

Master in Advanced European and International Studies

*Applied European Policy and
Governance Studies*

Academic Year 2023/2024



ANNUAL REPORT



1 OVERVIEW

The 2023/2024 Applied European Policy and Governance Studies programme of CIFE's Master in Advanced European and International Studies (MAEIS) was composed of a group of 14 students from 11 different nationalities. The itinerant programme offered students intensive courses in Nice, Canterbury and Berlin over three terms extending from 4 October 2023 to 2 July 2024. Afterwards, students were given the option of continuing their training with an internship of 2.5 to 3 months with a compulsory report upon completion. The following table represents the timetable of the programme:

Dates	Location
04/10/2023 – 11/01/2024	NICE Centre international de formation européenne (CIFE)
15/01/2024 – 08/04/2024	CANTERBURY University of Kent
10/03/2024 – 16/03/2024	STUDY TRIP Strasbourg – Luxembourg – Brussels
10/04/2024 – 02/07/2024	BERLIN Centre international de formation européenne (CIFE)
02/07/2024	End of the Academic Year & Graduation Ceremony
Until 30/09/2024	Optional Internship

In the Applied European Policy and Governance Studies programme, CIFE seeks to address the next generation of European decision-makers and offers unique educational experiences at the crossroads of theory and practice. The programme was taught in English and French with a trilingual option (courses in German).

The programme aimed at preparing students for professional life in a challenging context. The academic curriculum was designed in order to enable students to develop an overarching and all-encompassing understanding of the political, social, economic and cultural challenges of today's world, especially in the EU.

Following the leitmotif "Learning and living Europe", the students rotated each term, moving their place of study from Nice to Canterbury and then to Berlin. During their stay in Nice, the students were given an overview of the construction and the decision-making dynamics of the European Union, as well as introductory courses to Economics and International Relations. In Canterbury, students chose their area of interest amongst the offerings of the School of Politics and International Relations at the University of Kent. During the third trimester, students further developed what had been started in Nice and delved deeper into today's EU challenges, including EU enlargement and neighbourhood, external trade relations and partnerships, democratic backsliding in EU member states and the involvement of citizens in EU politics. In addition, courses on Germany's European Policy and German federalism (taught in German) rounded off the academic year. The students of the trilingual option did additional research on a topic related to EU policy and activities at the regional (state) level.

2 ORGANISATION OF THE PROGRAMME

The curriculum was composed of five compulsory modules during the Nice and Berlin trimesters and two modules during the Canterbury trimester:

- A** European Integration and Governance
- B** EU Policies and Flagship Initiatives
- C** EU Neighbourhood and External Relations
- D** The European Economy and Globalisation
- E** Professional Skills Workshops
- F** Two modules of choice at the University of Kent

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

Various teaching methods and course formats were applied within each module, including lectures, seminars, group work, student presentations and interactive workshops.

A European Integration and Governance (70 hours)

This module aimed at familiarising students with the complexity of the European integration process and the main features of EU policy making. The dynamics of European integration were studied from a historic perspective and current and future challenges were discussed. This included federalist approaches that do not see the EU as a process of integration, but rather analyse it in a comparative federal institutional approach, and which study European integration from a perspective of multi-level governance. The module addressed EU law and legal procedures, as well as dynamics and concepts such as differentiated integration, participation, political change and Euroscepticism.

