**Development and management of sustainable supply chains**

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***COURSE OBJECTIVE AND EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

This Course will address the sustainability issues in the context of economic supply chains and related components. The main risks and opportunities for the various players in the supply chains will be analyzed from an ethical, environmental and social point of view; in addition, the in-depth study of the notion of sustainability applied to the development and management of supply chains and related measurement and communication and the analysis of environmental and social issues affecting the different value chains through classroom discussions and debates, will help developing a critical thinking in relation to the economic/business world and its impact.

The program is structured to allow for an exhaustive understanding of the concept of sustainability with reference to the different theories and to the main technical standards used at an international level.

Students will be provided with the cognitive and methodological basis to be able to apply and analyze the concepts of social and environmental sustainability, stakeholder engagement and strategy oriented towards the development and sustainable management of supply chains in the various fields of application. Specific focus will be dedicated to stimulating a good independence of judgment and elaboration of the scenarios and data available, to allow students to move independently where skills related to sustainability are required.

The course aims to offer students with the following:

* a clear understanding of sustainability in the context of economic supply chains;
* the tools and skills to identify, analyze and critically discuss sustainability issues;
* a better capacity for critical thinking and expression of one's ideas, opinions and motivated choices.

At the end of the course students will be able to:

* Understand the logic according to which different types of supply chains develop and operate in a sustainable way;
* identify and analyze issues relating to sustainability applied to the various components of the supply chains;
* discuss and apply the concept of sustainability of supply chains and value chains in the various fields;
* propose and evaluate corporate strategies aimed at addressing the concept of sustainability of the supply chain and its various facets;
* understand the different nuances of sustainability practices with reference to their impact on the market, on profit, on economic and corporate development, on the outside, on people;
* Define the objectives relating to impacts, internal company performance and the performance of its suppliers and measure the sustainability contribution of the individual company in the supply chain and of the supply chain as a whole;
* Assign corporate sustainability objectives and the reference supply chain;
* Facilitate the drafting of (final) corporate and supply chain sustainability reports.

***COURSE PROGRAM***

The course explores the following topics:

* Introduction to sustainability: definitions and basic concepts.
* The components of the economic chains and their functioning.
* The critical aspects for the sustainable management of supply chains: energy, climate change, consumption of natural resources (water, soil) and materials, social equity and human rights.
* The role of the company, external drivers and stakeholders.
* The challenges and opportunities associated with the sustainable development of supply chains.
* Strategies and partnerships for the development of sustainable supply chains.
* Definition of sustainability objectives and performance monitoring at company and supply chain level.
* The concept of circular economy for the development and sustainable management of supply chains.

***BIBLIOGRAPHY***

The teaching material will be uploaded to the Blackboard platform. Detailed information on the study of materials will be provided in the course Syllabus and shown by the teacher during the first lesson.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course includes theoretical lessons, discussions of case studies and analysis of realistic scenarios. These teaching methods are combined to develop students' ability to analyze and interpret the implications related to the different aspects of sustainability in the development and management of sustainable supply chains.

* Lessons: students are presented with the content, motivated and challenged to reflect on the proposed issues.
* Classroom discussions and debates: analysis of documents, case studies, exchange of ideas and cultural perspectives.
* Independent reading: selection of reading material in different areas of sustainability applied to economic supply chains.
* Case studies: opportunities to study real-life situations and the reactions of the actors involved.

***EVALUATION METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Attendance at the course is strongly recommended, given that the objective of the course is to develop analytical and critical thinking skills.

The overall evaluation is based on the performance of some Debates in the classroom, on the results of periodic Assignments to be carried out independently and on a final exam (Debate 10%, Assignment 20%, Exam 70%).

* Assignment: production of written documents, presentations or responses to specific questions relating to assigned readings, insights and research to be performed.
* Debate: Students will form teams and competitively discuss supply chain sustainability issues with the support of videos/documents/websites.
* Final exam: The final exam will be based on the lectures, required reading, provided learning materials and will use different formats to assess students' progress towards learning outcomes throughout the course. Question formats will include open-ended questions, multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, true/false questions with answer explanation, and case study analysis. The duration of the exam will be 1.5 hours and will be evaluated out of 30.

***WARNINGS AND PREREQUISITES***

The course assumes that students already have a good understanding of the basic concepts of business economics.

***STUDENT RECEPTION TIME AND PLACE***

Hours and reception methods are available online on the teacher's personal page, which can be consulted on the website http://docenti.unicatt.it/