




NOVA BHRE

ANNUAL REPORT

2024






The **NOVA Centre on Business, Human Rights and the Environment** (NOVA BHRE) is proud to present the **report** of its **activities carried out 2024**.

Throughout the years, the work carried out by various members of the NOVA BHRE has helped shape the laws and policies of **various countries** in Europe and in Africa and at the **European level** (with the recent adoption of the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive).

In addition, through awareness-raising and capacity building activities with companies, governments, and civil society organizations, the work of the NOVA BHRE is contributing to providing an in-depth knowledge of corporate sustainability.

In 2024, the NOVA BHRE has pursued and intensified its work in line with its mission to contribute to fostering **responsible and Sustainable business conduct** in Portugal, Europe and beyond that upholds **respect for human rights, decent work and environmental standards throughout global value chains**. In this way it aims to advance the UN Sustainable Development Goals which seek to realize the human rights of all.

These efforts were recognized and rewarded by **2 prizes** received by the Director of the NOVA BHRE in December 2024, at the NOVA Science & Innovation Day for the impact of her research and contribution to the field of Business and Human Rights, and in particular:



- an **Honorary Mention at the Research Impact Narratives Challenge** for the impact of her work on Business and Human Rights on key legislative and policy developments at national level in various European countries and in Africa, as well as at the European level.
- an **Award in the "Publications with Impact" Category**, rewarding the scientific publications with the highest Field-Weighted Citation Impact during the 2021-2023 for the Commentary that 2 members of the NOVA BHRE (Claire Bright and Céline da Graça Pires) wrote on Guiding Principle 18 of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights on the identification and assessment of actual and potential adverse human rights risks.



Earlier this year, the NOVA BHRE was interviewed by the **Portuguese Journal Vida Judiciária**. In the [interview](#), the NOVA BHRE explained its mission and the main pillars of its work. It also explored the various initiatives carried out by the centre, including its collaboration with companies in the implementation of human rights policies and due diligence processes on human rights and the environment. Finally, it highlighted the challenges and opportunities of embracing human rights in the business context, as well as the Centre's plans for future.

Table of CONTENTS

01

Introduction

Direction

Members

Visitors and Experts

02

Sponsors and Partners

03

Activities

Research Projects

Publications

- Scientific articles in internationally recognised journals and book chapters
- Blog Posts

Dissemination Activities

- Podcasts
- Conferences and Events
- Events organised by the NOVA BHRE

04

Conclusion

WHO ARE WE?

THE NOVA BHRE: AN INTRODUCTION

The NOVA BHRE is an innovative and multidisciplinary **academic centre** within NOVA School of Law. It was founded in 2020 by its current **Director, Professor Claire Bright**, and actively involves **undergraduate, postgraduate, and PhD students** in its activities, as well as renown national and international **experts**.

The **main goal** of the NOVA BHRE is to contribute to fostering responsible and Sustainable business conduct in Portugal, Europe and beyond that upholds respect for human rights, decent work and environmental standards throughout global value chains. In this way it aims to advance the UN Sustainable Development Goals which seek to realize the human rights of all.

The Centre's main pillars and objectives are:

- 1) Carrying out and disseminating high-impact research** informing legal and regulatory developments in the field, but also influencing corporate practices towards more sustainable ones.
- 2) Promoting awareness-raising capacity building** through around key issues of sustainable business conduct through the organisation of events (conferences, practical workshops and webinars), the publication of blogs and podcasts, and the organization and delivery of specialized courses and trainings.
- 3) Serving as a platform for the exchange of ideas**, facilitating strong connections and collaborations between academics from various disciplines and institutions, companies, legal practitioners, government officials, trade unions, NGOs and investors and other relevant stakeholders.

