

## Benjamin G  rlach

**MSc (Economics)**

**Head, Economics and Policy Assessment**

**Senior Fellow**

### Team

[Director & Steering Group](#)  
[Research & Policy Analysis](#)

### Topics

[Economics](#)  
[Energy](#)  
[Trade](#)  
[Climate](#)  
[Evaluation](#)  
[Finance](#)  
[Education](#)  
[Industry](#)

Benjamin G  rlach is an environmental economist and Senior Fellow with Ecologic Institute. Most of his work centres on economic instruments in environmental policy and climate mitigation, but also on broader issues of transitioning to a sustainable, climate-neutral economy. At the Ecologic Institute, he coordinates the economics team and is a member of the institute's steering group. A native speaker of German, he is fluent in English and Dutch, has a working knowledge of French and a basic knowledge of Spanish.

One main area of Benjamin G  rlach's work concerns the design, implementation and performance of economic instruments in climate policy. He authored several reports and articles on the design and implementation of economic instruments for climate mitigation and their role in the climate policy instrument mix. Next to environmental tax reform and the removal of environmentally harmful subsidies, Benjamin analysed various aspects of the EU Emissions Trading System and its implementation. This includes the use of [auctions](#) to allocate allowances and [auctioning revenues](#), the issue of [carbon leakage](#) and [ways of avoiding it](#), the [legal nature of EU allowances](#), and the options for [linking emissions trading systems](#). More broadly, Benjamin G  rlach works on [EU climate policy governance](#) that is capable of delivering the necessary transformation to a climate-neutral economy, and on the [role of carbon pricing](#) in this transformation. In this context, from 2012 to 2015, Benjamin coordinated the [CECILIA2050](#) FP7 project, and since 2021 coordinates the Horizon 2020 project [4I-TRACTION](#), which develops policy pathways towards climate neutrality in the EU. In addition, he contributes to the work on EU governance in the BMBF-funded project [ARIADNE](#).

For more than a decade, Benjamin G  rlach has also been engaged in training and capacity building

for emissions trading. Since 2009, Benjamin G  rlach has facilitated the [ICAP Summer Schools and Masterclasses on Emissions Trading](#) for participants from emerging economies and developing countries. In 20 editions of these courses staged in Europe, Asia and Latin America, close to 500 participants have received in-depth training on the design and implementation of emissions trading systems. In addition, Benjamin G  rlach is involved in capacity building for emissions trading, both in the [German bilateral cooperation](#) and in the [EU-China exchange on Emissions Trading](#).

Since 2013, Benjamin G  rlach has been teaching courses on the "Economics of Green Germany" in the [Berlin Summer Program of Duke University](#) and, since 2016, in the [Berlin Summer Program of the University of Notre Dame](#). Since 2017, he has also taught a [winter course on climate and energy offered by the University of Maryland](#).

Some of Benjamin's other work includes the future of the European Union and its significance for climate policy and various aspects of the [transformation to a green economy](#), ranging from [Green Finance](#) and [business-sector initiatives for low-carbon economic development](#) to drivers of a [deep decarbonisation of heavy industries](#). He also conducts economic assessments of environmental policies - including in the fields of soil protection and adaptation to climate change.

□

From 2007 to 2009, Benjamin G  rlach worked at the [German Emissions Trading Authority](#) (DEHSt) at the [Federal Environment Agency](#) (UBA). His work in the economics and statistics divisions included economic analyses to support the further development of the EU ETS. He led an evaluation of the EU ETS and its implementation in Germany, was involved in deriving a benchmark-based system for free allocation of allowances, and conducted analyses of the competitiveness effects of emissions trading in Germany (carbon leakage).

From October 2002 to July 2007, Benjamin G  rlach had worked as an environmental economist with Ecologic Institute. During that time, the main areas of his work were the economic valuation of environmental goods and services, and the quantification of costs and benefits of environmental policies. Areas of his work included economic analysis of the EU Water Framework Directive as well as the economics of soil degradation and flood protection. Before joining Ecologic Institute, Benjamin G  rlach completed internships at the [Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy](#) and the economic division of UBA. In addition, he did freelance work for the [Sustainable Europe Research Institute](#) (SERI).

From 1997 to 2002, Benjamin G  rlach studied economics in Freiburg, Germany, Maastricht, the Netherlands, and Dublin, Ireland. He holds a master  s degree in international economic studies from the University of Maastricht. In 2006, he was awarded a Marshall Memorial Fellowship from the [German Marshall Fund of the United States](#) (GMF).

Read moreRead less

---

**Source URL:** <https://www.ecologic.eu/497>