

Master in Advanced European and International Studies

Mediterranean Studies

Academic Year 2025/2026



ANNUAL REPORT



Guided Tour of Nice

1 OVERVIEW

The 2025/2026 Mediterranean Studies programme of CIFE's Master in Advanced European and International Studies (MAEIS) was composed of a diverse group of 12 students from 6 different nationalities. The itinerant programme offered students intensive courses in Nice, Tunis and Istanbul over three terms extending from from 6 October 2025 to 24 June 2026, with a study trip to West Africa as well. Afterwards, students were given the option of continuing with an internship of maximum 6 months with an optional report upon completion. The following table represents the timetable of the programme:

| Dates | Location |
|-------------------------|---|
| 06/10/2025 – 07/01/2026 | NICE Centre international de formation européenne (CIFE) |
| 07/01/2026 – 07/03/2026 | TUNIS in cooperation with the Université Mahmoud El Materi |
| 07/03/2026 – 25/03/2026 | DAKAR in cooperation with Groupe École Supérieure de Commerce (Supdeco) de Dakar |
| 25/03/2026 – 03/04/2026 | BANJUL in cooperation with Groupe École Supérieure de Commerce (Supdeco) de Banjul |
| 03/04/2026 – 24/06/2026 | ISTANBUL in cooperation with Istanbul Bilgi University |
| 24/06/2026 | End of the Academic Year & Graduation Ceremony |
| Until 31/12/2026 | Optional Internship |

The Mediterranean region with a population of more than 500 million people is faced with unprecedented challenges. In our bilingual programme (English-French), we seek to address the next generation of Euro-Mediterranean decision-makers and offer unique educational experiences at the crossroads of theory and practice.

The programme aims to prepare students for professional life in a challenging context. The academic curriculum has been designed in order to enable students to develop an overarching and all-encompassing understanding of the political, social, economic and cultural challenges in the Mediterranean region.

Following the leitmotif "Learning and Living the Mediterranean", the students rotated each term, moving their place of study from Nice to Tunis and then to Istanbul. During the first trimester in Nice, academic and professional teaching focused on European integration and the EU's role in the world. During the second trimester with Tunisian professors, special emphasis was placed on the transformation of the Arab world, in particular the Maghreb. On the other hand, during the third trimester, the focus was directed towards Türkiye and its neighbouring countries and partners, as well as climate change issues. Between the second and third terms, students also benefitted from a study trip to Dakar and Banjul to discover, understand and analyse the challenges of African development. This was also an opportunity to discuss future relations between Europe and Africa.

2 ORGANISATION OF THE PROGRAMME

THE MODULES

The curriculum was composed of five compulsory modules:

- A** Conflict Management and Peacemaking
- B** Economics, Sustainable Development, Inequalities and Forms of Poverty
- C** Regional Integration and Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation
- D** Mediterranean Societies and Cultures
- E** Professional Skills Workshops

University teachers from various European, Tunisian and Turkish universities, as well as experts from international and European organisations and researchers from our partner institutes contributed to our programme.

Various teaching methods and course formats were applied within each module.



A Conflict Management and Peacemaking (67 hours)

Europe has experienced numerous conflicts, many of which have been particularly deadly. Since 1945, however, peace has largely prevailed, freedom has been upheld and solidarity among peoples has endured. Without overlooking periods marked by tensions between neighbouring countries or external ‘partners’, the European space has managed to overcome past conflicts and build lasting peace.

The Mediterranean also constitutes a case study *par excellence* for Peace and Conflict Studies. Understanding and explaining questions of war and peace is at the heart of International Relations as an academic discipline. In the last two decades, Mediterranean societies have been significantly affected by inter-group violence and inter-state conflicts: from the Western Balkans to Cyprus, from Israel to Palestine, from Syria to Libya. Mediterranean conflicts are partly characterised by external interventions. This module focussed on the causes and dynamics of both escalation and de-escalation, including international law and peacemaking with a multi-disciplinary approach. Theories of International Relations also helped in analysing the various case studies used in class.

