

# INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL ON MIGRATION

*The social dimension of the environmental transition. Making the transition towards a sustainability that is just and inclusive for all*  
10, 17, 24 September 2021 On-line activities | 2-5 October 2021 LAMPEDUSA / On-line

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"I saw that one way in which we can promote peace, is by promoting sustainable management of our resources, equitable distribution of these resources, and that the only way you can actually do that, is that then you have to have a political, economic system that facilitates that."

Wangari Maathai, 2008<sup>1</sup>

*After three successful editions, including 400 applicants from more than 40 countries and more than 150 selected participants, the International School on Migration 2021 will focus on how to make the transition towards a sustainability that is just and inclusive for everyone, analyzing its social dimension. The International School on Migration will be held in "blended" mode including three on-line modules in September 2021 (10, 17, 24) and a face-to-face module on the island of Lampedusa from 2 to 5 October (with the chance to take part on-line too). Participants will have the opportunity to adapt and update their knowledge and working skills of the contemporary challenges of a society which is becoming increasingly demanding and attentive to principles of fairness, inclusiveness and respect for the environment and to acquire knowledge of environmental and social impact assessment mechanisms. They will be involved in moments of training and sharing of experiences, best practices and knowledge, under the guidance of international experts and academics.*

### **1. Context of reference**

The new 2021 edition of the International School, organized within the European project "Snapshots from the borders"<sup>2</sup>, will focus on the analysis of the social dimension of the transition towards a

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1 <https://www.feminist.com/resources/artsspeech/interviews/wangarimaathai.html>

2 <http://www.snapshotsfromtheborders.eu/> - is a 4-year project co-funded by the European Union (EuropeAid DEAR budget line), run by 34 partners, border Local Authorities and Civil Society organizations from 14 European countries.

The project aims to improve the critical understanding of European, national and local decision makers and of public opinion about

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climate-neutral economy, which should leave no one behind and should instead represent an opportunity for society as a whole.

The **2030 Agenda**<sup>3</sup> explicitly outlined the will and the commitment of the international community to recognize the need to define an "action plan for people, the planet and prosperity".

Even if the ways in which migration may be influenced by climate change and the challenges this poses for policy and planning are not directly addressed in the 2030 Agenda SDGs, it is globally recognized that an increasing number of people are being forced to move as a result of deteriorating environmental conditions, loss of habitat and livelihoods, and extreme weather events.

The revolution resulting from the increasing pressure of the international community and as a result of a growing widespread sensitivity among people has already triggered processes that are directing the world economy towards an approach that puts both social and environmental issues at the forefront. This trend is most evident in Europe. A crucial response to the challenges that are emerging both in social and environmental terms is certainly provided by the European **Green Deal**<sup>4</sup>, a European action plan for sustainable economy through which the European Commission has sought to reiterate the centrality of "a new growth strategy that aims to transform the EU into a fair and prosperous society, with a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy where there are no net emissions of greenhouse gases in 2050 and where economic growth is decoupled from resource use". And it is precisely in this rapidly evolving context that the **Circular Economy Action Plan**<sup>5</sup> highlights how "the potential of the social economy, which is a pioneer in job creation linked to the circular economy, will be further leveraged by the mutual benefits of supporting the green transition and strengthening social inclusion, notably under the Action Plan to implement the **European Pillar of Social Rights**<sup>6</sup>".

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**global interdependencies determining migration flows towards European borders**, from the perspective of reaching SDGs targets, especially SDG 1, 5, 10 11 and 16. Specifically, the project intends to strengthen a new horizontal, active **network among cities directly facing migration flows at EU borders**, as a way of promoting more effective policy coherence at all levels (European, national, local). To date, the project is successfully carrying out the "No more bricks in the Wall" communication campaign having already reached over 7,000,000 people and carrying out 28 information events in the capitals of European countries (plus Bosnia). In addition, an awareness and advocacy activity aimed at national and European institutions is underway, led by the Border Towns and Islands Network, an international association founded as part of the project and made up of partner Local Authorities. In September 2020 a delegation from the project was received in private audience by Pope Francesco.

3 <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

4 [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en)

5 [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/strategy/circular-economy-action-plan\\_it#:~:text=The%20European%20Commission%20adopted%20the,\(CEAP\)%20in%20March%202020.&text=It%20targets%20how%20products%20are,for%20as%20long%20as%20possible.](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/strategy/circular-economy-action-plan_it#:~:text=The%20European%20Commission%20adopted%20the,(CEAP)%20in%20March%202020.&text=It%20targets%20how%20products%20are,for%20as%20long%20as%20possible.)

6 <https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/economy-works-people/jobs-growth-and-investment/european-pillar->

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It is widely agreed that the circular economy must consider the **social and inclusive aspects of production processes**, both as values that meet an increasingly sensitive consumer and as attention to weaker parts of societies and decent work conditions for all people, in the spirit of the 2030 Agenda. It is therefore important to promote the development of skills and talents among the most vulnerable people, especially migrants, in an inclusive and responsible path, bearing in mind that the fundamental divide today is no longer between the North and the South, but rather between globalized, mobile, centrally hybridized elites and localized, involuntarily mobile, and culturally disempowered non-elites.

The transition must therefore be accompanied by **policies which support job placement**, training for new green jobs, protection from poverty, and ethical finance, at the international, national and local level. Moreover, the education system, the tertiary sector, the training sector and businesses will have to open a productive dialogue and to collaborate to outline new educational and training systems (up-skilling and re-skilling of workers, in particular those at risk of exclusion due to their previous employment in the linear economy). Concrete and planned actions to combat inequalities and polarizations of people's possibilities and conditions are even more urgent now that the pandemic has caused, in addition to an economic and social crisis, an acceleration of the transition to digital.

