



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



UNESCO Chair in
Human Rights and Human Security
University of Graz, Austria



ZENTRUM ZUR FÖRDERUNG DER PROMOTION OF
MENSCHENRECHTE HUMAN RIGHTS
IN GEMEINDEN AT THE LOCAL AND
UND REGIONEN REGIONAL LEVELS

Under the auspices of UNESCO

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

**International Centre for the Promotion of Human
Rights at the Local and Regional Levels under the
auspices of UNESCO**

**UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security,
European Training and Research Centre for Human
Rights and Democracy at the University of Graz**



UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security
International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the
Local and Regional Levels under the auspices of UNESCO

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This publication is available online.
humanrightsgolocal.org

About us

International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels under the auspices of UNESCO

The International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels under the auspices of UNESCO (UNESCO Centre) contributes to the implementation of the international human rights agenda at the local and regional levels. Situated in Graz, Austria, the Centre promotes a human rights-based approach to policy-making and practice at the local and regional levels, building on 20 years of experience and expertise. The Centre supports inclusive and equitable social development through research, capacity-building, international cooperation, and networking activities. The Centre is hosted by the European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (ETC Graz) and cooperates closely with the UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security at the University of Graz.



UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security, University of Graz

The UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security (UNESCO Chair) was established at the University of Graz in 2016 to strengthen interdisciplinary teaching, research, academic cooperation, and outreach in human rights and human security. The Chair supports UNESCO's objectives of life-long learning and human rights education as a means to promote global citizenship, create inclusive societies, and foster peace and stability. The Chair advances international academic cooperation, and supports the activities of the City of Graz, the first European Human Rights City. Its establishment expresses the commitment of the University of Graz to human rights. The Chair is located at the European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy at the University of Graz (UNI-ETC) and cooperates closely with the International Centre for Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels under the auspices of UNESCO.



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1. Foreword by the Directors

This report presents the activities of the International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels under the auspices of UNESCO and the UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security, European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy at the University of Graz in the year 2021. Following the formal inauguration of the UNESCO Centre and the renewal of the UNESCO Chair in 2020, a range of joint projects and events in 2021 demonstrates the synergies between the two institutions.

The joint flagship activity was the first Academy and Conference “Human Rights Go Local – What Works” in February 2021, convened online in cooperation with UNESCO, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, the Provincial Government Styria, the City of Graz, and the University of Graz. A total of 40 human rights experts from local governments, international and regional organisations, and the research community shared innovative approaches and best practices on human rights research as basis for evidence-based policy-making at the local level. These were synthesized into fourteen encouragements to local governments in the Academy’s Outcome Document and were presented at a high-level Conference with 200 participants from around the globe at the occasion of celebrating the 20th anniversary of Graz as Europe’s first Human Rights City. The second volume of our joint Publication Series “Human Rights Go Local” accompanied the event. We have been particularly honoured by the personal visit of UNESCO Assistant Director-General (ADG) Gabriela Ramos, and Austrian Minister for European and International Affairs, Alexander Schallenberg, to our premises on the occasion of the official celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Human Rights City Graz.

We have continued with many of our activities in understanding, learning, and sharing human rights: foundational, advanced, specialised, and skill-building courses offered by the UNESCO Chair at the University of Graz, and in international master programmes, including in the Global Campus of Human Rights (the world’s leading human rights education programme with 100 partner universities), as well as in cooperation with partners, such as the UNESCO Chair in Human Rights, Democracy and the Peace at the University of Padova. The Doctoral Programme in Human Rights, Democracy,



UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences Gabriela Ramos and Austrian Federal Minister for International and European Affairs Alexander Schallenberg visit the UNESCO Centre and the UNESCO Chair in Graz, pictured together with Martin Polaschek (then-Rector of the University of Graz), Siegfried Nagl (then-Mayor of Graz), Simone Philipp (ETC Graz), Klaus Starl (UNESCO Centre) and Gerd Oberleitner (UNESCO Chair).

Diversity, and Gender at the University of Graz offered a space for critical reflection on human rights, while the 2021 edition of the European Yearbook on Human Rights, dedicated to the impact of COVID-19 on human rights, analysed and shared European human rights practice. In 2021, we have created and disseminated knowledge on human rights in 48 academic publications and studies, and during more than 62 events, conferences, and workshops. We have welcomed two visiting researchers and one intern. 2021 also saw a strategic deepening of our cooperation with partners worldwide, such as with the Memorandum of Understanding with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights in Lund, and contributions to the Gwangju Human Rights Cities Forum and the EU Fundamental Rights Forum.

In 2021, our colleagues have again contributed to the practical implementation of human rights through their positions as Rapporteur under the Moscow Mechanism of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) on Belarus, in the Human Rights Advisory Council of the City of Graz, the Task Force against Racism of the Province of Styria, the City of Graz Advisory Council for Persons with Disabilities, the Extremism Prevention Platform of the Province of Styria, the Scientific Advisory Council of the European Coalition of Cities against Racism, the ARGE Young People Against Violence and Racism, as well as in the involvement in the Austrian NPM according to the Optional Protocol to the International Convention against Torture.

In our research and cooperation projects, we contributed to guaranteeing the right to education for Roma children in Bulgaria, analysed the challenges of online hate speech in Styria, cooperated with partners to strengthen the independence, impartiality, fairness, and accountability of the judiciary in Kosovo, elaborated toolkits for urban inclusion in Arab cities, and worked towards ensuring social inclusion through sports in the Union of the Comoros. Despite huge efforts invested in city partnerships between Graz and African cities, formal and financial hurdles made it impossible to succeed in this cooperation in 2021.

We would like to thank all our staff, teaching assistants, trainers, lecturers, volunteers, our Management Board and Foundation, our Scientific Board, as well as all our supporters, partners, and friends for their commitment and support in the past year.



Gerd Oberleitner
UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security, European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy at the University of Graz



Klaus Starl
Director, International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels under the auspices of UNESCO



2. Mapping the Cooperation of the UNESCO Chair and the UNESCO Category 2 Centre



The connecting lines signify cooperation agreements. The coloured areas indicate functional areas.

3. Joint Work Programme

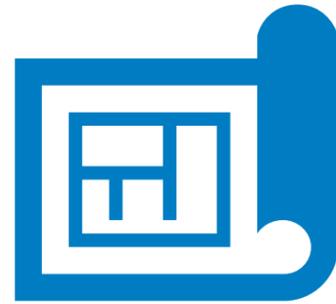
Human rights education, training, and capacity-building are cornerstones for effectively realising human rights nationally, regionally, and locally. Knowledge of human rights is the prerequisite to actively participate in democratic decision-making. UNESCO's objectives of life-long learning and human

rights education are important means to promote global citizenship, create inclusive societies, and foster peace and stability. Human rights research has to be the basis for evidence-based policy-making in cities and communities.

Cities and local authorities are the linchpin when it comes to addressing global challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change, and conflict. It is city and municipal administrations that are the closest to citizens and well-equipped to render human rights a lived experience in their procedures and interactions with citizens.

Based on the importance of human rights education and research, and acknowledging the role of cities and local authorities in realising human rights, the joint work programme of the International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels under the auspices of UNESCO and the UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security at the University of Graz focuses on creating capacities for protecting human rights in the spirit of the UN's vision to "leave no one behind". As part of UNESCO's global UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs network and within UNESCO' Education 2030 Strategy, the UNESCO Chair offers academic education and learning opportunities in human rights and human security to support next-generation human rights experts, engages in collaborative human rights research, and advances international academic cooperation. The UNESCO Centre is built on three key pillars: moderating exchange between research and policy-making on the local and regional level, facilitating the implementation of human rights-based policy-making, and building bridges between international, regional, and local stakeholders and agendas. In the next years, they will jointly undertake the following activities:

- supporting the Human Rights City Graz, connecting human rights cities, and creating linkages with partner institutions, international organisations, and city networks
- cooperating with cities in South-Eastern Europe on the right to education for minorities, especially the Roma population
- cooperating with the African Local Government Academy to offer trainings for African city administrations
- developing and implementing human rights policies in Arab regions, from Iraq to Mauritania, together with nine cooperating states and 38 cities
- establishing partnerships with and between human rights cities
- conducting information and public relations work for human rights in cities, and establishing a Clearinghouse (electronic library)
- developing and publishing policy manuals for the implementation of human rights in cities where proven policies are collected, analysed, contextualised, and published as manuals under the auspices of UNESCO



- committing to exchange on a global level by hosting an annual Academy and Conference "Human Rights Go Local: What Works" to discuss and disseminate good practices to policy makers worldwide
- establishing a Human Rights Lab (LAB!) to test, evaluate, and refine human rights policies, and to turn them into 'export items' for cities
- offering academic education, and developing learning methods and teaching tools to build the capacity of next-generation human rights educators, practitioners, and researchers through international cooperation and academic mobility, hosting visiting researchers and volunteers, and contributing to the Global Campus of Human Rights
- encouraging next-generation researchers in the Doctoral Programme in Human Rights, Democracy, Diversity and Gender to explore human rights at the local and regional levels
- undertaking research projects to counter hate speech in social media at the local and regional level, and develop a regulatory framework for private actors, and to promote social inclusion and equal opportunities in sports on the local and regional level
- publishing and disseminating research output, for example in the Publication Series *Human Rights Go Local* and the *European Yearbook of Human Rights*

