

A black and white photograph of graduates in academic regalia celebrating, with many caps thrown into the air. The scene is festive and captures a moment of triumph. A semi-transparent blue rectangle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the title and study information.

INSTITUT D'ÉTUDES EUROPÉENNES

THE GRADUATES  
OF THE INSTITUTE  
FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES  
OF THE UNIVERSITÉ LIBRE  
DE BRUXELLES (1964-2015)

CAREER PATHS AND GEOGRAPHIC  
MOBILITY (2003-2015)

Study conducted by  
Ramona Coman, Jean Duclos, Julien Bourgeois and Cristina Dobrisan  
2018

The logo of the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) consists of the letters 'ULB' in a bold, white, sans-serif font, set against a solid blue rectangular background.

Translated from French by  
**Julie Vander Meulen**, Teaching Assistant in Political science, ULB

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## Biographical Notes



**Ramona Coman** is a professor in political science at the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB) and the Director of the Institute for European Studies (IEE) at the ULB (since 2014).



**Jean Duclos** is a young graduate of the Master in European Studies of the IEE, who previously majored in History and Law-Economy simultaneously, and decided to assist Ramona Coman in the realisation of this study both so as to perfect the social sciences' research methodology as well as to better grasp the range of career prospects for IEE graduates.



**Julien Bourgeois** is a student from the Master in European Studies of the IEE. His participation in the making of this study enabled him to acquire new research competences, as well as to better envision his career prospects.



**Ana Cristina Dobrisan** is a graduate from the Master in European Studies of the IEE, and holder of a Master's degree in Quantitative Sociology and Social Development at the Université Lille3.

With the support of  
**Maria Isabel Soldevila**, Executive Manager  
and Communication Director of the IEE-ULB

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Foreword</b> .....	5
<b>European Studies at the IEE</b> - Ramona Coman .....	6
<b>The IEE's Graduates</b> - Ramona Coman .....	9
<b>Data Collection Methodology</b> - Jean Duclos .....	16
<b>The IEE's European Identity and Its Internationalisation</b> - Jean Duclos .....	17
<b>The IEE, an Open Gate to Brussels</b> - Jean Duclos .....	21
<b>Career Paths: A Diversity Reflecting the IEE's Multidisciplinary Approach</b> .....	
Julien Bourgeois, Ramona Coman, Jean Duclos and Ana Cristina Dobrisan .....	23
Careers in Organisations of Interest and Civil Society Representation .....	24
Industries and Economic Actors .....	24
Careers in the European Institution .....	24
Careers of Lawyers and Jurists .....	25
Careers in Diplomacy and National Institutions .....	26
Careers in Academia and Research .....	27
Careers in the Banking and Insurance Sectors .....	28
Consultancy .....	28
<b>Beyond the Numbers. Alumni's Career Paths and Testimonies</b> - Ramona Coman .....	29
The Associative and Interest Representation Sectors on the European and National Level .....	29
EU Agencies and Institutions and International Organisations .....	30
Diplomacy and National Institutions .....	33
Media, Communication, Culture .....	35
Research, Education, and Teaching .....	35
Consultancy .....	37
Banks and the Insurance Sector .....	38
As a conclusion .....	38
<b>Employability</b> - Ramona Coman .....	39
<b>IEE Alumni in High-Level Responsibility Positions in National and European Political Institutions Have Contributed to the European Public Debate</b> .....	41
<b>The Presidents of the IEE-ULB Alumni Network</b> .....	43





# FOREWORD

Since 1964, the Institute for European Studies of the ULB (Institut d'études européennes de l'ULB - IEE-ULB) has graduated more than 7.500 students. Some stayed in contact with their *Alma mater*, becoming professors and directors of the Institute, while others left the IEE on Graduation day with a diploma and friends for life. Depending on the period, the Institute for European Studies has tried to stay in contact with its graduates. The types of relations and kinds of collaborations have varied with time, in accordance with the level of enthusiasm of the IEE Alumni Association and the institution's agenda. At the IEE's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, Jean-Victor Louis, former president of the Institute, emphasised "the importance of the movement which strives towards reuniting with former students", "who owe the Institute the instruments that enabled them to realise their interest for European affairs, and often, to decide of their career path". He also stressed that "our graduates may prove of invaluable support to the Institute"<sup>1</sup>.

In continuity of the strong legacy left by the previous IEE authorities, we have, since our appointment in 2014, set ourselves as a primary goal to reinforce and diversify collaborations with graduates. It is a long-term goal whose implementation is gradual. As such, alumni have regularly come back to the IEE since 2014, be it to participate in conferences and debates, to partake in convivial moments, to celebrate the 20 years of the acquisition of their diploma, to speak during teaching activities in the Masters in European studies, or in *executive education*-type of programs, or again to meet current students during *mentoring* sessions. The use of social media, more specifically the creation of a Facebook page and a LinkedIn account in the past few years, have enabled the further tightening of these bonds, thereby allowing graduates to remain in contact with their *Alma mater* if they wish to. In encouraging these tight bonds with the graduates' community, the IEE seeks to favour conviviality and mutual support for its members, thus offering a setting for debate on current European affairs during events or publications, and by the same token, to contribute to its own influence within civil society and the workplace.