TRIMESTER 1: NICE (30 hours)

Anna DIMITROVA *Lecturer and Researcher at the ESSCA School of Management, Paris*
■ US Foreign Policy in the Middle East

Susann HEINECKE-KUHN *Director of the MAEIS Applied European Policy and Governance Studies*

- Introduction to Politics and International Relations: Terms, Concepts, Methodology
- Theories of International Relations

TRIMESTER 2: TUNIS (25 hours)

Andreas HEINEMANN-GRÜDER *Senior Researcher at Bonn International Centre for Conversion (BICC), Professor of Political Science, University of Bonn*

- Theories of Violence and Civil Wars

Sören KEIL *Senior Teaching and Research Fellow, University of Passau*

- Power Sharing and Federalism in the Mediterranean Region

TRIMESTER 3: ISTANBUL (12 hours)

George TZOGOPOULOS *BESA Research Associate, Lecturer at the Democritus University of Thrace, Director of EU-China Programmes and Senior Research Fellow at CIFE*

- Geopolitical and Goeconomic Dynamics in the Mediterranean



Start of the Academic Year, with the students of the MAEIS Applied European Policy and Governance Studies

B Economics, Sustainable Development, Inequalities and Forms of Poverty (84 hours)

The module analysed the economic issues of the 21st century, taking care to dissociate industrialised countries like those in the EU, emerging countries such as Türkiye and developing countries such as Tunisia, Senegal and The Gambia.

In Nice, after a reminder of the fundamentals of economics, there was a focus on the European economy: its assets and challenges, as well as the future of the eurozone. In Tunis and in Istanbul, students concentrated on Mediterranean economies. In Dakar and then Banjul, the challenges of human development (hunger, demographics, education and health) were introduced.

TRIMESTER 1: NICE (30 hours)

Jean-Claude VÉREZ *Director of the MAEIS Mediterranean Studies and Associate Professor of Economics at Université d'Artois*

- Économie mondiale et européenne

TRIMESTER 2: TUNIS & DAKAR (30 hours)

Jean-Claude VÉREZ

- Économie du développement, pauvretés et inégalités

TRIMESTER 3: ISTANBUL (24 hours)

Laurent BAECHLER *Director of the MAEIS European Integration and Global Studies*

- Sustainable Development: Concept and Challenges
- Climate Change Stakes and Strategies
- Energy Transition
- Access to Water

Jean-Claude VÉREZ

- Économie du développement, pauvretés et inégalités

C Regional Integration and Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation (84 hours)

The European Union and its member states have become a 'model' of regional integration. European nation states have agreed to transform their sovereignty into a multi-level governance system with the goal of ensuring regional peace, fostering welfare for their citizens and increasing their interdependent economic power. How does the dynamic architecture of the European institutions function – including the European Neighbourhood Policy? How can we explain the transitions and differences in the Southern Mediterranean region?

This module offered insights into current dynamics in the Mediterranean from the standpoints of international relations, providing students with fresh, critical tools.

TRIMESTER 1: NICE (46 hours)

Frédéric LÉPINE *Deputy Director General of CIFE*

- Dynamics of European Integration

Olivier RUCHET *Lecturer and Researcher at the University of Lausanne*

- EU Institutions and Decision-Making

Matthias WAECHTER *Director General of CIFE*

- Historical Aspects of European Integration

TRIMESTER 2: TUNIS (14 hours)

Salwa TRABELSI *Lecturer at ESSEC Tunis*

- Politique de développement

TRIMESTER 3: ISTANBUL (24 hours)

Philippe MARCHESIN *Associate Professor at Université Paris I*

- Intégration régionale et coopération

Özge ONURSAL-BEŞGÜL *Associate Professor of European Studies, Faculty Member of Istanbul Bilgi University, Department of International Relations, Director of the European Institute*

- 100 Years of the Turkish Republic: Changes and Continuities
- EU-Türkiye Relations: Europeanisation as an Anchor of Democracy
- Türkiye in the World: Foreign Policy Beyond the EU



Istanbul, with the students of the MAEIS European Integration and Global Studies

D Mediterranean Societies and Cultures (72 hours)

Mediterranean societies are shaped by differentiated social structures. Effective coordination among various specialised actors, including institutions, is crucial. The module focused on the differences in Mediterranean societies and analysed several topics, including migration, gender, religion and youth. It also offered a critical examination of the Arab Spring, analysing its origins, outcomes and medium-term implications across political, social and economic dimensions. The cultural dimension was, of course, essential for understanding the past, present and future.

