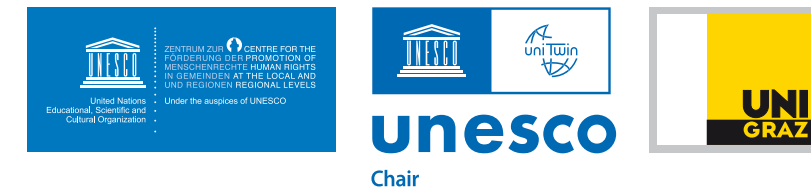


ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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



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

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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) was founded by unanimous vote of UNESCO's General Conference in 2017. The 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 25 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.



unesco
Chair

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1. Foreword by the Directors

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, hosted by the European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy at the University of Graz, proudly present their joined annual report 2023, marking another year of collaborative efforts in human rights research, education and promotion,

We have continued our flagship activities, first and foremost the third edition of our annual Academy and Conference “Human Rights Go Local” in February 2023, held online in cooperation with UNESCO, UN Habitat, 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. Human rights experts from local governments, international and regional organisations, and the research community shared experiences on how to govern cities by human rights objectives and explored relevant management concepts and instruments. The Academy was based on the fourth volume of our jointly edited publication series “Human Rights Go Local”, and was concluded with a high-level Conference which took note of the Academy’s outcome, in particular the Outcome Document which was shared with all interested stakeholders and can be found on our website.

In addition, a range of events commemorated the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the 30th anniversary of the Vienna Human Rights World Conference, and the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Human Rights Defenders Declaration. Our Centre was also present at the Gwangju World Human Rights Cities Forum, where we hosted a human rights paper session. This was preceded by a visit from the Korean National Human Rights Commission at our premises in Graz. We have started a new capacity building project - ACTION – with the aim of increasing the usability and dissemination of anti-racism strategies and tools on the local level in a determined, goal-oriented manner. In the human rights city Graz, we continued our focus on promoting human rights at the local level with trainings for duty-bearers, such as city officials and the judiciary, and human rights education activities for rights-holders, in schools, at the university, and in public spaces.

After successful evaluation, the UNESCO in Human Rights and Human Security at the University of Graz was renewed for another four-year period. The 2023 European Yearbook on Human Rights (“Re-thinking Human Rights”), co-edited by Gerd Oberleitner and Lisa Heschl together with colleagues from Salzburg and Vienna, brought again together renowned scholars, practitioners and emerging voices to discuss the importance of human rights and their fulfilment for the collective benefit of humanity in this time of constant change, showcasing developments in the Council of Europe, European Union, and OSCE. The UNESCO Chair offered foundational, advanced, specialised, and skill-building courses in human rights at the University of Graz, as well as the Doctoral Programme in Human Rights, Democracy, Diversity, and Gender, and taught in international master programmes, including in the Global Campus of Human Rights, the world’s leading human rights education programme, now expanded to cover eight regional human rights master programmes worldwide. Furthermore, a new project will allow us to reach out to Ukrainian universities in support of academic freedom. UNESCO Chair Gerd Oberleitner delivered the annual Human Rights City Lecture in our human rights partner city York and, on behalf of the Austrian government,

UNESCO Chair Gerd Oberleitner participated as a legal expert in the intergovernmental negotiations on the revision of the 1974 UNESCO Recommendation on Education for International Understanding, Cooperation and Peace and Education for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.

Great efforts went into producing a new policy toolkit, the Toolkit for Equality which contains three new chapters, an updated version on action plans to fight discrimination, a new chapter on collecting and evaluating local equality data, and a chapter on women’s inclusion in Arab cities. While the former volumes were edited with the European Coalition against Racism (ECCAR), the latter is a joined achievement of UNESCO Cairo and the International Centre in Graz. In this cooperation, we are honoured to partner a project to fight sexual violence on campus launched by UNESCO Cairo together with over 25 cities in the Arab world in August 2023.

We continued and strengthened our efforts for practical capacity building to Ukrainian education institutions and local administrations. The UNESCO Chair started an Erasmus cooperation partnership in support of Ukrainian universities to ensure academic freedom and assist displaced academia and students. The International Centre could contribute to capacity building for Ukrainian cities on human rights under martial law, mandated by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities. Our institutions were also entrusted again by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights to monitor the Austrian fundamental rights performance in the coming four years.

Please read more about our innovative projects and methods in this report. We hope that this report will inspire and motivate you to join forces with us in human rights education, research, promotion and capacity-building in the human rights city Graz and beyond.

Let us also take this opportunity to say thank you to all our staff, teaching assistants, trainers, lecturers, volunteers, the Management Board and Foundation, as well as the Scientific Board of the Centre, and 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 at the
University of Graz



Klaus Starl
Director of the 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.

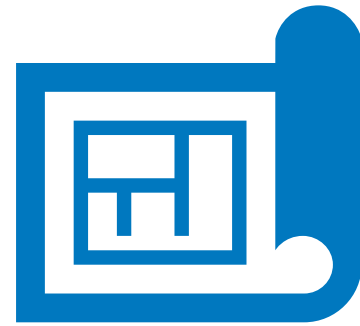
3. Joint Work Programme

Human rights education, training and capacity-building are cornerstones for the effective implementation of human rights at the national, regional and local levels. Knowledge of human rights is a prerequisite for active participation in democratic decision-making. UNESCO's goals of lifelong learning and human rights education are important means of promoting global citizenship, creating inclusive societies and fostering peace and stability. Human rights research must be the basis for evidence-based policy-making in cities and communities. Cities and local authorities are at the heart of addressing global challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change and conflict. Local governments are closest to citizens and best equipped to make human rights a lived experience in their operations and interactions with citizens.

Based on the importance of human rights education and research, and in recognition of the role of cities and local authorities in the realisation of human rights, the joint work programme of the International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Level under the auspices of UNESCO and the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights and Human Security at the University of Graz focuses on building capacities for the protection of human rights in the spirit of the UN vision of "leaving no one behind". As part of UNESCO's global UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs network and within the framework of UNESCO's Education 2030 Strategy, the UNESCO Chair provides academic training and learning opportunities in human rights and human security to support the next generation of human rights experts, engages in collaborative human rights research and promotes international academic cooperation. The UNESCO Centre is built on three key pillars: facilitating the exchange between research and policy-making at the local and regional levels; enabling the implementation of human rights-based policies; and building bridges between international, regional and local actors and agendas.

In the coming years, Chair and Centre will jointly undertake the following activities

- Supporting the Human Rights City of Graz, connecting Human Rights Cities and establishing links with partner institutions, international organisations and city networks;
- Working with the African Local Government Academy (ALGA of UCLG-Africa) to provide training for African city administrations;
- Developing and implementing human rights policies in Arab regions, from Iraq to Mauritania, with nine cooperating states and 38 cities;
- Building partnerships with and between human rights cities;
- Developing and publishing policy handbooks for the implementation of human rights in cities, where best practices will be collected, analysed, contextualised and published as handbooks under the auspices of UNESCO;
- Commitment to exchange at the global level by organizing the annual academy and conference "Human Rights Go Local: What Works" to discuss and disseminate good practices to policy makers worldwide;



- Maintaining a Human Rights Lab (LAB!) to test, evaluate and refine human rights policies and make them transferrable to cities sharing the same needs and interests;
- Providing academic training and developing learning methods and teaching tools to build the capacity of the next generation of human rights educators, practitioners and researchers through international cooperation and academic mobility, hosting visiting scholars and volunteers, and contributing to the Global Campus of Human Rights;
- Encouraging the next generation of researchers in the Doctoral Programme in Human Rights, Democracy, Diversity and Gender to study human rights at the local and regional level;
- and publishing and disseminating research findings, for example in the Human Rights Go Local series and the European Yearbook of Human Rights.

4. Staff and Board 2023

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, 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, 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

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 European and International Affairs in the Governing Board (Chairman)

Waltraud Bauer-Dorner

Representative of the Land Steiermark in the Governing Board

Wolfgang Wehap

Representative of the City of Graz in the Governing Board

Scientific Board

Elisabeth Abiri, Gothenburg

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

Paul Gragl, Graz

Rainer Hofmann, Frankfurt

Walter Kälin, Bern

Dzidek Kedzia, Poznan/Geneva

Morten Kjærøum, Lund

Benjamin Kneihls, Salzburg

Emma Lantschner, Graz

Jean-Paul Lehnens, Luxemburg

Peter Leuprecht, Montréal

Walther Lichem, Vienna

Lauri Mälksoo, Tartu

Joseph Marko, Graz

Vital Moreira, Coimbra

Manfred Nowak, Vienna

Barbara Oomen, Utrecht/Middelburg

Elina Pirjatanniemi, Abo/Turku

Martin Polaschek, Graz/Vienna

Wolf Rauch, Graz

Kurt Remele, Graz

Kirsten Schmalenbach, Salzburg

Alexander Sicilianos, Strasbourg

Elisabeth Staudegger, Graz

Alfred Stingl, Graz

Christian Strohal, Vienna

Engelbert Theuermann, Vienna

Helmut Tichy, Vienna

Daniel Thürer, Zurich

Silvia Ulrich, Linz

Anita Ziegerhofer, Graz

Leo Zwaak, Utrecht

Staff

Wolfgang Benedek

Professor Emeritus of International Law,
UNI-ETC

Elias Faller

Scientific staff and lecturer,
UNESCO Chair

Gregor Fischer-Lessiak

Scientific staff and lecturer,
UNESCO Chair

Katharina Freller

Scientific staff and lecturer,
UNESCO Chair

Sarah Hertwig

Scientific staff, ACTION project,
UNESCO Centre

Lisa Heschl

Post-doctoral scientist and lecturer,
UNESCO Chair

Isabella Meier

Scientific staff and FRANET expert,
UNESCO Centre

Markus Möstl

Scientific staff and FRANET expert,
UNESCO Centre

Livia Perschy

Scientific staff and Clearinghouse,
UNESCO Centre;
Executive Office of the Human Rights
Advisory Council of the City of Graz