Curious to learn more about the career paths of our graduates, we initiated this study with the valuable cooperation of three students from the Master in European Studies – Jean Duclos, Julien Bourgeois and Ana Cristina Dobrisan. It was a long-winded task which both confirmed some of our hypotheses and yielded unexpected results.

The initial goals were modest. Our initiative aimed to identify the current workplaces of our graduates so as to gather objective information with regards to the career prospects available after a specialisation in European Studies. This question often being raised during the IEE's registration process or at our program presentations in the various promotion campaigns that the Institute organises, we wished have rigorously-collected information which faithfully reflected our graduates' trajectories. Although the IEE delivered its first diploma in 1964, we decided when launching this study to limit the scope of the research to the career paths of graduates from the last 10 years (2003-2015). With regards to the previous graduations, we hereby only propose a limited analysis of such criteria as the IEE's geographic mobility and progressive internationalisation, gender parity, the evolution of the number of students per discipline (Law, Economy, Political Science, History and Cultures of Europe, or Interdisciplinary Studies), etc.

Reviewing the career paths of graduates from 2003-2015 has allowed us to learn more about their geographic mobility within and outside the EU, their academic background – in terms of academic mobility and specialisation – and their professional paths since the end of their studies. Other than the numerical results put forward, some professional trajectories are also highlighted as they are, for us, representative of the studied profiles more generally. The undertaking itself, the limitations of its methodology, as well as its results are presented in the following pages.

The IEE's story can be written in a variety of ways. We could look back at the institution's evolution to tell an official and self-supporting story, but we could also see the evolution of the IEE from a critical viewpoint by rather focusing on those who chose the IEE to educate and build a career for themselves. While this study serves as a means for the IEE to better grasp its graduates' trajectories, it also shows, like all the other activities it organises, its wish to keep strong bonds with its former students, whose contribution to the development of the Institute is crucial.

**Ramona Coman**, Director of the IEE, and **Anne Weyembergh**, President of the IEE  
18 July 2018

1 - John Nieuwenhuys, *L'Institut d'études européennes : 50 ans de recherche et d'enseignement en quête d'ouverture*, p. 5.

The ULB's IEE has evolved in harmony with European integration, as Jean-Victor Louis highlights in John Nieuwenhuys' study *The Institute for European Studies: 50 years of teaching and research in pursuit of openness* published for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Institute's inauguration. Set up by academic and political personalities like Ganshof van der Meersch, the IEE was conceived since the very beginning as an Institute for interdisciplinary research and teaching, first combining Economy and Law, and later Political Science, and European Civilisations and History. Partially bilingual – French/Dutch – at the time of its foundation, the IEE restructured itself to better accommodate the evolutions of the academic landscape after 1968.

Since its creation, the Institute for European Studies has regularly adapted its teaching programs to take into consideration not just the institution's evolution (in terms of research themes and recruitment) and its links with the Law School and the Faculty of Social, Political, and Economic Sciences, but also the challenges of European integration in its economic, legal, political, and social dimensions.

The IEE first started its activities by organising the 2<sup>nd</sup> Special Degree in European Studies (1964), the Special Degree in European Economics (1965) and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Special Degree in European Law (1969).

The EU's policy diversification and the increasing complexity of its relations with member states were reflected both in its research and teaching.

From 1970, the IEE organised:

The **2<sup>nd</sup> Special Degree in Economy** (and since 1979 the Special Degree in Economy)

The **2<sup>nd</sup> Special Degree in European Law**

The **2<sup>nd</sup> Special Degree in European Studies** (politics section)

Twenty years later, in 1976, a new program is launched – named **Special Certificate in European Civilisation** with the aim to open a training dedicated to the History of Europe and European civilisation.

In 1983, the IEE offers the **Certificate in European Studies**, an addition to the previous programs.

1995 marks the renaming of the diplomas' titles to Diploma of Postgraduate Studies (DPS) or Diploma of Specialisation Studies (DSS) in European Economy, European Law (or in Corporate Law, and Institutional Law) or in European Politics. The DSS in European Studies includes two specialised sections – Internal Politics and External Relations – from the 2000s on.

Starting in 2004, the IEE programmes receive the new title of Masters. The IEE organises a **Master in European Law**, a **Master in European Studies** with the following specialised orientations: Economy; History and Cultures of Europe; Politics; and since 2007 a **Complementary Master in Interdisciplinary EU Studies**, which becomes a **Specialised Master** in 2014.

With the aim of promoting a multidisciplinary education which went further than the mere juxtaposition of disciplines, but rather created the basis for true interdisciplinarity, the founding fathers of the IEE, as well as its succeeding directors and presidents, tried contributing to the construction of Europe while preserving the Institute's independence by keeping its critical and diverse stance. Originally centred around research, the IEE progressively integrated aspects of professionalisation in its programs (including internships, research training, mentoring by Alumni, etc.), the members of the academic team thereby trying to find balance between scientific rigor and professionalisation<sup>2</sup>.

The nature of its programs evolved in accordance with the relations of the IEE and its associated faculties (Law School, Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences, Solvays Brussels School – Economics & Management).

2 - *Ibidem*.



