



New Master of Science in “Circular Economy ”

“Learn Circular Economy, Act Sustainably, Build your Future.”

Master Program in " Circular Economy ”

The Master of Science Program in Circular Economy represents an innovative and forward-looking academic offering, designed to provide advanced theoretical, analytical, and practical training in the field of sustainable economics, resource management, and the green transition.

The program is closely aligned with the current economic development challenges in Albania and the European integration process, aiming to prepare specialists capable of analyzing, designing, and implementing policies and economic models that support the circular economy.

It integrates in a balanced way:

- theoretical foundations in economics and environmental studies,
- analysis of resource use and market failures,
- public policy instruments and European Union frameworks,
- green finance and innovation,
- modern methods of data analysis and decision-making.

A key component of the program is its research dimension, implemented through the Master’s thesis, which develops students’ analytical, critical, and methodological skills in addressing complex issues related to the transition toward a green economy.

The program is based on an interdisciplinary approach, integrating economics, public policy, finance, environment, and technology, in line with European best practices and strategies such as the Green Deal and the Circular Economy Action Plan.

Unlike traditional study programs, the Master of Science in Circular Economy offers a forward-looking and practice-oriented approach by:

- Treating economics as a strategic tool for addressing environmental, resource, and sustainability challenges.
- Focusing on waste reduction, resource efficiency, circular production models, and sustainable consumption.
- Integrating green finance, innovation, digital transformation, and sustainable entrepreneurship.

- Preparing experts capable of supporting the European Green Deal, EU integration processes, and Albania's green transition.
- Developing professional competencies to identify, design, and implement new business opportunities based on circular economy principles.
- Encouraging students to transform environmental challenges into innovative, competitive, and sustainable business solutions.
- Strengthening the link between economic development, environmental responsibility, and long-term social impact.

Overall, the program aims to educate highly qualified professionals and experts capable of contributing to the transformation of the Albanian economy into a sustainable and competitive model.

Main goals of the program

The main objectives are:

- To provide advanced training in circular economy and sustainable development
- To develop competencies in analyzing and evaluating environmental and economic policies
- To equip students with analytical tools for economic evaluation (cost-benefit analysis, LCA, impact assessment)
- To provide knowledge on EU policies and standards for the green transition
- To develop research and methodological capacities
- To promote an interdisciplinary approach to economic and environmental analysis
- To prepare professionals for the green economy labor market

The main competencies acquired

Students will gain:

- Advanced knowledge of circular economy and efficient resource use
- Skills in analyzing and evaluating environmental public policies
- Competencies in data analysis and research methodologies
- Knowledge of green financial instruments
- Skills in designing sustainable projects and strategies
- Competencies in value chain analysis and circular models
- Ability to formulate policies and strategic recommendations

Career opportunities

According to labour market analysis, by 2030 Albania is expected to need approximately 100–200 qualified specialists in the field of Circular Economy and sustainable development. This demand is driven by the growing need for professional expertise in:

- Green economy and sustainable business models;
- Efficient management of natural resources and raw materials;
- Waste reduction, recycling, and circular production systems;
- Environmental policy, EU approximation, and Green Deal implementation;
- Green finance, sustainable entrepreneurship, and innovation;
- Climate-resilient development and institutional capacity building.
- Sustainable finance

Graduates may work in:

Public Institutions

- Ministry of Tourism and Environment
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Environmental and development agencies

Local Government

- Municipalities and local development structures
- Green economy projects

Private Sector

- Manufacturing and agri-food companies
- Sustainability and ESG consulting
- Recycling and energy industries

Financial Institutions and Projects

- Banks and green finance institutions
- IPA and Green Agenda projects

Academic and International Institutions

- Universities and research institutes
- Organizations such as FAO, EU, UNDP, GIZ

Program structure

The program is delivered over two academic years (4 semesters) and includes 120 ECTS credits, ensuring a structured progression from theoretical training to practical application and scientific research.

First Year

Focus on theoretical and methodological foundations:

- Environmental and resource economics
- Policies for the green transition
- Economic instruments
- Research methods and data analysis

Second Year

Focus on application and specialization:

- Value chain analysis
- Circular models in different sectors
- Green finance
- Project management
- Master's thesis

The program ensures a balance between:

- theoretical knowledge
- practical application
- scientific research

students' research, analytical, and critical skills, enabling them to independently address complex issues in the fields of finance and accounting.

Interdisciplinary approach

The program is based on interdisciplinarity, integrating:

- economics
- public policy
- finance
- environment
- technology

This approach enables students to develop a broad and integrated perspective for solving complex sustainable development problems.

This interdisciplinary approach represents one of the main added values of the Master of Science in Circular Economy. The program stands out for its modern, practice-oriented, and future-focused profile, particularly through:

- A clear focus on circular economy as a transformative model that goes beyond traditional economic approaches;
- The integration of EU policies, the European Green Deal, and the green transition into the academic and practical components of the program;

- Practical preparation of students for emerging labour market needs in sustainability, resource efficiency, environmental policy, and green business development;
- Strong links with European projects, funding instruments, and opportunities for international cooperation;
- A modern interdisciplinary structure combining economics, environmental management, innovation, public policy, finance, entrepreneurship, and digital transformation;
- Orientation toward employability, professional competencies, innovation, and the creation of new sustainable business opportunities;
- Preparation of graduates who can contribute to Albania's EU integration process and to the transition toward a greener, more competitive, and resource-efficient economy.