



cife

NICE BERLIN BRUSSELS ISTANBUL

ACTIVITY REPORT 2024



*Shaping Europe's Future
Through Education*

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Preface

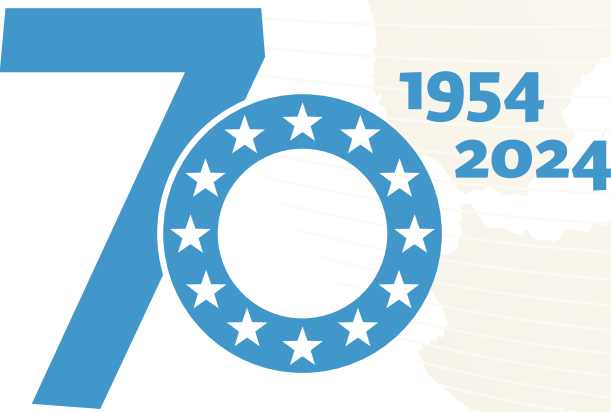
CIFE looks back on a special, historic year, as we celebrated our 70th anniversary in 2024. It was in Autumn 1954 when the French intellectual Alexandre Marc founded the “Centre international de formation européenne”, after the failure of the European Defence Community had caused much frustration among the supporters of European unification. The objective of the newly founded institution was to prepare Europe’s future by educating young citizens espousing the cause of a united continent.

We celebrated our anniversary first with a large alumni reunion in September in Nice, and then with an Anniversary Conference assembling distinguished academic experts, stakeholders, partners and former students, now working in Brussels and other capitals. Our President Herman Van Rompuy and the Director-General for Education, Youth and Sport, Pia Ahrenkilde Hansen, gave us the honour of delivering keynote speeches. We concluded our conference with a famous line from one of the founding fathers of European integration, Jean Monnet: “Nothing is possible without men, nothing is enduring without institutions”.

These words should provide us with a guideline for the coming period: As an educational institution, we have the mission to shape young people who not only master practical skills, but are also able to think for themselves, who acquire values, know our own history and draw conclusions from it. Studying at CIFE is also somewhat a philosophy of life, as all of our students share their year with individuals from other nations and cultures, learning to question themselves, to open up to new ideas and to gain awareness of the complexity of our world. They should go out into the world as value-driven, educated and critical individuals, ready to take up responsibility.

“Nothing is enduring without institutions” – rarely has a sentence been truer than today, at a time when democratic institutions are under pressure and heavily attacked as seldom before. In times like these, institutions must prove their resilience, but they also need our support and commitment. Only in this way can we preserve the achievements that we call ours and that have so far protected us from repeating the mistakes of Europe’s past. Let us remain vigilant before it is too late.

Matthias WAECHTER
Director General CIFE



Matthias Waechter (Director General of CIFE), Herman Van Rompuy (President of CIFE), and Pia Ahrenkilde Hansen (Director-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission) on the and occasion of CIFE’s 70th Anniversary Conference in Brussels

Master in Advanced European and International Studies

Applied European Policy and Governance Studies

NICE CANTERBURY BERLIN

PARTNER INSTITUTION University of Kent, Canterbury, UK

WORKING LANGUAGES English, French, German (optional)

About the Programme

The Applied European Policy and Governance Studies programme of CIFE's Master in Advanced European and International Studies (MAEIS) seeks to address the next generation of European decision-makers and aims to prepare students for professional life in a challenging context. The academic curriculum has been designed to enable students to develop an overarching and all-encompassing understanding of the political, social, economic and cultural challenges of today's world with a particular focus on the European Union.

The Master addresses issues related to developments, processes and policies within the EU. Key topics are the institutional architecture and policymaking, the history of EU integration, core EU policies such as migration, climate and sustainability, the Single Market, and the EU's external relations and neighbourhood policies. The lectures and seminars are supplemented by a significant number of professional skills workshops, for instance on EU policy tracking, negotiation skills and project cycle management. Following the leitmotif "Learning and Living Europe", the students rotate between the three study locations Nice, Canterbury and Berlin.

Teaching Modules

- European Integration and Governance
- EU Policies and Flagship Initiatives
- EU Neighbourhood and External Relations
- The European Economy and Globalisation
- Professional Skills Workshops

Programme Highlights

- Inaugural Lecture by CIFE President Herman Van Rompuy on "Europe in a Dangerous World".
Watch the recording.
- An expert talk on "The Current EU Policy Agenda Under the Spanish Council Presidency" with Ignacio Molina, Senior Fellow at the Elcano Royal Institute
- An EU Council simulation on "The Future of Europe", addressing 1) Re-Designing EU Migration Policy, and 2) Shaping the Enlargement Process
- A study excursion to London on "The United Kingdom and the European Union: Natural Partners in a Turbulent World"
- A one-week study trip to Brussels, Luxembourg and Strasbourg, including visits and briefings at EU institutions and a workshop on Lobbyism and Advocacy followed by a walk through the EU quarter
- A political networking evening in Berlin "Erleben. Teilhaben. Mitgestalten" with CIFE alumni, members of German parliament and representatives from media and civil society
- Visits of several ministries and the Federal Chancellery in Berlin with briefings on Germany's European Policy.

For a more detailed description, read the *Academic Report*.



