

## Luxembourg - Modules of the Diplom+ programme, Green Skills & Circular Economy and Innovation Project.

<b>Title of inspiring practice</b>	<p>Modules of the “Diplom+” programme: the “Green Skills &amp; Circular Economy” and the “Innovation Project”</p> <p>(MENJE / Service de la formation professionnelle (SFP))</p>
<b>Geographical area</b>	<p>Luxembourg, Luxembourg city &amp; Esch-sur-Alzette &amp; Ettelbruck.</p> <p>The practice is implemented at national level.</p>
<b>Period of implementation</b>	<p>The module “Innovation Project” started in October 2020 and has been implemented since then.</p> <p>The module “Green Skills &amp; Circular Economy” is expected to start by the end of 2022. The module does not foresee an end date but belongs to a training programme repeated every year.</p>
<b>Rationale</b>	<p>The modules “Innovation Project” and “Green Skills &amp; Circular Economy” are offered in the framework of the Diplom+ programme. These projects allow for a compact introduction to the green transition and incentivise youngsters to rethink and adapt their attitudes and habits both in their professional and private lives.</p> <p>The framework of the module programme is an inspiring practice as additional modules can be developed and used to pilot number of trainings on innovative aspects and transversal skills. The “Green Skills” and the practical “Innovation project” modules allow to raise awareness among students on the current and upcoming challenges linked to climate and sustainability, and might support them in the choice towards a profession that is integrating green skills and sustainability in a transversal manner.</p> <p>The “Innovation Project” consists of developing a product or a service from conception to marketing by collaborating in teams. It is an opportunity for students to focus on their creativity, entrepreneurial spirit and environmental responsibility, and to apply the principles of upcycling and the circular economy.</p> <p>The “Green Skills &amp; Circular Economy” module introduces youngsters who have just finished their secondary education diploma, technician’s diploma, or equivalent, to basic skills on green transition and a circular economy. They are expected to gain the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes necessary to live, develop and support a sustainable and resource-efficient society.</p>
<b>Scope of the practice</b>	Continuing Vocational Education and Training
<b>Educational level</b>	<p>Secondary education diploma, Technician’s diploma, or equivalent (EQF 4) is required to enter the Diplom+ programme.</p> <p>During the Diplom+ programme, participants receive a certificate for each completed module.</p>
<b>Introduction and context</b>	<p>The key stakeholders involved in the initiative are the Ministry of Education, Children and Youth (government ministry), the “Service de la formation professionnelle” (VET department) &amp; Centre National de Formation Professionnelle Continue (CNFPC) (VET providers), national agencies and external experts on circular economy and green skills (i.e. SuperDrecksKëscht)</p> <p>As many students were unable to start studying abroad or working after finishing their upper secondary school degree, due to the restrictions in place around the pandemic (part-time unemployment, border closures, online classes, lock-downs, etc.), the</p>

	<p>Diplom+ was introduced as a COVID-19 policy response measure. It offers students the possibility to gain additional skills over the timeframe of a year while being enrolled into higher education or finding an occupation. As the programme encountered a great success (150 participants enrolled), it was sustainably implemented in the following years.</p> <p>The Diplom+ addresses graduates detaining an upper secondary school leaving diploma (diplôme de fin d'études secondaires, EQF 4) or a Technician's Diploma (DT, EQF 4), offering them a customised flexible programme of certified modules, aimed at bridging the transition between school and employment or higher studies.</p> <p>The main objective of both the modules "Green Skills &amp; Circular Economy" and "Innovation Project" is to respond to the growing demand for sustainable solutions, both in a professional and private context.</p> <p>Youngsters who have just finished their secondary education diploma, technician's diploma, or equivalent (EQF 4), and who are not yet working and not enrolled in higher education, are the main target group of the Diplom+ programme. More specifically, the programmes target youngsters who have dropped out of higher education and are looking for a new direction can also apply to the programme of the Diplom+.</p> <p>The projects are funded by the "Service de la formation professionnelle (SFP)" of the Ministry of Education, Children and Youth.</p> <p>The budget allocated to the whole initiative "Diplom+" covers all the modules of the programme (including "Innovation Project" and "Green Skills").</p>
<p><b>Key activities and outcomes</b></p>	<p>The main activities implemented during the module "Green Skills &amp; Circular Economy" concerns the development of knowledge on environmental issues and sustainable development; the learning on the circular economy (multiple reuse / cascading use); the acquisition and application of measures for sustainable digitalisation; the training on how to innovate in order to meet environmental challenges and how to assess and minimise the environmental impact of consumption patterns; the comprehension of the different resource management systems (waste, energy, water); the understanding of the need for change and the steps necessary to achieve it; the identification of the economic opportunities offered by low-carbon technologies.</p> <p>In the module "Innovation project", the participants are called to deepen the skills acquired during the modules of the Diplom+ programme, especially in terms of the circular economy and green transition. Students are also expected to gain experience in teamwork management, develop entrepreneurial spirit and project management, interact with professionals from the economic world, make prototypes and make decisions and take responsibility for them.</p> <p>Incentives and practical tips and aids are given to participants to start their own project and are used as major supporting tools during the activities. Such supporting tools are not available on a public platform but on a private platform restricting access to participants.</p> <p>Within the module "Innovation Project, the participants set up their own project/service around a sustainable cause and are therefore prepared to pursue a similar initiative in their future professional lives.</p> <p>The module "Green Skills &amp; Circular Economy" will only be launched this new academic year 2022-2023, so the first outcomes will be measured at the end of the first edition.</p> <p>For certain participants, the flexible nature of the module's timetable turns out to be a challenge, given their familiarity with stricter school settings. This challenge was deliberately set to prepare students for the transition from school to university and working life. The uncertainties and difficulties that come with greater flexibility in the schedule, is accompanied by a module called "Time &amp; Stress Management", supporting them to find the best coping mechanisms for themselves.</p>

	<p>Nonetheless, the "hands-on" approach pursued by the modules represents a major factor behind the success of the programmes as it provides participants with direct practical advice and tools. Furthermore, the sector-specialised expertise of trainers allows participants to gain an optimal insight into the topics in question.</p> <p>The best "innovation projects" are awarded by a jury of professionals.</p>
<b>Other information</b>	<p>The Diplom+ programme is for youngsters who are not working and not in higher education and if, for example, they have just obtained a secondary school diploma (classical or general), a technician's diploma or equivalent. Youngsters who have dropped out of higher education and are looking for a new direction can also apply to the programme of the Diplom+.</p> <p>During the course, participants take the eight common modules and four to to eight optional modules. At the same time, they deepen their skills in a team project.</p> <p>The course is organised in modules that are individually certified. Participants are assessed at the end of each module.</p> <p>This module-based organisation gives them the flexibility they need to seek employment or further study opportunities.</p> <p>They can leave the programme at any time if they find a job or start higher education or enrol into a new training programme.</p>
<b>Contacts and sources</b>	<p>Ministry of Education, Children and Youth</p> <p>"Service de la formation professionnelle" (VET)</p> <p>Available resources:</p> <p><a href="https://men.public.lu/fr/grands-dossiers/systeme-educatif/diplomplus.html">https://men.public.lu/fr/grands-dossiers/systeme-educatif/diplomplus.html</a></p>
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