



# 3LoE International Conference

## 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024, Riga

Integrating University-Business Relationships in Training for Circular Transition: The Master GECA Model

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# Agenda

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- Importance of University-Business Collaboration
  - GECA Program Structure
  - How we shaped University-Business Collaboration
  - Workshop Activities in details
  - Concluding remarks
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**For Companies** → Access to Skilled Workforce: Companies can directly shape and recruit well-trained future employees, ensuring they meet industry-specific needs.

**For Universities** → Enhanced Practical Learning: Partnering with businesses allows universities to offer practical, hands-on training that is closely aligned with industry demands.

**For Students** → Career-Ready Experience: Students gain real-world experience, valuable industry connections, and practical skills, making them more attractive to potential employers.





- Addressing circular economy challenges requires innovative solutions and a deep understanding of various sectors.
- Collaboration ensures that students acquire a blend of skills from different disciplines, essential for implementing circular economy practices.
- Universities and businesses share knowledge and resources, fostering innovation and practical solutions for sustainability.





## Two Macro-Modules:

- **Foundational Knowledge (400 hours):** Efficient management of environmental resources, including materials, energy, and water.
- **Green Management and Circular Economy (210 hours):** Training managerial figures to make decisions and implement strategies for the circular economy.
- **Objective:** Equip students with interdisciplinary skills and problem-solving abilities.

GECA

MASTER IN GESTIONE E CONTROLLO DELL'AMBIENTE

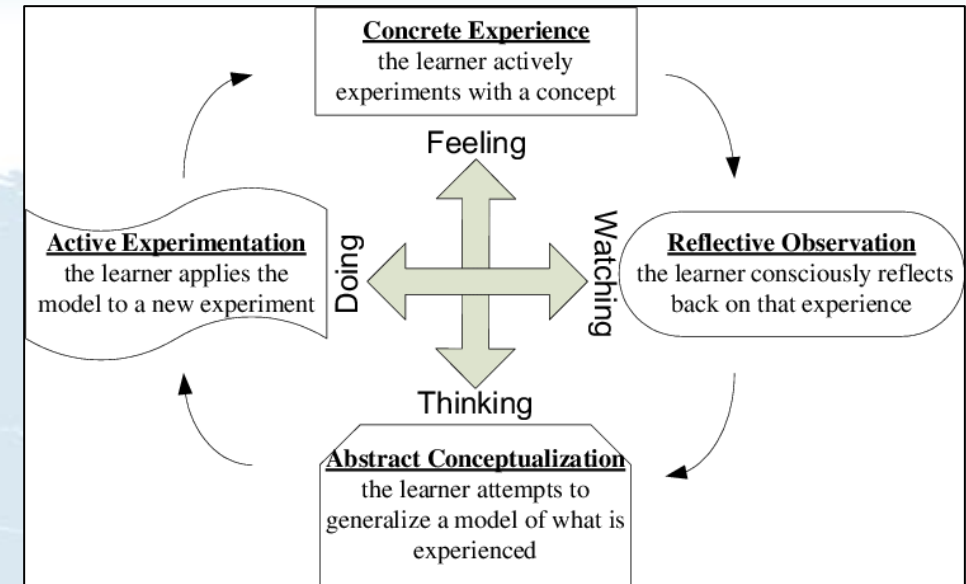
MANAGEMENT EFFICIENTE DELLE RISORSE





We explored several training methodologies to build the workshops:

- **Experiential Learning:** Learning by doing, reflecting on actions to transform and create new skills.
- **Work-Integrated Learning (WIL):** Integrates visits from industry experts, business simulations, and practical exercises.
- **Project-Based Learning (PBL):** Focuses on complex projects, promoting problem-solving and decision-making.



*Kolb learning cycle. Source: Konak A. et al., 2014.*



# Workshop Activities (I)

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## **Group Distribution:**

- Academic tutors collected business challenges from partner companies and created homogeneous groups of companies to address these issues during the workshops.
- Students were divided into three groups based on their backgrounds to address specific themes effectively.

