



Jean Monet Centre of Excellence and Climate Investment Capacity Workshop

Reflections on the climate debate in Central Europe: Finance, economy, and diplomacy

Workshop organizers:
Mitchell Young, Charles University
Michaela Valentová, Czech Technical University in Prague

Date: Monday, 19th October 2020 – Tuesday, 20th October 2020

Venue: Zoom. Login details will be provided upon registration.

Attendance: Please write to Dean Dunovski (dean.dunovski@fel.cvut.cz) with your name and affiliation to register.

How does the debate over climate change play out in Central Europe? Is there an identifiable difference in the way Central Europeans address, understand, and implement policies to address climate change? This two-day event brings an international group of academics and practitioners together to reflect on these issues from the perspective of finance, economy and diplomacy. The workshop begins with a keynote address from Matthew Agarwala, University of Cambridge, who addresses the way we measure the economy and how that affects political debate. The keynote is followed by two expert panels, the first on climate financing and the second on climate diplomacy. Both panels explore the way in which measuring and conceptualizing the economy, finance, and science affect climate policy, with a particular emphasis on the Central European region.

Programme

Monday, 19th October 2020

17:00 Welcome and Keynote

Matthew Agarwala, The Bennett Institute for Public Policy, University of Cambridge

We see what we measure, we measure what we see?

How do new ways of measuring the economy help us in tackling climate change?

How does it influence the political debate, how does the political debate influence the new ways of measuring?

17:30 – 18:30 Panel 1: Climate Investment & Sustainable Finance

Reaching the climate and energy goals will require significant levels of additional investment (estimate around EUR 260 – 350 billion annually depending on the target). This represents equally an opportunity and a challenge. Many countries face a substantial gap between the current investment flows and the levels of investment needed in order to enhance low-carbon transition. While private sector plays a key role in mobilising the capital needed, public financial and policy initiatives remain key to trigger and manage the change.

The panel will discuss the status of climate finance and investment in Central European region. How to mobilise the investment needed to tackle climate change, what is the role of the taxonomy in enabling the transition. How to best use the recovery funds to make a real impact and are the financial institutions ready to support climate and energy projects?

Chair: Michaela Valentová, Czech Technical University in Prague

Panellists

András Lukács, Clean Air Action Group

Aleksandra Novikova, Institute for Climate, Energy, and Mobility)

Zofia Wetmanska, WISE Europa

18:30-18:45 Wrap-up of day 1

Tuesday 20th October 2020

17:00 – 18:00 Panel 2: Climate Diplomacy, Science & Economic Growth

Climate diplomacy has become a recognized aspect of foreign policy. Finding and implementing solutions to climate change will require coordinated multi-lateral efforts, which demand diplomatic engagement. Both metrics and narratives intertwine to shape the policy solutions in areas of sustainability. While the European Union has taken a leadership role in climate negotiations, many of the Member States, particularly the newer ones, often impede efforts or are at most passively supportive. The grounds for this are often claimed to be economically oriented.

The panel will discuss the following questions: How do the new member states understand and enact climate diplomacy? How do economic growth narratives and metrics affect the way they

approach these efforts? How does scientific knowledge on climate change, make its way into policymaking and diplomacy in these countries? What metrics and data are used and accepted by policymakers, media and the public?

Chair: Mitchell Young, Charles University

Panellists

Otakar Fojt, British Embassy Prague

Michał Łuszczuk, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University

Lucy Maizels, British Embassy Prague

Monika Szkarłat, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University

Diana Üрге-Vorsatz, Central European University

18:00 Reflections on the relations between measurement, investment, and diplomacy in the climate debate and the way forward

(all participants)

18:30 End of workshop and online drink