

Chapter 1

Project Background

Margherita Paola Poto, Giulia Parola, and Gabrielle Natividad

1.1 Conceptual Foundations and Project Background

This learning resource is the culmination of extensive research and educational efforts coordinated by Giulia Parola and Margherita Paola Poto and conducted over several years within various projects, subsequently integrated into courses at University of Turin, Department of Earth Sciences, Department of Management Valter Cantino, and Law Department. The foundational needs driving this project are multifaceted, and we aim to outline a few key aspects here:

1. Critical Examination of Agenda 2030

There is a shared imperative to critically assess the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, particularly its applicability and relevance to contemporary law students.

2. Collaborative Future Building

Emphasising the importance of collaborative efforts to realize a “Common Future for All,” ensuring that no one is left behind, in alignment with the vision outlined in the Agenda.

3. Transdisciplinarity

It is fundamental to merge different knowledge systems and disciplines to address complex challenges creatively and effectively.

The development of this resource has been significantly influenced by the enduring collaboration between the coordinators and is deeply rooted in the research conducted across several projects. The main project that has contributed to the development of innovative research and education is the research and education project ECO_CARE “An Exchange Program on Empathy, Compassion and Care in Water Governance from the Perspective of Integral Ecology.”¹ Funded by The Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills (HKDIR), it involves the Faculty of Law at UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø, the Rural Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRRJ), and the Chiquitano Peoples of Mato Grosso, Brazil.

The project has grown to include numerous satellite projects such as The Ocean Incubator Network,² the German-Italian Network Coproknnet funded by DAAD and the Humboldt Foundation,³ and interdisciplinary cooperation with McMaster Canada’s Master’s Program on Global Health.⁴ This expanding network now includes the Federal University of Amazonas, the University of Buenos Aires, and a pilot project within the European University Alliance for Global Health (EUGLOH),⁵ among others.

Finally, from a European perspective, this project aligns with specific ERC themes, particularly SH2_institutions, governance, and legal systems.

1.2 On the Student-Led Projects Mapped in this Resource

Students from three distinct courses at the University of Turin were engaged in a common challenge: to develop co-created projects that address interconnected issues within the 17 SDGs of the Agenda 2030. The courses, varying slightly in methodology, included Environmental Law from the Master’s Program in Geosciences and Administrative Law from the Bachelor’s Program in Business Administration, both coordinated by Margherita Paola Poto in collaboration with Giuliana Panieri. These courses focused on SDG 14 in connection with another SDG, drawing on previous projects and literature on co-creation.

The course on Administrative Law, coordinated by Giulia Parola within the Department of Law, aimed at developing co-created solutions to interconnected SDG challenges, employing a multi-step methodology of legal design and visual law. This approach highlights the innovative integration of interdisciplinary knowledge, particularly blending legal frameworks with insights from environmental law, Indigenous law, water governance and other relevant fields.

1.3 The Project Creator

Gaby Natividad has been an integral part of ECO_CARE, initially joining as a practicum student from McMaster, and subsequently

1. Official website, with link to Instagram, youtube, a blog and open access resources: <https://en.uit.no/project/ecocare>, last access October 4, 2024. The project is funded by HKDIR/UTF-2020/10084.
2. Official website: <https://en.uit.no/project/oceanincubator>, last access October 4, 2024. The project is funded by UArctic 580512124.
3. Official website of the Faculty of Law at the University of Bayreuth hosting many of the mentioned projects: <https://www.oer3.uni-bayreuth.de/de/index.html>, last access October 4, 2024.
4. Official website: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/legalhack/>, last access June 2024, last access October 4, 2024.
5. Official website: <https://www.eugloh.eu/>, last access October 4, 2024.

evolving into roles as a project assistant, young researcher, and content developer and creator. Her transdisciplinary background in global health, combined with her collaborative work with Giulia Parola and Margherita Paola Poto, has equipped her with a critical mindset essential for tackling contemporary sustainability challenges. This collaboration has also honed her communication skills, enabling her to articulate the nuances of sustainability effectively. Throughout her collaboration at ECO_CARE, Gaby has mastered multiple skills crucial for her diverse roles. She possesses a deep understanding of current issues in climate law and Indigenous law research, which has been instrumental in addressing complex legal and environmental challenges. Her proficiency in Legal Design and Visual Law methodology has allowed her to transform complex legal concepts into accessible visual formats that enhance stakeholder engagement and understanding. Additionally, Gaby's expertise in participatory approaches to environmental law and community-based research has enabled her to work effectively with the work developed by Indigenous and school communities (from Mato Grosso, Brazil), ensuring that their voices and concerns are integral to the research and solutions developed. Gaby's contributions to ECO_CARE have been significant and varied, including the creation of scientific books, animated videos, educational videos, and other materials. In her project work, she has employed a multi-step methodology, starting with creating detailed outlines for each project and systematically categorising them. This structured approach has not only ensured the clarity and effectiveness of the projects, but has also contributed to the innovative outcomes that ECO_CARE has achieved under her involvement.

In student projects, QR codes are used to direct readers to project-related websites. Even though some of these QR codes no longer work, they haven't been removed due to their placement within the visual design of the projects.