



Economic aspects of sustainable development: 1st Connecting Workshop and the 1st public Roundtable in 2020

According to the plan, the Jean Monnet Chair's first Connecting Workshop, focused on the governance related to the economic aspects of sustainable development took place on February 21, 2020 in Ljubljana, co-organised and hosted by the [School of Advances Social Studies in Nova Gorica](#) (Fakulteta za uporabne družbene študije v Novi Gorici). It initiated some relevant debates on the issue but its conclusions can only be seen as relevant when we continue the debate with involving also the consequences of COVID-19 pandemic that would inevitably affect economic sustainability and transnational governance in this regard for the years so come. Consequently, we cannot end the debate and provide any relevant policy recommendations before taking this into account. Obviously, the limitations caused by the pandemic will also need to be taken into account while organising and holding these debates.

In addition, the Workshop was also linked to the first in the row of the Connecting Roundtables – this time connecting the issue of national and transnational governance for economic sustainability with the problems of political populism. Here we included prof. dr. Frane Adam and prof. dr. Matevž Tomšič as invited speakers and experts in these fields. The connections between the critical issues of transnational governance and the rise of populism were clearly identified. Also a clear contrast has been drawn between populist policies, which tend to oversimplify the reality, and the complex demands of building and implementing strategies of sustainable development. However, the relationship between populism and sustainable development remains complex, since some populists may at least at the declarative level also favour certain (though typically not all) elements of sustainable development.



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