TRIMESTER 1: NICE (55 hours)

Paul CULLEY *EU Policy Advisor, Tutor and Trainer, Former Director at the Council of the EU*

- EU Institutions and Decision-Making

Sören KEIL *Academic Head of the International Research and Consulting Centre at the Institute of Federalism, University of Fribourg*

- Federalism



Frédéric LÉPINE *Deputy Director General of CIFE*

- Processus d'intégration régionale

Matthias WAECHTER *Director General of CIFE*

- Historical Aspects of European Integration
- Die Deutsch-Französische Zusammenarbeit in Europa (Trilingual option)

STUDY TRIP: BRUSSELS (3 hours)

Doris DIALER *Attachée Health and Consumer Affairs, Permanent Representation of Austria to the EU*

- Lobbying and Advocacy in Europe

TRIMESTER 3: BERLIN (12 hours)

Sören KEIL

- Die föderale Ordnung der Bundesrepublik Deutschland und europäische Politikgestaltung (Trilingual option)

Julian PLOTTKA *Research Associate at the University of Bonn and Passau*

- Participative Governance in the EU

B EU Policies and Flagship Initiatives (34 hours)

Students gained insights into key policies such as enlargement, cohesion and competition policy, including various aspects such as the dynamics of decision-making and national interests of the member states, implementation, budget, etc. In addition, they were equipped with methods that enabled them to acquaint themselves independently with unfamiliar policies, based on knowledge of the competences of the EU and its institutional structures. In this module, experts and decision-makers were invited to discuss current issues in relevant policy fields. This included flagship initiatives of the EU and topics of political relevance, such as climate policy, the digital agenda and migration.

TRIMESTER 1: NICE (15 ½ hours)

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

- La politique climatique de l'UE

Yvan GASTAUT *Lecturer at Université Côte d'Azur, Nice*

- Histoire des migrations

Ignacio MOLINA *Secretary General of TEPSA, Former Deputy Director General for General and Institutional Policy at the General Secretariat of the EU Council of Ministers*

- The Current EU Policy Agenda Under the Spanish Council Presidency

TRIMESTER 2: CANTERBURY AND STUDY TRIP BRUSSELS (7 ½ hours)

Gilles LEPESANT *Senior Researcher at CNRS, Géographie-Cités*

- EU Energy Policy

Catherine VIEILLEDENT *Former EU Civil Servant*

- The Rule of Law in the EU: State of Play



TRIMESTER 3: BERLIN (11 hours)

Manuel KNAPP *Advisor on Civic Education, European Academy Berlin*

- Die deutsche Europapolitik: Einführung (Trilingual Option)

Willem NOE *European Commission Economics Expert on EU Integration and Enlargement*

- The European Union and EU Enlargement: Integration and Crisis. An Overview of Historical, Political and Economic Fundamentals

André SCHMIDT *Chair of Macroeconomics and International Economics at the University of Witten-Herdecke*

- Cohesion Policy

Cristina VANBERGHEN *Senior Expert at the European Commission, Visiting Fellow at the European University Institute, CIFE Alumna 1993/94*

- Expert Briefing: The EU's Digital Policy

A series of visits to political institutions in Berlin also took place in the framework of this module (See Section 5: Other Visits).

C EU Neighbourhood and External Relations (48 hours)

The module focused on the EU's policy towards its direct and wider neighbourhood in the East and the South, as well as its relations with relevant regions and important international players including the United States, China, Russia and further emerging countries. We explored the major schools of thought regarding international order and conflict that draft a comprehensive and holistic explanation of international politics, in order to understand public discourses and discuss solutions to today's challenges for international cooperation and security. International guest lecturers coming from universities, think tanks, diplomacy and politics were invited to discuss prevalent and emerging issues of EU external action and international politics, including migration, conflict resolution, globalisation and the future of transatlantic relations.

TRIMESTER 1: NICE (30 hours)

Silvia COLOMBO *Senior Fellow, Istituto Affari Internazionali, Rome, Italy*

- The Southern Neighbourhood of the EU: The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership

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

- Theory and Practice of International Relations in the 20th and 21st Centuries

Kai OPPERMANN *Professor, Department of International Relations, University of Technology, Chemnitz*

- The EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy

TRIMESTER 3: BERLIN (18 hours)

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

- European Security, NATO and Transatlantic Relations in Turbulent Times

Susann HEINECKE-KUHN

- Europe and the Post-Soviet Space: Russia, Central Asia and the Eastern Neighbourhood

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

- International Security and Conflict Resolution
- The EU and China

D The European Economy and Globalisation (49 hours)

The module dealt, among others, with the following subjects: EU economic integration, the EU in the world economy, the strengths and limitations of globalisation, the key players in globalisation, the European economy and globalisation, economic interdependence, EU regional trade agreements and the rise of emerging countries.

