



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



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



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

Under the auspices of UNESCO

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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

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



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

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About us

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

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



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

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



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1. Foreword by the Directors

With this annual report, we would like to inform you about the activities of the International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels under the auspices of UNESCO and the UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security, hosted by the European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy at the University of Graz, in the year 2022. This is already the third year that we are able to present a joint report to showcase the continuing synergies between our institutions.

2022 allowed us to convene our second Academy and Conference “Human Rights Go Local – What Works” in February, held online in cooperation with UNESCO, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN Habitat, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, the Provincial Government 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 local governments commit themselves to human rights in their policies, programmes, and activities. This event was based on the third volume of our jointly edited publication series “Human Rights Go Local”. The Academy was followed by a high-level conference with over 400 participants from 55 countries.

2022 also saw the publication of the Edward Elgar Research Handbook on Human Security and International Law, edited by UNESCO Chair Gerd Oberleitner, which brought together more than 30 authors from around the world to highlight the importance of human security in our times of multiple crises. We also published the 16th edition of the European Yearbook on Human Rights which provides once more an overview of recent developments in human rights in the Council of Europe, the EU, OSCE, and beyond. In foundational, advanced, specialised, and skill-building courses offered by the UNESCO Chair at the University of Graz, and in our Doctoral Programme in Human Rights, Democracy, Diversity, and Gender, as well as in international master programmes, including in the Global Campus of Human Rights, the world’s leading human rights education programme with 100 partner universities, our staff has been active in teaching the next generation of human rights defenders. We have strengthened our cooperation with partners, including the UNESCO Chair in Human Rights, Democracy and the Peace at the University of Padova, with the introduction of the first-ever master course on human rights at the local level.

Another highlight of 2022 was the capacity building project in 13 Georgian municipalities under the coordination of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, in which sustainable structures and institutions could be set up and advised in their efforts of bringing human rights home within the framework of the convention of local self-government. This approach proved extremely promising, and could become a model for other countries and regions, particularly in Africa where a huge decentralisation process is currently underway. To this end, we are supported by our partner, the African Local Governance Academy (ALGA).

In terms of monitoring, our Centre completed a four-year term in FRANET, the EU Fundamental Rights Agency’s data collection and research services on fundamental rights issues. With the renewal of the mandate to monitor Austria’s compliance with European Union fundamental rights standards, we remain vigilant for our own country’s population. Further milestones were the co-organisation of a panel discussion at the Gwangju World Human Rights Cities Forum, as well as the co-organisation of a policy

dialogue on successful measures and policies against racism at local level together with UNESCO. In Graz, our human base, we continued our focus on promoting human rights at the local level with trainings for duty-bearers and human rights education activities for rights-holders, in schools, at the university, and in public spaces. Read more about our innovative projects and methods in this report.

We hope that you will get insights, inspiration, and motivation from this report, and that you will join us also next year on our journey to a rights-based and people-centred governance. We will continue to exchange knowledge, facilitate implementation through capacity building, and build bridges between the local, national, regional, and international levels in order to make human rights a reality. Finally, we would like to thank 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, European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy at the University of Graz



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



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



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

3. Joint Work Programme

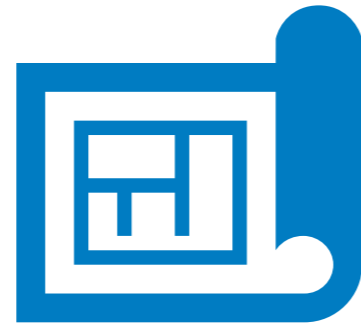
Human rights education, training, and capacity-building are cornerstones for effectively realising human rights nationally, regionally, and locally. Knowledge of human rights is the prerequisite to actively participate in democratic decision-making. UNESCO's objectives of life-long learning and human

rights education are important means to promote global citizenship, create inclusive societies, and foster peace and stability. Human rights research has to be the basis for evidence-based policy-making in cities and communities. Cities and local authorities are the linchpin when it comes to addressing global challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change, and conflict. It is city and municipal administrations that are the closest to citizens, and well-equipped to render human rights a lived experience in their procedures and interactions with citizens.

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

In the next years, they will jointly undertake the following activities:

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



- establishing a Human Rights Lab (LABS!) to test, evaluate, and refine human rights policies, and to turn them into 'export items' for cities
- offering academic education, as well as developing learning methods and teaching tools to build the capacity of next-generation human rights educators, practitioners, and researchers through international cooperation and academic mobility, hosting visiting researchers and volunteers, and contributing to the Global Campus of Human Rights
- encouraging next-generation researchers in the Doctoral Programme in Human Rights, Democracy, Diversity, and Gender to explore human rights at the local and regional levels
- undertaking research projects to counter hate speech in social media at the local and regional level, develop a regulatory framework for private actors, and promote social inclusion and equal opportunities in sports at the local and regional level
- publishing and disseminating research output, for example in the Publication Series *Human Rights Go Local* and the *European Yearbook of Human Rights*

4. Staff and Board 2022

Management of the UNESCO Centre

Klaus Starl

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

Gerd Oberleitner

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

Heidi Bassin

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

Management of the UNESCO Chair

Gerd Oberleitner

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

Lisa Heschl

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

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

Renate Kicker

Director

Markus Uitz

Director

Gabriela Ramos

Representative of UNESCO in the Governing Board

Ernst-Peter Brezovszky

Representative of the Austrian Federal Ministry of 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 Kjærø, Lund

Benjamin Kneih, Salzburg

Emma Lantscher, 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

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

Gregor Fischer-Lessiak

Scientific staff and lecturer, UNESCO Chair

Lisa Heschl

Senior scientist and lecturer, UNESCO Chair

Bernadette Holzer

Scientific staff with focus on development cooperation, UNESCO Centre

Isabella Meier

Scientific staff and FRANET expert, UNESCO Centre

Markus Möstl

Scientific staff and FRANET expert, UNESCO Centre

Livia Perschy

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

Agnes Romanin

Scientific staff and lecturer, UNESCO Chair

Katharina Freller

Scientific staff and lecturer, UNESCO Chair

Manuela Ruz

Secretariat, UNI-ETC

Alexandra Stocker

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

Wanda Tiefenbacher

Scientific staff and public relations, UNESCO Centre; Executive Office of the Human Rights Advisory Board of the City of Graz

Teaching Assistants at the UNESCO Chair

Selina Nageler

Kirsten Reiterer

Sophia Urban

Incoming Lecturers and Trainers

Simone Philipp

Human rights education trainer (UNESCO Centre)

Christoph Pinter

Head of UNHCR Austria; incoming lecturer (UNESCO Chair)

Barbara Schmiedl

Human rights education trainer (UNESCO Centre)

Elisabeth Steiner

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

Wolfgang Taucher

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

Visiting Researchers at the UNESCO Chair / UNI-ETC

Edilu Shona

Hawassa University, Ethiopia

Svitlana Andreichenko

International Humanitarian University, Odessa, Ukraine

Volunteers at the UNESCO Centre

Judith Gerhalter

Sarah Hertwig

Patrick Spindelböck

Agatha de Souza Lopes



Human Rights Mandates

Wolfgang Benedek

Head of the Mission to investigate violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in Ukraine under the Moscow Mechanism of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE); 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

10

master and doctoral theses supervised

13

university courses

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countries of activity

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staff members

22

interviews

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research and cooperation projects

