



NICE BERLIN BRUSSELS ISTANBUL

ACTIVITY REPORT 2025



*Shaping Europe's Future
Through Education*

Contents

Preface	3
Master in Advanced European and International Studies	
Applied European Policy and Governance Studies	4
Mediterranean Studies	6
European Integration and Global Studies	8
Master in Global Energy Transition and Governance	10
Joint Master in Global Economic Governance and Public Affairs	12
Joint Master in EU Trade and Climate Diplomacy	14
Joint Master in European Cultural Governance	16
Executive Master in EU Studies	18
Summer University Programme	22
CIFE EU Evening Course	24
Overseas University Programmes	26
EU*Connect	28
Publications	30
Conferences and Seminars	32
International Youth Programmes	34
International CIFE Alumni Meeting	36
Where CIFE Graduates Work	38
CIFE Students 2024/25	39

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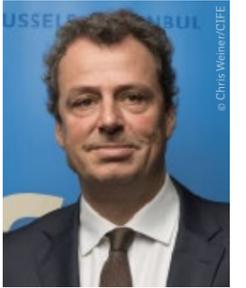
Preface

“I have always thought that Europe would be made in crises, and would be the sum of the solutions we would bring to these crises,” wrote Jean Monnet, the founding father of European integration, in his memoirs. Hardly any other of his statements could be as pertinent today as this one. The geopolitical landscape is increasingly shaped by acute crises, conflict, power politics and war. The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine has been going on for more than four years. While the war in Gaza was brought to a precarious ceasefire in 2025, the Middle East is now facing what is its worst security crisis since the beginning of the millennium. International trade has been turned from a means of cooperation into a tool of ruthless power politics.

The European Union is often criticised for not showing enough unity and decisiveness to steer through the rough sea of current geopolitics. Indeed, it is easy to expose the remaining weaknesses of the Union, but it is much more worthwhile to appreciate the path we have made since February 2022. Rarely before have there been so many efforts to build a common European defence as in the last four years. Rarely has the European Union shown so much unity than in standing up to the recent attempt of US President Trump to annex Greenland. Increasingly, awareness is growing that the security of our continent is our own responsibility; a consciousness which will lead to a genuine “we-feeling” among Europeans.

CIFE is accompanying these intriguing events not only as a critical observer, but as an educational institution, which contributes to the progressive building of a European identity, by giving each year more and more students the possibility not only to learn about European integration, but to experience it as a way of life. European cultural heritage is an essential part of this experience, and we take pride in having launched a new “Joint Master in European Cultural Governance”, receiving its first students in 2024/25 from eight different countries and four continents. Not only is CIFE growing every year, but it is also continuously expanding its academic offer.

Matthias WAECHTER
Director General of CIFE



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 EU Council simulation on "A New Refugee Policy for the European Union", addressing 1) The Process of Applications, and 2) Accommodation and Care
- A study excursion to London on "The UK and the EU: A New Way Forward?"
- 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
- An expert briefing and discussion at the Konrad Adenauer Foundation on "A New Era of Shaping Migration in Germany and Europe?"
- A visit and briefing at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Berlin on "The Priorities of the Polish EU Council Presidency"
- Visits to several ministries and the Federal Chancellery in Berlin with briefings on Germany's European Policy.

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



Second Term in Canterbury



Study Trip to the European Parliament in Strasbourg



EU Council Simulation in Nice



Visit to the Embassy of Poland in Berlin

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, Türkiye

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 and Banjul, 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 "A New Refugee Policy for the European Union", addressing 1) The Process of Applications, and 2) Accommodation and Care
- Visit to the French Embassy in Tunisia and Meeting with the French Ambassador in Tunisia
- Visit to the EU Delegation in Senegal and Meeting with the EU Ambassador in Dakar
- Visit to the EU Delegation in Gambia and Meeting with the EU Ambassador in Banjul
- Trip to Banjul for a one-week stay with our English-speaking Gambian partner.

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



First Term in Nice



Visit to the Medina in Tunis



Meeting with the EU Ambassador in Dakar



Graduation in Istanbul

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, Türkiye
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 following: the history of conflicts in international relations with a regional accent on conflicts in the Middle East and in Ukraine; 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 democratic representation, issues of immigration and minorities, and economic coordination; federalism as a tool for political integration and peacemaking; sustainable development challenges.

