

#### *Секція 4. Міжнародне право XXI століття та його вплив на правову систему України*

Stefano Boccia, Project manager,  
Life Long-learning Trainers (Italy),  
Thuy Ngoc, Cao-lecture School  
of Banking-UEH University (Vietnam)

### **ENVIRONMENTAL AND LEGAL EDUCATION THROUGH EXPERIENCES FROM EUROPE AND VIETNAM: THE EU4SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT**

#### **Introduction**

Integrating environmental and legal education is crucial for sustainable development and governance. Vietnam, ranked 55th in the Global Sustainability Index, is committed to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda through its National Action Plan and goals. Achieving these requires deeper understanding and broader educational initiatives. Education is a powerful tool of soft power, with the EU using programs like Erasmus to promote sustainability and influence global norms. These programs foster international collaboration, academic mobility, and a shared commitment to combating climate change (Zeniou et al., 2017). This paper explores the EU4Sustainability project, a Jean Monnet interdisciplinary module aimed at enhancing understanding of sustainable development among students at the University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City (UEH University). By comparing European and Vietnamese educational experiences, the study highlights best practices for integrating environmental and legal education to address global sustainability challenges.

#### **The EU4Sustainability project**

The EU4Sustainability project, financed under the Jean Monnet actions of the Erasmus programme, began in September 2023 and will last for three years. It aims to equip students at UEH University with cognitive tools to understand the EU's role in sustainable development. Employing multidisciplinary educational strategies, the project involves students from social sciences, economics, law, and more. It addresses knowledge gaps in European studies, emphasizing the interconnected economic, legal, social, and environmental aspects of sustainable development.

#### **Educational approaches and case studies**

The Erasmus Programme is a comprehensive educational approach that promotes sustainability, international collaboration, and academic mobility. As an effective tool of public diplomacy for the European Union, it strengthens the EU's role at both regional and global levels (De Martino, 2020; De Martino et al., 2024). By facilitating student exchanges and collaborative projects across Europe, the Erasmus Programme nurtures a deep understanding of diverse cultural and environmental contexts. This programme not only broadens academic and professional horizons but also fosters a commitment to sustainable development practices among participants.

The EU4Sustainability project serves as a concrete case study within this broader context. More specifically, EU4Sustainability aims to foster European studies in Vietnam, a country highly active in the Erasmus programme in Asia but with limited participation in Jean Monnet actions. By providing cognitive tools and multidisciplinary strategies, the project enhances understanding of the EU's role in sustainable development, addressing significant knowledge gaps and emphasizing the interconnected economic, legal, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainability.

Both Europe and Vietnam face common and region-specific challenges in implementing environmental and legal education focused on sustainability (Ngo Dang et al., 2017). Common challenges include limited resources, insufficient integration of interdisciplinary approaches, and the need for updated curricula that address contemporary sustainability issues. Additionally, there is a general lack of awareness and engagement among students regarding the importance of sustainable development (De Iulio et al., 2022). Region-specific challenges in Vietnam include infrastructural deficiencies, limited access to quality educational materials, and a need for greater institutional support for sustainability initiatives (Nguyen et al., 2022). In Europe, challenges often revolve around harmonizing educational standards across diverse national systems and ensuring consistent policy implementation (Brøgger, 2021).

To address these challenges, several potential solutions and best practices can be employed, with a significant focus on digital learning environments (Isidori et al., 2022). The EU4Sustainability project exemplifies effective strategies. One such strategy involves leveraging digital platforms, which utilize online learning environments to provide flexible and accessible education, thereby reaching a broader audience. This approach also integrates multimedia resources to enhance understanding and engagement. Another strategy is interdisciplinary curriculum development, incorporating disciplines like social sciences, economics, and law for a holistic understanding of sustainability. Capacity building through educator training improves teaching efficacy. Collaborative networks between universities, government agencies, and international organizations share resources and best practices. Implementing interactive methods like case studies, simulations, and project-based learning makes education more engaging and relevant.

### **Conclusion**

This paper has highlighted the comparative insights from European and Vietnamese approaches to environmental and legal education, with a specific focus on the EU4Sustainability project. Digital education plays a crucial role in enhancing these fields by expanding access and improving learning outcomes through flexible, interactive platforms. Future research should explore innovative digital tools and interdisciplinary curricula, while policy recommendations should focus on supporting international collaborations and integrating sustainability into all educational levels. By embracing these strategies, we can foster a generation equipped to address global sustainability challenges.

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Ingrid Crauwels, Junior expert,  
the European Society for Supporting  
Education Innovation and Training (Belgium)  
Okiya Jimmy, Director Center of Research  
and Development, Horseed International University (Somalia)

## COMPARATIVE LEGAL TRAINING AND RESEARCH: INSIGHTS FROM EUROPEAN AND AFRICAN STUDIES IN SOMALIA

### Introduction

Legal training and research are crucial for fostering governance and stability, especially in regions with complex political histories like Europe and Africa. Education and soft power play pivotal roles in promoting good