



23.09 - 29.09.2026

LECTURERS

4th Central and Eastern Europe & Central Asia
Summer Academy on Business
and Human Rights

The 4th CEE&CA BHR SA is organised by:

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Global
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LECTURERS

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Maxime Belingheri

Director of Innovation, Fair Labor Association

[LinkedIn](#) | [FLA](#)

He is the Director of Innovation at the Fair Labor Association. He joined the Fair Labor Association in 2026.

Previously Maxime worked as Human Rights Manager at L'Oréal (2018 - 2026) and before that at the French national equality body, the Défenseur des Droits, where he was in charge of discrimination and harassment prevention in the workplace.

He graduated from the SciencesPo law school in Paris.



Prof. dr. Nadia Bernaz

Professor of Law & Corporate Justice, Wageningen University

[LinkedIn](#) | [WUR](#)

She is Professor in the Law group at Wageningen University (WUR, the Netherlands), where she is also the Director of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence on Corporate Sustainability and Human Rights Law. She is the co-editor-in-chief of the [Business and Human Rights Journal](#).

She holds a PhD in international law from Aix-Marseille University (France).

She is the author of *Business and Human Rights. History, Law and Policy* (Routledge, 2017). She has published numerous academic articles in law and business journals and has been teaching business and human rights since 2010. She founded and runs [Rights as Usual](#) (a business and human rights blog).



Dr Claire Bright

Associate Professor, NOVA School of Law, Lisbon
Founder & Director, NOVA Centre on Business, Human Rights and the Environment (NOVA BHRE), NOVA School of Law, Lisbon
Senior Legal Advisor, Global Rights Compliance (GRC)

[LinkedIn](#) | [NOVA](#)

She holds a PhD in International Law from the European University Institute, an LL.M in Private International and Commercial Law from La Sorbonne, and a Dual Bachelor in French and English Law from UPEC

and the University of Sheffield.

Her work focuses on business, human rights, and sustainability, with an emphasis on shaping policy and regulatory developments at national and EU levels, as well as supporting the implementation of human rights and environmental due diligence (HREDD) in practice to foster responsible business conduct. She combines academic research with hands-on advisory and field experience, having contributed to shaping legislation at both national and European levels and to National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights in various countries.

In parallel, she has designed and delivered short courses and executive trainings in Portugal, the United Kingdom, Mozambique, Tunisia, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, and Colombia, and has facilitated multi-stakeholder events as well as policy dialogues.

Dr Bright has authored numerous peer-reviewed publications in five languages. She has acted as consultant to governments, international organisations (UNDP, ILO, Council of Europe (CoE)), European institutions (European Commission, European Parliament and the European Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)) civil society organizations, and businesses. Notably, she co-authored the [European Commission's study on due diligence requirements in supply chains](#), which laid the foundation for the [EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive](#) (CSDDD).



Gabriela Factor

Chief Adviser on Human Rights and Business, Danish Institute for Human Rights

[LinkedIn](#) | [DIHR](#)

She is a Chief Adviser on Human Rights and Energy Transition at the Danish Institute for Human Rights based in Copenhagen, Denmark. She is an Environmental, Social and Human Rights Impact specialist who has over 20 years of working experience in international environmental, energy and extractive projects and value chains in Latin America, Europe, South East Asia, Africa and the Arctic. She is the past president of the International Association for Impact Assessment.

After more than 20 years as a consultant leading and carrying out human rights, social and environmental impact assessments, due diligence and management plans, her current work focus on capacity development, advisory and research for responsible business conduct and policy development, promotion of multistakeholder initiatives and strengthening the role of states for a just energy transition with respect of human rights. She co-authored one chapter for the „[Handbook on Human Rights Impact Assessment](#)“, several academic articles on impact assessment and a „[Study on Business, Environment and Human Rights in Honduras](#)“ with focus on renewable energy. She also represents the Danish Institute for Human Rights in the [International Renewable Energy RBC agreement](#).

Gabriela has extensive hands-on experience with the training of technical staff, governmental officers, financial institution, civil society organizations and indigenous groups in environmental and social issues, gender mainstreaming, energy transition and ESIA's. She has provided numerous tailored training courses for, among others, World Bank, EIB, IADB, IFC, DANIDA, FINIDA, SIDA and UNDP. Gabriela was a developer and trainer of the Masterclass on Human Rights in Impact Assessment, the 2 week course “Land access, Resettlement and Social Sustainability” at Groningen University, the 8 weeks online Social Impact Assessment training course at Strathclyde University and a series of courses in presence and online for Impact Assessment practitioners and IFC clients in Myanmar, Vietnam and Nepal.