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 Türkiye, 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 one-week study trip to Brussels, Luxembourg and Strasbourg, including visits and briefings at EU institutions
- A visit to the National Council of Monaco
- A visit to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome
- A guided tour of Berlin

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



First Term in Berlin



Visit to the FAO in Rome



Study Trip to the European Council in Brussels



Visit to the National Council of Monaco

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 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
- Study trip to the Ruhr region: participation in the e.world fair in Essen, the most important energy fair in Europe, a visit about "Coal and Miners" at Zeche Zollverein and a talk with ICM Bottrop on the city's transition strategy
- One-week study trip to Brussels with contributions and debates with twenty energy experts 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 the nuclear power plant in Tricastin and the gas plant in Martigues operated by EDF.

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



First and Third Terms in Nice



Study Trip to Brussels



Study Visit to Essen



Field Trip to EDF in Martigues

Joint Master in Global Economic Governance and Public Affairs

Governance for the Common Good

ROME BERLIN NICE

ACADEMIC PARTNER Luiss School of Government, Rome

CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS DG Environment, European Commission, Brussels
European Investment Bank Academy, 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
German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS), Bonn
Transparency International France, Paris

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 path 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

- Study trip to the United Nations institutions in Bonn with visits to the United Nations Campus and the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS)
- Case Study: "Concept, Implication and Management of Polycrises" in cooperation with the Research Institute for Sustainability (RIFS), Potsdam
- Keynote Speech: "AI and the Future of the Labour Market" by CEP Head of Digitalisation and New Technology Anselm Küsters
- Workshop: "Failed States, Weak Institutions and Governance" with expert panellists
- Workshop: "The United Nations' Role in Sustainable Development and the Science and Policy Nexus" with experts from the United Nations Conventions (UNCCD and UNFCCC)
- Workshop: "Talent Management and the Role of the OECD in Informal Governance at the G7/G20" with experts from the OECD
- Students' participation in the United Nations Ocean Conference in Nice in June 2025.

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



Visit of Nice



Study Trip to the UN Campus in Bonn



Opening of the Second Term in Berlin



First Term at Luiss School of Government in Rome

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

CONTRIBUTING INSTITUTIONS

European External Action Service, Brussels and Geneva
DG TRADE, DG ENV, DG RTD Research and Innovation, DG CLIMA,
European Commission, Brussels
Council of the EU's General Secretariat, Brussels
European Investment Bank (EIB), Berlin
OECD, Paris
Centre for European Policy (CEP), Berlin
Ecologic Institute, Berlin

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 practical case studies, the students experienced the challenges of diplomatic and multilateral negotiations on climate and biodiversity in the context of the COPs.

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 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 on "Real-Time Policy Tracking", they learnt to track and analyse EU law proposals, an essential skill for working as a Policy Officer in EU institutions and international organisations.

Highlights of the Programme

- Study trip to the EU institutions in Brussels with visits to the EEAS, the European Council, the Council of the EU, DG TRADE and the European Parliament
- Climate Fresk based on the IPCC scientific data about climate change and biodiversity losses
- Keynote Speech: "Key Opportunities and Challenges for EU Trade Policy" by Sebastian Kurpas, Team Lead, DG TRADE at the European Commission
- Negotiation Simulation: "Building a New Agreement on Climate and Biodiversity Action and Equity: Political Simulation of a Paradigm Shift" with French and Brazilian Climate Diplomats
- Workshop: "Circular Economy" with representatives from the European Commission
- Workshop: "Talent Management and the Role of the OECD in Informal Governance at the G7/G20" with experts from the OECD
- Students' participation in the United Nations Ocean Conference in Nice in June 2025.