DIRECTION



Claire Bright

(Associate Professor, Director and Founder of the Centre)



Laura Íñigo Álvarez

(Assistant Professor, Scientific Coordinator)

MEMBERS OF THE NOVA BHRE

Research Associates in the PhD programme



Maria Miguel de Oliveira



Céline da Graça Pires



Luiza Rocha



Gabriel Araújo

Research Associates in the Masters programme



Ana Duarte Santos



Luís Prata e Castro



Malindi Assubuji

Research Assistant in the undergraduate Programme 2023/2024



Beatriz Russell



Ved Bagoandas

Visiting scholars and researchers



Anaïs Tobalagba
(January - December 2024)



Errol Mendes
(March 2024)



Andrea Cerofolini
(June – November
2024)



Laura Arenas Peralta
(April – June 2024)



Chiara Macchi
(November
2024)



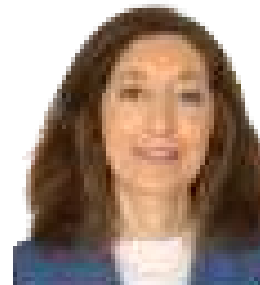
Pedro
Witschoreck
(September 2024
– February 2025)



Olena Uvarova
(October 2024)

Network of experts

In addition to this team, several renown Portuguese and international experts and partners collaborate closely with the knowledge centre:



SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

The activities of the NOVA BHRE count with the support of:



PLMJ is a top tier Portuguese law firm with over 400 people which is committed to accompanying the paradigm shift in the way business is done. PLMJ has an ethical approach to business, which was developed a long time ago, which transpires throughout its relationships with clients, people and the environment.



FACULDADE DE
CIÊNCIAS E TECNOLOGIA
UNIVERSIDADE NOVA DE LISBOA

The NOVA BHRE is part of CEDIS – Research & Development Centre on Law and Society, the Research Unit of NOVA School of Law, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa. CEDIS is funded by FCT, I.P. (Foundation for Science and Technology, Public Institute), through national funds from the Portuguese Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education, under projects UIDB/00714/2020 and UIDP/00714/2020.

OUR ACTIVITIES

REASERCH PROJECTS

The NOVA BHRE Centre has been actively involved various research projects, including:

- The development of the [European Model Clauses for Responsible Supply Chains](#) which are a set of model clauses designed to align with the EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD), which were published in July of 2024. The clauses are the product of the European Working Group (EWG), which is composed primarily of European legal experts from practice and academia, including Claire Bright.
- A project for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with the support of the Japanese Government for which Claire Bright drafted a report and led capacity building sessions to help inform the Tunisian Working Group on Business and Human Rights created by the Tunisian Government for the development of its first NAP.
- The project [“Access to justice in the context of corporate abuses: litigation as a strategy of resistance and empowerment of victims \(ACCJUSTEDH\)”](#), founded by the International Catalan Institute for Peace (ICIP) that lasted between September 2023 and September 2024 and in which members of the NOVA BHRE participated under the supervision of Laura Iñigo Álvarez.
- A collaboration with the NGO *Caminhos de Infância* for the project [“End Child Labour Project”](#) which aims at raising awareness of citizens, consumers and companies around the issue of child labour in global supply chains and to promote responsible business practices. Maria Miguel Oliveira da Silva and Claire Bright were involved in this project.

Awareness-raising and capacity building activities

The NOVA BHRE has been active in **promoting awareness-raising and capacity building activities with companies, governments, and civil society organizations**, in order to providing a thorough understanding of the theory but also the practice of **corporate human rights and environmental due diligence**. The initiatives include, *inter alia*:

- [Human Rights Due Diligence Training in Tunisia](#) - in January 2024, Claire Bright and Anais Tobalgba delivered a two-day training sessions in Tunis on human rights due diligence to approximately 40 participants from two major public Tunisian companies: The Electricity and Gas Company, and the Tunisian Chemical Group as well as other public and private companies. The training sessions were notably opened by Director General of the Office of the Prime Minister, Nizar Ben Sghaier, as well as the Representative of the United Nations Development Programme, Celine Moyroud.
The main objective of the trainings was to help Tunisian companies identify, prevent, mitigate and address their adverse human rights impacts and to raise awareness on the applicable legal framework. The training sessions were delivered in French.
This activity was organised in the framework of a program coordinated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with the support of the Government of Japan.
- [Human Rights Due Diligence Training in Tunisia](#) - In September 2024, Claire Bright led one-to-one sessions to follow-up on the previous training sessions delivered in Tunisia to companies in the public sector and discuss the progress made by the individual companies, the challenges encountered and the next steps in the implementation of their human rights due diligence processes.
This activity was organised in the framework of a program coordinated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with the support of the Government of Japan.