Gabriela has a Masters in Environmental Engineering from the Technical University of Denmark and holds qualifications on gender, resettlement and health impact assessment. She is a native Spanish speaker, fluent in English and Danish, and speaks some Portuguese.



Prof. dr. Jernej Letnar Čerňič

Full Professor of Human Rights and Constitutional Law at the New University

[LinkedIn](#) | [NU](#)

He is a Full Professor of Human Rights and Constitutional Law at the European Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Government and European Studies of the New University (Ljubljana/Kranj, Slovenia).

Jernej is a co-rapporteur of the International Law Association's Committee on Business and Human Rights. He is the author of „*Corporate accountability under socio-economic rights*“, Oxford; New York:

Routledge, 2020.

His work has been cited in reports by the United Nations, the European Parliament, and the Council of Europe, in decisions of the Slovenian Constitutional Court and the European Court of Human Rights, and in academic studies from all parts of the world.

He has been active in various roles in Slovenian and global civil society, participating in numerous domestic and international humanitarian projects.



Beata Faracik

Co-founder and President of the Board, Polish Institute for Human Rights and Business (PIHRB)

[LinkedIn](#) | [PIHRB](#)

A legal expert specialized in Human Rights & Business and RBC/CSR, with over 20 years of professional experience in public, private, and NGO sectors in various countries, including the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Poland), Criminal Justice System and the NSPCC (UK). She completed assignments for the European Parliament,

UNDP, OSCE, MFA, and has contributed in an expert capacity and moderated discussions on BHR at the European level and UN level, incl. at the UN Forum on BHR.

A member of the Sustainable Development and CSR Committee, an advisory body to the Minister of Funds and Regional Development, as well as a member of its Working Group on the development of the non- financial reporting. Pro-bono coordinator of the interministerial and multistakeholder Working Group on relations with Workers, developing legislative recommendations and tools to prevent and persecute THB and forced labour. In autumn 2025, she was also appointed member of the [Team for Supporting Sustainable Development of Enterprises](#), established by Prime Ministerial order in late September 2025, and selected as a member of the [Informal Expert Group on Forced Labour at the European Commission \(DG GROW\)](#), contributing to the development of guidelines on the forced labour products regulation.

Co-founder of the CSR Watch Coalition Poland and the Central and Eastern European Association on Business and Human Rights. Member of the BHRight Initiative for Interdisciplinary Research and Teaching on BHR and Teaching BHR Forum. CEE region advisor at Global Business Initiative. Member of the Advisory Board of Amnesty International Poland and UNAP. One of the 50 women of Polish CSR on the FOB 2013 list. One of the '25 Leaders of Sustainability' in Poland (Women Forbes List 2021).

She regularly conducts training sessions and workshops on BHR for business and other actors, and has taught as Guest Lecturer at postgraduate studies at i.a. Vistula University, Bergen University, and Sopotcka Akademia Nauk Stosowanych.

She is guest Co-Editor of the Special Issue on Business and Human Rights in Eastern Europe for the „*Business and Human Rights Journal*” (Cambridge University Press) and a member of the journal’s Developments in the Filed editorial panel.

She holds an MA in Law and an MA in International Relations/European Affairs from the Adam Mickiewicz University and an LL.M. in Human Rights and Intellectual Property Law (WIPO WA Fellow) from the Raoul Wallenberg Institute/Lund University and WIPO Worldwide Academy.



Dr Samentha Goethals

Associate Professor in Business & Society, SKEMA Business School
Visiting Fellow, Copenhagen Business School

[LinkedIn](#) | [SKEMA](#)

Samentha contributes to the *FRONTIERS* project on sustainability due diligence for a just transition. She holds a PhD in Politics from Oxford Brookes University and has developed an interdisciplinary research agenda bridging socio-legal studies, global governance, and organizational studies in the field of business and human rights.

With experience at the cross-road between advocacy research with international NGOs and scholarship, her research focuses on the translation of human rights in business, business responsibility for migrant and refugee labour in the garment industry in Türkiye and Jordan and the agri-food sector in Europe, and corporate accountability in the extractive sectors in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Her current research deepens this trajectory by exploring the role of corporate human rights responsibilities in the context of just transition. She is particularly engaged in developing participatory and inclusive methodologies—including arts-based approaches—to meaningfully involve affected communities and non-human stakeholders.

