



NOVA  
UNIVERZA



Erasmus+



Blended intensive program

# CLIMATE CHANGE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND BUSINESS

4-8 MAY 2026

IN COOPERATION WITH



NOVA  
UNIVERZA  
EUROPEAN  
FACULTY OF LAW



NEW  
UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY OF GOVERNMENT  
AND EUROPEAN STUDIES



Universität Hamburg  
DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG



# Blended intensive program overview

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**EVENT TITLE: CLIMATE CHANGE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND BUSINESS**

## **PROGRAM AND CONTENT OVERVIEW**

The spring school will explore the relationships, interdependence, and interactions among climate change, human rights, and business. Climate change has, over the decades, negatively affected the socio-economic livelihoods of ordinary rights-holders. Through climate change, business activities have negatively impacted individual enjoyment of civil and political rights. Rights-holders have been struggling to bring successful actions against businesses for the negative effects of climate change on their enjoyment of human rights. The domestic systems often do not provide individuals with direct and practical avenues to bring cases against businesses for human rights abuses related to climate change. Only a few domestic systems offer such possibilities at judicial or quasi-judicial levels. Only a little resort is also found in regional systems, making positive reform in domestic systems necessary. However, where can rights-holders enforce accountability for the negative impacts of climate change and business-related human rights abuses? How can they establish corporate accountability for business-related human rights abuses due to climate change? States in the Global North have increasingly accepted at least partial responsibility for climate change. On the other hand, major businesses have been reluctant to assume at least part of the responsibility. As such, apart from a few cases in some national jurisdictions and regional courts, climate change victims have been unable to effectively enforce corporate accountability for business-related human rights abuses in domestic, regional, and international systems. Climate change litigation can bring about other positive effects in prevention and respect for human rights, thereby triggering climate change mitigating policy and reform of normative frameworks. Access to justice for business-related human rights violations has been one of the most difficult challenges in business and human rights.

## **OBJECTIVES AND COMPETENCES**

The Spring School aims to examine the feasibility of strengthening domestic, regional (EU), and international legal frameworks to hold states and corporations accountable for adverse human rights impacts resulting from climate change. It critically assesses existing normative and institutional frameworks that facilitate—or hinder—access to remedies across different legal regimes, including national systems, the European Union, and international mechanisms such as the United Nations. Participants will analyse current structures for access to justice and remedies in cases of climate-related corporate human rights harm, evaluate their effectiveness, and explore models

for legal and policy reform. The program seeks to equip students with advanced analytical, critical, and comparative skills relevant to contemporary challenges at the intersection of climate change, human rights, and business.

## PEDAGOGICAL APPROACH AND TEACHING METHODS

To deepen participants' knowledge and enhance their critical engagement with the subject matter, the Spring School employs a range of complementary pedagogical approaches:

- **Lectures on Selected Topics:** Expert-led lectures address climate change, human rights, and business from legal, political, economic, and environmental perspectives, including corporate responsibility, climate litigation, regulatory frameworks, and access to remedies.
- **Problem-Based Learning:** Participants will work on real-world cases and practical challenges, such as climate litigation against corporations, regulatory failures, or transnational accountability gaps, requiring critical analysis and collaborative problem-solving. Preparatory readings or multimedia materials may be provided to support engagement.
- **Inquiry-Based Learning:** Students are encouraged to formulate questions and independently explore key issues, including corporate due diligence, extraterritorial obligations, and the role of courts and non-judicial mechanisms in climate-related human rights protection.
- **Group work & Collaborative Learning:** Group discussions and team-based activities enable participants from diverse academic and national backgrounds to exchange perspectives and analyse issues in a comparative and interdisciplinary context.
- **Socratic Method:** Facilitators use guided questioning to stimulate debate and deepen understanding of complex legal and policy questions related to corporate accountability, climate justice, and human rights protection.
- **Culturally Responsive Teaching:** The program integrates examples and case studies from different national and regional contexts, fostering intercultural dialogue and inclusive learning.