38

publications

38

scientific board members

62

Kenne deine Rechte
journalistic articles

>35.000

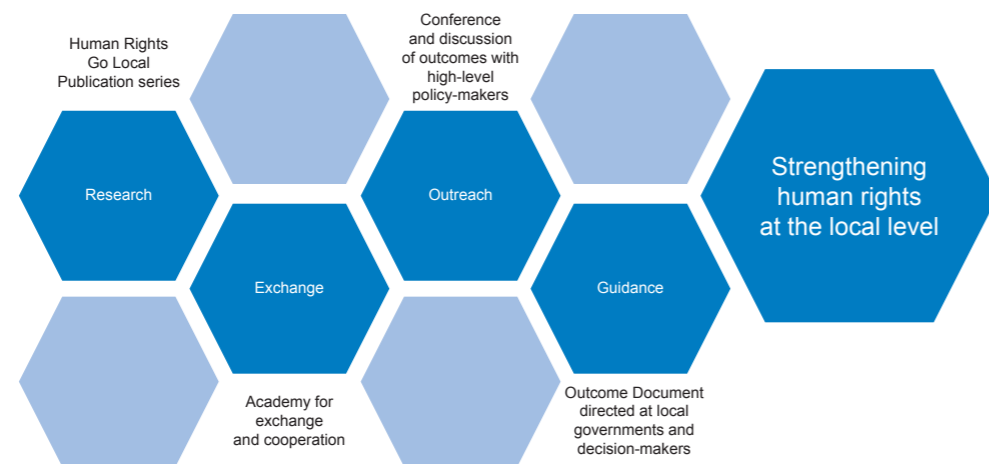
people reached online

6. From Intentions to Commitments: Towards the Effective and Sustainable Implementation of Human Rights

How to effectively localise human rights is a subject that is gaining importance across the globe. The New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are two international frameworks that place emphasis on the local level's crucial role in enforcing international human rights commitments. In UNESCO's quest to "leave no one behind", cities and municipalities serve as the starting point for this ambition because they are closest to their residents, and have the ability to enact policies that promote inclusion, equality, and human rights.

The collection, synthesis, and promotion of the wealth of knowledge on how to successfully promote human rights at the local level are at the heart of the joint work programme of the UNESCO Centre and UNESCO Chair in Graz. The event series "Human Rights Go Local - What Works" offers an opportunity to create practical guidelines and perspectives for those actors at the centre of international agendas, namely local decision-makers and authorities. Further, it acts as a catalyst for creative research and a platform for skill sharing.

The Academy and Conference series comprises four distinct but interrelated steps: a publication series to kick off discussions, an Academy to bring together global expertise, a Conference to present results, and an Outcome Document to guide political decision-making. These steps help strengthen human rights at the local level.



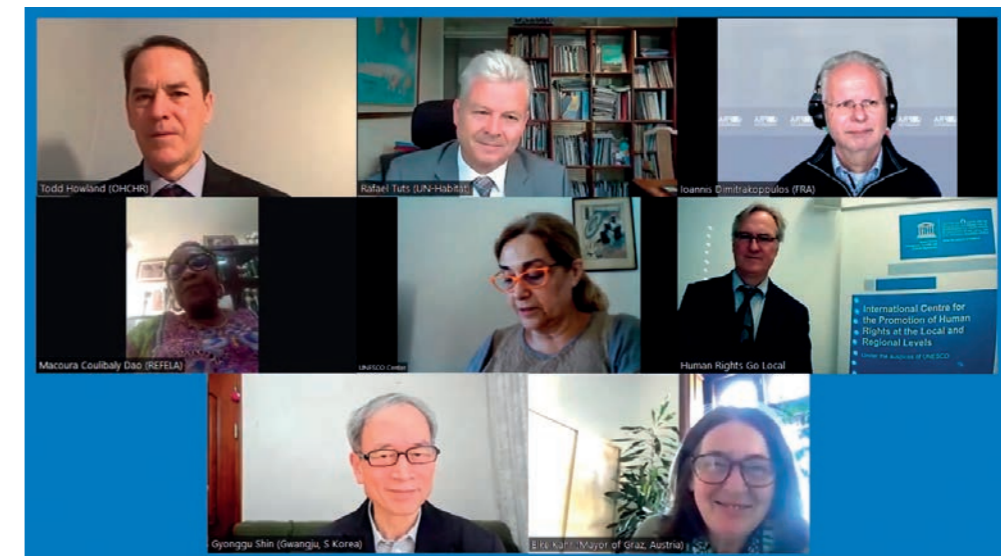
After a highly successful first event in 2021, the 2022 edition "From Intentions to Commitments: Towards the Effective and Sustainable Implementation of Human Rights" brought together representatives of international organisations, human rights practitioners from all relevant fields, and members of the next generation. Together, they elaborated on the question: "Which practices truly help local governments to strengthen their commitment to human rights?"

In preparation for the event, intensive research was conducted on various strategies, tools, and frameworks that facilitate local authorities' commitment to human rights around the world. The third volume of the publication series "Human Rights Go Local",

authored by Jasmien Deklerck, laid not only the conceptual groundwork for the event, but also gathered contributions from 22 actors from around the world, and examined how cities, in particular human rights cities, can move from supporting human rights principles and values in an abstract way to fully guaranteeing their inhabitants' human rights.

The Academy took place from 1 to 7 February 2022 and brought together 70 global human rights experts, who shared their valuable insights and experiences concerning the drivers and actors of local human rights commitments, the local development of commitment, and the steps that must be taken in the future to achieve true responsibility for human rights. Special emphasis was placed on the voices and perspectives of the next generation, who enjoyed an informal networking session. During this session, young participants were introduced to several human rights professions as a crucial means towards advancing human rights locally.

The expertise and best practices gathered during the Academy's discussions are compiled and published in an Outcome Document. As last year, the document is a collection of encouragements made by the Academy's participants to local governments. The 2022 Outcome Document includes 14 recommendations that serve as guidance to local authorities. Further, they can be used as a blueprint to effectively and sustainably foster human rights commitments at the local level in line with the UN's goal of "leaving no one behind". Explanatory Remarks for each encouragement were added to the Outcome Document, highlighting relevant case studies, best practices, and additional resources.



High-level panel discussion on 8 February 2022 with Todd Howland (OHCHR), Rafael Tuts (UN-Habitat), Ioannis Dimitrakopoulos (FRA), Macoura Coulibaly Dao (President of REFELA), Fernanda Gil Lozano (International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights, Buenos Aires, Argentina), Gyonggu Shin (Human Rights Policy Advisor, Gwangju, South Korea), and Elke Kahr (Mayor of Graz, Austria), moderated by Klaus Starl (International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels).



Excerpts from the theatre spots developed by the group InterACT, illustrating the content, challenges, and solutions contained in the Outcome Document.

The Outcome Document was presented during the event's second part, namely the Conference on 8 February 2022. A total of 400 online guests from 55 countries attended this event, which was interpreted in English, French, and German. They witnessed the presentation and discussion of the Outcome Document with representatives from international organisations and local governments. Gabriela Ramos, UNESCO's ADG for Social and Human Sciences, held a keynote speech on the importance of local level human rights activities. The following discussion of the Outcome Document was attended by Todd Howland (OHCHR), Rafael Tuts (UN-Habitat), Ioannis Dimitrakopoulos (FRA), Macoura Coulibaly Dao (President of REFELA), Fernanda Gil Lozano (International Center for the Promotion of Human Rights, Buenos Aires, Argentina), Gyonggu Shin (Human Rights Policy Advisor, Gwangju, South Korea) and Elke Kahr (Mayor of Graz, Austria). The basis for the discussion was provided by the Austrian theatre group InterACT. The members developed theatrical illustrations of the Outcome Document, depicting common challenges encountered by local governments and solutions based on the Academy's Outcome Document.

