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Call for Essays

Exploring Environmental Justice

Organized by: The Iustinianus Primus Faculty of Law, Skopje
In collaboration with: the Center for Environmental Democracy FLOROZON
Project name: Integration of Environmental Justice in High Education
Financially supported by: UNDP MK

Introduction

We are pleased to announce a **Call for Essays** on the topic of **Environmental Justice**, inviting students to contribute their thoughts, research, and innovative solutions to one of the most pressing issues of our time: the protection of our environment and the role of law in promoting justice. This competition is part of a broader initiative to integrate environmental law into the academic curriculum at the Iustinianus Primus Faculty of Law, Skopje, and to encourage the next generation of legal professionals to engage with environmental issues critically.

This activity is implemented with the support of the project “Advancing Environmental Justice in North Macedonia” funded by UNDP’s Global Programme on Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice, and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Objective of the Call for Essays

The aim of the call is to:

- **Promote awareness** among students about the importance and practical applications of environmental justice.
- **Encourage critical thinking** and engagement with real-world environmental challenges.
- **Stimulate intellectual curiosity** and creativity in proposing solutions to environmental issues through legal frameworks.
- **Develop skills** in research, writing, and legal analysis.



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Who Can Participate

The competition is open to all students enrolled at the Iustinianus Primus Faculty of Law, Skopje. We encourage participation from all students at different stages of their studies and from different study programs within the Faculty, with an interest in environmental law and environmental justice.

Essay Topics

Participants may choose one of the following topics, or propose a related topic with approval from the competition organizers:

1. **The Role of Education and / or Civil Society on Climate Action.**
2. **Environmental Justice and Human Rights: The Right to a Healthy Environment.**
3. **Innovative Legal Solutions to Combat Air Pollution in Urban Areas.**
4. **Access to Justice in Environmental Matters: Challenges and Opportunities in North Macedonia.**
5. **Environmental Law and Public Participation: Ensuring Accountability and Transparency.**

Guidelines for Submission

- The students are required to submit an Abstract choosing one of the five topics.
- The submitted abstracts will be evaluated in accordance with the evaluation criteria.
- Each student will have opportunity to submit **only one** abstract.
- The total number of selected abstracts is limited to 5.
- **The Abstract** should not exceed more than **500 words**
- The selected students will be further invited to continue with essay drafting
- Total content of the Essays should be between **2,000 and 3,000 words** (excluding footnotes and references)
- Essays must be typed in **Times New Roman, 12-point font**, and double-spaced.
- Citations should follow a recognized legal citation format determined by the mentors
- Essays may be submitted in **Macedonian or English**
- **The deadline** for submission of Abstracts is **10th October**. Late submissions will not be accepted.
- The Abstracts must be submitted via email with the subject line "**Environmental Justice Essay Submission**" to following emails:

j.brsakoskabazerkoska@pf.ukim.edu.mk

lj.stojkovski@pf.ukim.edu.mk

Kiril.ristovski@florozon.org.mk



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- **File Format:** Please submit essays in **PDF format**.

Evaluation Criteria

Essays will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Originality and Creativity:** Unique perspectives and innovative solutions.
- **Quality of Research:** Depth and accuracy of legal research and case studies.
- **Argumentation and Critical Thinking:** Coherence, structure, and logical flow of the argument.
- **Clarity and Style:** Clear writing, proper grammar, and adherence to guidelines.
- **Relevance:** Direct engagement with the chosen topic and its practical implications for environmental justice.

Support and Resources

Participants will have access to a range of resources, including:

- **Relevant Literature:** Suggested readings and case studies related to environmental law and justice.
- **Mentorship:** Guidance from faculty members and experts in environmental law to help shape your research and refine your essay.
- **Feedback on Drafts:** Students can submit drafts for preliminary feedback to improve their final submissions.

Prizes and Recognition

Selected five students will receive the following awards:

- publication opportunity,
- non- monetary price,
- certificate

Timeline

- **Competition Announcement:** 1st October.
- **Abstract Submission Deadline:** 10th October.
- **Evaluation of the Abstracts:** 10th – 14th October
- **Announcement of Winners:** 15th October
- **Submission of Draft Essays Deadline:** 15th November
- **Comments and Feedback Period:** 15th to 23rd November.
- **Completion of Essays:** 2nd December



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- **Public presentation of the essays: 10th December**

Contact Information

For any questions or further information, please contact

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