4. Staff and Board 2021

Management of the UNESCO Centre

Klaus Starl

Director of the International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels under the auspices of UNESCO

Gerd Oberleitner

UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security, Director of the European Teaching and Research Centre on Human Rights and Democracy at the University of Graz (UNI-ETC), Professor in International Law and the Law of International Organisations

Heidi Bassin

Board member of the European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (ETC Graz)

Management of the UNESCO Chair

Gerd Oberleitner

UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security, Director of the European Teaching and Research Centre on Human Rights and Democracy at the University of Graz (UNI-ETC), Professor in International Law and the Law of International Organisations

Lisa Heschl

Deputy Director of the European Teaching and Research Centre on Human Rights and Democracy at the University of Graz (UNI-ETC)

Foundation for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels

Renate Kicker

Director

Markus Uitz

Director

Gabriela Ramos

Representative of UNESCO in the Governing Board

Ernst-Peter Brezovszky

Representative of the Austrian Federal Ministry of International and European Affairs in the Governing Board (Chairman)

Waltraud Bauer-Dorner

Representative of the Federal Province of Styria in the Governing Board

Hans Putzer

Representative of the City of Graz in the Governing Board



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Florence Benoît-Rohmer, Strasbourg

Florian Bieber, Graz

Christina Binder, Munich

Christine Bräutigam, New York

Bojko Bučar, Ljubljana

Koen De Feyter, Antwerpen

Paolo di Stefani, Padova

Rainer Hofmann, Frankfurt

Walter Kälin, Bern

Dzidek Kedzia, Poznan/Geneva

Morten Kjærø, Lund

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Joseph Marko, Graz

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Manfred Nowak, Vienna

Barbara Oomen, Utrecht/Middelburg

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Martin Polaschek, Graz

Wolf Rauch, Graz

Kurt Remele, Graz

Kirsten Schmalenbach, Salzburg

Alexander Sicilianos, Strasbourg

Alfred Stingl, Graz

Christian Strohal, Vienna

Engelbert Theuermann, Vienna

Helmut Tichy, Vienna

Daniel Thürer, Zurich

Silvia Ulrich, Linz

Anita Ziegerhofer, Graz

Leo Zwaak, Utrecht

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Wolfgang Benedek

Professor Emeritus of International Law,
UNI-ETC

Gregor Fischer-Lessiak

Scientific staff and lecturer,
UNESCO Chair

Thomas Gakire

Scientific staff with focus on development
cooperation, UNESCO Centre

Lisa Heschl

Senior scientist and lecturer,
UNESCO Chair

Bernadette Holzer

Scientific staff with focus on development
cooperation, UNESCO Centre

Isabella Meier

Scientific staff and FRANET expert,
UNESCO Centre

Markus Möstl

Scientific staff and FRANET expert,
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Translator and Clearinghouse,
UNESCO Centre; Human Rights
Advisory Board of the City of Graz

Agnes Romanin

Scientific staff and lecturer,
UNESCO Chair

Manuela Ruz

Secretariat, UNI-ETC

Alexandra Stocker

Management, UNESCO Centre; Human
Rights Advisory Board of the City of Graz

Wanda Tiefenbacher

Scientific staff and public relations,
UNESCO Centre; Youth project *Kenne
deine Rechte*

Teaching Assistants at the UNESCO Chair

Stephanie Grasser

Helena Heck

Mehanaz Kabir

Sophia Urban

Incoming Lecturers and Trainers

Simone Philipp

Human rights education trainer,
UNESCO Centre

Christoph Pinter

Head of UNHCR Austria; incoming
lecturer, UNESCO Chair

Barbara Schmiedl

Human rights education trainer,
UNESCO Centre

Elisabeth Steiner

Former Judge of the European Court
of Human Rights (ECtHR); incoming
lecturer, UNESCO Chair

Wolfgang Taucher

Head of the Division "Asylum and
Return", Austrian Federal Ministry of the
Interior; incoming lecturer, UNESCO Chair

Visiting Researchers at the UNESCO Chair / UNI-ETC

Hoitsimolimo Mutlokwa

Koç University, Turkey

Elshaday K. Woldeyesus

Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

Volunteers at the UNESCO Centre

Paul Jaunegg

Human Rights Mandates

Wolfgang Benedek

Member of Task Force against Racism of the Province of Styria;
Rapporteur under the Moscow Mechanism of the Organisation for
Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) on Belarus

Lisa Heschl

Member of Monitoring Committee on the Rights of Persons with
Disabilities of the Province of Styria

Bernadette Holzer

Ambassador of Global Campus of Human Rights Alumni

Isabella Meier

Member of the Alliance "living without violence" (*Allianz gewaltFREI Leben*); Member of the City of Graz
Advisory Council for Persons with Disabilities

Markus Möstl

Member of the Federal Commission for the Enforcement of Penalties and Measures (Austrian National
Preventive Mechanism, since July 2021)

Klaus Starl

Member of the Human Rights Advisory Council of the City of Graz; Member of the Extremism Prevention
Platform of the Province of Styria, Member of the Scientific Advisory Council of the European Coalition of
Cities against Racism

Alexandra Stocker

Board member of SPUNK – Association for Social Pedagogy and Culture (*SPUNK – Verein für
Sozialpädagogik und Kultur*)



5 . Stakeholder Cooperation and Networking

The UNESCO Centre and UNESCO Chair would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to the following partners for their ongoing support and cooperation efforts. As a result of these continuous collaborations, it is possible to significantly increase the impact and reach of the two Graz institutions.

UNESCO

UNESCO is a key partner in the implementation of both the UNESCO Centre's and the Chair's mandates, and collaborates closely with the two organisations on a range of initiatives. UNESCO is represented by ADG Gabriela Ramos in the Governing Board of the Foundation for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels, and is co-organiser of the Academy and Conference "Human Rights Go Local – What Works". UNESCO Centre and Chair have engaged with the International Coalition for Inclusive and Sustainable Cities (ICCAR) for over ten years in various capacities. In 2021, as part of an initiative led by Austria, Denmark, and the Netherlands, the UNESCO Centre and Chair worked with UNESCO to increase UNESCO's protection of journalists, artists, and scientists.

The UNESCO Field Office Cairo partners with the UNESCO Centre and Chair on capacity-building for human rights in the Arab region, co-edits the Toolkit for Inclusive Cities in the Arab Region, and cooperates with the UNESCO Centre on the coordination of the Arab Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities.

Republic of Austria (*Republik Österreich*)

The Republic of Austria is a founding party of the UNESCO Centre. The Republic's representative is chairman of the Governing Board of the Foundation for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels, and is a key partner in the realisation of the Academy and Conference "Human Rights Go Local – What Works".

The Province of Styria, Austria (*Land Steiermark*)

The Province of Styria is a founding party of the UNESCO Centre. The Province is represented in the Governing Board of the Foundation for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels, and is a key partner in the realisation of the Academy and Conference "Human Rights Go Local – What Works".

The City of Graz, Austria (*Stadt Graz*)

The City of Graz is a founding party of the UNESCO Centre. The City is also represented in the Governing Board of the Foundation for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels, and is a key partner in the realisation of the Academy and Conference "Human Rights Go Local – What Works". The Human Rights City of Graz and its Administration provide the foundation and support for a wide range of initiatives and projects of both institutions.

United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

The Office of the High Commissioner is a crucial partner in the implementation of the Centre's mandate, and a co-organiser of the Academy and Conference "Human Rights Go Local – What Works".

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

UN-Habitat is a key stakeholder in the implementation of the Centre's mandate, and co-organiser of the Academy and Conference "Human Rights Go Local – What Works".

Association of Human Rights Institutes (AHRI)

The UNESCO Chair, via the UNI-ETC, is a member of the Association of Human Rights Institutes (AHRI), a network of over 80 institutes carrying out research and educational activities in the field of human rights.

Global Campus of Human Rights (GCHR)

The UNESCO Chair, via the UNI-ETC, participates in the regional master programmes of the Global Campus of Human Rights. In this context, the Centre welcomes Master students of the European Master's programme in Human Rights and Democratisation (E.MA) every summer semester.

World University Service Austria (WUS Austria)

The long-standing institutional cooperation of the UNESCO Chair with the Austrian branch of the World University Service (WUS), an NGO active in project development and management, as well as consulting services in the field of the right to education, constantly brings forth joint activities in this area.

European Coalition of Cities Against Racism (ECCAR)

ECCAR is a close partner of the UNESCO Centre, and collaborator in a range of activities relating to racism and discrimination at the local level. Klaus Starl, Director of the UNESCO Centre, has been a member of ECCAR's scientific advisory committee since 2004. In this capacity, he coordinates the committee's working group on the evaluation of city reports.

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

The FRA is a key stakeholder in the implementation of the Centre's mandate, and co-organiser of the Academy and Conference "Human Rights Go Local – What Works". The ETC serves as Austria's National Focal Point (NFP) in the FRANET research network. In 2021, the UNESCO Centre and the FRA cooperated closely on the FRA's creation of a Framework of Commitment for Human Rights Cities.

African Local Governments Academy (ALGA) of the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG-Africa)

ALGA of UCLG Africa is a partner of the UNESCO Centre in the delivery of capacity-building activities. The Memorandum of Understanding between the UNESCO Centre and ALGA was established in 2017 to collaborate in the field of human rights and democracy at the local level through training and capacity-building for local and regional authorities in Africa.

Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (RWI)

In 2021, the UNESCO Centre and the UNESCO Chair agreed on a Memorandum of Understanding with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (RWI). The goal is to undertake collaborative activities for the purpose of promoting human rights at the local and regional levels through joint initiatives, including capacity-building, research, developing a human rights trainer pool, and staff exchanges.

UNESCO Chair in Human Rights, Democracy and Peace at the University of Padova

The thematic focus of the UNESCO Chair in Human Rights, Democracy and Peace at the University of Padova is closely related to the thematic focus of Gerd Oberleitner as the UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security at the University of Graz. Hence, the two UNESCO Chairs have been cooperating since 2016. Common activities include teaching visits, as well as collaboration in the Padova Model Universal Periodic Review and in the Interdisciplinary Doctoral Programme: Human Rights, Democracy, Diversity and Gender.

Paragraph-Software GmbH

Paragraph Software GmbH is the main provider of digital infrastructure for the Centre and a crucial supporter in the implementation of the Centre's mandate. The company produces software for the judicial sector, including secure communication between lawyers, courts, and administration. The company provides the UNESCO Centre with services for internal administration and project management, internet applications, and is involved in the realisation of projects that require technical assistance. It is the main donor of the online youth-platform Know Your Rights.



Every day, I am encouraged by the knowledge that our Centre is making a long-term contribution to a lived culture of human rights around the world. The numerous partnerships and collaborations we have had with prestigious and influential institutions over the last year attest to the fact that working together for the same cause can truly make a gigantic difference in the long run. **Wanda Tiefenbacher**

6. Facts and Figures

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university courses

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staff members

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countries of activity

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master and doctoral theses supervised

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research and cooperation projects

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scientific board members

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interviews

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publications

72

Kenne deine Rechte journalistic articles

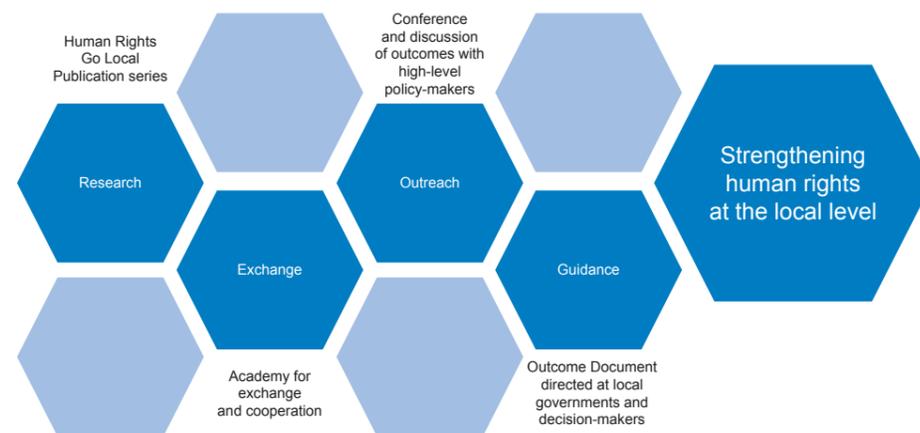
>34.000

people reached online

7. Building bridges to support the realisation of human rights at the local level

The topic of localising human rights is becoming increasingly important. Several international frameworks, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda, emphasise the role of the local level as a critical actor in achieving international human rights commitments. In UNESCO's quest to "leave no one behind", cities and municipalities serve as the starting point for this ambition because they are closest to their residents, and have the ability to enact policies that promote inclusion, equality, and human rights.

It is at the core of the joint work programme of the UNESCO Centre and UNESCO Chair in Graz to collect, synthesise, and promote the breadth of knowledge that exists on how to effectively promote human rights at the local level. Planning for a new event series that would bring together the bulk of expertise of actors from around the world in an environment of exchange and cooperation began in 2020. The format "Human Rights Go Local – What Works" would serve as a catalyst for innovative research, a platform for skill sharing, and an opportunity to develop concrete guidelines and outlooks for those actors at the centre of international agendas: local authorities and decision-makers. The intensive planning resulted in the creation of a novel annual event format, complete with a Publication Series to kick off discussions, an Academy to bring together global expertise, a Conference to present results, and an Outcome Document to guide political decision-making. All these ambitions serve the goal of protecting and promoting human rights at the local level, and to make cities and human settlements more inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.

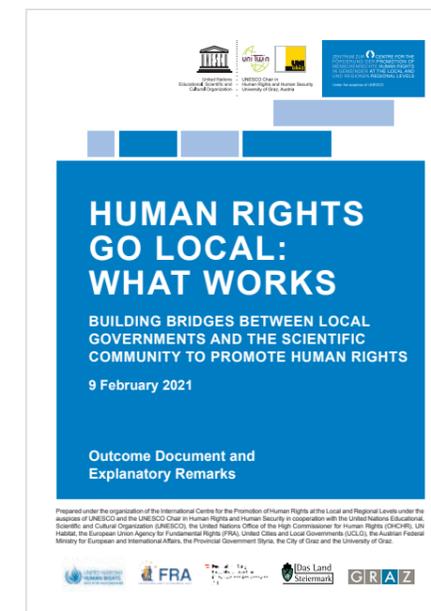


We decided to take the many insights and the vast expertise accumulated by the ETC Graz over twenty years at the local level as a thematic starting point for the first event, which took place in February 2021. The UNESCO Chair, the ETC, and the UNESCO Centre consulted local governments, conducted policy-informing research, and exchanged ideas with other relevant stakeholders on how to use human rights data to inform local decision-making. Isabella Meier authored the second volume of our Publication Series "Human Rights Go Local" which synthesised the breadth of this knowledge. Entitled "Research on Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels: Methods, Practices, Approaches", this Volume discusses how to materialise the benefits of qualitative human rights data, formulate human rights questions into

tangible research questions, develop adequate methods to answer these questions, and make the findings useful and feasible for local authorities and decision-makers to implement. It is a supplement to the first volume of the Series "Implementing Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the Local Level: Key Issues and Examples" by Markus Möstl and Karina Gomes and published in 2020.

Equipped with theoretical foundations addressing the implementation of human rights at the local level (Volume 1), as well as the practical experiences made in the domain (Volume 2), the event series debuted in early 2021. The UNESCO Centre and UNESCO Chair in Graz sought partnerships with notable institutions around the world in order to join forces and build on existing institutional and strategic synergies. The first Academy and Conference were organised in collaboration with UNESCO, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN Habitat, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, the Provincial Government of Styria, the City of Graz, and the University of Graz.

The event "Field Proven Research Methods on Human Rights" took place from February 1 to 9 2021, and focused on how to best build bridges between the scientific community and local authorities to promote human rights. The event was held in two parts: first, the Academy convened over 40 experts from around the world in 10 interactive workshops to share proven research methods on human rights at the local level. The practices, findings, and recommendations were compiled into the first Outcome Document. This tangible output expresses fourteen recommendations to local governments around the world on how to strengthen their policies using evidence created by human rights research. The encouragements emphasise the benefits of local human rights research and the use of human rights indicators, highlight the synergies between human rights and the SDGs, and underline the importance of local governments exchanging and cooperating with local, national, regional, and international stakeholders, including researchers.



The Outcome Document was presented during the event's second part, namely the Conference, on 8 February 2021. The first Conference was notable not only for bringing together a diverse group of high-level and influential decision-makers. It also commemorated the 20th anniversary of Graz as Europe's first Human Rights City, as well as the opening and official inauguration of the International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels – the first UNESCO Category II Centre of its kind. Together with 200 global guests, Gabriela Ramos (Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences of UNESCO), Nada Al-Nashif (United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights), Michael O'Flaherty (Director of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights), Siegfried Nagl (at that time Mayor of Graz), and Gerd Oberleitner (UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security at the University of Graz) discussed the Outcome Document as a basis for local authorities' commitment to the further implementation of human rights. The discussion was moderated by Morten Kjærum (Director of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Sweden).



Participants in the high-level panel discussion on the Outcome Document held on 9 February 2021: Morten Kjærum (Director of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Sweden), Gabriela Ramos (Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences of UNESCO), Nada Al-Nashif (United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights), Siegfried Nagl (Mayor of Graz), Michael O'Flaherty (Director of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights) and Gerd Oberleitner (UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security at the University of Graz).

The event received entirely positive feedback from participants: 100 percent of Academy participants who provided feedback stated that they found the exchange with stakeholders fruitful, and that they would apply the knowledge discussed in their daily work. This positive feedback demonstrates the high transferability of the discussed practices, and emphasises the importance of exchange and mutual action. This bolstered both the UNESCO Centre and UNESCO Chair, as well as the organisers' conviction that now is the time to join forces for the realisation of human rights at the local level.

With the groundwork now laid for recommendations to be systematically derived from institutions and experts on the ground on an annual basis, the Outcome Document serves as a one-of-a-kind reference point for local governments. Local governments, despite being identified as key stakeholders on the international agenda, require

assistance and support in carrying out their human rights commitments. Providing a platform for this exchange, and synthesising proven input on what works in practice is critical to empowering the local level to realise its full potential and leverage the breadth of existing resources, networks, and best practices.

