

1st European Cross-Regional Spring School in Climate Justice and Human Rights

A new and unique learning opportunity
bringing together academics, experts,
students and human rights defenders

20th-25th May 2024

Codru Turism Complex, Burcuta - Republic of Moldova



About

Environmental rights and climate justice education are thematic pillars of the current GC action. A critical study of these ever more topical subjects can support the achievement of a fairer and more sustainable future by teaching individuals and communities about the effects of climate change and the implication of taking action to counteract it, including pushing for policies that address climate change and social justice. Understanding the systemic and structural factors contributing to both climate change and social injustice is the initial step toward envisioning and advocating for solutions that address these root causes. This is particularly true in the developing countries of South-Eastern and Caucasian Europe, which confront deficiencies in effective and rights-based environmental policies.

In this macro-regional context, the **Global Campus with the GC Caucasus and the Moldova State University (MSU)** are glad to organize the 1st edition of the European Cross-Regional Spring School on Climate Justice & Human Rights. Made possible thanks to the support of the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Moldova, the School is the flagship activity of the ongoing cooperation between the GC and the State University, aimed at developing new and cutting-edge human rights education courses. Embracing inter-disciplinarity and a cross-regional approach, the School is organized together with the **MSU Faculties of Law and Biology, and in synergy with the GC Europe/EMA and GC South East Europe/ERMA programmes.** This partnership allows for the activity to bring together academia, civil society, and human rights defenders from Moldova and EU neighbourhood and enlargement countries eastwards.

School outline

The School is designed as a unique academic initiative, the first of its kind in this region, and will focus on the nexus among human rights, climate justice, sustainable development, and the well-being of children, youth, and future generations. It particularly addresses the common dynamics and priorities specific to the South Eastern Europe and Caucasus regions.

The School runs on May 20th-25th as a residential activity taking places in the scenic location of the Codru Tourism Resort on the outskirts of Chisinau, ideal for fostering an environment conducive to learning and networking. The schedule involves a full-time commitment, with daily classes and workshops, complemented by an opening experts' panel, a field visit, and social activities. Incorporating a robust theoretical framework and a pragmatic skills-building approach, the Spring School will delve into various facets of climate justice education with a focus on comprehensive understanding and practical application.

By synthesizing theoretical insights with practical skills, participants will be equipped to navigate complex climate justice issues with efficacy and foresight, thus contributing to meaningful progress in the realm of environmental advocacy and social justice.

All selected participants who successfully attend the whole School will receive a certificate of completion jointly issued by the GC and MSU. Additionally, MA-level, or postgraduate students who wish to obtain 5 ECTS, will have to pass a final examination (written essay) to take place remotely after the School.

This activity is part of the EU-funded project "Development of Climate Justice and Human Rights Education at the Moldova State University"

Lecturers and Experts

Students will have the opportunity to meet and engage with leading academics, practitioners and human rights defenders from the Global Campus participating universities, the Right Livelihood, and other key partners, as well as from regional civil society organizations.

Teaching Sessions

Introduction to Climate Justice: Philosophical and Legal Aspects

Dr Zoi Aliozi, Human Rights educator & Climate Justice expert, GC Europe alumna and EU Climate Pact Ambassador

This course will explore the crucial link between climate justice and human rights, is tailored to offer a comprehensive introduction of climate justice to an interdisciplinary group of participants based on the fundamentals of human rights education. This 1st session of the spring school is designed to offer the foundations of knowledge in the field of climate justice to equip participants with the understanding required to embark on their educational journey on climate justice.

Mobilizing for the Climate: a conversation with Vladimir Slivyak

Vladimir Slivyak, Co-chairman of Ecodefense and 2021 Right Livelihood Laureate

Environmental and human rights activism is one of the most important tools to preserve and maintain the democracy in human society. Activists are people who dare to speak truth to power and fuelling important changes. While being an activist is usually not very prestigious or commercially attractive in most

countries – without civil activism the democratic political system goes into degradation and elimination of human rights.

