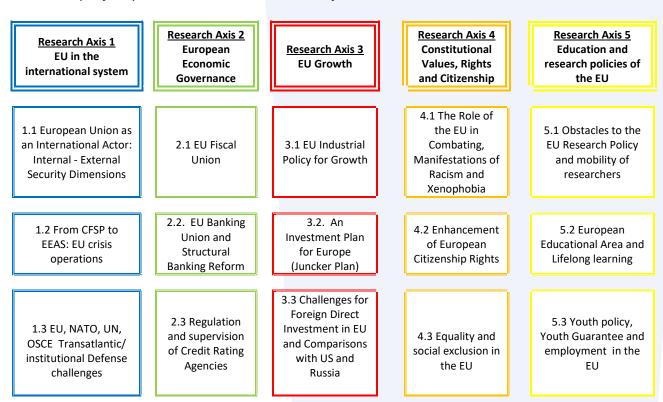


Overview

The main purpose of the Center of Excellence was research, structured into five research axes with 15 research objectives. Each axis was coordinated by a thematic coordinator and consisted of three research projects, each lasting 4-6 months. Research was conducted by experienced academics and junior researchers specializing in European studies. The research groups set up for each project were: a) interdisciplinary in that they involved researchers with diverse backgrounds, b) interinstitutional because it included researchers from other universities or research centers, and c) transnational as research cooperation concerned universities in other Member States.

More specifically the 5 Axis with their research objectives were:



The research was supported by study visits in other Member States for structured interviews with officials in various bodies, such as the European Central Bank and the Single Supervisory Mechanism, the European Securities and Markets Authority, the European External Action Service and the European Commission, as well as the European University Institute in Florence.

In this way, the Center of Excellence fulfilled its role as an interdisciplinary research pole between Greek and foreign institutions and promoted collaboration between researchers from diverse specializations, helping to promote European studies based on specific research objectives.

The EU Constitutional Values Observatory succeeded in raising public awareness and informing researchers about developments in EU constitutional values. It published a

collection of judgments by the EU Court of Justice on EU constitutional values and fundamental rights; opinions, research notes and news on recent rulings by the EU Court of Justice and the ECtHR. Moreover, it (co)organized roundtable discussions, lectures and conferences on EU constitutional values. Through its activities, it enriched European studies by researching and debating on EU constitutional values.

The Center of Excellence presented its research in roundtable discussions where academics, politicians or policy makers and civil society were represented for the purpose of exchanging views. It also presented research at international conferences and other scientific events. Distinguished academics from Greece and abroad participated in the discussions and conferences.

Thanks to the Center of Excellence innovative educational activities were introduced. The Summer Academy for the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice of the EU was organized for 3 years and brought together academics and researchers from Greece and abroad who analyzed the institutional and the external dimension of the AFSJ, the immigration and asylum policies, the European private international law and European criminal law. Also very important was the organization of an online seminar on hate speech and hate crime, which is free online as well as 3 Moot Courts on the procedure of the EU Court of Justice.

Approximately up to 14 students every year were selected as interns after a competitive procedure in order to produce educational and research material in the form of research notebooks. The internship helped improve the curriculum vitae of the trainees.

Despite the obstacles that arose in managing the program under strict Greek laws and practices of the Research Committee, the Jean Monnet Center of Excellence succeeded in:

- Increasing the interest of students and citizens in current issues of European studies and in the EU's constitutional values.
- Updating and deepening the knowledge of the researchers involved with the creation of new research and academic synergies to establish modern research models in European studies.
- Linking scientific research to European studies with the needs of civil society and the practical implementation of European policy by EU institutions and agencies.
- The extroversion of the Department of International and European Studies of the University of Macedonia by organizing at least 25 events, networking and research visits.

Events

Throughout the last 4 years, the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence organized or co-organised the following activities:

Round Table Discussions

1-day conferences

2-day conferences

The EU as International Actor: EU Internal - External Security Dimensions

From CFSP to the EEAS; a comprehensive approach to EU operations

Security and Equality in the EU

EU Fiscal Union

EU Investment Policies - The Investment Plan for Europe (Juncker Plan) The European Pillar of Social Rights and Youth Policy in the EU

EU Growth: EU Industrial Policy and SMEs.

EU Banking Union

EU Growth: Credit rating agencies and Foreign Direct Investment

Racism and Xenophobia in the EU

European Educational Area and Lifelong learning

Seminars

Obstacles to EU Research
Policy and Researchers
mobility

Enhancing the Rights of European Citizens

2-day Seminar: Discussions on the future of Europe

The Arrival of the Other

The Fight against Corruption – OECD and EU Policies

4-day Seminar on Hate speech in Greece and Europe

3 Summer Schools on the "Area of Freedom, Security and Justice" (2016, 2017, 2018)

Credit rating agencies in Sovereign Default and bank crisis

Webinar on "The role of the EU in combating hate speech and hate crime"

Guest Lecture / Keynote
Speech by Maren Heidemann

EU Growth and Foreign Direct Investment in the EU, Comparison with the US and Russia

MOOT Courts

Appeal for annulment of EU Council decision on the EU-Singapore trade agreement Reference for a preliminary ruling from the United Kingdom and Greece on freedom of religion Reference for a preliminary ruling on the prohibition of discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation

Impact, Visibility, Dissemination

Graduate and postgraduate students and the general public, at European level, were the main beneficiaries of the teaching activities and the material produced. They acquired profound knowledge about the EU dynamics and functions and up-to-date information about all the aspects of EU integration. They also benefited from thinktanking and debating activities by developing critical thinking, communicational and persuasion skills as well as from their contact with practitioners and experts from EU institutions, universities and civil society.