Manuela Ruzs

Office Management, UNI-ETC

Alexandra Stocker

Management, UNESCO Centre;
Executive Office of the Human Rights
Advisory Council of the City of Graz

Wanda Tiefenbacher

Scientific staff and stakeholder engagement,
UNESCO Centre

David Weiss

Youth project "Kenne deine Rechte",
Executive Office of the Human Rights
Advisory Council of the City of Graz

Teaching assistants at the UNESCO Chair

Selina Nageler

Kirsten Reiterer

Sophia Urban

Incoming lecturers and trainers

Wolfgang Benedek

Retired Professor of International Law
(UNI-ETC)

Simone Philipp

Organizational development trainer
(UNESCO Centre)

Christoph Pinter

UNHCR (UNI-ETC)

Barbara Schmiedl

Human rights education trainer
(UNI-ETC)

Elisabeth Steiner

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

Visiting researchers at the UNESCO Chair / UNI-ETC

Svitlana Andreichenko

International Humanitarian University,
Odessa, Ukraine

Kamilla Galicz

Scuola Sant'Anna, Pisa, Italy

Vanessa Sueli Cock

Javeriana University, Bogotá, Colombia

Volunteers at the UNESCO Centre

Selma Gazibegovic

Nils Groß

Tomislav Levanić

Agatha de Souza Lopes

Xhuana Spaneshi

Human Rights Mandates

Wolfgang Benedek

Member of the Human Rights Advisory Council of the City of Graz;
Member of the Task Force against Racism of the Province of Styria

Lisa Heschl

Member of the Monitoring Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of the Province of Styria;
Deputy Member of the Austrian National Forum against Antisemitism

Isabella Meier

Member of the Alliance "living without violence" (Allianz gewaltFREI Leben); Member Advisory Board of
the City of Graz for people with disabilities

Markus Möstl

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

Gerd Oberleitner

Member of the National Forum against Antisemitism; Member of the Austrian National Commission on
International Humanitarian Law

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; visiting professor at University of Padova

Alexandra Stocker

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



5. Facts and Figures

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staff members

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master and doctoral theses supervised

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85

events

40

Kenne deine Rechte
journalistic articles

>35.000

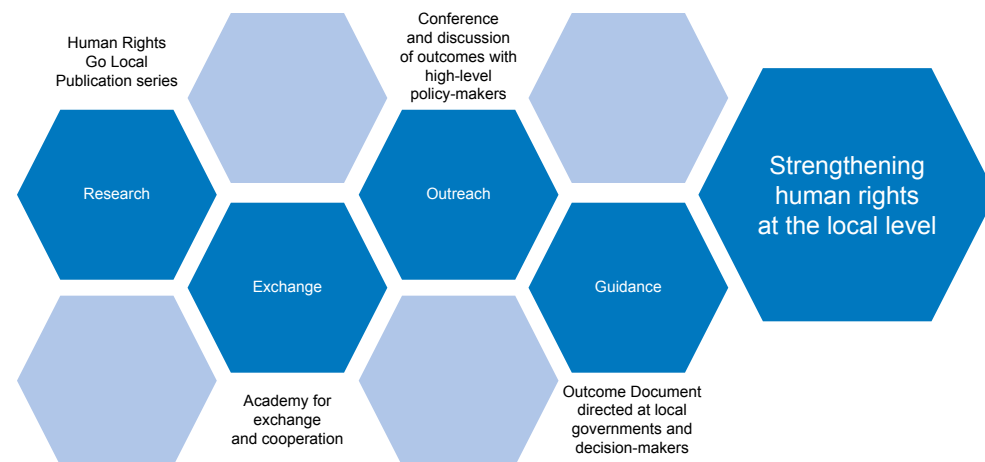
people reached online

6. Governing the City by Human Rights Objectives: 3rd Academy and Conference “Human Rights Go Local – What Works”

The effective localisation of human rights is becoming increasingly important around the world. The New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) highlight the essential role of the local government level in fulfilling international human rights obligations. As part of UNESCO’s mission to ‘leave no one behind’, cities and municipalities are crucial as they are closest to inhabitants and can implement policies that promote inclusion, equality, and human rights in their areas of competency.

At the heart of the collaborative efforts of the UNESCO Centre and the UNESCO Chair in Graz is the collection, synthesis and dissemination of extensive knowledge on the successful promotion of human rights at the local level. The flagship “Human Rights Go Local - What Works” event series provides a platform for practical guidance and perspectives for key actors in the international agenda, in particular local decision-makers and authorities, and acts as a catalyst for innovative research and skills exchange.

The Academy and Conference series is structured in four interrelated phases: launching discussions through a publication in the Human Rights Go Local series, harnessing global expertise at the Academy, presenting findings to high-level decision-makers at the closing Conference, and guiding policy-making through an Outcome Document. These components are critical to strengthening human rights at the local level.



Following the inaugural event in 2021 and the notable success in 2022, the third edition in 2023, “Governing the City by Human Rights Objectives: Management Concepts and Instruments” continued to foster an enriching dialogue between representatives of international organisations, human rights practitioners from different fields and the next generation of human rights practitioners. This edition delved deeper into the integration of human rights objectives into public management at the local level and explored the practical application of these principles in day-to-day governance. The Academy aimed to assess which management concepts and tools are currently being employed globally at the local level to systematically incorporate a human rights-based outcome orientation. It sought to understand the contributions international organisations in this

realm and how their practices ensure that respecting, protecting, and fulfilling human rights transcend being mere statutory obligations to become ingrained in the everyday management operations of local governments. Discussions revolved around the manifestation of these management and administrative tools within local governance processes, exploring the tangible benefits and outcomes of embedding human rights within the local governance framework.

The event was preceded by in-depth research on various strategies, tools and frameworks that support local governments’ commitment to human rights around the world. The fourth volume in the “**Human Rights Go Local**” publication series, edited by the UNESCO Chair and the UNESCO Centre, not only provided the conceptual basis for the event, but also presented management tools at the local level around the world, offering a guide to the application of results orientation in local public management.

A total of 62 human rights experts from around the world participated in the **Academy** from 1 to 8 February, sharing valuable insights and experiences on tools and approaches for implementing a human rights-based approach (HRBA) in public management, drivers and barriers to implementing such an approach, and encouragements for local governments. A special networking session was held to highlight the voices and perspectives of the next generation: several human rights professions were introduced to young participants during this session and highlighted as critical means to advance human rights at the local level. An additional networking day, held after the substantive days of the Academy, allowed participants to continue to network informally and find collaborators for future projects, bridging critical gaps in human rights implementation at the local level.

The Academy’s discussions resulted in an **Outcome Document**, which contains 12 concrete encouragements for action for local authorities and serves as a blueprint for the sustainable integration of human rights into local public administration, in line with the UN’s goal of “leaving no one behind”. Each encouragement is accompanied by explanatory remarks highlighting case studies, best practices and further resources.

At the end of four intensive Academy working days, the final **Conference** took place on 8 February 2023. A total of 386 online guests from 34 countries participated in this public event. They witnessed statements by dignitaries from the Federal Republic of Austria, the Province of Styria and the University of Graz, as well as the presentation and discussion of the Outcome Document with representatives of international organisations and local governments. Gabriela Ramos, UNESCO’s ADG for Social and Human Sciences, delivered a keynote speech on the importance of the local level in the development of strategies for the promotion of human rights. Michael O’Flaherty, Director of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, gave an impulse statement on the many direct human rights responsibilities of cities and their vast areas of competence.



ADG Gabriela Ramos of UNESCO and Michael O'Flaherty of the European Union for Fundamental Rights giving their keynote speech and impulses for the discussion on human rights in local level public management

The following discussion of the Outcome Document was attended by Elke Kahr (Mayor of Graz, Austria), Koubonou Touni (Mayor of Defale, Togo), Susana Araceli Ángeles Quezada (President of the Municipality of Tizayuca, Mexico), Uus Kuswanto (Governor's Assistant to People Welfare, Indonesia), Harald Bergmann (Mayor of Middleburg, Netherlands, and Human Rights Spokesman of the Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities), Todd Howland (Chief of the Development and Economic and Social Issues Branch, OHCHR), and Robert Lewis-Lettington (Chief of the Urban Legislation Unit, UN-Habitat).



High-level representatives of international organisations and local authorities discussing the Outcome Document at the Conference on 8 February 2023

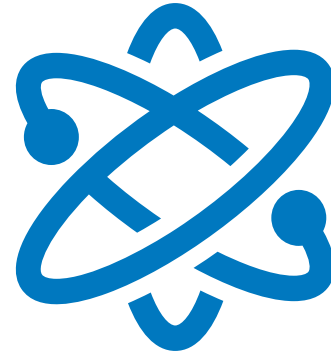
The discussion was moderated by Wolfgang Benedek. The event was rounded off by video messages from local authorities from around the globe, who sent their statements and commitments to human rights in management practices at the local level.

Organised by the International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Level, under the auspices of UNESCO, in cooperation with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights and Human Security at the University of Graz, Austria, the 2023 Academy and Conference continued to be a remarkable success, with a high level of participation and commitment from participants to apply the knowledge gained in their work.

STAKEHOLDER COOPERATION

7 . Stakeholder Cooperation

The UNESCO Centre and UNESCO Chair thank the following partners for their continued support and cooperation. As a result of this continuous collaboration, the impact and reach of the two Graz institutions could be significantly increased.



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 been engaging with the International Coalition for Inclusive and Sustainable Cities (ICCAR) for over fifteen years in various capacities. In 2023, the Centre contributed to the ICCAR's Bootcamp for Italian metropolitan cities on the importance of data for advancing human rights at the local level.

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.

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".

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

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights 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". The Centre was represented at the expert meeting on enhancing capacity-building for local governments in line with Human Rights Council resolution 51/1.



