

Joint Master in European Cultural Governance

*Engaging with Our Cultural Heritage
to Shape Sustainable Policies*

Academic Year 2025/2026



ANNUAL REPORT



Study Visit to Villa Arson, Nice

CIFE Centre international de formation européenne
81 rue de France 06000 Nice ie-ei@cife.eu www.cife.eu

Luiss School of Government
Via di Villa Emiliani 14 00197 Rome

1 OVERVIEW

The 2025/2026 Joint Master in European Cultural Governance offered by CIFE and Luiss School of Government was composed of a diverse group of 7 students from 10 different nationalities. The itinerant programme offered students intensive courses in Rome, Berlin and Nice over three terms extending from 13 October 2025 to 10 July 2026. The following table represents the timetable of the programme:

Dates	Location
13/10/2025 – 31/01/2026	ROME Luiss School of Government
09/02/2026 – 30/03/2026	BERLIN CIFE Berlin
07/04/2026 – 10/07/2026	NICE CIFE Nice
13/04/2026 – 16/04/2026	STUDY TRIP Paris
10/07/2026	End of the Academic Year & Graduation Ceremony

Under the leitmotiv “Learning and Living Europe”, the one-year Joint Master taught in English welcomed an exclusive group of students striving to expand their professional opportunities in an interdisciplinary and academically rich cultural Grand Tour in Rome, Berlin, Nice and Paris.

It aims at professional integration in the field of heritage development in all its forms: political, archaeological, historical and artistic. The emphasis of the programme is on cultural policy, artificial intelligence and the challenges of the ecological and digital twin transition.

The Joint Master in European Cultural Governance (EUCULTURE) offered by CIFE in Berlin and Nice and the School of Government at Luiss Guido Carli in Rome provided the necessary analytical and policy skills through evidence-based studies and practical project work in the three major topics of the programme: European Cultural Heritage, Global Sustainable Development and the Digital Transition in Cultural Governance.

It benefited from contributing partners providing expert knowledge:

- Berlin International Film Festival
- DG for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission, Brussels
- Fondazione Roffredo Caetani, Rome
- Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society, Berlin
- 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, Paris
- UNESCO World Heritage Mission in the City of Nice
- Versailles City Hall

2 ORGANISATION OF THE PROGRAMME

The academic programme is designed in a four-pronged format, as follows:

1. Governance of Cultural Policies in Rome from October 2025 to January 2026 at the School of Government of the University Luiss Guido Carli
2. Central and Eastern European Culture and Sustainable Development in Berlin from February to March 2026 at CIFE
3. Western European Culture and the Digital Transition in Berlin and Nice from March to July 2026 at CIFE
4. Applied Research and Project Management throughout the whole curriculum

THE MODULES

The curriculum was composed of four compulsory modules:

- A** Governance of Cultural Policies (in Rome)
- B** Central and Eastern European Culture and Sustainable Development (in Berlin)
- C** Western European Culture and the Digital Transition (in Berlin and Nice)
- D** Applied Research and Project Management

A Governance of Cultural Policies (100 hours)

TRIMESTER 1 ROME: LUISS (October 2025 to January 2026)

Module Director: Luciano MONTI *Professor of European Union Policies at Luiss School of Government*

The main goal of this module was to provide students with the context and challenges of European cultural policy in the 21st century while attending the following courses:

- European Institutions
- European Union Policies and Programmes
- EU Funding for Culture
- The Cultural Heritage of Mediterranean Europe
- The Management of Cultural Heritage

Luciano MONTI

- European Union Policies and Programmes

Luciano MONTI

Claudia CIOFFI *Senior Lecturer in European Union Policies and Research Fellow at Luiss Guido Carli University*

- The Management of Cultural Heritage

Luciano MONTI

Mark THATCHER *Professor of Politics, Department of Political Science at Luiss Guido Carli University*

- EU Funding for Culture

Francesco CHERUBINI *Professor of European Union Law at Luiss Guido Carli University*

- European Institutions and Democracy

Francesca CORRAO *Professor of Arabic Language and Culture at Luiss Guido Carli University and Member of the Union of European Arabists and Islamists*

- The Cultural Heritage of Mediterranean Europe

B Central and Eastern European Culture and Sustainable Development (96 hours)

TRIMESTER 2 BERLIN: CIFE (February to March 2026)

Module Director: Arnaud LECONTE *Director of the Joint Master in European Cultural Governance*

Students attended general courses on Central Europe and its cultural heritage (history, institutions, politics and policies) with a particular focus on its cultural world's drive to expand on mitigation and adaptation practices which can help achieve the ambitious objectives of the green transformation of our society towards sustainable development. They also attended a professional guest seminar series and intensive laboratory. These courses, seminars and laboratory aimed to provide students with solid theoretical and practical foundations.