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



First Term at Luiss School of Government in Rome



Study Trip to the European Parliament in Brussels



Second Term in Berlin



Visit of Nice

Joint Master in European Cultural Governance

Engaging with Our Cultural Heritage to Shape Sustainable Policies

ROME BERLIN NICE

ACADEMIC PARTNER

Luiss School of Government, Rome

CONTRIBUTING INSTITUTIONS

DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission, Brussels
Fondazione Roffredo Caetani, Rome
Italian Association of Historic Houses, Rome
Musée du Quai Branly – Jacques Chirac, Paris
OECD, Paris
Palais de Chaillot, Paris
Regional Directorate of Cultural Affairs of Île-de-France, French Ministry of Culture, Paris
UNESCO – World Heritage Mission Nice
Biennale des Arts et de l’Océan, Nice

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 providing the necessary analytical and policy skills through evidence-based studies and practical project work in three major topics: European Cultural Heritage, Global Sustainable Development and the Digital Transition in Cultural Governance.

The Master started in Rome under the academic responsibility of the Luiss School of Government with the module **Governance of Cultural Policies**.

During the term in Berlin, the module of **Central and Eastern European Culture and Sustainable Development** was covered with a particular focus on the cultural actors’ practices and institutional policies to achieve the ambitious objectives of the green transformation of our society towards sustainable development.

The Nice term was devoted to the **Western European Culture and the Digital Transition** module. Students studied new forms of multicultural cooperation and experimentations using AI and digital technology to increase cultural exchange and network. They learnt how to create a vibrant policy space to promote cultural creations and safeguard universal heritage.

In the cross-semester **Applied Research** module, students acquired skills in cultural management and funding, intercultural communication, mediation and the production of cultural policy reports in workshops at the crossroads of theory and practice for professional life.

Highlights of the Programme

- Study trip to cultural institutions and landmarks in Paris, with visits to UNESCO, Musée du Quai Branly – Jacques Chirac, Notre Dame de Paris, French Ministry of Culture and Palais de Chaillot
- Keynote Speech on the Curation of the “Nice Biennale des Arts et de l’Océan” in the Framework of the United Nations Ocean Conference by Hélène Guenin, Co-Head Curator of the Biennale of Arts in Nice
- Case Study: “Cultural Public Policy and Sustainability: Implementing the Ecological Transition of Culture” with an expert from the French Ministry of Culture
- Visit and lecture on “The Reconstruction of the Notre Dame de Paris” with expert panellists from the French Ministry of Culture
- Visits and comparative workshops on “How to Work in a Multicultural World” at the Humboldt Forum in Berlin and the Musée du Quai Branly – Jacques Chirac in Paris
- Students’ participation in the United Nations Ocean Conference in Nice and the Nice Biennale des Arts et de l’Océan in June 2025

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



Visit to Bvlgari Hotel in Rome



Visit to the Berlinale Film Festival



Visit to the Villa Arson in Nice



Study Trip to Paris

Executive Master in EU Studies – First Year

EU Expertise for Professionals

ONLINE, WITH WEEKEND WORKSHOPS IN

BERLIN, ROME, BUDAPEST, BRUSSELS

WORKING LANGUAGE English

About the Programme

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. The programme has a blended learning approach, with interactive online courses, moderated fora, webinars, instructional videos, individual guidance and face-to-face workshops every 3 months in various European cities.

First Study Year

The first year offers a mix of compulsory and elective courses, providing students with an overview of topical issues of the EU.

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.

Throughout the first study year, the course Fundamentals of Scientific Work guides students in their academic writing skills.

Highlights of the First Study Year

- Opening workshop in Berlin with a historical guided tour of Berlin and a visit to the German Parliament
- Workshop in Rome with a meeting with an MP in the Italian Parliament
- Workshop in Budapest with a visit to the Hungarian Parliament and a discussion with an MP
- Workshop in Brussels with meetings at the European Parliament and a simulation of an EU Council summit



Executive Master in EU Studies – Second Year

EU Expertise for Professionals

ONLINE, WITH WEEKEND WORKSHOPS IN

VIENNA, BERLIN, BARCELONA, NICE

WORKING LANGUAGE English

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.

The interdisciplinary approach of the study programme was enhanced with lectures, discussions and debates on topical issues from an economic, law and political science perspective on core EU values, resilience, the strategic economy of the EU and migration.

