



**Università
degli Studi
di Palermo**

CED⁴
System Dynamics Group



Master in: *Sustainability Management & Governance*

Background

The Master's Program in "Sustainability Management & Governance" adopts an interdisciplinary approach, enabling participants to learn and practice how to design and implement systems enabling stakeholders to pursue sustainable development. The program adopts a holistic approach to enhance the resilience of socio-economic, cultural, and ecological systems, in both urban and rural contexts, against global issues that increasingly threaten their survival (e.g., traffic congestion, health, societal aging, unemployment, social cohesion, domestic violence, crime, corruption, terrorism, poverty, social exclusion, climate change, and natural disasters).

Description of the program

The program emphasizes the role of specialized professionals in developing conceptual and simulation System Dynamics models to understand the causal relationships underlying the phenomena they seek to address. Collaborative platforms facilitate the identification and shared use of common resources, such as natural, historical, linguistic, and behavioral assets, vital for pursuing sustainable territorial development.

The program underscores the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration as a driver for innovative policies supporting holistic sustainability governance. The "quintuple helix" model, involving universities, industry, government, media, civil society, and ecological stakeholders, shapes the foundation of this educational approach. Such integrated perspective acknowledges the complexity of sustainability challenges and the power of collaboration in shaping robust and innovative policies.

The program's mission is to equip graduates not only with discipline-specific competencies through empirical case studies and field projects, but also with skills and aptitudes to enable them to act as change agents capable of leading collaborative and innovative processes for the common good. The curriculum is the result of thorough analysis and consultation with key stakeholders across various sectors, ensuring it meets emerging labor market needs. The subjects taught in the program are meticulously selected to reflect competencies valued in the contemporary professional context, providing students with comprehensive and up-to-date training in sustainability. The interaction with professionals, companies, and organizations helps structure a curriculum that prepares students to meet job market expectations and emerging challenges with competence and versatility.

By leveraging the knowledge of the University of Palermo “Center for Sustainability & Ecological Transition”, the program provides a wide and interdisciplinary domain, including management & governance, urban planning, political science, circular economy, planetary health, water-energy-food-ecosystems governance, economics, law, sociology, and psychology. This offers students an innovative perspective to develop a unique professional profile with distinctive competencies, blending rigorous theory, practical relevance, and an international study orientation.

Outcomes of the program

The program represents a cutting-edge educational path built on solid stakeholder dialogue, providing students with a comprehensive preparation aligned with current and future market demands. The curriculum offers a broad range of career options, from performance management & governance in business and collaborative ecosystems to leadership roles in entrepreneurial initiatives creating shared and sustainable value in socio-economic, cultural, and ecological contexts. It also opens career paths in collaborative policy analysis and strategic planning in various organizational and interorganizational settings, such as: governmental & non-governmental organizations, think-tanks, consulting firms, grassroots organizations, bridging organizations, learning forums, etc.

Internationalization

The program also allows students to earn a double degree from the Corvinus University of Budapest, and a unique internship opportunity at the Millennium Institute (Washington DC, USA). This internship provides specialization in System Dynamics modeling for localizing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), offering unparalleled experience in applying these skills in sustainable development. Students collaborate with experts in the field, creating models guiding SDG implementation and monitoring at the local level, significantly advancing their career aspirations in sustainable innovation and practices.

Teaching Strategy & Syllabus

Through case-study analysis, students will learn and practice how to design and implement computer-based Dynamic Performance Management & Governance systems to frame complex problems affecting performance sustainability and endurance on an organizational, interorganizational and place-based level.

The Master's Program adopts an interdisciplinary approach by integrating management sciences with architectural, engineering, sociological, economic, agricultural, and health sciences to provide a comprehensive understanding of sustainability from an ecosystem perspective.



Study Plan

First Year

- Sustainable Urban and Regional Planning
- Socio-Economic, Cultural & Ecological Systems for Sustainable Development (in modules):
 - *Circular Economy Business Models*
 - *Service Design for Equitable Sustainable Mobility*
 - *Sustainable Energy Communities*
- Urban & Inner Area Sustainable Development and Regeneration (in modules):
 - *Migrations and social inclusion in urban contexts*
 - *Sustainable Cities & Communities*
 - *Sustainability and Economic Transition in the Mediterranean Area*
- Lab of Sociology of the Mediterranean Area
- System Dynamics for Outcome-based Performance Management & Governance
- Dynamic Performance Management & Governance (in modules):
 - *Dynamic Performance Management*
 - *Dynamic Performance Governance*
- Service Ecosystems and Collaborative Platforms

Second Year

- Patronage in Environmental & Socio-economic Sustainability Governance
- ESG Strategy for SMEs
- Sustainable Health, Food, Water Systems (in modules):
 - *Sustainable Nutrition for Healthy Lifestyle*
 - *Healthy Food Systems & Biodiversity conservation*
 - *Sustainable Agrifood Systems*
 - *Sustainable Water Management & Governance*
- Global Politics
- Elective Subjects, Seminars & Internship
- Thesis defense

More information

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