Master in Advanced European and International Studies

Mediterranean Studies

NICE TUNIS DAKAR ISTANBUL

PARTNER INSTITUTIONS Université Mahmoud El Materi Tunis, Tunisia
Groupe Supdeco Dakar, Senegal
Groupe Supdeco Banjul, Gambia
Istanbul Bilgi University, Istanbul, Turkey

WORKING LANGUAGES English, French

About the Programme

The Mediterranean Studies programme seeks to educate the next generation of Euro-Mediterranean decision-makers and aims to prepare students for professional life in a challenging context. The academic curriculum has been designed to enable students to develop an overarching and all-encompassing understanding of the political, social, economic and cultural challenges of today's world with a particular focus on the Mediterranean region and EU-Mediterranean relations.

The Master addresses the EU as a role model of regional integration, European Neighbourhood Policy, the political transition processes in Southern Mediterranean countries, historical, social and cultural diversity challenging Mediterranean societies, questions of poverty and inequality in a globalised economy, human development and sustainable development challenges, migration issues, conflict management and peacekeeping and risk management.

The lectures and seminars are supplemented by a significant number of professional skills workshops, for instance on intercultural communication, real-time tracking of EU policies, negotiation skills and project cycle management. Following the leitmotif "Learning and Living the Mediterranean", the students change study locations each term, travelling from Nice to Tunis, then to Dakar, before finishing the academic year in Istanbul.

Teaching Modules

- Conflict Management and Peacemaking
- Economics, Sustainable Development, Inequalities and Forms of Poverty
- Regional Integration and Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation
- Mediterranean Societies and Cultures
- Professional Skills Workshops

Programme Highlights

- Inaugural Lecture by CIFE President Herman Van Rompuy on "Europe in a Dangerous World".
Watch the recording.
- An EU Council simulation on "The Future of Europe", addressing 1) Re-Designing EU Migration Policy, and 2) Shaping the Enlargement Process
- Visit to the EU Delegation in Senegal and Meeting with the EU Ambassador in Dakar
- Roundtable organised in cooperation with the EU Delegation in Senegal and Supdeco in Dakar
- Trip to Banjul for a one-week stay with our English-speaking Gambian partner
- Visits to AKOM, the Disaster Coordination Centre of the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, and the representation of the Turkish Red Crescent

For a more detailed description, read the *Academic Report*.



Master in Advanced European and International Studies

European Integration and Global Studies

BERLIN NICE ROME/ISTANBUL

PARTNER INSTITUTIONS European Stability Initiative, Berlin, Germany
Istanbul Bilgi University, Istanbul, Turkey
Luiss Guido Carli, Rome, Italy

WORKING LANGUAGE English

About the Programme

The European Integration and Global Studies programme seeks to educate the next generation of European decision-makers and aims to prepare students for professional life in a challenging context. The academic curriculum is designed in order to enable students to develop an overarching and all-encompassing understanding of internal and external EU policies and to gain a deep understanding of the role of the European Union in an ever more complex and fragmented world.

The Master addresses issues related to how the EU interacts with other global actors in a multipolar international system. Key topics were the history of conflicts in international relations with a regional accent on conflicts in the Middle East and in Ukraine, and a special focus on international regimes and successful interstate cooperation, current challenges for the European Union, the role of the EU in international politics, key European integration problems such as political cooperation, democratic representation, issues of immigration and minorities, and economic coordination. Also part of the curriculum were the driving forces shaping the world economic system, with a special focus on EU economics and sustainable development challenges, and international climate change policy making.

During the third trimester, the programme in Rome focused on the EU and its relationship with the Mediterranean and sub-Saharan African countries, while in Istanbul the focus was on EU relations with Turkey, Central Asia, the Caucasus and Black Sea countries.

The lectures and seminars were supplemented by a significant number of professional skills workshops, for instance on the tracking and analysis of EU law proposals, the drafting of policy papers, intercultural communication, negotiation skills and project cycle management. Following the leitmotif “Learning and living Europe”, the students rotate each term, moving their place of study from Berlin to Nice and then to Rome or Istanbul.

Teaching Modules

- Conflict and Cooperation in the International System
- European Integration and External Action
- Federalism and Multi-Level Governance
- Economic Globalisation and Sustainable Development
- Professional Skills Workshops

Highlights of the Programme

- Inaugural Lecture by CIFE President Herman Van Rompuy on “Europe in a Dangerous World”.
Watch the recording.
- A study trip leading the students to Brussels, Luxembourg and Strasbourg, where they were able to visit the main EU institutions.
- Extracurricular visit of Berlin by bus.

For a more detailed description, read the *Academic Report*.



Master in Global Energy Transition and Governance

Understanding the Complexity of Current Energy Transformations in Europe and Worldwide

NICE BERLIN NICE

WORKING LANGUAGE English

About the Programme

The Master in Global Energy Transition and Governance aims to give a deep understanding of the complexity of the current energy transformations in Europe and worldwide. The programme analyses the links between the different levels of energy governance, from an international to a local level, offering problem-focused learning at the crossroads of theory and practice.

The objective of the Master is to enable the students to comprehend and analyse:

- 1) International energy governance, the various political changes in different states and the numerous conflicts related to resource access and management and supply chain;
- 2) The EU's energy challenges and governance both in terms of fossil and renewable energies;
- 3) The transformations of national energy strategies towards low carbon economies;
- 4) Energy market evolutions;
- 5) Regional and local low-carbon energy strategies;
- 6) The just transition framework in Europe and in the Global South.