The second Academy and Conference are organised by 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 in Graz, Austria, together with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UN-Habitat, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), the Austrian Federal Ministry of European and International Affairs, the Federal Province of Styria, and the City of Graz.

The Academy and Conference were a resounding success both in 2021 and 2022. 100% of participants said they would use the knowledge offered during the Academy in their daily work. Participants praised the diversity of regions, governance levels, and activities. Further, they stated that hearing about global best practices was encouraging. 90% of attendees liked the Academy's blend of plenary and interactive sessions, saying it encouraged open dialogue and helped bring human rights to local communities.

Soon after the second Academy concluded, preparations for the following edition began. Regarding the theme, it became apparent that there is a clear disconnect between theory and practise regarding local management tools that support the integration of human rights into public management practises. To put it another way, how can local governments promote accountability and sound governance by incorporating human rights objectives into their managerial procedures?

The next Academy and Conference will make use of the expanding practical knowledge of government actors from around the world in order to evaluate, synthesise, and formulate actionable recommendations for decision-makers in public management. In addition to assisting the UNESCO Chair and Centre in carrying out their respective mandates to foster understanding, facilitate implementation, and moderate exchange, we expect this format to have a lasting impact on the effort to localise human rights in relation to the global agenda.



STAKEHOLDER COOPERATION

7 . Stakeholder Cooperation

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



UNESCO

UNESCO is a key partner in the implementation of both the UNESCO Centre's and the Chair's mandates, and collaborates closely with the two organisations on a range of initiatives. UNESCO is represented by ADG Gabriela Ramos in the Governing Board of the Foundation for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels, and is co-organiser of the Academy and Conference "Human Rights Go Local – What Works". UNESCO Centre and Chair have been engaging with the International Coalition for Inclusive and Sustainable Cities (ICCAR) for over ten years in various capacities. In 2022, a policy dialogue of local authorities and civil society organisations on the roadmap against racism was prepared and held in cooperation with the president of ICCAR and UNESCO.

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 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".

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".



It is truly encouraging to see the many stakeholders and actors with whom we collaborate on a daily basis, as well as their various activities and areas of influence. Our numerous collaborations and partnerships are critical to advancing the promotion of human rights at the local level, especially when it comes to the exchange of knowledge, best practises, and how to overcome challenges. **Wanda Tiefenbacher**

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

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

Since 2021, the UNESCO Centre and the UNESCO Chair have partnered with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute to undertake collaborative activities for the purpose of promoting human rights at the local and regional levels through joint initiatives, including capacity-building, research, developing a human rights trainer pool, and staff exchanges.

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.

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.

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.

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 digital infrastructure for the Centre and a crucial supporter in the implementation of the Centre’s mandate. The company produces software for the judicial sector, including secure communication between lawyers, courts, and administration. The company provides the UNESCO Centre with services for internal administration and project management, as well as internet applications, and is involved in the realisation of projects that require technical assistance. It is the main donor of the online youth platform Kenne deine Rechte.

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 3

In January 2022, the third volume of the “Human Rights Go Local” Publication Series was published. The Series is jointly edited by the UNESCO Chair and the UNESCO Centre, and showcases how the interlinkages between human rights at the local level and global policy frameworks can guide us towards creative inclusive, resilient, safe, and sustainable urban spaces and regions. The third volume “From Commitment to Responsibility for Human Rights in Cities and Regions” was written by Jasmien Deklerck. The book is about how cities, particularly Human Rights Cities, can go from supporting human rights principles and values in an abstract way to fully guaranteeing the human rights of their inhabitants. The publication includes 22 contributions from a diverse range of cities, regions, and international organisations on practices and experiences towards realising human rights commitments at the local level. More information at <https://www.humanrightsgolocal.org/resources/human-rights-go-local-publication-series/>



Among FRA's manifold assignments, I particularly remember our work on business and human rights, where I had insightful discussions with public authorities and civil society representatives on the achievements and challenges of promoting human rights-compliant and sustainable business practices. **Markus Möstl**

Multidisciplinary Research Network FRANET

The ETC serves as Austria's National Focal Point (NFP) in the FRANET research network, which is hosted by the European Union's Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). In this role, the ETC conducts screenings, fieldwork, and in-depth research. In the year 2022, 14 service requests of varying sizes were carried out on a range of topics. One large-scale project focused on the challenges and promising practises in police anti-racism work. Another project addressed the relationship between human rights and business practises in terms of sustainability and compliance mechanisms. More research topics in 2022 include the impact of digitalisation on an ageing society, the national implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, and the effects of the Russian war of aggression against the Ukraine on the realisation of fundamental rights. More information on the network and country-specific research is available here <http://fra.europa.eu/>

European Yearbook on Human Rights 2022

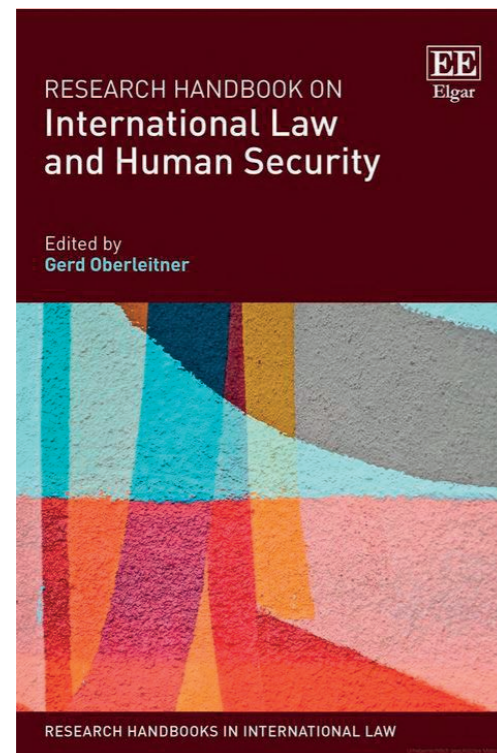
The European Yearbook on Human Rights brings together renowned scholars, emerging voices, and practitioners, comprising contributions which engage with some of the most important human rights issues and developments in Europe. The Yearbook helps to better understand the rich landscape of the European regional human rights system, and is intended to stimulate discussions, critical thinking, and further research in this field. The European Yearbook on Human Rights 2022 aims to identify and address a variety of the most pressing human rights issues in Europe and beyond: Issues such as the climate crisis, ongoing conflicts in Europe and beyond, attacks on and the suppression of minorities, rapid technological changes, a war on information, and the regression of democracy and the rule of law, just to name a few, challenge and question the effect of human rights.



Research and capacity-building in the field of human rights is the most promising way to counter the spread of misinformation and ideological tendencies threatening liberal democracies. There is a need to take human rights as starting point for addressing current global challenges, and we, as a human rights centre, have a responsibility to contribute to inform these debates. **Lisa Heschl**

Gerd Oberleitner (ed.), **Research Handbook on International Law and Human Security**

The Research Handbook on International Law and Human Security, published in Edward Elgars' prestigious research handbook series, brings together more than 30 authors from across the globe to consider the place of human security in international law. Elaborated in 1994 by UNDP, the concept of human security positions the individual at the centre of security, and shifts the focus from national security to everyday security. Contributions by leading authors in the field critically engage with 25 years of human security practice in different areas of international law, and explore the challenges, successes, and setbacks of realising human security in a state-based international legal order. Organised around six core themes - concepts, the preservation of peace, personal security, existential risks, socio-economic security, and regional human security perspectives - the handbook shows how human security can be used as an overarching framework to preserve peace, protect people, and counter vulnerability through international law, and proposes a future international law in which human security is central to the law's purpose. Progressive and engaging, this handbook is a key resource for scholars and students of public international law, security studies, and international relations.



