

Open Call for speakers in the Young Forum for Action on Sustainability and Climate Change organized by ERUA

Dear Academics, Students and Young Researchers,

We invite you to participate in the "Youth Forum on Sustainability and Climate Change," an in-person event organized by the European Reform University Alliance (ERUA). ERUA is a consortium of eight European reform universities committed to exploring innovative approaches in research, teaching, and institutional advancement. As part of the European Universities Initiative (EUI), one of the key initiatives of the European Commission, ERUA aims to advance the development of a European Education Area and the implementation of the European Strategy for Universities. Among our fields of action we include: sustainability, migration, exile & refugees, democracy and human rights, inclusion or gender equality.

Specifically this Forum is led by ERUA's Blue Commission, a group of students from eight institutions with experience and expertise in the field of sustainability and climate action. Together, we have launched this forum that aims to foster debate on this topic and improve the sustainability actions and policies within ERUA.

You will be able to find more detailed information about the alliance in our website: <https://erua-eui.eu/>

The event will take place in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (Canary Islands, Spain) on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 20th and 21st, 2025.

OBJECTIVE

This event is the conclusion forum of a series of open hybrid discussions hosted by ERUA institutions over the last months, aimed to bring together young researchers and students to engage in constructive dialogue on critical issues related to sustainability and climate change. Below you will find a full list of the topics discussed, date of the event and speaker.

1. Tuesday, January 21st at 10:30 WET / 11:30 CET Title: Marine litter in Open Ocean at different depths in the Canary Islands. Speaker: Daura Vega Moreno, University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
2. Monday February 3rd at 13:30 CET, Title: The Truth About Green: Evaluating Sustainability Practices, Speaker: Nerijus Eimanavičius, Mykolas Romeris University (Lithuania)
3. Wednesday, March 5th at 15:00 EET/ 14:00 CET, Title: Global Citizen: energy production and artificial intelligence, Speakers: Konstantinos Tsioukas, Lida Maria Soukouli Servou and Maria Papageorgiou, University of the Aegean (Greece)
4. Monday, March 17th at 11.00 CET, Title: NBU's Sustainability. The role of the Circular Economy in Advancing Sustainable Development and Combating Climate Change, Speakers: Ralitsa Berberova and Mina Markova-Karpuzova, New Bulgarian University (Bulgaria)
5. Tuesday, March 25th at 11:30 CET, Title: Eco-terrorism, really? Documenting the surge in judicial repression of ecological activism in France, Maxime

Dargaud Fons and Avril Vannier (from the association Mouvement de soutien aux défenseur.es de l'environnement) University of Paris 8 (France)

6. Thursday, April 3rd at 14:00-16:00 Title: Who runs the Climate debate? How grassroots movements affect environmental law, Speakers: Cristiana Lauri, professor of Environmental Law - University of Macerata, Lucrezia Cinella, PhD student, Sami Ghanmi, PhD student, Alessandra Gierszewska, PhD student, Zuzanna Luczak, master's student, University of Macerata (Italy)
7. Mid-April (tbc): The influence of the fortification on the Belarus border on the surrounding natural habitat, Speaker: tbc, SWPS University (Poland)
8. End-April (tbc), Topic & speaker tbc, European University Viadrina (Germany)

Following these lectures, we are launching a call to look for contributors and participants willing to take part in our project, specifically, for the in-person forum in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria on May 20th and 21st 2025. It will serve as a final step for the ERUA Young Forum for Action on Sustainability and Climate Change, with the objective to draft a recommendation paper that will be officially presented to the rectors of all our institutions. This document will serve as a first step towards the introduction of new policies and measures regarding sustainability practices in the different universities. By doing this, ERUA institutions will commit to create new sustainable projects and improve their approach towards sustainability issues.

WHO?

You can apply for two modalities of sessions depending on your position and interest:

Conferences/Round Table →

Applicants: For these discussions, we are seeking experienced academics or young researchers (PhD students that have finished their PhD in the last 3-5 years) in any field related to sustainability.

Format: A lecture of approximately 45 min in which you will present one of the undermentioned topics. After that, a 15 min long debate with the public will begin. Later on, you may be asked to join a round table to discuss this same issue.

Required documents: CV, proposal of a conference or be part of a round table through a form.

Paper Presentations or Workshops:

Applicants: Young researchers (PhD students that have finished their PhD in the last 3-5 years), PhD students, MA and BA students. Strongly suggest creating interactive workshops.

Format: Two rooms with workshops and paper presentations simultaneously. They should last around 45 min. We encourage interactive sessions which lead to a strong involvement from the participants.

Required documents: CV, proposal of a workshop or paper presentation

Presentations should be in Spanish or English. Furthermore, translation will be provided to ensure efficient communication. The selection process will be conducted by the ERUA Blue Commission alongside one or two academics, experts in the field. The final list of selected applicants will be announced in the first half of April 2025.

ADDRESSED TOPICS

The forum is for you if you are experienced and/or interested in topics related to one of the following:

1. Energy consumption, transportation and use of renewables
2. Climate change impacts on local communities, sustainable practices in urban environments and community resilience building initiatives
3. Biodiversity conservation efforts
4. Deal with greenhouse effect and carbon sinks
5. Climate justice and equity considerations (including strategies for vulnerable regions, policy advocacy and climate action campaigns)
6. Sustainable agriculture and food security
7. Sustainable tourism
8. Biomimicry and biomimetics
9. SDG's
10. Environmental determinism
11. Environmental education
12. Sustainable consumption and fashion
13. Greenwashing

We believe these topics are of utmost importance and shall not be missed in the forum, however you may apply with a different topic not included in the list and explain its importance.

Selection Criteria:

These general criteria will be followed to determine if the applicants are to be selected or not:

- Variety of institutions represented.
- Assessment of CV.
- Variety of fields of expertise.
- Innovation.
- Overall interest in the proposal.
- Alignment with ERUA topics and SDGs.
- Interdisciplinary approach.
- Organizational matters.

The selection committee will be formed by, at least, one student from each institution's members in the Blue Commission, together with one or two academics, experts in the field. For more details, you may use the contact list provided.

Timetable of the process

3rd March – 31st March → Submissions period

1st April → 10th April → Decision regarding the lecturers

Until 15th April → Communication of the results

Until 21st April → Confirmation of the chosen participants.

Deadline to provide the final slides of the presentation → 7th May

If you are interested in presenting, please complete the expression of interest form by March 31st, 2025, at the following link:

https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/OpenCall_YoungForumforClimateChange_ERUA_LasPalmas

CONTACTS

For any questions, you may contact these representatives of the ERUA Blue Commission:

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General and ULPGC: Samuel Taviro Rodríguez-Brusco
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Conditions: ERUA members can receive financial support for travel and accommodation. Please contact your respective local contact person to find out more about opportunities to fund your participation.

- ULPGC: Lucas Pérez (lucas.perez@ulpgc.es)
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