TRIMESTER 1: NICE (30 hours)

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

- Économie mondiale et européenne

TRIMESTER 3: BERLIN (19 hours)

André SCHMIDT

- The EU's Competition Policy: Provisions and Practice
- Economic Interdependence and External Trade Relations of the EU and Selected Regions





E Professional Skills Workshops (65 hours)

In an ever more globalised world and increasingly multicultural working environments, young professionals need to be equipped not only with knowledge, but with professional skills regarding capturing and presenting information, consensus building, conflict management, negotiations and much more. In this module, professors sought to develop an understanding of cooperation in political processes and various approaches in support of dialogue, negotiation and conflict management.

TRIMESTER 1: NICE (32 hours)

Paul CULLEY

- Practical Skills for Policy Analysts/Officers

Nina FRAUENFELD *Executive Director, SuccessAcross*

- Intercultural Communication

Anne TOPENOT *Director of Speaking Academy, Nice*

- Speak with Impact

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

- Negotiation Skills

TRIMESTER 2: CANTERBURY (4 hours)

Paul CULLEY

- Practical Skills for Policy Analysts/Officers

Emil ANDERSEN *Head of the Communication & IT at the DG Environment, European Commission*

- Political Communication in the EU

TRIMESTER 3: BERLIN (29 hours)

Emil ANDERSEN

- Political Communication in the EU

Frank BURGDÖRFER CEO Polyspectiv

- Project Cycle Management

Paul CULLEY

- Practical Skills for Policy Analysts/Officers

F Two modules of choice at the University of Kent (44 hours)

During the second trimester, the students were enrolled for the spring term at the School of Politics and International Relations of the University of Kent, one of CIFE's most renowned partners. The students were integrated into the University of Kent as regular students and registered in two modules in order to expand upon topics chosen according to their individual interests.

At the end of the term, the grades received by the students in these modules were integrated into CIFE's grading system. The modules taken by the students were the following:

- POLI8320 Conflict Resolution in World Politics
- POLI8480 Negotiation and Mediation
- POLI9170 Terrorism and Crimes of the State
- POLI9610 Politics and Conflict in Sub-Saharan Africa

3 INTERMODULAR COURSES

Simulation Game: European Council Summit

- **The Future of the European Union** on 11–12 December 2023
with **Katja SINKO** and **Stephan NAUMANN** from *Planpolitik*
Article 1 Re-Designing EU Migration Policy
Article 2 Shaping the Enlargement Process
- **Kick-off Session** by **Katia SINKO** and **Stephan NAUMANN** on 15 November 2023
- **Pre-Negotiations I** on 23 November 2023
- **Pre-Negotiations II** on 6 December 2023
- **Council Simulation** on 11 to 12 December 2023





Conferences, Speeches and Discussions

- Inaugural Lecture: Europe in a Dangerous World
by **Herman VAN ROMPUY** *President of CIFE, President Emeritus of the European Council and Former Prime Minister of Belgium*
- Le XXI^e Forum de l'Énergie :
« L'Europe face au changement : quelles perspectives énergétiques pour 2035 ? »
on 30 November to 1 December 2023
- Lecture and Debate: Ukraine and the EU: Lost in Accession?
In cooperation with Taras Shevchenko University, Kyiv
on 17 January 2024
by **Susann HEINECKE-KUHN**
- Political Networking Evening “Erleben. Teilhaben. Mitgestalten”
with CIFE Alumni and political experts (in German)
on 22 April 2024
with input statements by **Ria SCHRÖDER** and **Christian PETRY** *Members of the German Parliament*