- E-Curso ESG Reporting and Due Diligence: edição em português
 - the NOVA Centre on Business, Human Rights and the Environment (NOVA BHRE) and the NOVA Green Lab launched a Portuguese edition of the Course on ESG Reporting and Due Diligence which dived into the emerging requirements for companies to align their policies and strategies with ESG criteria in line with the expectations of investors and consumers. This course we delivered online between September and November 2024 under the coordination of Claire Bright, Lucila de Almeida and included the participation of Ana Santos Duarte and Céline da Graça Pires as speakers.
- Anaïs Tobalagba provided a training on "Human Right and Environmental Due Diligence: Evolution and Implications for European Companies" to lawyers at Sérvulo & Associados on 3rd December on behalf of NOVA University.
- Training Course on Business and Human Rights hosted by the Geneva Human Rights Platform - On the 5th of September 2024, Claire Bright delivered a training session on Human Rights Due Diligence in the framework of the course on Business and Human Rights, hosted by the Geneva Human Rights Platform and co-led by Anita Ramasastry and Tara Van Ho

Various members of the NOVA BHRE have also been providing **regular support to individual companies**, notably by drafting their human rights policies, carrying out human rights impact assessments, ensuring that their supply chain contracts are aligned with the requirements of the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive and the relevant international standards.

The **various companies** they have worked with include the following ones:

L'ORÉAL



Jerónimo
Martins

Members of the NOVA BHRE have also been **supporting the work of NGOs** in the field, including:



global witness

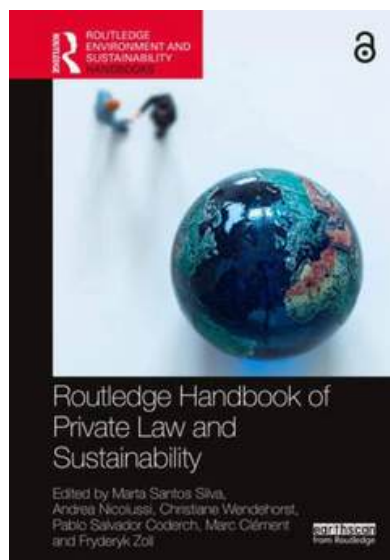


PUBLICATIONS

The publications of the NOVA BHRE include the following:

Scientific articles in internationally recognised journals and book chapters

- Claire Bright, [“The impacts of the French Duty of Vigilance Law on Internal Corporate Practices”](#), co-authored with Luca Tenreira, March 2024, Study for the British Institute of International and Comparative Law, March 2024.
- Claire Bright and Ana Santos Duarte (2024): "🇵🇹 O Compromisso Empresarial com a Sustentabilidade: Desafios e Oportunidades," *Vida Judiciária*, 23-25.
- Laura Íñigo Álvarez (2024): "Responsible business conduct in conflict-affected areas: the notion of heightened human rights due diligence," *Revista Española de Empresas y Derechos Humanos*, 2, 29-45.
- Maria Miguel Oliveira da Silva and Jorge Morais Carvalho (2024): The (Un)Sustainability of the Sale of Goods in Directive (EU) 2019/771. London: Handbook of Private Law and Sustainability, Routledge, 123-139.



