



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 2020

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

The UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security 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. Its establishment expresses the commitment of the University of Graz to human rights, advances international academic cooperation and supports the activities of the city of Graz, the first European human rights city. It 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

2020 was an important and decisive year for the European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (ETC). It was the year in which the new International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels under the auspices of UNESCO finally became a reality. With this, the ETC transforms into the worldwide first centre of competence for human rights at the local and regional levels and now operates as an independent 'Category 2 Centre' under the auspices of UNESCO. As such, we are now part of a global network of institutions of excellence in UNESCO's fields of competence and contribute to the implementation of UNESCO's strategic priorities and programmes, as well as to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Agenda 2030. In cooperation with UNESCO and our international partners, we will act as a globally recognised beacon for research, training, and capacity-building to promote human rights in cities, communities, and regions. In 2020, the Centre has already taken up its work to moderate exchange between research and policy-making on the local and regional level, facilitate the implementation of human rights-based policy-making, and build bridges between international, regional, and local stakeholders and agendas. We thank our supporters and founders – UNESCO, the City of Graz (the first Human Rights City in Europe), the Federal Province of Styria, and the Austrian Ministry for European and International Affairs – for establishing the Foundation for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels under which the UNESCO Centre is able to operate in the coming years.

2020 was also the year in which the UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security, located at the European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy at the University of Graz (UNI-ETC), successfully applied to UNESCO for a renewal of its mandate for another four year-period from 2020 to 2024. We are proud that UNESCO's evaluation has confirmed our efforts of the past years to offer quality academic education and learning opportunities in human rights and human security, support next-generation human rights researchers, engage in collaborative human rights research, and advance international academic cooperation to ensure a place for human rights at the University of Graz. We are grateful to the Rector of the University of Graz, Martin Polaschek, and the Dean of the Faculty of Law, Christoph Bezemek, for their continuing support.

As UNESCO Centre and UNESCO Chair, we take this opportunity to continue our work jointly and in close cooperation. This is a unique opportunity, as it is (to our knowledge) the only such occasion worldwide where a UNESCO Centre and Chair work together to link academic teaching and research with practical capacity-building, training, and consultancy. All of this unfolds in the fertile ground of the City of Graz which celebrates 20 years of being a Human Rights City in 2021, and on the basis of more than 25 years of human rights activities by colleagues past and present at the University of Graz.

Despite the restrictions due to the pandemic, our students have been able to acquire competences and skills in international human rights law in the foundational, advanced, specialised and skill-building courses offered by the UNESCO Chair. They have participated in the European Human Rights Moot Court Competition, the simulation of the UN Human Rights Council (in cooperation with the UNESCO Chair at the University

of Padova), the Refugee Law Clinic and the Human Rights Debate Club, and have successfully defended 30 master theses on human rights, while next-generation researchers and Visiting Researchers have discussed interdisciplinary human rights topics in the Interdisciplinary Doctoral Programme *Human Rights, Democracy, Diversity and Gender*. As DAAD Visiting Professor at the Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict of the Ruhr Universität Bochum, the UNESCO Chair has taught in the Joint Master's Degree Programme in International Humanitarian Action, as well as in the Global Campus of Human Rights, the world's leading human rights education programme with 100 universities. 30 academic publications and studies and more than 50 events, conferences and workshops of the UNESCO Centre and Chair in the past year have allowed us to create and disseminate knowledge in difficult circumstances.

This is also our first joint Annual Report which reflects our common approach to human rights education, research, and practice. Despite the constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, we have not only been able to establish the UNESCO Centre and renew the UNESCO Chair but have also continued with ongoing projects, forged new partnerships and embarked on fresh initiatives. Our ongoing contributions to the EU Fundamental Rights Agency's FRANET and our flagship publication, the *European Yearbook on Human Rights*, allow us to continue focusing on Europe. At the same, we have cooperated closely with local authorities and universities in South-East Europe, the Arab region, and Africa to build capacity and generate knowledge on inclusive and sustainable cities, create programmes on intercultural education and peacebuilding at universities, combat hate speech in social media on the local and regional level, use sports as a tool for social inclusion, and guarantee the right to education of Roma children. We have been active locally to monitor human rights and children's rights in Graz and have been present globally at the World Urban Forum in Abu Dhabi (Saudi Arabia) and the World Human Rights Cities Forum in Gwangju (South Korea).

Like everyone else, we had to respond to the COVID-19 situation and have in the past year moved 90% of our activities online. Digitalizing our work programme has allowed for innovative amendments, partnerships, and outcomes, including setting up our own dedicated self-hosted conferencing server which uses the open-source online learning system BigBlueButton – independent, data-protected, and low-budget.

In 2020, we have established our new publication series *Human Rights Go Local* which is devoted to understanding and promoting human rights at the local and regional levels within global development and urban frameworks, such as the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda. Volume I was published in 2020 and subsequent annual volumes in this series will allow established researchers, new voices, and practitioners to contribute, in a practice-oriented way, to the debate on the interlinkages between human rights and global legal and policy frameworks to create inclusive, resilient, safe, and sustainable urban spaces and regions as the key challenge of the 21st century. The publication series will feed into our new annual international Academy 'Human Rights at the Local Level: What Works', which in turn creates the ground for an annual high-level Conference for local policy-makers, starting in 2021.

Finally, we could establish stakeholder cooperation with a significant number of institutions in addition to those with whom we already worked closely together with in the past, like UNESCO or the EU Fundamental Rights Agency. Cooperation agreements or Memoranda of Understanding could be set up with the UN High Commissioner for

Human Rights, UN Habitat, UCLG (United Cities and Local Governments) and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute. These cooperation agreements allow us to reach out globally, and they enrich and broaden the fields and areas in which we conduct our work with expertise of excellence.

None of this would have been possible without the dedicated teams of the UNESCO Centre and UNESCO Chair. We thank all our staff, teaching assistants, trainers, lecturers and volunteers, our colleagues in the Management Board and Foundation, our Scientific Board, and all our supporters, partners, and friends for their commitment and support in opening this new chapter in our endeavours to promote human rights locally and globally.



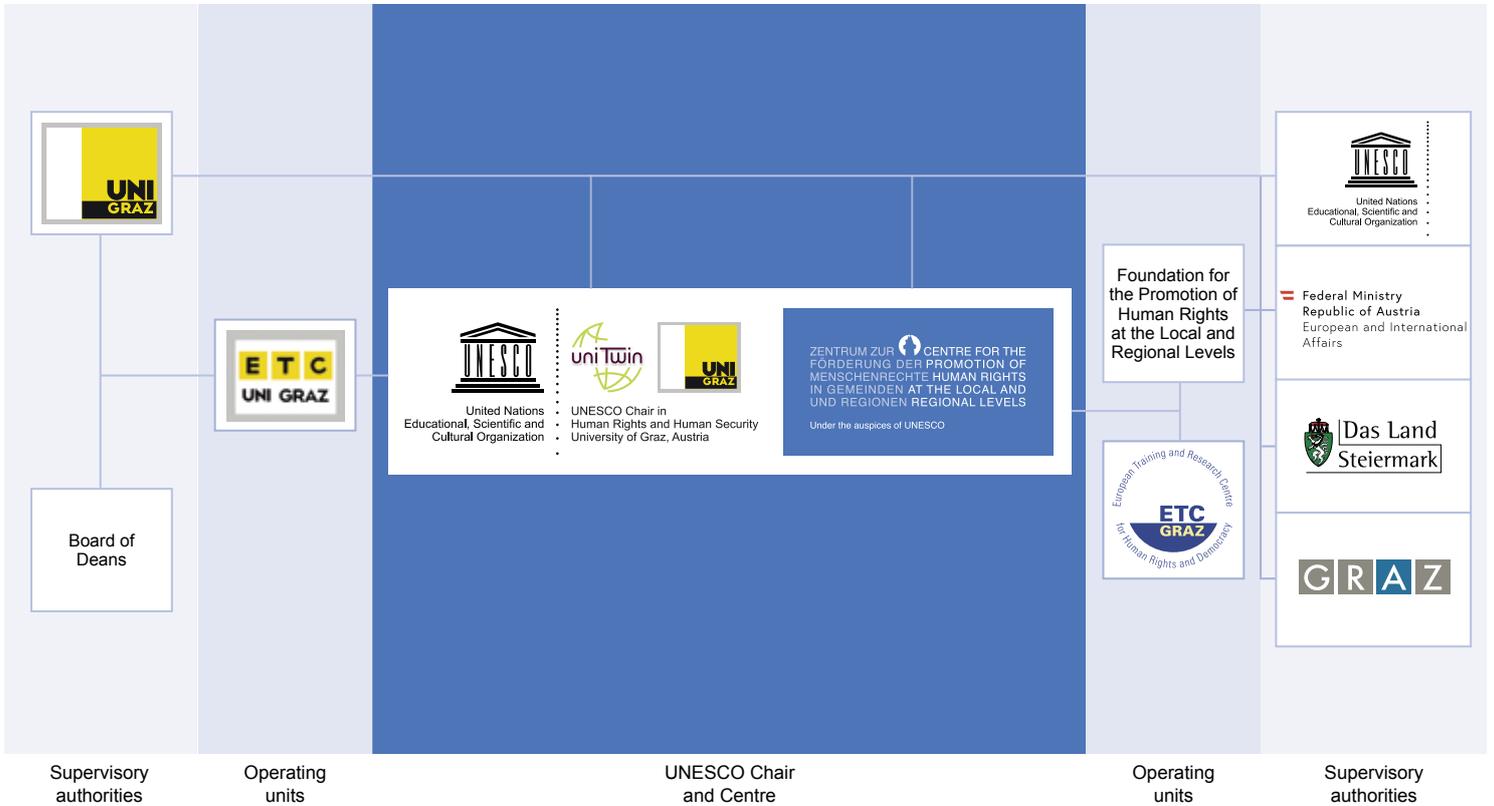
Gerd Oberleitner
UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security, European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy at the University of Graz



