

THE EUROPAEUM

A network of leading European universities

Annual Report for 2025



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The Europaem is a network of **leading universities in Europe**. Founded in 1992 - by Bologna, Leiden and Oxford universities - the Europaem currently has **16 member universities** operating in 15 countries. In 2025, in alphabetical order by location, these universities were: Pompeu Fabra University (Barcelona), Freie Universität Berlin, University of Bologna, University of Copenhagen, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Geneva), Helsinki, Jagiellonian University (Kraków), Leiden University, Catholic University of Portugal (Lisbon), University of Luxembourg, Complutense University of Madrid, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich, University of Oxford, Charles University (Prague), University of St Andrews, University of Tartu, and the Central European University (Vienna and Budapest).

Introducing the Europaeum

The Europaeum is a unique multinational initiative that brings together not only some of the finest academic institutions in Europe, but some of the continent's best and brightest young minds, connecting them across disciplines, cultures and countries.

Europaeum philosophy, method and added value

The distinctiveness of the Europaeum lies in its focus on the **potential of students**, both as individuals and as contributors to society as a whole - making a difference to and through their future lives. This is reflected in the Europaeum's **clear and attractive central mission**, which is to bring together talented young people - to think, learn, work and develop skills together - as they, in the words of the organisation's founding mandate, emerge as 'future leaders for a new Europe' and help 'shape the future of Europe for the better'.

The Europaeum is committed to promoting **multi-disciplinary study** and learning, to addressing cross-cutting issues and working at the **interface of academia and policy practice**. In general, universities start with disciplines and work outwards: the process is **centrifugal**. By contrast, the Europaeum starts with the issue or problem and then pulls in disciplines as required, in a process that is **centripetal**.

The Europaeum seeks to overcome intellectual silos and to 'decompartmentalise' thinking - with a strong emphasis on **teamwork, leadership** and addressing **policy** challenges - so that students can maximise their potential contribution and impact, whether they pursue academic or non-academic careers in their later lives. In short, the Europaeum aims to help produce better leaders and better policy for the future of Europe.

The Europaeum **differs from other university alliances or networks** in Europe in that it is not a lobbying organisation, it does not act as a framework for joint applications for research funding, and it does not award joint degrees. What the Europaeum provides is complementary to, rather than competitive with, what individual universities or conventional university alliances can offer.

The difference lies in the Europaeum's focus on programmes and events that bring students together across boundaries, to nurture the development of **critical thinking**, promote **analytical and practical skills**, and acquire a deeper knowledge of **contemporary issues and challenges** for participating students. Evidence of the added value offered lies in the fact that most of our member universities choose to be members both of the Europaeum and of a conventional university alliance at the same time.

Operationally, the Europaeum organises **in-person seminars, training sessions and policy events** for postgraduate students from its member universities, with a primary (but far from exclusive) focus on study of the humanities and social sciences, under the broad rubric of **‘Europe: Past, Present and Future’**. The main themes of its recent work have related to: (i) European history and culture, (ii) European policy-making, and (iii) liberal democracy and citizen engagement.

The Europaeum’s **two principal vehicles** to deliver this product are its twin **Scholars’ Programme** and its **Ideas Programme**, which together constitute a very special European public good. They help to equip students for both academic and non-academic careers, in a way that usefully supplements what the individual member universities can already provide on their own.



Europaeum Ideas Programme

The Europaeum **Ideas Programme** - which was known as the Core Programme until December 2025 - provides in-person opportunities for any postgraduate student from the member universities to explore issues at the intersection of scholarship and policy-making. Around **ten events** are organised within the Ideas Programme each year, rotating among member universities.

Reflecting the broad theme of '**The Making and Shaping of Europe**', the programme now includes **four seasonal schools**, held in venues across Europe:

- A **winter school**, which focuses on aspects of the European economy, society, environment and/or digital transformation;
- A **spring school**, which explores Europe in the wider world, including foreign affairs, trade, development and/or security and defence;
- A **summer school**, which addresses some aspect of European culture, including literature and the arts; and
- An **autumn school**, which is held in Brussels and looks at EU institutions and policy-making in depth.

In addition, there are two to four other **flagship events** each year - which encompass a wider span of subjects across the humanities and social sciences (and potentially more widely) - and at least two '**partnership**' events with member universities or think tanks on topics on which the latter lead. In 2024, the Europaeum held a total of eight Core Programme events across Europe; in 2025, that number rose to nine; in 2026, there will be ten such events in the new Ideas Programme.

Ideas Programme events are offered at no cost to the participating students and seek to involve them actively in proceedings - for example, by encouraging them to **present papers or chair sessions**. They also hear from a range of keynote speakers and panellists, as they share an understanding of and gain insights into major intellectual and policy issues.

Ideas Programme events are **residential, usually lasting two to three days**, with between 10 and 45 students participating in each event. Any Master's or doctoral student from any member university of the Europaeum may apply. Some 175 students from member universities now take part in these events each year. Selection is by a rigorous applications process. Calls for applications are posted on the Europaeum website and advertised within the member universities themselves.

The **2024 and 2025 Core Programmes** included events on media and ambivalence (Lisbon), survivance and survival (Tartu), making sense of turbulent times (Oxford), 'flourishing' (Helsinki), marginalised histories (St Andrews), European and national elections in 2024 (Brussels), critical thinking in the classics (Berlin), the European Green Deal (Madrid), democracy in Europe (Prague), AI and the digital revolution (Luxembourg), multipolar antiquity (Leiden), European strategic autonomy (Brussels) and the 'future of the European past' (Oxford).

Future Leaders of Europe: Europaeum Scholars' Programme

The flagship **Future Leaders of Europe: Europaeum Scholars' Programme** gives 30 of Europe's most outstanding **doctoral candidates**, drawn from the network's member universities, the opportunity to develop new cross-cutting skills, both intellectual and practical - with a strong emphasis on leadership - and to work in small, multi-disciplinary teams with a view to evolving proposals together for European policy initiatives. The programme currently runs for **fifteen months** - from July in the first year to October in the second - and it has so far operated over four two-year cycles, namely in 2018-19, 2020-21, 2022-23 and 2024-25. The fifth cycle of the programme will launch in July 2026.

Based on a **rigorous selection** process, the Europaeum chooses doctoral candidates from member universities who, in addition to being individuals of high academic merit and potential, demonstrate integrity, value trust and are strongly committed to the values of freedom, democracy and the rule of law. Like Ideas Programme events, participation in the Scholars' Programme comes at **no cost** to the students involved.

Taking the programme at European level - alongside the normal process of pursuing their doctorates in their individual home universities - the Europaeum Scholars attend a series of **one-week residential 'modules'**, rotating around our member universities in Europe. They are exposed to multiple viewpoints and trained in skills which will help them to both make policy and step up to serious leadership roles in the future.

Concretely, over the two-year cycle, the participating students receive about **80 talks, roundtables or training sessions** on a wide range of policy topics and professional skills, adding up to around 300 hours of work. They hear from policy-makers, academics, journalists, business-people, think tankers and representatives of NGOs and civic society, among others.

Specific **skills training** includes developing students' capabilities in policy analysis, drafting of policy papers, public speaking, negotiation techniques, chairing and presenting at meetings, and the handling of both social and conventional media, as well as perspectives on career planning and development.

Working in four multidisciplinary teams, the Scholars also produce **policy proposals** designed to 'make Europe a better place'. They are guided in this work by post-doctoral **Teaching Fellows**, retained by the Europaeum, some of whom are themselves former Scholars. Their 15-month cycle ends with a **special conference in Brussels**, held in the autumn of every second year, at which the students share their policy projects with decision-makers and opinion-formers in and around the EU institutions.

The programme also involves a personally-tailored **mentoring scheme**, in which students are individually matched to leaders in various fields of study or practice (usually in outside organisations), with a view to the greater sharing of experience and expertise, and a better understanding of ethical leadership in practice.

For reference, doctoral committees in member universities are recommended to treat the Scholars' Programme as equivalent to **13 credits** under the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). Scholars are provided with a formal record of all activities undertaken during their time on the programme, so that they can present it to their home department as part of their doctoral portfolio.

Each of the 30 students participating in the Scholars' Programme can reasonably expect to receive in-kind support from the Europaeum equivalent in value to some 24,000 euro over the 15 months involved.

The programme's approach is distinctive. Conventionally, many doctoral candidates work on their own, within one discipline, and focus on empirical data from the past. The Europaeum seeks to give its Scholars a very different, parallel, experience: they work in **small teams, combine disciplines and think about future policy**. This experience aims to offer them not only new skills, but wider horizons, lifting their sense of what they can contribute to society and enhancing their commitment and ability to make a positive difference, whilst giving them an extra edge in getting the kind of future employment they aspire to.



The fourth cohort of the **Scholars' Programme**, running in 2024-25, included modules on: Democracy in Europe (held in Budapest), EU institutions and policy-making (Brussels), technology and policy (Barcelona), global governance (Geneva), skills training (Kraków) and policy project work (Helsinki).

European Politics and Society (EPS) Joint Programme

Although the Europaeum itself does not award joint degrees, four universities within the network - Pompeu Fabra University (Barcelona), Jagiellonian University (Kraków), Leiden University and Charles University (Prague) - cooperate in offering a **joint Master's programme in European Politics and Society (EPS)**.

This is a **two-year programme**, financed in part by the EU's Erasmus Mundus scheme. All students begin the MA in Charles University in Prague and then continue their studies at one or more of the three other participating universities.

It results in an MA degree in European Politics and Society, awarded by the lead partner university, Charles University in Prague.

Participants in the EPS programme receive a Europaeum certificate and eight of the students taking part are selected to attend the annual Europaeum Spring School in Oxford during their second year.





Europaeum Scholars' Programme in 2025

The Europaeum Scholars' Programme operates on a two-year cycle, with the most recent programme running from the spring of 2024 to the autumn of 2025. Activities in 2025 thus fell in the second year of that cycle.

During the **first year, 2024**, the 30 Scholars on the programme had already completed four modules, held in Oxford, Brussels, Budapest and Krakow. These introduced them to leadership and ethics, policy 'from the bottom up', the EU institutions policy-making, and democracy in Europe. The Scholars had received professional training in the techniques of policy analysis, policy writing, gender mainstreaming, making policy more inclusive and public speaking, as well as

visiting a range of EU institutions. The Scholars had also been working on policy projects of their own design, with guidance from the Europaeum team. Full details of these activities can be found in the Annual Report for 2024.

In the **second year, 2025**, the Scholars' Programme continued to provide professional training, sessions examining different areas of policy-making, ethics exercises, and the space and resources for the Scholars' to pursue their policy projects. The Scholars' work during this second year is summarised below. With effect from 2026, the programme has been renamed Future Leaders of Europe: Europaeum Scholars' Programme.

Calendar of Scholars' Programme Events in 2025

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Scholars' module 5 | <i>Technology and policy</i> | 17-21 February, Barcelona |
| Scholars' module 6 | <i>Europe and global governance</i> | 16-19 June, Geneva |
| Scholars' module 7 | <i>Work of group policy projects</i> | 11-15 August, Lammi and Helsinki |
| Scholars' module 8 | <i>Policy conference</i> | 13-15 October, Brussels |

Scholars' module 5: Technology and Policy

17-21 February 2025, Barcelona

The fifth of the eight modules of the 2024-25 Europaeum Scholars' Programme was hosted by Pompeu Fabra University (UPF) in Barcelona, focussing on **technology and policy**. As AI, virtual reality, and big data have an ever-increasing impact on our lives, it is important for future policy-makers to consider the implications of new technologies on different sectors. So this module sought to increase the Scholars' knowledge of **EU regulation on new technologies** and its impact in practice, and to improve the Scholars' knowledge of the relationship between new technologies and **current policy development** and service delivery.

With this in mind, the Europaeum partnered with Dr Mireia Artigot from Pompeu Fabra University to design a programme that considered various areas where technology is

influencing policy and where EU regulation of technology is having an impact on what is possible in terms of policy development and delivery.



