

Master in Advanced European and International Studies

European Integration and Global Studies

Academic Year 2024/2025



ANNUAL REPORT



OVERVIEW

The 2024/2025 European Integration and Global Studies programme of CIFE's Master in Advanced European and International Studies (MAEIS) was composed of a diverse group of 32 students from 14 different nationalities. The itinerant programme offered students intensive courses in Berlin, Nice and Rome/Istanbul over three terms extending from 16 October 2024 to 25 June 2025. Afterwards, students were given the option of continuing their training with an internship of 3 to 6 months. The following table represents the timetable of the programme:

| Dates | Location |
|-------------------------|--|
| 16/10/2024 – 19/12/2024 | BERLIN |
| 09/01/2025 - 27/03/2025 | NICE Centre international de formation européenne (CIFE) |
| 09/03/2025 - 14/03/2025 | Study Trip to Brussels, Luxembourg and Strasbourg |
| 04/04/2025 - 19/06/2025 | ROME in cooperation with Luiss University |
| 08/04/2025 - 25/06/2025 | ISTANBUL in cooperation with Bilgi University |
| 31/05/2025 | End of the Academic Year |
| 19/06/2025 | Graduation Ceremony in Rome |
| 25/06/2025 | Graduation Ceremony in Istanbul |
| Until 31/12/2025 | Optional Internship |

The programme focused on the role of the EU in a changing world. In a transversal way, the modules helped understand how the European integration process led the EU to become a global actor on the international scene.

The programme aimed at preparing students for professional life in a challenging context. The academic curriculum was designed in order to enable students to develop an overarching and all-encompassing understanding of internal and external EU policies, as well as how the EU interacts with other global actors in a multipolar world.

Following the leitmotif "Learning and living Europe", the students rotated each term, moving their place of study from Berlin to Nice and then to Rome or Istanbul. During the third trimester, the programme concentrated on the EU and its relationship with Mediterranean and sub-Saharan countries, as well as EU relationships with Turkey, Central Asian, Caucasus and Black Sea countries.

ORGANISATION OF THE PROGRAMME

THE MODULES

The curriculum was composed of five compulsory modules:

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

University teachers from across Europe, 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 and Cooperation in the International System (126 hours)

Module Director: George TZOGOPOULOS

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

This module offered students a unique learning environment with its highly interdisciplinary approach that combined traditional international relations approaches with courses on conflict management and resolution. At the beginning, there was an introduction to international relations from a theoretical and an empirical perspective. Subsequently, the courses dealt with different perspectives on conflict management and resolution, such as for example the political scientist's view or a more sociological approach. Students also became acquainted with the history of conflicts in international relations with a regional focus on conflicts in the Middle East and the Balkans. Furthermore, students analysed some international regimes and successful interstate cooperation in order to develop a comprehensive understanding about how coexistence, cooperation and tolerance can play an important role in society.

TRIMESTER 1: BERLIN (33 hours)

George TZOGOPOULOS

- Introduction to the Module
- Understanding International Relations
- US-China Relations
- Hybrid Warfare
- Student Presentations

Dagmar RÖTTSCHES-DUBOIS Scientific Advisor, Evalag Baden-Württemberg, Germany

■ Theories of International Relations



TRIMESTER 2: NICE (39 hours)

George TZOGOPOULOS

- Student Presentations
- The Crisis in Ukraine
- The North Korean Imbroglio
- New Media and War

Francesca ASTENGO Lecturer and Researcher, IES

Actors and Factors in the Age of Migrations

Anna DIMITROVA Lecturer and Researcher in International Affairs, ESSCA Ecole de Management, Paris

- Foreign Policy Analysis: Origins, Factors and Actors
- US Foreign Policy from Obama to Trump to Biden
- Challenges of Trump's Return for Europe

Matthias WAECHTER Director General of CIFE

- The Rise and Fall of European Imperialism in the Modern and Contemporary Period
- The Rise and Fall of European Imperialism in the 19th and 20th Centuries



TRIMESTER 3: ROME (18 hours)

George TZOGOPOULOS

- Energy Dynamics in the Mediterranean
- The Israel-Palestinian Conflict
- The Syrian Crisis
- The Libyan Crisis
- The Iran Nuclear Programme
- The Greek Economic Crisis and Geopolitical Repercussions

TRIMESTER 3: ISTANBUL (36 hours)

Mitat ÇELIKPALA Academics/Professor of International Relations, University of Kadir Has, Istanbul, Turkey

- The Black Sea: History, Security, Challenges and Opportunities
- The Caucasus: History, Security, Challenges and Opportunities