This year, we witnessed significant progress in our collaboration with our international partners. Our work with the OHCHR has encouraged us to further pursue the integration of human rights into local public administration, including budgetary procedures. By collaborating closely with organisations from South Korea and other countries, we could present valuable insights into Graz's exemplary human rights practices and position the city as a global benchmark for effective implementation. We remain committed to deepening our partnerships to inspire and support cities around the world on their journey to transformative change.

Markus Möstl

The Council of Europe and The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

The Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities is a key stakeholder in the implementation of the Centre's mandate. Under its commission, the Centre consulted the Congress within a project on "Strengthening multi-level governance, democracy and human rights at local level in Ukraine". The Congress is a co-organiser of the Academy and Conference "Human Rights Go Local – What Works".

Global Campus of Human Rights (GCHR)

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

Association of Human Rights Institutes (AHRI)

The European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy at the University of Graz 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.

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

Since 2021, the UNESCO Centre and the UNESCO Chair have been working in partnership with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute to promote human rights at the local and regional level through joint initiatives such as capacity building, research, the development of a pool of human rights trainers and staff exchanges.

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.

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. The Centre and the ECCAR are partners in the EU-funded ACTION project on local level action plans against racism.

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. ALGA is a co-organiser of the Academy and Conference "Human Rights Go Local – What Works".

UNESCO Category 2 Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights in Buenos Aires, Argentina

The Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights under the auspices of UNESCO is the Graz Centre's sister organisation in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The two Centres collaborate in terms of networking and global outreach. The Graz Centre participated in the 2023 World Human Rights Forum in Buenos Aires.

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 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.

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 the Interdisciplinary Doctoral Programme: Human Rights, Democracy, Diversity, and Gender, and contributions to the international conference "Conceptualising vulnerability in a time of human rights regression", held at the University of Padova, including a PhD workshop.

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.

Paragraph Software GmbH

Paragraph Software GmbH is the main provider of the digital infrastructure for the Centre and a key supporter in the implementation of the Centre's mandate. The company produces software for the legal sector, including secure communication between lawyers, courts and administration. The company provides the UNESCO Centre with internal administration and project management services, as well as Internet applications, and is involved in the implementation of projects requiring technical assistance. It is the main donor of the online youth platform "Know Your Rights".

Scholars at Risk (SAR)

Scholars at Risk works to protect threatened scholars and promote academic freedom around the world. The European Training and Research Centre is the liaison to SAR for the University of Graz.

ClimLaw: Graz

ClimLaw: Graz is a research centre for climate law at the Faculty of Law of the University of Graz. The research centre's task is to critically observe and analyse current developments in climate law from the international, regional, and national perspective, and to conduct research projects focusing on climate and environmental law together with national and international partners from science and practice. The UNESCO Chair and ClimLaw: Graz concluded a cooperation agreement in November 2022 to align their academic and societal activities to further the protection of both the climate and human rights.

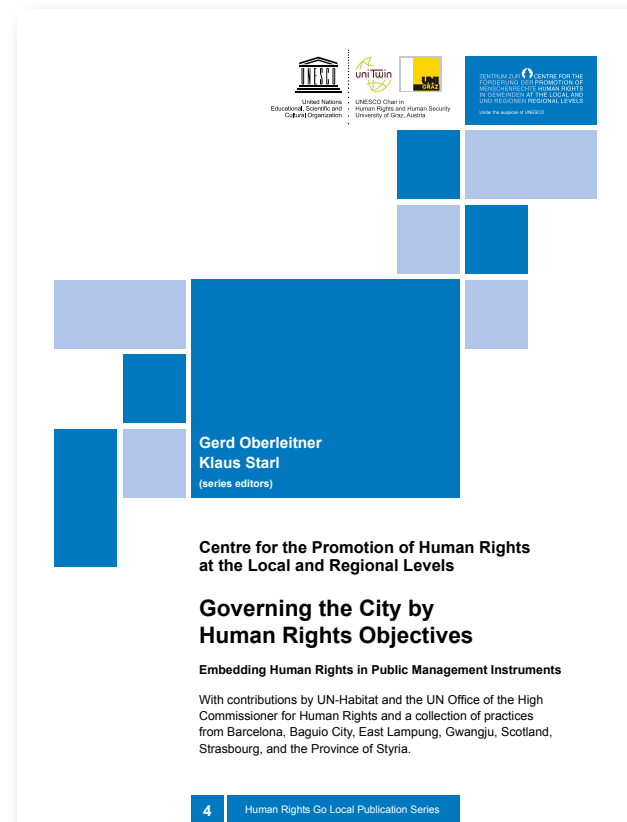


RESEARCH AND MONITORING

8. Research and Monitoring

Publication Series “Human Rights Go Local” Volume 4

In January 2023, the fourth volume of the “Human Rights Go Local” publication series was released. Published jointly by the UNESCO Chair and the UNESCO Centre, the series shows how the linkages between human rights at the local level and global policy frameworks can guide us in creating inclusive, resilient, safe and sustainable urban spaces and regions. The fourth volume, “Governing the City by Human Rights Objectives: Embedding Human Rights in Public Management” presents the benefits of a human rights-based approach to public management, particularly through results orientation. It provides an overview of existing management tools implemented at the local level around the world, presents a guide on how to apply results orientation in local public management, and offers a step-by-step perspective on how to embed human rights strategically and procedurally in the local management process. More information at <https://www.humanrightsgolocal.org/resources/hrgl-publication-series/>



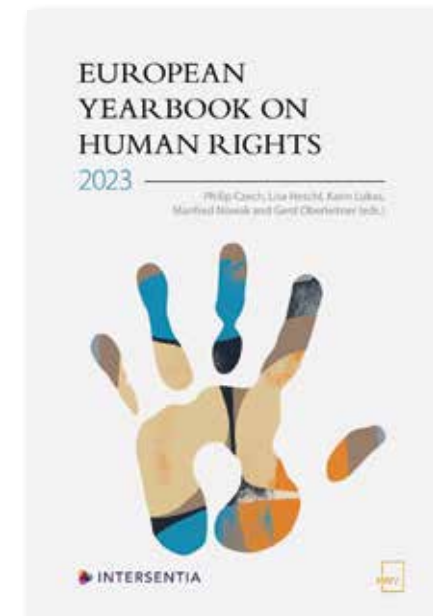
2023 was a year of human rights anniversaries: 75 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 30 years of the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights, and 25 years of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. As UNESCO Chair and Centre, we have placed our work in this wider context, emphasising the enduring importance of human rights. **Gerd Oberleitner**

Multidisciplinary Research Network FRANET

The ETC serves as the Austrian National Focal Point (NFP) in the FRANET research network hosted by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). In this role, the ETC conducts screening, fieldwork, and in-depth research. In 2023, 7 service requests of varying size were carried out on a range of topics. One major project focused on the challenges and good practices of child protection systems across the EU. Another project looked at the protection of the fundamental rights of people with disabilities living in institutions. Other research topics in 2023 include the impact of the cost-of-living crisis and rising poverty in the EU, the protection of civic space and the implementation and use of the Charter of Fundamental Rights at national level. More information on the network and country-specific research is available here <http://fra.europa.eu>.

European Yearbook on Human Rights 2023

The European Yearbook on Human Rights 2023, Re-thinking Human Rights, brings together renowned scholars, practitioners, and emerging voices to the discussion on the importance of changing our understanding of human rights and their fulfilment for the collective benefit of humanity in this time of constant change. It comprises 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.





**CAPACITY
BUILDING**

9. Capacity Building

Management by Human Rights Objectives

At a time of unprecedented global change, the Centre is at the forefront of advising local authorities on adopting comprehensive strategies to promote inclusive, resilient, and sustainable communities. The Centre's consulting offers cover three main areas: developing Human Rights Action Plans, using equality data, and advocating for sport as a catalyst for human rights. In line with the flagship Academy and Conference series, the activities on managing by human rights objectives emphasise the importance of building bridges between global human rights frameworks and local governance practices. These specialised capacity-building services not only align with, but also advance the global goal of mainstreaming human rights into local governance frameworks, thereby contributing significantly to the overarching goal of ensuring that no one is left behind.

1. Human Rights Action Plans

The rapid pace of globalisation has brought about significant changes in local societies, making it imperative for local governments to respond effectively to the increasing diversity and complexity of urban life. Recognising the central role of local authorities in ensuring human rights within their jurisdictions, the Centre provides expert guidance on the formulation and implementation of Human Rights Action Plans. These plans provide a strategic framework for local authorities to address a wide range of human rights issues, from social cohesion and inclusion to combating racism and ensuring sustainability.

A notable example of activity in this area is the EU-funded ACTION project, which focuses on the development of local action plans against racism. This initiative is based on the ECCAR Toolkit for Equality, developed under the ADPOLIS project, and is in line with the EU Action Plan to combat racism 2020 - 2025. The ACTION project's aim is to update and fully support the development and implementation of local action plans, ensuring that they are responsive to current challenges and accessible to a wide audience.



2. Equality Data

In the face of global challenges such as economic recessions, pandemics and climate crises, the importance of reliable and actionable data for local authorities has never been greater. In particular, equality data plays a crucial role in enabling local governments to identify, address and monitor issues of discrimination and exclusion. The Centre's advisory services help local governments bridge the gap between international data collection standards and the specific needs of local communities, providing tailored guidance on how to access, collect and analyse data to support evidence-based policy making.

The ECCAR Equality Data Toolkit is a testament to the efforts undertaken in this area, providing local authorities, especially those in smaller cities, with the necessary tools and knowledge to collect and use equality data effectively. This Toolkit covers the legal frameworks, methodological approaches and practical challenges associated with collecting equality data, ensuring that local authorities are well equipped to promote greater equality and social inclusion.