These issues are at the crossroads of different disciplines of social sciences: political economics, economics, sociology and geography. They are tackled both from a theoretical and empirical perspective.

Teaching Modules

- International Energy Governance and Conflicts
- Economic Energy Governance and Markets
- Clean Energy Transitions in the European Union
- Cities and Citizens in the Energy Transition Processes
- Project Cycle Management
- Negotiation Skills
- Research Work (Master Thesis)
- Career Coaching and Mentoring Programme

Highlights of the Programme

- Visits to New Energy Forum Feldheim, a village that runs 100% on renewable energies and Welzow, a mining region in Germany
- Visit to Duisburg port to understand the decarbonisation strategy of a key sector and participation in the e.world fair in Essen
- One-week study trip to Brussels with contributions and debates with thirteen energy specialists from the European Commission, European Parliament, private and public sector and advocacy groups. An alumni evening was also organised.
- Simulation of negotiations on the South China Sea conflict with Mark Young, Rational Games
- Visit to the Energy Transition department of the city of Marseille and of the Principality of Monaco
- Visit to ITER in Saint-Paul-lez-Durance

For a more detailed description, read the *Academic Report*.



Joint Master in Global Economic Governance and Public Affairs

Governance for the Common Good

ROME BERLIN NICE

ACADEMIC PARTNER Luiss School of Government, Rome, Italy

CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS European Commission in Brussels
European Investment Bank Academy in Luxembourg
OECD, Paris
Research Institute for Sustainability (RIFS), Potsdam
Swiss Philanthropy Foundation, Geneva
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Bonn
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Bonn
KFW Development Bank, Berlin

WORKING LANGUAGE English

About the Programme

The Master is realised in cooperation with the Luiss School of Government in Rome. The programme is focused on how to assess, manage and enhance private and public institutions' governance with a wide range of economic and digital intelligence tools.

The Master started in Rome under the academic responsibility of the Luiss School of Government with the module **Global Economic Framework and Economic Governance**.

During the term in Berlin, the module of **Sustainable Development, the Way Forward?** was covered. The future of economic governance in the EU was reviewed in the perspective of new ideas to deal with complex long-term issues such as demographic and climate changes. It discussed and assessed the way towards an innovative experience of transnational and interregional governance.

The Nice term was devoted to the **Policy Intelligence** module. Students studied the aspects of enhanced economic governance offered in a digital society and learnt how to transform economic data into policy knowledge.

In the cross-semester **Applied Research** module, students acquired skills in Global Risk Management, Intercultural Communication, Negotiation and the tracking and production of country risk reports in workshops at the crossroads of theory and practice for professional life.

Highlights of the Programme

- Inaugural Lecture by CIFE President Herman Van Rompuy on “Europe in a Dangerous World”.
Watch the recording.
- Case study: Sustainability Science and Policy in cooperation with the Research Institute for Sustainability (RIFS), Potsdam
- Webinar: Russia's Continuing War in Ukraine: Identities in Times of War
- Workshop “Failed States, Weak Institutions and Governance” with expert panellists
- Workshop on “The Circular Economy” with experts from the European Commission
- Workshop on “The OECD and the Global Governance for Sustainable Development” with experts from the OECD

For a more detailed description, read the *Academic Report*.



Joint Master in EU Trade and Climate Diplomacy

Learn to Lead and Represent the EU's New Diplomacy

ROME BERLIN NICE

ACADEMIC PARTNER

Luiss School of Government, Rome, Italy

CONTRIBUTING INSTITUTIONS

European External Action Service, Brussels and Geneva
European Commission in Brussels
Council of the EU's General Secretariat in Brussels
European Investment Bank (EIB), Berlin
OECD, Paris
German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS) in Bonn
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Bonn

WORKING LANGUAGE

English

About the Programme

The Master is realised in cooperation with the Luiss School of Government in Rome. The programme focuses on how to act, reflect and participate in strategic trade and climate policy negotiations between Europe and other geopolitical powers, with a wide range of economic and digital intelligence tools.

The first term of the Master took place in Rome, under the academic responsibility of the Luiss School of Government and focused on the topic of **EU Governance**.

During the term in Berlin about **EU Climate Diplomacy**, critical EU diplomacy and sustainable development relations in the context of the EU Green Deal and the Paris Agreement were reviewed in the perspective of new international bilateral and multilateral investment and trade agreements with complex long-term issues such as common climate, health and biodiversity policy and actions. Students investigated to what extent the EU has a strong political voice and expresses its economic power through its support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Declaration and its political initiatives such as the Green Deal.

In the Nice term about **EU Trade Diplomacy**, students studied new forms of cooperation agreements that increase connectivity and digital networks enabling countries in their policy space to promote renewable energy, safeguard universal coverage of education and healthcare and pursue inclusive development goals. In practical case studies the students experienced the challenges of diplomatic negotiations about data, algorithms and AI within the context of the WTO.

In the cross-semester **Applied Research** module, students attended several specialised courses at the crossroads of theory and practice preparing them for their professional future. In a workshop about "Real-Time Policy Tracking" they learnt to track and analyse EU law proposals, an essential competence to work as a Policy Officer in EU institutions and international organisations.