Samentha has published widely on these issues, including the award-winning article: ‘*Migrant Workers’ ‘Rights-Talk’ in the British Hospitality Sector*’ (*Business and Human Rights Journal*, 2019) and ‘*Business and Human Rights as Sensemaking: A Multi-Level Framework for Organizational Translation*’ (*Business & Society*, 2024). She is also Book Review Editor and co-editor of a special issue on *Business, Human Rights, and Just Transition in the Energy and Extractive Sectors* in the *Business and Human Rights Journal*.

Samentha is co-director of the Teaching Business and Human Rights Forum. As an educator, she brings a critical, practice-informed and systemic perspective into the classroom, designing and delivering Business and Human Rights courses for students of management, law, and politics, as well as MBAs, social auditors, financiers, and human rights defenders across diverse institutional and regional settings.



Marian G. Ingrams

Director of OECD Watch

[LinkedIn](#) | [OECD WATCH](#)

Marian specialises in strengthening international standards and laws on responsible business conduct, as well as helping individuals and communities achieve remedy for corporate human rights and environmental harms.

Marian directs the OECD Watch network. She plans and undertakes the network's strategic and logistical activities. She advises complaints to National Contact Points and appeals to the OECD Investment Committee. She also engages in advocacy towards the OECD secretariat and individual states to encourage improvement and coherence on human rights, labour rights, and environmental law and policy.

Before joining SOMO in 2018, Marian completed a research grant in India on gender budgeting and gender mainstreaming in sustainable finance. Prior to that, she provided research, advocacy, legislative drafting, and litigation support for NGOs in Myanmar, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Marian also served for four years as the foreign, trade, and defense policy advisor to a U.S. Senator.

Marian received her BA in history from Yale University and her 'juris doctor' from Harvard Law School, where she specialised in public international law, human rights, and global development.



Lyra Jakulevičienė

**Member of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights
Professor of Law, Habilitated Doctor, Mykolas Romeris University,
Lithuania**

[LinkedIn](#)

She is international legal scholar specializing in international and European Union law, human rights law in particular, for more than two decades. She is currently a member of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights for Central and Eastern Europe and Balkan states. Since 2005, she has pioneered on business engagement in human rights issues in the Central and Eastern European region, fostered development of business networks and guidance and advised on development of national actions plans in this area, and co-initiated social labelling initiatives. She has lectured on human rights and new technologies, AI in particular, in various contexts and has recently issued a [report on business, human rights and AI](#) on behalf of the UNWG for the UN Human Rights Council.

Ms. Jakulevičienė has served as a member of the Management and Executive Boards of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency and the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, and a co-arbitrator at the OSCE Court of Conciliation and Arbitration. From 1997 to 2013, Ms. Jakulevičienė worked in United Nations organisations in Lithuania, Sweden, Turkey and Ukraine. She is a Professor and a former Dean of the Law School (2015-2025) of Mykolas Romeris University in Lithuania.



Dr Jacqueline Kacprzak

Director, Human Rights Centre, Civitas University, Warsaw, Poland

[LinkedIn](#) | [CIVITAS](#)

She holds PhD in social sciences in the field of sociological sciences. Her research interests focus on the sociology of human rights, changes in modernity and capitalism, and the impact of climate change and the development of new technologies on human rights.

She is an expert in human rights, responsible business conduct, non-financial reporting, and due diligence standards (CSR/RBC, ESG, DD).

Mediator in civil and commercial cases.

In public administration at the government and international levels (OECD, EU, and UN), she has been addressing RBC issues for over 10 years. She represents Poland in the OECD Working Group on RBC and has been a member of the WPRBC Bureau since 2017.

She moderates conferences, workshops, and meetings related to RBC, sustainable development, and business and human rights.



Bartosz Kwiatkowski

Director, Frank Bold Foundation

[LinkedIn](#) | [Frank Bold](#)

He is a lawyer with 15 years of professional experience, the director of the Frank Bold Foundation, the vice-president of the Polish Institute of Human Rights and Business, the partner in Frank Bold Dominika Bobek Law Firm and the member of the Advisory Board of the Polish OECD National Contact Point.

A legal expert to Polish and international non-governmental organizations. A representative of non-governmental organizations in administrative proceedings and legislative processes regarding environmental protection and air-quality.

The author of numerous studies, legal analyzes and guidebooks for citizens and civil servants concerning the environmental protection of air quality, protection of forests, waste management, anti-corruption, lobbying transparency, human rights in business and ESG reporting.

A lecturer at workshops on the scope of air quality legal issues for civil servants and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights for employees of OECD NCPs from CEE countries and NGOs representatives. The author of specific instances within OECD NCP procedure regarding the violation of OECD guidelines for multinational enterprises in the field of human rights and environmental protection, including issues relating to air-quality, climate change and non-financial reporting.

