Connecting the Dots – Connecting the People:

Ways out of a Planetary Crisis in a Fracturing World

ORGANISED BY

LCC INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Vartotojų aljansas

Klaipeda University

WITH THE PATRONAGE OF

European Economic and Social Committee — Civil Society Organisations' Group

This event takes place under the patronage of the Civil Society Organisations' Group of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), in anticipation of Lithuania's Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2027.

Thursday, 29 October 2026 · 09:00–17:30
Learning Commons, LCC International University, Kretingos St. 36, Klaipėda
English language only, without translation

The conference brings together scholars, students, civil society representatives, public officials and international experts to explore how climate, gender, economic and social justice intersect in a world shaped by ecological stress, conflict, displacement and fragmenting trade relations.

Drawing on Eurodad's "Connecting the Dots" approach, sessions link power, rights, ecological limits and economic structures, bringing European (focus on the Baltics and Ukraine) and Global Majority perspectives into one conversation.

Conference at capacity · Registration is closed
Thank you to everyone who registered. We look forward to welcoming registered participants on Thursday, 29 October.

Programme at a glance

All times are local to Klaipėda, Lithuania. Agenda time and speakers' list subject to minor change - please check the final agenda before the event.

TIME	SESSION, SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS
09:00–09:30	**Registration and coffee**
09:30–09:40	**Welcome and opening address / Ice-breaker with the audience** Dr. Ken Stoltzfus, President (Rector), LCC International University Prof. Dr. Artūras Razbadauskas, Rector, Klaipėda University Aistė Bertulytė-Žikevičienė, Director of the International Partnerships Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania Moderator: Andrés Falconer
09:40–10:05	**Opening keynote** **Riccardo Moro** *Humanity in the Face of Rapid Transition: Trends, Threats and Opportunities for Global Governance and Peace*
10:05–11:25	**Big-Picture Plenary - Charting the Dots: Diverse Academic Perspectives** **Dr. Gregg Walker** *From Unjust Wars to a Just Peace: Why International Agreements and Organisations Matter* **Prof. Dr. Mintautas Gutauskas** *Multi-Species Justice in the Anthropocene* **Dr. Elena Šiaudvytienė** *What the Franciscan Economic Tradition Can Offer on Our Way Out of Crisis? Markets Then and Now* **Dr. Guilherme Spinato Morlin** *Navigating the Trade-offs of a Just Transition*
11:25–11:45	**Reflection panel and audience Q&A** Joint discussion with the academic contributors.
11:45–12:05	**Coffee and transition to breakout sessions**
12:05–12:45	**Connecting-the-Dots Labs - four parallel sessions**
	Lab A **Who Pays for the Transition?** Gender, care, regenerative, climate and intergenerational justice. Facilitated by **Živilė Mantrimaitė** Rapporteur from the Lab to the Plenary: **Dr. Corina Murafa** Student voice: **Chaymae Elkasri**
	Lab B **Fragmented Trade, Shared Crises** Economic justice, climate action, labour and human rights. Facilitated by **Dr. Guilherme Spinato Morlin** Rapporteur from the Lab to the Plenary: **Evelīna Kļava** Student voice: **Mikas Dalheimer**
	Lab C **Displacement in a Heating World** Human rights across conflict, climate stress and migration. Facilitated by **Naomi Enns** Rapporteur from the Lab to the Plenary: **Justinas Stankus** Student voices: **Usama Habib Khan and Fatima Uz Zama**
	Lab D **Whose Story Counts?** Global Majority voices, colonial legacies and the politics of climate and development communication. Facilitated by **Prof. Dr. Aldis Gedutis** Rapporteur from the Lab to the Plenary: **Matthew Simonds** Student voice: **Darkhan Ganiuly**
12:45–14:00	**Lunch**

Programme at a glance - afternoon

Thursday, 29 October 2026 · The two 14:55 roundtables run simultaneously.