Sessions covered both the challenges and the opportunities that technological developments are presenting. A panel on **health and technology** showed the potential of AI to help predict the spread of infectious diseases and as an early detection tool for cognitive decline, but also highlighted the unintended consequences of the AI act for medical equipment. Experts on **migration** warned of the human rights issues associated with facial recognition and other uses of new tech at the border, while also pointing to how AI can facilitate **integration**. Another panel explored how **service delivery** by governments can be supported and enhanced by new technologies, as well as the dangers of misunderstanding **big data** in government policy.


The Scholars were also joined by two experts on **cultural policy**. One outlined how artists were concerned about AI and its impact on their copyright; the other advocated a closer relationship between culture and technology. As new technologies raise concerns about sustainability, an expert from the UN was invited to talk about the ways in which they can support our efforts to meet the **SDGs**. A final panel explored the impact of AI on the **legal system**, bringing in the viewpoints of a law firm with a super computer, the technician who maintains it, and a judge who has to deal



with cases where AI has been used in the lawyering. Much of the discussion concerned issues around **regulation**, and we were joined by an EU expert to discuss the EU's developing regulatory framework. Finally, an interactive workshop encouraged the Scholars to explore the **ethical issues** around how our data is used by businesses.

The Europaeum was most grateful to Dr Mireia Artigot and for a productive collaboration and to Pompeu Fabra University for hosting the event. Its thanks also went to the Catalan Parliament and to their technology advisory board, CAPCIT, for welcoming the Scholars and sharing insights into their work and international partnerships, and for arranging a tour of the institution.





'[The panels] were very helpful and interesting also for people not having had too much insight into technology aspects before'.

'I found the sessions extremely insightful. I particularly enjoyed ones where there were divergent opinions on optimism and scepticism on the panel'.

'If the programme's goal is to encourage us to critically reflect on the key challenges of today and the future, with the awareness that we may one day find ourselves in positions where we can shape policies, then, in my view, it is undoubtedly succeeding. ... These exchanges push us to reflect, grow, and engage with complex issues in ways that would be far more difficult in other settings.'

Scholars' Module 6: Europe and Global Governance

16-19 June 2025, Geneva

The sixth module of the Scholars' Programme was hosted by the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID) in Geneva. It focussed on **multilateral governance and transatlantic relations**, professional skills training and project work. From a policy perspective, the main goal was to develop the Scholars' understanding of the multilateral system, the transatlantic relationship, and Europe's role in global governance. This was achieved through a mixture of institutional visits and talks.

The Scholars visited the **World Trade Organization (WTO)**, where they heard from a senior member of the CTNC Division about the recent challenges that the Dispute Settlement System has faced and the impact to date of US President Donald Trump's tariffs, as well as some potential future scenarios. The focus then shifted to recent **environmental initiatives** at the WTO, which were introduced by a senior expert from the Legal Affairs Division. Following a lively discussion, the Scholars were given a tour of the building and its art collection.



The second institutional visit was to the **United Nations**. Following a tour of the Palais des Nations, the Scholars met with Dr Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona, Director of the UN Research Institute for Social Development. She introduced the Scholars to the institute's work and its place in the UN eco-system, and shared further insights about the UN, under the Chatham House rule.

The visit was complemented by two further sessions. Dr Cecilia Cannon (Polisync / IHEID) discussed the **UN80 initiative** and the shape of the proposed UN reforms, which she put in recent historical perspective. A more hands-on appreciation of the UN's work came from Robert Watkins, who spent over 30 years with the organisation. His workshop on **humanitarian aid** introduced the Scholars to the key principles in that field and then challenged them to apply those principles to several difficult real-life cases that he had encountered during his career.

During the module, the Scholars had two training workshops. One focussed on how to engage with the **media**. As well as receiving useful practical advice about communicating with the general public, presenting oneself on camera and much more, everyone received individualised feedback. Six Scholars were **interviewed on camera** and five did mock radio interviews. Representatives from all four project groups had the opportunity to receive feedback on how they communicate their policy recommendations.

The second training session focussed on enhancing the Scholars' **negotiating skills**. All participants completed a survey and received the results in advance of the training. This session combined advice on principles with a chance to put them into practice - in this case a Conference of Parties simulation - followed by a feedback session.

The Scholars enjoyed the opportunity to meet a Scholar alumnus over dinner, as well as one of our Trustees, Andrienne d'Arenberg, and Prof. Giles Carbonnier (IHEID), VP of the International Committee of the Red Cross. On another evening, they were very kindly invited to drinks by the lake with a former colleague of our Trustee, Andrew Graham, where they had the opportunity to meet philanthropists and a former US Congresswoman.

The Europaeum was very grateful to the Geneva Graduate Institute for hosting the module and to Emma Cranfield Perrin for all her organisational support.

The module had two further goals. One was to see the Scholars make good progress on their **group policy projects**, so plenty of time was allocated for such work, with all four groups making progress on the drafts of their policy documents. The other was to provide the Scholars with training that will enhance their professional skills.





'Thank you very much for yet another fantastic week with the Europeaum.'

'Thank you very much for a great and interesting module in Geneva!'

'I really appreciated the talks in the WTO and the opportunity to listen in to some sessions at the UN... The sessions overall this module have been fascinating and I really enjoyed all of them.'

'Let me please thank you for what was a truly amazing module. I really enjoyed the terrific combination of trainings, talks, tours, and socialising.'

Scholars' Module 7: Work on Group Policy Projects

11-15 August 2025, Lammi and Helsinki

The seventh module of the Europaeum Scholars' Programme was hosted by the University of Helsinki - mainly at its research station in Lammi, which provided an ideal setting for intensive writing and editing as the Scholars finalised their policy briefs and policy reports on their **four policy projects**. For four days, the Scholars worked intensively on their policy documents. In all cases, the groups' documents were transformed by the end of the week: while the core ideas did not change substantially, the way they were expressed and the professionalism of the texts were all significantly enhanced through rigorous discussion and review.


During the week the Scholars received outside feedback. All of their documents were reviewed by an expert who gave them feedback on them as policy documents. An online session was also arranged, during which representatives of each group gave their '**elevator pitch**' to alumni of the programme, who made suggestions and asked probing questions. The Scholars also spent some time thinking about how they would present their projects to the external assessors and at the forthcoming policy conference in Brussels in mid-October 2025.



After a hard day's work, the Scholars were able to take advantage of the many opportunities to **unwind at the research station**, whether boating on the lake, swimming in the lake, enjoying the sauna, playing volleyball or having a late night barbeque. In most modules, we give the Scholars an opportunity to share their doctoral research; in Lammi that meant relaxed talks in the sun surrounded by nature.

On the final day, the Scholars visited NordicWest Office, part of the Milton Group, in Helsinki. They learned about the **scenario scoping** that NordicWest undertake and gained insights into how a think tank consultancy operates differently to the think tanks they have encountered in the past. Talks by their CEO, Dr Charly Salenius-Pasternak, and their sustainability expert, Heidi Melkas, helped the Scholars better understand business perspectives on key areas, including security and environmental policy. Afterwards the Scholars were given the chance to take a guided tour of Helsinki or to explore on their own.

The Europaeum expressed its gratitude to Dr Leena Malkki, the team at Lammi, and the University of Helsinki more generally for their support of this module, both administrative and financial.

A photograph of three people standing outdoors under a large tree with green leaves. On the left, a woman with long brown hair, wearing a light yellow t-shirt and a dark jacket, is talking to a man in the center. The man has dark hair and a beard, is wearing a pink t-shirt with a rhinoceros graphic, and is holding a blue cup. On the right, another man with short brown hair and glasses, wearing a dark blue jacket, is looking towards the other two. The background is filled with the green foliage of the tree and a glimpse of a blue sky.

'Lammi was a very enjoyable module, one of the best modules overall - thank you as always for organising everything for us.'

'I really enjoyed the set-up in Lammi. We worked hard, but the relaxing surroundings and the opportunities for sauna, volleyball, etc. made the whole week feel like a break from the everyday hectic pace.'

'The place and the activities available were great. Food was also very good.'

'The session [at the NordicWest office] was insightful. It provided us with the basis to understand what their think tank did operationally and aspirationally. The section devoted to the nexus between Finland's security, resilience thinking, and the role of the private sector amidst it all, was particularly interesting.'

Scholars' Module 8: Final Policy Conference

13-15 October 2025, Brussels

The two-year cycle of the Scholars' Programme concluded with a **Europaeum policy conference** in Brussels. The Scholars had half a day to practise and refine their presentations before a three-day conference that covered a range of key policy areas. Panels were built around the broad areas encompassing the Scholars' projects, with teams of Scholars presenting their group's key findings, alongside leading experts in the field.

All four groups presented their policy projects as part of expert panels:

○ **Babette de Naeyer** (UPF) and **Ömer Şahin** (UPF) outlined their group's idea for an **EU Media Wallet and Youth Media Pass**, which are designed to support reliable media, encourage more robust information ecosystems, and incentivise young people to engage more with news media.

○ **Esther Braun** (Oxford) and **Doris Kristina Raave** (Tartu) presented their project's recommendation that **consensual sex work should be decriminalised** and labour rights extended to workers in the industry.

○ **Michele Collazzo** (Bologna) and **Filip Scherf** (St Andrews) discussed their group's recommendations on **urban gardens as a means to promote urban renewal** and wellbeing, provide climate mitigation, and potentially also improve food security.

○ **Adam Kluge** (Oxford) and **Sinéad Mulcahy** (Leiden) outlined how EU member states could fulfil the **monitoring requirements of the EU Migration and Asylum Pact** in ways that improve living conditions and give voices to migrants.



All four were able to develop contacts with policy-makers in relevant areas and all received suggestions on how they might take the project further and/or disseminate it more widely to relevant stakeholders.

The conference was part of the **Europaeum policy week in Brussels**, which is discussed in more detail in a separate section below.



The Scholars had submitted their finished policy briefs and policy reports in early September and at the end of the month, the four policy project groups each presented their projects to three outside expert assessors, who were:

- **Christian Leffler**, Chair of the Board of International IDEA, formerly Deputy Secretary General of the European External Action Service (EEAS) and Deputy Director-General of DG Development in the European Commission;
- **Maria João Rodrigues**, former Vice-President of the European Parliament, who was serving as President of the Foundation of European Progressive Studies (FEPS) and Chair of the Advisory Board of Re-Imagine Europa;
- **Shada Islam**, Visiting Professor at the College of Europe, Director of the New Horizons Project, and well-known commentator on EU affairs.



The following Scholars presented their groups' projects:

- **Saoirse McGilligan** (St Andrews) and **Dylan Thurgood** (Oxford) on the EU Media Wallet;
- **Abha Calindi** (Geneva Graduate Institute) and **Rohan Stevenson** (Helsinki) on decriminalising consensual sex work in the EU;
- **Amós del Castillo Petidier** (Complutense University Madrid) and **Beatriz Serrra** (UCP) on urban gardens;
- **Adam Kluge** (Oxford) and **Klaudia Grat** (St Andrews) on the monitoring requirements of the EU Migration and Asylum Pact





Award for best policy project

The three assessors commended all four projects for their creativity and professionalism and the ways in which they genuinely sought to improve the lives of Europeans. They awarded the prize for best project to on the one on the monitoring requirements of the EU Migration and Asylum Pact, '**From Data to Dignity**', underlining its commitment to human rights and its potential to improve the lives of millions of migrants across Europe. The award was presented during the Europaeum policy week in Brussels.

Outcome of the Europaeum Scholars' Programme 2025 as a Whole

Overall, the 30 Europaeum Scholars had a successful year learning and thinking about policy issues, visiting key institutions, developing and deepening a range of skills, and completing four innovative projects that aimed to contribute to building a better policy for a better Europe. Below please find a detailed listing of the various components of this intensive process.