Table 1

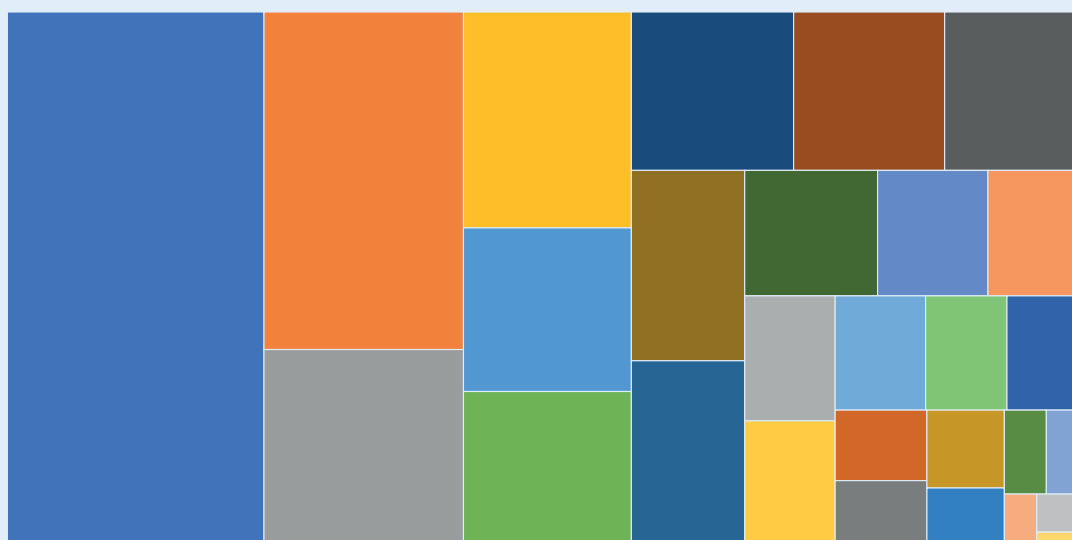
**THE PROGRAMS OF THE IEE SINCE 1964**

- 2E Special Degree in European Law
- 2E Special Degree in European Economics
- 2E Special Degree in European Studies (Politics section)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the DES in European Law – Corporate Law
- Special Degree in European Economy
- Special degree in European law
- Certificate in European Studies
- Special Certificate in European Civilisation
- DES in European Law
- DES in European Politics – External Relations
- DES in European Economics
- DES in European Politics – Internal Politics
- DEC2 in European Studies
- DEC2 in European Law – Institutional Law
- DEC2 in European Economy
- DEC2 in European Politics
- DEC2 in European Law – Corporate Law
- Master in European Studies, Politics section – 2nd year
- Specialised Master in European Law
- Specialised Master in Interdisciplinary EU Studies
- Master in European Studies, Economy section – 2nd year
- Master in European Studies, History and Cultures of Europe section – 2nd year

Table 2

## THE PROGRAMS OF THE IEE PER NUMBER OF STUDENTS SINCE 1964

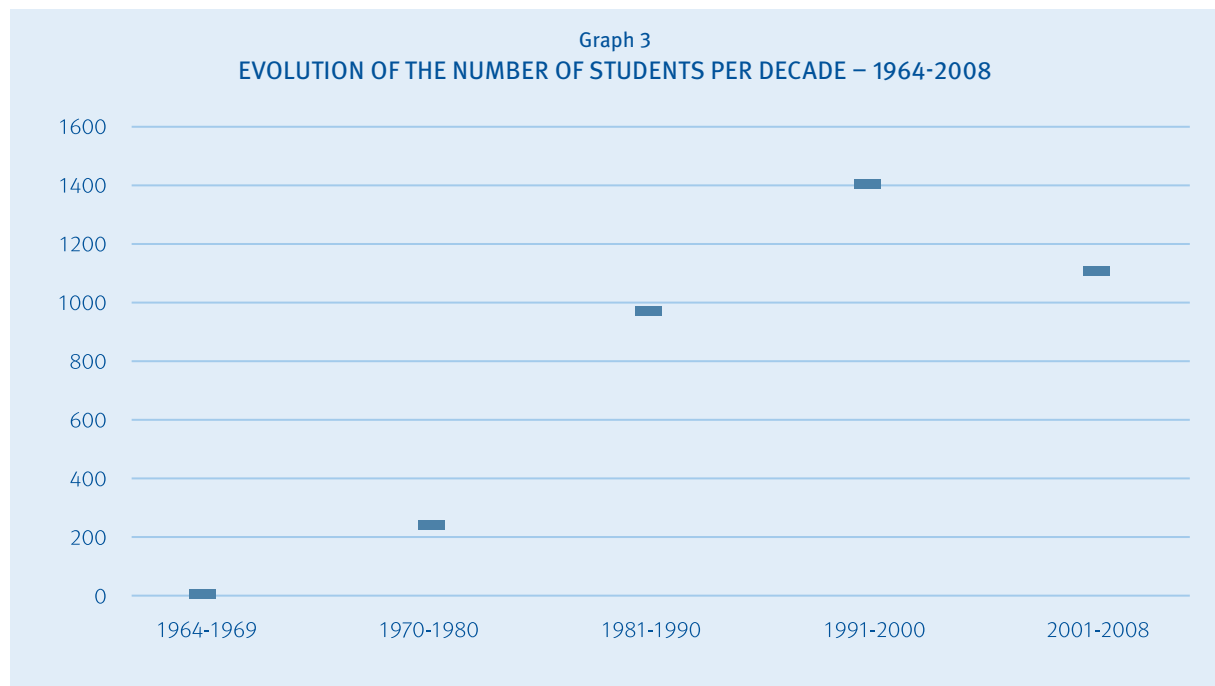
■ 2E Special Degree in European Law	■ 2nd year in European Law; Institutional law
■ DES in European Law	■ DES in European Politics
■ Certificate in European Studies	■ Complementary Master in European Law
■ 2nd year of the DES in European Law – Corporate Law	■ 2E Special Degree in European political studies
■ Special Degree in European Economy	■ DEC2 in European politics
■ DES in European Politics; External Relations	■ Complementary master in the interdisciplinary analysis of European construction
■ 2E Special Degree in European Studies (Politics section)	■ Master in European Studies, Economics section – 2nd year
■ DEC2 in European Studies	■ Master in European Studies, History and Civilisation section - 2nd year
■ Special degree in European law	■ DEC2 in European Law; Institutional Law
■ Master in European Studies, Politics section – 2nd year	■ DEC2 in European Economics
■ DES in European Economy	■ 2nd year DES in European Economics
■ DEC2 in European Law; Corporate Law	■ Certificate in European Civilisation
■ DES in European Politics; Internal Politics	■ Certificate in European Civilisation
■ 2nd year DES in European politics	■ 2E Special Degree in European Economy