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



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



UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security at the University of Graz



International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels under the auspices of UNESCO (Category 2 Centre)

Operating units



Operating unit of the Category 2 Centre

Foundation for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels: governing and financing entity of the Category 2 Centre



Operating unit of the UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security at the University of Graz

Supervisory authorities



Member of the Governing Board of the Category 2 Centre



Host of the European Training and Research Centre on Human Rights and Democracy at the University of Graz (UNI-ETC)

Board of Deans: supervisory entity of the UNI-ETC

Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
European and International
Affairs

Member of the Governing Board of the Category 2 Centre



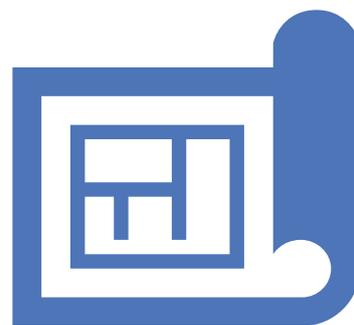
Member of the Governing Board of the Category 2 Centre



Member of the Governing Board of the Category 2 Centre

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

2. 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 directly and who are well-equipped to render human rights a lived experience in their procedures and interactions with citizens.

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

- supporting the Human Rights City Graz, connecting human rights cities, and linking with partner institutions, international organisations and city networks
- cooperating with cities in South-Eastern Europe on the right to education for minorities, especially the Roma population
- cooperating with the African Local Government Academy to offer training 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, for example between Graz and Hawassa in Ethiopia which is currently explored
- conducting information and public relations work for human rights in cities, and establishing a Clearinghouse (electronic library)

- developing and publishing policy manuals for the implementation of human rights in cities where proven policies are collected, analysed, contextualised and published as manuals under the auspices of UNESCO
- committing to exchange on a global level by hosting an annual Academy and Conference “Human Rights Go Local: What Works” to discuss and disseminate good practice to policy makers worldwide
- establishing a Human Rights Lab (LAB!) to test, evaluate and refine human rights policies and turn them into ‘export items’ for cities
- offering academic education and developing learning methods and teaching tools to build the capacity of next-generation human rights educators, practitioners and researchers through international cooperation and academic mobility, hosting Visiting Researchers and volunteers, and contributing to the Global Campus of Human Rights
- encouraging next-generation researchers in the Doctoral Programme in Human Rights, Democracy, Diversity and Gender to explore human rights at the local and regional levels
- undertaking research projects to counter hate speech in social media at the local and regional level and develop a regulatory framework for private actors, and to promote social inclusion and equal opportunities in sport on the local and regional level
- publishing and disseminating research output, for example in the publication series *Human Rights Go Local and the European Yearbook of Human Rights*

3. Staff and Board 2020

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

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Management of the UNESCO Chair

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

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Director

Markus Uitz

Director

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Waltraud Bauer-Dorner

Representative of the Federal Province of Styria in the Governing Board

Ernst-Peter Brezovszky

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

UNESCO

Member of the Governing Board

Scientific Board

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Florence Benoît-Rohmer, Strasbourg

Florian Bieber, Graz

Christina Binder, Munich

Christine Bräutigam, New York

Bojko Bučar, Ljubljana

Koen De Feyter, Antwerpen

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Rainer Hofmann, Frankfurt

Walter Kälin, Bern

Dzidek Kedzia, Poznan/Geneva

Morten Kjærum, Lund

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Magdalena Pfeifenberger

Johanna Tesar

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Simone Philipp

Human rights education trainer,
UNESCO Centre

Christoph Pinter

Head of UNHCR Austria; incoming
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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**Naif Bezwan**

Guest from Mardin Artuklu University, Turkey / University College London

Nino Parsadanishvili

Guest from Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia

Irina Criveţ

Guest from Koç University, Turkey

Elshaday K. Woldeyesus

Guest from Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

Volunteers at the UNESCO Centre

Felicia Clement

Elisa Rieger

Human Rights Mandates**Wolfgang Benedek**

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**Lisa Heschl**

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

Bernadette Knauder

Ambassador of Global Campus of Human Rights Alumni

Isabella Meier

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

Klaus Starl

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

Alexandra Stocker

Board member of the ARGE Young People Against Violence and Racism (*ARGE Jugend gegen Gewalt und Rassismus*)



4. Facts and Figures

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countries of activity

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staff members

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master and doctoral theses supervised

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scientific board members

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research and cooperation projects

61

Kenne deine Rechte
journalistic articles

32.000

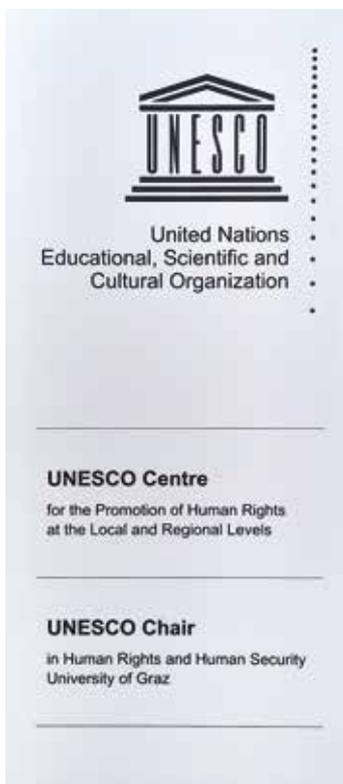
people reached online

5. From Local to Global: Founding the UNESCO Centre and Renewing the UNESCO Chair

In 2001, Graz was declared Europe's first City of Human Rights. The European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (ETC) played a vital role in achieving this goal and continues to strengthen human rights at the local level and advance the Human Rights City process. Over the past two decades, the ETC's strong cooperation with the City of Graz, the Federal Province of Styria, and a range of academic and non-academic institutions allowed it to accumulate considerable expertise in human rights research, training, and education. The ETC's university counterpart, the UNI-ETC, which is located at the Faculty of Law of the University of Graz, is a key actor in strengthening human rights education and research at the university level.

