Child-friendly justice for the climate crisis: Post-paternalist judgments, litigation, participation

Fact Sheet

Project Information

YOUTHCLIMATEJUSTICE

Grant agreement ID: 101088453

Funded under
European Research Council (ERC)

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10.3030/101088453

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€ 1 998 870,00

EU contribution
€ 1 998 870,00

Coordinated by
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK - NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, CORK

Ireland

Start date
1 November 2023

End date
31 October 2028

Objective

YOUTHCLIMATEJUSTICE is the first large-scale transnational examination of youth justice in the climate crisis. In climate activism/litigation, under-18s are often leading on a political issue on a global scale – this is unprecedented in human rights law. Yet most children’s rights literature examines children as victims in the climate crisis. We know from other areas of law (e.g. family, criminal etc.) that justice processes are ill-suited to children, and have to be tailored to their needs. A body of work on ‘child-friendly justice’ has arisen to deal with this. YOUTHCLIMATEJUSTICE examines how child-friendly justice, and consequently children’s rights scholarship, is
transformed by youth climate activism. The project proposes the ‘post-paternalism’ hypothesis – traditionally it is assumed that children are ‘given’ rights by adults such as the right to be heard, but youth climate activists are taking control of their own rights, e.g. in justice systems.

YOUTHCLIMATEJUSTICE aims to work beyond contemporary paternalistic approaches to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child; examining intergenerational dynamics in this ‘post-paternalist’ climate context. This will be done through three work packages examining youth climate justice in: 1. judgments 2. litigation and 3. participation. This transdisciplinary project will include innovative methodology including IDEAL causal modelling of case law data; surveys; and participatory action research (in Barbados, Canada, Ireland, Nepal, and South Africa) to theorise transformation in children’s rights through youth climate action. It is a groundbreaking democratic endeavour whereby children can shape both academia and human rights for a post-paternalist world. Outputs include a new evidence-informed framework on Child-Friendly Climate Justice [CFCJ]; to facilitate both academic and legal/social transformation in the field, a CFCJ Research Centre, and an experimental initiative to embed CFCJ in a live climate case.

Fields of science

domain: natural sciences; earth and related environmental sciences; atmospheric sciences; climatology; climatic changes

domain: social sciences; law; human rights; human rights law

Keywords

children’s rights; human rights law; child friendly justice; climate crisis; litigation

Programme(s)

HORIZON.1.1 - European Research Council (ERC) - MAIN PROGRAMME

Topic(s)

ERC-2022-COG - ERC CONSOLIDATOR GRANTS
Call for proposal

**ERC-2022-COG**

See other projects for this call

**Funding Scheme**

**HORIZON-ERC - HORIZON ERC Grants**

**Coordinator**

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK - NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, CORK**

Net EU contribution

€1,998,870.00

Address

Western road
T12 YN60 Cork
Ireland

Region

Ireland > Southern > South-East

Links

Contact the organisation  
Website  
Participation in EU R&I programmes  
HORIZON collaboration network

Other funding

€0,00

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