



PRESS RELEASE

Athens, 16 September 2025

Joint PhD Summer School 2025 “Global Challenges and Local Responses”

On 1 – 4 September 2025, the **European Urban Research Association** (EURA) and the **Standing Group on Local Government & Politics of the European Consortium for Political Research** (ECPR), in collaboration with the **International Centre for Black Sea Studies** (ICBSS), organised the annual Joint PhD Summer School with title “Global Challenges and Local Responses”, at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, in Greece.

The Summer School was designed to give doctoral students the opportunity to present and discuss their work on local policies to solve, or at least mitigate, global challenges such as climate change, migration, social inequalities, the provision of affordable housing, and urban tourism. The students also received methodological guidance and advice from experienced researchers on successfully writing and submitting an academic article.

During his speech, the ICBSS Director General, **Mr. Georgios MITRAKOS** highlighted the significance of fostering confidence through dialogue and knowledge exchange in challenging times. He also emphasised that local actions are not only a response to immediate needs, but also a link in the chain of collective efforts at regional and international levels.

This event aligns with ICBSS's commitment to facilitating dialogue, knowledge sharing, and building partnerships to support sustainable development in the wider Black Sea region and beyond.

For more information about the ICBSS, please visit <https://icbss.org/>

About the ICBSS: The International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) was founded in 1998 as a non-profit organisation. It has since fulfilled a dual function: as an independent research and training institution focusing on the wider Black Sea region; as a related body of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), and its think-tank. The ICBSS pursues applied, policy-oriented research, promotes knowledge on the Black Sea region both within and outside its boundaries, and offers policy advice with the aim of fostering multilateral cooperation among the BSEC member states as well as with their international partners.