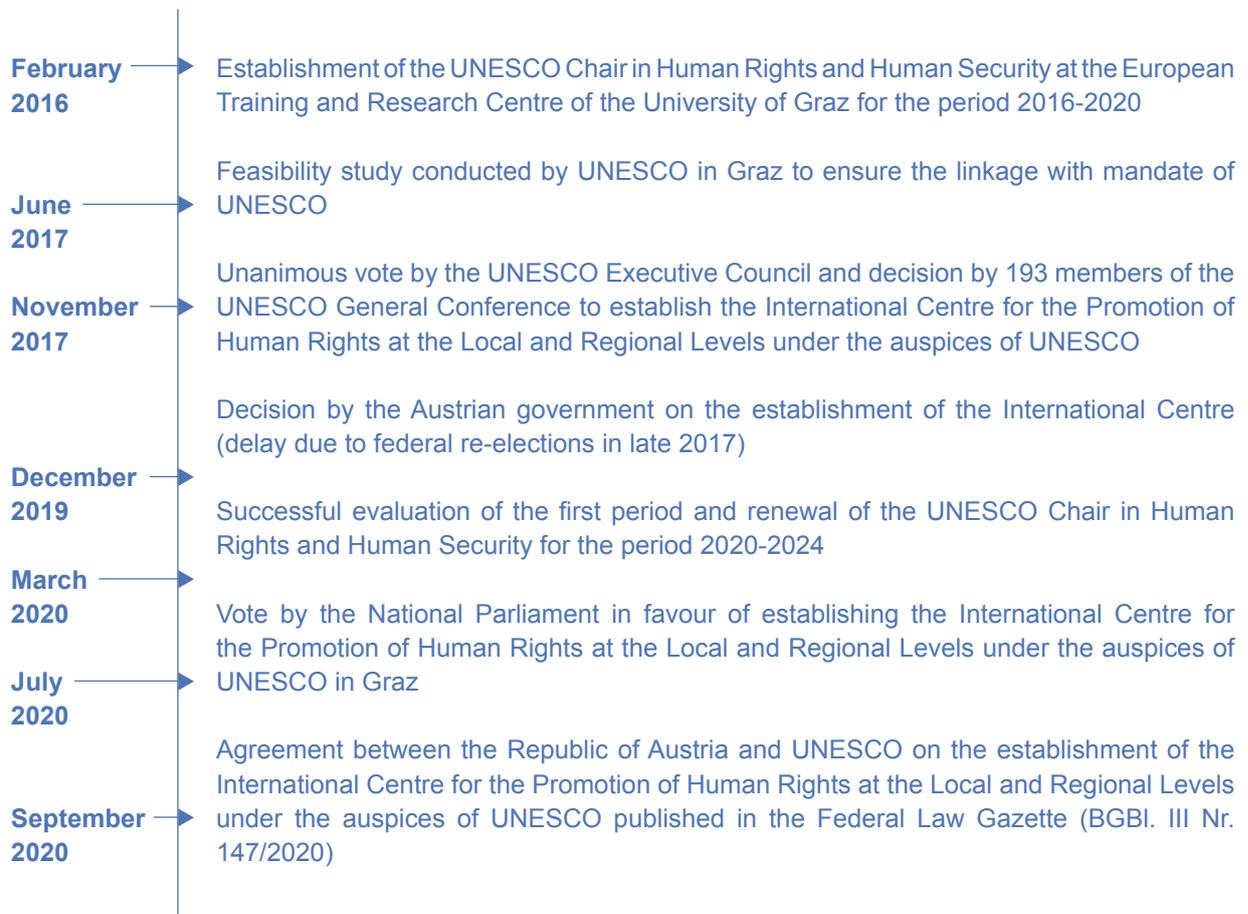
The ETC and UNI-ETC agreed to jointly embark on the next chapter, building on the expertise accumulated at the local level in advancing human rights in policy-making, civil society, and academia. They set out to promote an understanding of human rights at the international level by engaging more visibly with their global partners, and to make their expertise available more widely. Human rights are becoming increasingly important at the local level, and a human rights-based approach to building inclusive, resilient cities is making its way into international development agendas such as Agenda 2030, the New Urban Agenda, and the Sustainable Development Goals. Simultaneously, the need to learn from cities across different regions is growing and underlines the importance of furthering human rights learning at the local level.

In line with these developments and with strong support from actors at the local, regional, and national levels, the ETC and UNI-ETC steered their expertise and experience in an international and sustainable direction. UNESCO immediately joined these pursuits, supporting two key developments:



The UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security was established at the European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy at the University of Graz (UNI-ETC) in 2016. Since its establishment, the Chair has introduced master and doctoral students to human rights research, produced human rights knowledge in publications and conferences, and continues to contribute to UNESCO's priorities and programmes through international academic cooperation.

The International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels under the auspices of UNESCO was formally opened in 2020. It is a UNESCO Category 2 Centre and as such part of a global network of institutions and centres of excellence in support of UNESCO's strategic priorities. It is the second Category 2 Centre worldwide which contributes through research, capacity-building, and networking.



Both institutions now work in synergy towards realising human rights for all in an interdisciplinary and complementary manner. This constellation is unique as it brings together UNESCO's institutional network of 98 Category 2 centres with its UNITWIN/ UNESCO Chairs programme with more than 800 Chairs in 116 countries. While the UNESCO Chair offers the relevant research base, academic teaching, and the international academic network, the UNESCO Centre provides the practical application and capacity-building activities.

A first globally visible outcome of the cooperation between the Chair and the Centre is the joint Publication Series "Human Rights Go Local". Chair and Centre have also bundled their efforts on the development of a child rights monitor, and perform trainings of local authorities for the African Local Governments Academy under a Memorandum of Understanding.

In the Sustainable Development Agenda, cities, municipalities, and regions are crucial to realising inclusive social development and guaranteeing human rights for all. Against this backdrop, the UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security at the University of Graz and the International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels under the auspices of UNESCO are dedicated to promoting human rights at the local level, making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable, as well as improving the quality of life in urban areas around the globe for all.

6. Capacity Building for Sustainable and Resilient Cities

Sustainable urban development should be inclusive, offering all city inhabitants equal opportunities in various spheres of life. Already in 2017, the ETC Graz was a key stakeholder in devising the *Toolkit for Equality* together with the European City Coalition Against Racism (ECCAR), a flagship handbook for local authorities on how to realise anti-discrimination policies. In 2020, the Toolkit expanded to further regions: the Arab Region and Africa.

Towards inclusive and sustainable cities in the Arab region

The project TISCA (Towards Inclusive and Sustainable Cities in the Arab Region), carried out in cooperation with UNESCO, the UNESCO Field Office in Cairo, the Arab Institute for Human Rights and the International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities (ICCAR), continues developing local capacities for inclusive and sustainable cities in the Arab region. The main product of the project, the *Toolkit for Urban Inclusion in Arab Cities*, builds on the idea of the European *Toolkit for Equality*. Rather than deriving recommendations from theoretical concepts, these Toolkits provide concrete guides on how to cope with challenges stem from the experiences of local authorities themselves. The 2020 *Toolkit for Urban Inclusion in Arab Cities* provides Arab city leaders and local government officials with practical tools and advice for building inclusive and sustainable cities. It is available in three languages (Arabic, French, English) and covers four topics:

1. **Public Participation:** Methods and mechanisms – both formal and informal – adopted by cities to promote public participation in city planning and decision making at the local level.
2. **Access to Information:** Methods and mechanisms used by cities to meet the information needs of inhabitants, including the provision and regular updating of adequate and accurate information, making it accessible to the general public.
3. **Sports for Youth Inclusion:** Sports-based initiatives and programmes, especially for youth, supported by cities to promote social inclusion.
4. **Citizenship and Human Rights Education:** Education and training initiatives and programs implemented by cities to improve awareness and promote a culture of citizenship and human rights among civil servants and the public in general.



Each chapter provides information based on cities' experiences, covering the full policy cycle from planning to implementation, evaluation and follow-up. The methods applied in the four chapters help local authorities conceptualise, implement, and evaluate efforts in these areas to promote inclusive urban development. The Toolkit, which stands at the intersection of human rights and local policy-making, was launched at the 10th World Urban Forum in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates).

Capacity-building for local authorities in Africa

Simultaneously, capacity-building efforts for African local authorities date back to 2017. The cooperation between the ETC and the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG) and the African Local Government Academy (ALGA) supports local and regional authorities, as well as other relevant stakeholders, in promoting human rights, democracy and diversity at the local level.



In 2020, a series of online workshops for local authorities and stakeholders to exchange was initiated to share expertise and experience on the implementation of human rights at the local level in African cities. In December 2020, the workshop “Local approaches to guaranteeing women’s rights” brought together over 40 participants in peer working groups to discuss gender equality in urban development.

Building on synergies and tacit knowledge

Cities in the Arab region and Africa share geographical overlap in the Maghreb States as well as commonly experienced urban governance issues relating to gender, public participation or diversity. As such, the *Toolkit for Urban Inclusion in Arab Cities* offers a sound basis for African contexts. At the same time, new experiences from the African context also allow for the development of further Toolkit chapters or regional editions. The UNESCO Centre now seeks to expand the inventory of policies yielded from the first online workshop, to concretise them, and to create a new and practical guideline for local authorities on how to initiate, implement, monitor and evaluate efforts in the area of gender mainstreaming. These inputs will inform a new *Toolkit for African Cities: “Leave no one behind: How does it work?”*

Collecting and analysing the accumulated expertise from stakeholders in the Arab Region and in Africa and synthesising them into a practical manual for other cities is key in contributing to the attainment of SDG 16 (Creating inclusive societies with strong institutions) and contributes to the UN’s objective to “leave no one behind”. The Centre looks forward to fruitful cooperation with all partners.

7. Countering Online Hate with Human Rights

During the past years, the world has seen a surge in hateful and discriminatory content on social media platforms and comment sections of classical media outlets. Consistently, UN Secretary General António Guterres said at the launch of the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech in 2019:

“Around the world, we see a groundswell of xenophobia, racism and intolerance, violent misogyny, and also anti-Semitism and anti-Muslim hatred. In some places, Christian communities are attacked. Hateful and destructive views are enabled and amplified exponentially through digital technology, often targeting women, minorities, and the most vulnerable. Extremists gather online and radicalize new recruits.”

While all stakeholders, international organisations, states, platforms, and NGOs, seem to agree that online hate speech, often paired with disinformation, is a pressing issue that needs to be tackled, the question of how such counterstrategies ought to look is controversial. The universal values and principles of international human rights law can contribute to the alleviation of these disagreements. The UNESCO Chair hence contributes to countering online hate speech in two research frameworks:



By taking part in the Global Digital Human Rights Network (GDHRnet, COST Action 19143), the UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security participates in cutting-edge international research in the field of online content regulation. With experts

from 34 states participating in the Action, the Network allows for knowledge exchange, comparative research, and fast responses to newest legal and societal developments. The Chair has contributed to working papers on COVID-19-related disinformation and on the regulation of political expression online.