## **Activities:**

- Company presentations on challenges
- Collaborative problem-solving
- Final presentations of results

## **Schedule:**

- April 19, May 17, May 31, June 14, June 28, July 5, July 12, 2024 + final presentation on 23<sup>rd</sup> of July
  - Total Hours: 56 hours (8 hours per day)
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# Workshop Activities (II)

- **Goals:** Address real business challenges, provide practical experience, produce valuable outputs for partner companies.
- **3 Themes:**
  - **Green Procurement:** Incorporating sustainable practices in procurement processes of Arbi Dario SpA
  - **Climate Change:** Addressing CO2 capture and offset strategies in waste management companies
  - **Waste Reduction and Circular Economy:** Developing strategies for waste reduction and circular practices





# Workshop Activities in details

## Workshop 1

Supply chain mapping, identifying critical points, creating tools to quantify qualitative responses from suppliers. Implementation of sustainable sourcing policies for the company Arbi Dario S.p.A.

## Workshop 2

Study and analysis of CO2 compensation and capture actions, literature review, interviews, consultations. Development of carbon offset projects and emission reduction strategies for the following companies: Itelyum Regeneration, Ancitel Energia e Ambiente, Ascit S.p.A., Getas Petrogeo S.r.l., Scapigliato S.r.l.

## Workshop 3

Analysis of plastic recycling in Italy, interviews with industry experts, exploring market opportunities for recycled materials. Identification of drivers and barriers for using recycled materials for the following companies: Greentire, Cermec S.p.A., Scapigliato S.r.l., Ergo S.r.l.

Introduzione: obiettivo e domanda di ricerca

Obiettivo

Implementare un sistema di valutazione che permetta alle Piccole e Medie Imprese (PMI) nel settore alimentare di valutare i propri fornitori sulla base di criteri socio-ambientali. Questo sistema mira a garantire che i fornitori aderiscano a standard etici e sostenibili, contribuendo così alla responsabilità sociale e ambientale della catena di fornitura.



## METODOLOGIA E OBIETTIVI

- La metodologia adottata include una revisione della letteratura scientifica, l'analisi dei casi studio, interviste con esperti del settore e un esame approfondito della normativa pertinente.
- L'elaborato ha come obiettivo quello di individuare soluzioni tecnologiche per affrontare il tema del cambiamento climatico.
- In particolare per quanto riguarda Itelyum si vuole individuare soluzioni di cattura e valorizzazione della CO2.
- Mentre nella realtà di Scapigliato l'obiettivo è quello di fornire attività di supporto alla piantumazione per la compensazione.





## Monitoring Process:

- Detailed templates for tracking progress
- Daily diaries documenting activities and methodologies

## Feedback:

- Student feedback on experience, difficulty, usefulness, and improvements
- Business goals alignment for valuable outputs

## Results:

- Continuous exchange between tutors, companies, and students
- High satisfaction from companies with practical solutions

Project 3LoE

Template rev.0 - 12/4/24

### Template project 3LoE

1) Title of the laboratory:

2) List of businesses participating in the laboratory:

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3) List of students participating in the laboratory:

4) Overall aims of the activities conducted in the laboratory:

5) Specific goals for businesses/organizations involved:

3.1 Goals for business/organization n°1:

3.2 Goals for business/organization n°2:

3.3 Goals for business/organization n°3:

6) Methodologies used in conducting laboratory activities (and a short description of those methodologies):



# Key Outcomes and Benefits

- **Addressing Real Business Problems:** Workshops provided practical solutions to real-world challenges faced by companies.
- **Positive Feedback from Companies:** Companies appreciated the practical insights and solutions derived from the workshops.
- **Bridging Academia and Industry:** Enhanced collaboration between universities and businesses.
- **Innovation and Sustainability:** Drove innovation and sustainable practices through integrated learning experiences.
- **Strengthened Partnerships:** Fostered stronger connections and ongoing partnerships between academic institutions and industry.



## **Enhanced Integration:**

Workshops and Internships: Simultaneous execution for immersive and continuous learning.

Alignment with Industry Needs: Ensures training is relevant and practical.

## **Continued Collaboration:**

Stronger Partnerships: Universities and companies working closely together.

Support for Sustainability: Ongoing initiatives to drive innovation in the circular economy.

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**Thanks for your attention!**

