

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

<b>Name of the higher education institution:</b> <i>University of Presov</i>	
<b>Name of the faculty/university workplace:</b> <i>Faculty of Management and Business</i>	
<b>Course code:</b> <i>7KEEM/EVI-D-ZEPA/26</i>	<b>Course title:</b> <i>Environmental Challenges and Innovations</i>
<b>Type, scope and method of educational activity:</b> <i>Type of educational activity: lecture and seminar</i> <i>Scope of training activity: 1 h lecture and 1 h seminar per week</i> <i>Method of learning activity: combined; max. 30 % distance learning, via MS Teams, Moodle resp. other applications and platforms</i>	
<b>Number of credits:</b> <i>4</i>	
<b>Recommended semester:</b> <i>1<sup>st</sup> year, 2<sup>nd</sup> semester and 2<sup>nd</sup> year, 4<sup>th</sup> semester</i>	
<b>Degree of study:</b> <i>1.</i>	
<b>Prerequisites:</b> <i>-</i>	
<b>Conditions for passing the course:</b>  <b><i>Method of evaluation and completion of the course:</i></b> <i>Continuous evaluation</i> <b><i>The condition for successful completion of the course:</i></b> <i>The condition for successful completion of the course is to obtain the final sum of points from the sub-assessment activities (activities carried out during the semester, processing of term papers, etc.) and the final written test of at least 50 points (which represents 50% of the total score) and to fulfill the conditions of participation according to the Study Regulations.</i> <i>The final grade is the sum of the activities of the sub-assessment (processing of the seminar paper - the student can get 0-30 points) and the final test - the student can get 0-70 points.</i>  <i>The success criteria for the grading levels are as follows:</i> <i>A: 100.00-90.00%; B: 89.99-80.00%; C: 79.99-70.00%; D: 69.99-60.00%; E: 59.99-50.00%; FX: 49.99 and below. A student scoring less than 50% will be graded FX. Passing the course is contingent upon successful completion of the specified prerequisites and fulfillment of the conditions of participation according to the Student Regulations of University of Presov.</i>	
<b>Learning outcomes:</b> <i>This course examines the major environmental challenges facing the world today and the innovative approaches being developed to address them. Topics include climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, resource depletion and sustainable development. Students will explore case studies, engage in critical discussions and work on projects that support practical solutions.</i> <i>Upon completion of the course, students will have the following qualification standards:</i>  <b><i>Acquired knowledge:</i></b> <i>In the area of declarative and operational knowledge, acquired, internalized knowledge, the graduate of the course will be able to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>understand the principles of sustainability and their application in organizational and environmental management</i></li> </ul>	

- *know current and new technologies and strategies that address environmental challenges, including renewable energy sources, circular economy practices and sustainable agriculture, etc.*
- *become familiar with the dynamics of global and local food systems, including issues related to food security and the environmental impacts of food production*
- *understand the causes and consequences of food waste and strategies to mitigate it*
- *have a comprehensive understanding of sustainable fashion, including the environmental, social and economic dimensions*
- *know key international, national and local policies and regulations that influence environmental management and sustainability practices*
- *understand the role of policy instruments and incentives in supporting sustainable practices.*

**Acquired skills:**

*Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:*

- *analyze complex environmental problems using a multidisciplinary approach.*
- *develop innovative and practical solutions to environmental problems with sustainability and organizational goals in mind.*
- *design and implement effective sustainability strategies within an organizational context.*
- *develop detailed plans for implementing environmental solutions, including resource allocation, schedule management, and interested parties' engagement.*
- *conduct thorough research on environmental problems and review existing literature and case studies.*
- *use analytical tools to collect, interpret, and present data related to environmental challenges and solutions.*
- *effectively communicate complex environmental problems and solutions to diverse groups of participants, including interested parties, policymakers, and the public.*
- *prepare and deliver clear, persuasive presentations and reports that convey strategic plans and recommendations.*
- *work effectively in teams to prepare and manage projects.*
- *lead initiatives that promote sustainability and environmental innovation in organizations*