The number of students having chosen the IEE for their education has been in constant evolution, with varying degrees of fluctuation depending on the time and context.

The IEE has always had three types of students:

- Those wanting to call themselves graduates of the IEE with a view to a later career in Brussels;
- Those seeking to train themselves in research;
- Those interested in one-off trainings as guest students or in participating in training activities<sup>3</sup>.

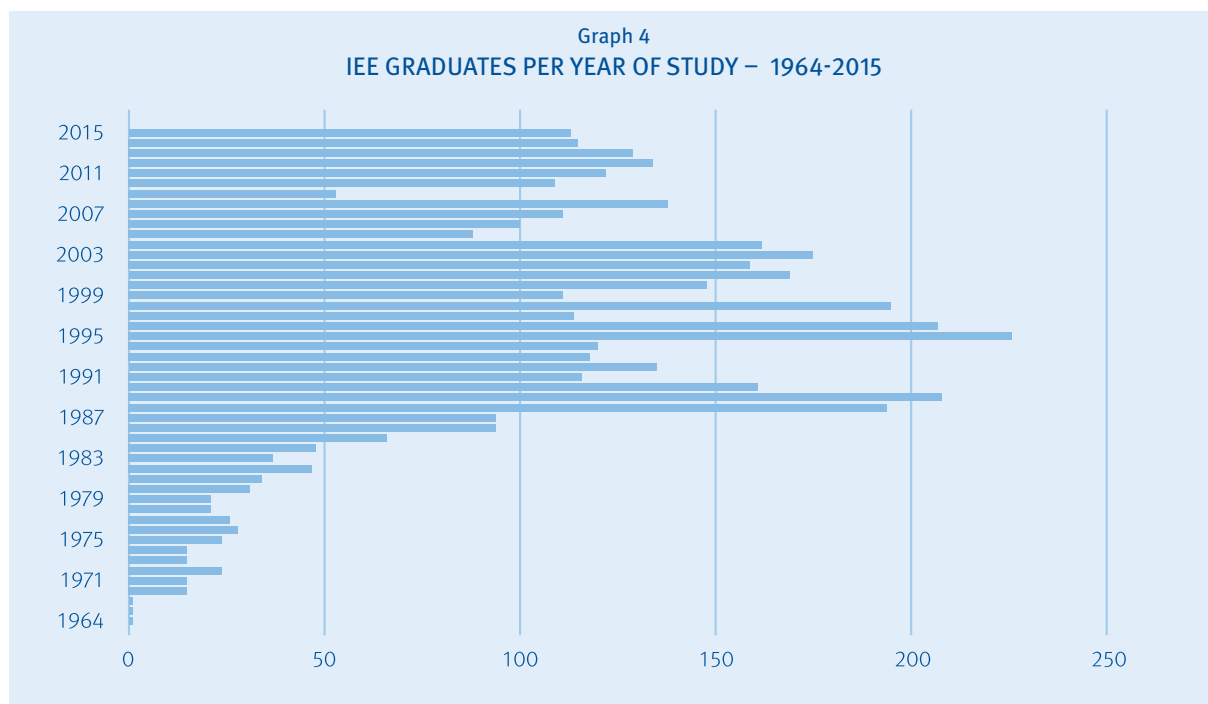


In the graph below (Graph 4), we can notice that the number of students enrolled has significantly increased right before every enlargement of the European Communities, and later of the European Union:

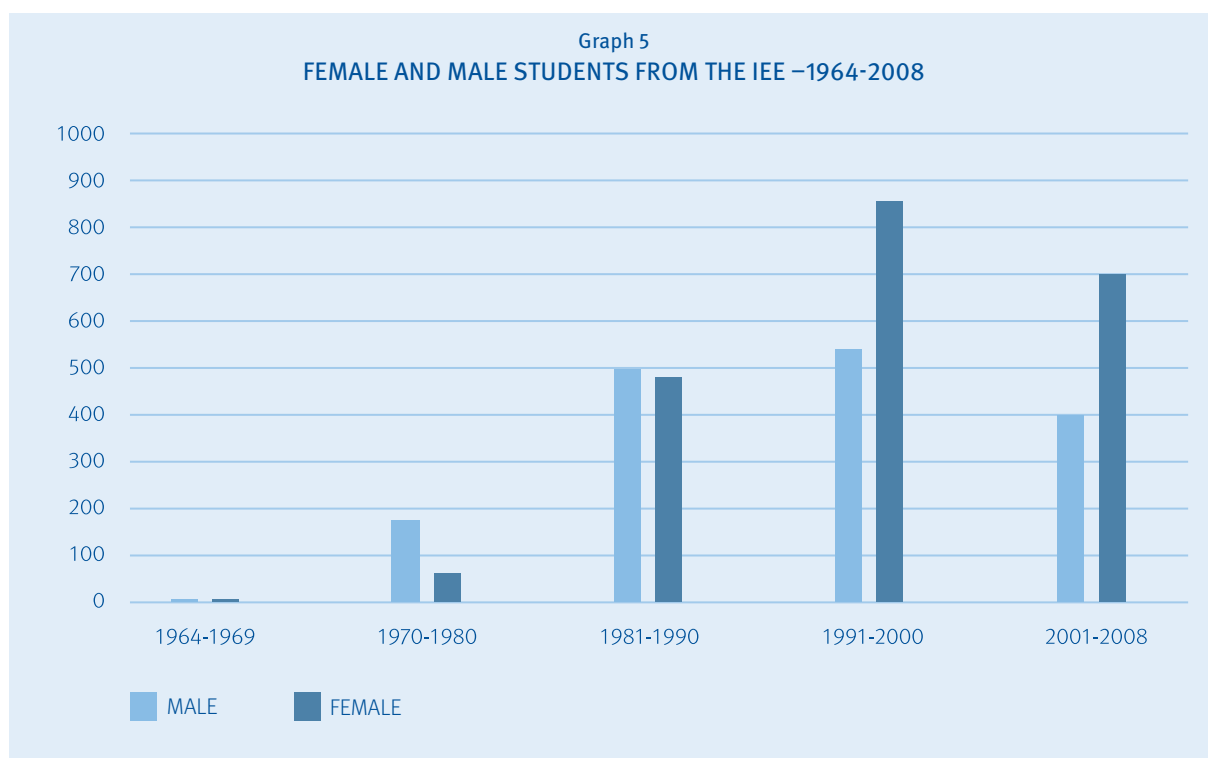
- **In 1981 and between 1985 and 1988** – As the Union enlarged to countries like Greece, Portugal and Spain, Spanish students came in very high numbers – according to Michel Walbroeck<sup>4</sup>. At the same time, as John Nieuwenhuys points out, contacts with American and British universities gave way to a great number of Anglo-Saxon students at the IEE. Like **Christopher Vajda** for example, law graduate from the Cambridge University, who gets a Special Degree in European Law at the IEE in 1977. He is now judge at the Court of Justice of the European Union.
- **Between 1995 and 1997** – period when Austria, Finland, and Sweden are integrated into the EU, and which also corresponds to the EU's preparation for its Central and Eastern Europe enlargement. In addition, it coincides with the implementation of the Bologna System and the new dynamics of the European academic landscape, notably the energy deployed for the Erasmus program launched in 1985, which progressively opens itself to Central and Eastern Europe after the fall of communism.
- **2001-2003** – during this period, the IEE also witnesses a slight increase in enrolment, although much smaller than the previous one.
- The number of students enrolled reached an all-time low in **2009**, period which marks the beginning of the eurozone crisis, which drastically affected the economic conditions of the citizens of many member states, and more specifically, those of Southern Europe.

<sup>3</sup> - *Ibidem*.

<sup>4</sup> - *Ibid.*, p. 28.

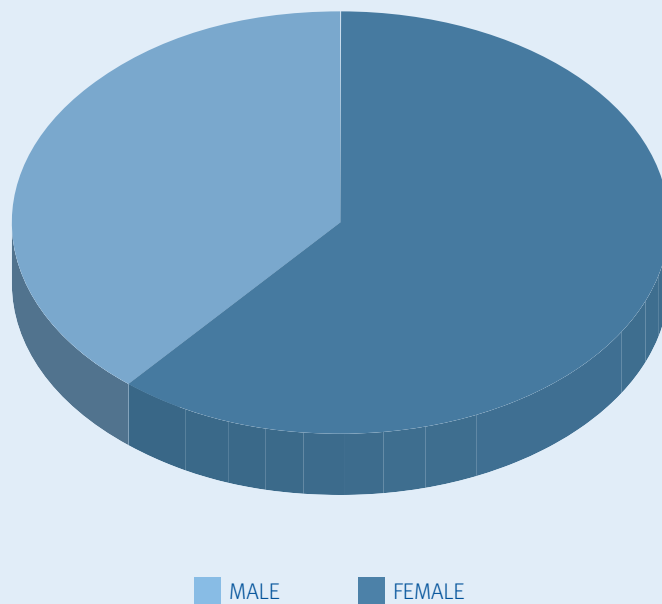


In terms of gender parity, in the first decades since its inauguration and up until 1980, the IEE had mainly been attended by male students. From 1990 on, the trend reverses with 1/3 more female than male students enrolling. This trend remained stable for the next two decades, i.e. from 1991 to 2000, as well as from 2001 to 2008, as illustrated in graph 5 below.