Eva Martha ECKKRAMMER *Rector, University of Trier and the Franco-German University*

- Multilingualism and Language Minorities

Bastian LANGE *Adjunct Professor at the University of Leipzig and Fellow at the Institute for Ecological Economy Research in Berlin*

- Cultural Policy and Innovation to Address the Twin Ecological and Digital Transitions: The Case of Germany and Berlin

Jana LUCAS *Founder, The Artgrade Research Group*

- Art and Leadership: Visual Competence and Aesthetic Intelligence for Sustainable Governance

Gesine SCHUSTER *Researcher and PhD Candidate, Analysis and Management of Cultural Heritage, IMT School for Advanced Studies, Lucca*

- Difficult Heritage in Transformation: Theories and Methods of Critical Heritage Studies Applied to the Case of Post-Socialist Eastern Germany



Study Visit to ICCROM, Rome

C Western European Culture and the Digital Transition (58 hours)

Module Director: Arnaud LECONTE

Europe plays a leading role in digital cultural heritage and has the potential to forge ahead with new technologies such as artificial intelligence and machine learning based on humanistic and ethical principles. Cultural services and networks, artificial intelligence and digital are the new frontier of culture and represent the most dynamically growing part of creation. Digital provisions of cultural services are fundamentally different from the historical focus on preservation in the context of Western European and French cultural heritage. New forms of cooperation agreements and experimentations increasing cultural exchange and network may enable countries in their policy space to promote cultural creations, to safeguard universal heritage and to pursue inclusive development goals.

TRIMESTER 2 BERLIN: CIFE (14 hours)

Paz NÚÑEZ-REGUEIRO Head Curator of the Americas Collections at the Musée du Quai Branly – Jacques Chirac in Paris

Leandro VARISON Research Officer at the Musée du Quai Branly - Jacques Chirac in Paris

- Enhancing Opportunities from Cultural Differences: How to Work in Multicultural Institutions

TRIMESTER 3 NICE: CIFE (44 hours)

Mariachiara ESPOSITO Seconded National Expert in Cultural Policy, DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission

- The Power of Culture for Sustainable Development: From Silent Strategies to Loud, Creative Voices

Olivier LERUDE Head of Project, Regional Department of Cultural Affairs of Île-de-France, French Ministry of Culture

- Culture in Transition

Matthias WAECHTER Director General of CIFE

- Cultural Exceptions: Culture and Politics in France and Germany



Study Visit to Villa Ephrussi, Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat



Start of the Berlin Term, with the Students of the Joint Master in Global Economic Governance and Public Affairs, and the Joint Master in EU Trade and Climate Diplomacy

D Applied Research and Project Management (92 hours)

CROSS-SEMESTER (October 2025 to July 2026)

This module was dedicated to applied research and project management. Professionals and experts discussed a variety of practical case studies of applied research and projects in policy affairs.

Case Studies and Applied Research

TRIMESTER 1: ROME (36 hours)

Adam COURTLEY Doctoral Researcher, Department of Political Science, Luiss Guido Carli University

- Academic Methodology

Paul CULLEY EU Policy Advisor, Tutor and Trainer

- Practical Skills for Policy Analysts and Officers (Laboratory)

Italian Private Cultural Heritage Observatory / Luiss

- Apprenticeship at the Italian Private Cultural Heritage Observatory

TRIMESTER 2: BERLIN (21 hours)

Paul CULLEY

- Practical Skills for Policy Analysts and Officers (Laboratory)

Yann LEGALL Postdoctoral Researcher, Institute for Art Studies, Technical University Berlin

- Europe's Changing Position in the "Era of Restitution" of Looted Cultural Heritage

TRIMESTER 3: NICE (6 hours)

Paul CULLEY

- Practical Skills for Policy Analysts and Officers (Laboratory)