At the crossroads of theory and practice, this module identified challenges the Mediterranean societies are faced with.

TRIMESTER 1: NICE (21 hours)

Yvan GASTAUT Associate Professor of History at the University of Nice Côte d'Azur

- Histoire des migrations

TRIMESTER 2: TUNIS (51 hours)

Karima DIRECHE Research Director CNRS at Maison méditerranéenne des sciences de l'Homme, University of Aix-Marseille

- Histoire du Maghreb contemporain

Farah HACHED President of the University Mahmoud El Materi

- Politique dans le monde Arabe et enjeux du XXI siècle

Yasmina TOUAÏBIA Doctor of Political Science, Associate Researcher and Lecturer at the University of Nice Côte d'Azur

- Actualité du Moyen-Orient et du Maghreb



E Professional Skills Workshops (59 hours)

In an ever more globalised world, the government and the private sector are asked to provide more services with less. Moreover, the movement of peoples across borders has created challenges for an increasingly multicultural world. By default, there is more competition for resources, goals and interests at local, state, regional and international levels. In order to be credible, institutions, governments, NGOs and individuals must be able to deal with new challenges professionally and efficiently and to maximise the potential of any given situation. If we want to have an impact on and participate in the development of certain policies, we also need to open ourselves to consensus building, conflict management and negotiations.

In this module, professors sought to develop an understanding of cooperation in political processes and various approaches in support of dialogue, negotiation, conflict and risk management. During the workshops, students acquired skills in Project Cycle Management, Intercultural Communication, Negotiation and the tracking and analysis of EU law proposals. In workshops and coaching, we try to prepare our students at the crossroads of theory and practice for modern professional life.

TRIMESTER 1: NICE (17 hours)

Matthieu BRAGATO University Project Officer and Representative of Campus France Belgium – Embassy of France in Belgium (Alumnus 2015/16)

- Échanges autour de la diplomatie d'influence : Perspectives d'insertion professionnelle après le CIFE

Amr SHAKER Career Development and Business Coach

- Navigating the Work Environment in Mediterranean Countries

TRIMESTER 2: TUNIS (9 hours)

Amel MALLEK Dean of the Faculty of Law, Political Sciences and Management at the University Mahmoud El Materi

- Techniques de négociations

TRIMESTER 3: ISTANBUL (33 hours)

Nazan CÖMERT Lecturer and Researcher at the University of Marmara, Istanbul

- Risques collectifs, catastrophes et sociétés

Volkan ERKAN Engineer

- Introduction to Project Cycle Management

Alumni Professional Workshops

with **Charel JANS** (2024/25), **Jasmin SABRI** (2024/25), **Tobias STABEL** (2024/25), **Ikram JABRI** (2021/22) and **Lisa RENIER** (2020/21)

3 INTERMODULAR COURSES

Simulation Game: Council of the European Union Summit

- **A New Refugee Policy for the European Union** with Frank **BURGDÖRFER** and Léonie **AUGUSTIN** *polyspektiv*
Article 1 Process of Applications
Article 2 Accommodation and Care
- **Kick-Off Session** on 17 November 2025
- **Pre-Negotiations** on 27 November 2025
- **Council of the European Union Simulation** on 2 to 3 December 2025

Language Courses

- **NICE** Arabic classes with Hala **SHAKER** *Arabic Language Teacher*
- **TUNIS** Arabic classes with Hachicha **WISSEM** *Director of Wissem Arabic Language Institute*

Conferences, Speeches and Discussions

- 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*
- 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”
- Energy Forum 2025: “BTP et aménagement dans le nouveau contexte de l’intelligence artificielle et de la transition énergétique”
- Mediterranean Youth Academy (MYA) 4th Edition organised by the Mediterranean Youth Foundation
- 25th Anniversary of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union



4 STUDY TRIP TO DAKAR AND BANJUL

From 7 March to 3 April 2026, a study trip to Dakar, Senegal and Banjul, The Gambia was organised in cooperation with Groupe École Supérieure de Commerce (Supdeco) de Dakar. The student cohort, accompanied by **Jean-Claude VÉREZ** and **Marilena DEL TOGNO** (CIFE), was welcomed by **Yasmine ABOUBACAR SEDIKHE SY** (Deputy CEO, Supdeco Dakar) and **Codou SARR** (Deputy Director Imap, Supdeco Dakar). In Banjul, the students were welcomed by **Abdou FAYE** (Director of the Supdeco Banjul Campus).

