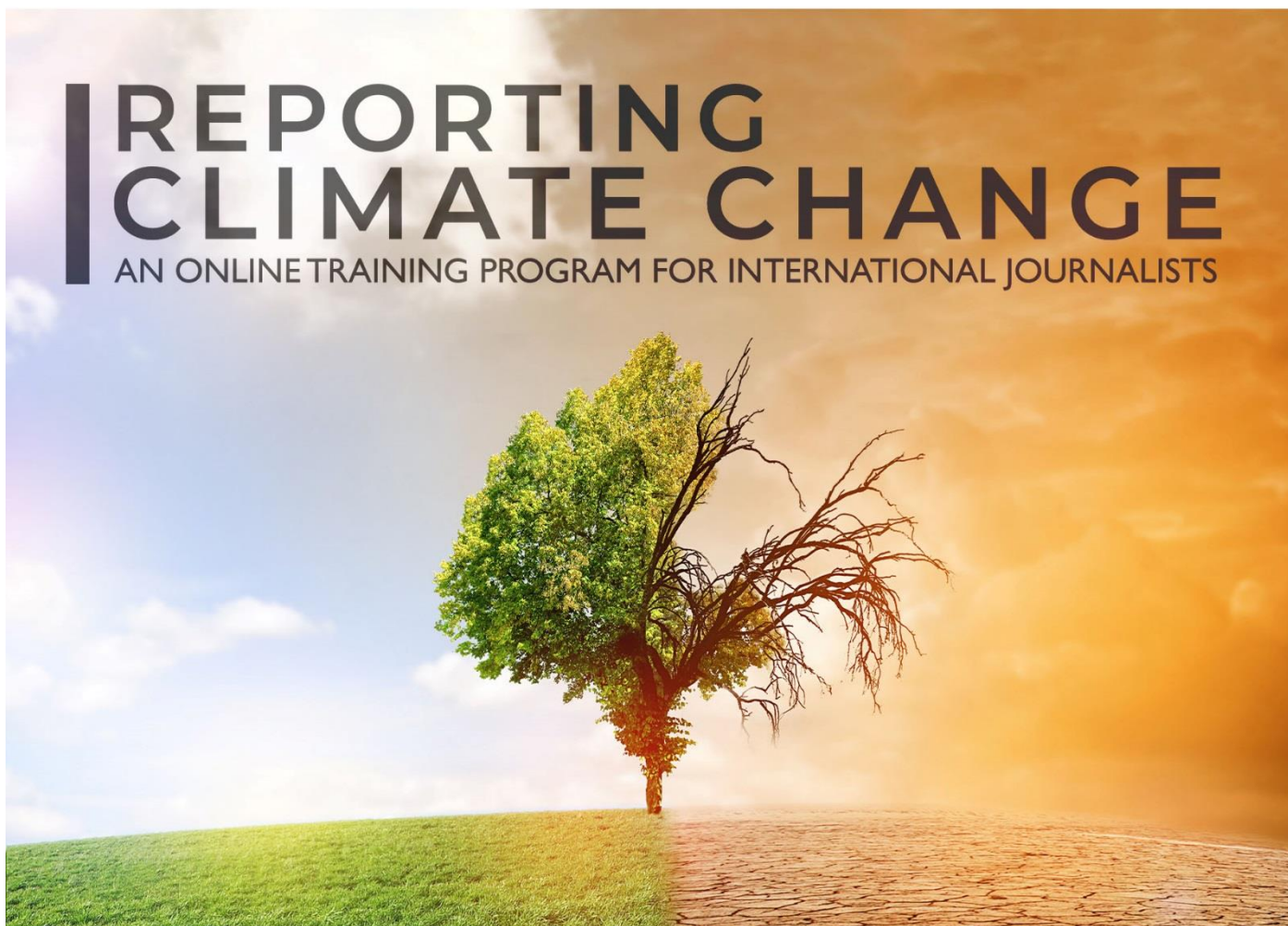


REPORTING CLIMATE CHANGE

AN ONLINE TRAINING PROGRAM FOR INTERNATIONAL JOURNALISTS



WITH THE
SUPPORT OF



CONTEXT

Since 2015 **COPEAM**, with the support of the **EIB - European Investment Bank**, organizes annual international activities open to TV, radio and press journalists on the topic of climate change and sustainable development. These initiatives are aimed at reinforcing the journalists' knowledge and professional skills and thus at promoting a quality information about climate and environment.

These actions generally take place on the occasion of the United Nations' annual summits on climate change known as "COP" (Conference of Parties). Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), originally scheduled in Glasgow/Scotland, has been postponed to an undetermined date in 2021.

Climate change is an international agenda's topical issue. It is the *"defining issue of our time and we are at a defining moment. From shifting weather patterns that threaten food production, to rising sea levels that increase the risk of catastrophic flooding, the impacts of climate change are global in scope and unprecedented in scale"*¹. In particular, the Mediterranean area represents a delicate ecosystem and it is highly susceptible to climate change variations induced by global warming. The changes in climate will have to be dealt with as a challenge for the Mediterranean economic, social and productive systems and as an opportunity to accelerate cooperation between the two shores of the Mediterranean.

