

Master in Advanced European and International Studies

Mediterranean Studies

Academic Year 2024/2025



ANNUAL REPORT



CIFE Centre international de formation européenne

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1 OVERVIEW

The 2024/2025 Mediterranean Studies programme of CIFE's Master in Advanced European and International Studies (MAEIS) was composed of a diverse group of 13 students from 7 different nationalities. The itinerant programme offered students intensive courses in Nice, Tunis and Istanbul over three terms extending from 2 October 2024 to 25 June 2025, with a study trip to West Africa too. Afterwards, students were given the option of continuing their training with an internship of maximum 6 months with an optional report upon completion. The following table represents the timetable of the programme:

Dates	Location
02/10/2024 – 07/01/2025	NICE Centre international de formation européenne (CIFE)
07/01/2025 – 15/03/2025	TUNIS in cooperation with the Université Mahmoud El Materi
15/03/2025 – 02/04/2025	DAKAR in cooperation with Groupe Ecole Supérieure de Commerce (Supdeco) de Dakar
02/04/2025 – 10/04/2025	BANJUL in cooperation with Groupe Ecole Supérieure de Commerce (Supdeco) de Banjul
10/04/2025 – 25/06/2025	ISTANBUL in cooperation with Istanbul Bilgi University
25/06/2025	End of the Academic Year & Graduation Ceremony
Until 31/12/2025	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 second trimester with Tunisian professors, special emphasis was placed on the transformation of the Arab world, especially the Maghreb. On the other hand, during the third trimester, the focus was directed towards Turkey 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.





With the students of the MAEIS European Integration and Global Studies

A Conflict Management and Peacemaking (69 hours)

The Mediterranean is 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 (27 hours)

Anna DIMITROVA *Lecturer and Researcher at the ESSCA School of Management, Paris*

- The 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 (27 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 (15 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 Geoeconomic Dynamics in the Mediterranean



B Economics, Sustainable Development, Inequalities and Forms of Poverty (87 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 Turkey and developing countries such as Tunisia.

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, 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 (27 hours)

Jean-Claude VÉREZ

■ Économie du développement, pauvretés et inégalités

TRIMESTER 3: ISTANBUL (30 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 (66 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 (42 hours)

Frédéric LÉPINE *Deputy Director General of CIFE*

- Dynamics of European Integration

Olivier RUCHET *Lecturer at Université Paris II*

- EU Institutions and Decision-Making

Matthias WAECHTER *Director General of CIFE*

- Historical Aspects of European Integration

TRIMESTER 2: TUNIS (15 hours)

Philippe MARCHESIN *Associate Professor at Université Paris I*

- Intégration régionale et coopération

TRIMESTER 3: ISTANBUL (9 hours)

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-Turkey Relations: Europeanisation as an Anchor of Democracy
- Turkey in the World: Foreign Policy Beyond the EU



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 Université 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 *Vice-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





With the students of the MAEIS Applied European Policy and Governance Studies

E Professional Skills Workshops (51 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 (21 hours)

Merve SAMALP *Attachée to the Brussels Foreign Affairs Department (Alumna 2018/19)*

■ Séminaire des Anciens

Amr SHAKER *Career Development and Business Coach*

■ Navigating the Work Environment in Mediterranean Countries

Lucas SWINNEN *Protection Officer CGVS/CGRA Official, Belgium (Alumnus 2021/22)*

■ Séminaire des Anciens

TRIMESTER 3: ISTANBUL (30 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

3 INTERMODULAR COURSES

Simulation Game: European Council Summit

- **Refugee Policies** 2–3 December 2024
with **Ruth PORSTMANN** and **Frank BURGDÖRFER** from Polyspektiv
Article 1 Process of Applications
Article 2 Accommodation and Care

Language Courses

- **TUNIS** Arabic classes with **Ridha COCHTBENE**

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
- Conference: EU Career Opportunities
with **Ruth HINEK** Project Manager, External Relations Team, European Personnel Selection Office at EPSO

Alumni Professional Workshops

with

Giada KABRIT (2023/24)

Mariangela PANICO (2023/24)

Jessica POWERS (2023/24)

and

Sebastian SCHEUFELE (2015/16)

Maïva VERCOUTERE (2017/18)

Ali ETOUBASHI (2022/23)

Juan Jesús LÓPEZ MARTINEZ (2023/24)



With the students of the MAEIS Applied European Policy and Governance Studies



With the students of Supdeco Dakar and Supdeco Banjul



4 STUDY TRIP TO DAKAR AND BANJUL

From 15 March to 10 April 2025, a study trip to Dakar, Senegal and Banjul, 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 SY-SARR** (Strategic Development Director, Supdeco Dakar) and **Codou SARR** (Deputy Director Imap, Supdeco Dakar). In Banjul, the students were welcomed by **Abdou FAYE** (Director of Supdeco Banjul Campus).

