

BIOCIRCE: the first Master Degree dedicated to Bioeconomy

First edition of the Master program (level II) in collaboration between University of Milano-Bicocca, University of Naples Federico II, University of Bologna, University of Turin, Intesa Sanpaolo, Novamont, GFBiochemicals and PTP Science Park of Lodi.

Milan, September 19th, 2016 – BIOCIRCE, the first Master in Italy entirely dedicated to Bioeconomy, has been created with the objective of training professionals operating in sectors using raw materials and technologies offering bio-products and bio-services. The Master aims to deal with all the aspects relating to the value chain addressed to companies operating in Bioeconomy, with a particular focus on product and process innovation in the sector.

BIOCIRCE was founded from the joint initiative of four Italian leading universities: University of Milano-Bicocca, University of Naples Federico II, University of Bologna, University of Turin; and from other leading institutions dealing at different levels with Bioeconomy and Circular Economy: Intesa Sanpaolo, Novamont, GFBiochemicals and PTP Science Park of Lodi.

The unique program will deal with bio raw materials production in different ecosystems in diverse climatic regions, with logistics and supply chain, productive processes and technologies for the transformation into products and services, as well as with their marketing and use. Studying all scientific and economic aspects of the industry, the Master will also consider regulatory implications, innovations that are influencing the sector and the important role of institutions. It will therefore focus on the development of sustainable technologies, reduction of barriers to biotechnology innovation, promotion of the integration of biotechnology research across commercial applications, on the strengthening of an ongoing dialogue with governments, citizens and firms, bringing of new technologies to existing and emerging markets.

The program of studies of the II level Master covers 12 months and includes educational activities structured in 4 modules divided through the promoting universities, as well as 6-months training with in partner or sector firms.

The Master addresses to young graduates with a legal-economic background, either scientific students who intend to pursue a career in the sector, and professionals already working in the sector who aim at enriching their expertise.

The first edition will start in January 2017 and applications are now open to Italian and international candidates.

University of Bologna

The University of Bologna, founded in 1088, is renowned as the oldest in the world. It has 84.744 students, who attend 209 courses, 59 of which international, divided in 5 campus: Bologna, Cesena, Forlì, Ravenna and Rimini (total space amounts to 1.086.134.88 m²). It has 11 schools, 33 departments, 43 doctoral course, 36 specialisation schools, 65 master of I and II levels. About 2.468 foreign students choose the University for exchange programs (as well as those who have a study phase abroad). The annual average of researching products amounts to 11.000, with 220 patents, 47 researching projects financed by the European Union for H2020, 9 projects SIR, 7 interdepartmental centres dedicated to the Industrial Research (CIRI).

University of Milano Bicocca

The University of Milano-Bicocca established in 1998. It has currently 32.458 students divided in bachelor degrees, master degrees and single cycle degree. The academic program is divided into 67 courses of study in seven different areas: economic and statistical, legal, medical, psychological, sociological, scientific and training. Then there are 17 PhD courses coordinated by a single school and 37 specialized schools. The research is carried out through 14 departments and 44 research universities and inter-university. The campus covers an area of more than 290 thousand square meters, distributed between the pole in Milan Bicocca district and the biomedical hub of Monza, few kilometres out of Milan.

University of Naples Federico II

The University of Naples has been entitled to Federico II since 1992, highlighting its ancient origins, dating to 1224, when the Swabian Emperor King of Sicily from Syracuse issued the establishing edict. The university provides more than 150 BA and MA courses in different areas: from scientific-technological to the economic, from life sciences to humanities. The didactic offer is completed by 80 master e 27 research doctorates and it is integrated with the researching activity carried out by more than 4.000 experts (including over 400 temporary researchers and 1.400 doctoral candidates) in the 26 departments of the University. The University's contribution in transferring technologies and expertise to the business world through the development of 77 patents granted and 47 participations in consortia and development of spin-offs is important.

University of Turin

With 67.000 students, 4.000 teachers, researchers and administrative staff, 3.800 international students and 500 agreements with foreign universities, the University of Turin is one of the leading and most prestigious institutes of the country. Founded in 1404, the University represents quality in training and research opportunities, as demonstrated by the international award achieved by several of its renowned students. It provided more than 150 BA and MA covering almost all the study areas through an increasing number of courses in English and promoting the transfer of research to the industrial system through patents and spin-offs, respecting an economic, social and environmental sustainability. Forty libraries, patrimony of more than 2 million books, a botanical garden and several university museums are available to students and academic staff and in perfect harmony with the city of Turin.

Intesa Sanpaolo

Intesa Sanpaolo is the banking group, which was formed by the merger of Banca Intesa and Sanpaolo IMI. The merger brought together two major Italian banks with shared values to increase their opportunities for growth, enhance service for retail customers, significantly support the development of businesses and make an important contribution to the country's growth. Intesa Sanpaolo is among the top banking groups in the euro zone, with a market capitalisation of 35.6 billion euro (1).

Intesa Sanpaolo is the leader in Italy in all business areas (retail, corporate, and wealth management). The Group offers its services to 11.1 million customers through a network of over 4,000 branches well distributed throughout the country with market shares no lower than 12% in most Italian regions. Intesa Sanpaolo has a selected presence in Central Eastern Europe and Middle Eastern and North African areas with approximately 1,200 branches and 8.1 million customers belonging to the Group's subsidiaries operating in commercial banking in 12 countries. Moreover, an international network of specialists in support of corporate customers spreads across 29 countries, in particular in the Middle East and North Africa and in those areas where Italian companies are most active, such as the United States, Brazil, Russia, India and China.

(1) As at 31 August 2016

Novamont

Novamont Group is a leader in the development and production of bioplastics and biochemicals through the integration of chemistry, environment and agriculture.

With 600 people, the Group closed 2015 with a turnover amounting to 170 million Euro and constant investments in research and development (6.4% of sales in 2015, 20% of people dedicated); it holds a portfolio around 1,000 patents. It is based in Novara, the productive plant is in Terni and the research laboratories in Novara, Terni and Piana di Monte Verna (CE). It also operates through its subsidiaries in Porto Torres (SS), Bottrighe (RO), Terni and Patrica (FR). It is internationally involved with locations in Germany, France and the United States and with a representative office in Brussels (Belgium). It is active through its distributors in Benelux, Scandinavia, Denmark, United Kingdom, China, Japan, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

GFBiochemicals

GFBiochemicals is the largest producer at a global level of levulinic acid at commercial scale directly from biomass. The company has a unique set of proprietary technologies that allow levulinic acid and formic acid production with a one-step process directly from a wide range of cellulosic feedstock. GFBiochemicals has an international presence employing more than 50 people with headquarters in Milan, Italy, R&D and commercial office in Geleen, The Netherlands and production sites in: Caserta, Italy and Minnesota, USA.

PTP Science Park di Lodi

FPTP-Science Park of Lodi is the first Italian Technology Park operating in the sectors of agriculture, bio-economy and life sciences. Thanks to its research programs and the core facility, it offers services to companies, which see innovation as a competitive tool. With "L'Incubatore" and "Acceleratore Alimenta" support the creation of new businesses.