Highlights of the Programme

- Study trip to the EU institutions in Brussels from 11 to 15 March with visits to the EEAS, the European Council, the Council of the EU, DG Trade, the EU Parliament
- Keynote speech "EU Climate and Trade Diplomacy in the Context of the Green Deal" by Marc Vanheukelen, Former EU Ambassador to the WTO, Former EU Ambassador at Large for Climate Diplomacy, EEAS
- Debate about the EU Elections 2024 "A Year of Truth for the EU and Its Future" with Jim Cloos, Former Director General, General and Institutional Policy, General Secretariat of the Council of the EU
- Workshop on Climate Change and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change with a representative of the UNFCCC
- Workshop on Circular Economy with representatives of the European Commission
- Workshop on "The OECD and the Global Governance for Sustainable Development" with experts from the OECD

For a more detailed description, read the *Academic Report*.



Executive Master in EU Studies

EU Expertise for Professionals

ONLINE, WITH WEEKEND WORKSHOPS IN

BARCELONA, BERLIN, BRUSSELS, BUDAPEST, NICE, ROME, VIENNA

WORKING LANGUAGE English

First Study Year

The Executive Master in EU Studies is a two-year part-time study programme for professionals who want to study while pursuing their careers. It provides structured knowledge of EU fundamentals, focused on key issues for an in-depth understanding and a future-oriented approach to EU integration. Students study in a blended learning format through interactive online courses, moderated fora, webinars, instructional videos, individual guidance and face-to-face workshops in various European cities.

1st term Focus on the fundamentals of European studies with introductions to the Institutional Architecture of the EU, Basics of EU Law and the History of European Integration.

2nd term Compulsory and elective courses on EU Law – Internal Market and Competition, the EU in World Politics, the Economic Dimension of EU Integration and the Political Economy of Energy Transitions.

3rd term Conclusion of the first study year with courses on EU Enlargement – Experiences, Processes, Impact, Sustainable Development in the EU and the European Green Deal, Lobbying and Advocacy in the EU, Justice and Home Affairs – Refugees and Migration in Times of Crisis, and a Simulation of an EU Council Summit for all students.

Second Study Year

As the programme is designed for professionals, it offers a high level of flexibility and the opportunity for choice and specialisation, even more so in the second study year.

Students choose either a research or a professional track in EU Law, Economics or Political Science.

After a common phase of advanced courses in EU Law (The Constitutional Framework of the EU), Economics (The EU Facing Global Economic Challenges) and Political Science (Institutional Evolution of the EU: Drivers and Barriers) and a course on Project Cycle Management and Logical Framework (Approach or Strategic Planning, Implementation and Evaluation of Development Programmes in the EU), students pursue the second phase of their second study year.

The students also benefit from a range of professional skills courses in debating, presenting and public speaking, negotiating, drafting reports, legal memos, policy briefs, economic analyses, and more.

Highlights of the Programme

First Study Year

- Opening workshop in Berlin with a briefing in the Europe department of the German Federal Chancellery
- Workshop in Rome with a meeting with an MP in the Italian Parliament
- Workshop in Budapest with a visit of the Hungarian Parliament and a discussion with young MPs
- Workshop in Brussels with meetings in the European Parliament and a simulation of an EU Council summit

Second Study Year

- Weekend workshop in Vienna with meetings in the Austrian Chancellery and the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs
- Workshop in Berlin with a simulation of the European Court of Justice
- Workshop in Barcelona with a visit of the Parliament of Catalonia
- Workshop in Nice with the closing ceremony



Summer University Programme

ALBANIA CZECH REPUBLIC GEORGIA ROMANIA

Summer University in Albania

Albania on the Pathway Towards the European Union: Preserving the Past while Welcoming the Future

Partner: Faculty of History and Philology, University of Tirana

1 to 7 July 2024

Location: Tirana

Working language: English

The Summer University in Albania was organised in Tirana, in partnership with the Faculty of History and Philology, University of Tirana. The one-week summer course tackled the question of Albania's candidacy to join the EU, with a focus on minority rights, the fight against corruption, democracy and energy cooperation. The programme was completed with cultural visits across Albania.

Black Sea Summer University in Tbilisi, Georgia

Shifting Tides: Exploring Conflicts in the Black Sea Region

Partners: Georgian Institute of Politics (GIP) and New Vision University

14 to 20 July 2024

Location: Tbilisi

Working language: English

This one-week course was devoted to the geopolitics of the Black Sea region, with a focus on Georgia's NATO and EU Integration Process. It addressed Georgia's case in the context of the EU's Neighbourhood Policy, as well as energy, climate and security policies. The course also offered a rich programme of cultural visits in Tbilisi and the surrounding region.

Summer University in Romania

L'Europe en crise : Les conséquences de la crise dans le monde

Partner: Nicolae Titulescu University and Faculty of Political Science, Bucharest

25 to 31 July 2024

Location: Bucharest

Working language: French

As for all CIFE summer programmes, this summer course gathered international and local participants for lectures and debates. It highlighted the challenges of European integration, with a particular focus on questions of migration, the single market and security issues. It also offered a rich cultural programme with visits in Bucharest and the surroundings.