Highlights of the Second Study Year

- Weekend workshop in Vienna with meetings at the Austrian Chancellery
- Workshop in Berlin with a simulation of the Court of Justice of the EU and a debating society exercise
- Workshop in Barcelona with a visit to the Parliament of Catalonia
- Workshop in Nice with the closing ceremony



Weekend Workshop in Vienna



Court of Justice of the EU Simulation in Berlin



Visit to the Catalan Parliament in Barcelona



Closing Ceremony in Nice

Summer University Programme

ALBANIA CZECH REPUBLIC ROMANIA

Summer University in Albania

Albania: From Its Cultural Heritage to the Accession Process

Partner: EPOKA University Tirana, AMAD

2 to 8 July 2025

Location: Tirana

Working language: English

The Summer University in Albania was organised in Tirana, in partnership with EPOKA University in Tirana and the association AMAD. The one-week summer course tackled the question of Albania's candidacy to join the EU, with a focus on youth, security, democracy and monetary policies. The programme was completed with cultural visits across Albania.

Summer University in Prague

Current Conflicts in the World Today

Partner: CEVRO University

14 to 20 July 2025

Location: Prague

Working language: English

The course focused on ongoing conflicts around the world and geopolitical tensions. Courses analysed the role of the US, the EU and NATO in conflicts such as Ukraine, the Middle East and Azerbaijan-Armenia. The summer course also offered a rich cultural programme of visits in Prague.

Summer University in Romania

Les défis du monde actuel : gouvernance, environnement, société, intelligence artificielle

Partner: Nicolae Titulescu University, Faculty of Political Science, Academy of Economic Studies, Bucharest

27 July to 2 August 2025

Location: Bucharest

Working language: French

As for all CIFE summer programmes, this summer course gathered international and local participants for lectures and debates. It focused on multiple issues, such as democracy, environmental protection, sustainable development, AI and innovations. It also offered a rich cultural programme with visits in Bucharest and the surroundings.



Summer University in Albania



Summer University in Prague



Summer University in Romania

CIFE EU Evening Course

“Kompetenz & Inspiration für Europa”

VIENNA

PARTNER INSTITUTION Akademie für Dialog und Evangelisation, Vienna

WORKING LANGUAGE German

November 2024 to June 2025

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. Integral parts of the programme are 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 February 2025
- An international study day on European and global challenges (“Europäische und globale Herausforderungen: multidimensionale Krisen unserer Zeit”) in March 2025
- Open EU Talks on Austria’s 30th anniversary of EU membership (“30 Jahre Mitgliedschaft Österreichs in der EU”) in January 2025 and Sovereign, democratic Europe and its enemies (“Robert Menasse: Die Welt von morgen. Das souveräne, demokratische Europa und seine Feinde”) in March 2025
- A study trip to Rome in May 2025
- Graduation ceremony in Vienna in June 2025



Study Trip to the European Commission in Brussels



Open EU Talk on the 30th Anniversary of Austria’s EU Membership



Final Ceremony

Overseas University Programmes

Summer European Academy

BERLIN BRUSSELS PARIS

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

WORKING LANGUAGE English

17 May to 4 June 2025

About the Programme

The Summer European Academy focused on the topic “EU Politics and Transatlantic Relations in Times of Geopolitical Shifts”. 20 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 Israeli-Palestinian conflict, artificial intelligence and climate change. Some of the highlights for the students were visits to the NATO headquarters in Brussels, where they gained insights into the military capabilities of NATO and NATO-EU cooperation, and a dinner cruise on the River Seine to discover Paris by night.



Summer European Academy

EU-China Summer School

FRANKFURT AM MAIN NONNWEILER BRUSSELS LUXEMBOURG TRIER

PARTNER INSTITUTION Yunnan University, Kunming, China

WORKING LANGUAGE English

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

14 to 23 July 2025

About the Programme

The EU-China Summer School was organised with the aim to provide Chinese students with a solid understanding of European integration, European politics and EU-China relations. 15 graduate and undergraduate students from Yunnan 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, Brussels, Luxembourg and Trier. Apart from its itinerant nature with different locations almost every day, a particular highlight for the students was the visit to the Karl Marx Museum in Trier.



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 2025 to April 2026

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 6-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 6 hours. The courses took place twice a week in the early evening to enable the participants to fit the courses around their professional and academic schedules.

Teaching Modules

- The EU Today: 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

Read the testimonials of the participants.