Blog Posts

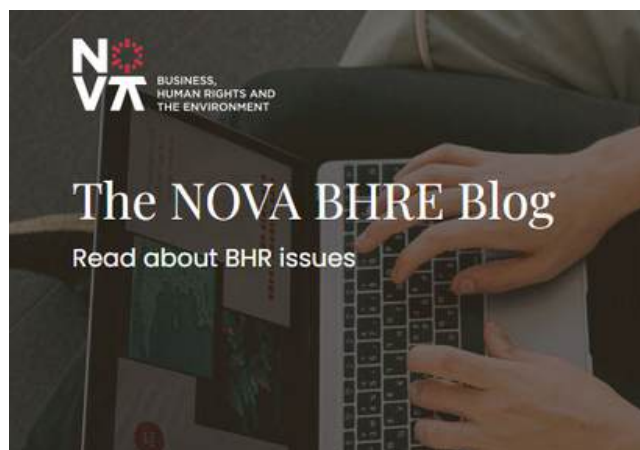
Since its creation, the NOVA BHRE centre has **published a total of 221 posts on its blog**, available online [here](#), which fall into 15 thematic areas. **In 2024, 30 blog posts were published** as follows:

- [“Novo Comentário Geral 26 à Convenção sobre os Direitos da Criança: Os Direitos das Crianças e o Ambiente, com Especial Destaque para as Alterações Climáticas, Apresentado pelo Comité dos Direitos das Crianças”](#) by Odete Severino Soares and Maria Miguel Oliveira da Silva.
- [“Regulación del deber empresarial de respeto de los derechos humanos y del medio ambiente: una oportunidad para latinoamérica”](#) by Gabriela Quijano.
- [“Common rules for the common market – the CSDDD is needed for businesses and human rights”](#) by Michaela Streibelt, Daniel Schönfelder, Claire Bright, Stéphane Brabant, Beata Faracik, Angelica Bonfanti, Carmen Marquez Carrasco, Martijn Scheltema, LisaSzeponik, James Sinclair, Serra Cremer Iyi, Juho Saloranta, Theresa Gigov, Noah Neitzel, Cecilia Barral Diego and Céline Graça Pires.
- [“O Caso Trafigura: A Falha no Dever Corporativo e Estatal de Diligência Devida dos Direitos Humanos”](#) by Miguel Guerreiro and Tiago Kaputo.
- [“Diretiva relativa ao Dever de Diligência das Empresas em matéria de Sustentabilidade: É o fim do início?”](#) by Ana Santos Duarte.
- [“Entreprises, droits humains et environnement : l’Union européenne consacre 25 ans de \(r\)évolution du droit”](#) by Stéphane Brabant, Claire Bright, Luca Tenreira.

- “Proibição de Produtos Fabricados com Trabalho Forçado: due diligence de trabalho forçado como um novo standard?” by Luís Prata e Castro.
- “BHR lawyers and practitioners call for support for the Belgium compromise on the CSDDD”
- “The EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive: Article 22 – Combating Climate Change” by Luiza Rocha.
- “Can the compromised EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive still be effective?” by Nadia Bernaz, Flaviano Bianchini, Claire Bright, Elisa Giuliani and Olena Uvarova.
- “Proactive contracting principles – How to facilitate companies’ human rights due diligence work in global supply chains?” by Juho Saloranta, Anna Hurmerinta-Haanpää.
- “Sustentabilidade empresarial: onde há vontade, há caminho!” by Claire Bright and Ana Santos Duarte.
- “A Comparative Analysis between the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive and the French and German Legislation” by Claire Bright, Céline da Graça Pires, Michaela Streibelt and Daniel Schönfelder.
- “The EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive: Articles 10 and 11” by Luís Prata e Castro.
- “A Green Claims Directive: Reforçar a Verdade no Combate ao Greenwashing” by Luís Prata e Castro, Miguel Guerreiro.