Summer University in Prague

The Russian Aggression Against Ukraine: The Role of Central and Eastern European Countries

Partner: CEVRO Institute

13 to 19 September 2024

Location: Prague

Working language: English

The course focussed on the Russian aggression against Ukraine and its consequences for the European Union, in particular in Central and Eastern Europe. Through several case studies, participants analysed perspectives on the new geopolitics of European integration discussing whether the EU's centre of power is moving East. They also followed courses on Europe's energy crisis triggered by the war in Ukraine. The summer course offered a rich cultural programme of visits in Prague.



Summer University in Albania



Black Sea Summer University in Tbilisi, Georgia



Université d'été de Roumanie



Summer University in Prague

CIFE EU Evening Course

“Kompetenz & Inspiration für Europa”

VIENNA

PARTNER INSTITUTION Akademie für Dialog und Evangelisation, Vienna

WORKING LANGUAGE German

November 2023 to June 2024

About the Programme

The “EU Evening Course” stretches over two semesters and offers weekly evening lectures and debates with experts. It is addressed to students and young professionals and offers basic and enhanced knowledge of recent developments in the European integration process and up-to-date insights into procedures and policy areas, EU Institutions, EU Law and Economics. Part of the programme are also study trips to Brussels and Rome, open EU-talks in Vienna and a study day at the Federal Ministry of European and International Affairs.

Course Highlights

- A study trip to Brussels in December 2023
- An international study day “Inspirationsquellen zur Entwicklung der EU” in January 2024
- Open EU-Talk “Gespaltenes Europa - Zwischen Opportunisten und Hoffnungsstiftern” in January 2024
- A study trip to Rome in May 2024
- Graduation ceremony in Vienna in June 2024



Overseas University Programmes

Summer European Academy

BERLIN BRUSSELS PARIS

PARTNER INSTITUTION Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, USA

WORKING LANGUAGE English

8 to 24 June 2024

About the Programme

The Summer European Academy focused on the topic “EU Politics and Transatlantic Relations in Times of Geopolitical Shifts”. 19 undergraduate students of political science and related disciplines participated in the programme. The group had a diversified programme consisting of academic lectures, visits to national and EU institutions as well as city tours and cultural visits in Berlin, Brussels and Paris.

Through the various debates with high-level officials and EU representatives, students learnt which political, diplomatic and multilateral mechanisms the EU uses to deal with urgent issues such as right-wing populism, the war in Ukraine, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, migration and economic insecurities. One of the highlights for the students were visits to the NATO Headquarters in Brussels and SHAPE, the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, where they gained insights into the military capabilities of NATO and NATO-EU cooperation.

EU–China Summer School

FRANKFURT AM MAIN NONNWEILER BRUSSELS

PARTNER INSTITUTION Yunnan University, Kunming, China

WORKING LANGUAGE English

THEME European Integration and EU-China Relations in Times of Economic and Geopolitical Challenges

15 to 21 July 2024

About the Programme

The EU–China Summer School was organised again in person for the first time since 2019. The aim of the summer school was to provide Chinese students with a solid understanding of European integration, European politics and EU-China relations. 11 postgraduate/undergraduate students from Yunnan University and 1 undergraduate student from Kunming Medical University participated in the programme. The group had a diversified programme consisting of academic lectures, visits to EU institutions as well as city tours and cultural visits in Frankfurt am Main, Nonnweiler and Brussels. A particular highlight for the students was the visit to the Mission of the People’s Republic of China to the EU.



Summer European Academy



EU–China Summer School

EU*Connect

An Interactive Digital Campus for Participants from Ukraine, Moldova and EU Member States

ONLINE

PARTNER INSTITUTIONS Institute for Public Administration and Civil Service (IPACS) of Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv
Young European Federalists of JEF Berlin-Brandenburg
With the support of the Franco-German Youth Office (OFAJ/DFJW)

WORKING LANGUAGE English

October 2024 to March 2025

About the Programme

EU*Connect is an interactive platform to enable the exchange of experiences between young professionals and students from Ukraine, Moldova and EU member states.

EU*Connect has a two-fold objective: To provide EU expertise for young Ukrainians and Moldovans, and to make participants from EU countries aware of the particular challenges of Ukraine in the context of war, its quest for EU accession and reconstruction.

During the 5-month-long programme, participants took part in lectures, training and discussions. Key topics were the fundamentals of the European Union (institutions, decision-making, law), the role of the EU in current conflicts, the process of EU accession and the specific challenges of Ukraine in the context of war and reconstruction.

EU*Connect delivered 100 hours of teaching with a weekly workload of 2 x 3 hours (6 hours total). The courses took place twice a week in the early evening to enable the participants to fit the courses with their professional and academic schedules.