3. Sports as a Catalyst for Inclusion and Human Rights

Sport is a powerful tool for promoting social inclusion, resilience, and human rights. Recognising the under-utilised potential of sport to address societal challenges, the Centre advocates and supports the development of inclusive sport programmes and infrastructure. By using sport as a tool for education, social cohesion and intercultural understanding, local governments can make significant strides towards creating more inclusive communities.

The EU-funded SCORE project, involving a consortium of partners from six European countries, embodies this integrated approach to using sport to achieve social inclusion objectives. This initiative aims to build a coalition of European cities committed to promoting inclusive sport and tackling racism and intolerance. By facilitating the exchange of knowledge and good practice, SCORE empowers stakeholders to implement effective sport activities that promote inclusivity and respect, and to translate them into concerted efforts against racism and discrimination.

Localising Human Rights and Building Resilient Communities

This commitment to local capacity building reflects the Centre's belief in the ability of local governments to drive meaningful change and create an environment in which human rights are both protected and celebrated. At the heart of the services offered is capacity building, which aims to equip local authorities with the knowledge, skills, and tools they need to mainstream human rights into all aspects of their work. By supporting local governments in creating human rights action plans, using nuanced equality data, and advocating for the unifying power of sport, the Centre equips them with the tools they need to navigate the complexities of contemporary urban life. Initiatives such as ACTION, the ECCAR Toolkit on Data Collection and SCORE exemplify these efforts serve to strengthen the foundation of local governance with human rights principles, paving the way for more equitable, inclusive, and resilient societies.

Human Rights Education and Training

ACTION – Taking Action Plans Against Racism to the Next Level

The ACTION project was launched in February 2023 and aims to promote and develop local action plans against racism. It is linked to ECCAR's Toolkit for Equality (TKE), which was produced in 2016 as part of the EU-funded project ADPOLIS.

Within ACTION, the Toolkit chapter on Ten Point Action Plans (10-PPAs) has been updated and further capacity building materials and activities have been designed in order to facilitate the development of local 10-PPAs. Eleven geographically balanced cities of all sizes contributed to the update of good practices in local action plan development. The established ACTION Steering Board evaluated all materials produced so far in order to assure high quality and practicability of its contents. The TKE was made available in five languages by the end of the first project year.

The capacity building material focuses on addressing current challenges such as the impact of the COVID-19 on intolerance, racism, xenophobia, discrimination and hatred, in order to better align local policies with the EU anti-racism action plan 2020–2025 and national action plans, including intersectional approaches. The project supports European cities in the establishment of municipal 10-PPAs by means of direct consulting, webinars, and online courses. Capacity building efforts were initiated through webinars and consultation processes for target cities. As started two months ahead of schedule, partners could initiate consultancy processes with 11 cities by the end of the first project year.

Overall, the capacity building materials, including the dissemination of the TKE-chapter, have so far reached more than 500 professionals from local authorities due to the organisation of big events by the ECCAR, the ETC, and other institutions such as the FRA of the European Union. In terms of the ACTION consulting offers, 63 counted beneficiaries were reached through direct exchange and consulting meetings. The active involvement and participation of European cities in the ACTION project has been one of the key achievements so far. In order to monitor the quality of the project and to evaluate the results, the ACTION Steering Board (ASB) was established during the Assembly of ECCAR in Wrocław on 19 June 2023. The ASB consists of Barcelona, Bologna, Bonn, Bordeaux, Botkyrka, Brussels, Cologne, Graz, Heidelberg, Leuven, Vienna, and Zurich. The cities Helsingborg and Gent additionally contributed their expertise and good practices to the development of the toolkit update as ACTION resource cities.



Members of the ACTION Consortium at the kick-off meeting held in Graz, Austria in early 2023



Launched in February 2023, the ACTION project has already achieved great success in the first half of its project period. I am particularly impressed by the high level of interest and commitment the project has received by local government officials. The project has undoubtedly created lasting and committed partnerships with many local authorities across Europe. **Sarah Hertwig**

SCORE: Sporting Cities Opposing Racism in Europe

The SCORE project, funded by the European Union's Rights, Equality & Citizenship programme, runs from 2022 to 2024 and is implemented by a consortium of 15 partners in six European countries, namely Austria, France, Greece, Ireland, Spain, and Sweden. The aim is to create a coalition of European cities and local authorities to promote inclusive sport and to prevent and combat racism, xenophobia and related intolerance in the field of sport. This is achieved by raising awareness, building knowledge, and exchanging good practices at the local level on effective measures to combat discrimination and racism in and through sports. In 2023, the ETC established an extensive network of local stakeholders, conducted workshops and a large-scale survey to assess the challenges and training needs of these stakeholders, and began the development of a guide for local authorities on how to best use the power of sport for inclusion and non-discrimination. A partner meeting in late November 2023 was held in Bilbao, Spain to discuss the further steps of the project. More information is available here: www.scoreproject.net



Discussions taking place in Graz (left) and Vienna (right) on how to best combat racism using sports as a tool



Working on the SCORE project has reinforced my belief in the potential of sports to bridge societal gaps and enhance community resilience. It's been particularly gratifying to be part of such a wonderful consortium, where the collaborative spirit and dedication to exchanging best practices truly exemplify the project's impact. Helping local authorities recognize and harness this potential for the greater good, alongside a network of passionate and like-minded partners, showcases the remarkable power of building networks and fostering collective action in promoting inclusivity and unity through sports. **Wanda Tiefenbacher**

SmatchS: Sports Organisations Matching Social Inclusion Issues

The project “SmatchS: Sports organisations matching social inclusion issues” is an initiative of six organisations from sportive, 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 to 14 by facilitating their access to sports activities. The main project objective is to develop and apply to local contexts a Practical Intervention Methodology (SmatchS Methodology) of social inclusion of children with migratory background in and through sport activities by creating synergies between grassroots sport and social organizations as well as local authorities from Spain, France, Portugal 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.

Promoting Academic Freedom in Ukraine (FreeAc)

The Erasmus+ project “Promoting Academic Freedom in Ukraine (FreeAc)” was launched in December 2023. FreeAC, a collaborative partnership in higher education, is a three-year project primarily aimed at supporting three partner universities in Ukraine (Odesa International Humanitarian University, Sumy State University and Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv) to mitigate the direct negative impact of the war on academic freedom. This includes the freedom to teach, study and acquire knowledge, as well as to conduct research freely and without interference, to disseminate research findings and to share ideas and results with the wider research community. Led by UNI-ETC, the consortium consisting of Adam Mickiewicz University of Poznań (Poland), World University Service (WUS) (Austria), CESIE (Italy) and KMOP (Greece) is supporting the three Ukrainian partner universities in their efforts to engage not only with the displaced members of their academic staff (including students and academic staff), but also with higher education institutions in the neighbouring countries. An additional objective is to identify and eventually bridge the teaching deficits caused by the war in Ukraine, so that Ukrainian students can continue their studies at the three partner universities; Ukrainian researchers will be supported in disseminating their work



One of the most important lessons learned in 2023 was the experience that human rights can be very effectively mainstreamed at the local level through decentralisation, if legislation on local self-government is intelligently linked to human rights obligations, as demonstrated by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in Georgia, and also in Ukraine, where human rights awareness has been established even during periods of martial law. This practical lesson seems to be of wider relevance, given the efforts of the African Union, in peace-building or reconciliation processes in Latin America and parts of Asia, and seems to be particularly important in the UN High Commissioner’s framework of a human rights economy, when cities are understood as remarkable economic actors. **Klaus Starl**

to the wider European research community by facilitating guest lectures by Ukrainian academics at the University of Graz and Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań; a multi-stakeholder process will be initiated with the aim of developing a strategic post-war perspective for the higher education sector in Ukraine.

Heras+: Building a Post-War Justice System in Kosovo: The Independence, Impartiality, Fairness and Accountability of the Internationalised Judiciary

The project “Building a post-war justice system in Kosovo: The independence, impartiality, fairness and accountability of the internationalised 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. HERAS+ was awarded the Excellent Research Award of the Faculty of Law of the University of Graz in June 2023.

Fundamental Rights Training for the Judiciary

Since 2008, the ETC has consistently advanced and delivered a curriculum on fundamental rights intended for aspiring judges, in partnership with the Ministry of Justice. In 2023, the established curriculum was comprehensively updated and the corresponding training for aspiring judges held in March 2023 in cooperation with the Higher Regional Court of Graz. The training particularly emphasized critical areas such as the Fundamental Rights Charter, data protection, the right to a fair trial, and various elements of the European Convention on Human Rights. The three-day seminar saw the active participation of 19 prospective judges from the court’s jurisdiction of Graz, who demonstrated exceptional enthusiasm and a propensity for engaging discussions.

Strengthening Human Rights at the Local Level in Ukraine

The Centre was commissioned by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe to conduct a capacity-building webinar on “An integrated approach to the implementation of human rights practices at local and regional level in Ukraine”, as part of a project carried out in cooperation with the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner of the Parliament of Ukraine and the Association of Ukrainian Cities, the Congress. The webinar focused on the practical implementation of human rights at the local and regional level. It highlighted the ongoing decentralisation process in Ukraine, which is transferring more responsibility for the implementation of human rights to local authorities. The webinar highlighted the importance of localising human rights, identifying local capacity needs and using tools to build stronger human rights policies at the local level, thereby contributing to the broader goals of democracy, good governance and human rights in Ukraine.

Training for Heads of City Administration on Combatting Sexual Harassment in the Workplace

A workshop on sexual harassment in the workplace was held in January 2023 with the heads of department of the Villach City Administration. The programme was divided into two main parts: a basic part and a practical part. The basic part included discussions on the legal aspects of sexual harassment, such as the nature of the offence, legal consequences, and obligations to remedy and care. The practical part included case discussions aimed at identifying and categorising incidents according to a specific checklist, assessing the appropriateness of remedial and victim protection measures under the duty of care, and considering the proportionality aspects of such measures.