The products of the project, derived through research activities and events, increased the level of knowledge, encouraging further dialogue and debate. All research activities provided a considerable impetus and added value to the already existing research about EU dynamics and functions. The project's strong commitment to its interdisciplinary collaboration amongst the members of the Centre was considered an important element generating innovative research conclusions. In addition, the inclusion of experts from different regions provided innovative research findings and much attention was given to the expectations and challenges stemming from those regions as regards the way in which European policy evolves.

The project aimed at the broader dissemination of the results in order to render citizens stakeholders of the knowledge-based society. The availability and accessibility of all knowledge, which also fostered trans-European networks of research and mobility, substantiated the ongoing development of an effective European lifelong learning area. Furthermore, the essence of "European identity" was demonstrated through academic events targeting prospective researchers, policymakers and opinion leaders.

In this light, the project fostered dialogue and contributed significantly to the revival of the "European ideal" among European citizens, the increase of the interest in European integration studies and the consolidation of the European principle of solidarity. In addition, the inclusion of experts from the wider region provided innovative research findings. The project contributed to the development of academic research in the field of EU studies and to the promotion of a European public sphere.

A large variety of tools was used to make the project known and understood by numerous stakeholders and the general public. In particular, the website of the Jean Monnet Constitutional Values Observatory and its social media profile hosted releases at all stages of the project's implementation as well as about the events. In addition, the website hosted up-to-date information along with commentary on controversial EU integration issues, facilitating the flow of knowledge and its dissemination.

Systematic engagement, with civil society organisations, stakeholders and policymakers supported the aim of the broader international dissemination of the outcomes. Several newsletters were sent to selected parties. Also, press releases to the local media and online forums contributed to the dissemination of results. Summer Schools, working seminars and International Conferences were co-organized with the support of institutions in other countries. Moreover, the Jean Monnet Constitutional Values Observatory fostered systematic dialogue and think tanking activities.

Exploitation activities were planned to reveal the project's value to the wider academic and social community and investigate possible funding models in order to reassure the continuity of the project. Research outcomes and deliverables were also promoted via the official and unofficial events that took place during the implementation of the project as well as through the networking activities and institutional liaisons of the University.

Activities

Teaching Activities

Three Summer Schools on the "Area of Freedom, Security and Justice". The Summer School was organized each year in Thessaloniki with 10 lecturers each time and lasted 25 hours (exams included). In August 2016 and July 2017 the summer school was self-financed by the participants and despite the fact that the tuition was up to 180 euros to 280 euros, it involved only 14 and 23 participants. However, when the tuition was financed by the Jean Monnet Action, 99 participants graduated from the 3rd summer school in 2018 when the tuition was covered by Jean Monnet Action. The participants filled in their remarks in evaluation sheets on each summer school, its courses, and its lecturers.

Seminar on Hate Speech (in Greek): It lasted 24 hours with 7 lecturers and
 covered the topic analysis at international, comparative (United States),
 national and most of all the European level.

E-seminar on "The role of the EU in combating hate speech and hate crime" (in
Greek): It covers the same aspects with examples from the case law (3 hours).
The e-seminar is available on the website of the Jean Monnet Centre of
Excellence.

Three Moot Courts of the Court of Justice of the European Union: They were
organized in collaboration with the Unit of European Policies and Democracy with
10 EU law students participating each time and 3 professors who acted as judges
in front of an audience of EU Law students. They took place at the Thessaloniki
Appeal Court after special permission and the presentations are uploaded on the
website of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence and the Unit of European
Policies and Democracy.

Internship and 15 Jean Monnet E-notebooks on Crucial Issues of European Integration: More than 30 Interns undertook the research and presentation of the 15 research topics of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence. The interns were selected after an exam and an interview and assisted the thematic coordinators in their research and in the coordination of the events. The Notebooks are available at the website of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence.

Research Activities

The research was conducted by 38 researchers and 4 research assistants as well as the interns on the following research axes, thus covering a major part of EU policies:

- 1. EU in the International System
- 2. EU Economic Governance
- 3. EU Growth
- 4. Constitutional Values, Rights and Citizenship
- 5. Education, Research and Youth Policy

Each Research Axis had 3 research packages and its thematic coordinator. The research team many times acted as a think tank in order to find solutions on the current EU integration problems. The research axes resulted in 5 research books edited by the thematic coordinators.

15 Jean Monnet e-Notebooks on European Integration were produced by the interns on the EU policies and case law. The Notebooks are available in our website in English and Greek.

The Jean Monnet EU Constitutional Values Observatory was very successful in the collection of relevant case law and the publication of research opinions and news. The Observatory was organized by the Head of the Observatory, Dr. Nikolaos Gaitenidis, who conducted think tanking activities with junior and senior researchers and interns.

Events

FIRST YEAR 2015-2016

Research Axis 1.1.: In the Round Table on the EU internal - external security (April 18, 2016), our guests Professor Sven Biscop (Egmont Royal Institute for International Relations, UK) and Mara Marinaki (Principal Advisor European External Action Service (EEAS) discussed with NATO and Greek Military staff.

According to the work programme the first year was devoted to Round Table Discussions on the research topics of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence where high level experts were invited to discuss with our researchers, academics and civil society while extra events were programmed without implications on the budget.

