

REACT

REFLECTING ECONOMICS
AND **CLIMATE CHANGE**
IN TEACHING

Project No 2023-1-IS01-KA220-HED-00015905266



Co-funded by
the European Union

FINAL CONFERENCE

Empowering Higher Education to Bridge the Climate Action Gap

4th International Conference
on Economics of Climate Change (InCECC)

Official satellite event
of the European Climate Pact



 **October 14 -16, 2026**

 **University of Economics in Katowice, Poland**



We warmly invite you to participate in the conference **“Empowering Higher Education to Bridge the Climate Action Gap.”** This is the 4th edition of the annual conference organized by the **Centre for Economics of Climate Change** at the University of Economics in Katowice. For this edition, our focus is on climate action education, showcasing the key results of the project **“REACCT - Reflecting Economics and Climate Change in Teaching”** (co-funded by The European Union, in Action KA220-HED - cooperation partnerships in higher education, Project No 2023-1-IS01-KA220-HED-000159052).

Our ambition is to mobilise the academic community to actively engage in the climate transition. We want to inspire educators to update their learning pathways so that students can play a hands-on, active role in building a climate-neutral future. We hope this event will provide a valuable platform to:

- **Bridge the Gap:** We will focus on practical ways higher education can address climate challenges. Our goal is to show how universities can inspire their academic communities to drive real change in their local environments.
- **Reform and Enrich Curricula:** We will present concrete, highly engaging climate-related content alongside practical methods to seamlessly integrate these topics into existing study programs.
- **Discuss Transversal Skills and Inclusivity:** We will explore how to foster critical thinking, resilience, and inclusivity within climate education - essential skills for students preparing for "green jobs" and a sustainable future.
- **Inspire Climate Action:** The conference aims to do more than just share knowledge; we want to encourage lecturers and researchers to become ambassadors for change within their own institutions. Every step taken on campus contributes directly to the global success of the green transition.

Through these efforts, we aim to support a deep educational shift - transforming climate education from a theoretical add-on into the very foundation of training a modern, conscious, and empowered workforce.



Who We Are Bringing Together ?

This conference is specifically targeted at the **academic community** actively interested in raising the quality of higher education and advancing climate education. This target audience is chosen with intent - it is educators and curriculum designers who serve as the "architects of change," uniquely positioned to bridge the theory-practice divide and close the Climate Action Gap. We want participants to leave the University of Economics in Katowice equipped with the experiences and inspiration needed to:

- **Design future-proof competencies:** How can we best equip students with green skills and the readiness to drive climate action?
- **Bridge the gap between science and teaching practice:** How can we integrate climate-related topics into the syllabi of various disciplines to make them engaging and intellectually stimulating for today's students?
- **Develop transversal skills:** How can we use climate education as a launchpad for cultivating students' critical thinking and complex problem-solving abilities?

Expected Outcomes:

- **Learn:** We elevate the competencies of academic staff and decision-makers by reframing climate change not just as an environmental issue, but as a critical social and economic challenge requiring new expertise.
- **Develop and Impact:** We focus on syllabus reform, the development of transversal skills, and a commitment to inclusivity. We equip lecturers with the tools to train future leaders who can drive innovation and actively close the Climate Action Gap.
- **Connect:** We are building a collaborative network of curriculum designers and educators to scale our impact. An inspired teacher becomes a local leader of change, bringing the mission of climate neutrality to hundreds of students.

Project Consortium



17.00

Pre-conference networking event

The Connection Café: Empowering HEIs to Bridge the Climate Education Gap

Special guest:

Kamil Szewczyk, Polish Green Network, Napraw Sobie Miasto Foundation

Dreaming Circle workshop with Dragon Dreaming Method

Place: tba

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10.00 - 10.15 **Welcome & Opening Address**

10.15 - 11.30 **Session I**
Climate Education in HEIs: From Lecture Room to Community-Level Solutions

Keynote speakers:

How to teach on climate change to enhance sustainable development?

Prof. Lára Jóhannsdóttir, University of Iceland, Iceland

Energy–economy–environment nexus and differentiated pathways towards climate neutrality

Prof. Jana Chovancová, University of Presov, Climate Pact Ambassador in Slovakia

Tackling energy poverty by acknowledging vulnerable groups

Dr. Iva Tichá, University of Ostrava

11.30 - 12.00 **Coffee break**



12.00 - 13.00

Session II

REACCT in Action: Transforming Education on Climate Change

An overview of the vision and impact of the REACCT project, highlighting its innovative educational approach and detailing the structural blueprint of the specialised materials developed.

