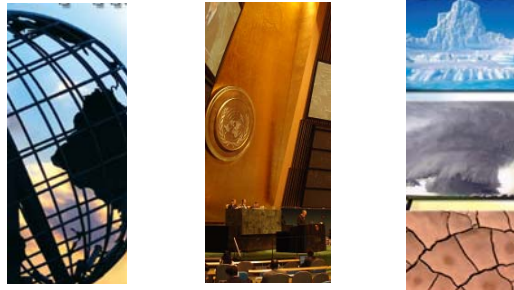


Teaching Climate Change (and the United Nations System)¹



Belgrade, May 17th & 18th, 2010 (*to be confirmed*)

Rationale:

Climate Change is undoubtedly the most pressing global issue of our time. For addressing the complex multi-stakeholder and multilevel challenges associated with climate change mitigation and adaptation an appropriate knowledge base is needed not only among public authorities but also among civil society, business sector etc. in order to have problem aware constituencies in the countries of the world supporting with their attitudes and actions governments towards bold future oriented global climate change action.

UN system plays an important role in “Teaching Climate Change” in several ways:

- It is obvious that a global challenge like climate change can be addressed effectively only with global coordination and cooperation among relevant stakeholders. As United Nations system (e.g. UNFCCC, UNEP, ..) is the central institutional framework for global governance responses to the climate change challenge, it is important to build capacities worldwide on the functioning of the UN system;
- at the same time UN organizations like UNESCO, UNITAR, UNDP etc. play an important role as provider and facilitator of climate change education and last but not least
- UN system plays somehow the role of a lighthouse for climate change awareness building activities of global civil society (and e.g. national UN associations) and there is a need for a strategic approach to partnerships in this area, too.

The countries in Southeast Europe are facing similar climate change challenges. On the one hand scientific climate change models predict especially serious climate change impacts in SEE but on the other hand SEE countries have also some kind of “window of opportunity” open as they are currently reforming and modernizing their socio-economic systems and governance structures in the context of EU integration processes and there is a chance to adapt relatively early to climate change in a joint effort of mobilizing national, European and official development assistance resources and to foster EU integration of the SEE region through joint climate change action.

Therefore the issue of “Teaching Climate Change” will be addressed at this conference in a regional setting as “2nd CEE/SEE Regional Colloquium - Capacity Building on Global Governance and the UN System”.²

Target audience: broad range of senior and junior experts, government representatives, civil society activists from SEE region (universities, public authorities, NGOs, schools, media, etc.)

Organisers:

- Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade, www.ius.bg.ac.rs/eng/
- Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Belgrade, www.fpn.bg.ac.rs/eng/index_e.html
- Environmental Ambassadors, Belgrade, www.ambassadors-env.org/
- Academic Council on the United Nations System ACUNS, www.acuns.org
- Austrian Science and Research Liaison Office (ASO) Ljubljana www.aso.zsi.at
- Diplomatic Academy of Vienna & Diplomatic Academy of Belgrade (*to be confirmed*)

in cooperation with:

- Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Republic of Serbia, www.ekoplan.gov.rs/en/index.php
- United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), www.unitar.org
- United Nations Association of Serbia, www.unaserbia.rs/
- Diplo Foundation, Belgrade Office www.diplomacy.edu
- United Nations Environment Programme www.unep.org/
- United Nations Development Programme www.undp.org/
- World Federation of UN Associations WFUNA www.wfuna.org

¹ This is a **working title**; the final title will be determined at the preparatory meetings in Belgrade mid of January 2010

² The 1st event has been the **CEE/SEE Regional Colloquium „Can the UN be taught? Innovative Teaching about the United Nations“** which took place November 22nd 2008 at Diplomatic Academy in Vienna (proceedings can be downloaded at www.aso.zsi.at/sl/publikation/3331.html)

Proposed Possible speakers (to be confirmed)

