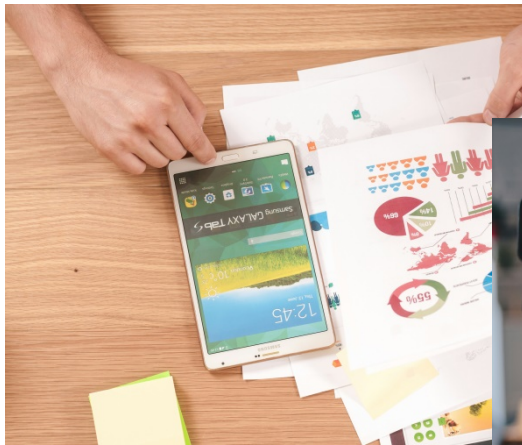
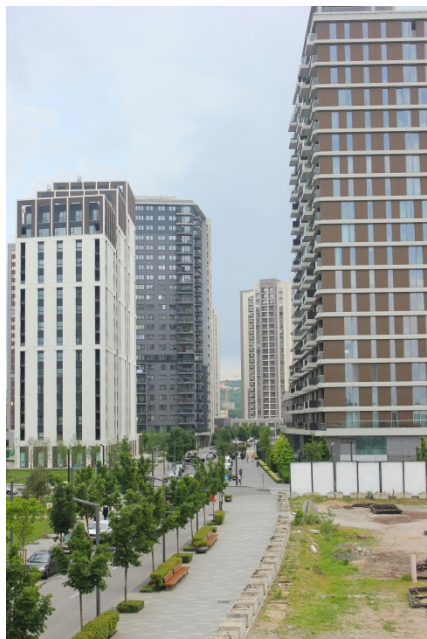


International Summer School

Communicating Just Green Transitions

Navigating the Path to a Sustainable Future

Deadline for application
15.03.2024



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Dates of the Summer School: 13-17 May 2024.

Eligible candidates: students enrolled in the Bachelor, Master and PhD programs at the University of Belgrade - Faculty of Geography.

UB-GEF GreenFORCE Team: Aleksandar Djordjevic, Branko Protic, Velimir Secerov, Marija Jeftic, Zora Zivanovic, Vladimir Popovic.

Involved universities and institutions: Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development (coordinating partner, AL); Polis University (AL); Politecnico di Torino – R3C Responsible Risk Resilience Centre (IT), Nordregio (SE), University of Belgrade – Faculty of Geography (RS) and Center for Economic Analyses Association (MK).

The summer school involves up to 10 selected UB-GEF students within the framework of the HORIZON-WIDERA project "GreenFORCE. Foster Research Excellence for Green Transition in the Western Balkans".

The activity **provides 3 ECTS credits** to the participating students.

Project website: Summer School – GreenFORCE (greenforcetwinning.net)

Contacts: aleksandar.djordjevic@gef.bg.ac.rs; branko.protic@gef.bg.ac.rs



Focus and activities

The summer school in Belgrade is organised jointly by the [University of Belgrade - Faculty of Geography \(UB-GEF\)](#) in Serbia and supported by [Interuniversity Department of Urban and Regional Studies and Planning](#) and the [Interdepartmental Responsible Risk Resilience Centre \(R3C\)](#) of Politecnico di Torino and is set in the framework of the School of Planning and Design, [Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development](#) in Albania as the coordinating partner and the [Center for Economic Analysis Association \(CEA\)](#) in North Macedonia as the regional partner; and [Nordregio](#), a pan-Nordic research organisation based in Sweden.

The urgency of addressing environmental challenges and embracing sustainability has led to an increased focus on educational initiatives such as summer school programs. Communicating the just green transition within such programs is a dynamic and impactful way to instill a sense of responsibility, foster environmental literacy, and empower the next generation to be advocates for positive change.

The students will attend several lectures and working group activities that introduce the challenges they will have to focus on and present possible ways to approach them. Besides the local perspective, students will learn from European and Western Balkans examples and case studies.

They will be supervised and mentored by an international, multi-disciplinary teaching staff during their activity.

