



**FDV**

UNIVERSITY OF LJUBLJANA  
Faculty of Social Sciences

**eUTOPIA**  
Alliance of 10 European Universities



# CALL FOR PAPERS

## 6<sup>th</sup> STUDENT CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**LJUBLJANA, 7-8 MAY 2026**



**GLOBALLIS**

## **Knowledge as Resistance: Student Perspectives on Power, Crisis and Change in the International Community**

We are pleased to invite you to **6<sup>th</sup> Student Conference on International Relations (SCIR)** on **7 and 8 May 2026 at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana (FSS UL)**, organized by the [Chair](#) and [Centre of International Relations](#) at the FSS UL, in partnership with Ljubljana-based Student Association for International Relations [Globalis](#). The event is an instrument of a EUTOPIA's Connected Community "[Maintaining International Peace and Security](#)". We cordially invite students of Bachelor's and Master's programmes from the wider IR field to participate.

In a world marked by series of crises, from climate change, technological disruption, to the erosion of academic freedoms and ongoing conflicts, students have increasingly taken up the mantle of resistance against autocratization, corruption, injustice and polarization of the world. Such resistance is not confined to the streets or digital platforms, it is also cultivated through critical dialogue and intellectual engagement within universities, study groups and book clubs.

For the 6<sup>th</sup> year in a row, this Student Conference aims to provide a dedicated platform for young scholars to critically engage with today's international challenges, fostering discussion, deliberation, and collective reflection in which students actively produce and share knowledge and insights. It encourages participants to confront the failures and violences of contemporary world order while exploring spaces of solidarity, repair, and innovation.

By bringing together diverse perspectives and epistemologies, the conference aims to cultivate critical thinking, dialogue, and agency, empowering students to imagine and debate alternative responses in times of crisis. To this end, the conference offers participants the opportunity to develop and practice scientific research and writing competences in the field of International Relations, presenting their written work in a simulated academic setting through several thematic panels.

Above all, the conference seeks to encourage young, ambitious scholars to deepen and refine the academic knowledge acquired during their studies by receiving' constructive feedback and recommendations on their research and presentations by peers, established researchers and university teachers. We hope that the event will serve also as a bridge between the (national) academic and study spheres. A specific goal is to foster academic collaboration between EU-based academic institutions and universities from the Western Balkans. Successful student authors receive a Certificate of Internationalisation.

We invite all interested undergraduate and Master's students to participate in the conference and contribute to the development of a growing network of young scholars engaged in research, collaboration, and critical (academic) inquiry and resistance.

Read about the previous Ljubljana Student Conference in IR 2025 [HERE](#).



# Thematic issues for research paper submissions

## 1. International Politics in Multiplex World

*Chair: Prof Dr. Ana Bojinović Fenko (UNI Ljubljana)*

*Discussant: Assist. Prof. Dr. Anastas Vangeli (SEB UL)*

The panel examines the transformation of the international order in an era of increasing complexity and inequality. Moving beyond the notion of a universal, Western-led international order, it explores the emergence of a multiplex world shaped by diverse regional dynamics, competing visions of governance, and shifting centres of power. Participants will address how economic and political inequalities influence the reconfiguration of global and regional orders, as well as the prospects for cooperation or conflict among rising and established actors. We welcome contributions that investigate how regionalism, institutions, and global hierarchies interact in shaping today's changing world order.

## 2. International Political Economy

*Chair: Assoc. Prof Dr. Josip Lučev (UNI Zagreb)*

*Discussants: Assoc. Prof Dr Brian Schmitt (CY Cergy Paris)*

The students will explore the various growth models and their obstructions (corruption, clientelism, competitiveness) in the European periphery. How can the Mediterranean South and the post-socialist East of Europe overcome their structural issues and achieve robust and stable growth? What is the role of institutions in achieving development? The panel also invites discussion on how integration into the global and European political economy shapes domestic economic trajectories and policy choices. By examining questions of dependency, structural transformation, and the politics of reform, the panel seeks to uncover the interplay between international markets, state capacity, and development strategies across Europe's peripheries.

