



4 European
Union
Kosovo



Concept note: EU Winter School 2020

Environmental Protection in the EU and Environmental Challenges and Emergencies in Kosovo

3 – 6 February 2020

Prishtina, Kosovo



Young Cell Scheme (Round XI-XII) is a project managed by the
EU Office in Kosovo and implemented by the British Council





INTRODUCTION

Following the success of previous editions, *the European Young Cell Alumni Kosovo* (EYCA Kosovo) and *the Young Cell Scheme (Round XI-XII)* (YCS) project, in close cooperation with *the University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina"* (UP) will organise and launch the 6th edition of the traditional EU Summer School which this year will be referred to as the "EU Winter School 2020" (EUWS 2020) as it will take place between 3rd and 6th February 2020, in the premises of the UP.

The EUWS 2020 will focus on the main aspects of environmental protection in EU and Kosovo. It will present the main challenges and threats following a comparative perspective. First, the EUWS will analyse the evolution of and the current approach to environmental protection and related policies in the EU. Secondly, it will present the main environmental issues and challenges that Kosovo faces in this field and the overall implications this has for its citizens and for the accession process. The EU has adopted ambitious policies for environmental protection as well as for emission reduction aiming to limit the impact of global warming and climate change. By 2050, the aim of the Union is to become carbon neutral and this goal has to be achieved by transition to renewable energy sources. As it is well-established, countries that aspire to join the EU must comply with its environmental and climate acquis. Kosovo has signed the SAA in 2015 and is a potential EU candidate. Nevertheless, the country faces numerous environmental emergencies which are a threat to the wellbeing of society. Air, water and land are all affected, mainly as a result of reliance on fossil fuels, lack of water treatment technologies as well as land degradation. The situation is more or less similar in the rest of WB6.

STRUCTURE OF THE EUWS 2020

The EUWS 2020 will gather up to 50 young and ambitious students who are willing to broaden their horizons and deepen their insights and knowledge on environmental issues and the implications environmental policies can have for the wellbeing of citizens as well as for the accession process, with a specific focus on Kosovo. Students of public and private universities across Kosovo, enrolled in 2nd, 3rd or 4th year of Bachelor Studies in Law, Political Sciences, International Relations Economics or other social sciences and students enrolled in relevant Master's programmes, along with those who have relevant knowledge and expertise in this area, are highly encouraged to apply. After completing the programme successfully, each participant will receive an attendance certificate.

The EUWS will be structured in four working days. The first three days will be dedicated to



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lectures, whilst the last one will be conceived as a workshop with proposals and debate between participants and lecturers. Three well known professors from EU Universities and two professors from the University of Pristina as well as 5/6 local experts and *Young Cell Alumni* employed in the civil service and dealing with environmental policies and issues, are invited to present different topics related to the themes of the programme. Through these three days of lectures and the final workshop, debates and discussions, students will gain a deeper understanding of the issues and develop new insights.

As in the previous editions, the *EUWS 2020* will put in place a comprehensive visibility campaign, including press releases to be published on the website and social media of EUO, YCS, UP and EYCA.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVE

The main goal of the *EUWS 2020* is to provide an opportunity for students to gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of the main legal, technical, political and socio-economic issues related to environmental protection and climate change in the EU. These issues will be then presented in light of the accession process and SAA obligations for Kosovo in this field. Special emphasis will be given to: EU environment and climate policies, environmental threats faced by Kosovo and the implications such threats represent for the wellbeing of its citizens as well as for the accession process.

The programme aims to foster participants' interactive engagement by offering a set of lectures as well as a final workshop and a debate involving the lecturers, participants and several external experts. Particularly, the *EUWS 2020* aims to offer detailed knowledge focusing on the following **objectives**:

- Understanding the main EU environmental and climate policies as well as gaining an insight regarding the key targets EU aims to achieve by 2050;
- Understanding the main environmental threats faced by Kosovo as well as by the rest of WB6 countries;
- Recognizing the implications of such threats for the wellbeing of its citizens and the overall sustainability of country's development;
- Understanding the implications this represents for the accession process without disregarding the opportunities that come along (i.e. funds and support offered through IPA)
- Discussing ways how Kosovo can tackle such challenges;
- Promoting EU principles and values among the students of Kosovo and sensitizing young generations on environmental issues and threats.





THEMES AND TOPICS

The **two main streams** of this year's *European Winter School* are:

Stream 1: The Legal Aspects of Environmental Protection in the EU and the main Political Implications of the Environmental Policy of the EU

Stream 2: The most Relevant Political and Legal Challenges of Environmental Protection in Kosovo. Cases and Solutions

Professors and local speakers will present **topics** that focus and elaborate on specific issues related to the main themes of the programme.

ORGANIZERS

The European Young Cell Alumni Kosovo was established in the Spring of 2011 by the grantees of the Young Cell Scheme, a project financed by the European Union in cooperation with the Government of Kosovo and implemented by the British Council. Since its establishment, EYCA Kosovo has sought to become a leading non-governmental organisation in Kosovo, seeking to promote European values throughout the process of EU integration of Kosovo.

The main objectives of the organization are:

- to be the main network for exchanging experiences and knowledge for all Young Cell Scheme beneficiaries;
- to effectively protect its members' rights as well as all Young Cell Scheme beneficiaries by ensuring employment and professional development on an equal basis;
- to become the leading NGO in Kosovo in increasing the cooperation and exchange of experiences on EU integration with other countries;
- to promote European values and quality in the higher education system in Kosovo.

EYCA Kosovo seeks to attain these objectives through different projects, the main ones being: *The EU Summer School* (2012, 2013, 2014, 2017), *The EU Winter School* (2015), *The EU Integration in Practice* where lectures were provided by alumni members to University students, *Translation of Books*, *Creating Audio-books*, *Organizing Orientation Day* for YCS





grantees, *EU Library* where we purchased books on EU Law, Policy and Economics in cooperation with the University of Prishtina, and *Learning EU at School*. These activities have been mainly funded by the European Union Office in Kosovo, with some contributions from the British Council and the French Embassy.

The Young Cell Scheme (Round XI-XII) is a project managed by the EU Office in Kosovo and currently implemented by the British Council. This project is run in the framework of the Young Cell Scheme (YCS) scholarship programme for Kosovo. YCS's main goal is to support the Government of Kosovo in building a professional, merit-based, accountable and apolitical Civil Service at all levels in Kosovo by supporting public administration through a scholarship programme that aims at improving the professional capacity of the civil service to better service Kosovo citizens and to meet the challenges and obligations arising from the Stabilization and Association Agreement of Kosovo with the EU. To achieve this, the project awards a number of grants to young Kosovo citizens (of max. 35 years of age) holding a bachelor degree, by enabling their enrollment in EU universities in specific MA, MSc and LLM programmes, to respond to the needs and requirements of Kosovo Government. After the completion of their period of studies in EU universities the grantees have a contractual obligation to return to Kosovo and to be employed for at least three consecutive years within the Kosovo public administration.

The University of Prishtina “Hasan Prishtina” established in 1970, is the main public University in Kosovo, with 13 faculties in total. Throughout the years, UP has worked closely with EYCA and YCS Project in organizing and implementing successfully the EU Summer School. UP has been a great supporter by providing teaching rooms and facilities for the successful organization of the EUSS, supporting EYCA in the recruitment process of students, and in refining the curriculum of the EUSS.



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