

Press Report

SLS Pune, Symbiosis International (Deemed University) Awarded the Prestigious Jean Monnet Chair in EU Climate Justice Law, Governance, Management and Policy by the European Union

Symbiosis Law School, Pune under the aegis of Symbiosis International (Deemed University) (SIU) home to the topmost legal minds of the country, has been bestowed with the honour of the prestigious Jean Monnet Chair on EU Climate Justice Law, Governance, Management and Policy (EUC-LAMP) under the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union with a total grant of Euro 50000 from 2022-2025.

On behalf of SIU, Prof. Dr. Shashikala Gurpur, Fulbright Scholar, Director, Symbiosis Law School, Pune, Dean, Faculty of Law, Symbiosis International (Deemed University) will be the Jean Monnet Chair Professor funded by the European Union.

What makes achievement even more unique and remarkable is that this is the 1st Jean Monnet Chair granted in Pune and Western India, the 1st Jean Monnet Chair in India in Law to be chaired by a woman and only the 2nd Jean Monnet Chair in India in the field of law.

Dr. Gurpur is a former member of the Law Commission of India, a Fulbright Scholar who has been recognized as amongst the 100 Legal Luminaries in India by Lexis Nexis and has published many noteworthy articles and book chapters with reputed International and National publishers.

Dr. Shashikala Gurpur has a proven track record and vast experience in the field of International Law, Environmental Law, European Union Law, Human Rights, International Environmental Law Climate Change, Biotechnology, Biodiversity etc. She has worked extensively on policy related issues and has provided recommendations on varied policy matters including environment during her stint with the Law Commission of India and other prestigious government bodies.

Further, she has also been acknowledged for her immense contribution in the field of legal education, gender sensitization and community outreach programmes. This was duly acknowledged by the Government of Karnataka, India who conferred her with the prestigious

Annual Kittur Rani Chennamma Award in 2018 for her work towards the empowerment of women.

Dr. Gurpur is an alumnus of the University of Mysore, Karnataka where she was the LLM topper and Gold medallist, and holds a Ph.D in International Law on 'Biological Diversity Conservation Law & IP'. She is a recipient of the AHRB Visiting Fellow, Edinburgh Law School, United Kingdom. Dr. Gurpur has an inspiring career with a wide range of impactful involvement in teaching, research, NGO and industry which includes prior academic stints at NLSIU Bangalore, Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) and University College Cork, Ireland.

The Jean Monnet Chair is a recognition of over a decade long experience of Symbiosis Law School, Pune under SIU in European Studies by way of Erasmus Mundus and Erasmus+ Projects, Student Exchange Programmes, Masters Level Specialization, Certificate Programmes etc.

Climate Change is currently the most urgent and profoundly complex environment-related problem for the international community.

Recognizing the importance of climate change and its impact in various aspects like food security, energy security, water security, health, migration and conflict, the central and state governments in India have made climate change a focal area. A number of major developments have taken place in India in order to centre stage the need for combating climate change related adversities.

Objective

The Jean Monnet Chair will promote EU Best practices and policies in climate change mitigation as an ideal model, foster dialogue between the academic world and society, including local and state level policy-makers, civil servants, civil society actors, representatives of the different levels of education and of the media; generate policy-making. The focus predominantly will be on the youth as they will be the thought leaders and change makers of tomorrow.

The main aim will be to enhance employability skills along with providing impetus to climate research, climate impact assessment, climate change and sustainability, climate risk, climate

law, renewable resources, green product designing, green energy, natural resource management, policy and governance.

The proposed chair will be focused towards reaching out to wider community of youth, i.e. students, students, academics, NGO, policy makers, think tanks, industry leaders, the youth of urban, semi-urban and rural communities with regard to imparting climate change related courses, certificate programme and specialized workshops. The climate change advocates thus trained, will become the change makers of tomorrow, committed to ensuring adherence to sustainable lifestyle heralding the mechanism of ethical compliances and applications of the best practices inherited from the EU experience and adapted to the Indian context thereby ensuring climate justice.

The following activities and learning pedagogies will be used in furtherance of the abovementioned objectives”

- ✚ Distinguished Guest Speaker Series,
- ✚ Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL)
- ✚ JURISTAS International Law Essay Competition on Climate Change
- ✚ Round Table Discussions with stakeholders and the policy makers
- ✚ International Conference on Climate Change and the Sustainable Developments in Legal Context
- ✚ Cascading program
- ✚ Train The Trainers
- ✚ Certificate programs to the community at large,
- ✚ Administering Value added courses to students of SYMBIOSIS & other universities to strengthen capacity
- ✚ MOOCs on climate change to increase outreach
- ✚ Curriculum building

Interdisciplinary nature of the Jean Monnet Chair

One of the biggest Relevance that the Chair will have is the ability to influence and shape a large cohort of young students from SIU which has eight faculties ranging from Management, Telecom, Engineering, Media, International Business, Design, apart from Law who opt for careers ranging from public service, entrepreneurship, business and industry engagement to policy, law, judiciary and government. The Chair will also indirectly impact the community at large by way of dissemination and training programmes to students of other universities in Pune.