In 2024 recognized as one of the 25 most influential Polish lawyers.



Aleksandra Anna Lasota

**Responsible Supply Chains, Human Rights & Migration
Advisor Bridging Business & Public Sector**

[LinkedIn](#)

She is a migration, business and human rights expert, with over 10 years of experience across Asia, the Middle East and Europe. At the International Organization for Migration (IOM), she advised companies including IKEA, Coca-Cola, Unilever, Mars, VF Corporation and Nissan, and led human rights due diligence and capacity-building across supply chains employing hundreds of thousands of migrant workers.

She holds a Master of Business Administration in Innovation, Enterprise and Circular Economy from the University of Bradford and works as an independent advisor for the United Nations, private sector and civil society.



Dr Chiara Macchi

Assistant Professor of Law, Wageningen University – Law Group

[LinkedIn](#) | [WUR](#)

She is Assistant Professor of Law at the Wageningen University – Law Group, where she also serves as Coordinator of Education.

She has authored the monograph „*Business, Human Rights and the Environment: The Evolving Agenda*” (Springer, 2022).

Recipient of a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship (2019-2021), she has authored publications on climate due diligence, extraterritorial human rights obligations, human rights due diligence legislation, corporate obligations in the ‘just transition’ and the human rights responsibilities of investors.

She leads the academic course ‘Law of Marine Environments and Resources’ and co-directs the summer school ‘Business and Human Rights’.



Dr Siniša Milatović

Business, Human Rights and Peace Specialist, UNDP HQ

[LinkedIn](#) | [UNDP](#)

Siniša provides an expertise and support to governments, businesses, civil society and other stakeholders.

Siniša has 25 years' experience as a human rights lawyer. He has worked for UN agencies and other organisations in over 40 countries in Asia and the Pacific, Africa, the Arab States region, Europe and Central Asia.

Siniša has a PhD with a focus on business and human rights from the Faculty of Law at the University of Oxford. He also holds an MA from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and an LLB from the London School of Economics and Political Science.



Céline da Graça Pires

Independent Business and Human Rights Specialist

[LinkedIn](#)

She is a Paris Bar-qualified lawyer and Business & Human Rights expert with over ten years of experience advising multinational companies. She supports organizations in embedding human rights into core business strategy, with particular expertise in the French Duty of Vigilance law, the EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CS3D), and Germany's LkSG. Her work focuses on human rights due diligence, including Human Rights Impact Assessments (HRIAs), grievance mechanisms, stakeholder and community engagement, and access to remedy across complex global supply chains. Céline designs and delivers tailored training programs for both executive leadership and operational teams.

She has extensive experience across the luxury, mining (including gemstones), energy, logistics and agriculture sectors. She has led field missions in Latin America and Africa, including in high-risk and conflict-affected settings. She is the author of a Practical Guide for Companies on Engaging with Affected Communities, published by the UN Global Compact France, and regularly speaks at major events on emerging human rights regulations and corporate responsibility.



Ron Popper

**Chief Executive Officer, The Global Business Initiative
on Human Rights**

[LinkedIn](#) | [Website](#)

Ron Popper has been working on the business and human rights agenda as a practitioner and advisor in multinational companies for more than 20 years. He is currently Chief Executive Officer of the Global Business Initiative on Human Rights, which groups 20 multinationals, and a former member of a number of Boards, including that of the Institute for Human Rights and Business.

Ron spent 10 years as Head of Corporate Responsibility for the Switzerland-based multinational ABB where he focused on managing high-risk projects in different parts of the world, stakeholder engagement, and developing human rights policies and processes. He also developed and led a global human rights training program.

He is a regular lecturer teaching business and human rights courses at universities in Switzerland, Finland, Norway, Italy and the United Kingdom. He also engages in consultancy work on business and human rights, communications and crisis management.

As a former journalist (26 years in newspapers and radio), he closely follows current affairs and diplomatic relations, particularly in Europe, the Middle East and parts of Asia. He has travelled widely to many parts of the world, including conflict zones.



Andrea Shemberg

Business and Human Rights Advisor

[LinkedIn](#)

She is a common law and international human rights lawyer with more than 20 years of experience in business and human rights. From 2007 to 2011, Andrea served as Legal Advisor to the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative on Business and Human Rights, John Ruggie (SRSR). She led the SRSR's work on investment, carrying out the joint SRSR-International Finance Corporation research on looking into how contracts underpinning major projects in developing countries integrate concern for environmental and social impacts. Andrea then led the development of the UN Principles for Responsible Contracts. Andrea was also part of the team that developed the UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).

