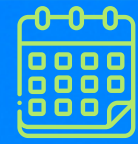


## ImprovEUorGlobe Webinar Series

# Clean Energy and Green Deal: Indigenous and Local Peoples' Concerns



**04** MAY  
2023



**10H-11H**  
BRUSSELS TIME

### Program:

*Chair: Prof. Reetta Toivanen, University of Helsinki*

#### **Local Perceptions of Wind Energy Infrastructures in the Finnish North**

Anna Varfolomeeva, Helsinki Institute of Sustainability Science. University of Helsinki

#### **Corporate Climate Responsibility and EU Free Trade Agreements**

Tuija von der Pütten, University of Helsinki

#### **Reindeer Herders' Perspectives to Green Solutions**

Maija Lassila, University of Helsinki



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Webinar on Zoom](#)  
Meeting ID: 684 9584 9419



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funding from Una Europa.

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# Clean Energy and Green Deal: Indigenous and Local Peoples' Concerns

**Chair of Session: Reetta Toivanen** is Professor of Sustainability Science with a specific focus on Indigenous Sustainable at HELSUS and Department of Cultures at the University of Helsinki. She is also the vice-director of the Academy of Finland funded Centre of Excellence in Law, Identity and the European Narratives.

### Local Perceptions of Wind Energy Infrastructures in the Finnish North:

Renewable energy development is commonly seen as an important step toward climate change mitigation. Finland plans to increase its share of renewable energy use to 51% by 2030, and therefore turn to wind power as the primary source of sustainable energy. However, the emotional responses of Finnish residents towards wind energy development vary. This presentation analyzes wind energy infrastructures as a part of human-landscape relations in the Finnish North. It is based on the analysis of the resources published in Finnish wind energy-themed Facebook groups Tuulivoima and Tuulivoimalapoliitikka. The presentation argues that wind energy development is increasingly viewed as a process strengthening the inequalities between Finnish regions and affecting local connections with the landscape.

**Anna Varfolomeeva** is a Postdoctoral Researcher at Helsinki Institute of Sustainability Science (HELSUS), University of Helsinki. Her postdoctoral project focuses on Indigenous notions of sustainability in industrialized areas of the North and Siberia.

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### **Corporate Climate Responsibility and EU Free Trade Agreements:**

Although companies, especially activities by multinational corporations, are making a major contribution to the global greenhouse gas emissions through international trade and investment, there are currently no specific legal requirements for companies to reduce their emissions. Given the absence of such a regulatory framework, best practices and voluntary recommendations in the area of climate change are emerging and regulators are slowly beginning to transport them into binding legal frameworks. The EU has taken a lead in developing one of the most progressive trade and investment treaties that attempt to incorporate sustainability issues and strengthen corporate responsibility. This presentation focuses on EU's FTAs/investment chapters and explores the possibility of creating climate-related obligations for companies at the international level.

**Tuija von der Pütten** is the project coordinator of EuroStorie Centre of Excellence and a doctoral researcher at the University of Helsinki. She is currently working on her doctoral research on corporate climate responsibility through international investment law.

### **Reindeer Herders' Perspectives to Green Solutions:**

The presentation will discuss the emergence of the "green" mining frontier in Sodankylä, a municipality of 8200 habitants in Arctic Finland and a central municipality for the recent mining expansion in Finland. Maija will focus on how current intensive mineral exploration in the municipality sets against reindeer herders' past and present-day experiences of socioenvironmental harms related to the history of accumulated effects of heavy industrialization and extractivism in the region, such as hydropower, forestry and mining.

**Maija Lassila** is Phd candidate in Global development studies at the University of Helsinki.