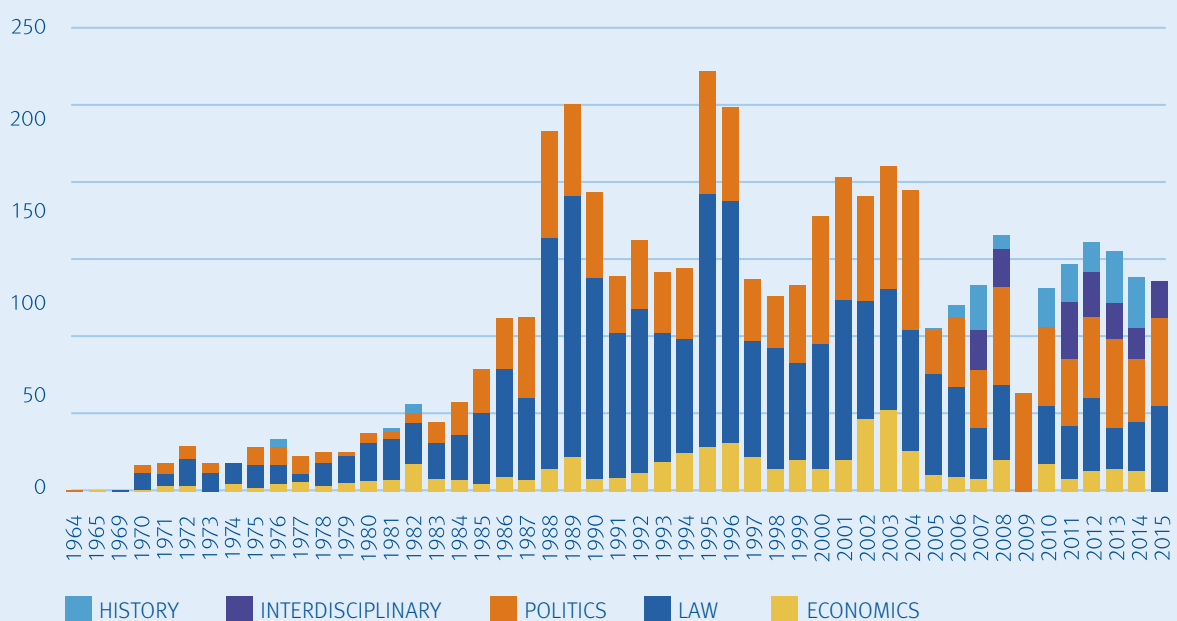
Since 2006, From 1990 on, the trend reverses with 1/3 more female than male students enrolling to reach fairly comparable percentages, as illustrated in graph 6 below.

Graph 6  
FEMALE AND MALE GRADUATES OF THE IEE– 2006-2016

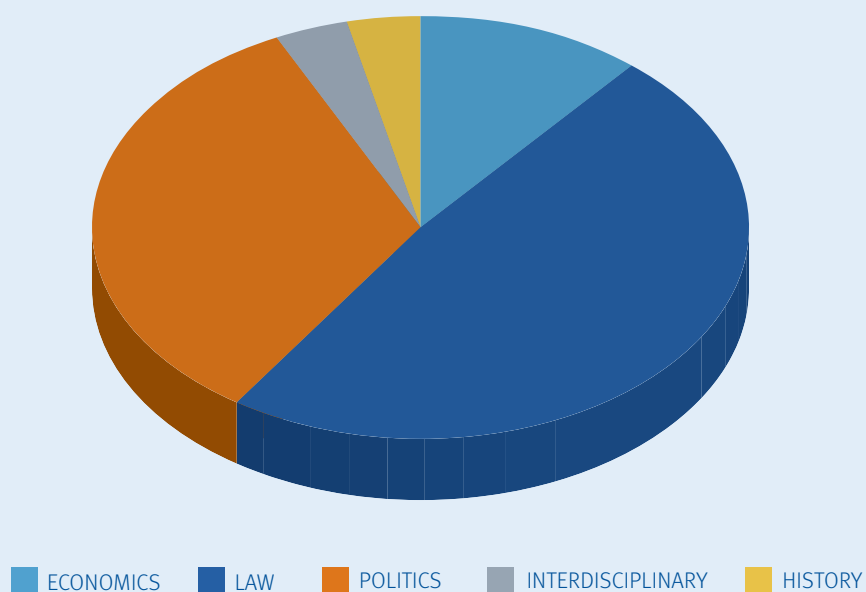


Until 1980, students' distribution in terms of their orientation – Economy, History and Cultures, Law, and Political Science – was rather balanced, with a similar number of students in each program. From the first half of the 1980s however, the number of law graduates started to increase compared to other orientations, this trend later shifts in 2000, as a higher number of students from the European Politics' orientation graduates (as illustrated in graph 7 below).