In addition, the Chair conducts local and regional research on online hate speech and counter strategies. In “NoHate@WebStyria”, an interdisciplinary research team analyses hate speech with a focus on the Federal Province of Styria. By collaborating



with the FH JOANNEUM and the Antidiscrimination Office Styria, the research project uses synergies and builds on expertise available in the region to be able to provide recommendations for national and regional stakeholders, i.e. political decision-makers, media institutions, NGOs, and users of online services. The Chair’s research has resulted in publications in Austrian journals ÖJZ and Graz Law Working Paper Series as well as a written statement on the draft Austrian Communication Platforms Act (CPA/KoPI-G). The main outcome of the project, an Open-Access edited volume presenting all project outcomes as well as third-party contributions and interviews, is in preparation and will be published shortly with NWV Publishing (Graz/Vienna).

With the planned Digital Services Act (DSA), the European Union (EU) will reform its platform regulation regime in the near future – and self-evidently, the EU’s approach will have to reflect its own and the member states’ human and fundamental rights acquis. The Chair’s research focus on online hate speech will hence remain highly topical for years to come.



RESEARCH AND CAPACITY BUILDING

8. Research & Capacity Building



Cooperation with UNESCO

In 2020, the UNESCO Centre and the UNESCO Chair have jointly and continuously cooperated with UNESCO, including responses to questionnaires of the UNESCO Inclusion and Rights Section on the human rights implications of the COVID-19-crisis, of the UNESCO UNITWIN/UNESCO Chair Division on the role of UNESCO Chairs in the COVID 19 crisis, and on the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the national education system. Chair and Centre have also contributed to national consultations on the UNESCO 41 C/4 Medium Term Strategy 2022-2029 and in expert meetings organised by the UNESCO delegations of Austria, Denmark and the Netherlands on improving UNESCO's monitoring mechanisms. Furthermore, in this year, the Centre and the Chair established a cooperation with UNESCO on the annual Academy "Human Rights Go Local: What Works". Together with UNESCO's field-office in Cairo, the Toolkit for Inclusive and Sustainable Arab Cities could be finalised and presented on several occasions, including the World Urban Forum. A close cooperation with UNESCO in the International Coalitions for Inclusive and Sustainable Cities (ICCAR) has already been maintained for more than ten years. UNESCO and the Centre's Director both have a seat in the European Coalition's Scientific Advisory Committee where they cooperate in evaluating member cities' reports. In 2020 a series of reports were analysed and feedback given to the respective mayors.

Human Rights Go Local publication series

A new publication series started in 2020, jointly edited by the UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security at the University of Graz and the UNESCO Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels. Researchers, new voices, and practitioners can contribute to the debate on the interlinkages between human rights and global policy frameworks through this series, such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda. The publications will also display how these connections can guide us towards creating inclusive, resilient, safe, and sustainable urban spaces and regions. The first volume, "Implementing Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the Local Level: Key Issues and Examples" is available for purchase online. More information at <https://www.humanrightsgolocal.org/resources/human-rights-go-local-publication-series/>





The UN Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda triggered a higher awareness of the human rights agenda among local level authorities. We should now uncover ways to seize this momentum. Illustrating how the global development agenda and human rights may come together at the local level in the first volume of our new HRGL publication series was an exciting step for me in this endeavour.

Markus Möstl

World Human Rights Cities Forum in Gwangju, South Korea

In October 2020, the World Human Rights Cities Forum (WHRCF) marked its 10th anniversary under the theme of “The Future of Human Rights Cities: Local Memories and Global Sharing”. The Conference took place online, bringing together stakeholders from local government, international experts and representatives of human rights cities and activists to reflect the history of human rights, assess the present and plan the future of human rights cities to enhance the sustainability of human rights cities. The UNESCO Centre contributed to the online Human Rights Paper Presentation Session with a paper on “Conceptualising human rights cities: Legal deliberations and practical proposals on the pursuit of human rights and the SDGs at the local level”, which will be published in 2021. More information at http://www.whrcf.org/E_index_2020.php

Global Digital Human Rights Network (GDHRnet)

GDHRnet (COST Action 19143) 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 in Human Rights and Human Security contributes to collaborative research and networking within the COST Action. More information at <https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA19143>

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

The project TISCA was initiated in 2017 as a cooperation between the UNESCO Centre, the UNESCO Chair, UNESCO HQ, the UNESCO field office in Cairo, the Arab Institute for Human Rights and the International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities (ICCAR). The cooperation initiated the elaboration of the “Toolkit for Urban Inclusion in Arab Cities” whose goal is the development of local capacities for inclusive and sustainable cities in the Arab region. It was launched at the World Urban Forum 2020 in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates) and presents policy models and guidance concerning topics of high relevance to cities in the Arab region. Topics included are public participation, access to information, sports for youth, citizenship and human

rights education. The methods introduced help local authorities to conceptualise, implement and evaluate efforts in these areas in order to promote inclusive urban development. The Toolkit is available for download in English, French and Arabic: <http://www.humanrightsgolocal.org/resources/tools/>



I had the chance to attend the 10th World Urban Forum which took place in the United Arab Emirates in February 2020 where we organised a panel entitled “How inclusive is your city?” together with UNESCO Cairo. Basis for our discussions was the *Toolkit for Urban Inclusion in Arab Cities*, our recent publication that presents policy models and hands-on guidance on the implementation of human rights by cities for cities. It was inspiring to see the many local authorities come together to discuss their role in human rights protection. I hope that local authorities will use the toolkit to conceptualise, implement and evaluate efforts to promote inclusive urban development. **Bernadette Knauder**

Capacity building for local and regional authorities in Africa

The cooperation between the UNESCO Centre, the UNESCO Chair and the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG) and the African Local Government Academy (ALGA) began in 2017 with the goal of supporting local and regional authorities with training and capacity building. In 2019, a curriculum for the joint ALGA college for professionals in local governance titled “Promoting human rights, democracy and diversity at the local level” was developed. In 2020, a series of online workshops began, targeting local governance and respective stakeholders to exchange expertise and experience on the implementation of human rights at the local level in African cities. In December 2020, the workshop “Local approaches to guaranteeing women’s rights” brought together over 40 participants in peer working groups to discuss gender equality in urban development. The information generated during the workshops is used to inform the development of a new Toolkit for cities. More information is available here: <http://www.humanrightsgolocal.org/activities/capacity-building/>



Being an African working with an engaged team building together human rights bridges between Africa and Europe is a valuable and inspiring experience. Conducting human rights training for African local authorities in partnership with United Cities and Local Government of Africa (UCLG) and its Academy (ALGA) opened new horizons for me: Fostering a human rights-based approach in a mutual exchange of knowledge and experience can transform society, strengthen positive social values, economic growth and create a better, more humane world, in Europe and in Africa. **Thomas Gakire**

Advanced Academic Partnership for Legal and Human Rights Education (AAPLHRE)

The Advanced Academic Partnership for Legal and Human Rights Education (AAPLHRE) between the University of Graz, the Ethiopian Civil Service University and Addis Ababa University was designed to provide a platform for dialogue and exchange between government, civil society and academia, as well as a training opportunity for key actors of society and potential drivers of reforms. The project seeks to contribute to improving the human rights situation in Ethiopia. Edited by professors from the tripartite consortium, the publication of the volume on “Implementation of International Human Rights Commitments and Implications on Ongoing Legal Reforms in Ethiopia” in 2020 marked the successful conclusion of the project. More information at <https://appear.at/en/projects/current-projects/project-websites/project131-aaplhre/>



City Twinning with Hawassa, Ethiopia

In 2020, preparations began for a City Twinning project between Graz and Hawassa, Ethiopia. A concept was developed, outlining a multi-step plan for this cooperation with focus on mutual exchange of experiences between stakeholders in Austria and Ethiopia in order to facilitate the implementation of human rights in both cities. The goal of the cooperation is to support Hawassa in its process to declaring itself a Human Rights City. It was possible to secure the commitment of the Mayors of both Graz and Hawassa as well as the respective universities. This City Twinning concept serves as the blueprint for a range of cooperation initiatives between cities with human rights at the focus.