Teaching Modules

- The EU in 2024: Major Historical Steps and Its Institutional Framework
- EU Policies and Legal Framework
- The EU and Its Neighbourhood: Enlargement and Beyond
- Global Security, Conflicts and the EU
- Ukrainian Challenges in the Context of War and EU Integration
- Practical Skills: Designing and Managing an EU project

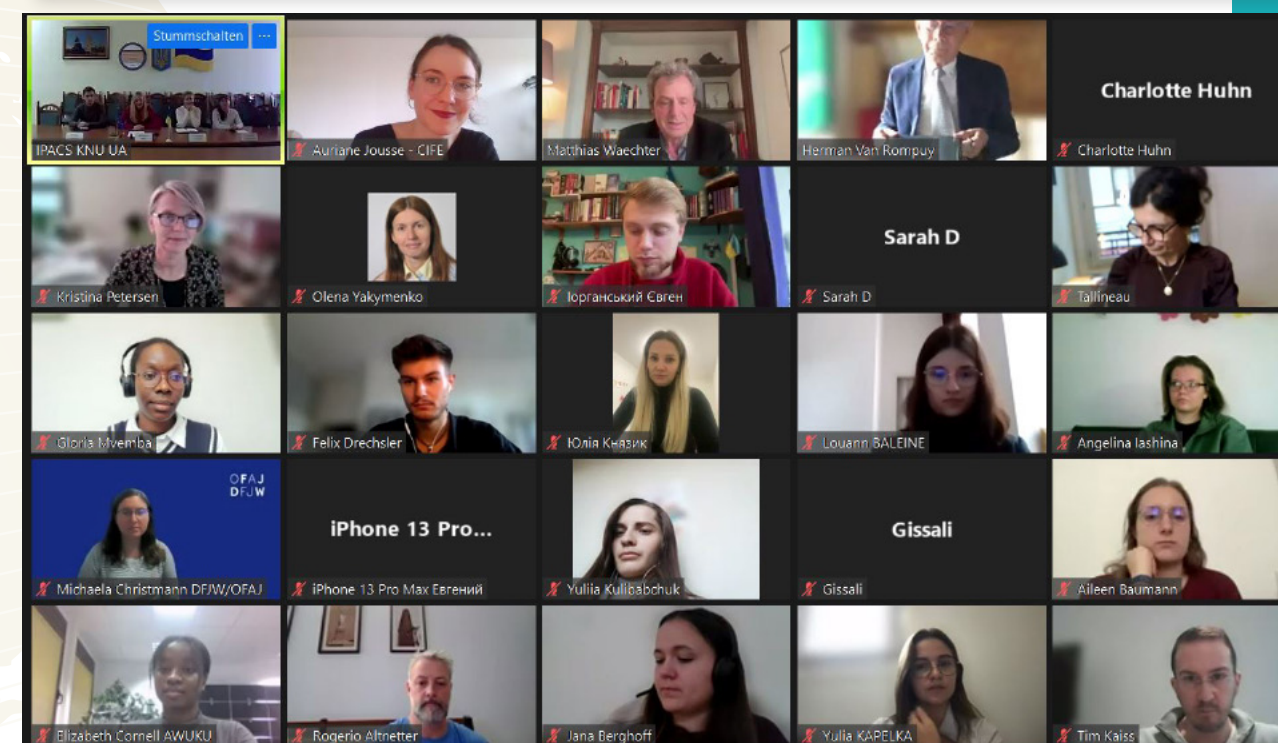
Watch the testimonials of the participants.

EU*connect 2024/25



An Interactive Digital Campus

Testimonials from
Ukraine, Moldova, France and Germany



Wer ist Walter?

A European Research Project about Resistance against Nazism in Europe

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA CROATIA FRANCE GERMANY

PARTNER INSTITUTIONS History Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo
Jasenovac Memorial Site, Croatia
crossborder factory, Berlin, Germany
Funded by the Foundation “Remembrance, Responsibility and Future” (EVZ),
German Federal Ministry of Finance (BMF)

September 2022 to July 2024

About the Programme

The European research project “Wer ist Walter?” focuses on the history and individual stories of resistance against Nazism during World War Two in Europe. “Walter” was the alias of a myth-enshrouded resistance fighter in Sarajevo, whose identity the Nazi occupiers were unable to find out. The question “Wer ist Walter?” is symbolic of the observation that we in Europe often know little to nothing about the history and histories of resistance to Nazism and Nazi occupation during World War Two in other European countries.

Over two years, historians and curators from France, Germany, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina worked together, aiming to contribute to the development of a European memory space. The project intended to strengthen the exchange and knowledge about resistance to Nazism in Europe and how it has been dealt with since 1945. The differences and similarities in the history and memory of resistance to Nazism in Europe has been examined on the basis of four countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, France and Germany.

Furthermore, the project strove to reinforce trans-European networks in historical and political education and research by fostering collaboration among researchers, curators and educational institutions, particularly in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Germany and France. Furthermore, the project aspired to contribute to the integration of the (post-) Yugoslav region into a comprehensive and active part of European cultural memory.

Timeline

- **4 to 5 May 2024, Jasenovac:** 4th workshop with Project Team and Expert Team
- **3 to 5 July 2024, Sarajevo:** 3rd conference, including exhibition opening, launch of the digital portal and presentation of the academic publication

Outputs

All project results were presented at the final conference in July 2024 in Sarajevo, including:

- **Wer ist Walter? International Perspectives on Resistance in Europe during World War II**
Download the publication
A scientific publication on the history of resistance against Nazism, fascism, occupation powers and their collaborating regimes during World War II and on its transmission after/since 1945, especially in exhibitions and museums.
- **Digital Platform**
A multilingual educational digital platform with 100 stories about resistance related to the four countries.
Read the stories
- **Exhibition at the History Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina**
This exhibition at the History Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo deals with the resistance to Nazism, fascism and occupation in Bosnia and Herzegovina / Yugoslavia during World War II, embedded in its European context.