Graph 7  
IEE'S GRADUATES PER SECTION– 1964-2015



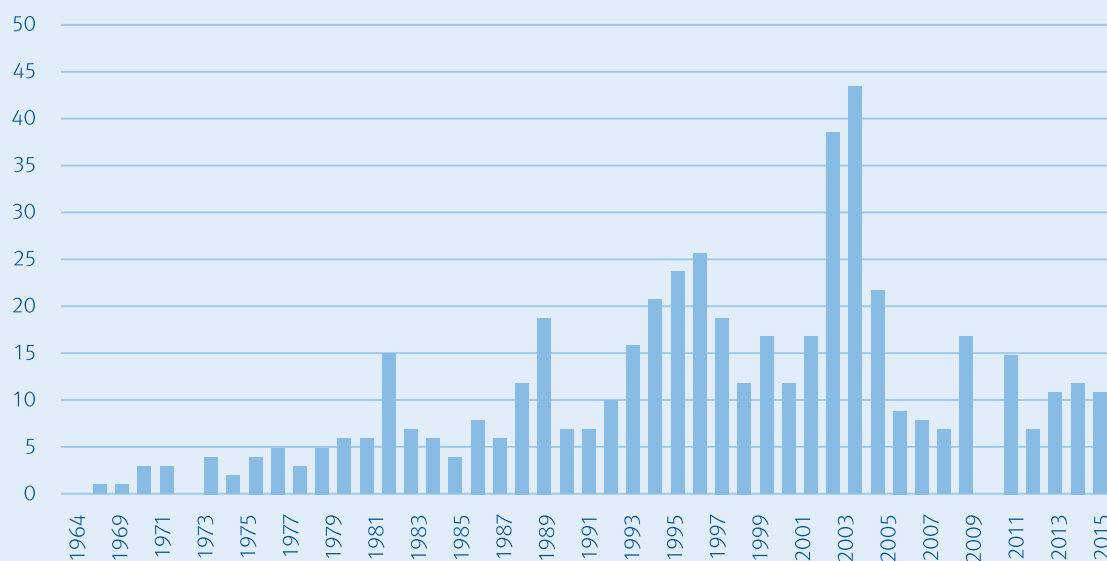
Graph 8  
GRADUATES PER ORIENTATION – 1964-2005



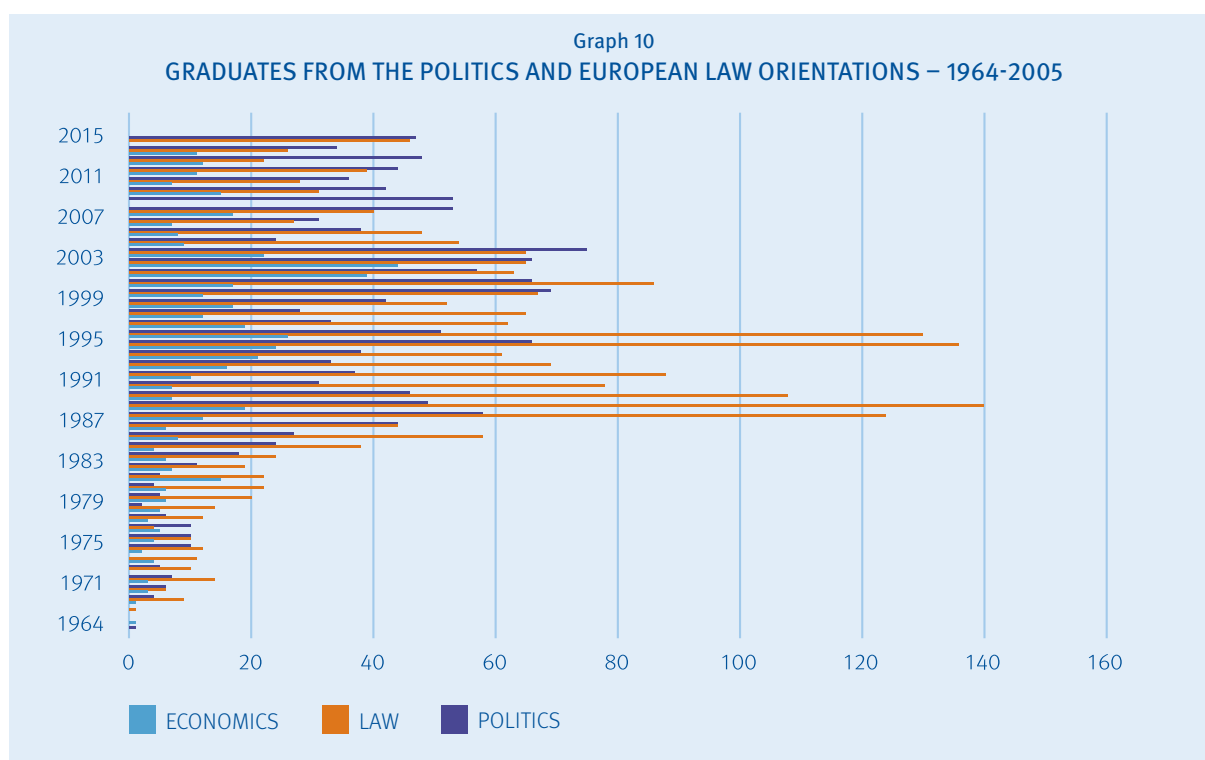
The number of law graduates was slightly higher to those in the Politics orientation until the beginning of the 2000s, when the share of European Studies orientation graduates becomes higher than that of graduates in European Law (graph 10). Since 2006, the number of graduates of the Politics' orientation is higher than that of graduates from the European Law orientation (graph 12).

