

THE INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES

The Institute for European Studies of the ULB celebrated its 50TH anniversary in 2014. Set up by committed Europeans, such as Ganshof van der Meersch and Paul-Henri Spaak, it was formally inaugurated on the 27TH of February 1964.

Whereas initially the IEE was mainly devoted to Legal Studies covering “the six founding Members of the European Economic Community”, it gradually expanded the scope of its teaching and research to encompass the study of the Law, Politics, Economics, History and Cultures of an enlarged European Union.

In close collaboration with the faculties responsible for those disciplines, the Institute for European Studies has successfully reconciled disciplinary excellence with interdisciplinarity. A pioneer in many respects, it has adapted its main lines of research, as well as its educational offer, to the constantly evolving European and international realities.



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THE INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES



RESEARCH
CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

RESEARCH – CONCENTRIC APPROACH

As a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, the IEE is a recognized reservoir of expertise in European affairs.

For over 50 years, the IEE has positioned itself at the forefront of the study of the European institutions. Initially, its research focused on the political, sociological, institutional, economic and legal processes underpinning the dynamics of European integration. Research at the IEE has also matched its expertise on the processes of integration by actively contributing to European Studies as they sought to unpack either the process of Europeanization or emerging European public policies. Moreover, as other macro-regions have gone through their own distinctive integration processes and inter-regional dynamics have become increasingly relevant, the interactions between European and global governance mechanisms have equally become ever more significant.

Overall, understanding the institutions, policies and dynamics of integration associated with the EU requires considering them in the context of globalization. This has seen the IEE's approach evolve into a so-called concentric one. It strives to bridge EU studies, Area studies and International studies, thus providing new comparative insights, be it in legal, political, historical or discursive terms.

This concentric research agenda is organized along 4 transversal research themes grouping researchers from all of the aforementioned disciplines:

- Europe as an area of freedom, security and justice
- Europe as an area of economic and social regulation
- Europe as a community of norms and values
- Europe in the world

RESEARCH TRAINING - AN INTERNATIONAL DOCTORAL PROGRAMME

The IEE has a proven track record in doctoral training. It consistently promotes disciplinary excellence while also responding to a growing need for a more interdisciplinary, international and professional breed of social scientists. In close collaboration with its 3 partner faculties – i.e. Philosophy and Social Sciences, Law and Criminology as well as Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management - the IEE is committed to training tomorrow's researchers while equally shaping future research on Europe. With over 40 nationalities and 4 disciplines represented, early stage researchers trained at the IEE come from a variety of backgrounds. They are an integral part of a unique international epistemic community in EU studies.

All starting researchers go through a one-year long disciplinary methodological training hosted by the relevant partner faculty which is ultimately capped by an end of year review. Subsequent years of their doctoral program are dedicated to individual and collective research hosted at the interdisciplinary research institute that is the IEE. PhD research at the IEE is developed with the support of a variety of funding avenues. This confluence of private, public, national, European and international funding contributes towards ensuring a pluralistic and open research environment.

As a training facility for Early Stage Researchers, the IEE has been involved in partnerships with amongst other: the European Commission's Erasmus Mundus, Marie Curie and Jean Monnet programmes; the F.R.S-FNRS's individual research fellowships, FRESH and Mini-ARC programmes; the Chinese Scholarship Council; as well as a series of private foundations.

RESEARCH – INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION & ACADEMIC NETWORKS

The IEE is an engaged and active contributor to the European and Global research communities in political, legal, economic and historical sciences. The research community at the IEE - whether at the academic, post-doctoral or PhD level – is a prominent force for innovation in European Studies. The IEE's continued dynamism is reflected in the important body of peer-reviewed publications produced by its members. Said scientific output is diverse both in terms of disciplines involved as well as publication languages and target audiences chosen. Furthermore, the IEE's institutionally set international openness and disciplinary pluralism are all reflected in some of this interdisciplinary research institute's marked achievements:

- More than a dozen nationalities are represented within the IEE's academic staff and well over 50 nationalities are accounted for among its research staff. At present it has set up specific collaborations with over 100 academic partners on all five continents.
- The IEE spearheads a series of internationally recognized consortia and networks of excellence, among which: ECLAN on EU Criminal Law (www.eclan.eu); ODYSSEUS on Migration & Asylum (www.odysseus-network.eu); or the GEM PhD School on Globalization, Europe and Multilateralism (www.erasmusmundus-gem.eu)
- Two of its Academics – Professor Eric REMACLE & Paul MAGNETTE – were awarded an exceptional Prix Francqui in European Studies. Several of its members have been made members of the Belgian Royal Academy of Science and served as experts either within or to European and international institutions.

- The IEE has contributed towards numerous FP6 and FP7 European Integrated Research Projects, as well as other EU-funded research and expertise projects. A non-exhaustive list of which includes: GARNET (FP6), NESCA (FP6), EUROROADMAP (FP7), GR:EEN (FP7), SURVEILLE (FP7), MADE-REAL (European-Refugee Fund). Continuing this tradition of excellence the IEE is a member of the recently launched ENLIGHTHEN project – “European Legitimacy in Governing through Hard Times: the Role of European Networks” - within the H2020 program.

RESEARCH - OWN PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

As a reference in European studies research, the IEE manages 3 book series:

- « Commentaire J. Mégret » published by the Editions de l'Université de Bruxelles

Founded in the 70s by Jacques Mégret, this series provides a systematic commentary of the provisions of EU treaties. With over 30 volumes so far, it serves as a recognized reference in EU law.

- The Routledge “Globalisation, Europe, Multilateralism” series:

Launched in 2013 by Mario Telo, this English-language series includes edited volumes, research based monographs and textbooks aimed at making an original contribution to innovation in research and teaching in European Integration and International Studies. With 9 volumes published over the course of its first 2 years, the series has rapidly established itself both as a reference for researchers and a useful teaching geared towards university students.

- The “Etudes Européennes” series published by the Editions de l'Université de Bruxelles:

Founded in 1968 by Jean-Victor Louis, this collection publishes legal and political science works on themes related to the European construction. With over 80 published volumes, it is a collection accessible both to an audience of EU academics and professionals as well as a broader public eager to learn more about European issues.