Publications

CIFE Policy Papers

Short Essays on EU and Global Politics

- No. 156 Rachel GUYET** *The EU Electricity Market Reform and the Protection of Consumers: A Move Towards a More Ambitious Approach?*
[Read the article](#)
- No. 157 Aysenur ALMA** *The EU AI Act: State of Play and the Potential for Regulatory Globalisation*
[Read the article](#)
- No. 158 Jean-Claude VÉREZ** *Le défi du vieillissement démographique*
[Read the article](#)
- No. 159 Frédéric LÉPINE** *La question catalane*
[Read the article](#)
- No. 160 Susann HEINECKE-KUHN** *Ukraine on the Way to EU Membership: The Famous 'Long, Rocky Road'*
[Read the article](#)
- No. 161 Ana Catarina SIMÕES** *Nuclear Power: The Comeback of Nuclear Energy in the Global Energy Landscape*
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- No. 162 Arnisa TEPELIJA** *Past Legacies and Future Projections: The Implementation of the Rule of Law in EU Enlargement Policy*
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- No. 163 Christian MANAHL** *A New Era or a Storm in a Tea Pot? South Africa After the ANC Lost Its Parliamentary Majority*
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CIFEpress

Clear. Concise. Current: CIFEpress is a series of short interviews with experts about topical issues of European and international interest.

CIFEpress No. 16

George Tzogopoulos *Navigating the Turbulent Red Sea Waters*

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Clear. Concise. Current.
**Expert Interviews on European
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Conferences and Seminars

CIFE Federalism Workshop: Can Federalism Answer the Big Questions of the 21st Century?

18 and 19 January 2024 in Nice

14 researchers from Europe, Canada, India and Israel explored current federal issues:

- **Theoretical Discussions on Federalism and Federation** dealt with autonomy and sovereignty within a federal structure, the doctrinal foundations of federalism and participatory democracy within a federation.
- **Federalism and Conflict Resolution** addressed conflictual relations within the new multinational states and the ability of federalism to manage these conflicts.
- **Federalism and Resource Distribution** focused on fiscal federalism and the dynamics of federal systems for the distribution and use of resources.

Third and Final Conference of the “Wer ist Walter?” Project

3 to 5 July 2024 in Sarajevo

The final conference of the “Wer ist Walter?” project concluded a two-year transnational initiative focused on antifascist resistance during World War II. The event began with the opening of a new permanent exhibition at the History Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina: “Wer ist Walter? Topography of Antifascist Resistance in Bosnia and Herzegovina 1941–1945.” In parallel, posters on resistance created by students from design schools in Berlin, Paris, Sarajevo and Zagreb were exhibited in the museum.

The conference included discussions on how resistance is represented in museums and memorials and presented two other major outcomes: a digital platform that features 100 short stories of resistance across Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, France and Germany and a scholarly edited volume with 32 contributions offering international and interdisciplinary perspectives on resistance and its legacy.

70th Anniversary Conference in Brussels: Shaping Europe’s Future Through Education

21 November 2024 in Brussels

On the occasion of CIFE’s 70th anniversary, an academic conference on “Shaping Europe’s Future Through Education” was held in Brussels. Read more on page 34 to 37.

Energy Forum 2024: Transition énergétique et rénovation

28 and 29 November 2024 in Nice

Local authorities, cities, metropolitan areas, departments and regions are striving to combine innovation, transformation, adaptation and creation in projects that reconcile environmental protection and the fight against climate change with respect for free enterprise, which is essential for economic development.

The Energy Forum offered a new and innovative format in 2024, combining conferences, demonstration shows, exhibitions and debates around the players involved in energy policy: decision-makers, town planners, architects, developers and financiers.

[Read the Report](#)



CIFE Federalism Workshop



“Wer ist Walter?” Conference



Energy Forum 2024: Transition énergétique et rénovation

International Youth Programmes

Friendship between Enemies – One Film, Three Perspectives

PARTNER INSTITUTIONS Du coin de l'œil - Paris, France
Zavod Kinokašča / Cinemattic – Nova Gorica, Slovenia
With the support of the Franco-German Youth Office (OFAJ/DFJW)

LOCATION AND DATES 14 to 20 July 2024 in Berlin, Germany
25 August to 1 September 2024 in Issoudun, France

The workshop brought together 17 young people from France, Germany and Slovenia to make 3 short films together in transnational teams. The teams wrote the script and the dialogues during the workshop in Berlin.

The objective of the programme is to make three short films with the selected participants on the topic “Friendship between Enemies”. Together, we imagined and wrote a story and developed it through three different perspectives (for example through three different characters...).

The aim is to rediscover and imagine together a story linked to political violence and war that have shaken our world in the past, with participants from different countries and three different origins. How can we tell a fractured past in a manner that fosters unity? Amidst the horrors of war, are there instances of solidarity between people from the opposing sides to be found? We aim to explore private memories and local histories to find examples of this unique form of bravery often overlooked by purveyors of hatred.

The second meeting organised by our French partner Du coin de l'œil took place in Issoudun. The third and final one will take place in 2025 in Nova Gorica, which will be one of the European Capitals of Culture 2025.