By combining these approaches, the Spring School offers a dynamic and intellectually rigorous learning environment, enabling participants to critically reflect on climate change as a multidimensional challenge involving law, business, and human rights.



## Program

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### 1<sup>st</sup> PART: ON-LINE INTRODUCTORY MEETING

#### **Mandatory event for students**

**Thursday, 23. 4. 2026**

Location: On-line, via ZOOM

#### ORIENTATION DAY

**10:00–11:30**

- **Prof. dr. Jernej Letnar Čerňič**, Researcher & Lecturer at New University, European Faculty of Law
- **Ms Nataša Kolavčič**, Erasmus+ coordinator, lecturer, New University, European Faculty of Law
- **Ms. Francesca Mascha Klein**, Legal advisor for strategic litigation, Germanwatch e.V.



The introductory meeting will take the form of an online ice-breaker and orientation day. It will provide participants with essential information about the overall event and their study obligations. Additionally, it will offer an opportunity for participants to get to know one another, exchanging basic information about themselves and their home institutions, and share their expectations for the event. Participants will also receive instructions for preparatory homework, along with possible study materials. Student preparation is mandatory.

The structure of the introductory meeting may vary depending on the participants involved, but it is generally intended to be informal and conversational. It will encourage each participant to share relevant information and ask questions to better understand one another's needs and expectations.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> PART: BLENDED INTENSIVE PROGRAM, Ljubljana, Slovenia



**MONDAY, 4. 5. 2026 – CLIMATE CHANGE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND BUSINESS: FUNDAMENTALS**

Location: New University, Mestni trg 23, Ljubljana

14:30–15:00	 <b>REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS</b>
15:00–15:45	 <b>SLOVENIAN LANGUAGE &amp; CULTURE CRASH COURSE</b> Nataša Kolavčič, New University
16:00–17:30	<b>Prof. dr. Jernej Letnar Černič</b> , New University, European Faculty of Law, Slovenia: <i>Climate change, Business and Human Rights: rights-holders and duty-holders.</i>
17:45–19:15	<b>Assist. prof. Neslihan Özlerim Güner</b> , Cankiri Karatekin University, Turkey: <i>Climate Change and State Responsibility under International Law.</i>  Group work/case study led by Dr Neslihan Özlerim Güner

**TUESDAY, 5. 5. 2026 - CLIMATE CHANGE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND BUSINESS: STATE OBLIGATIONS**

Location: New University, Mestni trg 23, Ljubljana

10:00–12:00	 <b>LJUBLJANA TREASURE HUNT</b>
12:00–12:30	<b>GROUP PHOTO AT NEW UNIVERSITY</b>
12:30–15:30	 <b>TRADITIONAL SLOVENIAN LUNCH</b> (provided by New University)
16:00–17:30	<b>Assist. prof. Zeynep Erhan Bulut</b> , Cankiri Karatekin University, Turkey: <i>The Role of Climate Change in Armed Conflict.</i>
17:45–19:15	<b>Group work/case study</b> , led by Dr. Zeynep Erhan Bulut and Dr. Neslihan Özlerim Güner.

**WEDNESDAY, 6. 5. 2026 – CLIMATE CHANGE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND BUSINESS:  
BUSINESS OBLIGATIONS**

Location: New University, Mestni trg 23, Ljubljana

10:00–12:00	<b>VISIT TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA</b> Meeting point: New University (9:30!)
16:00–17:30	<b>Assoc. Prof. dr. Gorazd Justinek</b> , New University, Faculty of Government and European Studies, Slovenia: <i>Green Transition, Human Rights, and Geopolitical Power: Who Pays the Price?</i>
17:45–19:15	<b>Assoc. Prof. dr. Anja Strojín Štampar</b> , New University, European Faculty of Law, Slovenia: <i>How can climate litigation contribute to the sustainable transformation of companies: case law and guidelines for companies.</i>