FRANET - European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) Research Network

The ETC is the National Focal Point (NFP) for Austria in the FRANET research network, hosted by the European Union’s Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). As NFP, the ETC conducts screenings, fieldwork, and in-depth research on a variety of topics. 17 such research projects of varying sizes were undertaken in 2020, with particular focus on the presumption of innocence and asylum/border management. Also, the COVID-19 pandemic and its implications on the realisation of fundamental rights in Austria were researched thoroughly throughout the year. More information at <http://fra.europa.eu/en/research/franet>



I undertook a social fieldwork study on the practical implementation of the presumption of innocence in Austria. The findings show that the presumption of innocence is well protected by the Austrian criminal justice system and its actors. However, disadvantages for members of several social groups were revealed too. Previous convictions can be an incriminating factor for the case at stake, members of certain nationalities suffer from authorities’ expectations that they commit certain crimes more frequently than Austrians. Popular or public persons are disadvantaged in their right to be presumed innocent, because of intense and biased media coverage of their cases. **Isabella Meier**

European Coalition of Cities against Racism (ECCAR)

UNESCO Centre Director Klaus Starl has been a member of ECCAR's scientific advisory committee since 2004. In this function he coordinates the committee's working group on the evaluation of city reports. In 2020, five reports were evaluated and negotiations with the cities initiated.

European Yearbook on Human Rights 2020

The European Yearbook of Human Rights has contextualised key developments in human rights in Europe and beyond for over 10 years, bringing together renowned authors, young researchers, and practitioners in the field of human rights. Edited jointly by representatives of the UNI-ETC, the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights Vienna (BIM), the Austrian Human Rights Institute of the University of Salzburg and the Global Campus of Human Rights Venice, the Yearbook 2020 provides much-needed analyses of present human rights challenges. In light of the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 2019 and its undisputed continuing importance, a section of the Yearbook is dedicated to this topic. Besides the thematic focus on the rights of the child, this edition includes valuable insights from the European Court of Human Rights and the OSCE on the current challenges for the protection of human rights in Europe. Contributions focusing on the human rights implications of artificial intelligence, state sovereignty and gender identities raise awareness of the complexities of human rights protection and stimulate debate and further research in the field. More information at <https://intersentia.com/en/european-yearbook-on-human-rights-2020-45635.html>



2020 and the Covid-19 pandemic have exposed the weaknesses of the current human rights protection system, prevailing structural inequalities and the fragility of the rule of law in times of emergency. Human rights, however, often appeared as an afterthought of state crisis responses rather than guiding principles. The European Yearbook on Human Rights provides a platform to address such contemporary human rights issues and identify weaknesses in the human rights protection system, thereby contributing to a wider public debate on human rights. By bringing together renowned and young scholars to analyse current human rights developments and to make these academic discussions accessible for a broad readership, we attempt to contribute in line with the UNESCO Chair's objectives to promote and foster human rights research and life-long learning. **Lisa Heschl**

Erasmus+ Inclusion

The aim of the Erasmus+ project “Inclusion” was to explore the impact of the social dimension of the Bologna Process in tertiary educational institutions of the partner countries Armenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, to strengthen the inclusion of underrepresented groups, to provide institutional support for the master plans and build the existing capacities in this regard. The UNI-ETC cooperated within an international consortium with partner universities (American University of Armenia, Yerevan State Academy of Fine Arts, University of Tuzla, University of Travnik, UC Leuven-Limburg, and University of Roehampton), local decision makers, stakeholders and NGOs. Together with World University Service (WUS) organisational, coordinative, and human rights-related tasks were taken over. The Erasmus+ project was completed in 2020. More information at <http://inclusionerasmus.org>

Sports organizations matching social inclusion issues (SmatchS)

The project “SmatchS: Sports organizations matching social inclusion issues” is an initiative of six organizations from sport, social, and academic areas, whose joint efforts aim to contribute to the promotion of social inclusion and equal opportunities in sport. The intervention area of the project consortium, which was awarded in 2020, is the social inclusion of migrant children aged 8-14 by facilitating their access to sports activities. The main objective of the project is to develop and apply a practical intervention methodology for the social inclusion of migrant children through sports activities in local contexts, by creating synergies between grassroots sports and social organizations 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 effective data collection, validation and evaluation of the impact of sport activities for the social inclusion of migrant children.



I am very excited to participate in the Erasmus+ project “Sports organizations matching social inclusion issues (SmatchS)”! We try to develop a methodology and a human rights-based approach to social inclusion of children with migration histories in sport activities. The interdisciplinary collaboration with the Institute of Human Movement Science, Sport and Health at the University of Graz and with sports organizations in 5 European countries is a very unique and rewarding experience. **Agnes Romanin**

GUARANTEE - Guaranteeing the Right to Education for Roma Children in Selected European Cities

GUARANTEE is a project funded by the European Commission DG Justice (Grant Agreement no. 848688) and is carried out by four partners in Austria, Bulgaria, and Germany between September 2019 and February 2022. Its objective is to promote the children's right to education by preventing school dropouts and encouraging the transition to secondary/vocational schools. This is achieved through peer-to-peer trainings for professionals and learning activities for girls and boys in Plovdiv and Dortmund. These activities are accompanied by action research. In October 2020, an online stakeholder meeting took place to exchange experience, knowledge



and expertise, as well as challenges faced within the pandemic. Despite the difficulties, the partners in Dortmund and Plovdiv succeeded to maintain most of the youth groups, kept in touch with them by providing internet access and devices, moved activities to online formats and thereby encouraged them to continue learning and attending lessons. The major achievement was that all participants passed their classes and continued school in autumn, which signifies the maximum possible impact of the project. More information at <http://www.humanrightsgolocal.org/activities/capacity-building/>



Guaranteeing the right to education for Roma children was a challenge during the pandemic. However, to be part of an effort where local partners facilitated internet access for the students in order to enable them to attend distance learning, as well as to learn that all students involved in the integrated learning-sports-human rights programme completed class and continued attending school in the next grade, despite the difficult circumstances, is simply fantastic. **Klaus Starl**

University Education for Intercultural Understanding and Peacebuilding

The aim of the programme partnership, entitled “University Education for Intercultural Understanding and Peace-building”, was to empower the University of Pristina (Kosovo) to fulfil the important role that universities play in post-war societies. The programme partnership was financed by the Austrian Development Cooperation as part of HERAS (Higher Education, Research and Applied Science) programme and forms the latest component in a long-standing, successful partnership between the UNESCO Chair and the Law Faculty of the University of Pristina. Since its inception, the Chair has contributed to the development of the Faculty. The notable successes of this cooperation include the establishment of a Human Rights Centre and a human rights library, the co-development of the current law curriculum and the supervision of numerous doctoral students who became, inter alia, faculty deans or judges at the Constitutional Court of Kosovo.

The Human Right to STEM Education

In 2009, a human right to science education was proposed in the research project PROMISE and in the publication 'Science Education Unlimited'. This was corroborated by UNESCO's recommendation on science and scientific research in 2017 and unofficially declared as a right by the participants in the Berlin Conference on the Human Right Approach to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) in its outcome document, the Berlin "Declaration on the Human Right to Science Education". The Declaration includes a definition of the right to science education, frames the access to science education and describes the quality of science education. Based on these outcomes, the team of the Concordia University Montreal, the Humboldt University Berlin and the UNESCO Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels, coordinated by Tanja Tajmel at Concordia, elaborated a collection of papers from around the globe, taking different perspective on the "The human rights approach to STEM".

Joint Submission to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Austria

Together with other organisations, the UNESCO Centre and the UNESCO Chair provided a joint contribution to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) 2020 of the UN Human Rights Council. The UPR procedure foresees a joint statement from civil society organisations in each country, which informs the national state report. Managed by the Austrian League of Human Rights (*Österreichische Liga für Menschenrechte*), over 30 organisations contributed across the country and provided information about ongoing human rights issues as well as recommendations. The Joint Submission is available here: http://www.liga.or.at/site/assets/files/2227/upr2020_joint_submission_liga_2020-en.pdf

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

NoHate@WebStyria undertakes the task to analyse the phenomenon of Online Hate Speech, understood as online insults based on personal features such as gender, "race" or sexuality, incitement to hatred and/or violence against individuals or groups or holocaust denial. The project consortium does so in an interdisciplinary manner, consisting of legal scholars, political and communication/media scientists and practitioners combatting hate online from the UNESCO Chair/UNI-ETC, the FH JOANNEUM and the Antidiscrimination Office Styria to ultimately be able to provide academia, political decision makers, and civil society with proposals for effective awareness raising and counter strategies. The project is funded by the Styrian Future Fund (*Zukunftsfonds Steiermark*). More information at <https://nohate-webstyria.uni-graz.at>



In 2020, societal debates have moved online in even larger parts than before. The pandemic was accompanied by an 'infodemic', and, sadly, by a surge in online hate. It is now all the more important to effectively implement human rights in the online sphere. **Gregor Fischer**

Children's Rights Monitor in Styria (*KinderrechteMonitor*)

The UNESCO Centre was commissioned to assist the Children's Office (*Kinderbüro – die Lobby für Menschen bis 14*) in preparing the Children's Rights Monitor, funded by the Federal Province of Styria (*Land Steiermark*). For this purpose, the Centre developed a set of indicators to monitor the implementation of children's rights in regional development, which is based on the OHCHR's Structural-Process-Outcome indicator scheme for human rights monitoring. The Children's Rights Monitor uses 48 indicators to determine if laws, policies, administrative practices and public services in the policy area of regional development comply with children's rights as outlined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The indicator set was applied as a pilot in 2019 in a selected Styrian region. In 2020, the report on the pilot application was completed and submitted by the Children's Office to the provincial councillor (*Landesrätin*) and provincial department (*Fachabteilung*) in charge. The report was appreciated and a monitoring of children's rights was considered to be necessary.

