

Programma didattico BIP

“Exploring the Circular Economy in Riga.

ID: 2024-1-LV01-KA131-HED-000212386-5

Exploring the Circular Economy in Riga

Organised by: University of Latvia

Format: Blended mobility (virtual + physical)

Virtual component: (online) – 7-17th april

Physical component: 1 week in Riga, Latvia from 20.04.2026 – 24.04.2026

BIP co-organizers: University of Valencia (Prof. Antoni Seguí) and University of Palermo (prof. Concetta Messina), Université Bourgogne Europe (Alice Mériau-deau and Florence Marty)

Language: English (B2)

ECTS: 3 ECTS

Maximum number of participants: 18

Overview: The Blended Intensive Programme “*Exploring the Circular Economy in Riga*” brings together students from different disciplines to explore how circular economy principles are implemented in business, policy, and urban development.

Through lectures, workshops, and field visits, participants will gain both theoretical insight and practical understanding of sustainable transitions in the Baltic context.

Outcomes: By the end of the programme, participants will:

- Understand the principles and policy frameworks of the circular economy;
- Analyse and evaluate sustainable business and governance models;
- Apply interdisciplinary teamwork and design thinking to real-world challenges;
- Gain intercultural communication and collaboration skills.
- Develop their social skills, and their eco-citizen consumer behavior and activate students’ civic engagement.

Virtual Component

Purpose:

To introduce the key concepts of the circular economy and prepare participants for the on-site experience in Riga.

Format: 2 - 3 online sessions (2 hours each), including group discussions and preparatory assignments.

Sessions:

1. **Introduction to Circular Economy: Concepts and Global Challenges**
– Overview of linear vs. circular systems, sustainability goals, and key EU strategies.
2. **Circular Economy in Policy and Practice**
– EU Green Deal, Latvian national initiatives, and examples from Nordic and Baltic regions.

3. Sustainable Business Models and Innovation

- How companies transition towards circularity; case studies and short group reflections.

Deliverable:

Teams prepare a short proposal outlining a circular solution or analysis to be further developed during the on-site week.

Physical Component (On-site in Riga – 20.04.26-24.04.26)

Objectives:

- Experience circular economy practices firsthand in Latvia's capital;
- Deepen theoretical understanding through interactive learning;
- Strengthen intercultural and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Schedule:

Day 1 – Welcome & Context

- Opening session and introduction to the University of Latvia
- Keynote lecture: *“Circular Riga: Policies and Partnerships for a Sustainable Future”*
- Ice-breaking workshop and intercultural team activities

Day 2 – Circular Business in Practice

Workshop

Day 3 – Urban Sustainability and Design Thinking

- Field visit: Riga City Council's environmental department

Day 4 – Social Aspects and Community Engagement

- Group project presentations and feedback from academic panel
- Reflection session and certificates of participation
- Cultural evening and farewell event

Day 5 – Reflections & Departure