Recognizing the role that a Higher Educational Institute can play in contributing towards policy reform, climate change education, dissemination, developing niche courses, undertaking practical measures for climate change mitigation; Symbiosis International (Deemed University) has set up a Centre for Climate Change which will be closely aligned with the activities which will be undertaken by the Jean Monnet Chair.

Target Groups

The main target groups of the JM Chair will be Students, Teachers and Educational administrators not yet recipients of JM funding and interested in specific EU studies related subjects.

The academic field of Climate Justice Law and Policy is of enormous relevance in India, but it is approached in a traditional way and it rarely covers EU or global related aspects while the growing interaction of Indian academic and non-academic actors with European counterparts calls for a much higher attention to the EU Climate Justice Law and Policy.

The target groups will be reached through past and existing local, national, and international projects in which SLS Pune is or has been actively involved. They will be involved in the activities aiming at the benefit of strengthening relationships between Indian and European Universities.

To maximize the impact, the use of Social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook, YouTube Live Streaming, and Media Narratives, and other broadcasting mediums like radio, will be used to create awareness and legal literacy with regard to varied aspects of climate change and climate tomorrow.

Impact of the Jean Monnet Chair

The Chair generates interest among students to improve their competencies in terms of skill sets that enable them to work in fields of public administration and other employment positions as lawyers, teachers, researchers, advisors, representatives, analysts, or managers with local, national, international, or EU Institutional bodies present at such levels.

Innovative interdisciplinary niche courses in climate justice law, policy, management and governance will be developed across undergraduates and post graduate programs which will be open to students all over India.

Short Term Impact

- The Teaching Activities envisaged under the Jean Monnet Chair will comprehensively train students with knowledge, ethics and skills related to climate justice, policy and law dimensions and directly impact approximately 3500 students during the project term.

- Stakeholders like students, invited experts, academicians, policy makers, NGOs, Government & Non-Government actors, etc. will be exposed to the EU approach in the field through round table conferences, seminars, COIL which they will actively use in their careers.

- Dissemination Conference - 800 plus students and professionals from the field will be exposed to the whole body of knowledge created by the Chair and will be enabled to further exploit the results in their future studies and career endeavours.

- Research Conference - 20 plus research papers present: awareness of the importance and complexity of the field will be raised at national and international level

Medium term impact

- The trainers who are trained as climate change advocates will instantly act as opinion leaders to mobilize communities for public hearing, media advocacy and to act as the mouthpiece of the stakeholders in business, industry, governance, NGO's and courts.

- MOOC - Massive Open Online Course - open to national and international students: this will allow disadvantage target groups such as access disabled, learning disabled, economically disadvantaged, those rendered vulnerable due to gender, age, disease, location and affordability to benefit of the Chair achievements.

- Elective courses in EU Climate Justice Law and Policy: this will allow students from various discipline to be exposed to the core subject of the Chair - Masters dissertations in the field of Climate Justice: this will facilitate future research projects and publications in the field

Long term impact

- Publication of a book titled: Climate Change Initiatives: Europe-India legal and policy paradigms which will lead to disseminating knowledge to a wider audience
- Collaboration between EU and India in Climate Action Goals achievement
- EU best practices influences like European Green deal on Indian Policy making
- The trainers who are considered as climate change advocates will further train others in their community to mobilize, support and transfer knowledge. A training Manual/Online Toolkit will be developed in multiple languages to ensure a multiplier effect of the results at national and international level
- Impacting the narrative on the core subject at national and international level,
- Cascading the training so to widen the audience exposed to the achievements of the Chair,
- Judicial academy and advocates academy fed with key evidence and best practices to be further implemented
- Introducing the project results to UGC. Scientific, Policy and Management Bodies

Specialized lab

Symbiosis Law School Pune has developed a one of its kind in the country **Jean Monnet Symbiosis Centre for Climate Justice Law, Governance, Management and Policy** which is a part of the “EU Learning Resource Centre” established at Symbiosis Law School, Pune. This excellence centre will contain specialised equipments, books, online learning resource centre, legal database, Statistical Package for Social Sciences(SPSS) which will help improve the quality of research and community engagements.

The specialised equipment include Smartboards, Classroom Response System, 3Doodlers Pro, Course Management Tools, Learning Management System, Tablets, Latest Computers, Video

Conference System and Video Projector which are now a part of the EU Learning Resource Centre

Thus the Jean Monnet Chair will play a pivotal role towards climate change mitigation measures undertaken in India, complement and add to the Indian national policy making.



Dr. Shashikala Gurple, Fulbright Scholar, Director, Symbiosis Law School, Pune, Dean, Faculty of Law, Symbiosis International (Deemed University), Jean Monnet Chair Professor in EU Climate Justice Law, Governance, Management and Policy