Graz Agenda 2030

In 2021 Graz will celebrate its 20th anniversary as oldest Human Rights City in Europe. To mark the occasion, the UNESCO Centre together with representatives from the Graz UNESCO City of Design, Graz as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the Mayor's Office are planning a year of activities related to UNESCO's educational, scientific and cultural agenda. The initiative will kick off in 2021 with a series of events, including an online Academy and Conference "Human Rights Go Local – What works" as well as the official opening of the International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels under the auspices of UNESCO. In addition, the year 2030 shall be taken as the next milestone until which a series of initiatives related to UNESCO's agenda shall be implemented in Graz.



The Graz Agenda 2030 initiative is a vision and an agenda for the future of the City, which ties together all UNESCO pillars in Graz and synthesises the City's many projects and activities in the areas of culture, design, human rights, education and more. Acting in accordance with human rights principles in the different areas is a lasting chance for a strong and unique profile of Graz, which serves UNESCO's vision to leave no one behind and has potential to improve the quality of life for every single city dweller. With this, the Human Rights City becomes a lived experience. **Alexandra Stocker**

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

The ETC acts as the office of the Municipal Human Rights Council for the human rights city of Graz. The Council was established in 2007 to undertake human rights monitoring efforts and to publish annual reports on the matter. The ETC coordinates several of the Council's working groups, including:

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

Human rights monitoring and reporting activities began in 2007. The 2020 report

reviews and takes inventory of developments, experiences and challenges relating to the realisation of all human rights in Graz, as was done for the last time in this comprehensive manner in 2015. The focus chapter is dedicated to the experiences of local authorities and civil society organisations with the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact on their human rights work. The report shows the pandemic led to the emergence of new vulnerable groups and to the strengthening of existing inequalities on the city level. The 2020 Human Rights Monitoring Report was published on Human Rights Day, 10 December 2020.

It was compiled by a working group of five members of the Human Rights Council under coordination of the ETC. The report can be accessed here: https://www.graz.at/cms/dokumente/10152653_7771447/0f37d3a5/Menschenrechtsbericht%202020.pdf



In 2020, the Human Rights Report of the City of Graz proved once more to be a vital tool for ensuring that the human rights perspective is not left out of sight at the local level. Especially in times of a challenging global pandemic, it is of particular importance to put an even stronger focus on the respect of the human rights of every citizen, thereby guaranteeing that truly no one is left behind. **Livia Perschy**

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

Kenne deine Rechte was established in 2010 and is the online youth participation platform of the Council. It offers young people between the age of 14 and 24 a platform on which to report on human rights issues relevant to them. The project is financed by the City of Graz (*Stadt Graz*) and the Federal Province of Styria (*Land Steiermark*), as well as Paragraph-Software GmbH and Energie Graz. Participants receive thematic input on journalism and human rights and regularly attend events, make videos, host competitions, and raise awareness for human rights among their peers. 24 participants took part in the tenth anniversary project round 2019/20, whereas the 2020/21 round is the largest since the inception of the project, boasting 33 participants. While face-to-face activities could only take place on a limited basis due to the COVID-19 pandemic,



digital activities continued normally, leading to several new opportunities. In early 2020 the team established a new podcast format, entitled “Cinema in your mind – human rights in one minute” (*Kopfokino, Menschenrechte in 1 Minute*). In late 2020, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights hosted its first ever online Rights Dialogue with young people under 30, in which two members of the project held speeches on the right to education and freedom of religion. For January 2021, the UNESCO Commission for Austria and *Kenne deine Rechte* are jointly preparing a peer-to-peer online event on human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), targeting students. The annual report for 2019/20 can be found on the project website (in German): <http://www.kennedeinerechte.at/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/KdR-Tatigkeitsbericht1920-web.pdf>



It is a humbling and exciting experience to work with young people between 14 and 24 and to support them in their journalistic work on human rights. In 2020, the team of the project *Kenne deine Rechte* grew to a whopping 33 participants, indicating that now more than ever is a crucial time to give young people a platform to find and grow their voice. Writing is a valuable tool for political participation and the project participants' enthusiasm highlights this every day. **Wanda Tiefenbacher**

Short films against hate speech

Starting in 2016/2017, *Kenne deine Rechte* has received annual funding from the Austrian Society for Political Education to produce video spots on thematically relevant subjects relating to human rights. In summer 2020, participants from both the 2019/20 and 2020/21 project round met to produce two short films on “multiple discrimination” and “sustainability”. Both videos make the impact and importance of human rights clear and present these complex and abstract topics in an easily accessible manner that is friendly towards young people. All eleven videos in the ongoing series “Place for Human Rights/Human Rights Square” (*Platz für Menschenrechte*) are available on the YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCN-1Yju-GkA3_GU6UWPKN1g



Styrian Week on Children's Rights

For the fifth year counting, *Kenne deine Rechte* has participated in the Styrian Week on Children's Rights as coordinating member. In the week surrounding the International Day of Children's Rights (20th November), the Styrian Advocacy for Children and Adolescents (Kinder- und Jugendanwaltschaft Steiermark), the Children's Office (*Kinderbüro*), *beteiligung.st* and *Kenne deine Rechte* organise events that seek to raise awareness for children's rights. In the year 2020, several online events took place including the Children's Rights Gala, an online policy workshop, as well as the online Children's Rights Song Contest.



TEACHING AND EDUCATION

9. Teaching & Education

Global Campus of Human Rights

The UNESCO Chair is part of the Global Campus of Human Rights, the world's largest human rights education network with 100 universities organised in seven regional master programmes in human rights and democratisation in Venice, Bangkok, Sarajevo/Bologna, Buenos Aires, Yerevan, Pretoria, and Beirut. In 2020, the Chair contributed to the Global Campus MOOC Protecting and Promoting Human Rights: a Global Overview. The Chair and its team regularly teach in several of these master programmes, supervise master theses and host master students in Graz. The Chair and its team also teach in other human rights master programmes at the universities of Padova and Oldenburg among others. More information at www.gchumanrights.org



UNESCO Chair as DAAD Visiting Professor Ruhr University Bochum

From February to August 2020, the UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security was DAAD Visiting Professor at the Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict at the Ruhr University Bochum where he taught courses on human rights, refugee law and humanitarian action and acted as Director of the 2020 Bochum IHL Clinic.

Studying human rights at the University of Graz

The UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security at the University of Graz offers an undergraduate and postgraduate learning portfolio with foundational, advanced, specialised and skill-building courses on human rights and human security within UNESCO's Education 2030 Strategy. The Chair engages students in participatory learning in the European Human Rights Moot Court competition, the UN Model Universal Periodic Review, a Human Rights Debate Club and a Refugee Law Clinic. Law students and students of all disciplines of the University

HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE CENTRE WINTERSEMESTER / WINTER TERM 2020/21	SOMMERSEMESTER / SUMMER TERM 2021
<p>ENFÜHRUNG IN DIE MENSCHENRECHTE Ein praxisorientiertes Seminar zur Einführung in die Menschenrechte Dozent: Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Bergmann Dozentin: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Isenhardt Dozent: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Isenhardt Dozentin: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Isenhardt Dozent: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Isenhardt Dozentin: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Isenhardt Dozent: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Isenhardt Dozentin: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Isenhardt</p>	<p>INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MOOT COURT I+II Ein praxisorientiertes Seminar zur Einführung in die Menschenrechte Dozent: Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Bergmann Dozentin: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Isenhardt Dozent: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Isenhardt Dozentin: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Isenhardt Dozent: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Isenhardt Dozentin: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Isenhardt Dozent: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Isenhardt Dozentin: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Isenhardt</p>
<p>THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THEORY AND PRACTICE Ein praxisorientiertes Seminar zur Einführung in die Menschenrechte Dozent: Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Bergmann Dozentin: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Isenhardt Dozent: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Isenhardt Dozentin: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Isenhardt Dozent: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Isenhardt Dozentin: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Isenhardt Dozent: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Isenhardt Dozentin: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Isenhardt</p>	<p>INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN ARMED CONFLICT Ein praxisorientiertes Seminar zur Einführung in die Menschenrechte Dozent: Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Bergmann Dozentin: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Isenhardt Dozent: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Isenhardt Dozentin: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Isenhardt Dozent: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Isenhardt Dozentin: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Isenhardt Dozent: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Isenhardt Dozentin: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Isenhardt</p>
<p>THE UNITED NATIONS SIMULATION OF UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW IN THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL Ein praxisorientiertes Seminar zur Einführung in die Menschenrechte Dozent: Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Bergmann Dozentin: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Isenhardt Dozent: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Isenhardt Dozentin: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Isenhardt Dozent: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Isenhardt Dozentin: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Isenhardt Dozent: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Isenhardt Dozentin: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Isenhardt</p>	<p>THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THEORY AND PRACTICE Ein praxisorientiertes Seminar zur Einführung in die Menschenrechte Dozent: Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Bergmann Dozentin: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Isenhardt Dozent: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Isenhardt Dozentin: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Isenhardt Dozent: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Isenhardt Dozentin: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Isenhardt Dozent: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Isenhardt Dozentin: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Isenhardt</p>
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of Graz and incoming students acquire competences and skills to contribute to a more just, equal, peaceful and sustainable society as responsible global citizens, understand the ethical dimensions of human development and participate actively in democratic processes. The 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 workshop, coordinates the certificate programme in human rights at the Law Faculty, supervises diploma and master thesis, and provides online learning opportunities. The Chair also coordinates the interdisciplinary Doctoral Programme in Human Rights, Democracy, Diversity and Gender at the University of Graz. The Chair, together with the UNESCO Centre, connects human rights students and researchers through a Visiting Researchers Programme to enhance academic mobility and international exchange. The 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).

