

## 2021-2025 EAERE and University of Graz Summer School Series in Resource and Environmental Economics

This year's EAERE Summer School was on "The Design of International Environmental Agreements: Drivers and Obstacles of Success". The School was the last of a series of summer schools over 5 years which was hosted by the University of Graz on behalf of EAERE.

For a long time, the EAERE Summer School was hosted in Venice. From 2021-2025, it moved for the first time to a place different from Venice. All of who have attended the Summer School, either as students or as lecturers, know of the high standards which were set Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei in Venice. Given the retreat character on an island and the charming ambience in Venice, Graz decided to hold the Summer School about 40 km south of Graz, in a castle (Castle Seggau) in the wine region of Styria. Part of the social program was a guided castle tour, a wine tasting event in the old cellar of the castle, a hike in the vineyards, a dive in the swimming pool and a visit to one of the local "Buschenschank" which are rustic restaurants attached to and served by one of the local wine farms. This year the local organizer was Michael Finus and the scientific coordinator Santiago Rubio. They were joined by Valentina Bosetti, Astrid Dannenberg, Francesco Furini and Alessia Russo who taught on the Summer School.

Interesting, a summer school with a similar topic was held in 2000 and 2010 in Venice. In 2010, Michael and Santiago were also among the teaching staff and Astrid among the students. In 2010, also Scott Barrett, Carlo Carraro, Rob Dellink and Andreas Lange were among the lecturers and in 2000 Carlo Carraro was the local organizer and the late Alistair Ulph was the scientific coordinator. Upon reflection, it is astonishing that the game-theoretic analysis of international and global environmental cooperation, a topic which was initiated by Carlo Carraro, Scott Barrett, Michael Hoel and Henry Tulkens at the beginning of the 1990s, is still relevant and attracts so many researchers. Of course, the problem of climate change or biodiversity loss are still relevant today, as not sufficient progress to address these problems has been achieved since then. Following the political development and agenda setting, the focus has changed over the years. In previous years, the focus was clearly on mitigation. In 2025, the effect of adaptation and geoengineering on the global governance structure of climate agreements and the strategic interaction of mitigation, adaptation and geoengineering strategies has moved to the forefront of research. On the one hand, pragmatic and feasible strategies to cope with and mitigate free-riding have been developed over the years. On the other hand, we have to admit as researchers that our solutions have not sufficiently fallen on fertile ground, which explains that we are facing soon a 2 degree increase in the global temperature, associated with many environmental damages from climate change. This may be somehow frustrating. On a more positive note, however, I think it is safe to say that for all lecturers it was very rewarding to be teaching at the Summer School, as all students this year but also over the last years showed a great enthusiasm for research and the environment.

EAERE, as our organisation, has created with the Summer School a fantastic opportunity to bring together young people from all over the world and to move our profession forward. On behalf of the team of local organizers in Graz (Stefan Borsky, Birgit Bednar-Friedl and Karl Steininger), I would like to take the opportunity to thank EAERE for giving us the opportunity to hold the summer school at the University of Graz over the last five years.

June 2025

Michael Finus, University of Graz

## EAERE-UniGraz Summer School 2025

*Credits: University of Graz*