Global Perspectives on Planetary Health

Prof. Pim Martens, Maastricht University

The so-called Great Acceleration of human activities and associated environmental impacts has significantly changed our natural systems and the human relationship with these systems. These changes raise fundamental questions how human beings relate to their natural environment and to other species. Hence, from a sustainable development perspective we need to meet the needs of the present, while safeguarding Earth's life-support system on which the health and wellbeing of current and future generations depends.

European perspectives of environmental rights and climate justice in the context of the EU accession

Prof. Elina Pirjatanniemi, Director of the Institute for Human Rights at Åbo Akademi University, Finland, GC Vice-President

The lecture concentrates on the interlinkages between human rights and environment in Europe. The lecture presents, first, the relevant legal developments in the case law of the European Court of Human Rights. Second, the lecture highlights the possibilities and limits that the Strasbourg system provides in this regard. A particular focus will be given to the latest judgments related to climate change. Third, the role and relevance of environmental rights in the EU will be discussed.

Film screening "Youth V. Gov" (2020, USA)

The true story of the landmark case brought up by 21 American youth against the U.S government for violating their constitutional rights to live, liberty, personal safety and property through their willful actions in creating the climate crisis they will inherit.

Environmental protection in relation to armed conflicts

Dr Stavros Evdokimos Pantazopoulos, University of Helsinki

This teaching session will be divided into four parts. Part A will outline the normative landscape pertaining to the protection of the environment in armed conflict. Then, Part B will shed light on the available accountability mechanisms for conflict-related environmental and climate harm, focusing on both state responsibility and individual criminal responsibility. Part C will explore in more detail the criminal law aspects, investigating the need of introducing the so-called fifth international crime, namely the crime of ecocide. Part D will comprise an interactive case-study on the Nova Kakhovka dam destruction, which occurred in June 2023 in the context of the Ukraine-Russia armed conflict.

Exploring Ecocide and Green Crimes: A Human Rights Approach

Dr Zoi Aliozi

This session delves into ecocide and green crimes through a human rights lens, focusing on climate justice. Students will examine the nexus of environmental degradation, human rights violations, environmental crimes, and climate change, spotlighting the disproportionate impact on marginalized communities and the role of criminal law in ensuring accountability.

Business & Human Rights in relation to climate justice

Prof. Samentha GOETHALS, University of Sevilla - School of Law, Spain, SKEMA Business School, Centre for Sustainability Studies, Sophia Antipolis, France

This session will firstly cover the global framework of Business & Human Rights and its implementation in European legislation, and later will discuss the role and responsibility of businesses in relation to human rights and how these overlap with climate jus-

tice issues. Finally, participants will be involved a multi-stakeholder engagement role play to a relevant case.

Access to water: global perspectives and local struggles

Alma Midžić, Independent researcher, GC SEE alumna

While it is estimated that the world will face a global water deficit of 40% by 2030, access to drinking water seems to be largely taken for granted, and key human rights issues such as its distribution and management are marginalized, despite the demands for the commercialization and privatization of this common good keeps growing. This session will focus on the struggle for social control over water, what it means to be involved in decision-making concerning resources that crucial for the sustainability of local communities, also using local case studies from the Balkan region.

Moldova's National Climate Policies and Strategies amid EU Accession

Justina Grigaraviciene, EU High-Level Adviser on Environmental and Green Transition, and Irina Punga, Moldova State University

The lecture concentrates on the critical intersection of Moldova's environmental objectives and its aspirations for EU accession. It delves into the challenges and opportunities presented by aligning Moldova's climate policies with EU standards, examining the implications of economic development, environmental sustainability, and international cooperation. The lecture explores Moldova's current climate policies and strategies, including initiatives aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting renewable energy sources, and enhancing climate resilience.