The Academy and Conference were a huge success in the first year. However, “after the event is before the event” as the Chair and Centre staff know. Planning for the next edition commenced soon after the end of the first Academy. With regard to the thematic focus, it was decided to shift from using research and data at the local level to trying to answer the specific question of how cities can realise their commitments to human rights, and what practices to do so exist globally?” The Academy and Conference event series' thematic journey reflects the many steps necessary to ensure the framework conditions for the full realisation of human rights at the local level.



The Academy and Conference series “Human Rights Go Local - What Works” as well as its foundational Publication Series and output in the form of an Outcome Document present a working system that harnesses the ever-growing expertise of actors worldwide, allowing for the evaluation, synthesis, and formulation as tangible guidelines for decision-makers. This format not only helps the UNESCO Centre and UNESCO Chair fulfil their respective mandates – to moderate exchange, facilitate implementation, and build bridges –, but also promises to leave a lasting mark on the quest to localise human rights in relation to the international agenda.



At this year's Academy I witnessed with joy that many young people from around the world have important contributions to make when it comes to taking responsibility for the implementation of human rights at the local level. Let's now find ways to ensure that their views and visions are also heard and taken seriously by local governments. **Markus Möstl**



**RESEARCH
AND CAPACITY
BUILDING**



8. Research & Capacity Building

Publication Series “Human Rights Go Local”, Volume 2

In 2021, the second volume of the “Human Rights Go Local” Publication Series was published. The Series is jointly edited by the UNESCO Chair and the UNESCO Centre, and showcases how the interlinkages between human rights at the local level and global policy frameworks can guide us towards creating inclusive, resilient, safe, and sustainable urban spaces and regions. The second volume “Research on Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels: Methods, Practices, Approaches” by Isabella Meier argues that human rights research facilitates a human rights-based approach to policy-making. It builds on nearly two decades of experience from successful human rights research activities in Graz, shares best practices, and discusses practical ways to realise the benefits of qualitative human rights data for evidence-based policy-making, monitoring, and impact assessment at the local level. More information at <https://www.humanrightsgolocal.org/resources/human-rights-go-local-publication-series/>

Global Digital Human Rights Network (GDHRnet, COST-Action 19143)

GDHRnet systematically explores the theoretical and practical challenges posed by the online context to the protection of human rights. The network addresses whether international human rights law is sufficiently detailed to enable governments and private online companies to understand their respective obligations vis-à-vis human rights protection online. It evaluates how national governments have responded to the task of providing a regulatory framework for online companies, and how these companies have transposed the obligation to protect human rights and combat hate speech online into their community standards. The matters of transparency and accountability are



explored through the lens of corporate social responsibility. The UNESCO Chair contributes to collaborative research and networking within the COST Action. More information at <https://gdhrnet.eu/>

European Yearbook on Human Rights 2021

The European Yearbook on Human Rights brings together renowned scholars, emerging voices, and practitioners, comprising contributions which engage with some of the most important human rights issues and developments in Europe. The Yearbook helps to better understand the rich landscape of the European regional human rights system, and is intended to stimulate discussions, critical thinking, and further research in this field. COVID-19 and the wide range of emergency measures, that governments and policy-makers have introduced in the name of fighting the Pandemic, have shaped our lives over the past year and a half. The 13th Edition of the European Yearbook on Human Rights takes the opportunity to reflect on the impact that COVID-19 has had on



The last year has shown that we are in need of a truly resilient human rights system. In order to defend human rights we have to know them, their objectives and their functioning. I consider it as our responsibility to promote human rights and raise awareness for challenges and risks human rights are facing today. **Lisa Heschl**

human rights, and to assess the proportionality and necessity of state responses to the Pandemic in order to ensure a resilient human rights system in the future. Renowned scholars, emerging voices, and practitioners provide a cross-section of human rights issues in their contributions.

Capacity Building for Local and Regional Authorities in Africa

The cooperation between the UNESCO Centre, the UNESCO Chair, the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG-Africa), and the African Local Government Academy (ALGA) began in 2017 with the goal of supporting local and regional authorities with training and capacity-building. In 2019, a curriculum for the joint ALGA college for professionals in local governance titled “Promoting human rights, democracy and diversity at the local level” was developed. A series of online workshops addressed at the local governance level and relevant stakeholders began in 2020, aiming at exchanging expertise and experience on human rights implementation at the local level in African cities. The workshop “Local approaches to ensuring women’s rights” continued in 2021 in cooperation with the Network of Locally Elected Women of Africa (REFELA). Its outcomes serve as the basis for the creation of a new Toolkit for cities. Later in the year, two “train-the-trainer” webinars were organised for human resource managers, staff trainers, human rights trainers, and human rights education multipliers in Africa and the Arab region. The trainings aimed at passing on the knowledge of how to implement the Toolkit for Urban Inclusion in Arab Cities in order to enable the trainers to then use it in their own contexts. More information at <https://www.humanrightsgolocal.org/activities/capacity-building/>

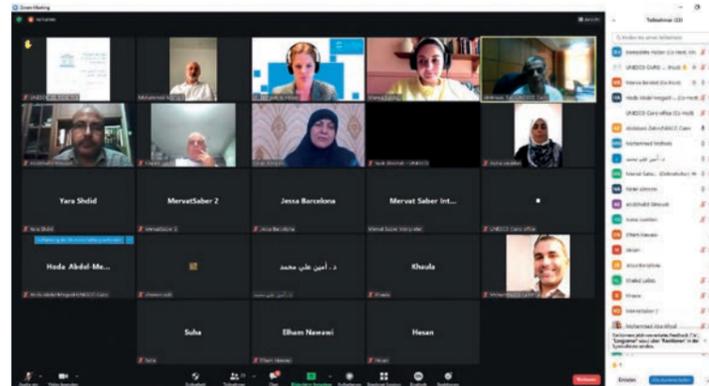


The huge gap between the pressing and urgent need, and the willingness of African and European local governments to cooperate on leveraging capacities for human rights on the one hand, and the total lack of opportunities to support local authorities in Africa and these process-oriented cooperation efforts, which also contribute to the deconstruction of racist stereotypes, on the other hand, is irritating to me. **Klaus Starl**

Towards Inclusive and Sustainable Cities in the Arab Region (TISCA)

The project TISCA was initiated in 2017 as a cooperation between the UNESCO Centre, the UNESCO Chair, UNESCO Headquarters, the UNESCO Field Office in Cairo, the Arab Institute for Human Rights, and UNESCO’s International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities (ICCAR). The collaboration sparked the creation of the “Toolkit for Urban Inclusion in Arab Cities” which aims to build local capacity for inclusive and sustainable cities in the Arab world. The Toolkit, which covers topics such as public participation, access to information, youth sports, citizenship, and human rights

education, was released in 2021. In the same year, the UNESCO Centre consulted UNESCO Cairo on the development of online tools and MOOCs to disseminate the Toolkit, and co-hosted a capacity-building workshop on the Toolkit for Urban Inclusion for city representatives and experts. A new chapter on women's inclusion in cities will be published in 2022, incorporating the breadth of experiences and know-how shared during a workshop co-hosted by ALGA of UCLG-Africa and REFELA, as well as two online consultations with cities held in October 2021. The new Toolkit chapter, once completed, will provide city leaders and local government officials with practical tools and advice to help them build sustainable cities that ensure women's inclusion in all aspects of life. The Toolkit for Urban Inclusion in Arab Cities is available for download in English, French, and Arabic here <http://www.humanrightsgolocal.org/resources/tools/>



Participants of the regional consultations held with members of the Coalition of Arab Cities against Racism, Discrimination, Xenophobia and Intolerance, organized by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab region - Cairo together with the UNESCO Centre from 18 - 20 October 2021.



It was beautiful and enriching to experience how we overcame the challenges and limitations posed by COVID-19 together with our committed partners in the Arab region and Africa. Thanks to that commitment, flexibility, and technology, even more participants than we had initially envisaged, from a variety of regions and backgrounds, could benefit from online capacity-building events. In a sense, the Pandemic brought the partners and regions even closer together. **Bernadette Holzer**

CREATE SE4AI

The UNESCO Chair, the UNESCO Centre, and the University of Graz are partners in the project CREATE SE4AI (Software-Engineering for Artificial Intelligence, AI), which is funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. The project, organised by Concordia University, Polytechnique Montréal, Queen's University, and the University of Alberta, began in September 2021 and will last for six years. Its primary goal is to develop academic, practical, and professional training programmes for the development, deployment, and maintenance of Artificial Intelligence-based Software Systems. The programme leverages the benefits of AI in real-world applications, such as healthcare, finance, retail, security, and education, to fill the major shortage in highly qualified personnel able to develop, deploy, and service AI-based software systems in these domains. While AI-based systems are ultimately

software systems, current Software Engineering (SE) research/training rarely takes into account the complexities (both technical and social) of building AI-based software systems. Over 60 diploma and PhD theses are expected during the project's duration. More information at <https://se4ai.org/>

Multidisciplinary Research Network FRANET

The ETC serves as Austria's National Focal Point (NFP) in the FRANET research network, which is hosted by the European Union's Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). In this role, the ETC conducts screenings, fieldwork, and in-depth research on a wide range of topics. In the year 2021, eleven research projects of varying sizes were carried out on a range of topics. One large-scale project put emphasis on the procedural rights of children in criminal proceedings, as well as the procedural safeguards in place for children who are suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings. Another project dealt with the legal guardianship of unaccompanied children. More research topics in 2021 include criminal detention conditions, the effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on fundamental rights, and EU crisis management. More information on the network and country-specific research available here <http://fra.europa.eu/>

Reporting system for Cities in the European Coalition of Cities Against Racism (ECCAR)

In 2021, the UNESCO Centre was tasked by the European Coalition of Cities Against Racism (ECCAR) to conceptualise and develop a prototype and pilot application of a reporting system. The pilot provides the technical and content foundation for the technical implementation of an elaborate Reporting System for ECCAR cities to be developed in 2022. The system aims to support member cities in their reporting to ECCAR, and should additionally provide member cities with a framework for self-evaluation of their anti-racism efforts, as well as the ability to identify and share best practices within the ECCAR network more easily. The pilot tool was launched in autumn 2021 and has received positive feedback from the cities that have used it. In 2022, a more complex version of the tool will be developed based on the prototype's success and reporting mechanism.