Research Methodology

- Master Thesis Colloquium (8 sessions)
- Individual Research Consultations

Career Coaching

Nina FRAUENFELD

- Career Coaching: Preparing Applications for International and European Careers
- Individual Career Coaching

Various Alumni of the Programme

- Several *Meet our Alumni* sessions throughout the academic year

Language Courses

- French (Nice) with **Elaine CUNNINGHAM** *EC Formations*
- German (Nice) with **Priscilla CASSELL** *Language Trainer in German and English*
- German (Berlin) with **Hanna ZIEREN** *Coordinator of the Full-Time Master Programmes in Berlin*

4 STUDY TRIP

The annual study trip to the European and international organisations took place in Strasbourg, Luxembourg and Brussels from 10 to 16 March 2024. The following discussions and debates were held:

STRASBOURG

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

- Guided Visit of the Palais Building of the Council of Europe, including a Q&A session

EUROPEAN YOUTH CENTRE

- The Rise of Populism and Authoritarianism: How Can Young People Revitalise Democracy in Europe?
Tobias FLESSENKEMPER *Head of Department, Directorate of Democratic Participation, Council of Europe*

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

- Presentation on the Values, Roles and Functioning of the Legislative Process of the European Parliament and Visit to the Hemicycle

EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

- Presentation on the Role and Work of the Court Followed by Q&A Session
Bjorka DUKA *Lawyer at ECHR, CIFE Alumna 2019–20, MAEIS Global Studies*

LUXEMBOURG

COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

- Guided Tour of the Court's Buildings
- General Presentation of the Court of Justice
J. ZAMMIT *Press Officer, Communication Directorate*
- Presentation on the Work of a Lawyer-Linguist
C. VELLA *Lawyer Linguist, Maltese Translation Unit*

EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK

- Presentation on the Roles and Activities of the European Investment Bank
Hellen MEIJER *Event Marketing Officer, EIB*

BRUSSELS

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

- An Introduction to the Council and the Council of the EU
Emanuela AGOZZINO *Political Administrator, General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union*



EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE

- The Role and Political Priorities of the EEAS, the EU's Diplomatic Service and Strategic Communication
Luca KADAR Deputy Head of Division for Communication Policy and Public Diplomacy
- EU Security and Defence and the Strategic Compass
Leyla DASKIN Policy Officer, Security and Defence Policy Directorate

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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

NATO (SHAPE, MONS)

- Presentation of NATO SHAPE

5 OTHER VISITS

NICE

- Guided tour of Nice (Promenade des Anglais, Vieux Nice and Colline du Château) on 6 October 2023 with **Nathalie BRICOUT** Professional Tour Guide, Nice

EXCURSION TO LONDON ON 15–16 FEBRUARY 2024

The United Kingdom and the European Union: Natural Partners in a Turbulent World

- **Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) of the United Kingdom**
Briefing with **Nick HEATH** Head of Europe Strategy and Expertise Department, FCDO, UK Government
- Friedrich Ebert Foundation: **Social, Political and Economic Developments in Post-Brexit UK**
Briefing with **Michèle AUGA** Director, London Office, Friedrich Ebert Foundation
- The Centre for European Reform: **UK-European Security Co-Operation in a New Geopolitical Context**
Ian BOND Deputy Director, and **Christina KESSLER** Clara Marina O'Donnell Fellow, The Centre for European Reform



- **Guided Government District Walk**
with **Oliver RATCLIFFE** *Public Affairs Officer at Sustain: The Alliance for Better Food and Farming*
- **Delegation of the European Union to the United Kingdom**
Keynote Speech by **Pedro SERRANO** *EU Ambassador to the United Kingdom*
Briefing with **Elias CENTELLAS** *Justice, Employment and Social Affairs Counsellor*
With students from the London School of Economics (LSE) / Members of LSE Diplomatic Student Association Grimshaw Club and LSE European Society

BERLIN

VISITS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE COURSE “GERMANY’S EUROPEAN POLICY” (in German)

