



**Collège
Européen
de Cluny**
démocraties locales
& innovation

2 - 3 July 2021

Summer seminar online

What change for Europe? Ecological transition and citizen action

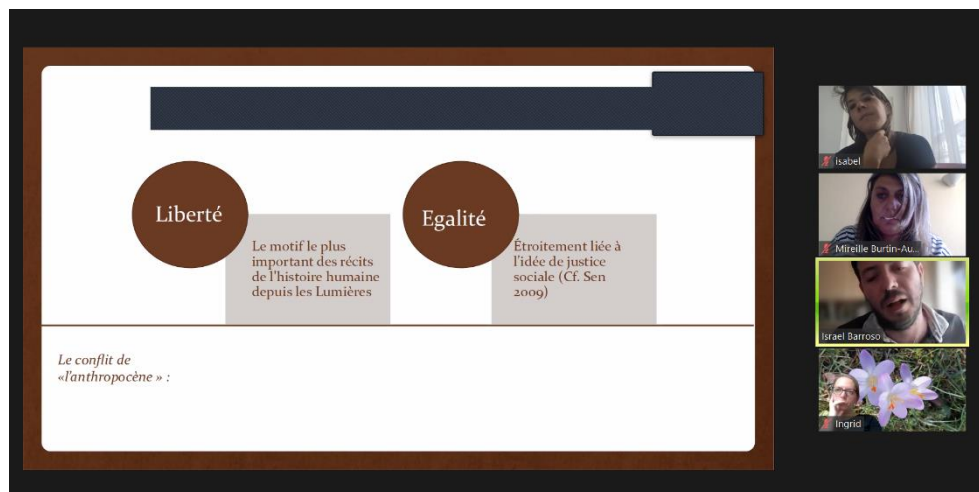
The 2021 summer seminar of the European College of Cluny began on Friday, July 2, with the inaugural conference of Marine Yzquierdo, a lawyer in the field of renewable energy and member of the association Notre Affaire à Tous. In her speech, Ms. Yzquierdo emphasized the growing importance of the commitment of NGOs, scientific reports and citizens to the ecological transition. She also elaborated on the notion of ecocide, defined as illegal or arbitrary acts committed in the knowledge of the real probability that these acts will cause serious damage to the environment that is widespread or long-lasting. This term was first used in 1970 by a biologist in relation to the use of Agent Orange during the Vietnam War.

Numerous NGOs, citizens of the Climate Convention among others, accompanied by some jurists are fighting to have the "crime of ecocide" recognized in the different legislations, at the national, European and international levels. To date, in France only the notion of "ecocide crime" is retained, regrets Marine Yzquierdo, it is not at all the same effect on the penalties incurred, and on the courts able to judge.

Following this conference, the participants were able to hear Guila Clara Kessous', research professor at the University of Harvard, Coach, UNESCO Artist for Peace and "Outstanding Rising Talent 2020" of the Women's Forum for the Economy and Society, presentation of an example of European citizen action through art. While presenting her commitment, Ms. Kessous emphasized the role of art and education using positive psychology to teach citizens the importance of ecological change and the individual role in this process.



This first day ended with the workshop "Freedom vs. Solidarity. A conflict of principles that harms the environment?" facilitated by Israel Barroso, PhD candidate in Human Rights and Global Policies at the Sant Anna College in Pisa. During this workshop, participants were led, in a group work, to reflect and discuss on issues such as the possibility of a universal/global solidarity, the apparent conflict of the idea of solidarity with a certain conception of freedom, and the challenges of implementing a "solidarity" policy regarding the environment.



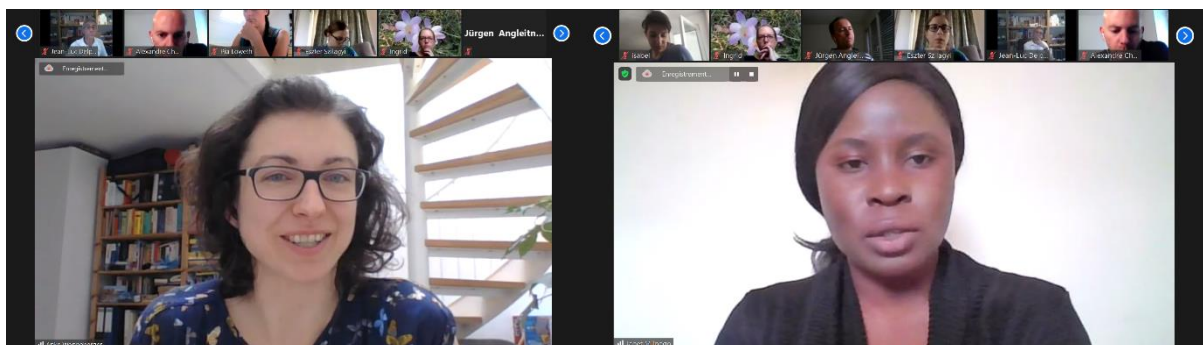
The day of Saturday, July 3rd started with the video round "Climate policies - from Brussels to the municipalities" with Joana Viera da Silva, in charge of climate change negotiations at the Portuguese Environment Agency, Elena Visnar Malinovska, head of unit for adaptation to climate change (DG Climate) of the European Commission, Philippe Lamberts, member of the European Parliament and Jean-Luc Delpuech, engineer and President of the Communauté de Communes du Clunisois. The exchanges took place around a just transition, the economy serving life and a community that is committed. Although the speakers mentioned the problems of lobbying, industry and especially greenwashing, they also stressed the multiple possible solutions, the progress made and the will expressed by political actors at all levels to fight, among other things, climate change.



After the lunch break, participants were able to follow the conference "Transition, adjustment or harmonization?" of Mario Neve, professor of geography and director of the interdisciplinary laboratory LABIRINTO city-landscape at the University of Bologna. Mario Neve introduced the participants to the terms of linearity, mitigation and adjustment while explaining the problem of forest dieback, and Covid as a "syndemic", therefore a pandemic in connection with the destruction of the environment. In this respect, as presented by Professor Neve, the territory, its associations and the "knowledge and practice" remains one of the most important things.



Then, the video round "Communicating and acting for change" with Anke Wonneberger from IECA (International Environmental Communication Association) and Janet Milongo from CAN (Climate Action Network) emphasized the role of journalists in communication and the difficulty of linking the different levels of concern about climate and environmental change. Indeed, as noted by the speakers, the diversity of contexts remains a challenge but by listening to others and exchanging, it is possible to bridge the gaps.



Finally, an interactive work using the Mural App by completing key words presented by the team of the European College of Cluny. This exchange concluded on the importance and urgency of acting through society to better preserve and respect our planet.

These two days ended with a small assessment of satisfaction of the participants, hoping that we will be able to welcome them again in Cluny next year.

Pour finir, un travail interactif à l'aide de l'App Mural a été proposé aux participants, affichant des mots-clés présentés par l'équipe du Collège Européen de Cluny. Cet échange s'est conclu sur l'importance et l'urgence d'agir au travers de la société afin de mieux préserver et respecter notre planète.

Ces deux jours se sont terminés par un petit bilan de satisfaction des participants, nous espérons vivement pouvoir de nouveau accueillir les participants en présentiel à Cluny l'année prochaine !