



## Call for Abstracts

### Workshop on “Small European states and the politics of climate change”

School of Law and Government, Dublin City University  
1-2 June 2016

**Submission deadline: Friday 18 December 2015**

This workshop aims to bring together scholars from several disciplines to present draft papers on the politics of climate change in small European states. We define small states in a European context as countries accounting for no more than 0.5% of global GHG emissions in 2012.

We welcome studies of cross-national scope and single-country case studies focusing on climate change politics. Papers may come from, *inter alia*, comparative politics, political theory, sociology, geography, and international relations. We plan to follow up on the workshop with one or two panels at the UACES Conference in London in 2016 in order to finalise draft papers and, ultimately, to publish these in a special issue of a high-impact international peer-reviewed journal. We will complement the academic workshop with a high-level practitioners’ panel comprising politicians, environmentalists, and climate policy experts.

#### Topic

The literature on the politics of climate change has expanded rapidly in recent years. Although much has been written about the politics of climate change at European and global levels, and with respect to particular countries (e.g., Germany, UK, France, United States, and China), very little scholarly analysis has focused to date on small states.

The characteristics of small states generate multiple, sometimes contradictory expectations in relation to climate policy and politics. Small states, their governments, and their citizens may see themselves as being irrelevant to global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (i.e., a ‘drop in the ocean’) and thus being without culpability or capabilities. Being more open to forces of international competition, they may be more susceptible to a ‘race to the bottom’ on environmental policy; their economies may be less diverse than larger states and in some cases this may lead to heavy reliance on GHG-intensive industries.

On the other hand, states with small populations may be better equipped to sustain collective action on climate change; under some conditions, they may be able to influence EU climate policy initiatives to an extent that is disproportionate to their size; and insofar as they are open economies, they may aim for competitive advantages in new technologies

and industries. The observed climate policy outputs among small states in Europe reflect both of these tendencies, including leaders (e.g., Denmark and Sweden) and laggards (e.g., Ireland and Greece).

### **Submission guidelines**

Short abstracts (max. 300 words) should be submitted by email to Prof. Neil Carter ([neil.carter@york.ac.uk](mailto:neil.carter@york.ac.uk)), Dr. Diarmuid Torney ([diarmuid.torney@dcu.ie](mailto:diarmuid.torney@dcu.ie)) and Dr. Conor Little ([cli@ifs.ku.dk](mailto:cli@ifs.ku.dk)) by Friday 18 December. Abstracts should include contact details and affiliation. Please indicate whether you would consider participating in a panel on the same topic at the UACES Conference in London (5-7 September 2016).