EU*connect 25/26

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



Publications

CIFE Policy Papers

Short Essays on EU and Global Politics

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Conferences and Seminars

Organised by CIFE

Round Table on the Occasion of the 10th Anniversary of CIFE's Master in Mediterranean Studies: "L'enjeu migratoire au sein des espaces européen, méditerranéen et africain : une approche constructive"

18 November 2025 in Nice

The round table approached the issue of migration from different regional viewpoints. It tackled the human dimension of migration, the impact of demographic challenges on migration in the Mediterranean region from an economist's standpoint, the EU's vision of migration from a historical perspective and the challenges facing Tunisia in light of the brain drain phenomenon.

[Watch the video](#)



Round Table: 10th Anniversary of Mediterranean Studies Programme

Tribute to Raimondo Cagiano de Azevedo and Vlad Constantinesco

21 November 2025 in Brussels

CIFE paid tribute to Raimondo Cagiano de Azevedo, Professor Emeritus at La Sapienza University in Rome, and Vlad Constantinesco, Professor Emeritus at the University of Strasbourg, both of whom passed away in 2025. During the tribute, academic speakers presented the contributions of the deceased to European integration.

Energy Forum 2025: "BTP et aménagement dans le nouveau contexte de l'intelligence artificielle et de la transition énergétique"

8 and 9 December 2025 in Nice

What is the impact of artificial intelligence in the field of energy transition and regional and urban planning? The conference highlighted the impact of AI on urban planning for decision-makers such as national, local and EU institutions, architects and developers, as well as the building sector.

[Watch the video](#)



Houjarray Foresight Talks

Organised in Partnership with CIFE

Houjarray Foresight Talks: "Innovation, Power and Diplomacy in an Era of Multiple and Permanent Crises"

13 September 2025 at the Maison Jean Monnet in Bazoches-sur-Guyonne

CIFE was a contributing partner for these discussions on innovation, power and democracy, which culminated in the Houjarray Declaration, setting forward propositions for stronger citizen engagement, European strategic autonomy and defence, and united action for climate resilience.



Energy Forum 2025

Mediterranean Youth Academy (MYA) 4th Edition

13 to 17 November 2025 in Nice

Young professionals and students from around the Mediterranean engaged in discussions about Climate Action & Youth, Gender Equity & Transformation and Youth Employment & Entrepreneurship. The MYA was organised by the Mediterranean Youth Foundation - MYF in cooperation with CIFE, the Anna Lindh Foundation, Interreg NEXT MED Programme and WeBalkans – The Young European Ambassadors (YEA).

25th Anniversary of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union

5 and 6 December 2025 in Nice

This event included high-level discussions on the history and status of the Charter signed in Nice in 2000, as well as the protection of fundamental rights in Europe today. Organised by the European Movement, CIFE was a partner of the event and hosted the second day of talks.



Mediterranean Youth Academy

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 31 August to 7 September 2025 in Nova Gorica, Slovenia

The objective of the programme was to make three short films with the selected participants on the topic "Friendship Between Enemies". Together, a story was imagined, written and developed through three different perspectives (for example, through three different characters).

The aim was to rediscover and imagine together a story linked to political violence and war that has 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? The goal was to explore private memories and local histories to find examples of this unique form of bravery often overlooked by purveyors of hatred.

The workshop brought together 16 young people from France, Germany and Slovenia to make 3 short films together in transnational teams. The first two meetings took place in Berlin and Issoudun, France in 2024. During the third meeting in the borderless 2025 European Capital of Culture Nova Gorica, the teams worked on the archive material they gathered in Issoudun, completed the script and recorded the voice over. One part of the group also worked on the animation.

Each meeting was organised by our French partner Du coin de l'œil and Zavod Kinokašča in cooperation with the Academy of Art of Nova Gorica and ciclic Centre-Val de Loire. The project was supported by the Franco-German Youth Office (OFAJ/DFJW).

[Watch the video](#)



Friendship Between Enemies Workshop in Nova Gorica

International CIFE Alumni Meeting

LOCATION AND DATES 26 to 28 September 2025 in Istanbul

The eleventh edition of the International CIFE Alumni Meetings united over 50 former students of CIFE's various Master and short programmes gathering in Istanbul for a weekend of catch-ups and networking.

