

EIZ Seminar

Dear Madam/Sir,

We hereby cordially invite you to attend an EIZ Seminar on **Thursday, October 23, 2025**, at **1:00 p.m.**, at the **Institute of Economics, Zagreb**, where **Dorian Fildor** (EIZ) will deliver a lecture entitled

From Sustainability to Economic Success: Does Economic Success Enable Sustainability?

Summary

This study empirically investigates the causal relationship between economic strength, measured by GDP per capita, and sustainability performance, operationalized through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index, across European Union member states from 2000 to 2023. Utilizing a two-stage methodology incorporating cluster analysis and the Dumitrescu-Hurlin panel Granger causality test optimized by the Akaike Information Criterion (AIC), countries were initially classified into two distinct groups: Upperperformers with higher economic and sustainability outcomes, and Underperformers with lower performance levels. Each group representing panel data was subjected to Granger-causality testing. Results robustly confirm that economic strength does Granger-cause sustainability achievements, particularly in the Upperperformers cluster, while evidence of reverse causality is limited to select cases. These findings support a theoretical shift viewing sustainability not merely as a compliance cost, but as an endogenous driver of long-term economic resilience. The study underscores the critical role of public investment and knowledge sharing in fostering micro-level adaptive sustainability practices, which in turn mitigate macroeconomic risks.

About the lecturer

Dorian Fildor is a research assistant at the Institute of Economics, Zagreb. He graduated from the Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Zagreb, in 2024. He is currently undertaking PhD studies in economics and statistics at the Faculty of Economics and Statistics, University of Innsbruck. He is preparing a doctoral dissertation on the role of innovation in fostering sustainable tourism.