



**POLITECNICO
DI TORINO**



INTERNATIONAL
HELLENIC
UNIVERSITY



Universitat d'Alacant
Universidad de Alicante

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Call for application

INTERNATIONAL ONLINE COURSE

Multidisciplinary training in circular economy and smart valorisation of rural area for new business models

The course is part of the Erasmus+ MULTITRACES project

6 ECTS credits



MULTITRACES

MULTITRACES

An Erasmus + Program, Key Action 2: Cooperation for innovation and exchange of best practices, Strategic partnerships for higher education

Aim of the project

The MULTITRACES project was developed as part of the **Europe 2020 strategy** in accordance with the **Circular Economy Package** launched by the European Commission in December 2015, which contains the guidelines for moving from a linear economy, based on consumption and the exhaustion of natural resources, to the circular economy model.

The general objective of the MULTITRACES project is to set up a multidisciplinary formation of the university students for business development in the rural area in the framework of the circular economy for the **smart valorization of industrial production outputs and natural resources**.

The students involved in the project's activities will acquire **knowledge valuable for their careers**, both to create new circular businesses and to work in companies and organisations committed to a circular transition.

Despite the generous resources it offers, the **economic development of the rural area** suffers from an acute shortage of personnel specialized in the circular economy. Participation in project activities provides learners with the necessary knowledge to meet these identified needs of the labour market, increasing the attractiveness of this economic area among young people.

Universities involved

Romania | Universitatea Vasile Alecsandri din Bacau (UBC)

Production and Environmental Engineering

Italy | Politecnico di Torino (POLITO)

Systemic Design

Greece | International Hellenic University (IHU)

Agronomy

Spain | Universidad de Alicante (UA)

Business and Management

Companies involved

Companies in the agrifood and agriforestry sector are involved in this project for each member region. Currently the partner companies are Agrindustria Tecco (Italy), Romagria SRL (Romania), Alfa Wood Group SA (Greece), Comunidad de regantes de pliego (Spain).



Course programme

The online course envisages a **6-hour weekly work commitment**, including online lessons (also available asynchronously), individual study, team work and debates. The completion of the **five-month course** entails the acquisition of **6 ECTS credits**. The participation in this course will involve at least **14 students from each University**, with a **total of 56 students**.

Each module involves collaboration with a partner company as part of **mini-challenges** enabling students to put the theoretical concepts they have learned into practice. Student teams will be multi-disciplinary and, under teacher mentoring, will carry out mini-projects related to the **challenge proposed by the company** and the tools provided by the university in charge of the module.

Why participate?

- Having the opportunity to explore issues related to the circular economy in a **multidisciplinary climate**;
- Getting in touch with other **European Universities** and different research areas;
- Active thematic discussions in a **participatory environment**;
- Working **in harness with companies**;
- Having the chance to develop **entrepreneur projects** as part of the circular economy in the rural areas;
- Among the students who have graduated all course modules, **8 students** will be selected for the **next stage of the project - which means practical training**. 6 of them will go abroad (2 students in each partner country) and 2 students will perform the training in a national company and they will have the opportunity to interfere, to meet with the teams from the other partner countries and help them to feel comfortable during the internship. All the students will develop projects which can represent graduated projects.

Running of online courses

01.02-07.03.2021 | Polito

Circular economy in rural territories: principles and working methodologies

08.03 – 11.04.2021 | UBC

New vision with regard to the specific economic activities of the rural environment: by-products valorisation and waste reduction

12.04 – 16.05.2021 | IHU with participation of UBC

Sustainable development of the rural area and smart valorization of the natural resources

17.05 – 20.06.2021 | UA with the support of participation of UBC and CRPliego

Business Management in the framework of circular economy

Materials to submit for the application

- 1. Cover letter** explaining the interest in participating in the course
2. Copy of the **certificate** with the level of **English knowledge** (OPTIONAL)
- 3. Self-declaration** with previous **university results**
- 4. CV** with candidate **training and working experiences**

*The document can prove the **ability to work in team** underlining the experiences related to the participation in other projects, student communication sessions, volunteer actions, activity in student organizations...*

Selection criteria

The applications will be examined by an evaluation committee made up of course lecturers and at least one student representative in order to ensure a transparent selection process, based on the following criteria:

- Motivation to participate in the course
- English language skills
- Academic performance
- Ability to work in a team