**THURSDAY, 7. 5. 2026 – CLIMATE CHANGE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND BUSINESS:  
ACCESS TO REMEDY**

Location: New University, Mestni trg 23, Ljubljana

10:15–12:15	<b>VISIT TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA</b> Meeting point: New University (9:45!)
15:00–16:00	<b>International students group work session</b>
16:00–17:30	<b>Research assist. dr. Verena Kahl</b> , Institute of European Integration at the Europa-Kolleg Hamburg, Germany: <i>Justice at the Interface of Climate Change and Human Rights: Recent Developments and Persisting Challenges in the Context of Regional and International Case Law.</i>
17:45–19:15	<b>Group work/case study</b> , led by <b>Dr. Verena Kahl</b> and <b>Franziska Bachmann</b> , Research assistant at the Chair of European and International Public Law, University of Hamburg.

**FRIDAY, 8. 5. 2026 – CLIMATE CHANGE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND BUSINESS:  
PRACTICAL INSIGHTS AND CASE STUDIES**

Location: New University, Mestni trg 23, Ljubljana

14:30-15:45*	 <b>QUIZ &amp; CLOSING CEREMONY</b>
16:00-17:30	<b>Prof. Dr. Jernej Letnar Čerňič</b> , New University, European Faculty of Law, Slovenia: <b><i>UN loss and damage fund for climate change: between utopia and reality.</i></b>
17:45-19:15	<b>Group assignments evaluation and discussion</b> , supervised and moderated by <b>Dr. Jernej Letnar Čerňič &amp; Franziska Bachmann</b>
19:15- 19:20	<b>CLOSING REMARKS</b>

*\*Please note that the programme for the final day has been slightly adjusted. The ceremonial part (Quiz & Closing Ceremony) has been moved to an earlier hour in order to ensure that all participants can travel home in a timely and comfortable manner after the conclusion of the Spring School.*



## Lecturers

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- **Dr. Jernej Letnar Čerňič**, New University, European Faculty of Law

Jernej Letnar Čerňič is a Full Professor of Human Rights and Constitutional Law at the European Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Government and European Studies of the New University. He has over twenty years of experience in research, teaching, consulting, and training in human rights law, constitutional law, business and human rights, public international law, and administrative law. His studies have been cited in reports by the United Nations, the European Parliament, and the Council of Europe, as well as in decisions of the Slovenian Constitutional Court and the European Court of Human Rights, and academic studies from around the world. He has been actively involved in various roles within Slovenian and global civil society, participating in numerous domestic and international humanitarian projects. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6850-676X>

- **Dr. Gorazd Justinek**, New University, Faculty of Government and European Studies

Gorazd Justinek is an Associate Professor of International Business and International Political and Economic Relations at New University, Faculty of Government and European Studies. A former diplomat, he is a founding member of the Division for Economic Diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia. He has held senior advisory and leadership roles in public administration, including at the Slovenian Prime Minister's Office and the OECD. He is the founder and Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Diplomacy and Economy and has extensive experience in international research and development projects.

- **Dr. Anja Strojín Štampar**, New University, European Faculty of Law

Anja Strojín Štampar, LL.M., MBA is Associate Professor of Civil and Commercial Law at the European Faculty of Law, New University, and a partner and attorney-at-law at the Sibinčič Novak & Partners law firm in Ljubljana. She specialises in corporate law, corporate governance, mergers and acquisitions, insolvency law, financial law and complex commercial transactions, bringing over fifteen years of professional

experience from both legal practice and managerial roles in prominent Slovenian financial and corporate institutions. She holds a PhD in Corporate Law, a Master's degree in Management and Organisation, and an LL.M. in International Commercial Law from McGill University (Canada). Her research focuses on corporate governance, business and human rights, and the legal responsibilities of corporations in socio-economic contexts. She is also the author and co-author of multiple scholarly monographs and articles in her areas of expertise.