Emre ERŞEN Associate Professor at Marmara University, Turkey

- The Crisis in Ukraine: Root Causes
- The Crisis in Ukraine: Regional and Global Implications
- Central Asia: Understanding the Region
- Central Asia: Geopolitical Rivalry

Gencer ÖZCAN Professor, Faculty Member at Istanbul Bilgi University, Turkey

- Formation of the Modern Middle East and Origins of the Arab-Israeli Conflict
- The Arab Uprisings
- The Crisis in Syria, the Salafists, IS and Others
- The Abraham Accords and the War in Gaza

B European Integration and External Action (138 hours)

Module Directors:

Kai OPPERMANN Professor of International Politics, University of Technology, Chemnitz

The process of European integration was launched in the 1950s with the promise of achieving an "ever closer union" between European states. Since then, important achievements like the single market, the common currency and open borders between the member states have been accomplished. However, a deep feeling of crisis is dominating the member states, with citizens feeling alienated from the European institutions and putting the blame for domestic problems on the EU.

The module explored the challenges which the European Union is currently facing, by tracing first its evolution from the origins until today and then proposing perspectives for its future development. A special focus was on the role of the European Union in international politics. Since the accession of 13 new countries, it is no longer a community limited to Western Europe, but a union reaching from the Atlantic to the Black Sea. By the same token, its neighbourhood has extended to countries reaching from Russia over the Southern Caucasus to the Maghreb. Furthermore, the Lisbon Treaty has provided the European Union with institutions which should ensure the efficiency of its foreign and security policy.

The module examined the challenges remaining in order to achieve coherence among 27 member states with different geopolitical priorities, historical experiences and national preferences. The enlargement policy of the EU, its approach to its neighbourhood, its role in international trade as well as in climate change policies has been analysed.

TRIMESTER 1: BERLIN (72 hours)

Paul CULLEY EU Policy Advisor, Tutor and Trainer

- The EU Institutions and Decision-Making
- Internal EU Policies

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

■ The EU's Largest Neighbourhood: Russia and the Post-Soviet Space

Anna-Katharina HÜBERS Research Assistant, University Leipzig

European Law

Hartmut MARHOLD Senior Research Fellow at CIFE

Introduction to the History of European Integration



TRIMESTER 2: NICE (12 hours)

Kai OPPERMANN

■ The EU's Foreign and Security Policy: EU Actorness in International Affairs

TRIMESTER 3: ROME (36 hours)

Kai OPPERMANN

■ EU Foreign and Security Policy: Case Studies and Student Presentations

Maurizio CARBONE Professor at the University of Glasgow

■ The European Union and Africa: From the Treaty of Rome to the Global Gateway

Fabrizio LOBASSO Diplomat, Deputy Director General for the Economic Internalisation and Promotion of Italy

■ Europe and Africa: Strategic Partnership, Intercultural Approach

Marco MASSONI "African Politics and Society" Adjunct Faculty – Department of Political Sciences, Luiss, Italy

 South-South Cooperation: The African Union's New Priorities in Relation to the G20 and BRICS

Harrison Kalunga MWILIMA Lecturer, Consultant and Journalist

■ EU-Africa Relations: An African Perspective

TRIMESTER 3: ISTANBUL (18 hours)

Kai OPPERMANN

■ The EU's Foreign and Security Policy: EU Actorness in International Affairs

Özge ONURSAL-BESGUL Associate Professor of European Studies, Faculty Member of Istanbul Bilgi University, Department of International Relations

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





C Federalism and Multi-Level Governance (60 hours)

Module Director: Frédéric LÉPINE Deputy Director General of CIFE

For the last fifteen years, federalism has known a revival as an international field of studies. In this framework, three major developments can be considered.

The first is the study of the European Union, not analysed anymore as a process of integration but in terms of a federal institutional comparative approach.

The second development is multi-level governance, that can be conceived as an extension of federalism as it deals with any form of multi-tier institutional system. This cooperative / competitive approach has appeared to understand the institutional consequences of the process of globalisation in post-industrialised societies, and of the subsequent changing of nature of sovereignty in the relevant states.

Finally, federalism has become a tool of conflict resolution, in order to resolve violent conflicts all over the world. Examples include Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ethiopia, Iraq and Nepal. It is also perceived as a solution for Syria, Cyprus, Ukraine, Libya... In addition, new federal discourses have emerged in historically centralised countries.

It appears that all these developments share a common multi-tier conceptual framework, referred to as federalism. As such, they add themselves to older federal questions, such as political co-operation, democratic representation, minority issues and economic coordination. However, understanding the contemporary evolution of the federal meaning and of its main uses requires an innovative analytical thinking. This module brought together these new approaches and highlighted the changing nature of federalism in an ever more complex world.

