG-06-05

Module description

The module defines the circular economy concept, along with the main EU policy packages towards circular economy, as an alternative to a linear economy model characterized by severe environmental impacts. It then focuses on the existing policies and directives and their objectives, which have directed technological change towards environmental and green innovations. In the second part, the module zooms on environmental innovations main socio-economic impacts using firm level data and it proposes selected case studies of circular economy practices.

Learning goals

General goal

Characterize the circular economy model and undertstand its main socio-economic implications

Specific skills and competences

Understand the main indicators to frame circular economy;
Compare different countries in such indicators;
Understand the role and mechanimism through which public policies affect innovation;
Understand and select case studies of circular economy practices and evaluate their socio-economic returns.

Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 UN Agenda

SDG9: Innovation and Infrastructure
SDG 12: Sustainable Production and Consumption

Breakdown of meetings

Part I focuses on the circular economy concept and its main policies:

- Part I.1 From linear to circular economy: a defintion
- Part I.2 Public policies and their role to direct technological change

Part II is mostly applied and it provides evidences and cases on socio-economic impacts of the circular economy:

- Part II.1 Socio-Economic impacts of circular and environmental practices
- Part II.2 Circular Economy: Business models and case studes

Number of participants

No limitation

Language used in meetings

Italian

Delivery period of the module

February-March 2023: 4 pre-recorded lecture available according to the published timeline, and a final online meeting scheduled for 22,d March 12-13 (later recorded and made available)

Methods of assessing the outcomes of the learning process

Evaluation of a short essay (1/2-2 pages) on a self selected case study of circular economy practices, as detailed during the 22nd March meeting.

The essay should contain:

1. name of the firm/institution
2. Sector
3. Name and type of innovation

4. Critical analysis of the innovation: why is it circular and does it close resource loops (also negative answers are possible and plausible)

To receive the open badge it should be uploaded by 30th May 2023 h.23.59

Department of affiliation of the teacher

Department of Sociology and Social Research

Sustainable Development Goals

INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE | RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION