Transnational Collaboration for Sustainable Solutions

BEFORE THE COURSE STARTS

- Kick-off session
- Introductions
- Self-assessment of communication, teamwork and intercultural skills

KICK-OFF
OCTOBER 5
4-6 PM CET

5 - 18 OCTOBER

WEEKS 1-2

- The Sustainable Development Goals
- The design sprint methodology
- Teams set up a team contract and communication plan
- Discussion skills
- Team meeting with a mentor

19 - 25 OCTOBER

WEEK 3

- Teams discuss megatrends
- Teams choose a sustainability challenge and do research
- Vocabulary development: sustainability terminology

STEP 1: MAP

26 OCT. - 1 NOV.

WEEK 4

- Teams define the problem and desired result
- Teams identify actions, steps and stakeholders
- Vocabulary development: problem-solving and negotiating

STEP 2: DEFINE

2 - 8 NOVEMBER

WEEK 5

- Team members work individually and invent solutions to the problem
- Creativity and entrepreneurial skills
- Vocabulary development: Agreeing and disagreeing

STEP 3: IDEATE

9- 22 NOVEMBER

WEEKS 6-7

- Teams discuss their solution ideas and choose one idea to develop further
- Teams create a storyboard visualising the solution idea
- Negotiation and feedback skills

STEP 4: VALIDATE

23 NOV. - 6 DEC.

WEEKS 8-9

- Teams create a prototype for the idea and prepare to pitch their solution to other teams
- Presentation and pitching skills

STEP 5: PROTOTYPE

7 - 13 DECEMBER

WEEK 10

- Teams pitch their solution ideas and provide each other with feedback
- Course evaluations
- 1:1 interviews with a mentor

PRESENTATIONS
DECEMBER 10
4 - 6 PM CET

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the course, students are expected to be able to:

- **Collaborate** efficiently within transnational teams, leveraging the strengths of diverse team members and contributing effectively to team goals.
- **Identify** and **define complex problems** related to sustainable development, and apply **critical thinking** and **problem-solving** strategies to develop innovative solutions.
- Effectively **communicate** complex ideas and solutions in written and spoken English, using appropriate language and tone.
- Demonstrate **cultural awareness and competence** by understanding and respecting cultural differences within transnational teams.
- **Take initiative** in their learning process, setting goals, managing their time, and seeking resources independently.
- Cultivate an **entrepreneurial mindset**, displaying **creativity** and **adaptability** in problem-solving related to sustainable development

The learning objectives have been developed based on **The European sustainability competence framework *Greencomp*** in which the following **12 competencies** are identified as being crucial for sustainability: valuing sustainability, supporting fairness, promoting nature, systems thinking, critical thinking, problem framing, futures literacy, adaptability, exploratory thinking, political agency, collective action, individual initiative.

Bianchi, G., Pisiotis, U. and Cabrera Giraldez, M., GreenComp The European sustainability competence framework, Punie, Y. and Bacigalupo, M. editor(s), EUR 30955 EN, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2022, ISBN 978-92-76-53201-9, doi:10.2760/821058, JRC128040

To pass the course, students must:

- be an active team member,
- communicate effectively and regularly with their team,
- complete the obligatory exercises for each step of the course,
- submit regular entries in a learning journal,
- participate in the kick-off on October 5 and the final joint session on December 10, where the team's solution ideas are presented and discussed.