

Second geostrategic forum - GEOFOR

Global climate change in a risk society

The Geostrategic Forum, GEOFOR, as a synthesis of four forums created as part of the Institute for European and Globalization Studies, was held in 2022 under the title Global Climate Change in a Risk Society.

The three panels discussed the phenomenon of climate change, its impact on migration flows and their management, the geopolitical and geoeconomic consequences of the energy transition, and the security of food and energy supply in a global risk society.

First panel

Environmental security: theoretical concepts, spatial representations and everyday practice

Moderator: Assoc. Ph.D. Mladen Maradin, Department of Geography - Faculty of Arts, University of Zagreb

Participants: Ph.D. Krešo Pandžić, head of the climate section at HAZU, Ph.D. Tanja Likso, Head of the Data Processing and Control Service, State Hydrometeorological Institute

On the first panel, under the title Environmental security: theoretical concepts, spatial representations and everyday practice, the main scientific assumptions about the phenomenon of climate change and human influence on the climate are presented. All the changes, in their nature and scope, which science has recorded in the last decades, and how they deviate from the average and established observations are listed and explained.

The issue of current and future climate phenomena in Croatia was dealt with in a special way in the context of food and agricultural security and tourism, which is the main Croatian economic branch, and which is already, and will increasingly be in the future, under the influence of climate change.

It was noted that the fundamental problem that needs to be addressed is the speed of climate change, where changes in climate phenomena and the occurrence of climate extremes are now witnessed on an annual basis, whereas before it was a matter of years and decades.

Conclusions were presented on how to persist in the fight against climate change and create a social consensus on this issue.

Second panel

Migration processes, migration management and future trends related to the environment

Moderator: Mislav Vušković, Institute for European and Globalization Studies

Participants: Associate Professor, Ph.D. Marita Brčić-Kuljiš, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Split, Prof. Ph.D. Anđelko Milardović, Institute for Migration and Nationalities, Zagreb, Goran Džidić, PhD student, Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Zagreb, Andrea Bilandžija, PhD student, Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Zagreb

The second panel of this year's Geofor took place under the title Migration processes, migration management and future trends related to the environment. The panel was preceded by a plenary lecture entitled Migration Management and Sustainable Development in the Context of Climate Change, which was held by Associate Professor Dr.Sc. Marita Brčić-Kuljiš.

In the discussion on the second panel, knowledge about climate change and the environment was contextualized and applied to the issue of migration and its management.

It was pointed out that recently, since the COVID-19 pandemic is increasingly behind us, there has been a noticeable increase in illegal border crossings on all migrant routes.

Special attention is paid to the emerging phenomenon - climate migrations and climate migrants. It was observed that there is still no scientific consensus and uniform framework to classify this type of migration, especially because behind the term "climate migration" there is a whole series of patterns that lead to this type of forced migration.

It was pointed out that Africa is the future reservoir of migration, since it is a continent that is among the most affected areas due to climate change, and is also the area where 52% of young people between the ages of 18 and 25 want to come to Europe.

As for Croatia and the countries in its immediate neighborhood, a change in migration policy and media narrative towards the securitization of the phenomenon was observed, while it was noted that Croatia still has not developed and announced a clear migrant and immigration policy.

The third panel

Security, environment and strategic resources

Moderator: Assoc. Ph.D.Sc. Borna Zgurić, Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Zagreb

Participants: Assoc. prof. Ph.D. Jelena Lončar, Department of Geography, PMF, University of Zagreb, assistant professor. Ph.D.Sc. Tonči Prodan, Department of Forensic Sciences, University of Split, Associate Professor Vladimir Ajzenhamer, Faculty of Security, University of Belgrade, Ph.D. Mihajlo Kopanja, Faculty of Security, University of Belgrade, Ph.D. Monika Begović, President of the Atlantic Council of Croatia

The third panel, which was held on the topic of Security, environment and strategic resources, was preceded by a plenary lecture entitled Security of energy and food supply - the response of the European Union, which was held by Andrea Čović Vidović, Head of Media, European Commission in Croatia.

The third panel of this year's geostrategic forum discussed the security of supply chains, with a special emphasis on food and energy in the context of the war in Ukraine and the COVID-19 pandemic.

It was pointed out that food and energy are in the context of global risk society and recent geopolitical and geoeconomic events have become key strategic factors that ensure dominance in the current geopolitical turmoil and the change in the geopolitical paradigm. It was also emphasized how both food and energy are used as means of coercion and blackmail in order to control people and space.

In the context of the green transition, the implementation of which has been accelerated, and for which the war in Ukraine served as a catalyst, several things were highlighted: the high financial cost of this transition in general, and especially if it is aggressively implemented, the lack of public consensus around all the elements of green transition, which was seen by some as an ideological rather than an ecological-economic process, and the changes in geopolitical balances that the green transition can cause.

In the context of geopolitical balances, special emphasis was placed on Europe's "exit" from the Middle East, where it reflected its geopolitical presence precisely through economic factors. As a result, there was a danger that this geopolitical empty space could be occupied and is already occupied by Russia and China.

Document compiled by: Mislav Vušković, Institute for European and Globalization Studies