### **3. International Peace and Security**

*Chair: Assoc. Prof Dr Ljupcho Stojkovski (UNI Cyril Methodius Skopje)*

*Discussant: Assist. Prof. Dr Marko Kovačević (UNI Belgrade)*

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) plays a pivotal role in multilateral diplomacy, yet its effectiveness in managing global problems, specifically safeguarding international peace and security, remains a subject of debate. This panel looks for research that critically assesses the performance of the UNSC, explores its successes, shortcomings, and limitations in addressing a wide range of global challenges, and investigates historical case studies or offer potential reforms or alternative approaches for a more effective international governance structure. Perspectives that address the tension between collective security objectives and the strategic priorities of member states, as well as the Council's capacity to respond to evolving global threats, are especially welcome.

### **4. International Environmental Politics**

*Chair: Assist. Prof Dr Danijel Crnčec (UNI Ljubljana)*

*Discussant: Sara Cosatti, PhD candidate (University of Trieste)*

Amid escalating global environmental crises, this panel invites research into the political dynamics shaping international responses to environmental challenges. It examines the design, implementation, and effectiveness of global and regional environmental policies and agreements, as well as the broader power relations that influence them. Students are encouraged to explore the roles of states, international organizations, and non-state actors, alongside the ethical, legal, and strategic dimensions of environmental governance. The panel seeks to foster critical reflection on how environmental politics both reflect and reshape contemporary international order and global cooperation.

## **5. The Future of European Integration: Closing the Capability-Expectations Gap?**

*Chair: Assist. Prof Dr Jure Požgan (UNI Ljubljana)*

*Discussant: Assist. Prof. Dr. Alice Cunha, (Nova Lisbon), Assist. Aleksandar Jekić (UNI Ljubljana)*

More than ever, the European Union has to navigate between complex internal dynamics, external challenges and a persistently weak economic outlook posed by multiple (global) crises in a changed geopolitical environment. Yet while some crises, such as the Eurozone, the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and the war in Ukraine, have led to converging EU member states' policies and have created new or additional capabilities for the EU to face these complex challenges, others, such as the migration crisis, Brexit and to an extent also the war in Ukraine, have reinforced EU's existing divisions and weaknesses. This panel invites research on the future of the European integration, i.e. the strategies and reforms needed to cope with these challenges and potentially narrow the gap between what the EU wants and is expected to deliver and what the EU can actually do (capabilities).

## **6. European Union Normative Power: Legal vs. Political Considerations**

*Chair: Prof Dr Julija Brsakoska Bazerkoska (Ss. Cyril & Methodius University)*

*Discussant: Assist. Prof. Dr. Francesco Spera, PhD (Libera Università Mediterranea (LUM) Giuseppe Degennaro, Bari)*

The European Union's role as a global actor is based on its actorness which needs to accommodate normative-grounded EU values and effective influence-aspiring geopolitical interests. This theme calls for research that examines how these two dimensions intersect as complementary or conflictual in EU's strategic positioning and actions in global governance. If the Brussels' effect explained how the EU has been de jure and de facto expanded its standards externally, the recent events such as the war in Ukraine or the new Trump administration have put the EU legal norms, standards and policy abroad under stress. In light of this, we may ask what types of legal and policy reaction the EU is having with regard to its vision abroad and its promotion of its values and interests.

## **7. Technology, Power, and the Digital World**

*Chair: Assist. Dr Ajda Hedžet (UNI Ljubljana)*

*Discussant: Assoc. Prof Dr Brian Schmitt (CY Cergy Paris)*

This panel examines how digital technologies and artificial intelligence (AI) are reshaping international relations, political behaviour, and global governance. As AI, algorithmic systems, and online networks influence attitudes, polarization, and information flows, they also transform the norms, ethics, and power structures of international politics. The panel explores how states, international organizations, corporations, and civil society navigate challenges such as misinformation, cybersecurity, surveillance, and digital sovereignty. It further considers how technological systems themselves, algorithms, platforms, and tech-companies, emerge as new agents of international relations. By engaging interdisciplinary perspectives, the panel investigates how technology redefines power, responsibility, and legitimacy in the evolving global order.

