

GREENBRIDGE Syllabus

Course on Green Skills – 1.2 Key Elements of the Green Economy

General description of the course

This course provides VET educators with an in-depth understanding of the green economy and its importance for education, industry, and labour market. The green economy integrates economic development with environmental sustainability, promoting resource efficiency, innovation, and resilience. Another aspect of the course is the topic of circular economy with related documentation and legislation, also resource efficiency. The course also introduces the topic of resource efficiency with resources being an essential element of a business and the importance of their sustainable use.

The prepared Needs Analysis has shown a pressing gap in linking green economy concepts to vocational education and training, also professional practices in the Western Balkans. This course will address that need by:

- Clarifying definitions and dimensions of the green economy.
- Exploring how green policies shape industries and labour market trends.
- Introducing circular economy and resource efficiency principles

Learning outcomes

By the end of this course, VET educators will:

1. Gain needed knowledge about the definitions and dimensions of the green economy and their relevance to vocational training.
2. Understand and teach the principles of circular economy and resource efficiency in vocational education contexts.
3. Support students in connecting green economy knowledge to their future professions, enhancing their awareness and confidence in green skills.
4. Ability to identify the main advantages of the transition to circular economy
5. Ability to find and understand legal and regulatory documents for the topics of the course

Structure and content of the course

Module 1: Introduction to the green economy

The aim of this module is to provide educators with a clear and comprehensive understanding of the green economy and its multi-dimensional framework. It introduces the concept of the green economy and distinguishes it from traditional economic models, while covering key principles such as low-carbon growth, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability. The module explores its environmental (climate change, biodiversity), social (equity, inclusion), and economic (innovation, job creation) dimensions, and highlights connections to global and regional policy frameworks, including the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the EU Green Deal.

Subtitle 1.1: Defining the green economy

Subtitle 1.2: Dimensions of the green economy – economic

Subtitle 1.3: Dimensions of the green economy - social and environmental

Module 2: Green policies, industries, and labour market

This module examines how green policies influence vocational education skills demand and labour market opportunities. The module introduces key international (EU Green Deal, Paris Agreement) and regional policy frameworks driving the green transition and uses case studies from renewable energy, waste management and other sectors to illustrate both opportunities and challenges of industry. It explores how green policies generate new job profiles such as renewable energy technicians and eco-innovation specialists while reshaping existing professions. Finally, it addresses skills mismatches in the region and considers how VET education can respond effectively.

Subtitle 2.1: Overview of green policies

Subtitle 2.2: Impact on industries

Subtitle 2.3: Labor market transformation

Module 3: Circular economy and resource efficiency

This module will strengthen educators' understanding of circular economy principles and resource efficiency, also support them in embedding these concepts in VET teaching. The module explains core principles such as reduce, reuse, recycle, redesign, and repair, being contrasted with the traditional “take-make-dispose” model. It focuses on areas such as renewable energy and waste management and newly emerged professions like eco-innovation experts. At the end are included good examples of Circular economy and resource efficiency implementation.



Subtitle 3.1: Basics of circular economy, acquaintance with the main documents

Subtitle 3.2: Resource efficiency in practice and the link to circular economy

Subtitle 3.3: Good examples of circular economy and resource efficiency implementation

Learning and teaching activities

- Self-paced online learning with provided materials; including text, images and AI-generated videos
- Sessions with lecturers to introduce the new material
- Discussions (Training session with lecturer)

Schedule and duration of the course

| | Training session with lecturer (physically or online) | Independent learning / Self-learning |
|----------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Module 1 | 1 hour | 30 min |
| Module 2 | 1 hour | 30 min |
| Module 3 | 1 hour | 30 min |
| Total: | 3 hours | 1 hour and 30 min |

Evaluation methods

- Self-assessment questionnaire will be provided after each module including single choice-answer questions.