- **Dr. Neslihan Özlerim Güner**, Cankiri Karatekin University

She is an Assistant Professor at Çankırı Karatekin University in Turkey. She graduated from a law faculty in Turkey in 2008 and practiced as a lawyer for two years.

Following her professional experience, she completed her master's degree at the University of Exeter, graduating with merit. She subsequently obtained her PhD at the Hacettepe University. Her doctoral thesis, entitled "State Responsibility for Climate Change," was successfully defended without any corrections. After completing her PhD, she worked for three months at Ministry of Education. Since 2014 she is working at Çankırı Karatekin University and teaching public international law, international refugee law, international organisation law. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8130-9461>.

- **Dr. Zeynep Erhan Bulut**, Cankiri Karatekin University

Zeynep Erhan Bulut is an Assistant Professor at Çankırı Karatekin University in Turkey. She graduated from a law faculty in Turkey and practised as a lawyer for three years. Following her professional experience, she completed her master's degree at the University of Sussex, graduating with distinction. Her master's thesis focused on the extradition of terrorism suspects and the political offence exception. She subsequently obtained her PhD in International Criminal Law at the University of Sussex. Her doctoral thesis, entitled "Turkey and the International Criminal Court: Resistance and Reluctance," was successfully defended without any corrections. Her supervisors were Professor Richard Vogler and Dr Michael Kearney. After completing her PhD, she worked for five months at the Appeals Chamber of the International Criminal Court in The Hague. During this period, she contributed to the Bemba et al. case, which concerned crimes against the administration of justice under Article 70 of the Rome Statute. She returned to Turkey in 2018 and has since been teaching public international law, international criminal law, the law of armed conflict, and, more recently, cybersecurity under international law.

- **Dr. Verena Kahl**, Institute of European Integration at the Europa-Kolleg Hamburg

Verena Kahl is a Research assistant at the Europa-Kolleg Hamburg and academic lead of the transnational climate law clinic "Climate Law in International Context" between the University of Hamburg and the University of Chile. Her research focuses on International Environmental and Climate law, Human Rights Protection, Rights of Nature and (Eco)Feminist Theory. She defended her doctoral thesis on "The Right to a Safe Climate: Leading Human Rights Law into the Anthropocene" in October 2025. From 2015 to 2018 Verena served as junior lawyer at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3722-3780>

- **Franziska Bachmann**, University of Hamburg

Franziska Bachmann is a research assistant and doctoral student in public international law at the University of Hamburg and coordinates the program "Climate Law in International Context" (CLIC) between the University of Hamburg and the University of Chile.

- **Francesca Mascha Klein**, Germanwatch e.V.

Francesca Mascha Klein is a German legal expert and Legal Officer for Strategic Litigation at Germanwatch e.V., a Berlin-based non-profit organization that works to promote global equity, environmental protection, and climate justice. In her role, she focuses on climate litigation and strategic legal action, helping to develop and support high-impact court cases that seek to hold governments and major polluters accountable for their contributions to the climate crisis. Her work includes involvement in prominent legal efforts such as constitutional complaints for stronger climate policy and supporting precedent-setting cases like Saúl Luciano Lliuya v. RWE, which explores the liability of large emitters for climate-related harms. She also contributes to policy discussions and expert commentary on how the law can advance climate action, publishes analyses on legal trends in climate accountability, and speaks at international events on litigation and climate justice issues.

- **Nataša Kolavčič**, New University, European Faculty of Law

Nataša Kolavčič is a professional associate at the European Faculty of Law, New University, where she serves as the Erasmus+ Coordinator for incoming students and



a Career Advisor. She previously led the Career Development and International Mobility Centre, contributing to the development of the university's international activities and student career support. She is actively involved in the planning and application of Erasmus+ international projects, the maintenance and establishment of international partnerships, and works in the field of quality assurance at New University. In 2025, she was elected as a Lecturer in the field of Law – Administrative Law and Public Administration Law at the European Faculty of Law, combining academic teaching with support for students' academic, professional, and international pathways.