Context – Navigating the Path to a Sustainable Future

The imperative for a just green transition (JGT) has become increasingly evident in the face of global challenges such as climate change, resource depletion, and environmental degradation. As societies grapple with the need for sustainable development, effective communication plays a pivotal role in mobilizing public support, shaping policy decisions, and driving meaningful change. Thus is necessary to explore the multifaceted aspects of communicating the just green transition, examining key strategies, challenges, and the role of various stakeholders in fostering a collective commitment to a sustainable future.

To effectively communicate the green transition, it is essential to move beyond traditional environmental narratives and frame the conversation in a way that resonates with diverse audiences. This involves emphasizing the economic, social, and health benefits of sustainability. Communicators should underscore how green initiatives can create jobs, foster innovation, and improve public health, appealing to a broader spectrum of stakeholders, including businesses, policymakers, and the general public.

Successful communication of the JGT requires collaboration among diverse stakeholders. Governments, businesses, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and communities all play integral roles. Stakeholder engagement involves transparent communication, active listening, and the incorporation of diverse perspectives into sustainability initiatives. By fostering a sense of shared responsibility and inclusivity, a coalition for change can be built, promoting a more effective and holistic approach to the JGT.

Technology and innovation are instrumental in advancing the green transition. Communicating the potential of technological solutions, such as renewable energy, circular economies, and sustainable agriculture, is crucial in garnering support. Effectively communicating complex scientific concepts to the public enhances understanding



and facilitates public buy-in. Moreover, highlighting success stories and showcasing tangible benefits of green technologies can inspire optimism and confidence in the transition process.

Social networks play a pivotal role in boosting communication about the JGT, offering a powerful platform for disseminating information, fostering engagement, and building a community of environmentally conscious individuals. Leveraging social networks effectively can amplify the impact of sustainability initiatives and contribute to a broader understanding of the JGT. We can recognize numerous ways in which social networks can enhance communication efforts in promoting a JGT.

A summer school program focuses on the communicating just green transition is a powerful platform for communicating the importance of sustainability to the next generation. With engaging curriculum, integrating interdisciplinary perspectives, leveraging technology, encouraging hands-on experiences, fostering collaboration, empowering advocacy, and showcasing success stories, students will be able to get a transformative learning experience. Through effective communication and hands-on engagement, summer school will play a pivotal role in shaping environmentally conscious and empowered young leaders who will contribute to a sustainable future.

Language

The activity will be exclusively held in English. Please specify your level of English in the application document.

Eligibility Requirements

Eligible students are enrolled in the Bachelor, Master and PhD programs at the University of Belgrade - Faculty of Geography.

ECTS Credits

The participating students will be awarded 3 ECTS credits.

Fees and Obligations

The programme does not require the payment of any fee. The costs covered by the organisation include:

- 5-day intensive summer school in Belgrade with lectures and studio work;
- 1 social dinner;
- 5 lunches and coffee breaks;
- site visits;
- multidisciplinary tutoring from teaching staff from PoliTO, Co-PLAN, U_Polis, Nordregio, UB-GEF and CEA during the academic activities of the summer school.

Participants are required to bring their laptop.



How to participate

Each candidate should fill out the dedicated [Google form](#) and provide, by uploading to the system, the following additional information:

- a motivational letter (max 800 words) written in English;
- a Curriculum Vitae (CV) and/or a portfolio, including the UB-GEF list of exams successfully passed and the achieved marks.

Selection Criteria and Ethics

Candidates will be assessed based on the information provided in the motivation letter and in the CV, or portfolio.

The 10 UB-GEF students will be selected on the basis of the following criteria:

- interest-driving learning in the contents of the Summer School students are applying to (i.e., operationalising just and green transition) based on the motivation letter;
- background and preparation based on the CV and/or the portfolio;
- research skills and attitudes based on the CV and/or the portfolio;

An evaluation committee composed of the UB-GEF staff involved in the teaching activity will assess the candidates.

Ethics disclaimer: The list of selected candidates will ensure a balanced representation of gender. No discrimination will be based on nationality, sexual orientation, or political opinion. UB-GEF will guarantee to maintain a selection process that is fair and equitable, and support informed and responsible decision-making of candidates.