Workshops

TRIMESTER 2: BERLIN (11 hours)

Sulafa HIJAZI *Director and Interdisciplinary Artist*

- Identity, Migration and Multidirectional Memory

Arne KRASTING *Historian, Author and Cultural Entrepreneur*

- Public History and the Case of the Berlin Weimar Period and the Roaring Twenties

Frédérique VEITH *Freelance Filmmaker*

- European Film, the Film Industry and the Berlinale Film Festival

TRIMESTER 3: NICE (18 hours)

Anna ATHANASOPOULOU *Director for Simplification and Networks, European Commission*

Florent STORA *Director of International and Mediterranean Relations of the Nice Côte d'Azur Metropolis*

- European Cultural Diplomacy: A Balancing Act

Julie REYNES *Architect and Head of UNESCO World Heritage Mission in the City of Nice*

Marie IMBERT *Coordinator for European Capitals of Culture, Freelance Photographer*

- European Capitals of Culture

Nadav SHENTAL *Deputy Head of Talent Management and Analytics, OECD*

Maja FURLAN *Talent Management Coordinator, Talent Management and Analytics, OECD*

Joshua POLCHAR *Strategic Foresight Practitioner, Directorate for Education and Skills, OECD*

- Talent Management and Informal Governance at the OECD and International Organisations



3 INTERMODULAR COURSES

Conferences, Speeches and Discussions

- Keynote Speech: *The EU Economic Integration in the New Global Map* by **Arnaud LECONTE**
- Discussion with **Fondazione Roffredo Caetani, Rome** with **Luciano MONTI**
- Keynote Speech and Discussion: *Skills and Opportunities for the Next Generation of Policymakers at the EIB Group* by **Aliki PATSAROU** *Early Careers - Talent Acquisition, Human Resources Department, European Investment Bank*
- Inaugural Lecture: *How to Turn Fear into Hope* by **Herman VAN ROMPUY** *President of CIFE, President Emeritus of the European Council and Former Prime Minister of Belgium*
- Keynote Speech: *Germany in the EU* by **Matthias WAECHTER**
- Discussion and Simulation Game: *The IPCC Scientific Reports Regarding Climate Change* by **CLIMATE FRESK** *Non-Profit Organisation*

4 STUDY TRIP TO PARIS

The study trip to the cultural institutions and monumental landmarks in Paris took place from 13 to 16 April 2026 with the following visits and lectures:

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANISATION (UNESCO) IN PARIS

- Sharing Experience and Dialogue about Work at the UNESCO World Heritage Centre with **Irena CAQUET** *Programme Specialist, Europe and North America Unit, UNESCO World Heritage Centre*
- UNESCO 2005 Convention on Diversity of Cultural Expressions as Instruments to Strengthen our Shared Humanity with **Laurence MAYER-ROBITAILLE** *Senior Programme Specialist*

MUSÉE DU QUAI BRANLY – JACQUES CHIRAC

- Lecture: *Relinking Nature and Culture: How to Integrate Local Perspectives into Local and Global Responses to Environmental Issues* and Visit to the Permanent Collections with **Paz NÚÑEZ-REGUEIRO** and **Leandro VARISON**

VERSAILLES

- Official Welcome and Presentation at the City Hall of Versailles with **François DE MAZIÈRES** *Mayor of Versailles*
- Saint-Louis District Tour with **Bénédicte LORENZETTO** *Architect of the Bâtiments de France in the Yvelines Department, Regional Department of Cultural Affairs of Île-de-France*
- Guided Visit to the Exhibition '1725: Native American Allies at the Court of Louis XV' at the Château de Versailles with **Paz NÚÑEZ-REGUEIRO** and **Leandro VARISON**



Study Trip to Paris

PALAIS DE CHAILLOT

- Visit and Presentation with **Olivier LERUDE**, **Jessica DUPUIS** Production Manager, Palais de Chaillot and **Pierre LUNGHERETTI** Managing Director, Palais de Chaillot

REGIONAL DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS (DRAC) OF ÎLE-DE-FRANCE, FRENCH MINISTRY OF CULTURE

- Visit, Keynote Presentations and Debates at DRAC Île-de-France with **Olivier LERUDE**, **Anne DELAUNAY-VERNHES** Architect of Bâtiments de France, Curator of the Palais de Chaillot, DRAC Île-de-France and **Stéphane DESCHAMPS** Head of the Regional Archaeology Service, DRAC Île-de-France

