



23.09 - 29.09.2026

PROGRAMME

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

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



Polish Institute
for Human Rights
and Business



in partnership with:



Global
Business
Initiative on
Human Rights

in collaboration with:



CEE&CABHRA
Central & Eastern Europe and Central Asia
Business and Human Rights Association

PROGRAMME OF THE CORE SUMMER ACADEMY

To participate in the Core Programme, participants have to complete a **Self-Learning Component** of approx. **12 hours** (forming first part of the Summer Academy) and pass a short online test.

Day 1 - 23 September 2026 (Wednesday)		
9.00 – 9.15* All times CEST (Warsaw)	<i>Opening and welcome by organizers</i>	Beata Faracik, LL.M. Co-founder and President of the Board, Polish Institute for Human Rights and Business
9.15 – 10.00	<i>CEE&CA SA Participants introductions & expectations</i>	Dr Olena Uvarova Associate Professor, Head of the International Lab on BHR, Y. Mudryi National Law University; BHR Specialist, UNDP
10.00 – 10.45	<i>Opening remarks: Stakeholder dialogue – the backbone of the HRDD. Why is it so important and how to get it right?</i>	Maxime Belingheri Director of Innovation, Fair Labor Association
10.45 – 11.00	Break	
11.00 – 12.30	<i>Implementing the UNGPs: Global Trends & Current Challenges</i>	Prof. dr. Nadia Bernaz Professor of Law & Corporate Justice, Wageningen University
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch	
13.30 – 15.00	<i>BHR & Environment. New dimensions and challenges</i>	Dr Chiara Macchi Assistant Professor of Law, Wageningen University – Law Group
15.00 – 15.20	Break	
15.20 – 16.40	<i>OECD Guidelines and Responsible Business Conduct (RBC)</i>	Marian Ingrams Director, OECD Watch

Day 2 - 24 September 2026 (Thursday)

9.00 – 9.05* All times CEST (Warsaw)	<i>Recap of Day 1, administrative issues</i>	
9.05 – 10.05	<i>UNGPs Pillar I – State duty to protect</i>	Dr Jacqueline Kacprzak Director, Human Rights Centre, Civitas University
10.05 – 10.30	<i>UNGPs Pillar II - (CR2R) Human Rights Policy</i>	Beata Faracik, LL.M. Co-founder and President of the Board, Polish Institute for Human Rights and Business
10.30 – 10.45	Break	
10.45 – 12.30	<i>Pillar II - Corporate responsibility to respect human rights, with focus on the human rights due diligence in the value chain</i>	Julie Schindall Director of Responsible Sourcing and Responsible Investment, Levin Sources
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch	
13.30 – 14.30 14.30 – 14.40 14.40 – 15.40	<i>(1) Human Rights Impact Assessment – deep dive</i> <i>(2) Integrating Human Rights into other types of impact assessments</i>	Gabriela Factor Chief Advisor on Human Rights and Business, Danish Institute for Human Rights
15.40 – 16.00	Break	
16.00 – 17.00	<i>Meaningful stakeholder engagement</i>	Dr Samentha Goethals Associate Professor, Business & Society, SKEMA Business School, France

Day 3 - 25 September 2026 (Friday)

9.00 – 9.05* All times CEST (Warsaw)	<i>Recap of Day 2, administrative issues</i>	
9.05 – 10.30	<i>The role of investors in UNGPs embedding by companies</i>	Dr hab. Robert Sroka Partner and Head of ESG, Abris Capital Partners
10.30 – 11.00	Break	
11.00 – 12.30	<i>Pillar III - Access to remedy</i>	Dr Claire Bright Associate Professor and Founder & Director, NOVA Centre on Business, Human Rights and the Environment (NOVA BHRE) at NOVA Law School in Lisbon; Senior Legal Advisor, Global Rights Compliance (GRC)
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch	
13.30 – 14.30	<i>NCP OECD grievance mechanism - underused or ineffective? Selected case studies</i>	Bartosz Kwiatkowski Director, Frank Bold
14.30 – 15.00	Break	
15.00 – 16.20	<i>Beyond the Margins: Why Migrant Workers Matter for HRDD, Compliance, and Responsible Business Conduct</i>	Aleksandra Anna Lasota Migration, Business and Human Rights Advisor
16.20 – 16.30	<i>Wrap-up and upcoming week overview</i>	

Weekend break
(26-27 September 2026)

Day 4 - 28 September 2026 (Monday)

9.00 – 9.15* All times CEST (Warsaw)	<i>Recap of Day 1-3, upcoming days overview</i>	
9.15 – 10.45	<i>Subject to confirmation</i>	Subject to confirmation
10.45 – 11.00	Break	
11.00 – 12.30	<i>Being a business practitioner</i>	Ron Popper Chief Executive Officer, The Global Business Initiative on Human Rights
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch	
13.30 – 15.00	<i>Community engagement in the context of meaningful stakeholder engagement</i>	Céline Da Graca Pires Independent Business and Human Rights Specialist
15.00 – 15.20	Break	
15.20 – 16.45	<i>BHR in challenging contexts. Heightened HRDD</i>	Dr Olena Uvarova Associate Professor, Head of the International Lab on BHR, Y. Mudryi National Law University; BHR Specialist, UNDP & Dr Siniša Milatović Business, Human Rights and Peace Specialist, UNDP HQ

Day 5 - 29 September 2026 (Tuesday)

9.00 – 10.30	<i>GBI Workshop - BHR in practice Part I - Due diligence: entering a new business venture (Case studies)</i>	Ron Popper Chief Executive Officer, The Global Business Initiative on Human Rights & Andrea Shemberg Business and Human Rights Advisor
10.30 – 11.00	Break	
11.00 – 12.30	<i>GBI Workshop - BHR in practice Part II - Doing business in high-risk areas (Case studies)</i>	Ron Popper Chief Executive Officer, The Global Business Initiative on Human Rights & Andrea Shemberg Business and Human Rights Advisor
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch	
13.30 – 15.00	<i>AI and Human rights</i>	Lyra Jakulevičienė Member of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights; Professor of Law, Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania
15.00 – 15.20	Break	
15.20 – 16.25	<i>Panel discussion</i>	Prof. dr. Jernej Letnar Čerňič Full Professor of Human Rights and Constitutional Law at the New University & Lyra Jakulevičienė Member of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights; Professor of Law, Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania & Mark Wielga Director, NomoGaia
16.30 – 17.00	<i>Wrap-up and reflections. Closing of the Summer Academy</i>	

After the end of the Summer Academy participants
will have at the minimum 36 hours to complete the knowledge test
to obtain a Certificate of the Summer Academy

The Summer Academy 2026 is possible thanks to Sigrid Rausing Trust funding and pro-bono engagement of Polish Institute for Human Rights and Business, Ukrainian Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University and Global Business Initiative for Human Rights and others.

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