



# SUSTAINABILITY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

## General data

Course code:	B19GMC18E
ECTS credits:	3
Type of the course:	general elective
Semester:	Fall, semester 1 <sup>st</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Course restrictions:	-
Course leader (with availabilities):	<b>Katalin Erdős</b> <a href="mailto:erdosk@tkk.pte.hu">erdosk@tkk.pte.hu</a> +36 72 501 599/ 63134
Further lecturer(s) (with availabilities):	-

## 1. Description and aims

The 20<sup>th</sup> century brought economic growth and a higher standard of living. However, the increased global average values hide striking differences between countries considering social, environmental and economic indicators. Furthermore, the unintended consequences of the linear economic model disproportionately seem to affect those who benefited less or nothing from economic growth and are more vulnerable. This course aims to provide an introduction to sustainable development. Beyond the concept and its history, the related organizations and conferences, it discusses the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The course enables the students to understand issues related to sustainability and contribute to their solutions.

## 2. Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

Upon the successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. compare linear and circular economic models
2. categorize the social, economic and environmental consequences of the industrialized development path
3. examine the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations
4. design effective small-scale research on global challenges
5. analyse solutions to complex issues related to sustainability
- 6.

*(The remarks in brackets express each CILO's connection to the Program Intended Learning Outcomes (PILOs).)*

## 3. Content, schedule

The discussion of topics is divided into the following twelve chapters:

1. Introduction, team formation, fixation of the schedule
2. The 1960s – Awakening
3. The 1970s – Institutionalisation of environmentalism
4. The 1980s – Introduction of efficient environmental policies
5. Sustainable development – Interpretations and their consequences



6. Sustainability and the UN – Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals
7. SDG 1-3
8. SDG 4-6
9. SDG 7-9
10. SDG 10-12
11. SDG 14-17
12. Student presentations, concluding session

#### 4. Learning and teaching strategy, methodology

*Principal teaching methodologies:* quizzes, case study analysis, in-class discussion

The course starts with an introduction to sustainability, including the history and the concept. Beyond analysing the most important milestones and achievements, students will be requested to identify news from the media that in their view relate to sustainability and introduce those to the class. The news identified and introduced by the students will provide an opportunity to help the development of their critical analytical skills related to economic development and its consequences. In the second part of the course, the sustainable development goals of the UN will be processed in detail. Groups of students will be requested to study and introduce the UNSDGs to the class. The course ends with student presentations on the SDG they in the final phase of the course, students work in groups on ideas to solve an SDG.

#### 5. Assessment

*Formative assessment elements:* The feedback provided for the presentations of news prepares students to the detailed analysis of the UN SDGs. Students also will have the opportunity to present their posters and develop them further based on the feedback from peers and lecturers.

*Summative assessment elements:*

Individual Assessment		60%	Group Assessment		40%	
Name of the element	Weight	Type	Details	Retake opportunity	Req.*	Related CIOs
Groupwork in class	40%	coursework	Groups are requested to contribute to the complete solution of the in-class work.	no	no	1,2,3,5,6
Individual research assignment	60%	coursework	In the assignment, the student has to critically discuss an issue in the field of environmental economics based on individual data collection and theoretical concepts.	one resubmission opportunity	yes	4,5



\* Req.: Completion of the element is required to pass the course, irrespective of the performance in other elements.

## 6. Learning materials

- Essential

Stephen Browne (2017): Sustainable Development Goals and UN Goal-Setting. Routledge

- Recommended

Stephen Browne – Thomas G. Weiss (2020): Routledge Handbook on the UN and Development.

Samuel O. Idowu – René Schmidpeter – Liangrong Zu (eds., 2020): The Future of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Business Perspectives for Global Development in 2030. Springer

## 7. Further information

<b>International</b> aspects embedded with the course
Cases of pollution and pollution control policies are discussed, including their international dimension.
<b>Ethics, Responsibility &amp; Sustainability (ERS)</b> aspects embedded with the course
The whole course is dedicated to sustainability, including ethics and responsibility issues in environmental economics.
<b>Connections to the world of practice</b> of the course
Guest speakers help to demonstrate the company-level realization of environmental policies and their consequences.