In 2021 we designed a new and simple Reporting System for the European Coalition of Cities against Racism to make it easier for member cities to comply with their reporting obligations. The cities' feedback on the pilot application was consistently positive. We will now develop this system further and thereby aim to ease bureaucratic hurdles for cities to ensure they can do their important work countering racism on a daily basis. **Isabella Meier**

GUARANTEE - Guaranteeing the Right to Education for Roma Children

From 2019 to early 2022, the ETC Graz worked with local partners to implement the GUARANTEE project in Stolipinovo, Plovdiv (Bulgaria), and Nordstadt, Dortmund (Germany). GUARANTEE was co-funded by the European Union's Rights, Equality, and Citizenship Programme. The project took a human rights-based approach with the right to education at its core. It emphasised dropout prevention and stereotype deconstruction through learning support combined with leisure activities such as sports. GUARANTEE targeted girls and boys aged 11 to 14 in order to empower them to continue their education after completing primary and lower-secondary school.

Activities such as boxing, rock climbing, dancing, fine arts, swimming, and summer schools at the Black Sea coast were carried out in the two neighbourhoods. All courses were combined with intensive social work, as well as learning support. In total, about 160 children continuously took part in the programme. The courses were held as much as possible during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Action research within the GUARANTEE project was done by desk research, analysing conducted interviews with the participating children, their parents and involved teachers and trainers, as well as by evaluating participatory observation. The findings clearly showed that project activities improved mutual trust among participating children, their families, and involved teachers/trainers.



The project's activities were also beneficial in terms of overcoming stereotypes (both of the majority population and of the Roma community) and identifying discrimination. The project resulted in access to and achievement in education, as well as participation in society, by promoting empowerment and self-esteem among participants. Contact between Roma and non-Roma children was encouraged, as was the participation of girls. The combination of sports and learning proved to be extremely effective. The value of education was highly appreciated by the parents interviewed. Furthermore, all interviewed parents emphasised the importance of participating in the program for their children. They saw the link between learning support and sports as extremely important and beneficial.

Capacity development was critical to the success of the GUARANTEE project. The project provided an opportunity for professional staff to experiment with new formats, contents, and methods. Furthermore, the exchange between Plovdiv and Dortmund schoolteachers and social workers strengthened mutual understanding and made different professional living environments tangible for both sides.

The GUARANTEE project also examined structural, institutional, and societal (external) factors. Roma people in Bulgaria face numerous disadvantages and discrimination. In Bulgaria, 68 % of the population has a negative attitude toward Roma. Almost half of Roma students attend de facto segregated school classes. Children from Roma communities, particularly girls, drop out of school much earlier and at much higher rates than the national average. According to a 2016 EU-Midis survey, 86% of Bulgarian Roma were at risk of poverty and social exclusion. Roma life expectancy

in Bulgaria is more than five years lower than in the rest of the country. The primary causes are a lack of medical care combined with malnutrition. For Bulgarian Roma, migration is a major concern. In an estimated 40% of all households, at least one family member lives in another country. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, the situation of Roma in Bulgaria has deteriorated.

The fact of migration dominates the situation of Roma in Germany. Germany is the top receiving country for Bulgarian emigrants, with an estimated 40.000 Roma living there. In some cases, living conditions are even worse than in Bulgaria. Some buildings were drowned in garbage, unsanitary and caused health problems, and informal workers and illegal prostitutes queued on the streets. Many children and teenagers arriving in Germany from poorer and more segregated Roma neighbourhoods face particularly perilous circumstances. Their knowledge frequently differs from what is taught in German schools. Dropout is also an issue, particularly among females.

The GUARANTEE project's research focused on key factors for process success and the promotion of the right to education. On the one hand, successful organisational settings were examined as the importance of well-known and competent institutions taking responsibility over programme. The project staff and social workers, as well as the venues for the activities, must be carefully chosen. On the other hand, key success factors within the programme were examined. All parts of the GUARANTEE project corresponded to the 4 A's scheme of the right to education because it followed a human rights-based approach with the right to education at its core. The programme activities lasted the entire duration of the project. The group dynamic was mixed, but stable. The GUARANTEE project's activities established a direct link between sports, leisure time activities, and learning activities. Human rights education, in its various forms, played an important role in all programme activities. Furthermore, the facilitation of values as key success factors, such as voluntariness, self-organisation, self-efficacy, relationship, self-esteem, mutual trust, team play, and fairness, was investigated.



Participants of the panel discussion at the European Conference on Guaranteeing the Right to Children for All in European Cities, which took place on 27 May 2021: Klaus Starl (UNESCO Centre), Lucia Fresa (City of Bologna), Danijel Cubelic (Vice-President of ECCAR, City of Heidelberg), Thomas Rajakovics (Sports Director, City of Graz), Niko Reinberg (Caritas Styria - Asylum and Integration)

The GUARANTEE project practically demonstrated that the positive effects of desegregation can be realised when the negative effects of barriers are avoided at the same time. Despite unfavourable starting conditions such as segregation, marginalisation, and social disadvantages, the GUARANTEE project was a success in terms of the right to education. Even though the project took place in two completely different neighbourhoods and settings, the same programme was carried out. As a result, if the key success factors identified in the analysis are observed, the project may be considered transferable to any location.

Participating in the GUARANTEE project last year was a fantastic experience. GUARANTEE demonstrated that vital educational opportunities for vulnerable children and young people can be maintained even during a Pandemic! **Simone Philipp**



Toolkit for Equality chapter on Sports for Social Inclusion and Integration

In 2021, a new chapter of the ECCAR Toolkit for Equality was published on Sports for Social Inclusion and Integration, bringing together lessons learned from successful strategies in Bologna (Italy), Dortmund and Potsdam (Germany), Esch sur Alzette (Luxembourg), Graz (Austria), and Plovdiv (Bulgaria). Sports can help to reduce discrimination and exclusion, as well as promote equality of opportunity, especially by including marginalized populations. Sports are a playful means to meet and integrate people from different social groups, to educate democratic ideas, and to practice human rights. The chapter contains in-depth guidance on how to implement such activities in different cities from concept through evaluation, as well as practical examples of effective initiatives and tips on how to overcome implementation obstacles. Politicians, sports departments, schools, sports clubs, and civil society organizations can all benefit from it. This chapter as well as the other chapters of the Toolkit are available at: <https://www.eccar.info/en/eccar-toolkit-equality>

Sports organizations matching social inclusion issues (SmatchS)

The project “SmatchS: Sports organizations matching social inclusion issues” is an initiative of six organisations from sport, social, and academic areas, whose joint efforts aim to contribute to the promotion of social inclusion and equal opportunities in sports. The intervention area of the project consortium, which was awarded in 2020, is the social inclusion of children with migration histories aged 8-14 by facilitating their access to sports activities. The main objective of the project is to develop and apply a practical intervention methodology for the social inclusion of children with migration histories in sports activities in local contexts, by creating synergies between grassroots sports and social organisations, and local authorities from Spain, France, Portugal, Cyprus, and Greece. One of the most important elements of the project implementation in general, and the development of the project methodology in particular is the collaboration with the academic partner, the UNI-ETC, and the Institute of Exercise Science, Sport and Health of the University of Graz, in order to ensure the effective data collection, validation, and evaluation of the impact of sports activities for social inclusion of children with migration histories.



SmatchS project meeting in Lisbon

HERAS+: Building a post-war justice system in Kosovo: The independence, impartiality, fairness and accountability of the internationalized judiciary

The project “Building a post-war justice system in Kosovo: The independence, impartiality, fairness and accountability of the internationalized judiciary” in the framework of HERAS+ aims at fostering international scientific cooperation and academic networks between the participating institutions in the field of post-war justice. The consortium members, consisting of researchers of the University of Haxhi Zeka and researchers of the European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy of the University of Graz, jointly collaborate and work on a research endeavour related to the rule of law, and its role and reproduction in a post-conflict justice system. Moreover, the project seeks to actively engage young researchers from Kosovo by providing them the opportunity to contribute in research activities and participate in dedicated research workshops.