Overview of Europaeum Scholars' Programme in 2025

Talks, panels and group discussion sessions

European Challenges and European Potential, talk by Mr Jim Cloos (TEPSA)

Promise and Performance in the Berlaymont: Perspectives on von der Leyen 2.0, with Dr Heather Grabbe (Bruegel / UCL), Dr Andrea Renda (CEPS), Dr Sophia Russack (CEPS), and Dr Martin Westlake (LSE / College of Europe)

Strategic Autonomy: An Idea Whose Time has Come - or Already Passed? by Ms Claude-France Arnould (Brussels Institute for Geopolitics), Prof. Axel Marx (KU Leuven), and Prof. Jamie Shea (Chatham House / Exeter University)

De-Polarising European Society and Politics, with Mr Richard Corbett (former MEP), Mr Vassilis Kessidis (EPIC), and Ms Sophie Pornschlegel (Das Progressiv Zentrum)

Tackling Disinformation and Promoting Media Resilience, with Mr Giuseppe Abbamonte (DG Connect), Mr Eddy Wax (Euractiv), Ms Babette de Naeyer (Pompeu Fabra University), and Mr Ömer Şahin (Pompeu Fabra University)

Urban Greening and Renewal, by Ms Heather Brooks (Eurocities), Mr Michele Collazzo (University of Bologna), and Mr Filip Scherf (University of St Andrews)

UN Reform, by Dr Cecilia Cannon (Graduate Institute Geneva / Polisynch)

European Security under Trump 2.0, (Geneva Centre for Security Policy)

The Disruption of AI, by Dr Mireia Artigot (Pompeu Fabra University)

Health and AI, by Dr John Palmer (Pompeu Fabra University), Mr Benjamin Meany (MedTech Europe), Ms Carla Zaldua Aguirre (AcceXible)

Art, AI, and Cultural Policy, by Dr Eva Soria (Barcelona Institute of Culture)

AI: Art and Physics, Dr Lluís Nacenta (Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona)

The Potential of AI for Sustainable Development, by Dr Paula Hidalgo-Sanchis (UN University)

Lawyering and AI, by Mr Francesc Muñoz (Cuatrecasas), Mr Omar Puertas (Cuatrecasas), and Judge José María Seijo (Consejo General del Poder Judicial)

EU Regulation on Digital Services and Markets, by Dr Néstor Duch-Brown (European Commission Joint Research Centre / CEPR)

Public Services and Technology, Mr Michael Donaldson Carbón (Barcelona City), Prof. Gilbert Fridgen (University of Luxembourg), and Judge Herman van Harten (Hague Court of Appeal)

Migration and Emerging Technologies, by Dr Jasmijn Slootjes (Migration Policy Institute), Dr Natasha Saunders (University of St Andrews), and Dr Craig Damian Smith (Pairity)

Talks, panels and group discussion sessions

The Future of Migration in Europe, by Dr Alberto Horst Neidhardt (European Policy Centre), Mr Adam Kluge (University of Oxford), Ms Sinéad Mulcahy (Leiden University), and Dr Maria Gargano (Egmont Institute)

Riborqestra and Social Inclusion in Barcelona, by Mr Nil Barutel (Pompeu Fabra University)

Institutional visits

Visit to the Catalan Parliament, Barcelona - Hosted by the Consell Assessor del Parlament sobre Ciència i Tecnologia (CAPCIT). Private tour of the Parliament; welcome by Judit Alcalá González MP; and presentation of the work and international alliances of CAPCIT by Ms Clara Marsan.

Visit to the World Trade Organization, Geneva - Hosted by János Volkai, CNTC Division. Guided tour. Talks included:

-The Impact of Trump 2.0 on World Trade, by Dr János Volkai, CTNC Legal Affairs Division

-WTO Work on Trade and Environment, by Dr Daniel Ramos, Legal Officer and Plastics

Pollution Specialist

Visit to the United Nations, Geneva - Guided tour and meeting with Magdalena Sepulveda, Director of UNRISD.

Visit to NordicWest Office - Hosted by CEO Dr Charly Salonijs-Pasternak. Talks on the work of NordicWest Office and the world of think tank consultancy by Dr Charly Salonijs Pasternak, and on sustainability in the business sector by Heidi Melkas.

Workshops and discussions on ethical leadership

Workshop on Humanitarian Intervention: Principles and Practice led by Mr Robert Watkins (Graduate Institute, Geneva)

Reflections on Moral Leadership, by Dr António Leitão Amaro (Minister for the Presidency, Portugal)

Reflections on Leadership in Policy, by Prof. Maria Joao Rodrigues (Re-Imagine Europa)

Interactive Exercise on the Ethics of Personalised Pricing, led by Dr Mireia Artigot (Pompeu Fabra University).

Professional and skills training

Engaging with the Media, led by Ms Claire Bolderson and Ms Caroline Finnegan (Engaging Communications)

Negotiation Skills, led by Mr Andrew Heyn and Ms Jackie Minor (Centre for Political and Diplomatic Studies).

Scholars' Four Policy Projects

Throughout their time on the programme, the 30 Scholars worked in **four small multi-disciplinary groups on a policy project of their own design**. From Module 2 in the first year onwards, they spent some time at each module working together to research, define and refine their ideas on the project.

At the end of the programme, the four groups each submitted a two-page policy recommendation, presented their policy recommendation to policy-makers and other

stakeholders, and submitted a 5,000-word supporting document / policy report. These are now available on the Europaeum's website and have been circulated to policy-makers in Brussels and beyond. The four groups also presented their ideas to policy-makers in Brussels at the Brussels policy conference in October 2025.

In 2025, the **four policy projects**, put together by teams of Scholars, focussed on the policy areas set out below.



'The EU Media Wallet' offers a novel means of creating robust information eco-systems, supporting reliable media outlets financially. Contributing organisations have to meet some basic requirements to ensure that they are not promoting disinformation and users can access individual articles on a (reasonable) pay per view basis. They also propose offering young Europeans free access to quality news up to age 24.

Scholars involved: Babette de Naeyer (Pompeu Fabra University), Topi Juga (University of Helsinki), Zoe Konsbruck (University of Luxembourg), Saoirse McGilligan (St Andrews), Kledian Myftari (Charles University / University of Copenhagen), Ilona Poseluzna (Jagiellonian University), Ömer Şahin (Pompeu Fabra University), and Dylan Thurgood (University of Oxford). Working with Dr Claudia Negri Ribalta (University of Luxembourg).

'The European Model' proposes that consensual sex work should be recognised as work, with all of the legal protections and obligations that entails. This would give sex workers the same rights as other workers, encourage safer working conditions and better access to healthcare, and free up resources for authorities to tackle coercive behaviour such as trafficking.

Scholars involved: Esther Braun (University of Oxford), Abha Calindi (Geneva Graduate Institute), Julia Furtado de Barros (University of Luxembourg), Ebba Mark (University of Oxford), Francesco Nasi (University of Bologna), Doris Kristina Raave (Tartu University) and Rohan Stevenson (University of Helsinki). Working with Dr Mirea Artigot Golobardes (Pompeu Fabra University).





‘Green Together’ suggests that an important way for cities to tackle the dual challenges of social fragmentation and the impact of the climate crisis is to invest in urban gardens. They have built a tool that allows business, councils and individuals to see the potential financial benefits of turning specific spaces into urban gardens and they propose an online space where knowledge can be shared and awareness raised.

Scholars involved: Péter Bori (CEU), Michele Collazzo (Bologna), Amós del Castillo Peditier (Complutense University, Madrid), Ihor Moshenets (CEU), Filip Scherf (University of St Andrews), Beatriz Serra (Catholic University of Portugal), and Eva te Dorsthorst (University of Luxembourg / Leiden University). Working with Dr Chiara Lovotti (University of Bologna).

The group also produce a short awareness raising documentary, link to video [here](#).

‘From Data to Dignity’ takes up the challenge of how EU member states might implement the EU Migration and Asylum Pact. In particular, it focuses on the monitoring requirement in relation to reception centres, proposing a series of measures that give voice to the inhabitants, help to ensure better living conditions, and respect the culture of those who live there. This project was awarded the prize for the best Europaeum Scholars project by our panel of expert assessors in 2025.

Scholars involved: Meike Fernbach (CEU), Apolline Foedit (Geneva Graduate Institute), Klaudia Grat (University of St Andrews), Adam Kluge (University of Oxford), Sinéad Mulcahy (Leiden University), Frieda Ottman (Ludwig Maximilian University), and Elisa Sisto. Working with Dr Aikaterini Pantazatou (University of Luxembourg).



Policy Conference

Wednesday 15 October

09.15-10.45 Panel Discussion: Growth and Renewal in Europe

Head of the European Commission / University of
Economics / University of St
Aristotle (Thessaloniki / Europæum)

10.45-11.00 Tea & Coffee

11.00-12.30 European Prize Giving Ceremony and

Keynote by António Amaro (Minister for
Economic Affairs and Finance)



What Europaeum Scholars Think of the Programme

A survey of participants over the last eight years

The Europaeum recently asked **alumni from all four cohorts** of the Scholars' Programme - so in the successive two-year cycles of 2018-19, 2020-21, 2022-23 and 2024-25 - to complete a survey about their time on the programme and the impact that they feel it has had on their careers since then. All respondents were anonymous unless they chose to identify themselves.

Intense involvement in the programme and enthusiastic support for it

○ From mid-December 2025 to mid-January 2026, the Europaeum conducted a survey of all 126 alumni of the Europaeum Scholars Programme to date. The response rate was an exceptional 78.6% (99 Scholars).

○ The drop-out rate from the programme across all four cohorts, including as a result of Covid, had been a mere 3 %.

○ If starting over again, 90% of the Scholars would choose to participate.

○ Only 5% of respondents felt that their participation in the programme was, on balance, not worthwhile.

The effect on the doctorate - highly beneficial

○ Not one of the Scholars' Programme participants had withdrawn from their doctoral programme - equivalent to the best anywhere in the world. (The average drop-out rate in Europe is estimated to be 30-40%).

○ Despite the significant extra work involved, well over half of Scholars' said that it had helped them with their doctorate; and out of 99 respondents only one said it had substantially hindered their doctoral work.

○ More than two-thirds of the Scholars said that the programme had either no effect or their completion time or had even accelerated it.

○ Well over half of the Scholars said that the programme improved their ability to manage their time and their priorities.

○ On average, Scholars experienced a reduction in stress. Scholars whose stress level decreased outnumbered by two to one those for whom it increased.

○ Far from being distracted from their doctoral research, two out of every three Scholars said that it increased their interest in their doctoral work.

Significant skills acquisition and development

- 95% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they had acquired new skills.
- Amongst the skills which Scholars felt had been most increased were teamwork, including leading a team and building a consensus within a team.
- Significant majorities of respondents saw substantial gains in self-confidence, policy writing, analytical techniques, public speaking and soft negotiation skills.
- 84% said the programme had increased their ability to communicate their research with non-academic audiences.

Leadership

- 86% of Scholars felt that the programme had increased their knowledge and understanding of leadership.
- 80% felt it had significantly improved their ability to lead a team.

Beneficial impact on careers

- 94% considered that the programme contributed positively to their career outcomes.
- 26% felt that it had contributed to a 'large extent' and more than one in ten felt that had it had been 'crucial' (the highest rating available).
- 77% of respondents (excluding a few unable to judge) believed that the programme improved their career prospects compared to their peers not on the programme.
- 70% of respondents believed that their participation in the programme had led to other opportunities (such as grants, employment, speaking invitations).

The four 'take-aways' most mentioned

- Learning to listen to those with whom they disagreed;
- Learning about the policy process;
- Making new friends;
- Learning new skills.



Feedback from participants

'Loved it! And still feel nostalgic about it, years after'.

'It is challenging, but I would do it again in a heartbeat'.

'I'm beyond grateful! The Europaeum programme most definitely changed my life for the better.'

'The Europaeum gave me something rare during the PhD: a community that, eight years later, I still rely on. I was humbled by the Europaeum team's work ethic and by the seriousness, generosity, and ambition of my colleagues' work'.

'The best experience of my doctoral years'.

'The Europaeum is a rare space where intellectual rigour, European responsibility and human complexity coexist'.

'Its greatest strength lies not only in the excellence it cultivates, but in the ethical questions it raises about leadership, care and purpose. As such, it is not merely a programme one completes, but an experience that continues to shape how participants think, act and contribute long after it formally ends'.