List of Participants

An email will be sent to selected candidates on March the 22nd, 2024. The list will comprise up to 10 selected students + 2 eligible candidates (reserve list).

The ten selected students shall email to both aleksandar.djordjevic@gef.bg.ac.rs and branko.protic@gef.bg.ac.rs to communicate the acceptance of their position by March 25th, 2024. If one of the ten selected students cancels their participation in time, the first eligible candidate in the reserve list will take their place.

Disclaimer

The organization is NOT accountable if the activity is cancelled for any *force majeure* reason.



General timeline

Dates	Before the summer school
1st of March 2024	Launch of the Call for Participation
15th of March 2024	Deadline for students' application
22nd of March 2024	Notification of the results
25th of March 2024	Deadline for acceptance and finalization of the list of participants
	Summer school and after
16th of April 2024	1-day kick-off event (online)
23rd of April 2024	1-day lectures event (online)
24th of April 2024	1-day lectures event (online)
13th-17th of May 2024	Summer school activities in Belgrade
June 2024 (to be defined)	2-days feedback event (online)

Summer School Teaching Staff

UB-GEF – Aleksandar Djordjevic, Branko Protic, Velimir Secerov, Zora Zivanovic, Marija Jetic, Vladimir Popovic,
 PoliTO – Giancarlo Cotella, Andrea Ajmar, Erblin Berisha, Grazie Brunetta, Ombretta Caldarice, Donato Casavola,
 Danial Mohabat Doost, Isabella M. Lami, Yahya Shaker, Elena Todella
 Co-Plan – Merita Toska, Kejt Dhrami
 Nordregio – Carlos Tapia, Alberto Giacometti
 CEA – Marjan Nikolov, Vesna Garvanlieva

GreenFORCE Project

This students' summer school is part of the HORIZON-WIDERA project "GreenFORCE. Foster Research Excellence for Green Transition in the Western Balkans" (HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ACCESS-02-02). The five partner organisations are [Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development](#) in Albania as the coordinating partner; [University of Belgrade - Faculty of Geography \(UB-GEF\)](#) in Serbia and the [Center for Economic Analysis Association \(CEA\)](#) in North Macedonia as the two regional partners; and [Nordregio](#), a pan-Nordic research organisation based in Sweden, together with [Politecnico di Torino \(PoliTO\)](#), in Italy, as the leading EU research institutions. POLIS University (U_Polis) in Albania is the affiliate partner of Co-PLAN.

GreenFORCE aims to foster excellence in the Western Balkans' green transition scientific research and innovation of Co-PLAN (Albania), CEA (North Macedonia), and UB-GEF (Serbia); to enhance their research profile, strengthening the research and management capacities of their staff, and contributing to convergence between Western Balkans and European Union research capacities, as well as to broader policy initiatives for the region. This objective is reached through the twinning partnership of five organisations that work closely to produce territorial knowledge through exploratory research and institutional learning; transfer and exchange knowledge among partner organisations through applying the knowledge management cycle; and engage in networking for sharing, cross-fertilizing and amplifying knowledge at the societal level.



The researchers of the consortium engage in building a joint research project with objectives related to (i) the conceptualisation of green transition in the WB; (ii) the assessment of impacts and costs of just green transition, focusing on components of the pillars of the EU green agenda for the WB; (iii) the proposal of a continuous monitoring and assessment framework on green transition impacts and costs in the WB, to be used by scientists, researchers and policy-makers in facilitating the just green transition.

This summer school is the second of three stand-alone teaching events that contribute to the co-design, co-evaluation, exchange and sharing of the research practice and results conducted in the project. The events are open to students from U_Polis, UB-GEF and PoliTO. Each event will host up to 20 students, of which ten will be from the hosting institution, in this case, UB-GEF. Students attending at least one of the stand-alone teaching events may decide to work more thoroughly on this topic through the development of their master thesis under the supervision of one or more professors involved in the summer school.

For any clarification, please send an email to both aleksandar.djordjevic@gef.bg.ac.rs and branko.protic@gef.bg.ac.rs.

The activity is organized with the support of the University of Belgrade – Faculty of Geography.