After the SRSB mandate, Andrea established the Investment & Human Rights Project at the London School of Economics and from 2016 – 18 led the Iran Business Responsibility Project. She served as Senior Advisor and Chair of the Global Business Initiative on Human Rights for more than 8 years, resigning her position in January 2026.

She began her legal career as a management-side employment and labour law lawyer with a commercial law firm in the United States before completing her MSc in Human Rights at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Andrea also served as Legal Advisor to the Economic Relations team at Amnesty International UK where she co-authored the first AIUK reports on international investment agreements and human rights. Andrea also established the first Economic Relations team at the International Commission of Jurists in Geneva.

Andrea currently teaches business and human rights, and works as a business and human rights advisor to multinational companies, civil society organisations, governments and multilateral organisations.



Julie Schindall

Director of Responsible Sourcing and Responsible Investment, Levin Sources

[LinkedIn](#) | [Levin Sources](#)

Julie is an experienced human rights professional whose experience combines a focus on policy, strategy and stakeholder dialogue with technical expertise of human rights and responsible business standards and human rights due diligence in global value chains. She advises real economy companies on responsible sourcing and supports public and private financial institutions on human rights and environmental due

diligence and just transition topics.

In previous roles Julie was a Senior Advisor at Shift and Director of Communications and Stakeholder Engagement at the Responsible Business Alliance. In these roles she provided expert advising, facilitation and training to companies, governments, civil society, trade unions and investors on the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, with a particular focus on responsible sourcing, multistakeholder approaches, transparency, and accountability. She believes passionately in the importance of multistakeholder dialogue to address complex business and human rights challenges and has extensive experience facilitating and moderating multistakeholder dialogue in settings of all sizes, including for the German Foreign Office and the UN Development Programme. Julie is also an occasional university lecturer on the topic of business and human rights, the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and human rights and environmental due diligence.

Before establishing her focus on business and human rights, Julie worked as a policy, advocacy and communications lead for Oxfam and Save the Children in humanitarian emergencies in Haiti and Somalia. She began her career as an editor and reporter in radio, television and online news, including for National Public Radio in the US.



Dr hab. Robert Sroka

Partner and ESG Director, Abris Capital Partners

[LinkedIn](#) | [Website](#)

Robert is a Partner and Head of the Value Enhancement Team, including ESG, at Abris Capital Partners. He holds a post-doctoral degree in management and quality studies and collaborates with the Department of Entrepreneurship and Business Ethics at Kozminski University. Robert serves as a member of the Advisory Board of the Centre for Ethics of Technology at the Humanities Institute and Board Member of Sustainable Investment Forum Poland - POLSIF.

Robert is an author of books titled „*Undiscovered Leaders of Business Ethics*” and „*Ethics and Human Rights in Business*”.

He is a graduate of the University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainable Leadership and have completed the Oxford Impact Investing Program at Saïd Business School. He was awarded 'ESG Professional of the Year' at The Drawdown Awards 2022 in London and named one of the Twenty Most Influential in ESG in 2023 - 2025 by Private Equity New.



Dr Olena Uvarova

Business and Human Rights Specialist, UNDP

Associate Professor, Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University

[LinkedIn](#) | [UNDP](#) | [YMNLU](#)

Since 2018, she has led the International Lab on Business and Human Rights at the Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University in Kharkiv. In 2022-2025, Olena was also a researcher in the Law Group, Wageningen University.

She is the author of the National Baseline Assessment on Business and Human Rights in Ukraine, co-author of the UNDP Scoping Study „*The Status of the Implementation of the UNGPs on Business and Human Rights in Europe and Central Asia*” (2023), co-founder of the Central and Eastern European Association on Business and Human Rights, and co-president of Global Business and Human Rights Scholars Association.



Mark Wielga

Director, NomoGaia

[LinkedIn](#) | [NomoGaia](#)

He is a Director of NomoGaia, a non-profit think-tank devoted to business and human rights.

He has over twenty-five years direct experience with human rights in action. He has developed human rights due diligence methods for company operations and supply chains. He has led in-depth studies of non- governmental human rights complaint mechanisms. He has

managed and performed human rights impact assessments on large footprint corporate projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Mr. Wielga has worked with transnational corporations to design and implement corporate human rights policies as well as emergency responses to urgent human rights controversies.

He has taught, lectured and published on business and human rights in universities and various institutions around the world.