'The programme is amazing!'

'This was the most important and enjoyable part of my PhD, which saved the whole project at a time when isolation was rampant and despite my extraordinary efforts, I was in immense need of intellectual companions. The Europaeum was my family and intellectual trampoline to my academic career. A heart-felt thank you!'





Europaeum Brussels Policy Week

13-16 October 2025, Brussels

From 13 to 16 October 2025, for the first time, the twin Scholars' Programme and the Core Programme came together in an innovative **Europaeum policy week** in Brussels. This week combined aspects of (i) the biennial Brussels policy conference, marking the end of cohort 4 of the Scholars' Programme, and (ii) the annual Brussels policy seminar that forms part of the Core Programme. The component parts of the week overlapped for two of the four days involved. A variety of venues in Brussels were used for the week, including the Fondation universitaire and the Brussels Press Club, both in the Euro-district.

Overview of the week

On Monday 13 October, the Scholars' biennial policy conference opened with welcoming remarks from the Europaeum's Executive Director, Anthony Teasdale, himself a former Director General in the European Parliament, and the Director of the Scholars' Programme, Tracey Sowerby. The Scholars then participated in two panels related to their own policy projects. The first addressed **EU migration policy**, with contributions from experts from the European Policy Centre and the Egmont Institute, complemented by Scholars outlining their policy recommendations. The second group of Scholars, who had worked on decriminalising **consensual sex work**, were joined by experts on the recent Belgian legislation and decriminalising aspects of the drug trade for a discussion of decriminalising minor offences. During a discussion over dinner, **Klaus Welle**, former Secretary General of the European Parliament, outlined the ten ways in which he saw President Donald Trump upending the global order.

The Scholars presented their policy ideas alongside relevant experts during the policy conference.

The Brussels policy week was also an opportunity for participants in the Core Programme to learn more about the Scholars' Programme and to spread awareness of it in their universities. All delegates had the chance to network with **Europaeum alumni** and a range of Brussels-based stakeholders and to deepen their knowledge and understanding of areas of policy-making and the workings of the EU institutions.

On Tuesday 14 October, the Scholars were joined by participants in the Core Programme's Brussels policy seminar. A policy panel on **'disinformation and media resilience'** combined the Scholars' ideas with perspectives from the European Commission and media sector. Participants then heard a broader panel of experts share their ideas about **'depolarising politics and society'** in Europe. They also benefitted from going 'in conversation' with **Jim Cloos**, a former Director General in the Council secretariat and one-time draftsman of European Council conclusions, about European challenges and potential. The day rounded off with a roundtable discussion with leading think tankers about the **performance of and outlook for second term of Ursula von der Leyen's European Commission (2024-29)**.

Wednesday 15 October saw a further policy panel on **urban greening** and the Europaeum Scholars' Programme **prize-giving**. The latter component included a keynote address from **António Leitão Amaro**, a former Scholar who now serves as Minister for the Presidency in

the Portuguese government. He shared reflections on the lessons that he had taken away from his own time on the programme and the importance of moral leadership in policy-making. The early evening also saw a dedicated roundtable on **strategic autonomy** that combined economic, defence and security perspectives. It rounded off with a speech over dinner by **Maria João Rodrigues**, former Vice-President of the European Parliament and President of FEPS, who shared insights on leadership in Europe.



Programme-specific activities

Participants from the Scholars' Programme and Core Programme also had separate, dedicated experiences during the latter part of the week. On the afternoon of Wednesday 15 and throughout Thursday 16, students on the Core Programme's policy seminar visited key **European Union institutions** and bodies. They were welcomed at the **European Parliament** - where they received presentations on parliamentary research work and economic policy-making, as well as a tour of the buildings - **the European Council / Council of the EU**, where the focus was on decision-making among member-state governments, and the **European External Action Service (EEAS)**, where they learned more about strategic autonomy in EU approaches to foreign policy.

In between such institutional visits, Core Programme students also had a working lunch with three **Brussels-based journalists** from the *Guardian* and *Financial Times*. The journalists explained how they had come to work in Brussels, what their lives as reporters were like, how the EU operated in practice, and what they thought of the EU's capacity to achieve its strategic goals.

For the Scholars, the afternoon of Wednesday 15 October involved a special session for **Scholar alumni**, featuring a discussion with alumna **Ana Vasconcelos Martins** MEP (Renew Group, Portugal), the launch of the new mini-grants scheme for Scholar alumni, and the premiere of a documentary, 'The Community Urban Garden Effect', produced by one of the groups in Cohort 4 (which is now available on the Europaem's YouTube channel). This session is discussed in the separate section on alumni activities in this annual report.

Among the **prominent figures** whom the students met during their time in Brussels were: Claude-France Arnould (former CEO, European Defence Agency), Jim Cloos (former Director General in the Council secretariat), Richard Corbett (former MEP), Heather Grabbe (Senior Fellow, Bruegel), Shada Islam (Visiting Professor, College of Europe), Maria João Rodrigues (President, FEPS), António Leitão Amaro (Minister for the Presidency, Portugal), Sophie Pornschlegel (Das Progressiv Zentrum), Jennifer Rankin (The Guardian), Andrea Renda (Director of Research, CEPS), Jamie Shea (former Deputy Assistant Secretary General, NATO), Eddy Wax (Euractiv), Klaus Welle (former Secretary General of the EP) and Martin Westlake (former Secretary General, EESC).

'The Brussels Policy Seminar was an incredibly inspiring experience. Meeting policy-makers, experts and journalists who work daily within the EU institutions helped me gain a much clearer understanding of how European decision-making operates in practice. I also greatly appreciated the excellent organisation and the genuine care shown to all participants. Visiting the European Parliament was a particular highlight, and the seminar further strengthened my interest in public policy and international cooperation.'

Core Programme student Filip Koźmiński (Jagiellonian University).



Europaeum Core Programme in 2025

The Europaeum Core Programme had a highly successful year in 2025, with **nine events** distributed widely across the network. These included a first-ever Europaeum event in Luxembourg and returns to Madrid and Leiden after several years' absence. The 2025 programme had a more scientific flavour than the programmes of previous years, with events on both Europe's 'Green Deal' and on the impact of artificial intelligence. A total of **396 students applied** to take place in Core events this year, **162 of whom won places** - an increase respectively of 24 per cent and of 15 per cent compared to 2024.



The nine Core Programme events took place in member universities and in Brussels.

Calendar of Core Programme events in 2025

| | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| UCP Communications Winter Workshop | <i>Media and Fear</i> | 7-10 January, Lisbon |
| Europaeum Winter School | <i>European Green Deal</i> | 4-7 February, Madrid |
| Europaeum Spring School | <i>Resistance and Resilience</i> | 17-20 March, Oxford |
| Schwarzenberg Memorial Event | <i>Future of Democracy</i> | 13 May, Prague and online |
| UCP Estoril Political Forum | <i>Democracy in the Age of AI</i> | 4-6 June, Estoril |
| Europaeum Summer School | <i>AI and Digital Revolution</i> | 7-9 July, Luxembourg |
| Europaeum Classics Colloquium | <i>Multipolar Antiquity</i> | 28-29 August, Leiden |
| Europaeum Brussels Policy Seminar | <i>Strategic Autonomy Now</i> | 14-16 October, Brussels |
| Europaeum History Seminar | <i>Future of the European Past</i> | 27-28 November, Oxford |

UCP Communications Winter Workshop: Media and Fear

7-10 January 2025, Lisbon

The fifth Lisbon Winter School for the Study of Communication (7 to 10 January 2025), hosted by the Catholic University of Portugal (UCP), investigated the relationship between **media and fear**. The event was held in cooperation with the Europaeum, the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and the University of Helsinki.

The Winter School began with lectures by Prof. David Altheide (Arizona State) and Prof. Isabel Capeloa Gil (Rector of the Catholic University of Portugal) on, respectively, **American fascism** and **Ruins and the Management of Fear** in twentieth-century Germany. Further faculty keynote lectures were interspersed with a large number of student presentations, including seven by students from around the Europaeum network on topics as diverse as fake news, conspiracy theory, radicalisation of boys and men on social media, and Santa Muerte.

The School took place at the Catholic University's main campus in Campo Grande for the first two days, but shifted for the third and fourth to the Centro Cultural de Belem, next to the famous Jerónimos Monastery. Students heard from Prof. Johana Sumiala (Helsinki), who discussed **fear of death**, and Prof. Frank Furedi (Kent), who discussed **fear of populism**.

The Europaeum was pleased to sponsor the attendance of Prof. István Rév (CEU), who gave a paper discussing **radio propaganda in the Eastern Bloc after 1945**.

The Europaeum expressed its thanks to the Winter School's organisers, Nelson Costa Ribeiro (UCP) and Barbie Zelizer (Annenberg School for Communications, University of Pennsylvania), and its convenors Sarah Banet-Weiser (Annenberg School), Francis Lee (Chinese University of Hong Kong), and Risto Kunelius (University of Helsinki), for once again including us in this exceptional and wide-ranging interdisciplinary forum.

Ten students participated in the Winter Workshop from five Europaeum member universities.





Europaeum Winter School: European Green Deal

4-7 February 2025, Madrid

The Europaeum Winter School took place at the Complutense University of Madrid (UCM) from 4 to 7 February 2025. The theme was the **Future of Europe's Green Deal**. The event began with a keynote lecture from Ana Barrera, founding Director of the International Institute for Law and the Environment, who discussed **the rights that nature has in our system of international law**. Roundtable discussions on the **circular economy** and **sustainable food** saw academics and industry experts address students, explaining their perspective on the challenges facing companies and governments alike.