Research Axis 3.1.: In the Round Table on EU Growth and SMEs (20 May, 2016), the keynote speaker Joana Valente from Business Europe, Brussels discussed with academics and representatives from the industry and commerce

Research Axis 4.1.: In the Round Table on the role of the EU in combating manifestations of racism and xenophobia (June 10, 2016), the keynote speaker, Prof. Emeritus Christos Rozakis, ex Judge at the European Court of Human Rights discussed with many senior academics and PhD holders/candidates as well as with representatives from vulnerable groups such as LGBTs, Roma, Muslim minority, etc.

Research Axis 2.1.: In the Round Table on EU Fiscal union (21 May, 2017), Professors Dimitrios Skiadas and Ioannis Papadopoulos presented their research work and discussed with the participants.

Research Axis 5.1.: In the Round Table on the Obstacles to the EU Research Policy and mobility of researchers (June 1, 2016), the keynote speaker Dr Costas Fotakis, Alternate Minister for Research and Technology in Greece discussed on this topic with the representatives of the Steering Group of the European Research Council, the UK Research Councils, experts of Euraxess, as well as the Vice Rector of the University of Macedonia, the directors of the Research Centres in Greece and the representatives of industry and commerce and junior researchers.







SECOND YEAR 2016-2017

Research Axis 1.2.: Conference "From Common Foreign and Security Policy of the EU to the peace keeping operations of the European External Action Service" (March 10, 2017): The keynote speakers were Professor Kjell Engelbrekt, Professor at the Swedish Defence University, Mr Georgios Vourekas, Head of the Sea Border Sector at Frontex, and Mr Apostolos Nikolaidis, Civil-Military Relations Officer at the European Commission.

Research Axis 4.2.: Conference on the **Enhancement of European Citizenship Rights** –(27 April 2017): The keynote speaker was **Prof. Miguel Gardenes Santiago**, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain while the chair of the first session was Professor Emeritus Vassilios Skouris, f. President of the Court of Justice of the European Union.

Research Axis 2.2.: Conference on the European Banking Union (21 May 2017): The keynote speaker was Dr. Martha Kavvatha, Legal Service of the Bank of Greece

Research Axis 3.2.: Conference on the Juncker Investment Plan (20 May 2017): The keynote speakers were Mr Nicholas Jennett, Vicepresident of the European Investment Bank, and two members of the European Parliament, Ms Maria Spyraki and Mr. Georgios Kyrtsos.

Research Axis 5.2.: Conference on the **European Educational Area and Lifelong learning** (25 May 2017): The keynote speakers were Professor Nikolaos Papadakis (University of Crete), Ast Professor Fotini Asderaki (University of Piraeus) and Ast Professor Georgios Zarifis (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki).





ΛΛΗΝΙΚΉ ΕΝΩΣΗ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟΎ ΔΙΚΑΊΟΥ

HELLENIC ASSOCIATION FOR EUROPEAN LAW SSOCIATION HELLENIQUE POUR LE DROIT EUROPEEN HELLENISCHE VEREINIOUNG FÜR EUROPAECHT ΔΙΕΘΌΨΟΝ ΑΘΗΤΙΚΑΙ ΑΘΕ 210-3805413 -mail: geed.fided@mmail.com. http://www.eeed.fide.biogspot.gr

ΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΟΝΙΚΟ ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΟ

«Η ΕΝΙΣΧΥΣΗ ΤΩΝ ΔΙΚΑΙΩΜΑΤΩΝ ΤΩΝ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΙΩΝ ΠΟΛΙΤΩΝ»

Κέντρο Αριστείας JEAN MONNET, Πανεπιστήμιο Μακεδονίας Συνδιοργάνωση: Δικηγορικός Σύλλογος Θεσσαλονίκης Ελληνική Ένωση Ευρωπαϊκού Δικαίου

Πέμπτη 27 Απριλίου 2017, ώρα 17.30-21.00 Αμφιθέατρο Καθηγητή Ιωάννη Μανωλεδάκη





Extra Activities without budgetary impact



In the framework of the 3rd Research Axis, the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence organized a conference on "The fight against corruption – OECD AND EU POLICIES" (28 April 2017) with Mr William Loo, Deputy Head and Senior Legal Analyst, Anti-Corruption Division, Directorate of Financial and Enterprise Affairs, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and Professor Dimitrios Skiadas, University of Macedonia.

THIRD YEAR 2017-2018

Research Axes 3.1 and 4.3: First two day conference - Security and Equality in the European Union (19-20 April 2018)

In the first day the keynote speakers were Professor Stephen Blank (US National Defence Council), Mr Younes El Ghazi (Diplomatic Forum, UK) and Brigadier General Mr Vittorio Antonio Stella (NATO). In the second day, the keynote speakers were Professor Joseph Weiler (New York University, US) and Professor Dora Kostakopoulou (Warwick University, UK).





Research Axes 2.3 and 3.3: Third two day conference – EU Growth: Credit Rating and Foreign Direct Investment (17-18 May 2018)

On the first day, the guest speaker was Mark Clough, Q.C., Senior Counsel at the Law Firm Dentons. On the second day the guest speaker was Karl Aiginger, Director at the Policy Crossover Center.

Research Axis 5.3: Second two day event – The European Pillar of Social Rights and Youth Policy in the EU (16-17 May 2018)

In the first day there were two keynote speeches by Mr Bertoncini (President of the "Mouvement Europeen", ex Director of the Jacques Delors Institute "Notre Europe", France) and Professor Sue Maguire (University of Bath, UK). In the second day there was a round table discussion of junior and senior researchers with Mr Yves Bertoncini on Social Rights. The event was coorganized by the Heinrich Boell Stiftung – Thessaloniki.