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Inter arma enim silent leges? The Russian aggression and the continuing armed conflict in Ukraine have - once again - demonstrated the fragility of the global peace architecture whose failure necessarily has devastating impacts on human rights. The rule of law, and not the rule of force, must prevail. **Gregor Fischer-Lessiak**

Global Digital Human Rights Network (GDHRNet, COST Action 19143)

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



**GLOBAL DIGITAL
HUMAN RIGHTS
NETWORK**

contributes to collaborative research and networking within the COST Action. Gregor Fischer-Lessiak served as Science Communication Coordinator of GDHRNet in 2022. More information at <https://gdhmet.eu/>

Mission to investigate violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in Ukraine under the Moscow Mechanism of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

The Russian aggression against Ukraine violates all basic principles of the present international legal order as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations of 1945 or the Helsinki Accord of 1975, in particular the respect of sovereign equality of states, territorial integrity and inviolability of frontiers, the prohibition of the use of force, the obligation to settle differences by peaceful means, the right to political and economic self-determination, as well as the respect of human rights. During the first period of the war, information on alleged violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and human rights emerged, which prompted the use of the so-called Moscow Mechanism of OSCE by Ukraine, supported by 45 Participating States. The Mechanism allows for the establishment of a mission of inquiry by three independent experts - in the case of Ukraine, Wolfgang Benedek, Veronika Bílková, and Marco Sassoli were chosen. Because of Wolfgang Benedek's experience as rapporteur under the Moscow Mechanism in two previous missions on Chechnya and Belarus, he was appointed to chair the mission. In view of the ongoing attacks in many parts of Ukraine, the experts could not visit the country, but collected its information from all available sources, besides Ukrainian sources in particular from a United Nations monitoring mission on the ground, as well as local and international NGOs. In its comprehensive report presented to the OSCE Permanent Council in early April 2022, the mission was able to demonstrate that there was a pattern of systematic violations of IHL and human rights, the latter in particular in the occupied areas. The report can be found at <https://www.osce.org/odihr/515868>



**CAPACITY
BUILDING**

9. Capacity Building

Human Rights Education and Training



Strengthening human rights at the local level in Georgia

The Centre supported the Council of Europe in its initiative “Strengthening participatory democracy and human rights at the local level in Georgia: Local Authorities’ efforts, challenges and needs in the implementation of human rights commitments” as international consultant. The Centre supports the implementation of the project by providing methodological advice and capacity-building regarding the implementation of human rights and participatory democracy at the local level. The initiative is funded by Austrian Development Cooperation and carried out in coordination with the Directorate General of Democracy, Division of Elections and Participatory Democracy, and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities within the framework of the Council of Europe Action Plan for Georgia 2020-2023.

The entire project is planned and implemented keeping in mind the target group: local authorities in Georgian municipalities. Therefore, a Baseline Assessment (B.A.) was carried out in the beginning of the project to assess the capacities and needs of the target group. The thematic focus was defined by the priorities of the local authorities themselves, which included group rights, good governance and service delivery, anti-discrimination, and participation. The B.A. was carried out by local consultants on site and guided by the Centre’s staff. The B.A. was conducted between March and July 2022 through desk research, telephone consultations, local consultations, and interviews. The findings revealed the capacities, challenges, and recommendations of Georgian local authorities in relation to human rights implementation at the local level. Based on its findings, the capacity-building activities were planned.

One of these capacity-building activities was related to data collection and management. The Centre developed the methods for a Spring School on Data Collection and Management geared towards local authorities, which took place in June 2022 in Borjomi, Georgia. The event focused on data collection principles, tools, and methods that support a human rights-based decision-making strategy.



Spring school on data collection and management with members of 13 Georgian local authorities, held in Borjomi, Georgia. © Council of Europe Office in Georgia



It’s refreshing and impressive to work with local authorities who are eager to implement changes towards the realisation of equality and human rights. Decentralisation processes in Georgia brought new responsibilities in human rights implementation for the local level. A highlight of 2022 was providing methodological support to this process and getting a glimpse of the capacities already in place in Georgian municipalities while at the same time meeting knowledgeable and kind people on site. **Isabella Meier**

The Spring School gathered highly committed representatives from thirteen Georgian municipalities who showed willingness to learn. With the support of civil society organisations, the data management capabilities of local governments were increased by means of co-created tools and checklists to support data collection and evidence-based policy-making. The event was co-organised by the Council of Europe’s Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and Georgia’s National Association of Local Authorities. These needs-based and target group-oriented capacity-building and consulting initiatives lay the foundation for future efforts to strengthen participatory democracy and human rights in local political action in Georgian municipalities.

SCORE: Sporting Cities Opposing Racism in Europe

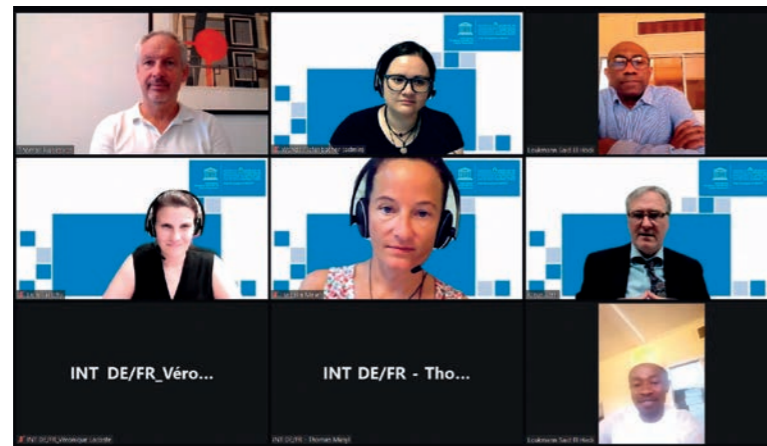
The project SCORE is funded by the Rights, Equality & Citizenship Programme of the European Union, runs from 2022 to 2024, and is implemented by a consortium of 15 partners in six European countries, namely Austria, France, Greece, Ireland, Spain, and Sweden. The objective is to create a coalition of European cities and local entities for the promotion of inclusive sport, as well as the prevention and fight against racism, xenophobia, and related intolerance in the field of sport. This is realised by raising awareness, building knowledge, and sharing best practices at the local level on effective measures to tackle discrimination and racism, and by promoting knowledge about the role of minorities, such as people of racial or ethnic origin, in European societies, and their contribution to cultural development. More information is available on the project website: www.scoreproject.net



Kick-off meeting of the project SCORE held in Getafe, Spain, with members of the consortium from Austria, France, Greece, Ireland, Spain, and Sweden. © Ayuntamiento de Getafe

Human rights trainings for members of local authorities in the Union of the Comoros: Human rights and social inclusion by means of sports