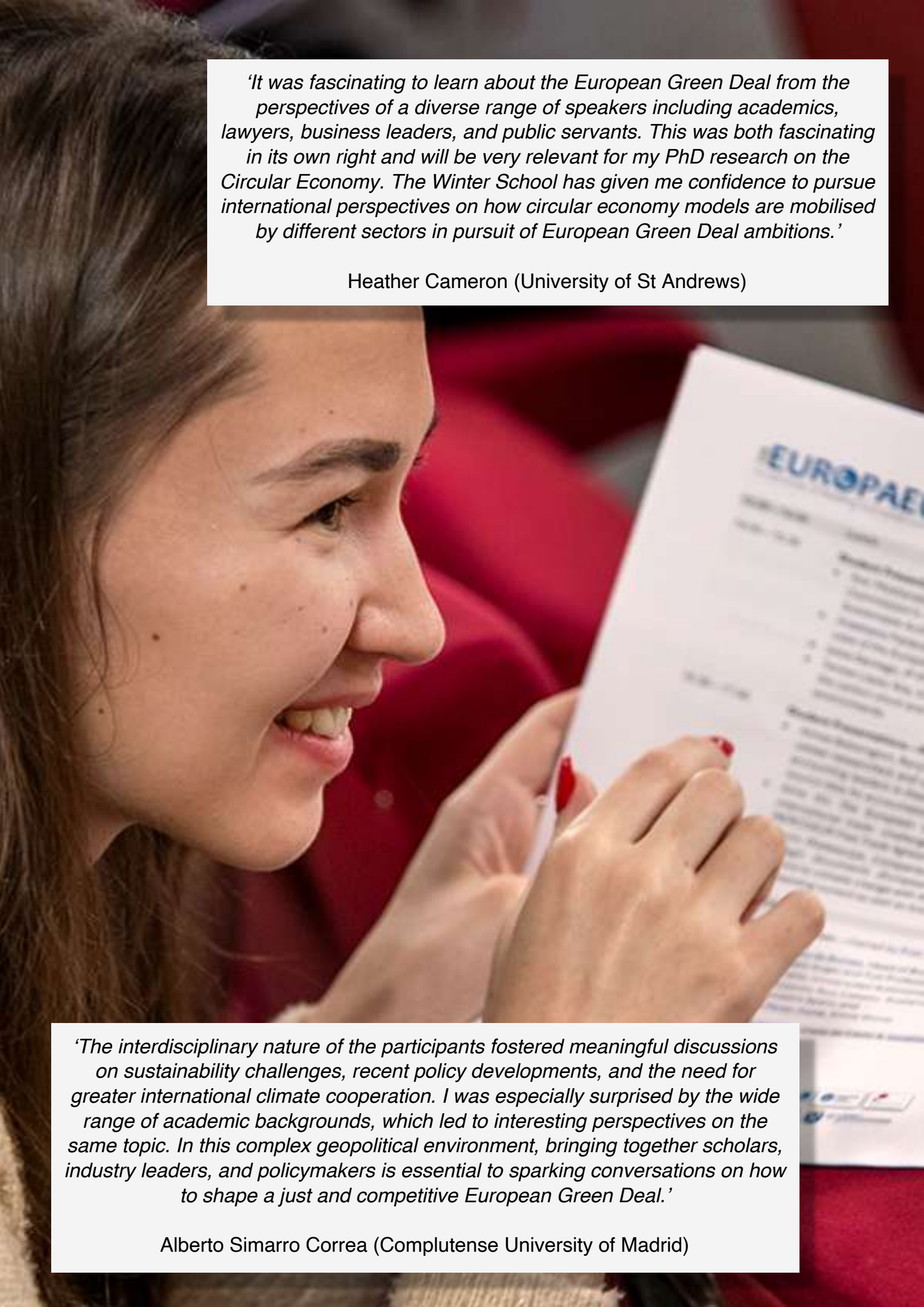


Further roundtables on **sustainable mobility**, **energy transitions and a 'just transition'** were interspersed with student presentations on subjects as diverse how academics can become **carbon accounting** leaders, the Green Deal's impact on relations with **Mercosur**, and incentivising **urban gardening**. Prof. Lela Mélon (UPF) and Jacob Werksman from the European Commission also gave keynote talks which presented, respectively a legal perspective on how to 'surf the **regulatory tsunami**' surrounding environmental policy, and a perspective about the geopolitical future from Brussels.

Students were also encouraged to take advantage of the rich cultural opportunities afforded by our host city. The Europaeum arranged a special guided tour of the Thyssen-Bornemisza National Museum, which contains what was once the second

largest private collection of art in the world, representative of all tastes and styles for European art since the Middle Ages.

The Europaeum was most grateful to UCM for hosting the event, especially to the local host organisers, Prof. Rafael Fernández Sanchez and Prof. Clara García Fernández-Muro, and Vice-Rector for International Affairs, Prof. Maria del Rosario Cristobál Roncero, as well as the many UCM professors who volunteered to chair panels, contributing to debate and discussion. Thirty-four students participated in the Winter School from nine Europaeum member universities.



'It was fascinating to learn about the European Green Deal from the perspectives of a diverse range of speakers including academics, lawyers, business leaders, and public servants. This was both fascinating in its own right and will be very relevant for my PhD research on the Circular Economy. The Winter School has given me confidence to pursue international perspectives on how circular economy models are mobilised by different sectors in pursuit of European Green Deal ambitions.'

Heather Cameron (University of St Andrews)

'The interdisciplinary nature of the participants fostered meaningful discussions on sustainability challenges, recent policy developments, and the need for greater international climate cooperation. I was especially surprised by the wide range of academic backgrounds, which led to interesting perspectives on the same topic. In this complex geopolitical environment, bringing together scholars, industry leaders, and policymakers is essential to sparking conversations on how to shape a just and competitive European Green Deal.'

Alberto Simarro Correa (Complutense University of Madrid)

Europaeum Spring School: Resistance and Resilience

17-20 March 2025, Oxford

The Europaeum Spring School took place at St Peter's College, University of Oxford, from 17 to 20 March 2025, with 34 students drawn from a dozen disciplines and from 11 member universities. The theme was '**Resistance and Resilience**', two intertwined concepts that are gaining increasing prominence in both academic discourse and public consciousness.

The event began with a keynote lecture from Dr Alexandra Lloyd, Fellow and Tutor in German at St Edmund Hall (Oxford), who discussed the cultural impact of the **White Rose resistance** circle against the Nazis. Joost Augusteijn (Leiden), Maxine David (Leiden) and Lena Reim (Oxford) then participated in a panel exploring the relationship between resistance and resilience in historical and contemporary contexts.

The Spring School saw 18 student presentations in panels on **spaces of resistance, publics of resistance, gendering resistance and resilience, technologies of resistance and resilience, queering resistance and resilience, and resilience at the margins**. Other Oxford academics who gave keynote lectures included Prof. David Hopkin (Hertford College), Marnie Howlett (St Antony's and Nuffield Colleges), and Prof. Lyndsey Jenkins (Mansfield College). A second panel on **narratives of resilience** featured Dr Bart van der Steen (Leiden), Prof. Alexander Betts (Brasenose College, Oxford), and Dr



Students discussed the presentations they had heard in special sessions at the end of the day led by the Core Director and Drs Augusteijn and David. Students were encouraged to think about how the relationship between resistance and resilience is best defined and how analytical approaches to definition intersect with historical approaches towards description. The students considered how marginalised communities use humour or story-telling as forms of resistance, the relationship between individual resilience and collective resistance, the emotional and psychological costs associated with both concepts, and the patterns and themes recurred across different contexts.

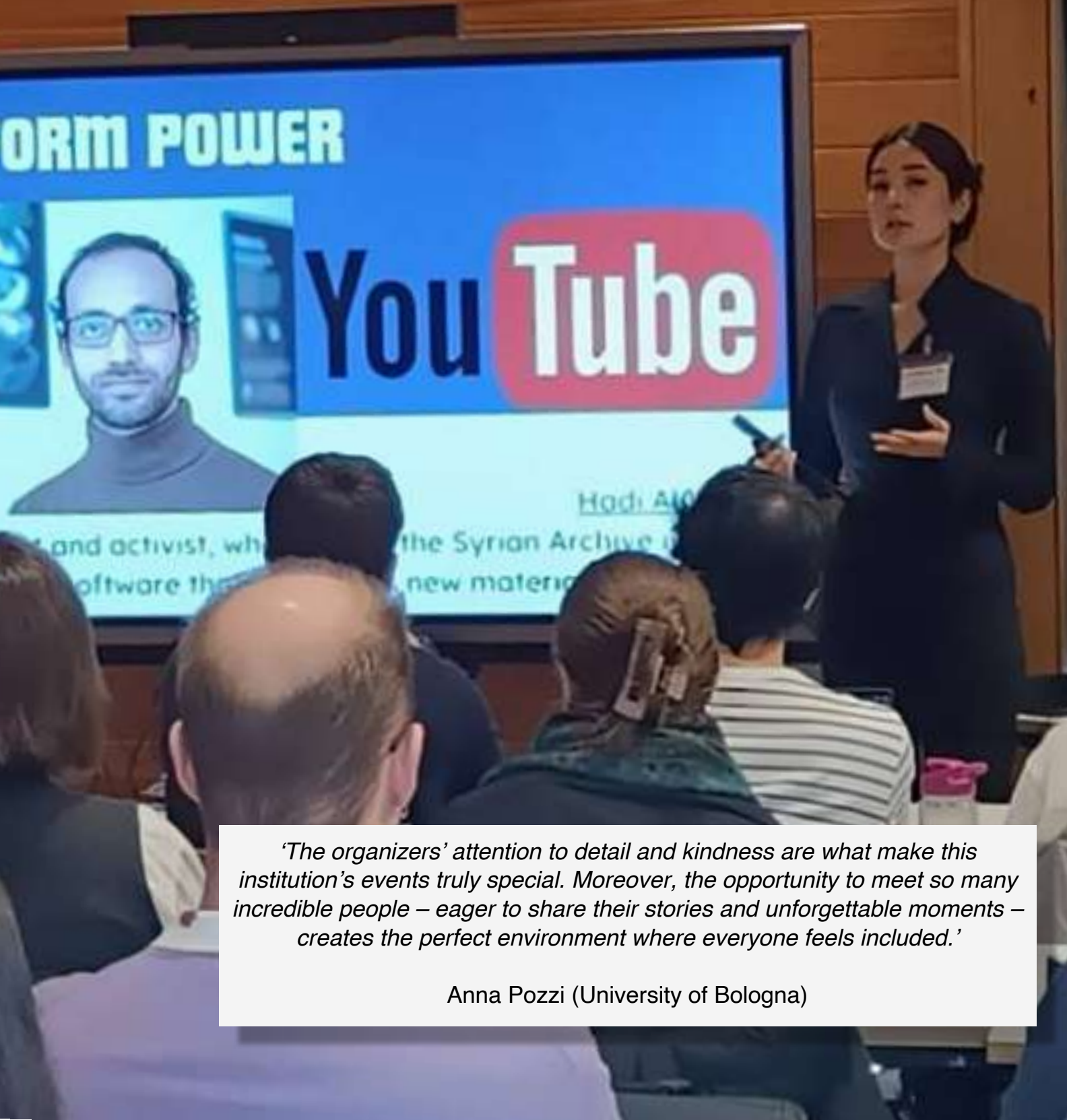
Finally, students reflected on the **negative contexts** in which resistance and resilience might occur - dictatorial regimes fighting for survival, denialism and so on. Students from each group presented oral reports of their discussions to the overall cohort in a closing session which also addressed broader questions. What makes resistance movements sustainable over time? How might concepts of resistance and resilience need to evolve in response to emerging global challenges?

Thirty-five students participated in the event from 12 Europaeum member universities.



'What truly distinguished this school was the gathering of master's and doctoral students from diverse academic, geographic, and cultural backgrounds. The panels and sessions were not merely academic presentations, but lively meetings of stories and experiences of resistance lived daily.'

Yasmeen Alaa El Din Abdel Atey Elsayed (Central European University)



'The organizers' attention to detail and kindness are what make this institution's events truly special. Moreover, the opportunity to meet so many incredible people – eager to share their stories and unforgettable moments – creates the perfect environment where everyone feels included.'

Anna Pozzi (University of Bologna)

Schwarzenberg Memorial Event: Future of Democracy

13 May 2025, Prague and online

The Europaeum held a special joint hybrid event with **Charles University** in Prague to honour the life and contribution of **Karel Schwarzenberg**, on Tuesday 13 May 2025. A long-time advocate of democracy, European cooperation and human rights, Schwarzenberg served as a Trustee of the Europaeum until his death three years ago, having been twice Czech foreign minister.

Among those speaking in Prague were Jakub Franěk, Andrew Graham, Petra Guasti, Jan Kuklík, Jacques Rupnik, Barbara Tóth, Eva Voldřichová Beránková and Michael Žantovský, as well as Lila Morgan-Schwarzenberg (Karel's daughter) and Timothy Garton Ash (both online). The event was documented in detail on the Charles University website and it can be watched on YouTube [here](#).



EUROPAEUM
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UCP Estoril Political Forum: Democracy in the Age of AI

4-6 June 2025, Estoril

This year's Europaeum Debate at the (33rd) Estoril Political Forum, organised by the Institute for Political Studies at the Catholic University of Portugal (UCP), built on the event's overarching theme of **'The impact of artificial intelligence on the democratic process'**. It was held in Estoril, outside Lisbon, on 4 to 6 June 2025.

Eight students from the Universidade Católica teamed up with four from the Jagiellonian University and four from the wider Europaeum network (St Andrews, CEU, Geneva Graduate Institute, and Pompeu Fabra) to participate in debate preparation. Students discussed how to develop arguments for and against the motion and practised rhetorical strategies of debating in the 'Oxford Union' style.

Six students took part in the debate itself, with two more (Miguel Ângelo Martins and Diogo Magalhães, UCP) acting as Stewards. Speaking for the motion were Mário Vaz (UCP), Ana Ribeiro (UCP), and Jenny Lao (GGI). Against were Teresa Fernandes (UCP), Winifred Maduko (St Andrews) and Oliver Firth (Jagiellonian). An initial tally of opinions revealed widespread scepticism towards the motion, with the vote splitting 10 to 44 against. Following a series of lively arguments, a further vote was taken. This produced an outcome of 15 in favour and 59 against. The motion was therefore defeated.