Finally, the danger of "green-washing" and "ethical washing" is felt by many. For this reason, **systems to monitor, assess and develop corrective actions** must be introduced at any level, with specific focus given to their social implications.

## 2. Objectives

The training sessions will aim to provide participants with greater awareness and knowledge of some main themes, which will be the starting point for further discussions between participants and teachers:

- **Climate change, migration and the transition towards the 2030 Agenda;**
- **Work and training as tools for social inclusion in the environmental transition;**

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- **European local authorities as agents of change in relation to environmental and social fragilities;**
- **The business sector as an engine of social and environmental change.**

The training will focus on these analysis paths:

1<sup>st</sup> session: What are the **international legal bases of the ecological transition** and how might they impact on the most vulnerable people within Europe, such as people at risk of exclusion from **the labor market**? How are Africa and international politics facing climate-induced migration in and from Africa?

2<sup>nd</sup> session: How is the labor market changing and how will it be renewed? What are the **tools to avoid inequality and exclusion** among those who have difficulty adapting to the transition (low-skilled / under-skilled people, newcomers)? What attention is paid to the “castaways” of the ecological transition?

3<sup>rd</sup> session: How are **local authorities** moving to enhance the changes in their territories and how should they act to protect citizens and workers, both migrant and native, at risk of exclusion (low-skilled / under-skilled people, newcomers)?

4<sup>th</sup> session: What is the **private sector** doing to innovate business and to include the most vulnerable people?

The training will be aimed at researchers, professionals, public officials, operators of the private social sector, students, social workers, and CSR officers who seek to adapt and update their knowledge and working skills of the contemporary challenges of a society that is becoming increasingly demanding and attentive to principles of fairness, inclusiveness and respect for the environment and to acquire knowledge of environmental and social impact assessment mechanisms. Furthermore, participants will have the opportunity to share their practical experience, activate networks and test concrete **design and evaluation methodologies during specific project work sessions** held by experts, focusing on the issues addressed during the school.

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### 3. Methodology

The School will be structured according to the following guidelines:

- The panels will be aimed at forming a **multidisciplinary analysis** of the various issues addressed. The School will focus in particular on the following themes: tools at European level to meet the objectives of the 2030 Agenda; interdependence between migration and climate change in Africa; environmental activism in Africa; the labor market revolution towards sustainability; education and skills development as an investment for long-term sustainable development; circular economy and the creation of new jobs; the role of local authorities in response to the 2030 Agenda; the role of the business sector in the transition towards sustainability; the connection between diversity, inclusion and corporate social responsibility (CSR); sustainability and inclusion in the fashion sector.

- **Project work sessions** will be organized on a suitable on-line platform in small groups conducted by a tutor and will aim to explore in more depth the theme of impact assessment, supporting the participants to analyze consistent tools which are applicable in different contexts and disciplines. The project work will be followed by an expert who will provide support to participants both during and outside the days scheduled for the lessons, so as to offer dedicated and in-depth workshops in the days between sessions. **Collaborative on-line project design tools** will be used, allowing all participants to activate exchanges and new collaborations at an international level as well.

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- In addition to three on-line sessions, a face-to-face session will take place on the **Island of Lampedusa**, coinciding with the important anniversary of the shipwreck of October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013. During this period the island hosts various initiatives, becoming a meeting place for people who have lived or who are interested in sharing experiences related to marginalization and migration.



#### 4. The 3 previous editions

- 400 applications received from more than 40 countries worldwide;
- 150 participants selected;
- 45 international professors and experts;
- 20+ national and international partners.

#### 5. Scientific Committee

Of primary importance is the support offered by the members of the School's Technical-Scientific Committee, composed of:

- o Sergio Castellari, INGV (National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology)
- o Alessia Lefebure, École des Hautes Études en Santé Publique (EHESP), Rennes
- o Elisa Magnani, Università degli Studi di Bologna "Alma Mater"
- o Stefano Manservigi, Sciences-Po/Paris School for International Affairs, European University Institute

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- Andrea Marchesini Reggiani, President of coop. Lai-momo, member of the Committee of Experts for Support the G20 Environment in Italy
- Pierluigi Musarò, Università degli Studi di Bologna “Alma Mater”
- Elena Paglialunga, Università di Urbino “Carlo Bo 1506”
- Paola Parmiggiani, Università degli Studi di Bologna “Alma Mater”

## 6. Presentation of the organizers

The School is organized by the Africa e Mediterraneo association and Lai-momo social cooperative. [Africa e Mediterraneo APS](#) has played a pioneering role over the years in the study and promotion of African culture, its forms of production and expression, both inside and outside Europe, choosing to collaborate with artists of African origin and migrants as a means of promoting intercultural dialogue and coexistence between different cultures. Communication and research projects, cultural and artistic initiatives were carried out both in schools and at the public level, working in partnership on a European and local scale. Its idea of coexistence derives from principles of responsibility and participation, which can support change, involving migrants and resident citizens, as well as civil society and public services.

[Cooperativa sociale Lai-momo](#) was founded in Italy in 1995 by a group of academics, teachers and researchers with the aim of promoting communication between people and individuals from different countries and backgrounds. With an initial focus on culture, the cooperative then extended its efforts to the fields of social communication, research, education, employment and social inclusion of disadvantaged people and migration welcoming.

*The School is part of the “Snapshots from the borders”, project co-funded by the European Union.*



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FROM THE **BORDERS**



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Partners:



*The School is co-funded by Unicredit.*

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Lai-momo