On 4 July 2022, the International Centre conducted an interactive online capacity-building workshop on the promotion of human rights and social cohesion/inclusion by means of sports, with a particular focus on children/youth and girls/women, together with Thomas Rajakovics, head of the Municipal Sports Office of the City of Graz, and in cooperation with the Comorian project partner Loukmann Said El Hadi, president of the Institut Comorien Pour La Formation des Élus (ICFE). The objective was to provide the participants with theoretical and practical expertise on promoting human rights and social inclusion by means of planning and implementing inclusive sports offers in their respective Communes. The Toolkit for Urban Inclusion in Arab Cities' methodology, in particular chapter three on "Sports for Youth Inclusion", served as the basis for the workshop. Mr. Abdelaziz Zaki of the UNESCO Cairo Office, one of the primarily responsible persons for the development of the Toolkit, opened the workshop. The very interactive workshop atmosphere allowed for a fruitful climate. Participants managed to develop their own strategic plan for the specific Comorian local context: the establishment of a pilot project between several Communes, focusing on three main sporting activities, namely swimming, biking, and running, which shall be provided to the citizens, as well as turned into an Olympic discipline, the triathlon. The workshop was simultaneously interpreted into French and German. The project was kindly financially supported by the Land Steiermark, Abteilung 9 Kultur, Europa, Sport, Referat Europa und Internationales FairStyria – Entwicklungszusammenarbeit.



Online capacity-building training on human rights and social inclusion by means of sports held in July 2022.



Participants from the Institut Comorien Pour La Formulation des Élus (ICFE) attending the online capacity-building training. © Loukmann Said El Hadi

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 objective of the project is to develop and apply a practical intervention methodology for the social inclusion of children with migration histories in sports activities in local contexts, by creating synergies between grassroots sports and social organisations, and local authorities from Spain, France, Portugal, Cyprus, and Greece. One of the most important elements of the project implementation in general, and the development of the project methodology in particular is the collaboration with the academic partner, the UNI-ETC, and the Institute of Exercise Science, Sport, and Health of the University of Graz, in order to ensure the effective data collection, validation, and evaluation of the impact of sports activities for social inclusion of children with migration histories.



SmatchS project meeting in Banyoles, Spain

Roma Integration in Education

From 2019 to early 2022, the ETC Graz worked with local partners on the implementation of the GUARANTEE project in Stolipinovo, Plovdiv (Bulgaria), and Nordstadt, Dortmund (Germany). GUARANTEE was co-funded by the European Union's Rights, Equality, and Citizenship Programme. The project applied a human rights-based approach with the right to education at its core. It emphasised dropout prevention and stereotype deconstruction through learning support combined with leisure activities such as sports. GUARANTEE targeted girls and boys aged 11 to 14 in order to empower them to continue their education after completing primary and lower-secondary school. The final report outlining the methods and findings of the Action Research conducted in the project was published in February 2022, and is available here: https://www.etc-graz.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/ETC-Occasional-Paper-39-Guaranteeing-the-right-to-education-for-Roma-children-in-European-cities_Philipp_Starl_Kunz.pdf

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



HERAS+ Consortium members

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. In May 2022, the project consortium met at the University of Graz for project coordination and a methodology workshop. A month later, HERAS+ was awarded the Excellent Research Award of the Faculty of Law of the University of Graz.



SDG workshops for Austrian high school students

The Austrian UNESCO Commission offers workshops on the Sustainable Development Goals to UNESCO Schools. Within this framework, the Centre held seven online workshops on SDG 6 (Right to Water) and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities). Over 120 high school students attended the workshops.

Policy Toolkits

Toolkit for Urban Inclusion in Arab Cities

The project TISCA was initiated in 2017 as a cooperation between the UNESCO Centre, the UNESCO Chair, UNESCO Headquarters, the UNESCO Field Office in Cairo, the Arab Institute for Human Rights, and UNESCO's International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities (ICCAR). The collaboration sparked the creation of the "Toolkit for Urban Inclusion in Arab Cities", which aims to build local capacity for inclusive and sustainable cities in the Arab world. The Toolkit covers the topics of public participation, access to information, youth sports, citizenship, and human rights education. It contains in-depth 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 implementation obstacles. In 2022, work on a new chapter began focusing on women's inclusion in cities, incorporating the breadth of experiences and know-how shared during a series of workshops and consultations conducted with ALGA of UCLG-Africa and REFELA in 2021. The new Toolkit chapter will provide city leaders and local government officials with practical tools and advice to help them build sustainable cities that ensure women's inclusion in all aspects of life. The Toolkit for Urban Inclusion in Arab Cities is available for download in English, French, and Arabic here <http://www.humanrightsgolocal.org/resources/tools/>

Online city reporting tool for the European Coalition of Cities Against Racism

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, developments for a more advanced and complex version began in mid-2022.

**FACILITATING
THE EXCHANGE
OF KNOWLEDGE**

10. Facilitating the Exchange of Knowledge



Academy & Conference: Human Rights Go Local – What Works

The Academy and Conference on Human Rights at the Local Level aims to promote inclusive social development and equitable societies. The goal is to exchange expertise on methods of local human rights research in order to create a scientific data foundation for local level policy-making. The event aims to build bridges between all levels of government, disciplines, and regions, and leverages the expertise gathered during the Academy as policy input for local authorities. This input is presented at the closing Conference. Following a highly successful first event in 2021, the 2022 edition “From Intentions to Commitments: Towards the Effective and Sustainable Implementation of Human Rights” 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/>



The dynamics in the growing interest in human rights at the local level is remarkable: Mayors write books about their respective experiences, academics from all over the world join us to learn about practice, small towns invite us to learn about trust-building through good governance, international organisations use opportunities to reach out to local actors, and more and more initiatives bring together people from around the world in order to exchange their knowledge and to concretely cooperate in this field. If we manage to establish human rights as part of the administration, we will experience a boost in the job opportunities for people educated in human rights. It is satisfying having contributed a very small bit to this development. **Klaus Starl**

UNESCO Policy Dialogue: Joining forces with cities and civil society to fight racism

UNESCO, in partnership with UNESCO’s International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities (ICCAR), and in collaboration with the UNESCO Centre and Chair in Graz, organised the first Policy Dialogue which took place on 20 October 2022. “Joining forces with cities and civil society to fight racism” is the first in a series of Policy Dialogues aiming to promote discussion about public policies and how to fight against racism and discrimination. Policy Dialogues contribute to the second pillar of UNESCO’s Roadmap against Racism and Discrimination, which aims to generate and mobilise knowledge and evidence to challenge these societal biases. The event focused on strengthening institutional and legal frameworks to combat racism and discrimination, and gathered mayors, vice-mayors, city officials, academic experts, and civil society actors to share lessons, policies, strategies, and experiences in their fight against racism and discrimination. The outcomes and recommendations were further developed during the 2nd Global Forum against Racism and Discrimination, taking place in Mexico City from 28 to 29 November 2022.



Participants from local authorities and civil society organisations attending the first ICCAR Policy Dialogue held in October 2022. © Linda Tinio / UNESCO

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 seven regional master programmes in human rights and democratisation in Venice, Bangkok, 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://qchumanrights.org/>

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

The Director of the UNESCO Centre, Klaus Starl, taught a four-part module series at the University of Padova titled “Multi-level Governance: Human Rights at Local Level”. The course blended theoretical and practical methods, and discussed several issues pertaining to the relevance of human rights at the local level. These included the

importance of the local level for human rights, the multi-level governance framework, Human Rights Cities, the human rights-based approach to policy-making, and the role of cities, networks, and international organisations in the implementation and promotion of human rights.