Cultural Visits

- Renaissance Monument
- Museum of Black Civilisations
- Gorée Island
- Visit to Kachikally Museum
- Boat Trip

Lectures

- Master Class: “L’Afrique de l’Ouest : Nouveaux équilibres géopolitiques” with **Thierno SD NIANG**
- Les défis du développement with **Jean-Claude VÉREZ**

Institutional Visits

- The EU Delegation in Senegal and Meeting with the European Ambassador
- NGO “Bio Force Afrique”
- NGO “Consortium Jeunesse Sénégal”
- The EU Delegation in Gambia and Meeting with the European Ambassador
- The National Assembly of the Gambia
- NGO “International Organisation for Migration” in Banjul



5 OTHER VISITS

NICE

- Guided tour of Nice (Promenade des Anglais and Colline du Château) with **Nathalie BRICOUT** on 5 October 2024

TUNIS

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

- Visit-Conference of the Medina of Tunis on 11 January 2025
- Visit to the French Embassy in Tunis on 14 January 2025
- Visit to the Tunisian National Military Museum on 18 January 2025
- Visit to the NGO Al-Bawsala on 4 February 2025
- Visit to the Central Bank of Tunisia on 5 February 2025

6 MASTER THESIS RESEARCH TOPICS

Charles ANYA (Nigeria)

Les enjeux du partenariat Nigeria-Union européenne en matière d'immigration

Thesis Supervisor: Jean-Claude VÉREZ

Maya BROOKES (United Kingdom)

The Violence of Silence: Amnesty, Memory and the Struggle for Truth and Reconciliation in Post-Conflict Algeria

Thesis Supervisor: Yasmina TOUAÏBIA

Marisa COCCHIARO (Italy)

De mari nostri ad limes: How the EU Policy Divisions in the Mediterranean Cleared the Path for External Influences

Thesis Supervisor: Olivier RUCHET

Ivan DE PORET (France)

Entre urgence et pérennité : Étude de la réponse humanitaire apportée aux réfugiés syriens.

Application dans la province turque de Hatay depuis les séismes de 2023

Thesis Supervisor: Nazan CÖMERT

Maria Letizia GRECO (Italy)

Voyage au bout de la mer : l'écriture de la hargra dans les romans francophones algériens et marocains

Thesis Supervisor: Yvan GASTAUT

Charel JANS (Luxembourg)

Tunisia's Migration Policy Under Kais Saied: Domestic Shifts and the Strategic Use of Migration Diplomacy in the 2023 EU and Italy Agreements

Thesis Supervisor: Yvan GASTAUT

Devin LANGE (United States)

Historical and Modern Struggles for Recognition: A Comparative Analysis of the Kurds in Turkey and Amazigh of Algeria

Thesis Supervisor: Yasmina TOUAÏBIA



Amina MARENGON (Italy)

Global Challenges, Local Solutions: Addressing Food Insecurity in Tunisia through Women's Empowerment

Thesis Supervisor: Karima DIRECHE

Arthur MILZ (France / Germany)

Coopération transfrontalière et euro-région, vers une intégration européenne, le premier pas des « États-Unis d'Europe »

Thesis Supervisor: Jean-Claude VÉREZ

Finn REIFSCHLÄGER (Germany)

An Assessment of Germany's MINUSMA Contribution: Between Aspiration and Reality – Successes, Setbacks, and Lessons from the Mali Mission

Thesis Supervisor: Matthias WAECHTER



Jasmin SABRI (Germany)

The Proximity Paradox: Egypt's Shifting Role in Gaza

Thesis Supervisor: George TZOGOPOULOS

Tobias STABEL (Germany)

L'intégration régionale au Maghreb : opportunités, dynamiques, obstacles et perspectives

Thesis Supervisor: Jean-Claude VÉREZ

Juliette VENDIER (France)

Du diplôme au chômage ? L'enseignement supérieur tunisien à l'épreuve de l'insertion professionnelle

Thesis Supervisor: Jean-Claude VÉREZ





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