OTHER VISITS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Presentation: The Role of Culture and Creative Industries at the OECD with **Ekaterina TRAVKINA** Coordinator, Culture and Creative Industries at the OECD
- Notre-Dame Cathedral Walking Tour with **Olivier LERUDE**
- Visit to Trocadéro, the Eiffel Tower and the Parvis des Droits de l'Homme with **Olivier LERUDE** and **Anne DELAUNAY-VERNHES**



Study Trip to Paris

5 OTHER VISITS

ROME

- Visit to the Ninfa Garden Literary Park, Archaeological Site and Botanic Garden, and the Sermoneta Castle on 28 October 2025
- Study Visit to the Museo dell'Arte Salvata on 22 November 2025
- Study Visit to the National Gallery of Modern and Contemporary Art on 27 November 2025
- Study Visit to Palazzo delle Esposizioni on 10 December 2025
- Visit to the Library of the Italian Chamber of Deputies in December 2025
- Study Visit to the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) on 16 January 2026

BERLIN

- Guided Bus Tour of Berlin on 10 February 2026
- Visit and Presentation at the Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society about the Code of Conduct on Human-Machine Decision-Making in Content Moderation on 5 March 2026
- Visit to the Humboldt Forum on 16 March 2026 with **Paz NÚÑEZ-REGUEIRO** and **Leandro VARISON**
- Visit to the Schwules Museum on 19 March 2026 with **Bastian LANGE**
- Visit to Rheinsberg Castle on 25 March 2026 with **Gesine SCHUSTER**

NICE

- Nice Scavenger Hunt on 7 April 2026
- Study Visit to the Mission Nice Patrimoine Mondial on 10 April 2026 with **Julie REYNES**
- Study Visit to Villa Arson on 23 April 2026 with **Olivier LERUDE**
- Study Visit to Villa Ephrussi and Gardens in Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat on 13 May 2026
- Study Visit to Île Sainte-Marguerite on 21 May 2026 with **Matthias WAECHTER**



Visit to the Ninfa Gardens Near Rome



Study Visit to the Mission Nice Patrimoine Mondial



Guided Tour of Berlin, with the Students of the Joint Master in Global Economic Governance and Public Affairs, and the Joint Master in EU Trade and Climate Diplomacy

6 MASTER THESIS RESEARCH TOPICS

Maria BIRBAMER (Austria)

Cultural Governance of the Mediterranean Diet as Intangible Cultural Heritage and Its Role in Advancing Sustainable Development Goals in Italy, Spain and Greece

Thesis Supervisor: Christian MANAHL

Emily CLINCH (Ireland)

Curating Cultural Rights: Access, Participation and Territorial Equity in the Digital Strategies of France's Public Museums

Thesis Supervisor: Olivier LERUDE

Jie FU (China)

Reorganising Meaning in Displacement: Spiritual Practices and the Construction of Belonging Among Chinese Migrants in Berlin

Thesis Supervisor: Gesine SCHUSTER

Älvi LINDBORG KOH (Sweden / Singapore)

European AI Legislation: Guardian or Facilitator of Human Creative Expression?

Thesis Supervisor: Anna ATHANASOPOULOU

Flakrina MALOKU (Kosovo)

Transition from Post-Socialist Albania into Fast Tourism: An Ethnographic Study of Lukovë

Thesis Supervisor: Francesca CORRAO

Joanna ROBERTS LOEZA (United Kingdom / France / Mexico)

Adaptive Reuse in the New European Bauhaus: Recognising Cultural and Social Value Beyond Environmental Sustainability

Thesis Supervisor: Mariachiara ESPOSITO

Konstantinos VAKALOPOULOS (Greece)

The Politics of Return: Historical Institutionalism and the Restitution of African Cultural Objects Held in European Museums

Thesis Supervisor: Paz NÚÑEZ-REGUEIRO



Visit to the Library of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, Rome



Guided Tour of Berlin, with the Students of the Joint Master in Global Economic Governance and Public Affairs, and the Joint Master in EU Trade and Climate Diplomacy



Scavenger Hunt in Nice, with the Students of the Joint Master in Global Economic Governance and Public Affairs, and the Joint Master in EU Trade and Climate Diplomacy



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