- **Representation of the Federal State of Saarland, Division Europe** on 27 May 2024
Eike HORTSCH *Head of Division Europe, Finances and Sciences*
- **Federation of German Industries (BDI), Europe Department** on 27 May 2024
Sven SCHÖNBORN *Senior Representative*
- **German Federal Chancellery** on 28 May 2024
Edgar LENSKI *Deputy EU Advisor, DG General EU Affairs, Coordination with EU Member States on EU Policy, EU External Relations*
- **Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany** on 29 May 2024
Silja WAIBEL *Head of Department EU-K*

OTHER VISITS

- **Guided Tour: “Zwischen Ost und West – die Spuren der europäischen Teilung in Berlin”**
on 11 April 2024
- **German Bundestag: Visit of the Dome of the Reichstag Building**
on 13 May 2024
- **House of the Wannsee Conference: Visit of the Permanent Exhibition and Workshop on (Historical) Photographs at the Memorial and Educational Site**
on 26 April 2024



6 MASTER THESIS RESEARCH TOPICS

Yasmin ABIDI (France / Luxembourg)

The EU-NATO Relationship and the Development of the CSDP: To What Extent Have Europeans Advanced or Retreated Towards Strategic Autonomy?

Thesis Supervisor: Matthias WAECHTER

Gero BASMER (Germany)

The Balance of Payments: Enabler or Inhibitor of EU Actorness

Thesis Supervisor: André SCHMIDT

Julien BIGDELY (France / Iran)

Hybrid Warfare in the European Union: A Case Study on Islamic Radicalisation as a Hybrid Threat to the EU

Thesis Supervisor: George TZOGOPOULOS

Clarissa DIAS NASCIMENTO (Brazil)

The EU-Mercosur Agreement: Chances and Risks for Brazilian Development

Thesis Supervisor: André SCHMIDT

Lili GRANDIEK (Netherlands / Hungary)

Education for Human Capital or as a Human Right? The Impact of International Organisations on SDG 4.7 Implementation

Thesis Supervisor: Susann HEINECKE-KUHN

Johanna KOCH (Germany)

Encountering Euroscepticism: The EU's Fight Against Disinformation in the Context of the 2024 European Parliament Elections

Thesis Supervisor: Matthias WACHTER

Geraldina KOLA (Italy / Albania)

Rethinking Albanian Accession to the European Union

Thesis Supervisor: Susann HEINECKE-KUHN

Ivan LEAL MARTINS (Portugal / Luxembourg)

Due Diligence and Corporate Ethics: Assessing UNGPs and Human Rights Due Diligence Policy Impact on the Global Supply Chain

Thesis Supervisor: Sören KEIL

Rydwen NOLD (France)

Sustainable Urban Development in Policy Making within the European Union: A Scale and Scope Analysis of the Efficiency of Sustainable Urban Projects

Thesis Supervisor: Laurent BAECHLER

Quite OTTENS (Netherlands)

EU Counter-Terrorism: Strategies, Policies and Its Effectiveness

Thesis Supervisor: George TZOGOPOULOS

Piotr RODEWALD (Poland / Germany / United Kingdom)

The Weimar Triangle and Domestic Politics: Turbulent Years or Business as Usual? An Analysis of the Trilateral Forum, 2005–2023

Thesis Supervisor: Susann HEINECKE-KUHN

Capucine ROSEMOND (France)

Défis et enjeux d'une convergence sociale au sein de l'UE

Thesis Supervisor: Jean-Claude VÉREZ

Samah SADIR CHAHIRI (Spain / Morocco)

Claiming Territory: Morocco and the Western Sahara Issue. An International Law Perspective

Thesis Supervisor: Sören KEIL

Maeva SANTARELLI (France / Luxembourg)

Human Rights and Minority Protection in the EU: The Case of Autistic People

Thesis Supervisor: Frédéric LÉPINE





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