TIME	SESSION, SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS
14:00–14:05	**Opening of the afternoon session - Civil society connecting justice and democracy** Welcome from the Civil Society Organisations' Group of the European Economic and Social Committee. Ms Juliane Marie Neiiendam and Ms Gaja Šavelė introduce how organised civil society contributes to democratic, inclusive EU decision-making through the European Economic and Social Committee, connecting climate, gender, economic and social justice.
14:05–14:20	**Student voices** Testimonials from selected LCC IU and Klaipėda University students. Ms Chaymae Elkasri Final-year International Business Administration student, LCC IU. Holds a Master's degree in French Studies; Project Leader, Bridge & Bloom. Mr Mikas Dalheimer Third-year International Relations and Development Studies student and Assistant Admissions Coordinator, LCC IU. Mr Usama Habib Khan First-year MSc student in Regional Governance, Klaipėda University. Ms Fatima Uz Zama Final-year MSc Business Management student and Senior Specialist, International Relations Office, Klaipėda University. Mr Darkhan Ganiuly International Relations and Development student, LCC IU. Peace Ambassador and Volunteer at the Center for Dialogue and Conflict Transformation; Student Ambassador.
14:20–14:40	**Plenary report-back from the Labs** Five-minute syntheses from the four Lab rapporteurs.
14:40–14:55	**Deep Dive** *In Search of Justice: Re-Thinking and Re-Doing Green Technology Diplomacy* **Dr. Serwah Prempeh** Senior Fellow and Head, Just Green Technology Transition Programme, Africa Policy Research Institute (APRI)
14:55–16:00	**Policy roundtables - two parallel sessions**
	Panel I - From Seville (FfD4) to Hormuz What should our response be in an increasingly complex world? **Participants:** Ms Aistė Bertulytė-Žikevičienė; Ms Gabrielė Burbulytė-Tsiskarishvili; Dr. Corina Murafa; Dr. Inga Popovaitė; Mr Matthew Simonds. **Moderator:** Kevin Doremus, LCC International University Lecturer and PhD Candidate in Political Science, Vytautas Magnus University
	Panel II - Rights, representation and agency How to ensure rights, representation and agency amid conflict, displacement and global fragmentation? **Participants:** Mr Cosmin Bârzan; Prof. Dr. Loreta Kelpšaitė-Rimkienė; Ms Juliane Marie Neiiendam; Ms Ieva Rūkė; Mr Justinas Stankus; Mr Ilia Torkanievskyi. **Moderator:** Dr. Andrew Williams, Director, Institute for Philanthropy and Civil Society, LCC International University
16:00–16:10	**Roundtable synthesis** Five-minute synthesis from each policy-roundtable moderator. Chair: Andrés Falconer.
16:10–16:30	**Audience Q&A and closing remarks by the Moderator and speakers**
16:30–17:30	**Networking and refreshments**
17:30	**Conference closes**

Room details will be announced to confirmed participants before the event.

