

RE IS NO



PLANET B

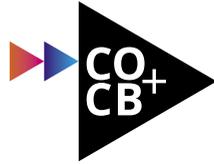
International
Minor Module
Ethical making for
a transition to a
sustainable future

Spring semester

CO
CB+



Ethical making for a transition to a sustainable future



Spring semester

In recent years, the impact makers, and making, have on our ecosystem, society, and its members has increased to the point where they are seen by many as a threat to the long-term viability of our planet. In some ways, making as an activity and makers themselves have become an existential threat.

At the same time, however, makers are often seen as critical partners in alleviating this threat. In this minor, we believe that only by coupling making with a focus on sustainability and ethics, can makers become partners in moving us toward more sustainable future.

We have developed this 15 EC minor module to support you if you want to play a role in solving the existential threats facing our world and improving it for both current and future generations. Our aim is to help you – a future world-improver – develop the critical



mind-set, methods, and tools you will require to use your making skills to help us transition to a more ethical and sustainable future.

This is a 15 EC minor and is offered over 10-weeks (including a 1-week recess), in both halves of the spring semester. You can choose to follow the minor in the first half (Feb – Apr) or second half (Apr – Jul) of the semester. You can follow this minor as a single module of 15 EC. If you require a full minor programme of 30 EC we recommend you to combine this minor module with the minor module Impact Storytelling (15 EC).

“The road to hell is paved with good intentions”
— English Proverb

In this minor we use the term *making* as an umbrella-term for creative work such as:

- Storytelling
- Concept creation
- Business-model development
- Design
- Software development and programming
- Marketing and communication

We have created it to support you in your development as a future maker so that you can play a role in the crucial work of improving our world for both current and future generations by helping us to move to a more ethical and sustainable future.

Our goal is to help you work on world-improving projects, while avoiding one of the risks of identifying the goal of a project as “world improving”: that doing so can work against your critical instincts when deciding on the methods you will use to achieve your goal. We do not assume that



since our goal is self-evidently “good” or “ethical”, the methods we use to achieve it will automatically inherit this feature of being good or ethical too. We believe that methods matter as much as goals.

In this minor we will help you hone your analytic and critical thinking skills together with your ethical imagination, so that you are better able to apply them to the practice of ethical making on projects that are seen as “world-improving”.

During the minor you will learn to:

- Use the concept of the doughnut economy and the sustainable development goals (SDGs) to help design an ethical intervention that supports society’s transition to a sustainable future.
- Apply principles of ethical making to ensure that the interventions you design have ethical goals and use ethical methods to achieve these goals.
- Use the concept of the doughnut economy and the principles of ethical making to explain how your intervention supports society’s transition to a sustainable future and does this in an ethically acceptable manner.
- Offer critique – from a making-, sustainability-, and ethical point of view – to other makers (for example your fellow students) on their interventions.

Courses

In total you can earn 15 EC for this minor module.

Theory and practice

This is a series of online and in-person learning activities including readings, seminars, workshops, web-lectures and self-assessment where you will learn about:

- The theory and practice of ethical making
- What is a sustainable future and how might we get there?

Here the assessment will be *formative only* via automatically graded diagnostic quizzes. You will not receive a formal grade for your work here as your learning will be assessed based on your work on the team project (Sustainable transition intervention project) and your *personal learning plan* (see below).