Fourth Year: Extra activities without budgetary impact



The European Economic and Social Committee (EU Consultative Committee with seat in Brussels) organized its plenary session in Thessaloniki on September 10, 2018.

The Jean Monnet Center of Excellence and the Traders Association of Thessaloniki were the co-organizers. The topic was about the new Package on European Company Law and was included in the 3rd Research Axis on EU Growth and SMEs. We suggested the invitation of Professor Florian Möslein (University of Marburg, Germany), Professor Gardenes Santiago (Autonomous University of Barcelona), Associate Professor Efi Tziva (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki), Lecturer Thomas Papadopoulos (University of Cyprus), Aikaterini Kalliarekou (University of Macedonia) and representatives of the Notaries Association and Bar Association. The financement came from the European Economic and Social Committee.

Collaboration in a Conference and a Seminar – **Discussions for the Future of Europe**, Enhancement of democracy in the framework of the multilevel European governance. Organized by the Heinrich Boell Stiftung – Thessaloniki.

Monday 23 October 2017 Keynote speaker Professor Ulrike Liebert, Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (University of Bremen, Germany). Other speakers/discussants: Professors Lina Papadopoulou, Ioannis Papadopoulos, and Georgios Andreou.



ΔΗΜΟΣΙΑ ΑΚΡΟΑΣΗ ΜΕ ΘΕΜΑ
Τη Δέσμη Μέτρων για το
Ευρωπαϊκό Εταιρικό Δίκαιο

10 Σεπτεμβρίου 2018 | από τις 9.00 έως τις 12.30 Εμπορικό και Βιομηχανικό Επιμελητήριο Θεσσαλονίκης, Τσιμισκή 29



One keynote speech / Guest Lecture in the International Conference on International Business, May 2019

Keynote speaker: Dr Maren Heidemann, Institute for Advanced Legal Studies, UK.

Title of Speech: Commercial Registers and Transparency - new roles for reporting and publication.

STUDY VISITS

The study visits were considered important so that the researchers of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence gain experience from institutions, officials and experts via structured interviews communicated beforehand, on the research topics.

Four researchers of the Research Axis 2.3. visited the European Central Bank and the European Stability Mechanism Board in Frankfurt, Germany in 26-29 March 2018. There were many structured interviews with the officials in different departments.

Two researchers of the Research
Axis 1.3 visited the European
Commission and the European
External Action Service for
structured interviews on EU
internal and external security,
peacekeeping operations and
transatlantic institutional
challenges (June 2018).

One researcher of the Research Axis 2.1. travelled to Paris and visited the European Stock Markets Authority for a structured interview, took interview from Professor Michel Aglietta (published).

One researcher from the Research Axis 4.3 travelled to Paris and visited the French Equality authority and the OECD Equality Centre while taking part at the General Assembly of UNESCO which discussed equality issues (November 2017).

researchers Research Axis 4.2. travelled to Athens in order to accompany the group of EU law students at the Greek institutions that were applying EU Law and have structured presentations and discussions: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Special Service on EU Affairs, the Supreme Administrative Court and the the Supreme Court (Areios Pagos) Greece.

One researcher from Research Axis 4.3. travelled to Florence and had structured interviews with the researchers of the European University Institute equality issues and social inclusion: Professor Claire Kilpatrick, Dr. Tina Maggazini and Dr. Nicholas Dines.





Reflections



Antonia Koumpoti, Research Assistant, Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence

I started out at the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence as an intern mostly with administrative duties and after some time I got offered a job as a Research Assistant and I was given the opportunity to do research and help with the editing of the books, amongst other activities. Having gained valuable experience and after a very competitive procedure I was selected as the Research Assistant and

Head of the Interns' Team of the Jean Monnet Project EUVadis. In short, I consider my story as a true Success Story of this Centre of Excellence as I was acknowledged for all of my hard work and I was given opportunities I might not otherwise had. I am deeply thankful to Professor Anagnostopoulou for always believing in me.



Christos Zois, Intern of the Centre of Excellence, Law School, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

My engagement with the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence of the University of Macedonia as an intern has been a rather educational and helpful experience. First and foremost, I had the chance to deal with current European

and national issues pertaining especially to fundamental human rights, freedoms, security concerns and the youth. This has been crucial for me to further realise that with European integration moving forward, national policies are not restricted to classic state borders and that interrelation between national and European levels of governance have to be enhanced.

Secondly, via my internship I had the opportunity to further develop my soft skills in the fields of research, text editing and text formation, which are of major importance in today's academia as well as in the labour market. Last but not least, I had the chance to cooperate with inspiring and visionary people who are determined to achieve their goals the best way possible. For that, I owe a huge thank you to Professor D. Anagnostopoulou and the rest of the team of the Centre of Excellence for their valuable help and guidance all those months.

Dr. Christos Baxevanis, Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Macedonia and experts (Rapporteur) the European Economic and Social Committee.

On June 10, 2016 I had the great honor and pleasure to participate in a roundtable discussion by the Centre of Excellence Jean Monnet University of Macedonia. From my behalf I would like to thank and congratulate all the organizers and speakers, especially Ms Despina Anagnostopoulou, Associate Professor at the Department of International and European Studies UOM for the honorary invitation and the excellent organization of a very topical and serious issue which concerns not only Greece but Europe as a whole.