TRIMESTER 1: BERLIN (24 hours)

Frédéric LÉPINE

■ Introduction to a General Theory of Federalism

Sören KEIL Senior Teaching and Research Fellow, University of Passau

- Introduction to Federalism and Federation
- Federal Traditions
- Contemporary Federal Debates in the Post-Cold War Era
- Contemporary Federations in the Global South



TRIMESTER 2: NICE (36 hours)

Frédéric LÉPINE

- Introduction to a General Theory of Federalism
- Principles of Federalism

Elisabeth ALBER Research Group Leader at the EURAC Research Institute for Comparative Federalism, Italy and Lecturer at the University of Innsbruck, Austria

- Federalism, Ethnic Relations and Participatory Democracy
- Power-Sharing at the Subnational Level: South Tyrol, Moldova, New Caledonia
- Simulation Game: Let's Go Federal!

Sören KEIL

- Simulation Exercise: Utopia
- A Unique Federal System: Bosnia and Herzegovina
- A New Federal Tradition: Post-Cold War Emerging Federal Structures

Economic Globalisation and Sustainable Development (90 hours)

Module Director: Laurent BAECHLER Director of the MAEIS European Integration and Global Studies

The main goal of this module was to shed a light on the key forces shaping economic globalisation processes in their various dimensions: international trade, financial markets, currency issues, etc. Without going into the details of economic theory, the module helped students understand the contribution of these fundamental driving forces to long term economic development as well as major economic crises. Beyond a broad overview of the current state of the world economy, the objective was to understand how globalisation refers to the problem of international economic governance and to describe the institutions, actors and processes at work when it comes to cooperation challenges, in order to solve economic public goods management problems such as trade dynamism, financial stability or monetary cooperation.

The module put a specific focus on the role of the EU as an economic actor on the global stage, with its opportunities and challenges driven both by European specific evolutions and globalisation trends.

Finally, the module proposed an introduction to global sustainable development issues (climate change, access to water, etc.), as they are among the most decisive challenges that will shape the future of the world economy.

TRIMESTER 1: BERLIN (18 hours)

Laurent BAECHLER

- Introduction to International Economics
- How to Write a Master Thesis
- Overview of the World Economy
- Emerging Economies
- The World Economy in the Long Run
- Economic Globalisation

TRIMESTER 2: NICE (30 hours)

Laurent BAECHLER

- Debt Crisis
- Unemployment Policies
- Inflation
- Demographic Issues
- Income Inequalities in the World
- Eurozone Governance Issues

Jacques LE CACHEUX Professor of Economics, Paris

- Economics of the European Union: Single Market and Competition Policies
- Economics of the European Union: External Trade Policy
- The ECB and Monetary Policy
- Economics of the European Union: European Public Finance

TRIMESTER 3: ROME (21 hours)

Laurent BAECHLER

- Sustainable Development: Concepts and Challenges
- Climate Change Stakes
- Climate Change Strategies
- Energy Transition
- Access to Water
- Oral Presentations

TRIMESTER 3: ISTANBUL (21 hours)

Laurent BAECHLER

- Sustainable Development: Concepts and Challenges
- Climate Change Stakes
- Climate Change Strategies
- Energy Transition
- Access to Water
- Oral Presentations

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 and regional levels. In order to be credible, governments, business organisations and individuals must be able to deal with new challenges professionally and efficiently and 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 and conflict management. During the workshops, students acquired skills in Project Cycle Management, Intercultural Communication, Negotiation and the tracking and analysis of EU law proposals. We prepared our students at the crossroads of theory and practice for a professional life in challenging times.

TRIMESTER 1: BERLIN (18 hours)

Paul CULLEY EU Policy Advisor, Tutor and Trainer

Practical Skills for Policy Officers

Mark YOUNG Negotiation Trainer, President of Rational Games, Inc.