Highlights of the Alumni Weekend

- Welcome reception and musical performance by CIFE Alumna Su Sonia Herring
- Ceramics workshop organised by Cini Project
- Guided tour of the city "In the Footsteps of Agatha Christie"
- Keynote speech by Meltem Muftuler-Bac, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Sabanci University on "The EU in the Current Geopolitical Turmoil: Between Trump's America, Russia and China"
- Round table on "Türkiye and the EU: A New Approach to EU-Turkish Relations" with Alper Kaliber, Senior Fellow at the Istanbul Policy Center (IPC), Ebru Turhan, Associate Professor of European Studies at the Turkish-German University (TDU), and Matthias Waechter, Director General of CIFE
- Dinner cruise on the Bosphorus
- Guided tour of the Istanbul Biennial exhibition
- Street food tour of the city



Guided Tour of the City



Round Table at the Istanbul Policy Center



Ceramics Workshop



Welcome Reception

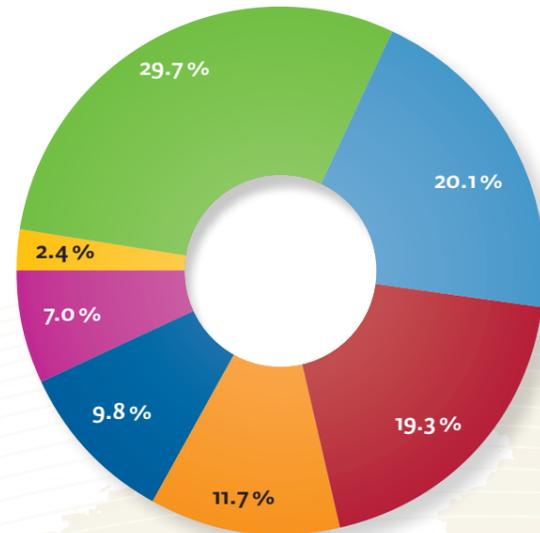


Dinner Cruise on the Bosphorus

Where CIFE Graduates Work

Professional Fields of Recent CIFE Graduates

- European Institutions and International Organisations
- National Governments and Administrations
- Companies and Banks
- Think Tanks, Research and Teaching
- Consulting and Lobbying
- Humanitarian Sector, NGOs and Social Enterprises
- Media and Communications



What CIFE Graduates Say



Sarah Maria Ehrman United States / Italy,
Joint Master in European Cultural Governance 2024/25
Tutor & Coordinator, Luiss School of Government, Rome

The itinerant programme offers a unique opportunity to study cultural governance through three distinct European contexts: from Rome, where we visited emblematic sites such as the Garden of Ninfa and analysed the challenges facing cultural heritage today; to Berlin, where dialogue with curators and a visit to the Humboldt Forum opened up new perspectives on exhibition design; to Nice, where we explored cultural policies at both national and European levels.



Júlio Teixeira Portugal,
Executive Master in EU Studies 2023/25
Policy Officer for Cohesion & EU Budget,
Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions, Brussels

As someone already working in EU affairs, focusing on regional development, I found this programme to be extremely beneficial. Its holistic perspective has allowed me to improve in my specific field of work through a better grasp of how the various components of the EU interact and influence one another.



Samuel Kerschbaumer Italy,
MAEIS European Integration and Global Studies 2024/25
Project Assistant, International Institute for Peace, Vienna

Studying alongside peers from sixteen different nations meant encountering not only diverse biographies, but distinct political imaginaries shaped by different systems, histories and collective memories. In this sense, the classroom became a microcosm of international relations itself.



Svitlana Vyslinska Ukraine,
EU*Connect 2025/26

The value of this course lies in the fact that, together with other participants, we had the honour of receiving knowledge from outstanding personalities, professors, experts and practitioners, with the opportunity to discuss and receive thorough explanations to our questions.

