

Jean Monnet Module “ECO-PoLeIS - *Participatory Legal Instruments for Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities*”

Course Title: *Building “Green Competencies” : the Dimensions of Climate Democracy*

Duration: 20 hours

Language: Italian

Target Audience: Students (all levels), political stakeholders in local governments, and non-specialists.

Prerequisites: None (introductory level, but with opportunities for deeper engagement)

Teaching method: The prevailing teaching method involves classroom lectures with the use of slides.

Lecturers: Jacopo Paffarini (Unipg), Maria Chiara Locchi (Unipg), Simone Vezzani (Unipg), Enrico Buono (Unipg), Martina Palmisano (Legambiente), Cristiana Angelini (Unipg), Lorenzo Silvestri (CRC - Unipg), Giorgia Pavani (UniBo).

Course description: How can cities become leaders in climate action, and how can citizens actively participate in shaping a greener future? This course explores the *GreenComp* framework – an EU initiative for sustainability competencies – and will focus on specific democratic tools, namely citizen assemblies, participatory budgeting, guardianship of natural entities and climate litigation.

Learning objectives: This course is structured around the three key aspects of the *GreenComp* framework – *Critical Thinking*, *Systems Thinking* and *Problem Framing* – to equip participants with the knowledge and skills needed for active engagement in urban climate democracy. Through interactive discussions and hands-on activities, this course empowers participants to understand and apply sustainability principles in their own communities. In specific, the course:

- 1) Equip learners with the ability to analyze sustainability challenges through a systemic lens.
- 2) Foster critical thinking to assess the reliability and implications of information related to environmental, social, and economic sustainability.
- 3) Explore methods for assessing the scale and complexity of challenges, considering both local and global impacts.
- 4) Encourage an inclusive approach to sustainability by identifying the various stakeholders involved and their roles in potential solutions.
- 5) Stimulate the activation of citizen and the incorporation of the participation input into the early stages of policymaking, realigning political action with intergenerational sustainable development goals.

First Module “Citizens of the future must act today!”

The aim of the lectures will be to underline the role of young people initiatives and citizen activism in supporting a sustainable change of the urban life and infrastructure development. The main target of the teaching activity will be 16-18 years old students of the Giordano Bruno High School in Perugia.

Seminar 1. *Climate and Science: a systemic approach for young people*, Lorenzo Silvestri (CRC-Unipg) and Enrico Buono, 14th October, h.10-12.

Seminar 2. *A Just Transition: reconcile Nature and Humanity*, Jacopo Paffarini (UniPg), Cristiana Angelini (UniPg), 12th November, h. 10-12.

Seminar 3. *Climate and young people: which is the impact of citizen-led initiative?*, Martina Palmisano (Legambiente), 4th December, h.10-12

Second Module: “Climate and decision-making: a tyranny of small decisions?”

The activity aims at analyze the scale asymmetries between climate dynamics and institutional activity, both in terms of time and space. In order to highlight feasible solutions, the first workshop will explore best practice between EU cities, while a second meeting will address comparative insights of environmental democracy through the participation of visiting professors from Brazil and Mozambique (Unipg academic partners). The meetings are dedicated to the general public (from Ph.D. students to policymakers, from public officials to activists and non-specialists).

1. 1^o Joint Academic Workshop ECO-PoLeIS-EUACT

“The role of active citizenship in the Green Transition”, 17th October 2025, Department of Law h.14.30-18.30

Jacopo Paffarini, University of Perugia, Coordinator of ECO-PoLeIS

Maria Chiara Locchi, University of Perugia, ECO-PoLeIS Team Member

Enrico Buono, University of Perugia, ECO-PoLeIS Team Member

Lorenzo Silvestri, Centre for Research on Climate and Climate Change -CRC

Giorgia Pavani, University of Bologna, Coordinator of Jean Monnet Module “European Human Rights Cities. A place for active citizens – EUACT”

2. Collaborative Workshop “Citizens, democracy and environment: which patterns for participation?”, 27th - 28th October 2025, Department of Law.

Monday 27th October, h. 14-18

“Water governance and global challenges”

Chair: Enrico Buono (Unipg)

Tuesday 28th October

Morning Session, h. 9-12

“Building climate democracy in Europe: lessons from Global South”

Carla Piffer (Univali, Brazil)

Public participation in environmental decision-making processes: Brazilian law and the Aarhus Convention.

Denise Schmitt Siqueira Garcia (Univali, Brazil)

Education for sustainability and its contribution to mitigating the current climate crisis.

Giuseppe Meloni (Istituto Superior Dom Bosco, Mozambique)

From “Environmental Democracy” to “Environmental Relationality”: rethinking the Citizenship-Environment relationship

António Goba Júnior (Istituto Superior Dom Bosco, Mozambique)

Eco-logic of dwelling: existential paradigm of ecological conversion towards planetary citizenship.

Chair: Jacopo Paffarini (Unipg)

Afternoon Session, h.14-16:30

“Local answers to a global challenge (?): the cases of purchase groups and food coop”

David Grohmann (Environmental policies Councilor, Municipality of Perugia)

Domenico Lizzi (“Fuori di Zucca” Association)

Giordano Stella (“Birà” foodcoop)

Giorgia Gabbolini (“Perugia Solidale” Association)

Chair: Simone Vezzani (Università degli Studi di Perugia)

Materials and Access.