UN Human Rights Council Conference Simulation on the Death Penalty

In cooperation with the Democracy Centre in Vienna, the Centre conducted the first-ever UN Human Rights Council conference simulation at KLEX Graz. The simulation provided an enriching educational experience for students between the ages of 17 and 18. The aim was to deepen students' understanding of the UN's role in promoting and protecting human rights worldwide. By actively participating in a mock session of the UN Human Rights Council, students gained practical insights into the complexities of international human rights mechanisms and the importance of multilateral diplomacy. This initiative underscores the importance of experiential learning in fostering a deeper understanding and engagement with global human rights issues among the younger generation, encouraging them to become informed human rights advocates in their future endeavours.



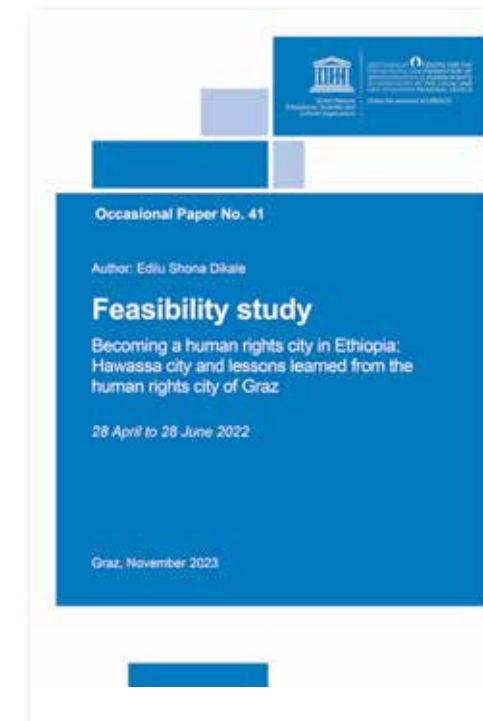
The UN Human Rights Council conference simulation on the death penalty conducted with 18 students from KLEX in Graz

City Twinning

Feasibility Study on Becoming a Human Rights City in Hawassa, Ethiopia

Under the Coimbra Group Programme Scholarship, the Centre and Chair supported a feasibility study on “becoming a Human Rights City” conducted in Hawassa, Ethiopia. The study emphasized the work of the Human Rights City Graz and utilized a qualitative methodology to underline the positive impact of integrating human rights principles within city administration practices. It suggests that adopting a similar human rights-based approach in Hawassa City could enhance governance and human rights observance, recommending the establishment of a municipal human rights council to advise and guide the city's transition towards becoming a Human Rights City. The study is available here:

https://www.etc-graz.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/ETC-Occasional-Paper-41_Feasibility-study_Human-Rights-City-Hawassa.pdf



Policy Toolkits

Toolkit for Equality (TKE) on the ECCAR 10 Points Plan of Action

Within the EU-funded ACTION project, the Toolkit chapter on Ten Point Action Plans (10-PPAs) has been updated and further capacity building materials and activities have been designed in order to facilitate the development of local 10-PPAs. Eleven geographically balanced cities of all sizes contributed to the update of good practices in local action plan development. The established ACTION Steering Board evaluated all materials produced so far in order to assure high quality and practicability of its contents. The TKE is made available in five languages by the end of the first project year. The updated Toolkit chapter is available here: https://www.eccar.info/sites/default/files/document/Toolkit-en_10PointsActionPlan2023_web-high_0.pdf

New Toolkit for Equality on Equality Data

In 2023, the Centre developed a new Toolkit chapter on Equality Data, which serves as a cornerstone resource for empowering local authorities, particularly those in small and medium-sized cities, to address issues of equality and discrimination within their communities. Informed by insights from ECCAR member cities, this toolkit offers practical guidance on accessing, collecting, and analysing equality data, thereby enabling evidence-based policy-making and targeted interventions. The development process involves extensive input from local authorities throughout the policy cycle, ensuring the toolkit's relevance and applicability to end-users. The Toolkit was the basis for a workshop held at the ICCAR Bootcamp and UNAR residential seminar held for Italian metropolitan cities on the importance of data for advancing human rights at the local level. It was also presented at the ECCAR General Conference in Haute Garonne, France, in November 2023.



Workshop held in Pollica, Italy, at the ICCAR Bootcamp and UNAR residential seminar



ECCAR General Assembly held in France in November 2023

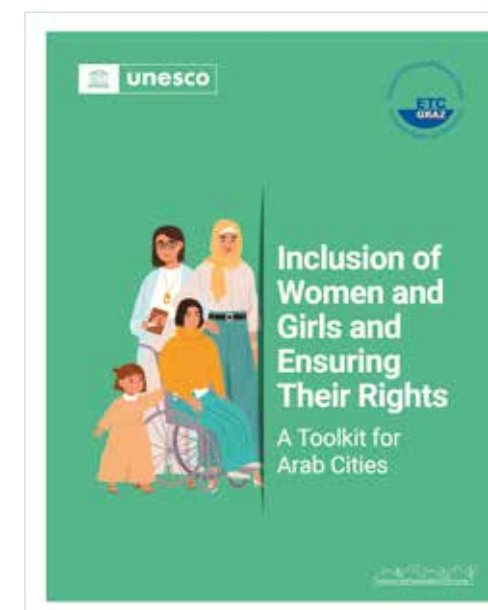
ECCAR Online City Reporting Tool (OCRT)

The UNESCO Centre developed an online application for city reporting within the European Coalition of Cities Against Racism (ECCAR) network. 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. Building on the successful prototype which was launched in 2021, the more advanced and complex version was developed in 2023. The OCRT plays a pivotal role in promoting evidence-based policy-making and facilitating the identification of common challenges, needs, and best practices among local authorities within the ECCAR network. The reporting tool can be accessed by coalition members here: <https://www.eccar.info/en/reporting-in-ECCAR>

New Chapter of Toolkit for Urban Inclusion in Arab Cities

Since 2017, the UNESCO Centre, the UNESCO Chair, UNESCO Headquarters, UNESCO's Cairo field office, the Arab Institute for Human Rights and UNESCO's International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities (ICCAR) have been working together to build local capacity for inclusive and sustainable cities in the Arab world. The resulting "Toolkit for Urban Inclusion in Arab Cities" covers public participation, access to information, youth sports, citizenship and human rights education. It includes detailed guidance on how to implement policies in different cities, from concept to evaluation, as well as practical examples of effective initiatives and tips on how to overcome barriers to implementation. A new chapter on "Including women and girls and ensuring their rights: a toolkit for Arab cities" was published in 2023, providing city leaders and local government officials with practical tools and advice to help them build sustainable cities that ensure the inclusion of women in all aspects of life. Developed on the basis of a regional virtual consultation workshop and in-depth interviews with city officials and representatives of the Coalition of Arab Cities against Racism, Discrimination, Xenophobia and Intolerance, the toolkit provides tools and practical advice to enable Arab cities to achieve better inclusion of women and girls and ensure their full right to benefit from local development programmes. The new chapter is available here:

<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000387146>





**FACILITATING
THE EXCHANGE
OF KNOWLEDGE**

10. Facilitating the Exchange of Knowledge



Academy & Conference: Human Rights at the Local Level: What Works

The Academy and Conference on Human Rights at the Local Level aims to promote inclusive social development and just societies. The aim is to share expertise on local human rights research methodologies in order to provide a scientific data base for policy making at the local level. The event aims to build bridges between all levels of government, disciplines and regions, and to use the expertise gathered during the Academy as policy input for local authorities. This input is presented at the closing conference. Following two highly successful events in 2021 and 2022, the third edition “Governing the City by Human Rights Objectives: Management Concepts and Instruments” brought together representatives of international organisations, human rights practitioners from all relevant fields and members of the next generation. More information is available at <https://www.humanrightsgolocal.org/events/academy-and-conference-series>

UNESCO Recommendation on Education for Peace, Human Rights and Sustainable Development 2023

On behalf of the Austrian government, UNESCO Chair Gerd Oberleitner participated (together with UNESCO Chair Hans Karl Peterlini of the University of Klagenfurt) as a legal expert in the intergovernmental negotiations on the revision of the 1974 UNESCO Recommendation on Education for International Understanding, Cooperation and Peace and Education for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. Adopted by all 194 UNESCO Member States at the 42nd session of UNESCO’s General Conference, the new Recommendation on Education for Peace, Human Rights and Sustainable Development is the only global standard-setting instrument that lays out how education should be used to bring about lasting peace and foster human development through 14 guiding principles. It covers educational activities in all settings and at all levels, and throughout life, and contains concrete learning outcomes and priority action areas for holistically reshaping all aspects of education systems. It applies to all education stakeholders as a reference to transform policies, practices and approaches to learning, including education for human rights, peace and sustainable development, global citizenship education, gender equality and education in the digital era. The new text is available at: <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-adopts-landmark-guidance-educations-cross-cutting-role-promoting-peace>



This year’s Academy and Conference “Human Rights Go Local - What Works” brought together a diverse range of voices from international organisations, local authorities, human rights practitioners, and emerging leaders in a dynamic exploration of how to steer the implementation of human rights goals through public management and budgeting at the local level. As the programme coordinator of this annual event, I am particularly proud of how we have convened a diverse range of approaches to address the central question of how to strengthen the human rights accountability of local governments, with a particular focus on budgeting as a driver of change. Building on past success, this year’s event showcased innovative approaches and best practices, while fostering connections and empowering communities. **Isabella Meier**