NoHate@WebStyria - Hate Speech in the Digital Age. Stocktaking, Awareness Raising, and Counter Strategies for Styria

NoHate@WebStyria (2019-2021) undertook the task to analyse the phenomenon of Online Hate Speech, understood as certain forms of derogatory online expression, e.g. insults based on personal features such as gender, “race” or sexuality, incitement to hatred and/or violence against individuals or groups or holocaust denial. The project consortium approached the phenomenon in an interdisciplinary setting. The project team, consisting of legal scholars, political and communication/media scientists, and practitioners combatting hate online from the UNESCO Chair/UNI-ETC, the FH JOANNEUM, and the Antidiscrimination Office Styria, was ultimately able to provide academia, political decision-makers, and civil society with proposals for effective awareness raising and counter strategies. The final outcome of the project is a gold-standard open access edited volume “Online Hate Speech - Perspektiven aus Praxis, Rechts- und Medienwissenschaften” (German only). The project was funded by the Styrian Future Fund (Zukunftsfonds Steiermark). More information at <https://nohate-webstyria.uni-graz.at>. Additional funding for the project publication was provided by the Federal Province of Styria (Land Steiermark), the City of Graz, and the University of Graz.



Fund (Zukunftsfonds Steiermark). More information at <https://nohate-webstyria.uni-graz.at>. Additional funding for the project publication was provided by the Federal Province of Styria (Land Steiermark), the City of Graz, and the University of Graz.



2021 has shown us that bridging societal divides in times of crisis is a tremendous challenge. Human rights remain the right framework within which we can do so. **Gregor Fischer-Lessiak**

FairRent (*FairMietung*)

In collaboration with the Anti-Discrimination Office Styria, the UNESCO Centre began the development of a Quality Seal and Code of Conduct (“Charter”) to ensure non-discriminatory access to and rental practices of housing space in the Federal Province of Styria. The main goal is to garner support for the Quality Seal and Charter from a variety of stakeholders, as well as to agree to independent and unannounced reviews of the matter. A Quality Seal will be created and awarded to partners who commit to the Code of Conduct, and agree to the review process in order to make good practice visible. The existing 2014 study on the implementation of a non-discriminatory access to housing in Styria was updated in 2021, and revealed several, persisting shortcomings in this area. Therefore, it serves as basis for the development of the Quality Seal and Code of Conduct. The goal for 2022 is to realise this Quality Seal for a non-discriminatory access to housing, as well as a list of possible actions compiled as a Charter which relevant actors in the housing sector are willing to implement.

Consulting the City of Graz in becoming a Children’s Rights City

In 2021, the City of Graz started the process to become a Children’s Rights City. The goal is to commit the City of Graz to implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as the Austrian Federal Constitutional Law on the Rights of Children (*BVG- Kinderrechte*) in its decisions and actions through a Municipal Council declaration. A steering committee was formed to assist Graz in this endeavour. The UNESCO Centre and the UNESCO Chair are members of the steering group, and have examined the City’s legal obligations as well as potential areas of action in the field of implementing children’s rights at the local level. The Municipal Council and the City Government shall adopt a Declaration and an accompanying Action Plan to respect, protect, fulfil, and promote children’s rights, developed with broad participation of children. The Action Plan shall include specific goals, implementation steps, and monitoring measures.

Graz Municipal Human Rights Council (*Menschenrechtsbeirat der Stadt Graz*)

The ETC serves as the Municipal Human Rights Council’s Executive Office in the Human Rights City of Graz. The Municipal Human Rights Council was formed in 2007 to undertake regular human rights monitoring efforts in the City, and to publish annual reports on the subject, among other activities. Several of the Council’s working groups are directly coordinated by the ETC:

Human Rights Report of the City of Graz (*Menschenrechtsbericht der Stadt Graz*)

The City of Graz’s Human Rights Report examines developments, good practices, and challenges related to the realisation of human rights in Graz. According to the 2020 Report, the City of Graz was able to respond quickly and effectively to the COVID-19 Pandemic in many areas. However, clear deficiencies were also identified, particularly in the housing sector. The 2021 Report addresses this critical issue by focusing on the right to adequate housing, which is inextricably linked to the other human rights, e.g. education, work, social security, good governance, freedom of assembly and expression,

and use of public space. As a result, the 14th Human Rights Report employs the holistic concept of urban resilience to formulate ten recommendations to the City Government on how to address challenges in the realisation of the human right to housing in the context of fostering the city’s resilience. It was published on the International Human Rights Day, 10 December 2021, and is available (in German) here https://www.graz.at/cms/dokumente/10152653_7771447/5a79d47e/MRB-Bericht2021_web.pdf



In light of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the essential need of cities all around the world to strengthen their urban resilience revealed itself in a spectacular way, thereby reinforcing the major importance of SDG 11. We managed to incorporate urban resilience into our theoretical and methodological working procedures, showing that strengthening urban resilience effectively fosters the implementation of human rights at the local level and vice versa. It inspires me that we were able to clearly show the significant interrelatedness of human rights and urban resilience. **Livia Perschy**

Human Rights Campaign Monitoring of the Graz City Council Election 2021 (*Menschenrechtliche Wahlkampfbeobachtung*)

By resolution of the City Senate on 8 July 2021, the Human Rights Council of the City of Graz was commissioned to conduct a human rights-based monitoring of the municipal election campaign. The working group, led by the ETC Graz, examined election campaign materials and statements from politicians from all parties in the autumn 2021 Graz City Council election campaign. This occurs in the context of the City’s commitments under the Municipal Council’s “Graz Human Rights Declaration” from 8 February 2001 and the 2021 strategy pertaining to the realisation of the 10-Point Action Plan Against Racism in Graz. The monitoring focuses on the topics raised by the parties during the election campaign, and is assessed in terms of their human rights significance. The “Election Campaign Barometer” makes use of traffic light colours to comment on and evaluate the election campaign with regard to the human rights aspects of specific local political issues. The monitoring’s goal is to make human rights-related topics visible, and to contribute to more human rights in political communication. Following the election on 26 September 2021, the final report was submitted to the City of Graz. More information (in German) at www.wahlkampfbarometer-graz.at

Youth platform “Know Your Rights” (*Kenne deine Rechte*)

Kenne deine Rechte is the Council’s online youth participation platform. It allows young people aged 14 to 24 to report on human rights issues that affect or interest them. The project is funded by the City of Graz (*Stadt Graz*), the Province of Styria (*Land Steiermark*), Paragraph-Software GmbH, and Energie Graz. Participants receive thematic inputs to research human rights topics of interest to them, attend events, make videos, host competitions, and raise awareness for human rights among their peers. The eleventh project round 2020/21 had 31 participants, while the 2021/22 round counted 34 participants, the highest number since the project’s beginning in 2010. While the COVID-19 Pandemic limited face-to-face activities, digital activities continued normally, also opening up new opportunities. In January 2021, the UNESCO Commission for Austria and Kenne deine Rechte hosted an online event for over 140 high school

students on human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals. The team launched a new podcast format called “A beginner’s guide to changing the world” (“Weltverbessern für Anfänger:innen”) in early 2021. At the 2021 Fundamental Rights Forum, Kenne deine Rechte was presented as a best practice example for effective local youth engagement. The annual report for 2020/21 can be found on the project website (in German): https://www.kennedeinerechte.at/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/KdR_2022_web-1.pdf



The team of podcasters from Kenne deine Rechte recording the very first episode of “A beginner’s guide to changing the world” in early 2021.



Participants of the online event “Turning Point - Youth for Sustainable Development” at the closing round on 26 January 2021.

Short films on human rights issues “Place for Human Rights”

Since 2016, the Austrian Society for Civic Education has provided funding to the youth project Kenne deine Rechte for the creation of human rights-related video spots. All spots are created in collaboration with members of the Kenne deine Rechte editorial team, with key tasks such as scriptwriting, camera work, editing, and acting handled by young people aged 14 to 25. So far, 13 video advertisements have been created. Two new spots on solidarity and the climate crisis were released in 2021. The last two spots were shown to the public at the SPUNK Graz (association for social education and culture) opening event. All videos can be found here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e19vsuemg1E&list=PLaR50jwWTIE5aMsiNAH5HTol1xwRijvL>



In the past year, we have often heard the word “solidarity”, also called “togetherness”. It reminds me that human rights and people must be together in order to live a life of dignity. For that reason, my personal highlight in Kenne deine Rechte was the cinematic visualisation of the concept of solidarity in our short film series “Place for Human Rights”. The video demonstrates that very often, crises, whether personal or global, can be turned into opportunities, and that society cannot function without solidarity **Alexandra Stocker**

Styrian Week on Children’s Rights (Steirische Kinderrechtewoche)

For the sixth year counting, Kenne deine Rechte has participated in the Styrian Week on Children’s Rights as coordinating member. In the week surrounding the International Day of Children’s Rights (20th November), the Styrian Advocacy for Children and Adolescents (Kinder- und Jugendanwaltschaft Steiermark), the Children’s Office (Kinderbüro), beteiligung.st and Kenne deine Rechte organise events that seek to raise awareness for children’s rights. In 2021, Kenne deine Rechte published a special series of articles on children’s rights written by primary school students. In addition, a peer-to-peer workshop on human rights, children’s rights, and youth participation was held at a secondary school. More information at <https://www.kija.steiermark.at/cms/ziel/152601593/DE>



Online peer-to-peer workshop held at the BG/BRG Klusemann on human rights, children’s rights and youth participation on 16 November 2021.