Studying human rights at the University of Graz

The UNESCO Chair offers an undergraduate and postgraduate learning portfolio with foundational, advanced, specialised, and skill-building courses on human rights and human security within UNESCO's Education 2030 Strategy. The 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).



Padova Model UPR 2022

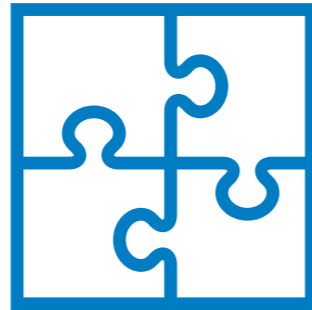


I really enjoy discussing up-to-date human rights-related controversies and topics with students from different disciplines in the framework of the Human Rights Debate Club. It is very motivating and inspiring to see so many young people being interested in the field of human rights, and debating and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

LABS!

11. LABS!

The Human Rights Lab Styria comprises all activities in Graz and Styria which serve the research and testing of human rights implementation and projects. Findings serve as input for development of methods and measures that can be applied elsewhere.



Realising the right to adequate housing in Styria

The Anti-Discrimination Office Styria commissioned the ETC Graz to conduct a study on the implementation of the human right to adequate housing in the Province of Styria. The objectives were to identify central, negative trends weighing upon the Styrian rental market and, consequently, hindering the non-discriminatory realisation of this right, as well as to determine the most disadvantaged groups. An existing study conducted by the ETC Graz in 2014 on the non-discriminatory access to housing in Styria served as a starting point. In 2021, this study was updated, complemented by the most vital, negative trends that could be identified for the time-period from 2014 until 2021, and structurally adapted. Due to the current socio-political and economic developments like the Russian war of aggression against the Ukraine and the rising inflation rate as a consequence of the COVID-19-pandemic, the study was again updated and current trends were incorporated in 2022. The outcomes of this long-term study show various negative trends, severely preventing the non-discriminatory implementation of the right to adequate housing in Styria, and identify several highly disadvantaged groups, e.g. young people under 30 years, people with no or low income, people living with a psychological or psychiatric disorder, refugees or people with a migration biography, just to name a few. The study is published in January 2023 and can be found online at <https://www.etc-graz.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/ETC-Occasional-Paper-40-FAIRMIETUNG-IN-DER-STEIERMARK.pdf>



Livia Perschy (International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels), Daniela Grabovac (Anti-Discrimination Office Styria), Robert Krotzer (City of Graz Councillor for Health and Integration), Doris Kampus (Provincial Councillor for Social Affairs, Labour Affairs and Integration) at the press conference introducing the new study. © Stadt Graz / Foto Fischer

Children's Rights City: concept, measures, action plan

In 2021, the City of Graz started the process to become a Children's Rights City. In 2022, this process was continued with the consultative support of the Centre and Chair. The goal is to commit the City of Graz to implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as the Austrian Federal Constitutional Law on the Rights of Children (BVG- Kinderrechte) in its decisions and actions through a Municipal Council declaration. The Municipal Council and the City Government plan to adopt a Declaration and an accompanying Action Plan to respect, protect, fulfil, and promote children's rights, developed with broad participation of children. The Action Plan shall include specific goals, implementation steps, and monitoring measures.

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

The ETC serves as the Municipal Human Rights 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 elaboration of the City's Human Rights Report. The City of Graz's Human Rights Report examines developments, good practices, and challenges related to the realisation of human rights in Graz. In 2022, the Human Rights Council published its 15th Human Rights Report. It built on the 2021 Report, elaborating recommendations on the improvement of the implementation of the right to adequate housing. Therefore, it examines the current state of implementation of the recommendations by the Government. The Council found that the Government took all recommendations; they either have already been implemented or are currently in the process of implementation. Further, the focus chapter of the 2022 Report discusses to what extent the human rights-based approach was considered during the planning and implementation of two thematic years initiated



by the City of Graz, namely the Year of Culture 2020/21 and the Year of Sports 2021. For this, an interview was conducted with the head of the Year of Culture and the head of the City's Sports Department. The summarised interview can be found in the Report. The 2022 Report was presented at a press conference on December 7 2022. Further, it was also discussed in the City Council. The Report is available (in German) here https://www.graz.at/cms/dokumente/10152653_7771447/a26f52dc/MRB-Bericht2022_web.pdf A short English summary can be found here https://www.graz.at/cms/dokumente/10152653_7771447/530f153f/MRB22_Kurzbericht_EN.pdf



The Human Rights Report's recommendations, elaborated based on the practical experience of numerous civil society actors, managed to engage the local government in taking active steps towards the improvement of the non-discriminatory realisation of the right to adequate housing, thereby improving the situation for all citizens. To me, the establishment of an effective human rights monitoring tool at the local level, like the human rights reporting system, has yet again proven its great significance for the on-going strengthening of the local government's human rights commitment. **Livia Perschy**

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 between 14 to 24 to report on human rights issues that affect or interest them. The project is funded by the City of Graz (Stadt Graz), the Province of Styria (Land Steiermark,) Paragraph-Software GmbH, and Energie Graz. Participants are given thematic inputs to research human rights topics of interest to them, attend events, create videos, host competitions, and raise human rights awareness among their peers. The 12th project cycle 2021/2022 had 33 participants, while the 2022/23



Members of Kenne deine Rechte attending the workshop "One day in a wheelchair" with Heinz Sailer, Styrian Monitoring Committee for People with Disabilities

round counts 25 participants scattered across Austria, including foreign correspondents in Guatemala and the United States. The project's own Podcast, "Weltverbessern für Anfänger:innen" (A beginner's guide to saving the world) celebrated its one-year anniversary and has published over 20 episodes. The first intergenerational dialogue on racism and discrimination between project members and senior residents of Graz took place in May 2022. In November 2022, a second edition focused on children's rights. In the summer, the team hosted an awareness-raising workshop called "One day in a wheelchair," in which participants explored the City of Graz in a wheelchair and learned about issues of accessibility and mobility of wheelchair users in daily life. More information on the project is available on the newly designed website: www.kennedeinerechte.at



Members of Kenne deine Rechte and senior residents of Graz at the first intergenerational dialogue in May 2022
© Alexander Danne



Ever since the project Kenne deine Rechte started, it has managed to support 100 young human rights journalists between the ages of 14 to 24. Like a butterfly effect, it started in 2010 as a rough idea and, twelve years later, turned into a best practice example for youth participation, that is known even beyond the borders of Graz and Austria. With hundreds of journalistic articles, a video spots series on human rights, and even an own podcast, a small group of enthusiastic and highly motivated young people reaches thousands of peers with their thoughts and ideas on human rights. In 2022, we honoured this engagement by organising a wonderful evening event with a cinema premiere of two newly produced video spots, inviting local politicians, partners, and friends to celebrate with us this human rights success story. **Alexandra Stocker**

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

Since 2016, the Austrian Society for Civic Education has provided funding to the youth project Kenne deine Rechte for the creation of human rights-related video spots. All spots are created in collaboration with members of the Kenne deine Rechte editorial team, with key tasks such as scriptwriting, camera work, editing, and acting handled by young people aged between 14 to 25. So far, 15 short film spots have been created. Two new spots on the topics “The Right to Housing” and “Crisis - catastrophe or new beginnings?” were released in 2022 with the support of CINE ART – the Styrian film funding for artistic film productions offered by the Province of Styria. The spots were presented to the public, as well as partners, political representatives, and friends of the project at an intimate evening event in a local cinema. All videos of the series can be found here www.kennedeinerechte.at/videos



Styrian Week on Children's Rights (*Steirische Kinderrechtewoche*)

For the seventh year counting, Kenne deine Rechte has participated in the Styrian Week on Children's Rights as coordinating member. In the week surrounding the International Day of Children's Rights (20th November), the Styrian Advocacy for Children and Adolescents (Kinder- und Jugendanwaltschaft Steiermark), the Children's Office (Kinderbüro), beteiligung.st and Kenne deine Rechte organise events that seek to raise awareness for children's rights. Kenne deine Rechte hosted its second intergenerational dialogue on the topic of children's rights in 2022, bringing together project members and senior citizens from Graz. Furthermore, Kenne deine Rechte members accompanied partner events with a comprehensive social media campaign.