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LT Partnerships

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Republic of Lithuania

Connecting the Dots project coordinator

eurodad

Speakers, contributors and moderators

PARTICIPANT	ROLE AND CONTRIBUTION
Cosmin Bârzan	President, Romanian NGO Platform for International Development Cooperation (FOND) *Policy Roundtable II*
Aistė Bertulytė-Žikevičienė	Director of the International Partnerships Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania *Opening welcome; Policy Roundtable I*
Gabrielė Burbulytė-Tsiskarishvili	Lecturer at the Department of Public Administration and Political Sciences, Klaipėda University *Policy Roundtable I*
Mikas Dalheimer	Third-year International Relations and Development Studies student; Assistant Admissions Coordinator, LCC International University *Lab B participant; Student voice*
Kevin Doremus	LCC International University Lecturer and PhD Candidate in Political Science, Vytautas Magnus University *Policy Roundtable I moderator*
Chaymae Elkasri	Final-year International Business Administration student, LCC IU; Master's degree in French Studies; Project Leader, Bridge & Bloom *Lab A participant; Student voice*
Naomi Enns	Director, Center for Dialogue and Conflict Transformation, LCC IU *Lab C facilitator and organising contact*
Andrés Falconer	Conference moderator *Opening, reflection panel, synthesis, audience Q&A and closing remarks*
Darkhan Ganiuly	LCC IU International Relations and Development student; Peace Ambassador and Volunteer, Center for Dialogue and Conflict Transformation, LCC IU; Student Ambassador, LCC IU *Lab D participant; Student voice*
Prof. Dr. Aldis Gedutis	Senior Researcher, Centre for Studies of Social Change, Klaipėda University *Lab D facilitator*
Prof. Dr. Mintautas Gutauskas	Director of the Institute of Philosophy, Professor and Chief Research Fellow, Vilnius University *Big-Picture Plenary and reflection panel*
Prof. Dr. Loreta Kelpšaitė-Rimkienė	Senior Researcher, Marine Research Institute, Klaipėda University *Policy Roundtable II*
Usama Habib Khan	First-year MSc student in Regional Governance, Klaipėda University *Lab C participant; Student voice*
Evelīna Kļava	LCC IU International Relations and Development student *Lab B rapporteur; report-back from the Labs*
Živilė Mantrimaitė	Gender and Law Lecturer, European Humanities University, Vilnius; PhD candidate in Sociology, Kaunas University of Technology *Lab A facilitator*
Dr. Guilherme Spinato Morlin	Coordinator of Research Group, Centro Celso Furtado de Políticas para o Desenvolvimento (CICEF, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil), and Researcher, Department of Economics and Management at the University of Pisa *Lab B facilitator; Big-Picture Plenary*
Riccardo Moro	Expert on international development policies and global governance; Lecturer, University of Milan *Opening keynote; Reflection panel*
Dr. Corina Murafa	Lecturer, Faculty of Business Administration in Foreign Languages (FABIZ), Bucharest University of Economic Studies; Member, European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) *Lab A rapporteur; Policy Roundtable I*
Juliane Marie Neiiendam	Vice-President, Civil Society Organisations' Group, European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) *Afternoon welcome; Policy Roundtable II*
Dr. Inga Popovaitė	Sociologist, policy researcher; Deputy Chair of the Lithuanian Green Party *Policy Roundtable I*
Dr. Serwah Prempeh	Senior Fellow and Head, Just Green Technology Transition Programme, Africa Policy Research Institute (APRI) *Deep Dive speaker*
Prof. Dr. Artūras Razbadauskas	Rector, Klaipėda University *Opening welcome*
Ieva Rūkė	Executive Director, Prirašytos Rankos *Policy Roundtable II*
Matthew Simonds	Senior Policy and Advocacy Officer – Development Finance, European Network on Debt and Development (Eurodad) *Lab D rapporteur; Policy Roundtable I*
Justinas Stankus	Senior Legal Research Officer, Digital Technology Institute for Development (DTID) *Report-back from the Labs; Policy Roundtable II*
Dr. Ken Stoltzfus	President (Rector), LCC IU *Opening welcome*
Gaja Šavelė	Member, European Economic and Social Committee (EESC); Member of the EESC's Transatlantic Relations Follow-up Committee; National Contact Point for Communication of the Lithuanian EESC Delegation *Afternoon welcome*
Dr. Elena Šiaudvytienė	Director, Center for Research on Faith and Human Flourishing; Assistant Professor, International Relations and Development Department, LCC IU *Big-Picture Plenary and reflection panel; organising contact*
Ilia Torkanievskyi	LCC IU International Relations and Development student; European Student Think Tank Ambassador to Lithuania; Junior Researcher, Sahaidachnyi Security Center *Policy Roundtable II*
Rūta Trainytė	Editor-in-Chief, "Klimato reporteriai", Board Member of the Lithuanian Consumers Alliance *Media Partner*
Fatima Uz Zama	Final-year MSc Business Management student; Senior Specialist, International Relations Office, Klaipėda University *Lab C participant; Student voice*
Dr. Gregg Walker	Professor Emeritus, School of Communication, Oregon State University *Big-Picture Plenary and reflection panel*
Dr. Andrew Williams	Director, Institute for Philanthropy and Civil Society, LCC IU *Policy Roundtable II moderator*