

**Jean Monnet Module “*Participatory Legal Instruments for Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities*”,
Project 101176263 — ECO-PoLeIS**

COURSE PROGRAMME

Topic “*Deliberative and Participatory Instruments for Climate Change Mitigation*”

Duration: 40 hours of teaching within *Comparative Public Law and Transnational Law* course(9 ECTS); *European Union Law* course (9 ECTS) and *International and European Environmental and Food law* course (6 ECTS), available in both bachelor’s and master’s degree programmes at the Department of Law and the Department of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences.

Language: English/Italian

Prerequisite: regular enrolment in the degree programs

Teaching method: The prevailing teaching method comprises classroom lectures and seminars supplemented by slides presentation. To foster an in-depth participatory experience, the seminars will feature debate simulations on specific topics. Particular attention will be given to ‘consensus’ and its formation, which constitute the core of deliberative democracy.

Lecturers: Jacopo Paffarini, Maria Chiara Locchi, Simone Vezzani, Enrico Buono and other invited professors.

Course Description and Rationale: The second-year seminars and lectures will examine the procedural characteristics and legal enforceability of the most prevalent participatory instruments employed on the climate policy arena. Through the examination of specific cases, students will explore with the legal foundations of Citizens’ Climate Assemblies (CCAs) – encompassing everything from member selection to the most recurrent outputs, such as policy recommendations and urban planning measures. The adoption of a comparative method will facilitate the identification of the fundamental elements and delineation of peculiarities across selected experiences, thereby advancing the current state of the art on CCAs and furnishing a more nuanced understanding of deliberative mechanism.

Learning objectives: By the end of the year, students will have achieved the following knowledge and skills:

- To understand the legal instruments developed in response to the Anthropocene, encompassing both climate change litigation and climate change mitigation;
- To understand the interplay among the international, European and local levels of government in the establishment of CCAs and procedural aspects of CCAs.
- To observe and distinguish the key elements of the main experiences, such as the French model and the Irish model
- To critically approach problems of coordination between national and local policies, as well as the shortcomings in the enforcement of CCAs’ resolutions

Course Outline and Contents:

Module 1: The EU Green Deal and its role in the promotion of democratic energy governance

- Francesco Caponeri, “The energy communities: participatory aspects”, 17th March 2026, 11:30-13:30

- Alessandro Pazzaglia, “An Individual right to efficient and clean energy in the New Green Deal?”, 26th March 2026, 11:30-13:30
- Simone Vezzani, “Environmental Democracy in the EU”, 1st April 2026, h. 11.30-13.30
- Simone Vezzani, “The EU Green Deal and the external dimension of Sustainability”, 28th April 2026, 11:30-13:30

Module 2: Deliberative mini publics in comparative perspective: a focus on the French and Irish models

Dates To Be Confirmed

Module 3: Climate as a “limit”: the rule of law and democracy through a transdisciplinary lens

Dates To Be Confirmed

Materials and Access.