- “Diretiva Relativa ao Dever de Diligência das Empresas em Matéria de Sustentabilidade da UE – Artigo 22: Combate às Mudanças Climáticas” by Luiza Rocha.
- “Nuevo reglamento que prohíbe productos realizados con trabajo forzoso en la Unión Europea: ¿En qué consiste y qué añade a los instrumentos legales existentes?” by Laura Íñigo Álvarez & Daniel Iglesias Márquez.
- “A importância de envolver os profissionais de gestão no cumprimento da responsabilidade das empresas de respeitar os direitos humanos” by Sara Pacheco.
- “Caso G-Star Raw vs Vert: a Contratação e Cessação Responsável como novo dever no âmbito da Responsabilidade Social Corporativa?” by Luís Prata e Castro, Teresa Brito e Faro.
- “Conduta Empresarial Responsável na regulação mineral baseada nas Diretrizes da OCDE: Um estudo comparativo entre Brasil e Austrália” by Amanda De Sales Pereira.
- “An Intersectional Feminist Strategy for Corporate Accountability” by Aintzane Márquez Tejón.
- “The Lafarge Case and Corporate Criminal Responsibility for Terrorism Financing” by Joan Marc Ferrando.
- “Derechos humanos y empresas: análisis de jurisprudencia en el Sistema Interamericano” by Sebastián Smart.

- “Génesis de un litigio estratégico para el acceso a la justicia de víctimas de violencia con armas de fuego en América Latina y el Caribe” by Alfredo Uriel Pérez ManriquezAlfredo Uriel Pérez Manriquez.
- “La Directiva (UE) 2024/1069 sobre demandas estratégicas transfronterizas contra la participación pública (anti-SLAPP)” by Maria Font-Mas.
- “Third-party verification’ in the ‘chain of activities’: opportunities and risks” by Camilla S. Haake and Stephen Rabenlehner.
- “Las condiciones de responsabilidad civil empresarial en la Directiva de diligencia debida en materia de sostenibilidad empresarial” by Nicolas Bueno and Franziska Oehm.
- “La Directiva sobre diligencia debida en materia de sostenibilidad empresarial más allá de Europa: algunas reflexiones” by Humberto Cantú Rivera.
- A reflection on the 4th Annual Conference of the NOVA Centre for Business, Human Rights and the Environment by Ana Santos Duarte.



DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

Podcasts

Currently, **30 episodes** of the NOVA BHRE Podcast **have been recorded, 9 of them in 2024**, which are:

- **Episode 21** - [Salvaguardar o amanhã: Due Diligence, Direitos da Criança e o trabalho da UNICEF Moçambique](#), with Irina Matos (UNICEF Mozambique).
- **Episode 22** - [The Nervsun Ruling and Corporate Liability for Human Rights Adverse Impacts](#), with Errol Mendes (Professor at the University of Ottawa).
- **Episode 23** - [The New EU Forced Labour Regulation](#), with Maria Manuel Leitão Marques Member of The European Parliament, Professor at the University of Coimbra, former Minister of the Presidency and of Administrative Modernization in Portugal and co-rapporteur of the EU Forced Labour Regulation).
- **Episode 24** - [Implementing the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive: Advancing Sustainability in Portuguese SMEs](#) with Bernardo Ivo Cruz (Former Portuguese Secretary of State for International Trade and Foreign Investment).
- **Episode 25** - [Lithium Mining and its Impact on Human Rights and the Environment](#) with Anaïs Tobalagba (Business and Human Rights Consultant and a visiting researcher at the NOVA BHRE), Helle Abelvik-Lawson (business, human rights and environment researcher that holds a PhD in indigenous community participation rights in lithium mining in Argentina and Bolivia) and Catarina Alves Scarrott (Portuguese activist with a special focus on the lithium open-pit mining project in Covas do Barroso and a professor in London).