Workshop series “Learning Human Rights Together”

The Austrian Society for Political Education provided funding to the ETC for the realisation of the project “Learning Human Rights Together – our lives, our rights, our responsibility” (*“Gemeinsam Menschenrechte Lernen – unser Leben, unsere Rechte, unsere Verantwortung”*). The project takes place in youth centres across Styria between 2020 and 2021. In the workshops, young people with and without a history of migration learn about core human rights values in a participatory manner. The goal is to facilitate an understanding of rights and responsibilities, to reduce mutually held prejudice and to strengthen intercultural dialogue. A series of workshops was already held in early 2020, due to the pandemic they will continue in 2021.

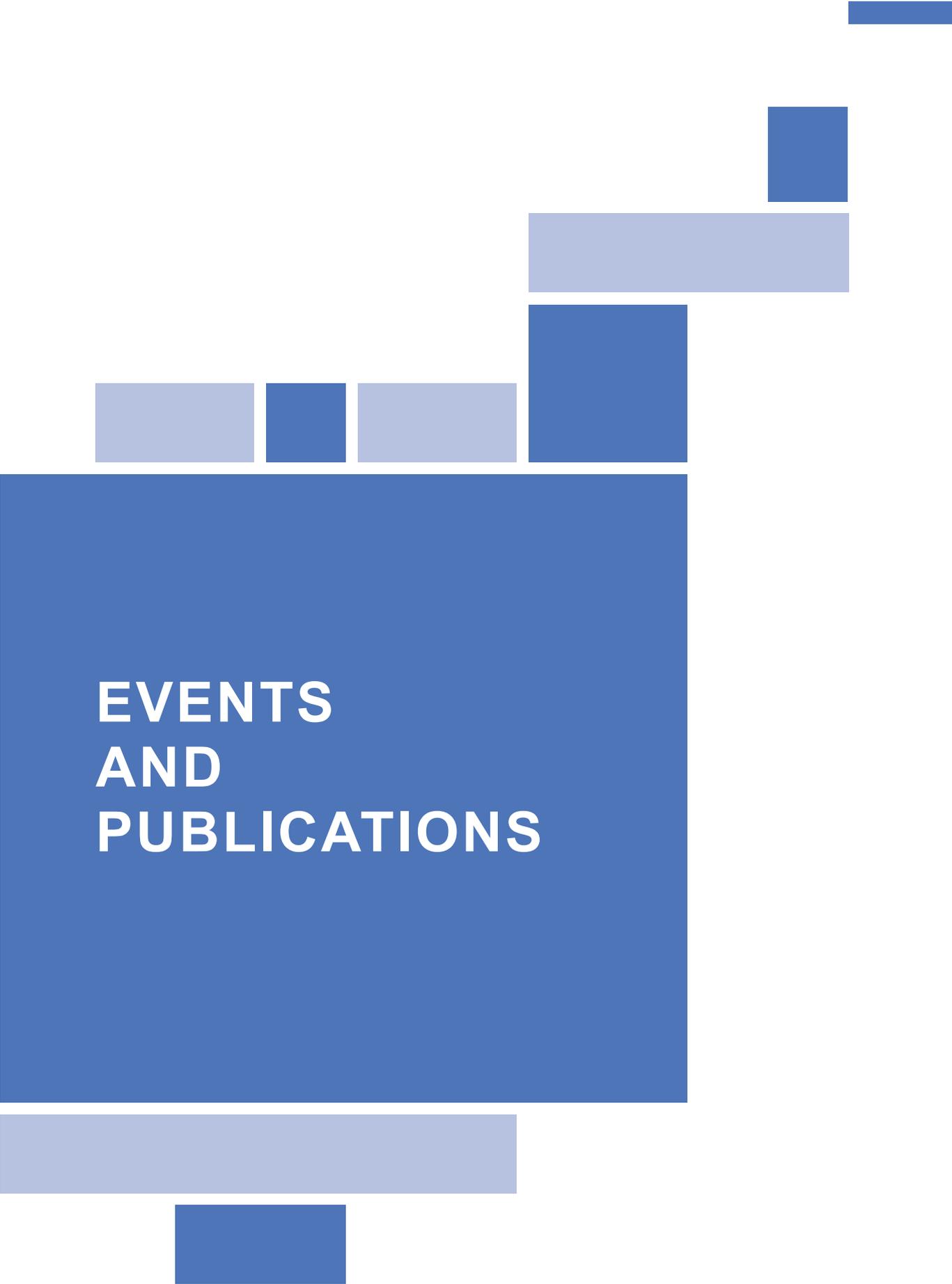
Human Rights Education in Primary Schools - “Our Human Rights School” (*Unsere Menschenrechtsschule*)

“Our Human Rights School” is a project for human rights education at primary schools, which is funded by the Federal Province of Styria (*Land Steiermark*) and realised by the UNESCO Centre in cooperation with the University College of Teacher Education Styria (*Pädagogische Hochschule Steiermark*), the City of Graz (*Stadt Graz*) and nine primary schools in Styria. The project’s goal is to create environments in which children’s rights and human rights are basic principles and used as guidance in the education of primary school classes. In 2020, results from 500 interviews with primary school pupils as well as from a teacher survey were presented. At the beginning of the year, 14 human rights workshops were held in the third grades of 7 elementary schools. In summer 2020, the teacher toolbox was extended by two new modules on the right to health and on dealing with verbal harassment. More information is available here: <http://menschenrechtsschule.at/>



Why do not all teachers teach human rights? A US study found out that many of them are afraid that „all hell might break loose“ if children knew their rights. This fear is not uncommon among Austrians teachers as well. The project „Our Human Rights School“ aims at empowering both primary school students and their teachers to include human rights in their daily school life. **Barbara Schmiedl**





EVENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

10. Events, Workshops, Lectures

9 January 2020	Workshop on mobbing held at the Pädagogische Hochschule Steiermark in Graz (Simone Philipp, Barbara Schmiedl)
18 January and 31 January 2020	Workshop "Introduction to Human Rights Education" held at the University of Graz (Barbara Schmiedl)
19 – 22 January 2020	Workshop on Sports and Learning in the framework of the GUARANTEE Project held in Dortmund, Germany (Klaus Starl, Simone Philipp)
22 January 2020	Presentation of study results in the project Our Human Rights School (Unsere Menschenrechtsschule) held at Pädagogische Hochschule Steiermark (Alexandra Stocker, Barbara Schmiedl)
10 February, 2 March 2020	Workshops held at primary schools in the framework of the project Our Human Rights School (Unsere Menschenrechtsschule) (Barbara Schmiedl, Simone Philipp)
11 February 2020	Presentation of Toolkit for Urban Inclusion in Arab Cities and first volume of the publication series Human Rights Go Local at the World Urban Forum (WUF10) in Abu Dhabi, Saudi Arabia (Bernadette Knauder)
24 – 28 February 2020	Participation in ERASMUS+ Project PROMIG (Promoting Migration Studies in Higher Education) Winter School on Migration and project closing event in Delhi, India (Wolfgang Benedek, Bernadette Knauder, Agnes Romanin)
9 March 2020	Introductory visit of the UNESCO Centre to the Austrian Commission for UNESCO, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, the Human Rights Office of the City of Vienna, the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Fundamental and Human Rights, the Federal Ministry of International and European Affairs and Amnesty International (Klaus Starl)
11 March 2020	Workshop held with Children's Rights Ambassadors (Kinderrechtebotschafter*innen) in the framework of the project Our Human Rights School (Unsere Menschenrechtsschule) (Barbara Schmiedl)
11 March, 22 June, 26 October 2020	Meeting of the steering committee "Graz Agenda 2030" to plan the 20-year anniversary and future vision of the Human Rights City of Graz
16 March 2020	General Assembly of the European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (ETC Graz), Meeting of the Project Committee of the International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels
4 June 2020	Workshop "Introduction to Human Rights" held at Frauenservice, Graz (Klaus Starl)
19 June and 21 July 2020	Meeting of the ECCAR Scientific Advisory Council (Klaus Starl)
19 June 2020	Contribution to the webinar "Universities in Human Rights Cities – Challenges and Opportunities" hosted by the Human Rights Cities Network and the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (Gerd Oberleitner), Meeting with the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights on the Human Rights City Platform (Klaus Starl)
24 June 2020	Contribution to meeting of the Human Rights City Network and the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights on Human Rights Cities' experiences with COVID-19 (Wanda Tiefenbacher)
25 June 2020	Meeting of the Governing Body of the Foundation for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels
13-17 July 2020	Presentation on "E-learning preparedness: flexible solutions for quality education" held at the Global Campus Training Days hosted by the University of Padova Human Rights Centre (online) (Gerd Oberleitner, Bernadette Knauder, Gregor Fischer)
16 July 2020	Interview about project Know Your Rights (Kenne deine Rechte) with Radio Soundportal, Graz (Wanda Tiefenbacher)
18 August 2020	Midterm meeting held in the framework of the GUARANTEE project (Klaus Starl, Simone Philipp)
28 August 2020	End-of-project Picnic held with participants from Know Your Rights project (Kenne deine Rechte) in Graz (Wanda Tiefenbacher)
4 September 2020	Working session of the ILA Study Group on the Role of Cities in International Law on "Localizing International Law, Internationalizing the City - the Human Rights City of Graz" (Gregor Fischer and Gerd Oberleitner)
4-5 September 2020	Contribution to the Annual meeting of the Association of Human Rights Institute (online) (Lisa Heschl)

7 September 2020	Meeting of the Project Committee of the International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels
11 September 2020	Contribution to panel discussion about Femicide in Austria held at Juridicum Vienna (Isabella Meier)
21 September 2020	Expert meeting held on the Human Rights Region of Styria (Menschenrechtsregion Steiermark) (Klaus Starl)
21 September 2020	Visit of Austrian Human Rights Ombudsman Werner Amon to the UNESCO Centre and Chair
28 September 2020	Consultation meeting on becoming a Human Rights City held with the City of Prague, Czech Republic (Klaus Starl)
2 – 3 October 2020	Introduction workshop to human rights and journalism held for Know Your Rights project (Kenne deine Rechte) (Wanda Tiefenbacher)
8 October 2020	Paper presentation “Conceptualizing Human Rights Cities: Legal Deliberations and Practical Proposals on the Pursuit of Human Rights and the SDGs at the Local Level” at the World Human Rights City Forum (Markus Möstl)
9-10 October 2020	Co-organisation of the Conference “Data-driven human rights research” hosted by the Human Rights Centre at the University of Padova
12 October 2020	General Assembly of the European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (ETC Graz)
14 October 2020	Meeting of the Governing Body of the Foundation for the Promotion of Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels
21 October 2020	Lecture on discrimination in the series “Introduction to Human Rights” held at the University of Graz (Klaus Starl)
27 October 2020	Exchange meeting between stakeholders held in the framework of the GUARANTEE project (Klaus Starl, Simone Philipp, Wanda Tiefenbacher)
13 November 2020	Contribution of members from project Know Your Rights (Kenne deine Rechte) to Fundamental Rights Dialogue organised by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (Wanda Tiefenbacher)
13 November 2020	Participation in the online forum on the Human Rights City Platform hosted by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (Klaus Starl)
19 November 2020	Consultation meeting on becoming a Human Rights City held with the City of Prague, Czech Republic (Klaus Starl)
19 November 2020	Book launch of “Implementation of International Human Rights Commitments and Implications on Ongoing Legal Reforms in Ethiopia” by Benedek et al. hosted by Addis Ababa University (online)
20 November 2020	Organisation of online meeting with President of the UN Human Rights Council, Ambassador Elisabeth Tichy-Fisslberger in cooperation with UNESCO Chair Padova
2 December 2020	Book launch of the European Yearbook on Human Rights 2019 and lecture by Judge Linos-Alexandre Sicilianos on “The ECHR at 70: Dynamics of a Unique Instrument”, held at the University of Graz (online)
8 December 2020	Interview on Human Rights City of Graz and Human Rights Report 2020 by Radio Helsinki (Klaus Starl)
7 – 9 December 2020	Online workshop on “local approaches to guaranteeing women’s rights” with United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG) and African Local Government Academy (ALGA)
10 December 2020	Contribution to Bergen Human Rights City online event, “Human rights cities explained: why do we need them?” hosted by the University of Bergen (Gerd Oberleitner, Klaus Starl)
14 December 2020	Meeting of the ECCAR Scientific Advisory Council (Klaus Starl)
16 December 2020	Lecture on children’s rights in the series “Introduction to Human Rights” held at the University of Graz (Bernadette Knauder)

11. Publications

Wolfgang Benedek, The Effectiveness of the Tools of the Council of Europe against Democratic Backsliding: What Lessons can be Learned from the “Greek Case”, in: *Austrian Law Journal*. 2020,1. 2020, 1-21.

Wolfgang Benedek, The EU’s engagement with human rights defenders, in: Jan Wouters et al. (eds.), *The European Union and Human Rights, Law and Policy*. Oxford. Oxford University Press, 2020, 504-519.

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Wolfgang Benedek, ICERD: Präambel, in: Doris Angst and Emma Lantschner (eds.), *ICERD – Internationales Übereinkommen zur Beseitigung jeder Form der Rassendiskriminierung, Handkommentar*. Baden-Baden. Nomos, 2020, 188-197.

Wolfgang Benedek, Matthias Kettemann, *Freedom of Expression and the Internet*, 2nd edition, Council of Europe Publishing, Strasbourg, 2020.

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Gregor Fischer, COVID-19: An Unfriendly Reminder That Self-Regulation Will Not Save the Climate, CPD Policy Blog, available at <https://policyblog.uni-graz.at/2020/04/covid-19-an-unfriendly-reminder-that-self-regulation-will-not-save-the-climate/>

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Gregor Fischer, Gerd Oberleitner, Localizing International Law, Internationalizing the City - The Human Rights City of Graz. ILA study group on the Role of Cities in International Law, City Report: Graz, International Law Association, December 2020, available at <https://www.asser.nl/media/680283/city-report-graz.pdf>

Gregor Fischer, Matthias Kettemann, Felicitas Rachinger, Ein sanfter Riesenbändiger - Potenzial und Probleme des Kommunikationsplattformengesetzes, in: Österreichische Juristen-Zeitung, 23/24/2020, 1064-1071.

Gregor Fischer, Matthias Kettemann, Felicitas Rachinger, Stellungnahme zu dem Ministerialentwurf betreffend Bundesgesetz, mit dem ein Bundesgesetz über Maßnahmen zum Schutz der Nutzer auf Kommunikationsplattformen erlassen wird, 2020, available at https://www.parlament.gv.at/PAKT/VHG/XXVII/SNME/SNME_17856/imfname_842304.pdf

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Markus Möstl, Wanda Tiefenbacher, Coronavirus Pandemic in the EU – Fundamental Rights Implications, FRANET Country Report Austria, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, April – November 2020:

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INFRASTRUCTURE AND COOPERATION

12. Infrastructure and Resources



The European Training- and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (ETC Graz) had available a total of 442,000 EUR to cover operating costs, investments, and the implementation of its activities (incl. the activities of the UNESCO Centre). Of this total,

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

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

The Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights at Local and Regional Levels under the auspices of UNESCO dedicated the following amounts for the implementation of its work programme in 2020:

Management	53,002.42
Roma Integration Stolipinovo/Plovdiv, Bulgaria	7,000.00
Human Rights Curriculum African Academy for Local Gov. (ALGA)	16,954.35
Human Rights City Twinning	10,332.09
Arab Coalition of Cities and ICCAR (TISCA)	19,110.36
Toolkit for Equality	5,169.02
Clearinghouse	4,756.61
Human Rights Go Local Paper series	36,989.14
Stakeholder Cooperation	18,361.28
Human Rights Lab Styria	9,067.99

Total 2020

180,743.26 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 has been 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 includes 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).

13. Cooperation and Partnerships



- UNESCO
- Republic of Austria (*Republik Österreich*)
- the Federal Province of Styria, Austria (*Land Steiermark*)
- the City of Graz, Austria (*Stadt Graz*)

- United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- Association of Human Rights Institutes (AHRI)
- Global Campus of Human Rights
- World University Service
- European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)
- African Local Governance Academy (ALGA)
- Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (RWI)
- UNESCO Chair in Human Rights, Democracy and Peace at the University of Padova
- Paragraph-Software GmbH



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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