Negotiation Workshop

TRIMESTER 2: NICE (41 hours)

Paul CULLEY

Practical Skills for Policy Officers

Volkan ERKAN Engineer

- Introduction to Project Cycle Management
- Project Design: The Logical Framework Approach (LFA)
- LFA Analyses (Problem, Stakeholder, Goal and Strategy Analysis)
- Developing Log-Frame Matrix
- Developing Activity / Resource Schedules and Implementation
- Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation of Projects

Nina FRAUENFELD Executive Director, SuccessAcross

Cross-Cultural Communication





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INTERMODULAR COURSES

Conferences, Speeches and Discussions

Inaugural Lecture: Europe in a Dangerous World
 by Herman VAN ROMPUY President of CIFE, President Emeritus of the European Council and Former Prime Minister of Belgium

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STUDY TRIP

The annual study trip with the students of the Master in Advanced European and International Studies – Applied European Policy and Governance Studies to the European and international organisations took place in Brussels, Luxembourg and Strasbourg from 9 to 14 March 2025. The following discussions and debates were held:

BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

- Working in Social Media
 Andreana STANKOVA Head of Sector, DG Communication,
 CIFE Alumna 2011–12 MAEIS Trilingual Studies
- The Work of the Legal Service
 Gilles GANTELET Resources and Performance Management, Legal Service,
 CIFE Alumnus, Aosta Programme

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

- General Presentation on the Role of the European Council and the Council of the EU
 Emanuela AGOZZINO Political Administrator, General Secretariat of the
 Council of the EU
- Visit of the Europa Building



EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE

- The Role and Political Priorities of the European External Action Service, the EU's Diplomatic Service
 - **Thorsten BARGFREDE** Head of Sector, Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Division
- Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference
 Uldis ELKSNITIS Policy Officer, Information Integrity and Foreign Information
 Manipulation and Interference Division
- Meeting with CIFE Alumni and Exchange on Career Opportunities at the EEAS
 Luca KADAR Head of Division for Global Communications and Public Diplomacy and
 Grace Olivia MC CARTHY Correspondence Coordinator, Policy Coordination Division

UN/UNDP OFFICE IN BRUSSELS

The Work of the UN/UNDP Office in Brussels
 Lucas FERNANDEZ-CORREDOR and Giulia SALVETTI
 Officials, UN/UNDP Office Brussels

LUXEMBOURG

EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK

Presentation on the Roles and Activities of the EIB
 Michael LOIZOU Policy and Liaison Officer, Shareholding Relationships Division

EUROPEAN STABILITY MECHANISM

The Roles and Activities of the ESM

STRASBOURG

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

- Presentation on the Values, Roles and Functioning of the Legislative Process of the European Parliament and Visit to the Hemicycle
- Meeting with CIFE Alumnus Julius ZUNKER

EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Presentation on the Role and Work of the Court

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

- Conference on the Role of the Council of Europe in the European Political Landscape
- Visit to the Hemicycle of the Parliamentary Assembly

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OTHER VISITS

BERLIN

■ **Guided Tour "In the Footsteps of Divided Berlin"** on 1 November 2024 with **Ruth PORSTMANN** Project Manager at Polyspektiv

NICE

- Guided Walking Tour of Nice with Nathalie BRICOUT on 15 January 2025
- Visit to the National Council of Monaco on 19 February 2025

ROME

Visit to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) on 16 April 2025

ISTANBUL

■ Visit of the City on 17 May 2025







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MASTER THESIS RESEARCH TOPICS

Valeria ALBINI (Italy)

Negotiating Inclusion: Assessing the Adoptability of Power-Sharing in Syria and Yemen

Thesis Supervisor: George TZOGOPOULOS

Paul ANNEREAU (France)

Echoes of the Past: How Japan's Nationalism and Politics of Memory Shape Its Ties

with China and South Korea

Thesis Supervisor: Matthias WAECHTER

Aezani BLACK (Netherlands / United States)

The Role of the UN Security Council in Addressing the Gaza Conflict Post-October 7th

Thesis Supervisor: George TZOGOPOULOS

Julia BROWNLEE (United States)

Regionalism as a Propellant of Economic Development: The ASEAN Perspective

Thesis Supervisor: Laurent BAECHLER

Dorin CAZACU (Moldova)

European Integration Pathway of the Republic of Moldova and Security Challenges Thesis Supervisor: George TZOGOPOULOS



Ina CICOVIĆ (Montenegro)

The Role of Western Balkan Feminist Organisations in Empowering Women Survivors of War-Time Sexual Violence

Thesis Supervisor: Dagmar RÖTTSCHES-DUBOIS

Lorenzo COSTA (Italy)

The Armed Infancy: Child Soldiers' Spreading Phenomenon within Fragile States

in the XXI Century

Thesis Supervisor: Laurent BAECHLER

Miranda CULLY (United States)

The Post-Gatekeeper Presidency: Trump, Social Media and the Restructuring of

Democratic Discourse

Thesis Supervisor: George TZOGOPOULOS

Laura DE LA VEGA MARTÍN (Spain)

Digital Nationalism and the Fragmentation of European Identity: Toward a Strategic Model

of Psychosocial Diplomacy

Thesis Supervisor: Frédéric LÉPINE

Jackie GRUNITZKY (France)