In the year 2015, the reports of racist attacks and passerive violence against refugees and migrants increased significantly compared with 2014, as confirmed in the relevant report of the Network Recording Incidents Racist Violence. Among other reported attacks incidents where the victims suffered injuries, many times by several perpetrators, while the action of organized groups in the neighborhoods has not disappeared. There are also missing data on the extent to which the bias of certain employers coupled with the vulnerability of the foreign residents can lead to extremist attacks against them, while a daily occurrence of refugees and immigrants becoming victims of verbal attacks and targets of actions with strong stereotypical characteristics, and economic exploitation, thus marginalizing them even further. Important also remains that the number of recorded incidents is still uniformed. Further, there are plenty recorded cases of discrimination based on ethnic or racial origin. Typical is the Nigerian citizen case holder of an asylum seeker card, concerning the breach of a declaration by a private company in a position to which he has formally had been admitted and was invited to take service because of ethnoracial origin (Case 187370/2014) which came to the Ombudsman after reporting.

Unfortunately, I met such cases, personally during my time as President to Appeal Committees (n.3907 / 11). During the examination of asylum claims on appeal, in particular through the interview process, often witnessed similar incidents. A common feature of all these cases has been the reluctance to share their experience and in particular the lack of trust to turn to the competent authorities of the Greek state, fearing that this would further complicate their daily lives. There is no doubt that the Greek state has made progress, particularly through the creation of Racist Violence Response Department at ELAS for reporting incidents to the police. Significant progress has also been observed in the prosecution of racist crimes on the definition of the Special Prosecutor in Athens and Piraeus, with the amendment of Article 81 A CC and the establishment of the National Council Against Racism and Intolerance, as well as the establishment of network for a unified monitoring system for racist crimes, in cooperation with the police and courts.

Required, however, even more, is the focusing on combating human trafficking, drug trafficking, prostitution and crime, along with measures of relief of the entire population and improve the security climate. Key, however, to effectively tackle racist violence is the integration policies and social inclusion refugee and immigrant policies. As Greece today bears a great burden of the Syrian refugee crisis, the smooth integration of new entrants and the integration of immigrants already residing in the Greek territory is the next bet with Europe will have to win as a society and as a civilized world.



Tassos Pavlopoulos, PhD. Doctor of Law, AUTH

Reflections on the debate on racism and xenophobia:

"We participated in one-from many sides-valued the conference. The area of focus itself- racism especially our time and our society, is marked by increased interest on behalf of the members of the academic community, and

many others. In informative presentations culminating open round discussions the scientists and civil society have joined their voices condemning racism and xenophobia. Congratulations to the organizers Professors and their deserving colleagues."





Impressions on the Summer Academy

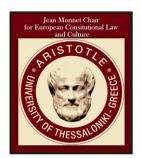
For a modern Lieutenant of the Greek Police is absolutely essential, in addition to my police duties, to monitor and analyze everything that happens in the European Union and directly affects our country on issues developed at the summer school concerning the Schengen agreement, immigration policy, the asylum, the European criminal law (organized crime,

trafficking, terrorism) and European procedural law (mutual recognition of judicial decisions). This is the major asset I gained from my participation in the summer school, which I believe would be extremely valuable for both my future studies and overall general development.

Aliki Chapsanidou, Intern of the Centre of Excellence, Department of International and European Studies, University of Macedonia

The Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence is a treasure chest that brings together the values of the European Union and the academic community to everyone interested in the process of European integration. It provides a conducive ground for the diffusion and the expansion of the ideas regarding the critical issues of the European Union while providing and equipping the modern European citizen not only with theoretical, but also practical tools through the academic activities it organizes, including, but not limited to, conferences, seminars and round table discussions. The galore of thematic areas cover a wide range of topics regarding the European reality and are always presented by speakers with a high level of expertise in their field and up to date skills, knowledge and insights. Personally, the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence gave me the opportunity to acquire a multitude of instruments and knowledge about the values of democracy, inclusiveness and cultural diversity and the rule of law, that otherwise, I might have not had the chance to obtain. The cornerstone of the Centre of Excellence is the constant advancement of the quality and efficiency of knowledge it brings not only to the academic community but to the general public as well, making it one of the many adornments of University of Macedonia.

Collaborations



Jean Monnet Chair, "European Constitutional Law and Constitutional Culture", Law School of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki



Centre of International and European Economic Law (CIEEL)



Democritus University of Thrace



UNESCO Chair in intercultural policy for an active citizenship and solidarity



Thessaloniki Bar Association



European Economic and Social Committee



Traders association of Thessaloniki



International Conference International Business



Hellenic Association for European Law



Thessaloniki Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Research Unit European Policies & Democracy







Jean Monnet Chair – EU Budgetary Governance & Audit



Organisation for Economic Co-operations and Development



Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence on Governance



Heinrich Böll Stiftung - Thessaloniki Office







Jean Monnet Chair of Faculty of Law "EU Social Rights Protection and Comparative Legal Cultures"

Teaching Activities

Internship and 15 Jean Monnet E-notebooks on Crucial Issues of European Integration

More than 30 Interns undertook the research and presentation of the 15 research topics of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence. The interns were selected after a strict examination and an interview and assisted the thematic coordinators in their research and in the coordination of the events. The Notebooks are available at the website of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence in English and Greek.