The Europaeum expressed its thanks to the three UCP professors who provided expert commentary on the students' arguments - Prof. Sonia Ribeiro, Prof. Lucie Calleja, and Prof. Paulo Sande - as well as Dr Lucja Piekarska-Duraj, the Jagiellonian University's debate co-ordinator; and Prof. Mónica Dias, the Director of the Institute for Political Studies, and the rest of the organising team; as well as Prof. Isabel Capeloa Gil, Rector of UCP.



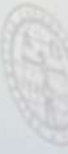
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O Presidente da República



Europaeum Summer School: AI and Digital Revolution

7-9 July 2025, Luxembourg

The Europaeum Summer School took place at the University of Luxembourg from 7-9 July 2025 on the theme of AI and the digital revolution.

The event began with a technical introduction to **AI and its impacts on security and safety** from Professor Nicolas Guelfi (Luxembourg). Professor Giancarlo Guizzardi (University of Twente) discussing ontologies, AI and software engineering. The first day's sessions continued with presentations on **ontologies of AI** (Professor Guizzardi), on **software engineering** in the FinTech and RegTech realms (Professor Domenico Bianculli and Dr Sallam Abualhaija, Luxembourg), AI's impact on **job markets** (Dr Andreas Braun, PwC Luxembourg), and the usefulness of AI for **research** (Dr Margault Sacre, Luxembourg).

The second day focused on **AI ethics**, with Dr Kevin Baum from the German Research Centre for AI discussing fairness and bias in AI, and Dr Andrew Serazin from Reuben College, Oxford, addressing Generation AI and ethical challenges. Further sessions explored computational ethics (Dr Aleks Knoks, Luxembourg) and super-intelligence concerns (Professor Thomas Raleigh, Luxembourg). Prof. Dr. Maximilian Kiener, a Europaeum Trustee from the Institute for Ethics in Technology in Hamburg, then led an interactive workshop with a real/fictional AI assistant.

The final day examined the **AI landscape in law**, beginning with Dr Marco Almada (Luxembourg), who explained the AI Act and its balance of innovation, regulation, and responsibility. Dr Mireia Artigot Golobardes (Universitat Pompeu Fabra) then explored

AI, data protection, and discriminatory algorithms and Professor Niovi Vavoula (Luxembourg) discussed case studies of AI in biometrics, law enforcement, and migration. Professor Mark D. Cole (Luxembourg) addressed social media regulation, and Dr Sue Anne Teo (Copenhagen) gave the final presentation, examining artificial intelligence and human rights.

Nine students also presented their work on a range of topics associated with the three strands of the summer school. The event successfully brought together 27 student participants from across the Europaeum network, with 11 member universities represented.

The Europaeum was very grateful to the many individuals who contributed their expertise to the programme, especially the local host organisers at the University of Luxembourg: Professor Anna-Lena Högenauer, Dr Claudia Negri Ribalta and Professor Aikaterini Pantazatou.



Watching the Unseen: Facial Recognition, Securitization, and the Digital Repression of Uyghurs in China

Facial Recognition, Security Narratives, and the Architecture of Control

Sylvia Ayesu
Geneva Graduate Institute

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'Through the exchange with the other participants, we could profit from the multi-disciplinary perspectives that each one of us presented during the Summer School. I would like to thank the organisers for compiling the high-ranked speakers, who presented their research findings and shared their perspectives on AI.'

Janina Hummel (University of Luxembourg)

'The talks got my brain spinning with new ideas and the information I learned during the event will be extremely valuable for my PhD research on AI performance in the diagnosis of cardiac conditions. Perhaps most importantly, it was empowering to chat with all the other student attendees who had a wide range of backgrounds and interests. We had numerous thought-provoking discussions while sharing our knowledge and had several laughs as well!'

Casey Johnson (University of Oxford)

Europaeum Classics Colloquium: Multipolar Antiquity

28-29 August 2025, Leiden

The 2025 Europaeum Classics Colloquium took place at the Leiden University on 28 and 29 August. The theme was '**multipolar antiquity**', a phrase which sought to capture the complexity of entanglements within the Ancient World beyond the civilisational centres of Greece and Rome.

The event was opened by Professor Chris Gosden (Oxford). The students received further lectures from Professor Olaf Kaper (Leiden), Professor Sylva Fischerová (Charles) and Assistant Professor Marike van Aerde (Leiden). Eight students also presented their own research in three panel sessions over the two days. On the second day, the students received a guided tour of the Dutch National Museum of Antiquities, located just across the canal from the university.

In total, 17 students attended the Classics Colloquium from nine member universities. The Europaeum would like to thank Leiden University for hosting the event - and most especially Professor Casper de Jonge, for his exceptional support throughout the whole process.





'The Europaeum Classics Colloquium on 'Multipolar Antiquity' in Leiden was an intellectually stimulating and enriching experience. The organisers brought together some of the most distinguished senior scholars in the field. During the social events surrounding the busy conference days I was able to forge lasting bonds with the European academic classics community.'

Henric Jansen (Leiden University)

'Multipolar Antiquity was a very fitting topic for the Classics Colloquium 2025. Not only is this theme particularly relevant in the present global world, but it also suits well the diverse and collaborative spirit that is at the heart of the Europaeum. Vibrant, rewarding discussions originated thanks to the collaboration among scholars and students from different countries and from a wide range of disciplines, in line with the mission of Europaeum. What a privilege to take part to such event!'

Simona Thompson (University of Oxford)

Europaeum Brussels Policy Seminar: Strategic Autonomy Now


14-16 October 2025, Brussels

The autumn's Brussels policy seminar held on 14-16 October 2025, focused on '**Strategic Autonomy Now**'. As the European Union navigates an increasingly complex geopolitical landscape, this concept has emerged as a defining and unifying priority for European policy-makers. From technological sovereignty and supply chain resilience to defence capabilities and energy independence, the EU is actively pursuing greater self-reliance and autonomous capacity to act across multiple domains, while maintaining where possible its commitment to multilateral cooperation and global partnerships. The students heard from a range of officials, think-tankers, journalists and outside observers about how efforts are faring in this sphere.

The Brussels policy seminar formed part of a wider '**Europaeum Brussels policy week**', with cross-over events with the closing conference of the two-year Scholars' Programme (see the section in this annual report on the Scholars' Programme on pages 20 to 23).

Twenty students from 11 member universities took part in the Brussels policy seminar.





'Listening to policymakers, journalists, academics, and fellow students showed me how the EU works in practice and how its approach to strategic autonomy shapes Europe and its role in the world. It also reinforced the connections between my studies, governance experience, and understanding of international cooperation, which I hope to carry forward in future research and policy work for the people.'

Isabelle De Leon (University of Luxembourg)

'I was amazed that we'd covered so much academic, political and personal ground in just three days, and felt truly grateful to have met so many wonderful people doing fascinating research.'

Hope Philpott (Pompeu Fabra University)

Europaeum History Seminar: Future of the European Past

27-28 November 2025, Oxford

The 2025 Europaeum History Seminar took place in the *Maison Française d'Oxford* and at the University of Oxford on 27 and 28 November. The theme was **'the future of the European past'** and students were invited to reflect critically on how European history is researched, taught and conceptualised in contemporary academia. The event considered **the limitations of both national narratives and Eurocentric perspectives**, considering the impact of the rise of global history and 'provincialisation' in how we approach Europe's past.

Professor Natalia Nowakowska (Oxford) opened proceedings with a lecture on 'The **Jagiellonians**: Past and Future of a European Dynasty'. She described the different frames - local, national, transnational and global - through which the Jagiellonians' contribution to the European past and to the contemporary politics of several European countries, has been made. Later in the day, the students heard from Dr Philip Mansel (Society for Court Studies), who explained the role **British elites** have played in the heart of Europe since the 16th century.

Nine students also then presented their own research on topics as diverse as de-Nazification, the cult of Leonardo da Vinci in contemporary Italy, and teaching European



History in diverse classrooms. They were joined by Professor David Parrott (Oxford), Professor Céline Dauverd (Colorado/Oxford) and Dr Tracey Sowerby (Europaeum/Oxford), who all gave papers explaining developments in European historiography as it touched upon their own research fields.

The Colloquium's second day saw the students undertake visits to the **Bodleian Library** and the **Ashmolean Museum** in Oxford, where they took part in interactive workshops with curators of maps and objects. The students also visited Wolfson College to experience a traditional college dinner.

The Europaeum was very grateful to all the speakers and especially Dr Martin Davis (Bodleian Library) and Dr Jim Harris (Ashmolean Museum), who gave their time so generously. It also extended special thanks to the *Maison Française* and to its Director, Stephane Van Damme, for hosting the main part of the event. Fourteen students from seven member universities were accepted to join this event.

Room



What Europaeum Core Students Think of the Programme

In 2025, the Europaeum asked students on its Core programme to document their experiences through travel diaries. These provide a consistent record of their activities, reflections, and development, and form a key source of student testimony. Extracts from these diaries are used to evidence programme outcomes and to inform our external communications.

Winter School on the Europaeum Green Deal

'I will always look back on the Europaeum Winter School 2025 with fond memories and I would strongly recommend this enriching experience to anyone considering to participate in a similar programme.'

[Link to travel diary here](#)

Mathilda Ketunuti, MA student in International Relations, Leiden University

Spring School on Resistance and Resilience

'During our discussion group, we spend most of the time trying to define political terms in relation to activism. We go over by nearly half an hour and I think we could keep talking and talking. It's so intellectually rewarding to be in environments like this, that it's sad to think it's coming to an end.'

[Link to travel diary here](#)

Camila Contreras-Langlois, PhD candidate in Film Studies, University of St Andrews

Summer School on AI and the Digital Revolution

'I got to learn so much by exchanging ideas with students from all over Europe, and truly benefited from the programme, both academically and personally.'

[Link to travel diary here](#)

Lara Kauter, MSc student in Geographical Development Studies, Freie Universität Berlin

Classics Colloquium on Multipolar Antiquity

'The Classics Colloquium was a very enriching event, in which I am very grateful to have taken part. I learnt a lot during the academic part of the conference, and it also was an amazing chance for international exchange, as well as personal growth.'

[Link to travel diary here](#)

Elio Soria Fernandez, Master's student in Classical Studies, Complutense University of Madrid (UCM), Autonomous University of Madrid (UAM) and University of Alcalá (UAH)

From Core Programme to Ideas Programme

During the course of 2025, as part of a broader ‘innovation agenda’ (described in more detail on page 68 of this annual report), the governing bodies of the Europaeum - the Trustees and Academic Council - decided to rename the Europaeum Core Programme as the **Europaeum Ideas Programme**, with a subtitle ‘**The Making and Shaping of Europe**’. This change took effect in January 2026.

In order to give greater clarity to the structure and content of the new Ideas Programme, it was also decided to divide its events into **three categories**:

- **Four seasonal schools** each year - which would deal with big, recurrent themes, with a somewhat stronger policy focus than had been the case under the Core Programme;
- **Between two and four other flagship events** each year - which would aim to encompass a wider span of subjects across the social sciences and humanities generally (and potentially more widely); and
- **Two or more ‘associated’ or ‘partnership’ events** each year - building on the two such events that are already hosted in recent years by the Catholic University of Portugal, and with a view to their being supplemented by similar, co-sponsored events with and in other member universities or associated think tanks on an *ad hoc* basis in the future.

Specific structure of events

In line with these three categories, the Ideas Programme now takes the **following form**:

Four seasonal schools each year

- A Europaeum **Winter School**, which focusses on aspects of the European economy, society, the environment and/or digital transformation
- A Europaeum **Spring School**, which focusses on the place of Europe in the wider world, including foreign affairs, trade, development, and/or security and defence
- A Europaeum **Summer School**, which focusses on some aspect of European culture, including literature and the arts
- A Europaeum **Autumn School**, which focusses on EU politics, institutions and policy-making. (This school was previously known as the ‘Brussels policy seminar’).