CIFE Students 2024/25: Nationalities

EU-27

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Denmark
- France
- Germany
- Ireland
- Italy
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Spain
- Sweden

Europe Non-EU

- Albania
- Bosnia & Herzegovina
- Georgia
- Kosovo
- Moldova
- Montenegro
- Serbia
- Switzerland
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom

Africa

- Cameroon
- Liberia
- Mauritania
- Nigeria

Middle East & North Africa (MENA)

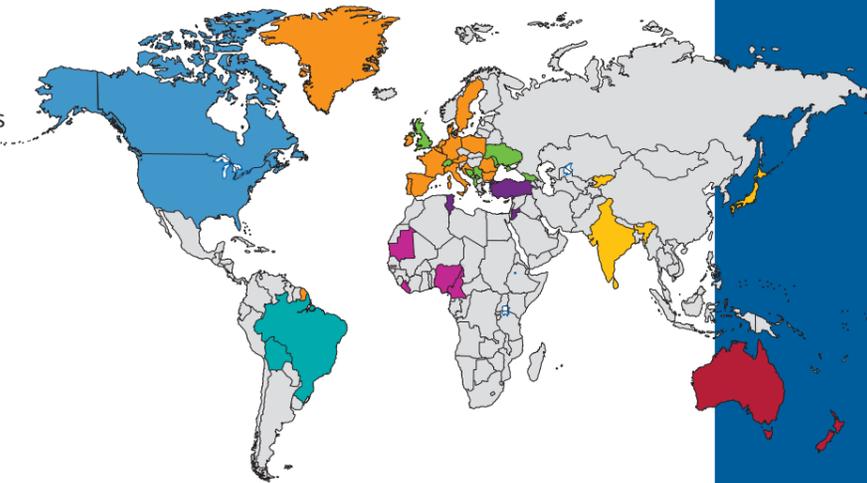
- Jordan
- Tunisia
- Türkiye

Asia

- Hong Kong
- India
- Japan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Sri Lanka

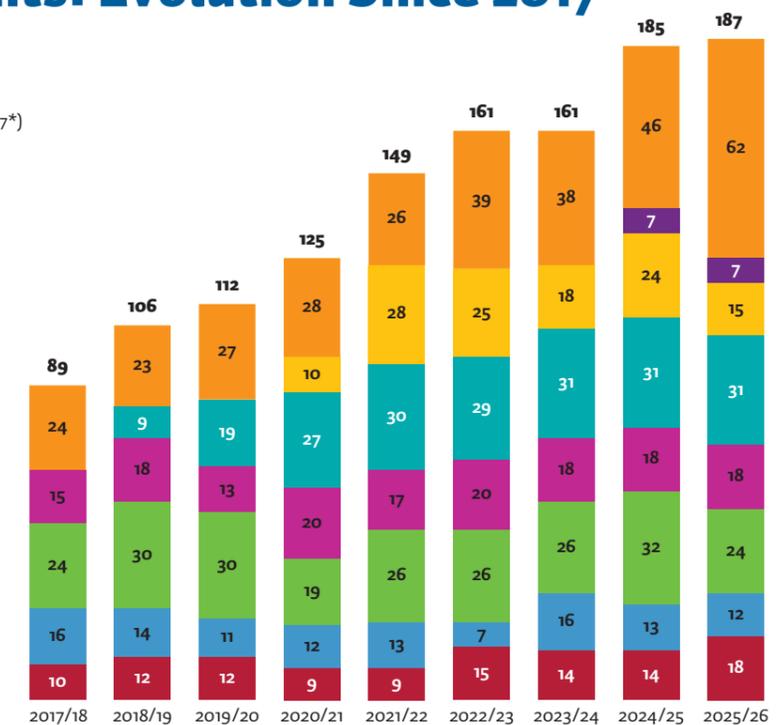
Oceania

- Australia
- New Zealand



CIFE Students: Evolution Since 2017

- MAEIS Applied European Policy and Governance Studies (since 1997*)
- MAEIS Mediterranean Studies (since 2015)
- MAEIS European Integration and Global Studies (since 2005)
- Master in Global Energy Transition and Governance (since 2016)
- Joint Master in Global Economic Governance and Public Affairs (since 2018)
- Joint Master in EU Trade and Climate Diplomacy (since 2020)
- Joint Master in European Cultural Governance (since 2024)
- Executive Master in EU Studies (since 2008**)



* The programme has evolved over the years out of the "Diplôme de l'IEHEI" since 1964.

** The programme began as the "Certificate in EU Studies" in 2002.

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