Our Human Rights School: human rights education for elementary school children (*Unsere Menschenrechtsschule*)

“Our Human Rights School” is a project for human rights education at primary schools, which was funded by the Federal Province of Styria (Land Steiermark), and realised by the UNESCO Centre in cooperation with the University College of Teacher Education Styria (Pädagogische Hochschule Steiermark), the City of Graz (Stadt Graz), and nine primary schools in Styria. The project took place in two parts from early 2019 to mid-2022. The project's goal was to create environments in which children's rights and human rights are basic principles used as guidance in the education of primary school classes. This was achieved by training the capacity of teachers as multipliers for human rights education, and providing them with a comprehensive toolbox on the subject. Throughout the entire project, 16 teacher trainings and 32 workshops with grade three children were held, in addition to the countless workshops held by teachers using the toolbox provided. The official closing event took place in June 2022, during which schools detailed their activities and provided feedback on the project. The project as a whole was regarded as extremely beneficial to their work in the field of human rights education for elementary school children. Overall, nine elementary schools, 170 teachers and social workers, and approximately 1,800 students were reached. More information at www.menschenrechtsschule.at



Partner schools who took part in the project “Our Human Rights School” at the closing event in June 2022



EVENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

12. Events, Workshops, Lectures

13-14 January 2022	Lecture series on Multi-Level Governance at the University of Padova, Italy (Klaus Starl)
14 January 2022	Dimensions of Europeanisation Doctoral Day - lecture and discussion, University of Graz, Austria (Gregor Fischer-Lessiak)
1-7 February 2022	Academy "Human Rights Go Local – What works" on "From Intentions to Commitments: Towards the Effective and Sustainable Implementation of Human Rights", online (UNESCO Centre and UNESCO Chair)
8 February 2022	High-level Conference and panel discussion "Human Rights Go Local – What works" on "From Intentions to Commitments: Towards the Effective and Sustainable Implementation of Human Rights", presentation of the Outcome Document, online (UNESCO Centre and UNESCO Chair)
23 February 2022	Lecture on Online Hate Speech at the Special Lecture Series of the University of Applied Sciences Graz, Austria (Gregor Fischer-Lessiak)
28 February 2022	Consulting meeting on the Framework for Human Rights Cities by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), online (Markus Möstl, Klaus Starl)
7 March 2022	Lecture and panel discussion "Der Angriff auf die Ukraine" ("The Attack on Ukraine") at the University of Graz, Austria (Gerd Oberleitner)
14 March 2022	General Assembly of the European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (ETC Graz)
21 March 2022	Workshop with the project Kenne deine Rechte at the UNESCO Masterclass on Racism and Discrimination, online (Wanda Tiefenbacher)
11-13 April 2022	Forum on the present and future of citizenship and human rights education in Europe with young people, organised by the Council of Europe, Turin, Italy (Wanda Tiefenbacher)
11-15 April 2022	GDHRNet working group meetings and GIG-Arts Conference - panel presentation, participation, Nikosia, Cyprus (Wolfgang Benedek, Gregor Fischer-Lessiak)
19 April 2022	"Social Media in Times of Military Aggression" - launch of the GDHRNet Working Paper "Governing Information Flows During War" at University of Tallinn, Estonia, presentation and discussion, online (Gregor Fischer-Lessiak)
29 April 2022	Meeting of the Project Committee of the International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels
3 May 2022	Workshop on SDG 11 with middle school students at BG Knittelfeld, Austria, online (Wanda Tiefenbacher)
6 May 2022	Training of local consultants in 13 Georgian municipalities, online (Isabella Meier, Klaus Starl)



21 March 2022

Workshop with the project Kenne deine Rechte at the UNESCO Masterclass on Racism and Discrimination, online



20 May 2022

International interdisciplinary PhD-workshop co-organised by the UNI-ETC at the University of Padova, Italy

9-13 May 2022	Heras+ project coordination meeting and methodology workshop, visiting researchers from the University of Haxhi Zeka (Peja, Kosovo) hosted by the UNI-ETC, Austria (Gerd Oberleitner, Lisa Heschl, Agnes Romanin)
12-13 May 2022	European Conference on Social Media (ECSM) - Online Hate Speech: User Perception and Experience Between Law and Ethics, paper presentation, discussion and participation, online/Krakow, Poland (Gregor Fischer-Lessiak)
16 May 2022	Workshop on SDG 6 with high school students at MS Friesgasse, Austria, online (Simone Philipp)
20 May 2022	International interdisciplinary PhD-workshop co-organised by the UNI-ETC at the University of Padova, Italy (Gerd Oberleitner, Wolfgang Benedek, Gregor Fischer-Lessiak, Agnes Romanin)
20 May 2022	Workshop on SDG 6 with high school students at MS Bad Goisern, Austria, online (Simone Philipp)
25 May 2022	Intergenerational dialogue event on racism and discrimination with the project Kenne deine Rechte in Graz, Austria (Wanda Tiefenbacher)
25 May 2022	Presentation of the Centre and Chair's activities and mandate, Pädagogische Hochschule Steiermark, Graz, Austria (Gerd Oberleitner, Klaus Starl)
28-31 May 2022	Participation / co-organisation Conference "Camps, (In)justice and Solidarity in the Americas - 1st Graz/ Puerto Rico international Conference on Human Rights from an Inter-American Perspective", University of Graz, Austria (Gerd Oberleitner, Lisa Heschl)
30 May 2022	Expert workshop with the Expert Council on the Human Rights Region of Styria, Austria (Klaus Starl)
7-8 June 2022	Spring School on data collection for 13 Georgian municipalities in Tiflis, Georgia (Isabella Meier)
8 June 2022	Lecture "Grenzen Grenzen setzen" ("Establishing Boundaries for Boundaries") on strategic litigation in the area of the EU border regime with Dr. Stefan Salmon at the UNI-POP-UP-STORE of the University of Graz, Austria (Lisa Heschl)
8 June 2022	Symposium "gemeinsam*gedenken" ("remember.together") on the culture of memory of the Holocaust, participation, University of Graz, Austria (Gregor Fischer-Lessiak)
13 June 2022	Participation in Austrian National Forum against Antisemitism, Vienna, Austria (Gerd Oberleitner)
15 June 2022	Presentation in the Conference "Militär und Zivil - untrennbare Welten", University of Graz, Austria (Gerd Oberleitner)
29 June 2022	Book Launch "Ist der Weltfrieden eine Illusion?" ("Is World Peace an Illusion?") at the University of Graz, Austria (Gerd Oberleitner, Wolfgang Benedek)
30 June - 3 July 2022	GDHRNet Working Group Meeting hosted by the University of Innsbruck at Obergurgl, Austria (Wolfgang Benedek, Gregor Fischer-Lessiak)
1 July 2022	Meeting of the Governing Body of the Foundation for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels
4 July 2022	Capacity-building workshop with the Comoros on the promotion of human rights and social cohesion/ inclusion by means of sports with a particular focus on children/youths and girls/women, online (Klaus Starl and Livia Perschy)
6 July 2022	Workshop "One Day in a Wheelchair" held in the framework of the project Kenne deine Rechte, Graz, Austria (Alexandra Stocker, Wanda Tiefenbacher)
13-14 July 2022	Kick-Off Meeting of SCORE Project (Sporting Cities Opposing Racism in Europe) in Getafe, Spain (Wanda Tiefenbacher)
20 July 2022	Presentation on Human Rights Training for Local and Regional Governments, UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, online (Isabella Meier, Markus Möstl, Gerd Oberleitner, Wanda Tiefenbacher)