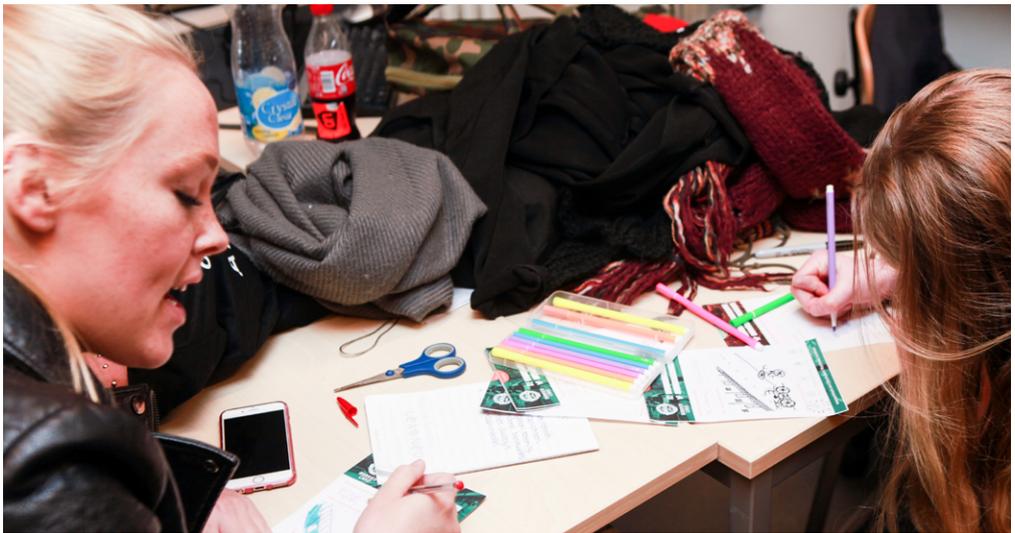
Sustainable transition intervention project

The *Sustainable transition intervention* is a team project where you will work with three fellow students to put the ideas, theories and approaches you have learned into practice by developing an intervention that supports and furthers society's transition to a sustainable future in an ethically acceptable manner. You will decide on the nature of the intervention with your team and the team assessment will form 40% of your individual grade. You and your team will be supported via twice-weekly coaching and workshops throughout the project.

Personal Learning Plan

Your Personal Learning Plan (PLP) is an important part of the minor and will form 60% of your individual grade. The idea here is for you to develop your own learning plan for the minor, based on your values, strengths and goals. You will be assigned a minor-mentor and together you will work from the start to help you identify your strengths, values and learning goals, and turn these into a learning plan on which you will be assessed at the end of the minor. You will be supported by bi-weekly meetings with your mentor who will support and monitor your progress on your PLP.





Assessment

The minor will be assessed as one unit offering 15 EC based on an integrated assessment of:

- A team presentation of an ethical sustainable transition intervention (40% of your individual grade)
- An individual assessment of your progress against the personal learning plan (PLP) agreed with your minor mentor at the start of the minor (60% of your individual grade)

Compensation between the two elements of the assessment is allowed: you will only be required to re-sit the assessment if your combined grade for the two elements is less than 5.5 in total.

Student profile

This minor will appeal to you if you want to use making and your skills as a maker to help make the world a better place. With its focus on sustainability and the ethics of making, it will be of interest to you if you are worried about how we can move toward a more sustainable future while ensuring that we do so in an ethical and equitable manner. We believe this minor will be useful to you if you want to work in making, sustainability and behavioural design.

Admission criteria

The minor is open to 3rd year students interested in sustainability, making as a practice and working on ways to improve our world in future. Students from other Dutch universities of applied science and exchange-students from our international partner institutes with similar goals and interests are very welcome to join us.

The minor will be given in English so you should speak and write good English, and be able to read and comprehend university-level English texts quickly and thoroughly. N.B English is the official language of this minor, but assignments may be submitted in either English or Dutch.

Estimated weekly study load

Contact: approx. 14 hours per week:

- Instructional workshops – average 5 hours per week
- Seminars – average 4 hours per week
- Team project coaching – average 4 hours per week
- Individual coaching – average 30 mins per week

Unsupervised work: approx. 24 hours per week:

- Project – average 16 hours per week
- Reading, web-lectures and self-study – average 8 hours per week



The Benno Premselahuis is a monumental building, in which the Department of Communication and the Department of Creative Business are housed.



International students should contact the International Office:

international-co-cb@hva.nl
T +31 6 211 55 189

Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences
(AUAS)
PO Box 32
1000 AA Amsterdam

Visiting address:
Rijnspoorplein 1
1091 GC Amsterdam

More information about this minor module can be obtained from:

Charlie Mulholland,
c.mulholland@hva.nl