

Certificate in Sustainable Development and Social Innovation



Sciences Sociales



Programme

20 ECTS / 2 to 6 semesters

Core courses: Tuesday evenings

Optional courses: usually

Thursday evenings

Meetings of peer groups are self-organised

400€ / semester



Admission

The main prerequisite is a strong motivation to engage professionally and or personally to foster societal transformation for sustainability. The selection criteria are specified in the guide for applicants. Fluency in English is required.

Candidates are selected upon submission of a letter of motivation and CV.



Teaching languages

English



Applications

EU applications:

1st April to 11 September 2025



The Certificate aims to provide a better understanding of the complex challenges that societies, organisations and individuals face as we approach the limits of the biophysical carrying capacity of our planet. Sustainability and Social Innovation are inseparable: active involvement of both citizens and science is necessary for guiding and monitoring the innovations that promise to protect or improve our lifestyle standards.

The study programme offers tools for social learning to tap into the collective intelligence of stakeholders and experts. Issues such as energy, water and food production, waste and recycling, sustainable housing and transport are covered. The courses provide an overview on the most recent insights from academics and practitioners relating to global change and to transformative learning for sustainability.

A Certificate created to engage on sustainability

The Certificate targets professionals and students of any degree programme (Bachelor, Master, or Ph.D.) and offers direct experience of engaging and co-creating with a very diverse social learning group. Experiential learning opportunities, including peer group projects on salient problems in Luxembourg, equip participants for making better informed and more reflexive judgments for effective action.

The programme is designed to be compatible with a full-time job or study programme. Students have a choice: They can enrol to obtain the Certificate as second qualification in parallel to pursuing their main degree whilst at the University. Alternatively they can take individual courses as optional courses that count towards their main degree.



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES,
EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL SCIENCES

Become a change agent to influence the future more effectively.

Programme objectives

Participants will develop the following competences:

- to apply systems thinking to understand the complexity of society, environment and their interactions.
- to respect the conflicting perspectives on an issue that are held by diverse experts and stakeholders, stemming from diversity in experience, values and world views.
- to recognise uncertainties and tensions arising from the gulf between local and global perspectives and modes of inquiry.
- skills in negotiation: respect, listening, giving and taking to find mutually acceptable solutions to complex problems.
- an appreciation of alternative forms of social organization and enterprise for achieving a sustainable economic exchange system.
- to develop 'citizen science' approaches and techniques for creatively integrating the social and scientific emphases of the two phases of the course.
- to engage science and scientists productively in social learning processes with diverse groups of stakeholders for concerted action on local issues of environment and sustainability.

Programme structure and organisation

Core Course 1: 'Science and Citizens meet Challenges of Sustainability' (SCCS)

This interdisciplinary course equips participants with conceptual tools and most recent insights from academics and practitioners to actively engage in societal transformation for sustainability in a networked world.

Core Course 2: 'Social Enterprise and Social Innovation' (SESI)

This course explores social enterprises as vehicles for social innovation to address challenges of social inequity and sustainability. Diverse legal, financial and business models, and stakeholder relations aspects are explored. One overarching theme is defining, measuring and reporting on the common good and sustainable value creation in a pluralist society.

CONTACT

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