

DAY 2&3 CLUSTER A

TUE 20 & WED 21 OCTOBER

VE NE ZIA

Oceans,
Design & Climate
Adaptation



Why **Venezia?**

Venice is one of the clearest examples of how a city's identity can be shaped by its environment. Built across a lagoon of 118 islands, it has always depended on a delicate balance between water, land, architecture and human activity. Today, that relationship is becoming even more complex as the city faces rising seas, flooding, erosion and pressure on its lagoon ecosystem. UNESCO describes Venice and its lagoon as an inseparable system, shaped over centuries by the interaction between people and the natural environment.

That makes Venice an especially relevant place to think about climate adaptation. Here, resilience is not only about protecting buildings from water. It also means thinking about how communities live, how public spaces remain accessible, how cultural heritage is preserved and how cities can adapt without losing what makes them unique.

During the Venice programme, participants will explore these questions through the lenses of architecture, design, urban planning, culture and the blue economy, with opportunities to look at how climate solutions can respond to local realities while balancing environmental, social and cultural needs.

DID YOU KNOW?

Controlling the high tides.

When exceptionally high tides threaten Venice, the MOSE system can raise mobile barriers at the lagoon's entrances to temporarily separate it from the Adriatic Sea.

It is one of the most visible examples of the scale of infrastructure being used to protect the city from flooding.



Practical Information

- **Getting around:** In Venice, the two main ways to move are on foot and by water. The city's public water buses, the vaporetti, connect different parts of Venice and the surrounding islands. Tickets must be validated when entering the waterbus system, and contactless payment is available across the ACTV network. Comfortable shoes are essential;
- **Weather:** October is usually mild but can be damp, with cooler mornings and evenings and a chance of rain. A light waterproof layer and umbrella are worth keeping with you;
- **Try while you're here:** Cicchetti (small Venetian snacks);
- **Don't miss:** Piazza San Marco, Rialto Bridge, Grand Canal, Arsenale, Giardini della Biennale, Dorsoduro.

Institutions and organisations to **discover.**



The Human Safety Net is Generali's global foundation, dedicated to unlocking the potential of people living in vulnerable circumstances. Through two programmes, it supports families with children aged 0–6 and refugees through employment and entrepreneurship. Active in 25 countries with over 98 NGO partners, the Foundation has its Home in Venice's historic Procuratie, where it amplifies its mission and hosts “A World of Potential”, an interactive exhibition for visitors.



Why we are part of Youth4Climate: Connecting Solutions

THSN is taking part in Youth4Climate: Connecting Solutions to open The Home in Venice as a space for dialogue between young innovators, institutions and practitioners. The foundation's mission - unlocking the potential of people and communities - resonates with the spirit of the initiative, which invests in the potential of young people to turn ideas into lasting solutions. By hosting the Youth4Climate delegation, THSN extends its everyday work of building partnerships across institutions, academia and civil society, and contributes to a broader culture of empowering the next generation to create impact.

At The Home of The Human Safety Net, through the interactive exhibition “A World of Potential”, participants will have the opportunity to take part in an immersive experience to discover their own strengths whilst also connecting to The Human Safety Net's programmes as well as discovering the architectural transformation of the Procuratie and the way Generali invests in preserving and enhancing historical heritage, making it vibrant, accessible and resilient over time.

Institutions and organisations to **discover.**

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Università
luav
di Venezia

Università luav di Venezia is a university dedicated to design and the arts, with internationally recognised expertise in architecture, urban and regional planning, design, fashion, visual arts and theatre. Established in 1926 and based in Venice, luav combines research, education and practice through interdisciplinary and workshop-based approaches, addressing complex urban, environmental and societal challenges, including climate adaptation, resilience and sustainable transformation.



Why we are part of **Youth4Climate: Connecting Solutions**

Iuav is co-organising the Venice workshop to build on the collaboration launched with UNDP during Venice Climate Week 2026. The event creates a bridge between Iuav students and Youth4Climate innovators from around the world, enabling them to work together on real urban adaptation challenges. By bringing architecture, planning and design into dialogue with technology, nature-based solutions, community knowledge and implementation experience, Iuav aims to contribute to a multidisciplinary exchange on how climate challenges can become opportunities for more resilient and inclusive urban transformation.

Participants will engage with Iuav's design-led and interdisciplinary approach to climate adaptation while working alongside students on concrete urban challenges. The exchange will connect creative thinking with implementation experience, showing how solutions must respond to local environmental, social and institutional contexts. Participants will also build peer-to-peer connections across disciplines, countries and professional backgrounds.

Institutions and organisations to **discover.**



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The UNESCO Ocean Literacy Programme fosters a global understanding of the Ocean's influence on humanity and humanity's influence on the Ocean. Through education, collaboration and action, the Programme works to build an ocean-literate society, one that understands the Ocean's importance, is able to make informed decisions, and is empowered to contribute to its sustainable future.



Why we are part of Youth4Climate: Connecting Solutions

The UNESCO Ocean Literacy Programme is participating to bring the ocean literacy perspective into broader climate discussions and to connect with young people developing innovative solutions for climate action. Youth4Climate provides a valuable platform for knowledge exchange, collaboration and partnership-building, while offering an opportunity to highlight how ocean literacy can support and empower youth-led action for a sustainable future.

We hope participants will gain a deeper understanding of the Ocean's role in our lives and of the connections between Ocean, climate and society. Through their visit to the SEA BEYOND Ocean Literacy Centre, we hope they will experience how interactive education and knowledge-sharing can make complex ocean issues accessible, inspire curiosity, and encourage young people to translate knowledge into action.

Institutions and organisations to **discover.**

LOCAL ACTION

Agenda 2030 is becoming a reality thanks to the dedicated efforts of cities, provinces, regions, counties, and territories worldwide. Local governments are leading SDG implementation at local level, using the SDGs as a tool for long-term planning, integrating SDG targets and indicators in their local policies and budgets, enhancing service delivery, and using Agenda 2030 to better communicate public action to their own citizens.



Why we are part of Youth4Climate: Connecting Solutions

As part of the UNDP Venice Winter School, cities and local governments around the world will gather in Venice on the week of 19 October to study how to innovate in public service delivery.

Four City case studies will be presented and examined in depth, sharing challenges, solutions and how to create more efficient and inclusive city services.

THE WINTER SCHOOL IS:

Open to 120 representatives from cities, local and regional governments, and their associations.

Focus on four city services that will be shared and analyzed by cities worldwide. An opportunity to acquire in-depth knowledge of how other cities deliver public services.

Explore innovative data visualizations on the impact of city work on people's lives.



Your Venice Challenge

- ☐ Pair up with someone from another continent and discuss how climate change is affecting your communities differently. What challenges do you share, and where do your experiences differ?
- ☐ Identify one feature of Venice that helps the city live with or adapt to high water. What does it tell you about adapting to climate risks in a place with such a distinctive geography and heritage?
- ☐ As you move through Venice on foot and by water, pay attention to how the absence of cars changes your experience of the city. What feels different and is there anything other cities could learn from it?
- ☐ Choose one word that captures Venice's relationship with climate and its environment. Compare your word with other awardees. Did you choose the same one? Why or why not?

Some of the best insights come from taking a moment to reflect. Use this space to record your thoughts, new connections and key takeaways as you travel through Italy's climate innovation ecosystem.