REACCT in Action! Design and implementation

Stefán Guðnason, University of Akureyri, Iceland

Prof. Monika Wieczorek-Kosmala, University of Economics in Katowice, Poland

Focus: transversal skills and inclusiveness

Dr Aleš Lokaj, VSB-Technical University of Ostrava

Dr Anna Losa and MA Rafał Rydzewski, University of Economics in Katowice, Poland

An innovation with the REACCT EduBoxes

Prof. Mario Carrassi, University of Bari Aldo Moro, Italy

Prof. Monika Wieczorek-Kosmala, University of Economics in Katowice, Poland

13.00 - 13.45

Lunch break

13.45 - 15.30

Session III

Welcome to the Climate Game Lounge!

An experiential session focused on demonstrating how educational games create a dynamic, fail-safe environment for active skills development.

"Sustainablepoly REACCT" | Prof. Jozef Glova, Dr Leoš Šafár, Dr Marek Pekarčík, Technical University of Košice, Slovakia

"The Good Ventures" | Antonios Triantafyllakis, Climate Pact Ambassador, Gamification Global, Nausika Educational Foundation

16.00

Social programme

11.00 - 11.30

Session IV

REACCT in Action! Show cases collection

A presentation on how the REACCT project embedded transversal skills and inclusive practices into teaching climate change economics.

Prof. Aleksandra Fedajev and Prof. Milica Veličković, University of Belgrade, Serbia

11.30 - 12.30

Session V

Forum of Educators: Co-Design Lab: Shaping Interactive Pathways for REACCT-Powered Study Programmes

Featuring Special Guest:

Dr Gary Walpole, Co-Director of the Regional Innovation and Regeneration Centre, Cardiff School of Management

REACCT approach to designing curricula based on micro-credentials

A presentation on the REACCT approach to micro-credential curriculum design, followed by an interactive lab session for educators.

Dr Karel Hlaváček, VSB-Technical University of Ostrava, Czech Republic
Stefán Guðnason, University of Akureyri, Iceland

Lab session with educators

Prof. Jozef Glova, Technical University of Košice, Slovakia
Dr Marta Grybś-Kabocik, University of Economics in Katowice, B4EU Alliance, Poland

12.30 - 13.30

Brunch



13.30 - 15.00

Session VI Climate Moods Debate

Unlocking Ideas: The Next Chapter of Climate Action in Education

This debate brings together experienced educators to share actionable insights, real-world lessons, and fresh ideas to enrich your climate initiatives. Designed as a catalyst for action, the session aims to ignite new perspectives and power the next chapter of your educational work.

Moderation:

Michał Purol, General Director of the UNEP-GRID Warsaw, Climate Pact Ambassador

Special Guests:

Dr Aleksandra Kardaś, V-Ce President of Foudnation for Climate Education, Editor of Naukaoklimacie.pl

Prof. Łukasz Kurowski, Warsaw School of Economics, Warsaw, Poland

Dr Magdalena Płonka, Director of Collaborative Educational Initiatives & Research, MSKPU

Dr Krzysztof Krawiec, Lead Consultant at Ecorys

Zbigniew Janczukowicz, Nausika Educational Foundation

Szymon Turcza-Jurczyński, Citizens of the Future Foundation Member

15.00 - 15.15

Final remarks and conference closure

15.15

Parallel

The After-Talk

Networking, Coffee, and Climate Conversations

This informal closing session is the perfect opportunity to reflect on the confer-ence debates and share your final thoughts. Meet fellow attendees in a casual, open-floor setting to discuss the ideas shared over the last two days, explore future opportunities, and solidify new connections for collaborative climate action before heading home.

Accompanying event:

Edukacja klimatyczna z REACCT: Akademia umiejętności transwersalnych

Workshop for students and educators (in Polish)

Patronage

4th International Conference on Economics of Climate Change

Honorary Patronage



JM Rektor
Uniwersytetu Ekonomicznego w Katowicach
prof. dr hab. inż. Celina M. Olszak



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