- **Episode 26** - Ensuring Effective Access to Remedy through Grievance Mechanisms, with Maria Ana Lourenço (NOVA BHRE Research Assistant).
- **Episode 27** - O Papel do Ponto de Contacto Nacional Português para Condutas Empresariais Responsáveis, with Dr. Fernanda Ferreira Dias, Director-General for Economic Activities, and Dr. Carla Sousa Pinto, Director of Corporate Sustainability Services at the Directorate-General for Economic Activities.
- **Episode 29** - Piece-Rate Payment Systems in the Garment and Agricultural Sectors, with Grace Camara and Pallavi Sharma, senior legal advisors at Beyond Human Rights Compliance.
- **Episode 30** - Navigating Corporate HREDD, Exploring Impacts on Sustainable Finance, with Maria Folque (Maria is a social innovation expert and a partner and member of the advisory board of Class of Wonders), Ângela Lucas (Founding Partner, and board member and executive director of the sustainable investment Fund, the LAND Fund), and Rita Rendeiro (Partner at law firm CCSL Advogados, where she heads the finance, regulatory and Sustainability practice).



Podcast

Business, Human Rights and the Environment
NOVA Centre on Business, Human Rights and the Environment

Conferences and Events

The members of the NOVA BHRE centre have presented in various conferences, seminars, webinars and other events, including:

- Claire Bright delivered a presentation jointly with Takoua Tayari from the UNDP as part of a capacity building and awareness raising session to the Tunisian Government for the development of the first on the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights in Tunisia at the at the Tunisian ENA (École Nationale de l'Administration/ National School of Administration) on the 2nd of February 2024.
- [Guest lecture by Claire Bright on the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive](#) organised by the University of Monterrey (UEM) in Mexico, as part of the module taught by Humberto Cantú Rivera on 'The role of the State vis-a-vis corporate sustainability: legislation" on the 26th February 2024.
- [Claire Bright delivered a presentation](#) focusing on the role and responsibility of lawyers in light of the changing landscape on Business and Human Rights in the Themis Seminar on the Social Responsibility of Lawyers in the Global Context organised by the Bocconi University in Milan on the 6-8th of March 2024.
- [Claire Bright delivered an online guest lecture](#) introducing the topic of Business and Human Rights to the students of the Master on Global Economics and Social Affairs of the University Ca' Foscari in Venice on the 12th March 2024.
- The NOVA BHRE presented the preliminary findings of the report co-authored by Claire Bright and Luca Tenreira on the evolution of corporate practices and policies before and after the French Duty of Vigilance Law was introduced at a roundtable on Impacts on human rights due diligence laws on internal corporate practice on the 13th of March 2024.

- SPEED Lunch Seminar with Professor Errol Mendes presenting the topic ‘Moving From Promoting Soft Law Regarding Business and Human Rights in the UN to an Advocate to Hard Law in the Canadian Court’, followed by a discussion from the panel composed of Gianluca Parolin, Anaïs Tobalagba and Claire Bright and Helena Pereira de Melo as the moderator on the 21st March 2024.



- The NOVA BHRE was interviewed by the Portuguese Journal Vida Judiciária on March 2024.
- NOVA BHRE participated in a virtual roundtable on the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive’s Approval organised by Wageningen University in which Claire Bright, Flaviano Bianchini, Elisa Giuliani and Olena Uvarova shared their first reactions on the final text of the CSDDD which was recently approved, in a panel chaired by Nadia Bernaz on 4th April 2024.
- The NOVA BHRE participated in the Screening for Sustainability Expert Workshop in Lund University on the 29th and 30th of April 2024, as Claire Bright delivered the keynote speech.

- On 9th and 10th May the NOVA BHRE participated in the virtual international conference “Responsabilidad y reparación en materia de empresas y derechos humanos: Explorando los caminos hacia el acceso efectivo a la justicia” organised by the Universitat Rovira i Virgili (Tarragona, Spain) under the direction of Daniel Iglesias Márquez and Estrella del Valle Calzada. Céline da Graça Pires presented about the developments and practical challenges of the implementation of the French Duty of Vigilance Law in the first panel on access to justice and reparations through human rights and environmental due diligence. Laura Íñigo Álvarez contributed as member of the Scientific Committee of the Conference and moderated panel 5 on non-judicial remedies for business-related human rights abuses with the participation of Florencia Wegher Osci, Denisse Cufre, Katerina Yannibas and Salvador Herencia Carrasco.
- NOVA BHRE participated at UNIDROIT in Rome in an Exploratory Workshop on Corporate Sustainability in Global Value Chains, discussing how to operationalize contractually human rights and environmental due diligence requirements in global value chains on the 27th and 28th May 2024.