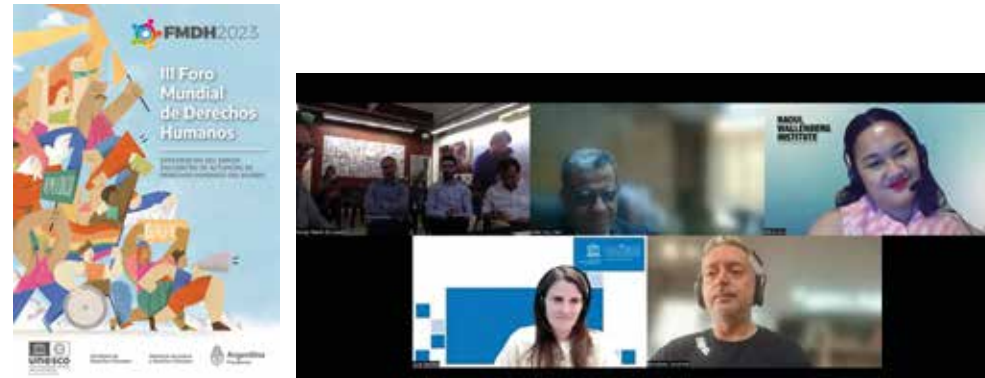
OHCHR Expert Meeting on Enhancing Capacity-Building for Local Governments

The expert meeting on strengthening capacity-building for local governments, organised by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Geneva on 28 August 2023, aimed to further mainstream human rights in local governance. This initiative, in response to Human Rights Council resolution 51/12, brought together some 40 participants to share best practices and discuss ways to improve their engagement with United Nations human rights mechanisms, with a focus on identifying the need for tools and opportunities to strengthen capacity-building in this area. The UNESCO Centre contributed significantly to this event by highlighting the critical role of evidence-based policy-making, urging local governments to move from abstract intentions to concrete commitments and to sustainably integrate human rights principles into local administrative frameworks, in particular into the very fabric of local public management systems, including budgetary processes, to ensure lasting capacity-building efforts. The discussions and recommendations from this meeting will be compiled into a report to be submitted to the Human Rights Council at its 56th session, to be held in June and July 2024.



World Human Rights Forum in Buenos Aires, Argentina

The Graz Centre's sister organisation, the Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights under the auspices of UNESCO, hosted the World Human Rights Forum in Buenos Aires, Argentina in March 2023. The Centre was invited to contribute to this event and organised a high-level hybrid panel on "Combating racism and discrimination at the local level: experiences, strategies and lessons learned". The panel brought together key international actors to share perspectives and exchange strategies, policies and success stories related to combating racism and xenophobia at the local level. Panelists discussed their practical experiences and presented concrete frameworks and outputs from the UNESCO Roadmap against Racism, ICCAR Global Policy Dialogues, ECCAR Toolkit for Equality, Toolkit for Urban Inclusion and others.



Discussions taking place in Buenos Aires together with representatives from UNESCO Cairo, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute, the UNESCO Centre and the ICCAR

International Human Rights Conference in Seoul, Republic of Korea

In November 2023, the Centre was invited to attend an International Human Rights Conference in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The Conference, co-hosted by the National Human Rights Commission of Korea, the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Korea, and the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions, brought together global leaders and experts to discuss how to strengthen the role of National Human Rights Institutions and local governments in the protection and promotion of human rights. The Centre was invited to share Graz's experiences as Europe's first Human Rights City. The intervention highlighted Graz's journey to becoming a Human Rights City, providing a detailed understanding of the challenges and successes encountered along the way. Additionally, the city's strategies and policies provided valuable insights into the concrete strategies and policies used by Graz to navigate the complex landscape of human rights implementation at the local level. The findings emphasised that Graz's success story can be attributed to a favourable legal framework, an active civil society, well-established human rights structures, concrete policies, and an explicit commitment to human rights.

13th Gwangju World Human Rights Cities Forum

The UNESCO Chair and Centre co-organised (together with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law and the Chonnam National University Centre for Regional Development, a Human Rights Paper Session during the 13th World Human Rights Cities Forum, held in Gwangju from 4-7 October 2023. Under the overall theme "Inclusive cities and human rights", researchers presented and discussed papers on topics such as energy poverty, women's safety, inclusivity of persons with disabilities, and human rights budgeting.

Academic Cooperation in Teaching

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 eight regional master programmes in human rights and democratisation in Venice, Bangkok, Bishkek, Sarajevo/Bologna, Buenos Aires, Yerevan, Pretoria, and Beirut. The Chair and its team regularly teach in several of these master programmes, supervise master theses, and host master students in Graz. More information at <https://gchumanrights.org>

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 UNESCO 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, and a Human Rights Debate Club. 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. Further, 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 master theses, and provides online learning opportunities. It also coordinates the Interdisciplinary Doctoral Programme in Human Rights, Democracy, Diversity and Gender at the University of Graz. Together with the UNESCO Centre, the UNESCO Chair 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). The Chair also contributed to the Faculty Day of the Law Faculty with a panel on the human right to science, in cooperation with UNESCO, and established new cooperative links with the Human Rights Master Programme at the University of Minho, Braga, within the framework of the European university alliance ARQUS.

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.

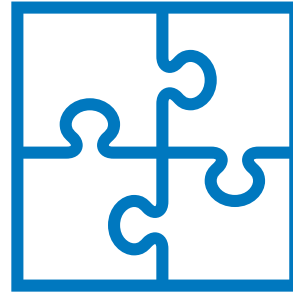


Students from the Master's Programme presenting suggestions for human rights-based initiatives to the Padova city administration

LABS!

11. LABS!

The Human Rights Lab comprises all activities in Graz and Styria which serve the research and testing of human rights implementation. Findings serve as input for development of methodologies and measures that can be applied elsewhere. Further, the LABS! encompass measures carried out for or on behalf of the city and the region. These include activities of the experts' committee of the province of Styria and the Human Rights Advisory Council of the city of Graz.



Human Rights Report of the City of Graz

The ETC serves as the Municipal Human Rights Advisory Council's Executive Office in the Human Rights City of Graz. As such, it coordinates several of the Council's working groups, including the group responsible for the preparation of the City's Human Rights Report. The Human Rights Report of the City of Graz examines developments, good practices and challenges related to the realisation of human rights in Graz. The 2023 Report takes stock of the human rights situation in the city of Graz. This is achieved through the participatory involvement of over 200 local actors from a wide range of sectors, including civil society organisations, city administration, politics, justice, police and other authorities and institutions. In addition, the report highlights the e-government services of the City of Graz from a human rights perspective in its focus chapter. It thereby applied the 4A+ Scheme developed by the Committee for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The report concludes with concrete recommendations for action developed by the members of the Human Rights Advisory Board and addressed to the city administration



The Human Rights Report of the City of Graz is a central instrument in the work of the Graz Human Rights Advisory Council, which critically accompanies the development of the city as a Human Rights City. For 16 years, contributions from local civil society organisations, the city administration, politicians, the police and the judiciary have been used to identify current human rights challenges in the city and to develop recommendations for improving the human rights situation. The establishment of a continuous reporting and monitoring process and the open discussion of shortcomings is evidence of a needs-based and honest human rights policy with the aim of improving the human rights situation and thus the quality of life of all people living in Graz. With our decades of experience in human rights work at the local level and in our specific function as the office of the Human Rights Advisory Council, we will continue to support and accompany the Human Rights City of Graz in its efforts with evaluation and advice. **Alexandra Stocker**

and the City Council. Their contributions provide information on human rights challenges and existing examples of good practice, as well as suggestions on how existing deficits can be improved. The report was presented to the City Council of Graz. It is available (in German) here: https://www.graz.at/cms/dokumente/10152653_7771447/fa24241c/MRB-Bericht2023_web-high.pdf The English summary is available here: https://www.graz.at/cms/dokumente/10152653_7771447/62b1b5f9/MRB23_Kurzbericht_EN.pdf



Presentation of the 2023 Human Rights Report at City Hall in Graz together with the mayor, Elke Kahr

Human Rights Forum “Lived Culture of Human Rights”

The Human Rights Advisory Council of the City of Graz, together with the Ombud for Equal Treatment Regional Office Styria and the Folk Life Museum Graz organised the first Human Rights Forum which took place on 14 June 2023 in Graz. The forum created a space for internal networking for the numerous committed private and public organisations and institutions in Graz and Styria. Under the motto “Let's exchange ideas, learn from each other and find solutions to current challenges together”, participants from around 65 organisations enjoyed an inspiring exchange in a collegial and informal atmosphere. The keynote speaker was Hans Hesselmann, founder and former head of the Human Rights Office of the City of Nuremberg, long-standing President of the



The first Human Rights Forum, organised by Graz's Human Rights Advisory Council, was a truly inspiring event that pushed forward the promotion of human rights in the city. With a mix of local actors from various backgrounds sharing their expertise, it sparked lively discussions, uncovering challenges and suggesting practical solutions to improve human rights in Graz. I believe the forum's participatory approach encouraged collaboration, empowering different voices and moving the city towards a more rights-respecting environment. **Livia Perschy**

European Coalition of Cities against Racism (ECCAR) and winner of the Human Rights Award of the City of Graz in 2009. He used the example of the City of Nuremberg to underline the importance of the daily work of all civil society institutions and organisations at the municipal level. You can find the final event report here: https://www.graz.at/cms/dokumente/10413526_7771447/636c7a6e/MRForum23_Abschlussbericht.pdf



Discussions taking place on the “lived” culture of human rights in Europe’s first Human Rights City, Graz

Know Your Rights: Online Engagement Platform for Young People (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, the Province of Styria, Paragraph-Software GmbH and Energie Graz. Participants are given thematic inputs to research human rights issues of interest to them, attend events, create videos, organise competitions and raise human rights awareness among their peers. The 13th project cycle 2022/2023 had 25 participants, while the 2023/24 round has 23 participants spread across Austria. The project’s own podcast “Weltverbessern für Anfänger:innen” celebrated its second anniversary and has published over 31 episodes by December 2023. To celebrate the successes of the project year, participants were invited to Graz City Hall to receive their certificates of participation in August 2023. More information about the project is available at www.kennedeinerechte.at.