E-seminar on "The role of the EU in combating hate speech and hate crime" (in Greek)

This training course focuses on investigating the meaning and practices of hate speech and hate crime in the EU, against group of persons or members of such a group defined mainly by reference to race, colour, religion, descent or national or ethnic origin, according to the Council Framework decision on combating racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law. In particular, the course assesses the national, European and international legislation in the field of hate speech and hate crime on the internet, as well as of their application in the national law order of various EU member states. In this context, possible gaps will be identified in the existing legislative frameworks. The course is taught by Associate Professor Despina Anagnostopoulou, Department of International and European Studies University of Macedonia and Associate Professor Lina Papadopoulou, Law School, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and its duration is 3 hours. The e-seminar is available on the website of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence.

Three Summer Schools on the "Area of Freedom, Security and Justice"

The Summer School was organized each year in Thessaloniki with 10 lecturers each time and lasted 25 hours (exams included). In August 2016 and July 2017 the summer school was self-financed by the participants and despite the fact that the tuition was up to 180 euros to 280 euros, it involved only 14 and 23 participants. However, when the tuition was financed by the Jean Monnet Action, 99 participants graduated from the 3rd summer school in 2018 when the tuition was covered by Jean Monnet Action. The participants filled in their remarks in evaluation sheets on each summer school, its courses, and its lecturers.











Three Moot Courts of the Court of Justice of the European Union

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Books

European Union and Transatlantic Challenges, Security & Defense Perspectives

The book will be published by Springer in early 2020 and was edited by Associate Professor George Voskopoulos based on the proceedings of three related scientific conferences and the research carried out within the framework of the Centre's 1st Research Axis entitled "EU in the international system". The volume scrutinizes the nexus among various inter-related international and regional security parameters and the EU's actual defence capability vis-à-vis terrorism, systemic instability, the hindrances to transatlantic cooperation.

It offers a multilayer theoretical insight as well as the operational elements of applied policies through the testimony of field experts. The combination of theory-based approaches and the demonstration of operational capabilities and weaknesses provide an overall evaluation premium of adopted policies.

Also, it focuses on the need for an EU security and defence union under the pressure and the impact of new external factors such as the rise of terrorist threats, the instability in Syria and the migrants and refugees ceaseless flow towards EU. It also analyses the joint defence capabilities and the EU global strategy in the field of security and defence. Finally it explores the strengthening the EU-NATO strategic partnership and transatlantic relations.

European Economic Governance after the Crisis

The book will be published by Cambridge Scholars Publishingin early 2020 and was edited by Associate Professor Ioannis Papadopoulos based on the proceedings of three related scientific conferences and the research carried out within the framework of the Centre's 2nd Research Axis entitled "European Economic Governance".

This book analyses the progress made in the EU Banking and Fiscal Union agendas and the credit rating agencies' frameworks and functioning, after the Eurozone crisis. The first part of the book includes contributions from esteemed academics Emeritus Prof. and Director of Policy Crossover Center Karl Aiginger (The aftermath of the Greek crisis: Paths towards a new sustainable growth model) and Prof. Michel Aglietta (Towards a more constructive Fiscal Union: The European added value of a long-term investment programme in the EU). The second part includes the chapters: Excessive Deficit Process as a basis for a Fiscal Union: Lessons from the EU Auditors' point of view, and Constitutionalization of macroeconomic philosophy and asymmetrical fiscal framework: Can the Stability and Growth Pact policy mix lead to a Fiscal Union? The third part includes the chapters: Institutional Aspects of the Banking Union: EU internal market competence transformation after the financial crisis, The Structural Banking Reform Project of the EU: Towards a European Glass-Steagall Act?, Towards an effective Banking Union: The case of the Bank Monte dei Paschi di Siena, Powers of the Bank of Greece under the Banking Union: Interplay with the ECB and the SRB. Finally, the fourth part includes chapters: Pricing sovereign credit risk: The impact of credit ratings, The Evolution of Credit Rating Agencies: Is their Extinction the Final Step?, and Do credit rates contribute to market efficiency and/or resilience?

Economic Growth in the European Union, Analyzing SME and Investment Policies

The book will be published by Springer in early 2020 and was edited by Professor Christos Nikas based on the proceedings of three related scientific conferences and the research carried out within the framework of the Centre's 3rd Research Axis entitled "EU Growth".

The book highlights and criticizes certain framework flaws and paradoxes but also proposes solutions for the problems concerning the growth of the European Union and the policy implementations that tried to amend this situation. The book constitutes an in depth analysis concerning EU Growth from an investment perspective analyzing the above areas and their inherent interdependence and also suggesting up to date and innovative proposals to support and promote policy improvement and further dialogue on these key issues.

Higher Education and Research in the European Union, Mobility Schemes, Social Rights and Youth Policies

The book will be published by Springer in early 2020 and was edited by Associate Professor Despina Anagnostopoulou and Professor Dimitrios Skiadas based on the proceedings of three related scientific conferences and the research carried out within the framework of the Centre's 5th Research Axis entitled "Education and research policies of the EU".

The book examines the academia mobility environment in the EU by highlighting positive and negative aspects, providing criticism on certain framework flaws and paradoxes and proposing solutions for an effective integration of the European Research and Higher Education Area.

One of the novel aspects of the book is that it focuses also on the relevant EU Youth Policies and their interaction with young people's employment and education possibilities. In addition, the above analysis was based on the fact that research and innovation can be extremely useful development tools, especially in times of crisis as they can create opportunities for human resources and innovative ideas.

Towards an Inclusive European Citizenship

The book was published by Papazisis Publishers and was edited by Lina Papadopoulou and Despoina Anagnostopoulou. Its content is based on the proceedings of three related scientific conferences and the research carried out within the framework of the Centre's 4th Research Axis entitled "Constitutional Values, Rights and Citizenship in the European Union".