One of the ten articles published by primary school students in the series “Kenne deine Rechte Minis”, published in the week around 20 November 2021.

Trainings and capacity-building workshops for professional groups

The UNESCO Centre offers a wide range of capacity-building workshops and trainings for various professional groups, including administrative members of local authorities, politicians, multipliers from schools, etc.

Workshops on sexual harassment in the workplace

In 2021, the UNESCO Centre held two trainings for members of the City Administration of the City of Villach on “Sexual harassment in the workplace”. The goal of the trainings was to convey information on the topic, and to empower employees from all departments to act preventatively, but to also intervene if necessary.

Capacity-building training for elected councillors at the local level

The UNESCO Centre organised two trainings on “human rights policy at the local level” for elected local councillors from the Green Party. The workshops introduced participants to the basics of human rights, human rights issues, and fields of action at the local level. Participants discursively developed the potential of the local level as an arena for human rights work on the basis of concrete needs that municipal policy must take into account.

Training for Styrian umbrella organisation for youth work

The UNESCO Centre held a “train-the-trainer” workshop for youth workers from the Styrian umbrella organisation for youth work to become multipliers for human rights. The goal was to communicate the connection between youth work and human rights, and to try out different methods relevant for their daily work. Topics of action include civil courage, gender equality, stereotypes, racism, discrimination, and youth participation.



**TEACHING
AND
EDUCATION**



9. Teaching & Education

Global Campus of Human Rights

The UNESCO Chair is part of the Global Campus of Human Rights, the world's largest human rights education network with 100 universities organised in seven regional master programmes in human rights and democratisation in Venice, Bangkok, Sarajevo/Bologna, Buenos Aires, Yerevan, Pretoria, and Beirut. The UNESCO Chair participated in the Annual Global State of Human Rights Conference, organised by the Global Campus and the European Parliament, in Venice. The Chair and its team regularly teach in several of these master programmes, supervise master theses, and host master students in Graz. The Chair and its team also teach in other human rights master programmes at the universities of Padova and Oldenburg among others. More information at <https://gchumanrights.org/>



Module on Multi-Level Governance at University of Padova, Italy

The Director of the UNESCO Centre, Klaus Starl, taught a four-part module series at the University of Padova titled "Multi-level Governance: Human Rights at Local Level". The course blended theoretical and practical methods, and discussed several issues pertaining to the relevance of human rights at the local level. These included the importance of the local level for human rights, the multi-level governance framework, Human Rights Cities, the human rights-based approach to policy-making, and the role of cities, networks, and international organisations in the implementation and promotion of human rights.

Studying human rights at the University of Graz

The UNESCO Chair offers an undergraduate and postgraduate learning portfolio with foundational, advanced, specialised, and skill-building courses on human rights and human security within UNESCO's Education 2030 Strategy. The Chair engages students in participatory learning in the Helga Pedersen Moot Court Competition (formerly European Human Rights Moot Court), the UN Model Universal Periodic Review, a Human Rights Debate Club, and a Refugee Law Clinic. Law students, students of all disciplines of the University of Graz, and incoming students acquire competencies and skills to contribute to a more just, equal, peaceful, and sustainable society as responsible global citizens, understand the ethical dimensions of human development, and participate actively in democratic processes. The UNESCO Chair contributes to master programmes in law and social sciences, as well as to interdisciplinary master programmes in human rights in courses, lecture series, and workshops, coordinates the certificate programme in human rights at the Law Faculty, supervises diploma and



I really enjoy discussing up-to-date human rights-related controversies and topics with students from different disciplines in the framework of the Human Rights Debate Club. To see so many young people interested in the field of human rights and debating and critically reflecting on current issues, is very motivating and inspiring. **Agnes Romanin**

master theses, and provides online learning opportunities. The UNESCO Chair also coordinates the Interdisciplinary Doctoral Programme in Human Rights, Democracy, Diversity and Gender at the University of Graz. The UNESCO Chair, together with the UNESCO Centre, connects human rights students and researchers through a Visiting Researchers Programme to enhance academic mobility and international exchange. The UNESCO Chair serves as primary responsible for the University of Graz as member of Scholars at Risk in support of prosecuted academics, and cooperates with other UNESCO Chairs and within the Association of Human Rights Institutes (AHRI).



Model UPR team 2021 of the University of Graz, from left to right: Florentina Raith, Lea Kammler, Katharina Freller, Anita Islam, Hanna Krenn, Jennifer Möhrke, Shengjile Imbraimi; Foto: Gerd Oberleitner

European Human Rights Moot Court Team 2020/2021 of the University of Graz, from left to right: Stefan Friedrich, Nina Krug, Dora Pavkovic und Marie Springer; Foto: Gerd Oberleitner

Human Rights Education in Primary Schools - "Our Human Rights School" (*Unsere Menschenrechtsschule*)

"Our Human Rights School" is a project for human rights education at primary schools, which is funded by the Federal Province of Styria (*Land Steiermark*) and realised by the UNESCO Centre in cooperation with the University College of Teacher Education Styria (*Pädagogische Hochschule Steiermark*), the City of Graz (*Stadt Graz*), and nine primary schools in Styria. The project's goal is to create environments in which children's rights and human rights are basic principles used as guidance in the education of primary school classes. In 2021, four new modules were added to the existing teacher's toolkit, covering topics such as writing about children's rights, the right to clean water, the right to health, and non-violent communication. Furthermore, a booklet for teachers was published, which included stories written by primary school students about children's rights, as well as advice on how to address the topics in class. More information at www.menschenrechtsschule.at

Workshop series "Learning Human Rights Together"

The Austrian Society for Political Education funded the ETC's project "Learning Human Rights Together – Our Lives, Our Rights, Our Responsibility" (*"Gemeinsam Menschenrechte Lernen – Unser Leben, Unsere Rechte, Unsere Verantwortung"*). The project was planned to take place between 2020 and 2021 in youth centres throughout Styria. Young people with and without a history of migration participate in workshops to learn about core human rights values. The goal is to strengthen intercultural dialogue, reduce mutual prejudice, and improve understanding of rights and responsibilities. Several changes had to be made to the working schedule as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Two workshops on human rights basics, identity, as well as racist and gender-specific discrimination were held in youth associations in 2021.



10. Events, Workshops, Lectures

20-22 January 2021	Kick-off-Meeting of the project "SmachS: Sports organizations matching social inclusion issues" (Gregor Fischer-Lessiak, Lisa Heschl, Agnes Romanin)
21 January 2021	UNESCO Regional Expert Consultation on Gender (Bernadette Knauder)
25-26 January 2021	Peer-to-peer workshops on Sustainable Development Goals and human rights organised by Kenne deine Rechte and the Austrian UNESCO Commission (Wanda Tiefenbacher)
28 January 2021	UNESCO ICCAR Regional Consultation on Gender in Africa (Bernadette Knauder)
29 January 2021	Meeting of the Governing Body of the Foundation for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels
1 – 8 February 2021	Academy "Human Rights Go Local – What works" on "Field-proven research methods on human rights" (UNESCO Centre and UNESCO Chair)
9 February 2021	High-level Conference and panel discussion "Human Rights Go Local – What works" on "Building Bridges between Local Governments and the Scientific Community to Promote Human Rights", presentation of the Outcome Document (UNESCO Centre and UNESCO Chair)
12 February 2021	Launch of the ILA Study Group on the Role of Cities in International Law City Report homepage, available at https://www.asser.nl/global-city/ila-city-reports/ (Gregor Fischer-Lessiak, Gerd Oberleitner)
9-10 March 2021	Capacity-building workshop "Local approaches to guaranteeing women's rights" organised in close cooperation with the African Local Government Academy (ALGA) of UCLG Africa, the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Sciences in the Arab States at Cairo, and the Network of Local Elected Women of Africa (REFELA) (Gerd Oberleitner, Bernadette Knauder, Livia Perschy, Klaus Starl)
22 March 2021	Workshop on "sexual harassment at the workplace" held at City Hall, Villach, Austria (Klaus Starl, Simone Philipp)
31 March 2021	Universities of Mosul, Dortmund, Graz: SDG Creativity Festival, Rethink Education and Science in Iraq (University of Mosul) (Gerd Oberleitner)
8 April 2021	Meeting of the Expert Council on the Human Rights Region of Styria, Austria (Klaus Starl)
12 April 2021	Webinar: The Impact of "Vaccination Passports" on Human Rights – the Results of an International Study, University of Tallinn online (COST Action Global Digital Human Rights Network) (Gregor Fischer, Gerd Oberleitner)
15 April 2021	Capacity-building training for members of the Green Party on human rights at the local level (Klaus Starl, Bernadette Knauder)
3 May 2021	Meeting of the Project Committee of the International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels
6 May 2021	Consulting meeting on the Framework for Human Rights Cities by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) (Markus Möstl)
25 May 2021	Opening Ceremony UNESCO Centre at Graz City Hall and visit to the UNESCO Centre and UNESCO Chair with UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences Gabriela Ramos, Austrian Foreign Minister for International and European Affairs Alexander Schallenberg, Mayor Siegfried Nagl and Rector Martin Polaschek (UNESCO Centre and UNESCO Chair)
25 May 2021	Students discuss human rights with Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences Gabriela Ramos, Austrian Foreign Minister for International and European Affairs Alexander Schallenberg, Head of Human Rights Department at Austrian Foreign Minister for International and European Affairs Ulrike Butschek, and Mayor of Graz Siegfried Nagl
27 May 2021	European Conference on Guaranteeing the Right to Education for All in European Cities in the framework of the GUARANTEE project (Klaus Starl, Simone Philipp)
29 May 2021	Journalism refresher workshop held in the framework of the project Kenne deine Rechte (Wanda Tiefenbacher)
11 June 2021	UNDP: Virtual Symposium: A New Generation of Human Security (Gerd Oberleitner)