Ceremonial hand-over of certificates at Graz City Hall

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 script writing, camera work, editing and acting being carried out by young people aged between 14 and 25. So far, 15 short films have been produced. A new spot on “Democracy in Transition” was released in 2023. All videos in the series can be found here: www.kennedeinerechte.at/videos



Styrian Week on Children’s Rights (Steirische Kinderrechtewoche)

For the eighth year running, Kenne deine Rechte is participating as a coordinating member in the Styrian Children’s Rights Week. In the week around the International Day of Children’s Rights (20 November), the Styrian Children’s and Youth Advocate, the Children’s Office, beteiligung.st and Kenne deine Rechte organise events to raise awareness for children’s rights. In 2023 as well, the members of Kenne deine Rechte accompanied the partner events with a comprehensive social media campaign and a thematic focus on children’s rights on the online platform.



The “Know Your Rights” project can certainly be called a success story as a participatory youth project in the field of human rights. For 14 years now, young, committed teams have been working on human rights issues, exploring them through multimedia journalism and providing valuable information and awareness-raising work for their peers and beyond. It is therefore a great pleasure for me, after a break of several years, to be able to work for the project again since autumn 2023, and in particular with the young human rights journalists. **David Weiss**



**EVENTS
AND
PUBLICATIONS**

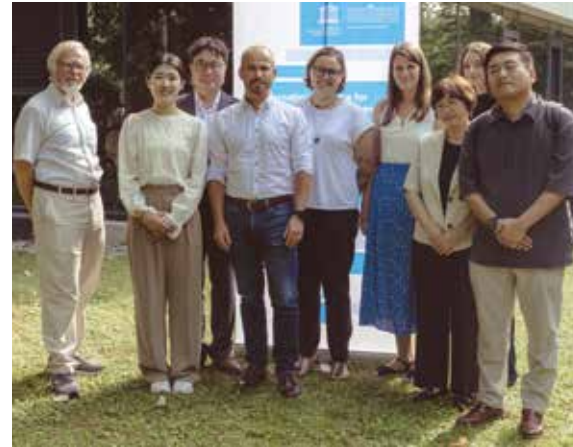


12. Events, Workshops, Lectures

18 January 2023	Press Conference to present the study "FairMieten" on adequate right to housing in Styria, Graz, Austria (Livia Perschy)	4 May 2023	Lecture by Karin Lukas, European Committee of Social Rights and Central European University, "Social Rights in Europe", University of Graz
18-19 January 2023	Seminar for heads of city administration on combatting sexual harassment at the workplace, Villach, Austria (Klaus Starl)	5 May 2023	Panel on "Human rights and the university", Fakultätstag der Rechtswissenschaftlichen Fakultät, Universität Graz, (Gerd Oberleitner, Lisa Heschl)
29-31 January 2023	Expert meeting on human rights at the local level, hosted by Raoul Wallenberg Institute, Lund, Sweden (Klaus Starl)	9 May 2023	Conference on "Scientific Freedom and Responsibility", hosted by UNESCO and the International Science Council (Gerd Oberleitner)
1-7 February 2023	Academy "Human Rights Go Local – What works" on "Governing the City by Human Rights Objectives: Management Concepts and Instruments", online (UNESCO Centre and UNESCO Chair)	10 May 2023	Lecture by Veronica Gomez, Inter-American Court of Human Rights, "The Inter-American human rights system and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights", University of Graz
3-5 February 2023	Helga Pedersen Human Rights Moot Court, University of Maastricht, the Netherlands	24 May 2023	Lecture by Jonas Grimheden, Frontex, "Human rights of asylum seekers: the role of Frontex", University of Graz
8 February 2023	High-level Conference and panel discussion "Governing the City by Human Rights Objectives: Management Concepts and Instruments", presentation of the Outcome Document, online (UNESCO Centre and UNESCO Chair)	24 May 2023	SCORE Stakeholder workshop on combatting racism in and through sports, Graz, Austria (Wanda Tiefenbacher, Nils Groß)
27 February 2023	Lecture on "International humanitarian law: rules and challenges", Human Rights Master Programme, University of Peja, Kosovo (Gerd Oberleitner, Lisa Heschl)	25 May 2023	Meeting of the Project Committee of the International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels
7-9 March 2023	Fundamental Rights Training for the judiciary, St. Georgen am Längsee, Austria (Markus Möstl)	30 May 2023	SCORE Stakeholder workshop on combatting racism in and through sports, Vienna, Austria (Wanda Tiefenbacher, Nils Groß)
14 March 2023	Conference on IHL and New Technologies, hosted by the International Committee of the Red Cross and Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe and International Affairs, Vienna (Gerd Oberleitner)	30 May-2 June 2023	Intergovernmental Special Committee Meeting on the Revision of the UNESCO 1974 Recommendation on education, UNESCO, Paris (Gerd Oberleitner)
20 March 2023	Hybrid panel "Combatting racism and discrimination at the local level: experiences, strategies and lessons learnt" at World Human Rights Forum in Buenos Aires, Argentina (Wanda Tiefenbacher)	31 May 2023	Lecture by William O'Neill, Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum, New York, "UN human rights field missions: achievements and challenges", University of Graz
22 March 2023	Lecture by Solmaz Khorsand on "Woman, Life, Freedom in Iran", University of Graz	31 May 2023	Lecture by Wolfgang Benedek on "Was kann gegen Straflosigkeit für Kriegsverbrechen und Menschenrechtsverletzungen getan werden?", Vienna
23 March 2023	Webinar on "The importance of human rights communication procedures, in general and at UNESCO", online (Gerd Oberleitner)	5 June 2023	Workshop "Hätt ich doch was gesagt - Strategietraining gegen Stammtischparolen" for lecturers, staff and students at FH Joanneum, Graz (Alexandra Stocker and Barbara Schmiedl)
27-28 March 2023	Lecture on "Refugee Law and Borders", University Sarajevo, ERMA Master Programme (Lisa Heschl)	6 June 2023	Vienna World Conference - 30 Years On: Our Rights – Our Future: Protecting human rights for our shared humanity (Gerd Oberleitner)
4 April 2023	Lecture on "What role for human rights in University Networks?", Arqus Annual Conference, University of Graz (Lisa Heschl)	7 June 2023	Lecture by Wolfgang Benedek "Investigating human rights – practices and experiences", University of Graz
17 April 2023	York Annual Human Rights City Lecture on "Human Rights Go Local: Mobilising the Potential of Human Rights Cities" York Centre for Applied Human Rights, York, United Kingdom (Gerd Oberleitner)	14 June 2023	Human Rights Forum "Lived Culture of Human Rights" in Graz, Austria (UNESCO Centre)
18 April 2023	Workshop on human rights education, University of Iceland (Lisa Heschl)	14 June 2023	Austrian National Commission on International Humanitarian Law, Vienna (Gerd Oberleitner)
19 April 2023	Lecture by UN Special Rapporteur Ian Fry on "Human rights and climate change", University of Graz	14 June 2023	Lecture by Masha Kayyal, Global Campus of Human Rights, Venice, "Woman, Life, Freedom: the fight for human rights in Iran", University of Graz
24 April 2023	Lecture on "Human rights education for the 21st century: revising the 1974 UNESCO Recommendation", University of Graz (Gerd Oberleitner)	19-21 June 2023	ECCAR Steering Committee meeting in Wroclaw, Poland (Klaus Starl, Sarah Hertwig)
25 April 2023	Lecture on "The societal relevance of research", University of Graz (Gerd Oberleitner)	21-22 June 2023	ACUNS Annual Conference "Making, Keeping and Sustaining Peace", US Institute for Peace, Washington, United States (Gerd Oberleitner)
26 April 2023	General Assembly of the European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (ETC Graz)	21-23 June 2023	CERV Kick-Off Meeting for ACTION project in Brussels, Belgium
26 April 2023	Lecture on "The Debate on New Digital Human Rights", Rijeka, Croatia (Wolfgang Benedek)	9 August 2023	Ceremonial hand-over of certificates of participation for Kenne deine Rechte project members 2022/23, City Hall, Graz, Austria (Alexandra Stocker, Wanda Tiefenbacher)
26 April 2023	Lecture Sabrina Wittmann, Violence against Women Division, Council of Europe, lecture on "Violence against Women: the importance of the Istanbul Convention", University of Graz	22-24 August 2023	Regional Consultation meeting on "Confronting violence against women and girls in Arab higher education institutions", online (Renate Kicker, Isabella Meier)
26-28 April 2023	Participation in and contribution to European Young Innovators Forum on human rights at the local level, Graz, Austria (Wanda Tiefenbacher)	24 August 2023	Delegation visit from National Human Rights Commission of Korea in Graz, Austria (UNESCO Centre)



19 21 June 2023
ECCAR Steering Committee meeting in Wroclaw, Poland
(Klaus Starl, Sarah Hertwig)



24 August 2023
Delegation visit from National Human Rights Commission of Korea in Graz, Austria (UNESCO Centre)



5 7 October 2023
Gwangju World Human Rights Cities Forum, Human Rights Paper Session
"Inclusive Cities and Human Rights" (Gerd Oberleitner and Sarah Hertwig)