Two to four other flagship events each year

There will be **between two and four other flagship events** each year, some looking at themes that previously featured in the Core Programme and others exploring new ones. The choice of events in any year will henceforth normally be drawn from the following **six options**, the first two of which reflect established themes, and the other four of which are new:

- A **Classics Colloquium** - which would build on a successful concept which has been running for several years;
- A **History Seminar** - a format which is already scheduled to replace the (relatively new) Medieval-Modern Forum from this year;
- A **Leadership Challenge** - a new event designed to promote the development of leadership skills and qualities, based on ethics, evidence and engagement;
- A **Futures Forum** - a new event directed at analysing global trends, exploring alternative futures and developing foresight skills;
- A **Popular Culture Forum** - a new event focussed largely on modern communication, film and the audiovisual arts;
- A **Technology Seminar** - a new event exploring the impact of technological change on European economies, politics and societies.

Two or more ‘associated’ or ‘partnership’ events each year

In addition to the various events outlined above, the Europaeum will maintain its regular in-person participation in two events organised by the Catholic University of Portugal (UCP) - namely the **UCP communications winter workshop**, held in Lisbon each January, and the **UCP political forum**, held in Estoril each June.

These may be supplemented by similar, co-sponsored events in and with other individual universities on an *ad hoc* basis each year. The pattern for the latter might, for example, follow the special event that was organised jointly by Charles University and the Europaeum in Prague in May 2025, in appreciation of the life and work of the former Czech foreign minister and Trustee of the Europaeum, **Karel Schwarzenberg**.

A similar approach may be taken with relevant think tanks, as part of the Europaeum’s strategy of building closer links with such organisations. The first expression of this process is an emerging partnership with the **Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS)** in Brussels, where up to ten students from Europaeum member universities will henceforth be able to take part (as full delegates) at its annual flagship event, the CEPS Ideas Lab, each spring.



The First Europaeum Annual Lecture

7 November 2025, Berlin

As part of a broader ‘innovation agenda’ described on page 70 of this annual report, the Europaeum has instituted an **annual lecture**, to be held each autumn, as close as possible to the anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall. The Europaeum was therefore particularly delighted that the inaugural lecture could be hosted by **Freie Universität Berlin** at its campus in the south-west of the city, with two major European political figures as its speakers: **Joschka Fischer**, the former German foreign minister, and **Federica Mogherini**, the former High Representative for EU foreign and security policy and former foreign minister of Italy. They talked to an audience of about 300 people about ‘**The new global disorder: Europe’s future in a fracturing world**’.

In welcoming the audience and speakers to the FUB campus, the Vice President of FUB Prof. Dr **Petra Knaus**, said that the subject of the afternoon’s event was ‘a perfect title to describe the time when Freie Universität



was founded in 1948 as a powerful statement against the Stalinist culture that had taken over at the old University of Berlin in the Eastern part of town. Freie Universität was founded at a time when the world was fractured and a new global order came into existence and when it was not clear at all how the post-war order would unfold and whether there would be a common future for Europe’.

Prof. Dr Knaus also explained that ‘one of the reasons why we joined the Europaeum in 2019’ was ‘raise the European spirit within our institution’ by offering students collaborative opportunities, which helped them develop academically and professionally. ‘We wanted to offer talented and socially committed students new opportunities to develop their academic and professional qualities, so that they have a chance to become one day European leaders - all this within a network of first-class institutions all over the continent. We, therefore, feel very honoured that the inauguration of the new Europaeum lectures takes place here in Berlin’.



Europaeum Alumni Activities

The Europaeum is in the process of developing a stronger, more ambitious **alumni network**, with a focus on policy and leadership. There are already some 2,000 Europaeum alumni of various kinds, a figure rising by about 160 people per year. During the course of 2025, alumni activities became an increasingly important part of the Europaeum's work.

Online alumni seminars

2025 saw the successful launch of the Europaeum's new **online alumni seminar** series, a key initiative within its alumni strategy, aimed at fostering continued engagement and discussion among our wider 'Europaeum community', with a special emphasis on policy and leadership. This series serves as a platform for exploring important global issues, featuring insights from leading experts and encouraging active participation from our audience, as well as for encouraging professional skills and career development. There were four online alumni seminars in 2025.



Four online alumni seminars

Trump 2.0 - Implications for Europe, America and the World

30 January 2025, Online

The first seminar - entitled **Trump 2.0: Implications for Europe, America and the World** - took place on Thursday 30 January, by Zoom, ten days after President Trump's second inauguration. The seminar featured a distinguished panel of speakers - namely Jacob Funk Kirkegaard (Bruegel and Peterson Institute), Ian Lesser (German Marshall Fund), Suzanne Schneider (Kellogg College, Oxford, and Brooklyn Institute) and Leslie Vinjamuri (Chatham House) - talking about the ramifications of President Trump's return to power. The speakers' interventions were carried the following week as a series of 500-word articles on the New European newspaper's website. Exactly 100 people were online to watch the launch seminar live and a recording of it on YouTube has now been watched by over 750 people [here](#).



Defending Europe Now - What is to be done?

29 April 2025, Online

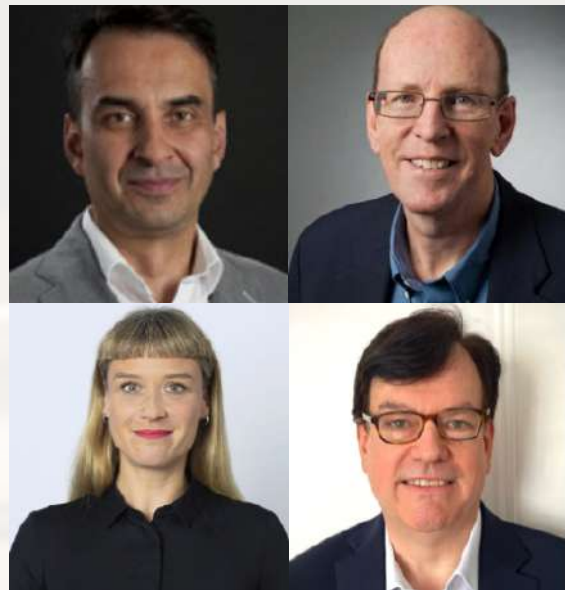
The second online alumni seminar - **Defending Europe Now: What is to be done?** - was held on Tuesday 29 April, addressed the current security challenges facing Europe and explored practical strategies for safeguarding the continent's future. The expert speakers were Veronica Anghel (EUI), Daniel Fiott (Free University of Brussels and ex-EUISS), Jamie Shea (ex-NATO), Lora Viola (Berlin) and Klaus Welle (former Secretary General of the European Parliament). About 50 people took part in the event online and over 400 people have since watched it on YouTube [here](#).

How to get a job in the EU institutions - and how *not* to get one

17 July 2025, Online

The third seminar was purely vocational and was designed to help alumni apply to work in the European Union administration or other EU-related jobs. Entitled '**How to get a job in the EU institutions - and how *not* to get one**', it was held on Thursday 17th July, with two speakers from inside the 'Brussels beltway': Dr Martin Westlake, former Secretary General of the EU Economic and Social Committee - who, under the pseudonym Johannes de Berlaymont, has written a book, 'Working for the EU: How to get in' (2024), which explains pathways to careers as civil servants, temporary and contract agents, and other staff in the Brussels system - and Hannah Buchinger, Head of Office and Policy Adviser to Evelyn Regner MEP, Vice-President of the European Parliament, who is also a Europaeum Core Programme alumna herself.

Some 50 people took part in this (more specialised) event, and almost another 100 people have watched it online since then. You can find it on YouTube [here](#).



Back to the Future of Europe - Drawing lessons from the EU experience since 1989

20 November 2025, Online

The fourth online alumni seminar was held on Thursday 20th November 2025, again by Zoom. Its theme was '**Back to the Future of Europe: Drawing lessons from the EU experience since 1989**'. The seminar explored lessons to be drawn for the future of Europe from the development and challenges of the EU since the collapse of Communism over a third of a century ago. The speakers were Professor Kiran Patel (from one of our member universities, LMU in Munich), Professor Desmond Dinan (George Mason University) and Dr Sophia Russack (CEPS), as well as Anthony Teasdale, Executive Director of the Europaeum.

Alumni components of Europaeum on-site events

Another important part of the alumni strategy is to try now to **build in alumni components** into significant Europaeum events occurring anyway in major cities in Europe during the course of any year. This process was pioneered in Oxford in spring 2024 and in Brussels in autumn 2024, at the Europaeum spring school and Brussels policy seminar. So, on Friday 7 February 2025, at the conclusion of the Europaeum Core Programme's week-long **Winter School on the Green New Deal** at **Complutense University**, current and former Europaeum Scholars based in Madrid were invited to attend a **drinks reception**, where they met students attending the School and experts who had presented during the week. Scholars from successive cohorts swapped notes about their experiences on the programme and exchanged ideas about the EU's approach to the climate crisis.

Likewise, on 17 February, the Europaeum took advantage of the fact that its 30 **Scholars** were in at **PFU in Barcelona** for their fifth week-long module, devoted to technology and policy, to invite alumni living in the area to join them and hear a talk by Nil Barutel, himself a Europaeum Scholar in Cohort 3. Nil is now the director of a community-based initiative, Riborquestra, and he spoke about the work of his NGO in promoting cross-generational understanding and inclusion in the city. The alumni stayed on for drinks and dinner afterwards, enabling people from the four cohorts of Scholars to date to get to know one another and reflect upon the programme.



During the **Scholars'** seventh module, held in **Lammi and Helsinki** in August, there was an online session in which Scholar alumni kindly give feedback on the current Scholars' 'elevator pitches' for their four policy projects, a process which usefully fed into the latter work. The Scholars also had the opportunity to meet Helsinki-based alumni from all three previous cohorts of the Programme over dinner on the final evening.



A strong alumni dimension was also built into the week-long **Europaeum policy week in Brussels**, on 13 to 16 October, when the concluding module of the fourth cohort of the Scholars' Programme (2024-25) dovetailed with the annual Brussels policy seminar within the Europaeum's Core Programme. The event was open to both Scholar alumni and alumni of Europaeum Core events and the MA in European History and Civilization. Participants were joined by ten alumni who either now work in the EU institutions or policy-making in the Brussels area, or had travelled specially to the event from Germany, Italy, Spain and Portugal.



Two **high-profile alumni** of the Scholars' Programme spoke at events during the Brussels week. Dr **António Leitão Amaro** gave a keynote address during the prize-giving ceremony for the best Scholar policy project. He outlined the lessons he had learned while a Europaeum Scholar that he tries to use in his role as Minister for the Presidency in the Portuguese government, and the importance of moral leadership in politics and policy-making more generally.



Then, later the same day, former Scholar Dr **Ana Vasconcelos Martins** MEP (Renew Group, Portugal) spoke at the Scholar Alumni afternoon. In conversation with Dr Tracey Sowerby, Director of the Scholars' Programme, Dr Martins shared insights into life in the European Parliament - in particular how it differed from what she, as a student of the EU institutions and EU policy-making, had expected on being elected to the institution. She also reflected on the challenges facing democracy more widely, answering a broad set of questions from alumni and current Scholars.

In Brussels, the Europaeum was also pleased to launch its new **mini-grants scheme** for alumni of the Scholars' Programme. The call was sent directly to all Scholar alumni of the four cohorts to date, together with former Teaching Fellows who have helped guide their study and work to date.



The mini-grants scheme, which has been foreseen from the start of this cycle of the programme, aims to build cooperation across successive cohorts of Scholars and further the goals of the programme generally. It is designed to encourage alumni to continue to work together across Europe, by thinking about the challenges facing Europe today and how to tackle them. Alumni can apply for up to a total of 10,000 euro for **policy-related research, workshops, training or other activities** that promote better leadership in Europe and/or creating a better, fairer Europe for all. Projects must involve alumni from more than one cohort and more than one member university.