- Mr. **Oliver Dulić**, Serbian Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning (implications of outcome of UNFCCC negotiations in Copenhagen, role of UNEP, ..)
- N.N., **European Commissioner on Climate Change** (shall be introduced with nomination of new European commissioners team)
- **Mark Richmond**, UNESCO, Director, Division for the Coordination of UN Priorities in Education, Platform Manager, Intersectoral Platform on Education for Sustainable Development
- Mr. **Miroslav Kukobat**, Regional Cooperation Council (the SEE Regional perspective: Regional Coordination of National Climate Change Strategies -> „Climate Change Framework Action Plan for Adaptation“ → what human/scientific resources are needed?)
- Mrs. **Andjelka Mihajlov**, Environmental Ambassadors, Belgrade, Teaching Climate Change and the role of business sector and civil society
- Mr. **Jovan Kurbalija**, Director, DiploFoundation, Innovative Diplomatic Training on Climate Change
- Mr. **William S. Infante**, United Nations Development Programme, Climate Change, Development and the Crucial Role of Education
- Ms. **Laurence Pollier**, UNFCCC secretariat, teaching climate change and Art 6 of the UNFCCC Convention “The Role of Education and Outreach”
http://unfccc.int/cooperation_and_support/education_and_outreach/items/2529.php
- **Mamadou Moussa Diakhite**, United Nations Institute for Training and Research – Climate Change Programme
- **Vesselin Popovski**, United Nations University, development of a global e-Learning system on environmental/sustainability issues
- **Ramu Damodaran**, Chief, Civil Society Service, Outreach Division, Department of Public Information, United Nations; The Academic Impact Initiative and the need for Open Education Resources on the UN system and Climate Change (*video message from NY*)
- **Nebojša Nakićenović**, IIASA, Laxenburg, the science-policy (UN system) nexus
- **Brenda Abrar-Milani** or **Gilles Sommeria**, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change IPCC, IPCC Climate Education Fund
- **Paul McAleavey**, Head of EU Coordination at the European Environment Agency, Teaching climate politics
- **Michael Platzer**, Presentation of the Proceedings of 1st CEE/SEE UN Capacity Building Colloquium »Can the UN be taught?«

Thematic sessions:

- Tertiary multisectoral education (e.g. environmental diplomacy (DA Vienna), green MBA (ICPE Ljubljana), how to get donor communities involved? How to get ministries of education involved?..)
- Materials for Public schools (UNA Serbia)
- Knowledge production for public decision making (IPCC (**Lučka Kajfež Bogataj**, Ljubljana), Scientific capacity Building in the Region - Belgrade Initiative on Climate Change (Presented by **Danica Spasova**, Republic Hydrometeorological Service of Serbia), UNODC environmental security, UNCCD Capacity building for combating desertification and SEE); involving standing committee of towns and municipalities; Albania **Hanik Baraji** (NATO meeting Budapest; Montenegro: **Grubiša Perović**, Office for sustainable development)
- Information for the media and the broader public (International Press Center Vienna, input from [UNESCO conference on Climate change and broadcasting media](#) of Sept 2009)

Networking session:

- Development of a (regional) Web 2.0 platform (UNU, UNSA, ACUNS), possibility for cooperation with Blog “Teaching Climate Change Law & Policy. Pedagogy, Resources, Insights” ? www.teachingclimatelaw.org/
- **Initiating strategic cooperation initiatives among ministries of science, education and the environment in SEE region on joint (regional) climate change education !!!**

Links to related events:

- **UNESCO International Seminar on Climate Change Education** 27-29 July 2009
http://www.unesco.org/en/education/dynamic-content-single-view/news/international_seminar_on_climate_change_education_france_27_29_july/browse/2/back/9195/
- **I. Inspiring Climate Education Conference** in Copenhagen from October 12-14, 2009 www.ice2009.org/
- **IIASA** (Laxenburg/Austria) conference “**Learning and Climate Change**“, April 2006
<http://www.iiasa.ac.at/Research/PCC/learn-conf/learning%20SI/index.html>

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- **Aleksandra Knez-Milojković**, Environmental Ambassadors, Belgrade, www.ambassadors-env.org/
- Prof. **Tanja Mišević & Marija Jeremić**, Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Belgrade