2-3 September 2022	Association of Human Rights Institutes Conference "Technology and the Future of Human Rights", Pretoria, South Africa (Gerd Oberleitner)
7-8 September 2022	Human Rights Leaders and Experts meeting "Putting human rights at the heart of Europe's future" hosted by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, Rust, Austria (Wanda Tiefenbacher)
26 September 2022	Presentation of new film spots of the Project Kenne deine Rechte and certificate award ceremony at the Rechbauer Cinema in Graz, Austria (Alexandra Stocker, Wanda Tiefenbacher)
30 September 2022	First Meeting of UNESCO Chairs relating to Global Citizenship Education organised by the Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU) under the auspices of UNESCO, online (Gerd Oberleitner)
8 October 2022	Part 1 of the introduction workshop to human rights and journalism held for project participants of Kenne deine Rechte, Graz, Austria (Alexandra Stocker, Wanda Tiefenbacher)
12 October 2022	Panel discussion at the Human Rights Paper Session at the World Human Rights City Forum in Gwangju, Republic of Korea, online (Markus Möstl, Livia Perschy)
13-14 October 2022	General Assembly of the European Coalition of Cities Against Racism (ECCAR) in Kadiköy, Turkey (Isabella Meier)
13-14 October 2022	Lecture series on Multi-Level Governance at the University of Padova, Italy (Klaus Starl)
15 October 2022	Part 2 of the introduction workshop to human rights and journalism held for project participants of Kenne deine Rechte, Graz, Austria (Alexandra Stocker, Wanda Tiefenbacher)
20 October 2022	Global Policy Dialogue co-organised with UNESCO's International Coalition of Sustainable Cities (ICCAR), online (Isabella Meier, Klaus Starl, Wanda Tiefenbacher)
21 October 2022	Meeting of the Governing Body of the Foundation for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels, General Assembly of the European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (ETC Graz)
14-15 November 2022	Conference "The Consequences of War and their Interdependence: Bringing Human Security Back to the Political Agenda" (with the Human Rights Centre Antonio Papisca) at the University of Padova, Italy (Gerd Oberleitner, Lisa Heschl)
21 November 2022	Intergenerational dialogue event on children's rights with the project Kenne deine Rechte in Graz, Austria (Wanda Tiefenbacher)
22 November 2022	Workshop on SDG 6 with high school students at BG Tanzenberg, Austria, online (Simone Philipp)
22-25 November 2022	Padova Model Universal Periodic Review at the University of Padova, Italy (Katharina Freller)



26 September 2022

Presentation of new film spots of the Project Kenne deine Rechte and certificate award ceremony at the Rechbauer Cinema in Graz, Austria, © Daniela Schmid

23 November 2022	Journalism in Armed Conflict - "Spotlight Ukraine", lecture by Olha Bozhko (NGO SICH) at the University of Graz, Austria (Lisa Heschl)
24-25 November 2022	Lecture series on Multi-Level Governance at the University of Padova, Italy (Klaus Starl)
5 December 2022	Workshop on SDG 11 with high school students at BG Rosasgasse, Vienna, Austria, online (Wanda Tiefenbacher)
6 December 2022	Network Meeting of the Austrian Commission for UNESCO and the Austrian Academy of Sciences with the 10 Austrian UNESCO Chairs, Vienna, Austria (Gerd Oberleitner)
7 December 2022	Press conference on the "2022 Human Rights Report" at the Department for Sports of the City of Graz, Austria (Livia Perschy, Klaus Starl)
13 December 2022	Consulting meeting on the Framework for Human Rights Cities by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), online (Markus Möstl, Klaus Starl)
14 December 2022	Book launch "European Yearbook on Human Rights 2022", University of Salzburg, Austria (Gerd Oberleitner, Lisa Heschl)
15 December 2022	Book launch and discussion of "The Human Rights-Based Approach to STEM Education" with Tanja Tajmel (Concordia University of Montreal) at the UNESCO Centre, Graz, Austria (Klaus Starl and Gerd Oberleitner)
15 December 2022	Presentation of "2022 Human Rights Report" in the City Council of Graz, City Council of Graz, Austria (Klaus Starl)
15 December 2022	Workshop on SDG 6 with high school students at AHS Rahlgasse, Austria, online (Simone Philipp)
16 December 2022	Presentation of the UNESCO Centre and its mandate for the Global Studies Master's degree at the University of Graz, Austria (Wanda Tiefenbacher)
16 December 2022	Workshop on SDG 6 with high school students at Ursulinen Salzburg, Austria, online (Simone Philipp)



13-14 October 2022

General Assembly of the European Coalition of Cities Against Racism (ECCAR) in Kadiköy, Turkey
© Dr. Ayfer Yazkan Kubal



15 December 2022

Book launch and discussion of "The Human Rights-Based Approach to STEM Education" with Tanja Tajmel (Concordia University of Montreal) at the UNESCO Centre, Graz, Austria

13. Publications

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INFRASTRUCTURE AND RESOURCES

14. Infrastructure and Resources

Digital infrastructure

With the help of Paragraph GmbH, the entire digital infrastructure of the UNESCO Centre, required to operate on a daily basis, was shifted to online methods, allowing the work to be entirely conducted independent of location. Since 2020, the UNESCO Centre uses the open-source system BigBlueButton, which runs on the Centre's own server and provides a safe and encrypted environment for low-threshold online workshops on a variety of subjects. Because the platform does not require user registrations or installations, it can be accessed from simple devices and locations with unstable connections.



Resources

In 2022, the European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (ETC Graz) had available a total of 350,000 EUR 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,

- 64% were provided by the Foundation for the Promotion of Human Rights at Local and Regional Levels,
- 20% were provided by the European Union (European Commission and EU Agency for Fundamental Rights),
- 8% were provided by contractors (local, regional, and national authorities, 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 254,000 EUR was spent on staff (65%); in total 131,000 EUR were spent on other items of which 16% were provided to third parties in development cooperation (UNESCO, Roma Foundation Plovdiv, UCLG Africa) and 19% 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 2022:

Management, Clearinghouse, Stakeholder Cooperation	82,000
Human Rights Go Local: What Works, Academy	68,000
Cooperation in and with Africa (African Local Governments Academy, Human Rights City Twinning, Arab Coalition of Cities)	19,000
Capacity-Building and Toolkit for Equality	36,000
Human Rights Go Local Paper series	31,000
Human Rights Lab Styria	12,000

Total 2022 **248,000 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).



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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