18 June 2021	Consulting meeting on the Framework for Human Rights Cities by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) (Markus Möstl)
5 July 2021	Meeting and discussion with students of the secondary school for commerce at the human rights exhibition "Steiermark Schau" at the Folk Life Museum in Graz (Klaus Starl, Wanda Tiefenbacher)
8 July 2021	Panel discussion in the framework of the theatre project "Young People Acting, Graz 2040" of the forum theatre group InterACT (Klaus Starl)
16-17 July 2021	Global Campus of Human Rights: Annual Global State of Human Rights Conference (Gerd Oberleitner)
20 August 2021	Workshop "One Day in a Wheelchair" held in the framework of the project Kenne deine Rechte (Alexandra Stocker, Wanda Tiefenbacher)
27-28 August 2021	Association of Human Rights Institutes (AHRI) annual conference "Human Rights Strategies" (Gerd Oberleitner)
30 August – 2 September 2021	Regional capacity-building and training workshop on Toolkit for Urban Inclusion in Arab Cities held with UNESCO Cairo (Bernadette Holzer)
15 September 2021	Consulting meeting on the Framework for Human Rights Cities by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) (Klaus Starl, Markus Möstl)
20 September 2021	Training for Styrian umbrella organisation on youth work (Simone Philipp)
21-23 September 2021	Conference on the Occasion of the 100 th Anniversary of the World University Service, Vienna (Wolfgang Benedek, Gerd Oberleitner, Agnes Romanin)
22-23 September 2021	Train-the-Trainer Workshop on Sports, Youth Participation, and Human Rights Education held in cooperation with the African Local Government Academy (ALGA) of UCLG-Africa (Bernadette Holzer, Isabella Meier, Klaus Starl)
26 September 2021	Global Campus of Human Rights - E.MA Award Conference, Venice (Gerd Oberleitner)
27-28 September 2021	Lecture UN human rights system, European Master in Human Rights and Democratisation, Venice (Gerd Oberleitner)
28-29 September 2021	Train-the-Trainer Workshop on Access to Information and Public Participation held in cooperation with the African Local Government Academy (ALGA) of UCLG-Africa (Bernadette Holzer, Isabella Meier, Klaus Starl)
29-30 September 2021	SmachS Project Meeting, Lisbon (Agnes Romanin)
6 October 2021	Paper presentation on "Human Rights City Reports as a Collaborative Means to Identify and Mitigate the Challenges of the COVID-19 Pandemic at the Local Level" at the World Human Rights City Forum 2021 in Gwangju, South Korea (Livia Perschy)
8-9 October 2021	Introduction workshop to human rights and journalism held for project participants of Kenne deine Rechte (Alexandra Stocker, Wanda Tiefenbacher)
11 October 2021	Lecture Human rights in everyday life, Montagsakademie University Graz (Gerd Oberleitner)
12 October 2021	Presentation of project Kenne deine Rechte at EU Agency for Fundamental Rights' Fundamental Rights Forum 2021 (Wanda Tiefenbacher)
13-14 October 2021	Lecture series on Multi-Level Governance at the University of Padova, Italy (Klaus Starl)
16 October 2021	Introduction workshop to photo and video editing for project participants of Kenne deine Rechte (Alexandra Stocker)
18-20 October 2021	Regional Consultation on women's inclusion with cities in the Arab Region in framework of TISCA project (Bernadette Holzer, Isabella Meier)
22 October 2021	Meeting of the Project Committee of the International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels

5 November 2021	Press Conference and opening of the Styrian Week on Children's Rights 2021 (Wanda Tiefenbacher)
8-9 November 2021	Human Rights Centre Antonio Papisca / UNESCO Chair in Human Rights, Peace and Democracy, University of Padova: Conference 'Towards an inclusive governance of "EU fundamental values": current pitfalls and possible solutions for a consistent multi-level protection of the rule of law, democracy and human rights within and outside the EU' (Gerd Oberleitner)
11-12 November 2021	Lecture series on Multi-Level Governance at the University of Padova, Italy (Klaus Starl)
11-12 November 2021	Lecture Introduction to international human rights law, European Regional Master Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation, Sarajevo (Gerd Oberleitner)
12 November 2021	Asser Institute/FU Berlin: Human Rights Centre Antonio Papisca / UNESCO Chair in Human Rights, Peace and Democracy, University of Padova (Gerd Oberleitner, Gregor Fischer)
16 November 2021	School workshop held at the Klusemann secondary school on human rights, youth participation and journalism held in the framework of project Kenne deine Rechte (Wanda Tiefenbacher)
17 November 2021	Lecture on peace and conflict held in the framework of lecture series on human rights at the University of Graz (Bernadette Holzer)
23 November 2021	Kick-off-Meeting of the project "Herast+ - Higher Education, Research and Applied Science Plus (Kosovo)" (Lisa Heschl, Agnes Romanin)
23-26 November 2021	Padova Model Universal Periodic Review (University of Padova) (Gerd Oberleitner, Gregor Fischer)
23 November 2021	Queen's University Belfast: Stephen Livingstone Lecture (discussant) (Gerd Oberleitner)
24 November 2021	ELSA Day 2021 (Gerd Oberleitner, Klaus Starl, Lisa Heschl, Agnes Romanin)
29 November 2021	ECCAR meeting on working group on Anti-Muslim Racism (Klaus Starl)
2-3 December 2021	General Assembly of ECCAR Network held in Bordeaux, France (Klaus Starl)
6 December 2021	Book launch Suzan Ilcan: Syrian Experiences of Displacement and Precarious Living (Gerd Oberleitner)
6 December 2021	Lunch Lecture: 70 th Anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention (Lisa Heschl, Wolfgang Benedek, Agnes Romanin)
13 December 2021	Presentation of the European Yearbook on Human Rights 2021: Panel Discussion on Social Rights in Time of the Pandemic with Dunja Mijatovic and Karin Lukas, Vienna/online (Lisa Heschl, Gerd Oberleitner, Gregor Fischer-Lessiak)
15 December 2021	Lecture on children's rights held in framework of lecture series on human rights at the University of Graz (Bernadette Holzer)
16-17 December 2021	Lecture series on Multi-Level Governance at the University of Padova, Italy (Klaus Starl)

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**INFRASTRUCTURE
AND
RESOURCES**

12. Infrastructure and Resources

Digital infrastructure

In the last two years, the entire UNESCO Chair and UNESCO Centre's activities were shifted to online formats. With the help of Paragraph GmbH, the entire digital infrastructure required to operate on a daily basis was shifted to online methods, allowing the work of both the Chair and the Centre to be conducted entirely independently of location. Furthermore, in late 2020, the UNESCO Centre established its own conferencing infrastructure using the open source system BigBlueButton, which runs on the Centre's own server and provides a safe and encrypted environment for low-threshold online workshops on a variety of subjects. Because the platform does not require user registrations or installations, it can be accessed from simple devices and locations with unstable connections. This transition into the digital realm has allowed both institutions to reach a broader audience and strengthen their global reach.



Resources

The European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (ETC Graz) had available a total of 447,600 EUR to cover operating costs, investments, and the implementation of its activities (incl. the activities of the UNESCO Centre). Of this total,

- 65% were provided by the Foundation for the Promotion of Human Rights at Local and Regional Levels,
- 28% were provided by the European Union (European Commission and EU Agency for Fundamental Rights), as well as
- 7% were provided by and dedicated to the Human Rights Advisory Council of the City of Graz and private donors

A total of 376,000 EUR was spent on staff (62%), 26% provided to third parties in development cooperation (UNESCO, Roma Foundation Plovdiv, UCLG Africa), and 14% used for investments and other costs.

The Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at Local and Regional Levels under the auspices of UNESCO dedicated the following amounts for the implementation of its work programme in 2021:

Management, Clearinghouse, Stakeholder Coop	90,700
Human Rights Go Local: What Works, Academy	69,400
Human Rights Curriculum African Local Governments Academy (ALGA)	27,000
Human Rights City Twinning	16,600
Arab Coalition of Cities and ICCAR (TISCA)	10,300
Toolkit for Equality	22,500
Human Rights Go Local Paper series	12,400
Human Rights Lab Styria	25,500

Total 2021

274,600 EUR

The UNESCO Chair is established at the European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy at the University of Graz, which itself was established in 2009 as part of the law faculty as centre of excellence. In the agreement with UNESCO, the University ensured to grant the Chairholder the resources necessary to fulfil the objectives of the mandate which include providing for the facilities, the infrastructure, and the necessary personnel for the Chair to carry out the specific training, research, and outreach activities as foreseen. Based on a further cooperation agreement, the University of Graz also committed itself to provide the UNESCO Centre the necessary infrastructure, including facilities and access to University resources (e.g. IT services).



UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security
International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the
Local and Regional Levels under the auspices of UNESCO

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This publication is available online.