Cultural Visits

- Renaissance Monument
- Museum of Black Civilisations
- Gorée Island
- Boat Trip

Lectures

- Les défis du développement with **Jean-Claude VÉREZ**

Institutional Visits

- The EU Delegation in Senegal and Meeting with the European Ambassador
- European Civil and Humanitarian Aid Operation (ECHO) Dakar
- NGO Consortium Jeunesse Sénégal
- The EU Delegation in The Gambia and Meeting with the European Ambassador
- Meeting with the Ambassador of Senegal to The Gambia
- The International Organisation for Migration in Banjul



Start of the Tunis Term



Visit to the EU Delegation in Tunis

5 OTHER VISITS

NICE

- Guided tour of Nice (Promenade des Anglais, Vieux Nice and Colline du Château) with **Jean-Paul RITROVATO** on 9 October 2025

TUNIS

The students were welcomed by **Farah HACHED** (President) and **Amel MALLEK** (Dean of the Faculty of Law, Political Science and Management)

- Visit-Conference of the Medina of Tunis on 10 January 2026
- Visit to the NGO Al-Bawsala on 13 February 2026
- Visit to the EU Delegation in Tunisia on 15 January 2026
- Visit to the Embassy of Palestine on 16 February 2026
- Visit to the Human Rights Academy on 20 February 2026

6 MASTER THESIS RESEARCH TOPICS

Hamza ABDELLI (Tunisia)

Les fonds européens de préadhésion comme enjeu de redéfinition économique et politique pour la Turquie

Thesis Supervisor: Jean-Claude VÉREZ

Mathilde CHEVALLIER (France)

De quoi la migration subsaharienne est-elle le nom dans la Tunisie d'aujourd'hui ? Continuités, recompositions sociales et symboliques d'un espace migratoire en tension

Thesis Supervisor: Karima DIRECHE

Pauline GUILLARD (France)

Hard and Soft Power in Practice: Egypt's Strategy in the Second Libyan Civil War (2014–2020)

Thesis Supervisors: George TZOGOPOULOS and Amr SHAKER

Youssef HASSANI (Tunisia)

Les diasporas tunisiennes en France et en Italie : trajectoires, engagements transnationaux et relations avec l'État tunisien

Thesis Supervisor: Karima DIRECHE

Alexandre HEMELAER (Belgium)

How Does the Structure of Uranium Supply Chains Shape the Nature of France's Strategic Dependency?

Thesis Supervisor: Jean-Claude VÉREZ

Ana MALNATI (France)

De la séquence Stora à la crise 2024-2026 : la dégradation des relations franco-algériennes comme révélateur de tensions structurelles, mémorielles et géopolitiques

Thesis Supervisor: Yasmina TOUAÏBIA



Study Trip to Banjul

May MARZOUKI (Tunisia)

From Disengagement to New Forms of Participation: Tunisian Youth and Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation Since 2011

Thesis Supervisor: Olivier RUCHET

Maturin MORATI (France)

Le traitement médiatique de la migration en France et en Tunisie : étude de deux événements fortement médiatisés en 2023

Thesis Supervisor: Yvan GASTAUT

Lucy RAKOTOMALALA (France)

Héritages coloniaux du Mali et du Niger : « minorités ethniques », structures et persistances

Thesis Supervisor: Jean-Claude VÉREZ

Emma SEEMANN (Switzerland / Germany)

The Responsibility Vacuum: How Governance Gaps in Zones of Limited Statehood Hinder Anti-Sex Trafficking Efforts: A Comparative Study of the Cyprus Green Line, the Colombia-Venezuela Border and the Nigeria-Benin Border

Thesis Supervisor: Yasmina TOUAÏBIA

Bethany SMYTH (Ireland)

Motherland Knows Best? Autonomy and Dependence in the 'Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus'

Thesis Supervisor: George TZOGOPOULOS

Yann SYDOW (Germany / France)

Merit or Geopolitics? Explaining Variation in EU Enlargement Justifications After 2022

Thesis Supervisor: Olivier RUCHET





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