

REPORTING CLIMATE CHANGE

AN ONLINE TRAINING PROGRAM FOR INTERNATIONAL JOURNALISTS



CONTEXT

Since 2015 **COPEAM**¹, with the support of the **EIB - European Investment Bank**², 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 before or during the United Nations' annual summits on climate change known as "COP" (Conference of Parties). The next UN Climate Change Conference, **COP26**, will be hosted by the UK in partnership with Italy and will take place from 31 October to 12 November 2021 in Glasgow.

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"*³. In particular, Africa and the Mediterranean represent delicate ecosystems which are 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 economic, social and productive systems and as an opportunity to accelerate cooperation between Regions and countries.

¹ www.copeam.org

² www.eib.org

³ www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/climate-change/

All this considered, in order to keep contributing to the promotion of a **reliable and quality information** about climate change, environment and sustainable development, COPEAM and the EIB have developed a new **international e-learning course: “Reporting Climate Change”**, a training opportunity open to radio, TV and press journalists.

To produce and deliver this training course, COPEAM has worked with a higher-education partner specialised in e-learning: **International Telematics University UNINETTUNO**⁴. The training program adopts the model of teaching and learning online of the University.

THE 2021 TRAINING

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

This training course has the following 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 Africa and the Mediterranean;
- 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 (COP), the main agreements and shared goals, the energy transition’s challenges, etc.;
- Strengthening the journalists’ **reporting skills** about climate change issues.

DIDACTIC CONTENTS

The didactic contents have been organised into 5 modules/parts including **video-lessons** (and related slides) and multimedia supporting material:

PART 1: **What is climate change** (5 lessons)

PART 2: **Reporting climate change** (5 lessons)

PART 3: **Water security related to climate change** (3 lessons)

PART 4: **Energy transition** (3 lessons)

PART 5: **Experiences and case studies** (Short interviews and video-contributions)

Trainers, experts and scientists from different countries delivered the lessons above, which are specifically conceived for this training course.

WORKING LANGUAGES

The video-lessons are available in **English, Arabic and French** (with voice-over or in original language). Extra didactic material is in English.

METHODOLOGY AND FINAL CERTIFICATION

The didactic contents will be accessible 24/7 on Uninettuno platform.

The course is based on the trainees’ individual work with the support of a **professor-tutor**, who will also organise periodic on-line meetings (on the didactic platform or on Zoom).

⁴ www.uninettunouniversity.net/en/default.aspx

The trainees will be asked by the professor/tutor to write **2 short essays in English** about the contents of the course. Essays are mandatory for the course accomplishment.

During the **COP26** in Glasgow (UK), a **webinar** will be organised for the beneficiary trainees to provide an insight about the on-going negotiations, the results, the engagements, etc.

At the end of the training programme, participants who have completed the course will be awarded with a **final certification** signed by COPEAM, Uninettuno University and the European Investment Bank.

SCHEDULE

The selection of the candidates will be completed by mid-October 2021.

The online training course will be launched at the **end of October 2021**, for a total period of **8 weeks**.

EXPECTED RESULTS

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 operating in **Africa, the Balkans, the Middle East and the Gulf regions** who meet the following **criteria**:

- Working as professional journalists or having completed their higher education studies in the field;
- Being based in Africa, the Balkans, the Middle East and the Gulf regions;
- With a very good level of English as working language;
- With background knowledge/experience about climate and environment-related issues;
- Highly motivated in completing the whole course.

NB: Priority will be given to candidates aged up to 40 years.

Places are limited. Interested journalists must send their **CV** and a short **motivation letter** no later than **7 October 2021** to the following addresses:

- Ms. Micol Pancaldi mpancaldi@copeam.org
- Ms. Serena Laruffa slaruffa@copeam.org

Selected candidates will be contacted and informed about the enrollment procedure in the didactic platform (personal user&password and admission number) and the following project steps.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

- ❖ Category: training course / e-learning for journalists
- ❖ Organizer: COPEAM, with the support of the European Investment Bank
- ❖ Partner: International Telematics University Uninettuno
- ❖ Venue: online – E-Learning platform / Zoom platform
- ❖ Duration of the course: 8 weeks (starting from end of October 2021)
- ❖ Beneficiaries: selected journalists operating in Africa, the Balkans, the Middle East and the Gulf regions
- ❖ Working Languages: English, Arabic and French (with voice-over or original language)
- ❖ Participation Costs: Free of charge
- ❖ Deadline for applications: **7 October 2021**

Click [here](#) to watch the video trailer of the course!