28 August 2023	OHCHR Expert meeting on enhancing capacity-building for local governments to incorporate human rights into all their work, Geneva, Switzerland (Markus Möstl)
7-8 September 2023	AHRI Network Conference "Human Rights Defenders Under Siege", University of Deusto, Spain (Gerd Oberleitner)
7-9 September 2023	Workshop on equality data and Toolkit at ICCAR Bootcamp in Pollica, Italy (Isabella Meier)
12 September 2023	SmatchS Capitalization event, online, University of Graz (Lisa Heschl)
20-22 September 2023	Lecture series on "Introduction to Refugee Law", University Oldenburg, Germany (Lisa Heschl)
27-29 September 2023	UN-World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna 1993 – Strengthening Imperatives 30 Years After, University of Vienna (Gerd Oberleitner)
28-29 September 2023	Lecture series on Multi-Level Governance at the University of Padova, Italy (Klaus Starl)
5-7 October 2023	Gwangju World Human Rights Cities Forum, Human Rights Paper Session "Inclusive Cities and Human Rights" (Gerd Oberleitner and Sarah Hertwig)
12-13 October 2023	Lecture series on Multi-Level Governance at the University of Padova, Italy (Klaus Starl)
16-17 October 2023	National Forum against Anti-Semitism, Vienna (Gerd Oberleitner)
23 October 2023	Board Meeting of the European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (ETC Graz)
23-24 October 2023	Geneva Human Rights Platform: 2023 Annual Conference: Enhancing Cooperation between New York and Geneva for the Protection of Children in Armed Conflict and from other Forms of Violence and UN Accountability Mechanisms (Gerd Oberleitner)
2-3 November 2023	Lecture on "Introduction to international human rights law", European master Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation in South-East Europe, Sarajevo (Gerd Oberleitner)
13 November 2023	Webinar on "An integrated approach to the implementation of human rights practices at local and regional level in Ukraine", commissioned by the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, online (Isabella Meier, Klaus Starl)

13-14 November 2023	Conference "Conceptualizing Vulnerability in a Time of Human Rights Regression", University of Padova, Italy (Gerd Oberleitner)
15 November 2023	PhD Winter School on "Human Rights and Vulnerability in a Time of Human Rights Regression", University of Padova, Italy (Gerd Oberleitner)
16-17 November 2023	Lecture series on Multi-Level Governance at the University of Padova, Italy (Klaus Starl)
20 November 2023	Lecture on "Digitale Menschenrechte und künstliche Intelligenz", Vienna (Wolfgang Benedek)
20 November 2023	Lecture on "Ökologische Menschenrechte und digitaler Humanismus", Vienna (Wolfgang Benedek)
20-21 November 2023	Padova Model UPR (UN Simulation), University of Padova, Italy (Gerd Oberleitner and Sophia Urban)
21 November 2023	ECCAR General Assembly, presentation of ACTION project, Toolkit on Equality Data, City Reporting Tool, hybrid, Haute-Garonne, France (Klaus Starl, Isabella Meier, Sarah Hertwig)
22 November 2023	Workshop "Hätt ich doch was gesagt - Strategietraining gegen Stammtischparolen" as part of the training day of the Netzwerk Sexuelle Bildung, Graz (Alexandra Stocker and Barbara Schmiedl)
23 November 2023	Participation in the International Human Rights Conference, online, Seoul, Republic of Korea (Markus Möstl)
24 November 2023	PhD Evaluation Seminar, University of Copenhagen, Denmark (Gerd Oberleitner)
29 November 2023	Seminar, Challenges to human rights implementation, JusGov PhD Research Network, University of Minho (Lisa Heschl and Gerd Oberleitner)
30 November 2023	UN Human Rights Council conference simulation on the death penalty with students, Graz, Austria (Markus Möstl and Klaus Starl)
30 November 2023	Lecture, "Challenges to international humanitarian law", University of Minho, Portugal (Gerd Oberleitner)
30 November 2023	Lecture, "Challenges to international migration law", University of Minho, Portugal (Lisa Heschl)
30 November – 1 December 2023	Project meeting on strategy and dissemination in the framework of the SCORE project, Bilbao, Spain (Wanda Tiefenbacher)

1 December 2023	Lecture on "Sind die Menschenrechte westlich? Herausforderungen für die Universalität der Menschenrechte aus völkerrechtlicher Sicht", Vienna (Wolfgang Benedek)
5 December 2023	Meeting of the Governing Body of the Foundation for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels; Meeting of the Project Committee of the International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels
5 December 2023	Lecture on "70 Jahre EMRK - 65 Jahre EMRK-Mitgliedschaft Österreichs", University of Graz (Wolfgang Benedek)
11 December 2023	Conference "How Far Have We Come? The progressive realization of socio-economic human rights, Uni Graz, and book launch European Yearbook on Human Rights 2023, Graz (UNESCO Chair)
11-13 December 2023	Participation in FRA Charter Xchange Masterclass (Markus Möstl)
14-15 December 2023	Lecture series on Multi-Level Governance at the University of Padova, Italy (Klaus Starl)
15 December 2023	Lecture on "Human rights in armed conflict", European Master Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation, Venice (Gerd Oberleitner)
15 December 2023	Promoting Academic Freedom in Ukraine, University of Graz (online) (Lisa Heschl, Elias Faller)
19 December 2023	Meeting of Austrian UNESCO Chairs, Vienna (Gerd Oberleitner)

13. Publications

Wolfgang Benedek, Digital Human Rights and Artificial Intelligence, in *Pravni zapisi* XiV(2) 2023, 227 – 237.

Wolfgang Benedek, International Fact-finding on Human Rights Violations - The Moscow Mechanism of OSCE, in P.B. Donath et al. (eds.), *Der Schutz des Individuums durch das Recht*, Springer (Berlin) 2023, 129 – 141.

Wolfgang Benedek, Verantwortlichkeit für Kriegsverbrechen in der Ukraine, in *ÖGfE Policy Brief* 8 2023, 1 -11.

Wolfgang Benedek, War in Ukraine from a Human Security Perspective, in *Peace Human Rights Governance* 7(1) 2023, 9 – 22.

Wolfgang Benedek, Ziel 10 der UN-Agenda 2030: Weniger Ungleichheiten, *Rundbrief Bildungsauftrag Nord-Süd* 114, 2023.

Annika Bergunde, Elias Faller, Sonja Pöllabauer, LGBTIQ+? Queer? SOGIESC? Und das noch auf Arabisch oder Farsi oder Urdu oder ...?, in: *Blog Asyl*, 30.11.2023, <https://www.blogasyl.at/2023/11/lgbtiq-queer-sogiesc-und-das-noch-auf-arabisch-oder-farsi-oder-urdu-oder>

Philip Czech, Lisa Heschl, Karin Lukas, Manfred Nowak and Gerd Oberleitner (eds.), *European Yearbook on Human Rights 2023*, Intersentia (Cambridge), 2023.

European Coalition of Cities Against Racism, Toolkit for Equality on Ten Point Action Plans, 2023, available at https://www.eccar.info/sites/default/files/document/Toolkit-en_10PointsActionPlan2023_web-high_0.pdf

Lisa Heschl, A Refugee is a Refugee is ... a Refugee? Differential Treatment of Persons in Need of Protection and Non-discrimination Law, in *Peace Human Rights Governance* 7(1) 2023, 107-141.

Lisa Heschl, Book Review "Gerd Oberleitner (ed.), *Research Handbook on International Law and Human Security*", in: Lisa Heschl, Gerd Oberleitner, Philip Czech, Karin Lukas, Manfred Nowak (eds), *European Yearbook on Human Rights 2023*, Intersentia (Cambridge) 2023, 669-671.

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International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels and UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security, *Governing the City by Human Rights Objectives: Management Concepts and Instruments*, Outcome Document and Explanatory Remarks of Human Rights Go Local: What Works Academy and Conference 2023, available at https://www.humanrightsgolocal.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/ACCO23_Outcome_Document_Explanatory-remarks.pdf

Isabella Meier and Klaus Starl, Strengthening Human Rights at the local Level in Georgia: A Case Study based on the European Charter of Local Self-Government, in Lisa Heschl, Gerd Oberleitner, Philip Czech, Karin Lukas, Manfred Nowak (eds), European Yearbook on Human Rights 2023, Intersentia (Cambridge) 2023, 567-585.

Menschenrechtsbeirat der Stadt Graz (ed.), Der Menschenrechtsbericht der Stadt Graz 2023, Menschenrechtsbeirat der Stadt Graz, 2023, available at https://www.graz.at/cms/dokumente/10152653_7771447/fa24241c/MRB-Bericht2023_web-high.pdf

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Edilu Shona Dikale, Feasibility Study: Becoming a Human Rights City in Ethiopia – Hawassa City and lessons learned from the Human Rights City of Graz, ETC Occasional Paper No. 41, November 2023, available at http://www.humanrightsgolocal.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/ETC-Occasional-Paper-41_Feasibility-study_Human-Rights-City-Hawassa.pdf

Wanda Tiefenbacher and Markus Möstl, An update on developments regarding civic space in the EU and an overview of the possibilities for human rights defenders to enter EU territory, FRANET Country Report Austria, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, 2023, available at https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/at-civic-space_2022-franet-final.pdf

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INFRASTRUCTURE AND RESOURCES

14. Infrastructure and Resources

Digital Infrastructure

With the help of Paragraph GmbH, the UNESCO Centre's entire digital infrastructure, which is required for daily operations, has been migrated to online methods so that work can be carried out completely independently of location. Since 2020, the UNESCO Centre has been using the open source system BigBlueButton, which runs on the Centre's own server and provides a secure and encrypted environment for low-threshold online workshops on a variety of topics. As the platform does not require user registration or installation, it can be accessed from simple devices and locations with unstable connections.



Resources

In 2023, the European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (ETC Graz) had available funds of total EUR 410,500 to cover operating costs, investments, and the implementation of its activities (incl. the activities of the UNESCO Category 2 Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at Local and Regional Levels). Of this total,

- 62% were provided by the Foundation for the Promotion of Human Rights at Local and Regional Levels,
- 8% were provided by European Commission funding,
- 22% were provided by contractors (local, regional, and national authorities, EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, the Council of Europe),
- 8% were provided by and dedicated to the Human Rights Advisory Council of the City of Graz and private donors.

A total of 380,000 EUR was spent on staff including consultants (95%); and 5% were used for purchases, 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 2023:

Management, Clearinghouse, Stakeholder Cooperation	100,500
Human Rights Go Local: What Works, Academy	56,500
Cooperation in and with Africa (African Local Governments Academy, Human Rights City Twinning, Arab Coalition of Cities)	11,000
Capacity-Building and Toolkit for Equality	17,000
Human Rights Go Local Paper series	15,000
Human Rights Lab Styria	35,000

Total 2023 **235,000 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).





Chair

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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