**Acquired competencies:**

*Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:*

- *demonstrate the ability to integrate environmental management practices into the organization's operations.*
- *demonstrate proficiency in applying sustainability principles in business strategy and decision-making processes.*
- *demonstrate the ability to innovate in response to environmental challenges and adapt to new technologies and practices as necessary.*
- *be flexible and responsive to the changing environmental management and sustainability landscape.*
- *make informed and ethical decisions regarding environmental and sustainability issues, considering their long-term impact on society and the planet.*
- *promote and advocate for responsible environmental practices within their professional and community roles.*

- *apply systems thinking to understand the complexity and interconnectedness of environmental problems.*
- *develop holistic solutions that address multiple dimensions of sustainability and balance environmental, social and economic aspects.*
- *promote policies and regulations that promote sustainable development and environmental protection.*

**Course content:**

1. *Introduction to the course and its objectives. The role of managers in promoting and implementing sustainability in organizations. Definition and scope of environmental management.*
2. *Historical context and development of environmental management practices.*
3. *Overview of major global environmental issues and their relevance to businesses and organizations.*
4. *Climate change and its impacts.*
5. *Strategic approaches to climate change mitigation.*
6. *Pollution management. Types and sources of pollution and their impact on health and the environment. Regulatory frameworks and best practices for pollution management.*
7. *Sustainable resource management. Principles and practices of sustainable resource management. Implementation of circular economy strategies in organizations.*
8. *Food security and sustainability. Strategies to support sustainable food production and consumption. Impact of agriculture on the environment and climate. Sustainable agricultural practices and technologies.*
9. *Food waste management.*
10. *Fast vs. slow fashion.*
11. *Sustainable development and strategic planning for sustainability. Integrating sustainability into the strategy and operations of the company.*
12. *Policy instruments and incentives. Orientation of environmental policy and regulatory environment.*
13. *Semester project and presentations. Reflection on key learning outcomes and practical applications. Evaluation and feedback on project solutions. Summary and synthesis of course content and its application in professional practice.*

**Recommended literature:**

- Geels, F. W. (2024). *Advanced introduction to sustainability transitions*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Klein, N. (2015). *This changes everything: Capitalism vs. the climate*. Simon & Schuster.
- Kolbert, E. (2014). *The sixth extinction: An unnatural history*. A&C Black.
- Koretsky, Z., Stegmaier, P., Turnheim, B., & van Lente, H. (Eds.). (2023). *Technologies in decline: Socio-technical approaches to discontinuation and destabilisation*. Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003213642>
- MacKay, D. J. C. (2016). *Sustainable energy—Without the hot air*. Bloomsbury Publishing.
- Mazzucato, M., & Farrow, A. (2023). *The big con: How the consulting industry weakens our businesses, infantilizes our governments, and warps our economies*. Penguin Press.
- McDonough, W., & Braungart, M. (2013). *The upcycle: Beyond sustainability—Designing for abundance*. Macmillan.
- Thomas, D. (2019). *Fashionopolis: The price of fast fashion and the future of clothes*. Penguin Press.

**Language which is necessary to complete the course:** *English language*

**Notes:**

*Distribution of student workload:*

*20 % of the workload – lectures, seminars (direct teaching)*

*30 % of the workload – work on project*

*50 % of the workload – preparation for exam*

*Students with specific needs are provided with an individualized approach based on the recommendation of the faculty coordinator for students with specific needs.*

*In the case of distance learning, teaching and assessment will take place via Microsoft Teams, Moodle (LMS), or other applications and platforms (using official email addresses: @unipo.sk, @smail.unipo.sk).*

**Course evaluation:**

Total number of students evaluated: -

A	B	C	D	E	FX

**Lecturers:**

*Lecturer: doc. Ing. Jana Chovancová, PhD.*

*Seminar leaders: doc. Ing. Jana Chovancová, PhD., Ing. Matúš Bakoň, PhD.*

**Date of last change:** 01. 03. 2026

**Approved by:**