- On 4 June 2024, Anaïs Tobalagba presented on the gender dimension of human rights and environmental due diligence at the conference "[Empresas e Direitos Humanos - Nova Diretiva, Novo Paradigma](#)" organised by the Comissão dos Direitos Humanos of the Ordem dos Advogados Portugueses.
- NOVA BHRE participated in the [Business and Human Rights Summer School](#) at Temple University in Rome between the 17th and the 21st of June as Claire Bright co-delivered a class with Angelica Bonfanti on 'Protecting Human Rights throughout the Value Chain: HRDD-aligned contracts'.
- On 11 July, Anaïs Tobalagba presented on the "[Implications of the CSDDD for the Insurance Sectors](#)" at the event: «2.ª Conferência Internacional do Módulo Jean Monnet sobre Direito dos Seguros da União Europeia: Desafios na era dos ODS»
- Claire Bright participated in the [Webinar "Conduta Empresarial Responsável e Transparência: Responder a Desafios Emergentes"](#) on the 18th July 2024 organised by the Direção-Geral das Atividades Económicas (DGAE) in name of the Portuguese National Contact Point.
- Claire Bright was a member of the [jury panel for the doctoral thesis defense by Kari Otteburn](#) at KU Leuven on the 10th September 2024.



- NOVA BHRE participated in the [Annual BHR Conference of the Global BHR Scholars Association in Wageningen University & Research](#). Claire Bright presented the European Model Contractual Clauses (EMCs) for upholding human rights and environmental standards in global supply chains together with Martijn Scheltema, and Daniel Schönfelder, and our visiting researcher, Anaïs Tobalagba, PhD, presented an insightful article on the gender dimensions of the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive, co-written with our Research Associate Ana Santos Duarte on the 12th and 13th September 2024.
- NOVA BHRE took part in the [Inclusion Talks](#) as part of Inclusion Day at NOVA School of Law, on the 11th November 2024, co-hosted by the NOVA Centre for the Study of Gender, Family, and the Law, the Nova SBE Inclusive Community Forum, and the Nova SBE Leadership for Impact Knowledge Center. Claire Bright chaired an engaging panel on Inclusion in the Private Sector.
- Chiara Macchi, Assistant Professor of Law and Coordinator of Education of the Law Group of Wageningen University, gave a [guest lecture](#) in Claire Bright's Private International Law class at NOVA School of Law on the 12th of November 2024.



- On 25 October Anaïs Tobalagba moderated the panels on "Advancing Women's Rights at the Workplace" and "Global developments on Human Rights Due Diligence" at the event "[Business & Human Rights](#)" organised by the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- On the 2nd of October 2024, Laura Íñigo Álvarez participated as discussant in the online SPEED seminar entitled Access to Remedy for Victims of Transnational Business-Related Human Rights Abuses Through Private Dispute Resolution: A Human Rights-Centred Assessment that was presented by Gustavo Becker, PhD Candidate, University of Amsterdam and University of Luxembourg.
- On the 24th of October 2024, various members of the NOVA BHRE participated at the 2024 edition of 'The Lisbon Climate Conference' which was co-organized by Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Università di Torino, Koç Üniversitesi, and members of the Law Schools Global League. Laura Íñigo Álvarez and Daniel Iglesias Márquez presented their paper Unpacking the Potential of State-Based Grievance Mechanisms in Rights-Based Climate Cases Brought against Corporations: Insights from OECD National Contact Points.
- Claire Bright took part in a round table discussion on the implementation of due diligence across different sectors at the [fourth edition of the ESG Portugal Forum](#) organized by PLMJ, ECO and Capital Verde on the 5th December 2024.