Developing the Europaeum for the Future

With its **world-class member universities** and an established track-record of delivering a distinctive, high-quality product, the Europaeum has great potential to build on its current success by developing in innovative new ways. A forward-looking '**innovation agenda**' was endorsed by the Europaeum's governing bodies in 2024 and is now being rolled out. Its initiatives include:

- Introducing a new **Europaeum annual lecture**, as the flagship event of the network each year, serving as a focal-point for the whole '**Europaeum community**' and rotating among member universities over time. The inaugural lecture was hosted by Freie Universität Berlin in November 2025, to coincide with the anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall, with the second lecture to follow in Oxford in November 2026.

- Establishing an **International Advisory Council**, to serve as a new platform for associating leading European public figures and opinion-multipliers with the Europaeum. The first members of the IAC are three former Trustees: **José Manuel Barroso**, previously President of the European Commission and Prime Minister of Portugal; (Lord) **Chris Patten**, President Emeritus of the Europaeum, previously European Commissioner and Chancellor of the University of Oxford; and **Pascal Lamy**, previously European Commissioner and Director General of the WTO.

- Harnessing the potential of modern technology, by introducing Europaeum **online seminars and other digital events**. This increases the number of students and academics who can participate in Europaeum meetings, brings the 'Europaeum community' more closely together, and gives network activity a bigger footprint internationally. A regular series of **online alumni seminars** was launched in January 2025, attracting about 2,500 viewers so far.

- Broadening the Europaeum's range of **international partners and stakeholders** - notably among international institutions, think tanks and NGOs - to widen the range of intellectual inputs into Europaeum events and raise the network's profile in policy-making circles. A partnership with the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) takes effect from the CEPS Ideas Lab in March 2026.

- Developing a stronger and more active **alumni network** among its more than **2,000 former students**, a number rising by about 150 per year. Focussed on policy and leadership, alumni relations can help nurture the 'Europaeum community' and support fund-raising in the future.

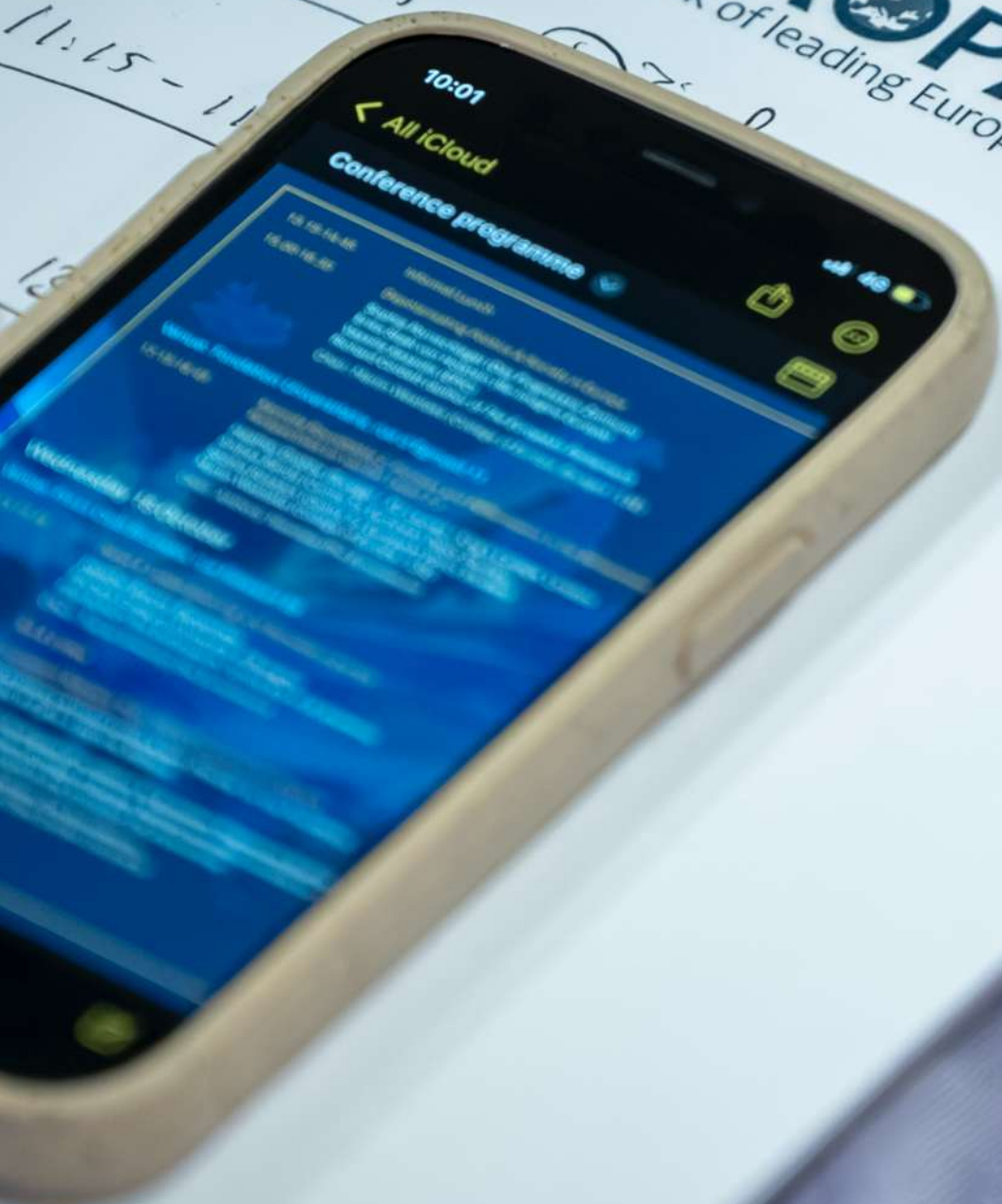
- Increasing the general **visibility of the Europaeum**, by refreshing its website, branding, newsletter, annual report and social media profile.

THE **EUROPÆUM**
A network of leading European universities

9:45 - 11:15

11:15 - 11:45

12:00



Europaeum Governance and Administration

Governing bodies

Organisationally, the Europaeum has **two governing bodies**:

○ The **Trustees of the Europaeum** are comprised of a mixture of academics and practitioners, with at least two (currently three) of the member universities represented at Rector level among the Trustees. They constitute the board of the Europaeum - both in its status as a UK charity and as a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee - and they usually meet at least twice a year, whether in person or online.

○ The **Academic Council** represents the member universities of the Europaeum. Each university has two representatives, usually the Rector *ex-officio* and another leading academic or administrator from the institution concerned. The Academic Council discusses the programme of activities and academic needs of Europaeum, usually meeting twice a

year, once in person and once online. The acting Chair of the Academic Council is Professor Wim van den Doel (Leiden University). The Academic Council met twice in 2025 - on 9 May (online) and on 7 November (in person, at Freie Universität Berlin).

In addition to the Trustees and the Academic Council, the Europaeum has an **Executive Committee**, a small advisory group to the Executive Director, which the latter chairs. It comprises representatives of up to **six member universities**, on a rotating basis, and meets regularly to feed into the planning process and help prepare meetings of the governing bodies. The Executive Committee met four times (quarterly) in 2025 - on 16 January, 10 April, 10 July and 9 October (all online).



Trustees

The **11 Trustees** of the Europaeum in 2025 were:

- **Andrienne d’Arenberg**, Board member and Trustee;
- **Professor Isabel Gil**, Rector of the Catholic University of Portugal;
- **Dr Andrew Graham**, former Master of Balliol College, Oxford, Chair of the Trustees since 2024;
- **(Lord) William Hague**, Chancellor of Oxford University; former UK Foreign Secretary and First Secretary of State;
- **Baroness Margaret Jay**, former Leader of the UK House of Lords;
- **Professor Maximilian Kiener**, Head of the Institute for Ethics in Technology, Hamburg University of Technology;
- **Professor Brigid Laffan**, Chancellor of Limerick University; former Director of the Robert Schuman Centre at the European University Institute;
- **Professor Dame Sally Mapstone**, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of St Andrews University;
- **Professor Marie-Laure Salles**, Director of the Geneva Graduate Institute;
- **Herman Van Rompuy**, former President of the European Council and former Prime Minister of Belgium; and
- **Professor Wim van den Doel**, Professor of Contemporary History, Leiden University.

The Trustees met twice in 2025 - on 30 May (online) and on 10 November (in London and online).

Academic Council

The **members of the Academic Council** of the Europaeum in 2025 were, in alphabetical order by location:

Acting Chair

Professor Wim van den Doel (Leiden)

Pompeu Fabra University (Barcelona)

Professor Laia de Nadal Clanchet

Professor Helena Ramalhinho

Professor Isabel Valverde Zaragoza

Freie Universität Berlin

Dr Lora Anne Viola

Dr Herbert Grieshop

University of Bologna

Professor Giovanni Molari

Professor Sonia Lucarelli

Professor Filippo Andreatta

University of Copenhagen

Professor David Dreyer Lassen

Professor Kirsten Busch-Nielsen

Graduate Institute Geneva

Professor Marie-Laure Salles

Professor Andrea Bianchi

University of Helsinki

Professor Sari Lindblom

Professor Leena Malkki

Jagiellonian University (Kraków)

Professor Piotr Jedynak

Professor Zdzisław Mach

Leiden University

Professor Annetje Ottow
Dr Joost Augusteijn

Catholic University of Portugal (Lisbon)

Professor Isabel Capeloa Gil
Professor Mónica Dias
Professor Leonor Durão Barroso

University of Luxembourg

Professor Jens Kreisel
Professor Dr Anna-Lena Högenauer

Complutense University of Madrid

Professor Joaquín Goyache Goñi
Professor Dr Maria del Rosario Cristóbal Roncero

Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich

Professor Dr Bernd Huber
Professor Dr Kiran Klaus Patel

University of Oxford

Professor Irene Tracey
Professor Roger Goodman
Professor Alexander Betts

Charles University (Prague)

Professor MUDr. Milena Králíčková
Professor JUDr. Jan Kuklík

University of St Andrews

Professor Dame Sally Mapstone
Professor Brad Mackay

University of Tartu

Professor Toomas Asser
Professor Riho Altnurme

Central European University (Vienna and Budapest)

Professor Carsten Q. Schneider
Professor Shalini Randeria

Finance

Underpinning the Europaeum's success is a subscription model of financing, with **annual subscriptions** from member universities, generating an automatic core income for the network. The annual subscription is currently 23,000 euro per university. The Europaeum supplements this with additional financial **support from foundations** and other charitable sources, notably for its Scholars' Programme.

The Europaeum is particularly grateful to the Templeton World Charity Foundation (TWCF) for the generous support which it has given for the last four (two-year) cycles of the Scholars' Programme, including during for the 2024-25 cycle. Its support has been generously renewed for the 2026-27 cycle.

Administration

The Europaeum is incorporated both as a **charity** (number 1105477) and as a not-for-profit **company** limited by guarantee (number 04639157) under UK law. It is based in premises at St Antony's College in the University of Oxford.

The Europaeum has a small **central secretariat**, based at St Antony's College, Oxford. This comprises an Executive Director and a Chief Administrator, two Programme Directors, and two Administrators for programmes and outreach, and financial management. More specifically:

The **Executive Director** of the Europaeum during this period was **Anthony Teasdale**, who served as Director General of the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), the in-house research service and think tank of the European Parliament in Brussels, from 2013 to 2022, and who is also a visiting professor at the London School of Economics and Columbia University.

The Director for the **Scholars' Programme** is Dr **Tracey Sowerby**, who has been a senior fellow at the Central European University, and a senior lecturer and a junior research fellow at Oxford University. She can be contacted at scholarsprogramme.director@europaeum.ox.ac.uk

The Director of the **Ideas Programme**, previously Core Programme, is Dr **Miles Pattenden**, who has been a senior research fellow at the Australian Catholic University and a fellow and research fellow at Oxford University. He can be contacted at coredirector@europaeum.org.

The **Chief Administrator** of the Europaeum is **Sasha Panagiotidis**, who had previously worked in a variety of roles in the administration of Oxford University. She can be contacted at administrator@europaeum.org.

Website

Further details of the Europaeum's membership, activities and secretariat at any given time can be found on its **website** at www.europaeum.org.

Europaeum secretariat

April 2026



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