The book has chapters both in English and Greek. The contributions are written by prominent legal and political scientists, they explore the dichotomous lines, the systemic discrimination, the dangers of the rule of law and the new institutional tools within the EU legal order concerning equal participation of all, both in the private and in the public sphere.

In this way, they contribute to a long but always timely debate on European citizenship by providing comprehensive, innovative and documented analyses and new ideas for inclusion.



Notebooks

	Research Axis 1 EU in the international system	Research Axis 2 European Economic Governance	Research Axis 3 EU Growth	Research Axis 4 Constitutional Values, Rights and Citizenship	Research Axis 5 Education and research policies of the EU
	Supervisors: Associate Professor George Voskopoulos, Assistant Professor Fotini Bellou	Supervisor: Associate Professor Ioannis Papadopoulos	Supervisor: Professor Christos Nikas	Supervisor: Associate Professor Despina Anagnostopoulou	Supervisors: Associate Professor Despina Anagnostopoulou, Professor Dimitrios Skiadas
	1.1 European Union as an International Actor: Internal - External Security Dimensions	2.1 EU Fiscal Union	3.1 EU Industrial Policy for Growth	4.1 The Role of the EU in Combating, Manifestations of Racism and Xenophobia	5.1 Obstacles to the EU Research Policy and mobility of researchers
]	Martha Symeonidou	Angeliki Roussou	Nikolaos Pias	Marianna Anastasopoulou, Erilda Goga	Sofia Saridaki
	1.2 From CFSP to EEAS: EU crisis operations	2.2. EU Banking Union and Structural Banking Reform	3.2. An Investment Plan for Europe (Juncker Plan)	4.2 Enhancement of European Citizenship Rights	5.2 European Educational Area and Lifelong learning
	Kiriakos Lefkopoulos	Kornilia Vikelidou, Panagiotis Moumtsakis	Athena Baveli	Dimitris Kaloutsikos, Martha Simeonidou, Sofia Kirabalidou	Aikaterini Alexandridi, Andreas Rentzis
	1.3 EU, NATO, UN, OSCE Transatlantic/ institutional Defense challenges	2.3 Regulation and supervision of Credit Rating Agencies	3.3 Challenges for Foreign Direct Investment in EU and Comparisons with US and Russia	4.3 Equality and social exclusion in the EU	5.3 Youth policy, Youth Guarantee and employment in the EU
	Despina Damianidou	Maria Kilinkaridou, Fotis Kokkinis, Eulampia Stogianni	Iraklis Mitsis	Christianna Theodoraki – Vrouvaki, Ioanna Tsatse	Zarkada loanna

Writers:

Writers:

Writers:

Statistics

Round Table Discussions

EVENT	

Number of	Number of	
Speakers	Participants	

The EU as International Actor: EU Internal -		
External Security Dimensions		
EU Fiscal Union		
EU Growth: EU Industrial Policy and SMEs.		
Racism and Xenophobia in the EU		
Obstacles to EU Research Policy and		
Researchers mobility		
The Arrival of the Other		

5	126
3	27
8	51
16	136
10	40
11	54

1-day conferences

From CFSP to the EEAS; a comprehensive
approach to EU operations
EU Investment Policies - The Investment
Plan for Europe (Juncker Plan)
EU Banking Union
European Educational Area and Lifelong
learning
Enhancing the Rights of European Citizens
The Fight against Corruption – OECD and EU
Policies

10	128
7	40
5	31
10	103
8	114
4	54

2-day conferences

Security and Equality in the EU
The European Pillar of Social Rights and
Youth Policy in the EU
EU Growth: Credit rating agencies
and Foreign Direct Investment

11 57	
11	198
10	33

Seminars

2-day Seminar: Discussions on the future of Europe	
4-day Seminar on Hate speech in Greece and Europe	
Public Hearing, European Economic and Social	
Committee	

6	21
9	27
25	60

Summer Schools

1 st Summer Schools on the "Area of Freedom, Security and Justice"
2 nd Summer Schools on the "Area of Freedom, Security and Justice"
3 rd Summer Schools on the "Area of Freedom, Security and Justice"

8	23
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Guest Lecture /

Guest Lecture / Keynote Speech by Maren Heidemann

22

MOOT Courts

Appeal for annulment of EU Council decision on the EU-Singapore trade agreement

Reference for a preliminary ruling from the United
Kingdom and Greece on freedom of religion

Reference for a preliminary ruling on the prohibition of discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation

10	69
10	59
10	45







Jean Monnet Constitutional Values Observatory

The transformation of the European Union as a community of values generates different interests, ideas and expectations from the process of European integration among states and citizens. Also, a critical deficit of comprehensive information, analysis and knowledge is evident among EU citizens regarding the core elements of European citizenship and the constitutional, fundamental values of the European Union. Furthermore, the rise of populism, radicalism and intolerance among European societies has resulted in the augmentation of Eurosceptisism and the loss of the common sentiment of European identity. As a result the process of European integration based on common values lacks popular support.

It is evident that Europe needs to better understand the dilemmas and perceptions generated by the efforts at EU and Member State level to safeguard the values 'common' to both Member States and the EU. To fulfil this mission The "Jean Monnet Constitutional Values Observatory" was established as a special research and documentation unit of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence. The main goal of the Observatory was to produce permanent and periodic assessments regarding the process of the consolidation of the European Constitutional values of the EU, as a forum to exchange ideas, and as a resource for opinion leaders, academics and EU citizens. The Observatory constituted a pole of information, research and debate on cutting-edge issues dominating the Union's constitutional agenda.