Communicating the urgency of climate and environmental concerns

Marina Shupac, Filmmaker/producer, human rights practitioner, International Media Support associate and GC Caucasus alumna

The media and civil society frequently fail to effectively communicate the urgency of climate and environmental concerns. This is even more pronounced in regions affected by conflict and political instability such as Moldova and its neighborhood. How to provide knowledge of the critical nature of climate and environmental challenges without disempowering

general audiences? How to fill in the critical information gaps within the public so as to motivate common people to take action? Built on the practical experience of the Moldovan environmental activists of the “Impadurim Moldova” NGO - executive director Iurii Gumeniuc and PR & social media coordinator Galina Popova, the session will provide a practice-oriented exchange on these important questions.

SCHEDULE

The School is organized as part of the events for the celebration of the 2024 EU Day in Moldova.

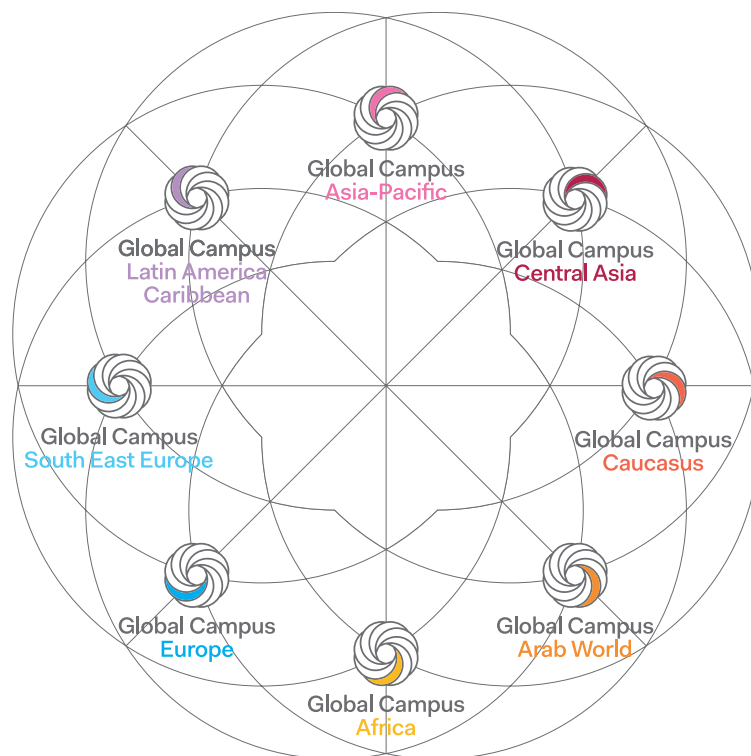
	Monday 20 th	Tuesday 21 st	Wednesday 22 nd	Thursday 23 rd	Friday 24 th	Saturday 25 th
8:00 8:45	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
9:00 12:45	Opening Cerimony & Experts' Panel	Planetary Health Pim MARTENS	Environmental Protection and armed conflicts Stavros PANTAZOPOULOS	FIELD TRIP Witnessing cases of environmental degradation, in partnership with UNDP and World Bank Moldova	Access to water Alma MIDŽIĆ	Business & Human Rights Samentha GOETHALS
13:00 14:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch		Lunch	Lunch
14:30 18:00	Introduction to CJ Zoi ALIOZI -- Mobilizing for Climate Vladimir SLIVYAK	Environmental Rights and EU accession Elina PIRJATANNIEMI	Communication for CJ advocacy Marina SHUPAC -- Ecocide and Green Crimes Zoi ALIOZI		Moldova climate policy and EU accession Justina GRIGARAVICIE and Irina PUNGA	Students' led debriefing and discussion -- 16:30 Diploma awarding
19:00 20:30	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner		Dinner	Dinner
20:45		FILM NIGHT				



**1st European Cross-Regional
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Organizing team

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www.gchumanrights.org

This project is part of the Global Campus
Capacity Development Programme



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#GCHumanRightsDevelopment