

HUM-361

**Introduction to sustainable entrepreneurship**

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<b>Cursus</b>	<b>Sem.</b>	<b>Type</b>
Humanities and Social Sciences	BA6	Obl.

Language of teaching	English
Credits	2
Session	Summer
Semester	Spring
Exam	During the semester
Workload	60h
Weeks	14
<b>Hours</b>	<b>2 weekly</b>
Courses	2 weekly
<b>Number of positions</b>	<b>60</b>

**Summary**

This course provides an introduction to sustainable entrepreneurship. By adopting a process perspective - from initial problem recognition all the way to establishing an impactful venture - this course offers a holistic overview of the steps involved in creating businesses for societal change

**Content**

The class will cover the following topics:

- Introduction to social and environmental problems
- Identifying and developing opportunities for sustainable development
- Social design thinking
- Social business models
- Funding and scaling social ventures

**Keywords**

sustainable development, entrepreneurship, technologies for impact, new firm creation

**POLY-perspective :**

- citizen perspective
- creative perspective

<https://www.epfl.ch/schools/cdh/cdhs-vision/>

**Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course, the student must be able to:

- Analyze the potential for addressing social and environmental problems entrepreneurially
- Develop a business plan for a sustainable venture
- Assess / Evaluate the impact potential of technologies
- Identify opportunities for sustainable development
- Compare different funding possibilities and their respective advantages/ disadvantages

**Transversal skills**

- Evaluate one's own performance in the team, receive and respond appropriately to feedback.
- Make an oral presentation.
- Plan and carry out activities in a way which makes optimal use of available time and other resources.
- Communicate effectively, being understood, including across different languages and cultures.

### Teaching methods

To steer this active learning experience, the course will combine classical lectures with several interactive teaching methods, including group work, student presentations, individual reflection exercises, case studies, as well as guest speaker experiences.

### Expected student activities

Active participation of students in class;  
Business idea generation individually and in groups;  
Development of a business project in groups;  
Presentations in class

### Assessment methods

50% Sustainable business project (group project incl. three presentations and final commented pitch deck)  
30% Individual assignment  
20% Peer-2-Peer Feedback Evaluation

### Supervision

Office hours	Yes
Assistants	Yes
Others	Office hours upon request

### Resources

#### Websites

- <http://entc.epfl.ch>
- <https://t4i.epfl.ch/>