HEAD: Dr. Nikos Gaitenidis



The Constitutional Values Observatory hosted documentation, legislation, case law and press releases and commentary about the latest developments and the new challenges in the nexus of EU integration/EU values. The webpage of the Observatory also hosted comments and notes on controversial issues of the specific thematic areas and provided research reports for EU institutions, and fostered dialogue and think tanking activities between policy-makers, academics, civil society and EU citizens. Based on an interdisciplinary cluster of high level experts and young researchers it engaged in a systematic effort to disseminate and debate all relevant information, making them policy relevant and communicable to the general public.

The main thematic areas of the Observatory were:

- 1. EU, fundamental rights, minorities and dignity
- 2. Equality and diversity in the EU
- 3. Democracy, participation and the rule of law

Research Notes:

The Gay blood donor controversy in the ECJ: Discrimination or Health Protection? (Dr. Nikolaos Gaitenidis)

Integrity of person, the prohibition of eugenics and a right to healthy child? (Dr. Nikolaos Gaitenidis)

Can a non-EU national be able to invoke a secondary right of residence in the EU as a parent of a child who is a citizen of the Union? (Maria Sapardani, Research Associate)

Issuing a vise on humanitarian grounds to asylum seekers: Obligation or right of the Member States? (Maria Sapardani, Research Associate)

Vaccination: Obligation or Choice? (Dimitris Myzithras Grigorakos, Research Associate)

Research Briefs:

Beneficiaries of international protection and the "place of residence" condition (Dr. Nikolaos Gaitenidis)

European Union and gender based violence: overview of policies and legislation (Dr. Nikolaos Gaitenidis)

Roaming: The way forward (Maria Sapardani, Research Associate)

Secondary right of residence in the EU? [in Greek] (Maria Sapardani, Research Associate)

Granting visa for humanitarian reasons to applicants' asylum: obligation or right of member states? [in Greek] (Maria Sapardani, Research Associate)

Opinions:

What is the nest step for intercultural dialogue in Europe? (Dr. Nikolaos Gaitenidis)

Obligation to declare cash in excess of EUR 10,000: Oussama El-Dakkak case and Intercontinental SARL (Maria Sapardani, Research Associate)

The Manolada Case [in Greek] (Dimitris Myzithras Grigorakos, Research Associate)

Case C-157/15: "The issue of the headscarf in the case law of the CJEU, a missed opportunity" [in Greek] (Koralia Kondou, Research Associate)

The Observatory also published
6 volumes of News Reports
[available on the website]



HIGHLIGHTS ABOUT THE UNION WE LIVE

February 2016 - April 2016

Case Law Collection:

EU Asylum Policy Rights of the child

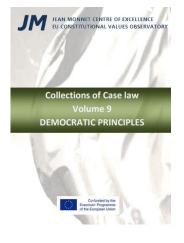
Schengen Convention Human dignity and Asylum Seekers

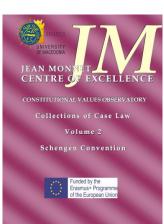
Freedom of Expression Prohibition of torture and

degrading treatment

Personal Data Protection Democratic principles

Freedom of thought, conscience and religion





Website

jmcexcellence.uom.gr



Research Laboratory of International Relations and European Integration JEAN MONNET CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE Research on Crucial Issues of European Integration

Jean Monnet Chair New Dimensions on EU Legal Studies



International conference on Security and Equality in the EU, 19-20 April 2018

Το Κέντρο Αριστείας Jean Monnet του Πανεπιστημίου Μακεδονίας διοργανώνει διήμερο διεθνές συνέδριο με θέμα "SECURITY AND EQUALITY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION" στις 19-20 Απριλίου 2018 ως εξής: 19 Αρτίl 2018, 18.00 pm EU and Transatlantic Defense Challenges [...]



Summer academy on European Studies and Protection of Human rights

The Jean Monnet Center of Excellence and the UNESCO Chair of the Department of International and European Studies, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece, is organising a Summer academy on European Studies and Protection of Human rights [...]



Summer Seminar "Challenges for the European Societies" 30 June – 3 July 2019

The Jean Monnet Project EU Vadis Policy Discourses on Intercultural Dialogue, EU Values and Diversity, University of Macedonia in cooperation with the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence for European Constitutionalism and Religion(s), Aristotle University of Thessaloniki [...]



Summer Academy "Protection of Human Rights in Europe with emphasis on Refugee Rights", 2017

Protection of Human Rights in Europe with emphasis on Refugee Rights The Summer Academy lasts a duration of 40 hours with a focus on the protection of human rights in Europe with emphasis on the Rights [...]

Read more

Center of Excellence Education Research Events Media Observatory Contact

Volume 1: EU Asylum Policy

Volume 4: Personal Data protect
Research Notes
Research Dilume 7: Human Dignity and sylum Seekers

Opinions

Volume 2: Schengen Convention

Volume 5: Freedom of thought, conscience and religion

Volume 5: Freedom of thought, Conscience and religion

Fig. 1 Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, University of Macedonia

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The present volume serves as a reminder for me and for everyone involved in the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence these past 4 years, of all the hard work we put in and all the amazing moments and experiences we gained. I am deeply thankful to everyone who helped in any way and everyone who supported the endeavors of the Centre.

Thank you,

Thank you all.

University of Macedonia

Despina Anagnostopoulou,
Academic Coordinator of the Jean Monnet Centre of
Excellence

"Research on Crucial issues of European Integration" Associate Professor, Dep. Of International and European Studies