Celebrating 70 Years of CIFE



Shaping Europe's Future Through Education

CIFE was born out of a crisis of European integration: in 1954, the European Defence Community (EDC) failed – a project many advocates of the European cause had set high hopes for. For the founders of CIFE, a new approach had to be taken to pursue the goal of a unified Europe: educating European citizens to make them embrace this ideal and further it in their professional lives. With this objective in mind, CIFE was founded.

70 years later, we live in very different Europe. However, many of the questions which were important for the founding generation remain valid today. We still do not have a common European defence and the return of war to the European continent since the Russian attack on Ukraine makes us now more aware of its importance than ever. We also still do not have a fully integrated European political community. CIFE has changed too – it has evolved into a European institute of higher education receiving close to 200 graduate students each year, a growth we can be proud of. However, the mission of our founders remains as valid today as it was 70 years ago: Shaping Europe's Future Through Education.

Watch the video celebrating CIFE's 70th anniversary.



CIFE founder Alexandre Marc and participants of the Collège d'Aoste in 1965



Celebrating 70 years of CIFE: International Alumni meeting in Nice, September 2024

International CIFE Alumni Meeting

LOCATION AND DATES 20 to 22 September 2024 in Nice

The tenth edition of the International CIFE Alumni Meetings coincided with CIFE's 70th anniversary celebrations and united over 130 former students of CIFE's various Master and short programmes in Nice.

Highlights of the Alumni weekend

- Welcome aperitif and retrospective of CIFE's history
- Visit of the Musée national Picasso in Vallauris on the International Day of Peace and Provençal style picnic
- Round table on Peace and Multilateralism with four CIFE Alumni, Luise Druke, Tanya Lyubimova, Hartmut Marhold and George Tzogopoulos, moderated by Tobias Bütow, Secretary General of OFAJ/DFJW
- Rooftop dinner



70th Anniversary Conference in Brussels: Shaping Europe's Future Through Education

LOCATION AND DATES 21 November 2024 in Brussels

“Rien n'est possible sans les hommes, rien n'est durable sans les institutions.” Jean Monnet

To celebrate CIFE's 70th anniversary, CIFE staff, members of the board, distinguished academic experts, stakeholders, partners and former students gathered in Brussels for a conference on “Shaping Europe's Future Through Education”.

Watch the highlights of the conference.



Keynote Speeches

Herman VAN ROMPUY President Emeritus of the European Council, President of CIFE

Watch the video

Pia AHRENKILDE HANSEN Director-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission

Watch the video

Oksana DIAKUN Deputy Head of the Mission of Ukraine to the EU

Watch the video

Roundtables

1. The Future of European Policy for Higher Education

■ Introduction by **Vanessa DEBIAIS-SAINTON**
Head of Unit Higher Education, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission

■ Panelists:

Cristian BADESCU

Ambassador of Romania to the Kingdom of Norway

Luisa BUNESCU Higher Education Specialist, Directorate-General for International Partnerships, European Commission

Tobias BÜTOW Secretary General, Franco-German Youth Office (OFAJ/DFJW)

Anna-Lena CLAEYS-KULIK Deputy Director for Policy Coordination and Foresight, European University Association (EUA)

■ Moderator:

Susann HEINECKE-KUHN Programme Director, MAEIS Master - Applied European Policy and Governance Studies, CIFE



2. Teaching and Transmitting European Integration Today

■ Introduction by **Wolfgang WESSELS**

Jean Monnet Chair ad personam, Centre for Turkey and European Studies (CETEUS), University of Cologne

■ Panelists:

María CASADO GARCÍA-HIRSCHFELD Lawyer, Director of the National Distance Education University (UNED) Centre in Brussels

Anna DIMITROVA Full Professor of International Affairs at ESSCA School of Management, Paris

Luca KADAR Head of Division of Global Communications, International Cultural Relations and Public Diplomacy, European External Action Service (EEAS)

Marco ONGARO Director of the European Institute for Public Administration (EIPA), Maastricht

Jean-Philipp RAGEADE Director of the European Law Academy (ERA), Trier

■ Moderator:

Paul CULLEY EU Policy Advisor, Tutor and Trainer, Former Director in the Private Office of the EU Council's Secretary General



3. The Evolution of CIFE from the 1950s until Today

■ Introduction by **Catherine ALLAIRE PREVITI** Archivist, Historical Archives of the European Union, European University Institute, Florence

■ Panelists:

Hartmut MARHOLD Honorary Professor, University of Cologne, Former Director General of CIFE

Ryszard PIASECKI Full Professor in Economics, University of Lodz, Former Ambassador of Poland to the Republic of Chile

■ Moderator:

Frédéric LÉPINE Deputy Director General and Chief Editor of “L'Europe en formation”, CIFE

4. The Future of CIFE: New Geographical Areas, Classical Topics Revisited

■ Panelists:

Rachel GUYET Programme Director, Master in Global Energy Transition and Governance, CIFE

Arnaud LECONTE Programme Director of the Joint Master programmes GEGPA, EUDIPLO and EUCULTURE, CIFE

Frédéric LÉPINE Deputy Director General and Chief Editor of “L'Europe en formation”, CIFE

Jean-Claude VÉREZ Associate Professor at the University of Artois, Programme Director, MAEIS Master – Mediterranean Studies, CIFE

■ Moderator:

Laurent BAECHLER Programme Director, MAEIS Master – European Integration and Global Studies, CIFE

Concluding Remarks by **Matthias WAECHTER** Director General of CIFE



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