## **8. Narratives, Memory, and Power: Politics of Meaning-Making**

*Chair: Assist. Dr. Melika Mahmutović (UNI Ljubljana)*

*Discussant: Dr. Polina Zavershinskaia (UNI Padova)*

Who controls the past, and how does it shape the politics of the present? This theme investigates the power of narratives, discourse, and memory in constructing political realities and collective identities. It explores how nationalism, political violence, and populism are intertwined with struggles over national memory and symbolic public policy, including state-led memory initiatives. Addressing themes such as far-right mobilization, democratic backsliding, and EU narratives and counternarratives, the panel brings together theoretical and empirical perspectives that reveal how discourse and memory serve as instruments of power, resistance, and identity-making in contemporary political life.



## Important dates

**10 November 2025:** release of the Call for Papers

**8 December 2025:** students indicate their participation interest to [konferenca@globalis.org](mailto:konferenca@globalis.org)

**15 December 2025:** Online lecture “How to make a research plan?”

week of **9-13 February 2026:** Thematic issues-based online workshops held by Chairs.

**31 January 2026:** deadline for students to submit a Research Plan

**February 2026:** student authors receive Chairs’ feedback on their Research Plan – notification of (non)acceptance.

**April 2026:** deadline for student authors to submit a final Research Essay and notification of their participation at the Conference.

**7 & 8 May 2026: conference takes place at the FSS UL in Ljubljana.** All student authors that will have submitted their Research Essay will participate at the conference and orally present their Research Essay as part of the conference programme.

**July 2026:** Student authors submit Research Essay abstracts for their publication. Delivery of Certificates of Internationalization to successful students.

### **Main Organizer**

Hana Štefanec

### **Programme Chair**

Asist Dr Melika Mahmutović

## **2026 Academic Board**

Prof Dr Julija Brsakoska Bazerkoska, Ss. Cyril & Methodius University, Primus Iustinianus  
Faculty of Law, Skopje, North Macedonia

Prof Dr Ana Bojinović Fenko, UL FDV, Slovenia

Assist. Prof. Dr Danijel Crnčec, UL FDV, Slovenia

Assist. Prof. Dr Alice Cunha, Nova Lisbon, Portugal

Sara Cossati, PhD candidate, University of Trieste

Assist. Dr. Ajda Hedžet, UL FDV, Slovenia

Assist. Aleksandar Jekić, UL FDV, Slovenia

Assist. Prof. Dr Marko Kovačević, University in Belgrade, Faculty of Political Science, Serbia

Assist. Prof. Dr Faris Kočan, UL FDV, Slovenia

Assist. Prof. Dr Josip Lučev, University in Zagreb, Faculty of Political Science, Croatia

Assist. Dr Melika Mahmutović, UL FDV, Slovenia

Assist. Prof. Dr Jure Požgan, UL FDV, Slovenia

Assoc. Prof Dr Brian Schmitt, CY Cergy Paris, France

Assist. Prof. Dr. Francesco Spera, LL.M., (Libera Università Mediterranea (LUM) Giuseppe  
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Faculty of Law, Skopje, North Macedonia

Assist. Prof. Dr Anastas Vangeli, UL SEB, Slovenia

dr. Polina Zavershinskaia, University of Padova, Italy

## Participation details

Indication of participation interests sent to [konferenca@globalis.org](mailto:konferenca@globalis.org)

To all accepted student authors, the organizer will fund a **3-day accommodation in Ljubljana** and **cover travel costs up to 200 eur**.

As part of the conference, in addition to **common coffee breaks with snacks**, a **common breakfast and lunch will also be organized**.