France and Israel Under the Fifth Republic: The Palestinian Factor

Thesis Supervisor: George TZOGOPOULOS



Ellada HADJITHEODOSIOU (Cyprus)

The Heart of the Eastern Mediterranean: Cyprus as an Emerging Regional Actor

Thesis Supervisor: George TZOGOPOULOS

Jeffrey HOFFMAN (United States)

The Transatlantic Rift: Diverging Western Economic Approaches to China's Rise

Thesis Supervisor: Kai OPPERMANN

Ana KATAMADZE (Georgia)

Georgia's Path to EU Integration: Achievements, Challenges and the Impact of

Geopolitical Dynamics

Thesis Supervisor: George TZOGOPOULOS

Samuel KERSCHBAUMER (Italy)

Silicon Sovereignty: The EU's Geoeconomic Strategy in a Fragmented Global Order

Thesis Supervisor: Laurent BAECHLER

Joshua KING-BATSIOS (United Kingdom)

How Did Federalism Evolve in Nigeria and How Did the Evolution of Federalism in

Nigeria Keep the State of Nigeria Together?
Thesis Supervisor: Matthias WAECHTER

Marie KINSKY (Germany)

"Migrationswende" in Germany: Can Stricter Migration Policies Reconcile a Polarised Society?

Thesis Supervisor: Francesca ASTENGO

Clarissa MADDISON (United Kingdom)

Young vs Old: Brexit, Identity and the Generational Battle for Belonging

Thesis Supervisor: Matthias WAECHTER

Anna MARTINI (Italy)

How Did Crisis Turn into Opportunity? Sanctions and the Evolution of EU Common Foreign

and Security Policy

Thesis Supervisor: Kai OPPERMANN

Leandro MOREL (France / Italy)

Argentina: The Federal Pretence

Thesis Supervisor: Frédéric LÉPINE

Lauren MORTON (United Kingdom)

European Union Engagement with Latin America and the Caribbean: Between Value Promotion

and Strategic Interests. Comparative Case Study of Chile and Colombia

Thesis Supervisor: Matthias WAECHTER

Emma OTTE (Germany)

Supporting or Unwinding? (How) Can the Law Facilitate Consociational Conflict Resolution?

Thesis Supervisor: Frédéric LÉPINE

Ruman Sare ÖZCAN (Turkey)

Türkiye and the EU's Humanitarian Policy in Africa: The Case of Somalia

Thesis Supervisor: George TZOGOPOULOS

Tobias PIKET (Netherlands)

From the Copenhagen Criteria to the Copenhagen Dilemma: On Protecting the Rule of Law

in the Light of Prospective Enlargement

Thesis Supervisor: Matthias WAECHTER

João Vítor de Melo PRADO (Brazil / United States)

British Foreign Policy and the European Project from WWII to the Lisbon Treaty

Thesis Supervisor: Frédéric LÉPINE

Anna PROPRENTNER (Austria)

The War on Negotiations: How Russian Disinformation Disrupts the Peace Process

Thesis Supervisor: Kai OPPERMANN

Aida RAMÓN DIEZMA (Spain)

Demographic Pressures and Fiscal Reform: Rethinking Pension Sustainability in Spain

Thesis Supervisor: Laurent BAECHLER

Kristian REIM (Germany)

How is China's Belt and Road Initiative in the Horn of Africa Redefining Power Dynamics

with the US and the EU in a Strategic Region ?

Thesis Supervisor: George TZOGOPOULOS

Evelyn RONN (United Kingdom)

Border Talk: Discursive Practices of National Identity in Post-Brexit UK and France

Thesis Supervisor: Matthias WAECHTER

Jelke SCHOLTE (Netherlands)

Between Rhetoric and Practice: The UN's Women Peace and Security Agenda in the Colombian

and Syrian Peace Negotiations

Thesis Supervisor: Dagmar RÖTTSCHES-DUBOIS

Joan SIMÓ I RODRÍGUEZ (Spain)

Towards a Catalan Islam: A Comparative Case Study with Flanders

Thesis Supervisor: Ayhan KAYA

Daan VAN DER WILT (Netherlands)

Assessing the Effectiveness of the EEAS in Crisis Diplomacy: A Comparative Analysis

of the JCPOA Negotiations and the Hamas Terrorist Attacks

Thesis Supervisor: Kai OPPERMANN

Marco Valerio ZAGARIA (Italy)

European Strategic Autonomy as Hedging: Risk Management and Alliance Dynamics

in Contemporary EU Security Policy

Thesis Supervisor: Kai OPPERMANN