All this considered, in order to keep contributing to the promotion of a **reliable and quality information** about climate change, environment and sustainable development in the region, COPEAM and the EIB are launching an **international e-learning course: "Reporting Climate Change"**. This training opportunity is open to radio, TV and press journalists operating in the MENA and Balkan regions.

To produce and deliver this training course, COPEAM has worked in close cooperation with a higher-education partner specialised in e-learning: the **International Telematic University UNINETTUNO**². The training program will adopt the model of teaching and learning online of the UNINETTUNO University.

¹ www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/climate-change/

² www.uninettunouniversity.net/en/default.aspx

THE TRAINING COURSE

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

- **Raising awareness** among the information professionals on the implications of climate change and of the related sustainable development challenges, in particular those concerning the Mediterranean Region;
- Providing the trainees with an **accurate overview of the international legal framework**, the international bodies operating in this field, the current negotiations within the UN, the main agreements and shared goals, the energy transition's challenges, etc.;
- Strengthening the journalists' **reporting skills** about climate change issues.

STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE

The online course will be accessible for the selected beneficiaries **by the end of November 2020**.

The programme is structured in 2 steps:

1. The trainees' **individual work** on the **online didactic platform** of Uninettuno International Telematic University.

Uninettuno will provide each participant with user-name and password for access.

Each trainee is free to organise her/his own training calendar, within an overall timeframe of 3 weeks to complete the proposed learning activities; at the end of each module, a quiz will assess her/his understanding.

2. A **final group exchange** involving the experts and all the trainees in a **virtual meeting** about the training contents (ex. Q&A with the experts, exchange of good practices, etc).

DIDACTIC CONTENTS AND FINAL DIPLOMA

A series of **video-lessons** and **supporting material** are specifically produced for this project by the experts/trainers and organised into 2 sessions: one devoted to climate change and its related environmental challenges, the other dedicated to effective media reporting.

The 2 main trainers appointed by COPEAM for this project are:

- CLIMATE CHANGE EXPERT: Ahmed Kandil (Egypt)

Ahmed Kandil is a senior research fellow & Head of Energy Studies Program at al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies (Cairo) and a journalist at Al Ahram newspaper. He has experience as commentator in many TV channels such BBC (Arabic service), Sky News, and the Egyptian TV. He is an expert in energy transition and climate change, publishing a variety of articles on the global energy governance, Arab – Asian energy cooperation, Africa's energy integration projects, and the dynamics of natural gas discoveries in East Mediterranean Sea and others.

- ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISM EXPERT: Kevin Burden (UK)

Kevin Burden is a senior media consultant who collaborates with media houses and organisations worldwide. During a BBC career spanning 20 years, he served as a reporter, correspondent, presenter, producer, editor and manager. For several years, he specialised in reporting on environmental issues, including energy, food and farming, water and waste, and climate change. Since leaving the BBC in 2008, he has worked with many international, national and local organisations working in the field of science, health and the environment, helping them to communicate more effectively with the public.

The course is also be composed by:

- Presentations / slides;
- Supporting material, such as researches, articles, readings, links and websites, videos, etc.;
- A collection of "from the field" contributions, with short videos from senior journalists, academics, scientists from the Euro-Med region.
- Video material provided by the EIB
- Short tests and quizzes to check the learning steps.

The estimated duration of the course is **10 hours**, plus the final online meeting.

At the end of the training programme, participants will be provided with a **university certificate of attendance** (as a University Short Learning Program).

WORKING LANGUAGES

The video-lessons will be in English and Arabic (with subtitles available).

The extra training material will be in English.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The course aims at improving the trainees' skills so to make them able to:

- spread more effectively scientific information and make it accessible and understandable to the large public;
- deliver clear and relevant messages tailored to the local context;
- raise the citizens' awareness about the current debate at both international and national level (ex. national adaptation plans and policies) concerning the environmental and climate challenges;
- promote local good practices and virtuous and responsible behaviors among their national publics.

PARTICIPATION CONDITIONS AND APPLICATIONS

Participation is **free of charge**.

The training is open to **journalists** coming from the **Balkans** and the **MENA region countries** who meet the following criteria:

- Working as professional journalists;
- Working for a media company based in the MENA Region or in the Balkans;
- Being aged up to 40 years;
- Very good level of English as working language;
- Good knowledge about climate and environment-related issues

Places are limited. Interested journalists must send their **CV** no later than **16 November 2020** to the following addresses:

Micol Pancaldi mpancaldi@copeam.org

Serena Laruffa slaruffa@copeam.org

Selected candidates will be contacted and informed about the following project steps.

OVERVIEW

- Category: Journalism training course / e-learning
- Organizer: COPEAM with the support of the EIB (European Investment Bank)
- Partner: International Telematic University UNINETTUNO
- Venue: Online: E-Learning platform of UNINETTUNO University / Conference call platform
- Estimated duration of the online training course: 10 hours (timeframe: 3 weeks)
- Beneficiaries: journalists operating in the Balkans and the MENA Region
- Working Languages: English and Arabic (with subtitles)
- Deadline for applications: **16 November 2020**



REPORTING CLIMATE CHANGE

AN ONLINE TRAINING PROGRAM
FOR INTERNATIONAL JOURNALISTS