- Claire Bright and Anaïs Tobalagba participated in the workshop titled 'Comparing National Supply Chains Laws for Human Rights: From the UN Guiding Principles to Corporate Practices' at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law (BIICL) on the 12th December 2024.



EVENTS ORGANISED BY THE NOVA BHRE

Over the past year, NOVA BHRE has organised the following events:

- NOVA BHRE received Carla Pinto and Pedro Marques from the Directorate for Corporate Sustainability from the Portuguese Ministry of Economic Activities to talk about their role as the Point OECD National Contact for Portugal as well as their work in the drafting of the Portuguese National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights on the 6th of May 2024.
- NOVA BHRE received Olena Uvarova for a guest lecture on The Corporate Responsibility to Respect Human Rights in Challenging Contexts on the 4th October 2024.
- NOVA BHRE received the Portuguese National Contact Point for Responsible Business Conduct (Directorate-General for Economic Activities (DGAE)) to the Business, Human Rights and Sustainability module coordinated by Claire Bright for a highly interactive and engaging guest lecture on the 8th November 2024.



- The Fourth Annual Conference of the NOVA BHRE – “Unpacking Human Rights and Environmental Due Diligence”, organized by Claire Bright, Ana Duarte, Céline da Graça Pires, Alison Holm, Laura Iñigo Álvarez and Anaïs Tobalagba, in partnership with NOVA SBE as well as NOVA Green Lab and with the support of PLMJ, CEDIS, FCT and the Embassy of Canada to Portugal, on the 19th November 2024.



The **opening session** featured the Dean of NOVA School of Law, Margarida Lima Rego, the Portuguese Secretary of State for the Economy, João Rui Ferreira, the Ambassador of Canada in Portugal, Elise Racicot, the Chair-Rapporteur of the UN Working Group on Enforced or involuntary Disappearances, Aua Baldé, Managing Partner at PLMJ, Bruno Ferreira, and the Founding Director of the NOVA BHRE, Claire Bright.



- **The panels were the following:**
 - a. **Meaningful human rights and environmental commitment**, with the keynote speech of Fernanda Ferreira Dias, General Director of the Portuguese Ministry of Economy.
 - b. **Identifying and prioritizing impacts**, with the keynote speech of Paulo Câmara, Professor of Law at Católica Global School of Law and Partner at Sérvulo & Associados.
 - c. **Taking appropriate measures to address adverse impacts**, with the keynote speech of Caroline Lichuma, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Luxembourg.
 - d. **Tracking and reporting/communicating**, with the keynote speech of Lucila de Almeida, Professor holder of the Abreu Chair in ESG at NOVA School of Law and Director of the NOVA Green Lab.



The **concluding remarks** featured Angus Warren, Chief Executive Officer for Advanced Procurement for Universities and Colleges, Beata Faracik, Business & Human Rights Expert, and Ana Duarte Santos, Lawyer, and Research Associate at the NOVA BHRE.

CONCLUSION

2024 has been a very important year for Corporate Sustainability and the work of the NOVA BHRE has been at the forefront of the legislative developments.

In **2025**, the NOVA BHRE plans to continue its activities and notably work with governments on the transposition of the **Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive** (it will notably provide support to the Belgium Government and is regularly assisting the Portuguese one in this respect).

The NOVA also aims to continue its **awareness-raising in capacity building activities** with individual companies, civil society organizations, governments and other relevant stakeholders to work on the implementation of the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive.

Finally, the NOVA BHRE will also pursue its work strengthening the Europe-Africa collaborations in the field of **Business and Human Rights** and has just won a grant as part of a consortium led by KU Leuven University on the EU-Africa relations in the framework of which it will actively participate in events and capacity building activities on BHR in Africa.



NOVA BHRE

ANNUAL REPORT

2024