Even though the number of graduates in Economy rises from one year to the next (graph 9), with times of impressive growth in the 1990s and in the beginning of the 2000s, the majority of students are enrolled in the Law and Politics orientations.

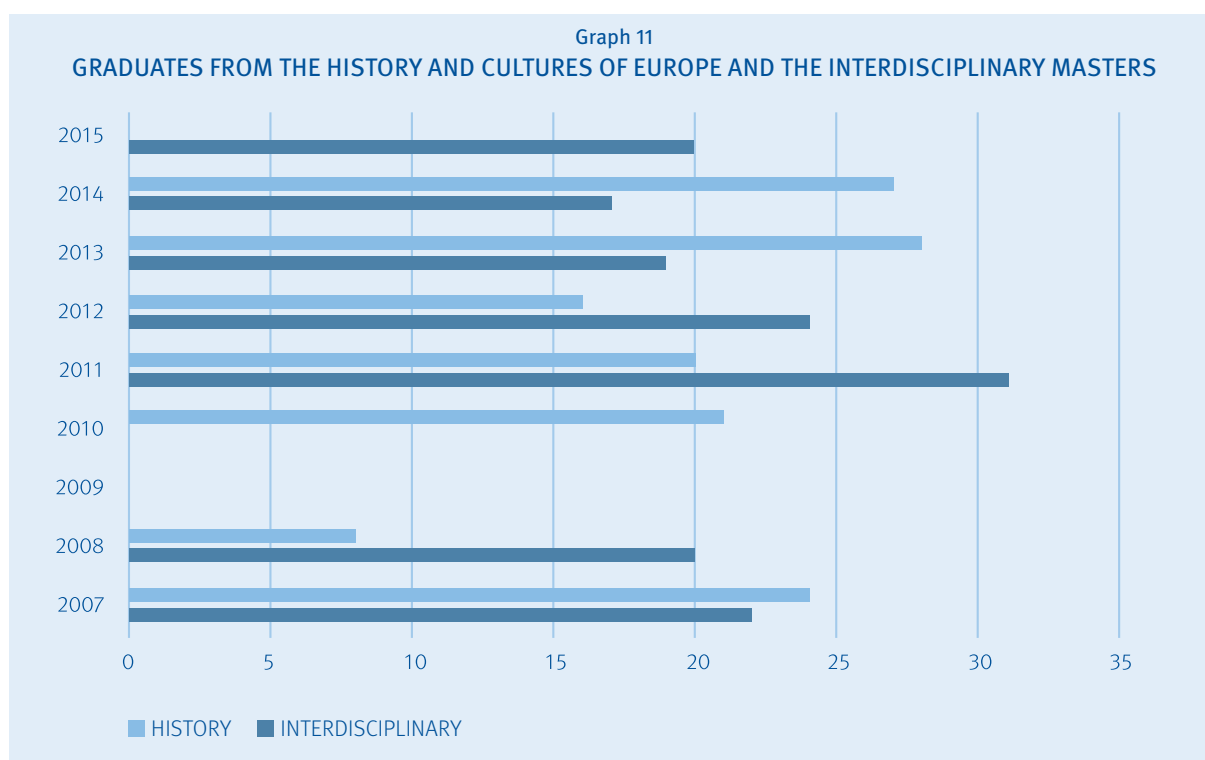
Graph 9  
GRADUATES FROM THE EUROPEAN ECONOMY ORIENTATION – 1964-2005



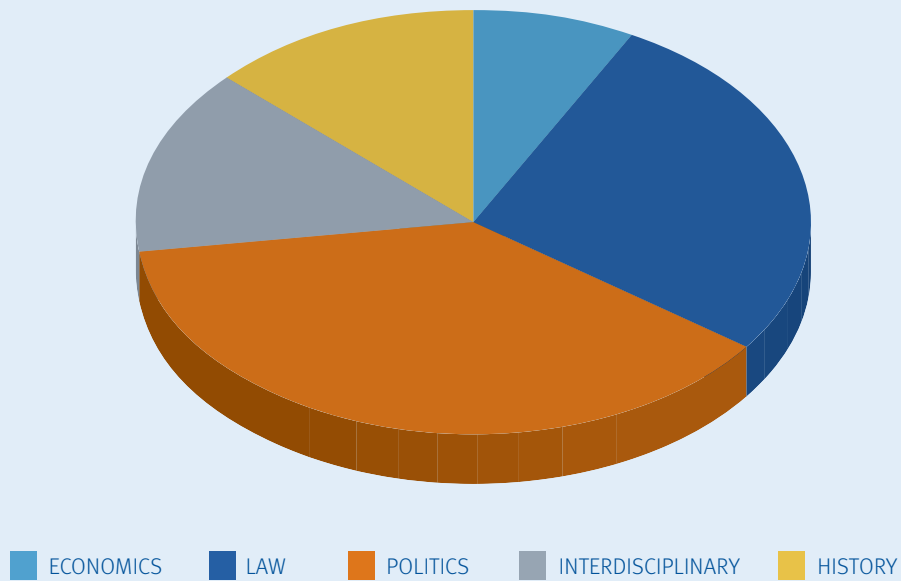




The Interdisciplinary orientation as well as that of History and Cultures are, however, marked by a greater fluctuation from their inception up to the 2000s (graph 11).

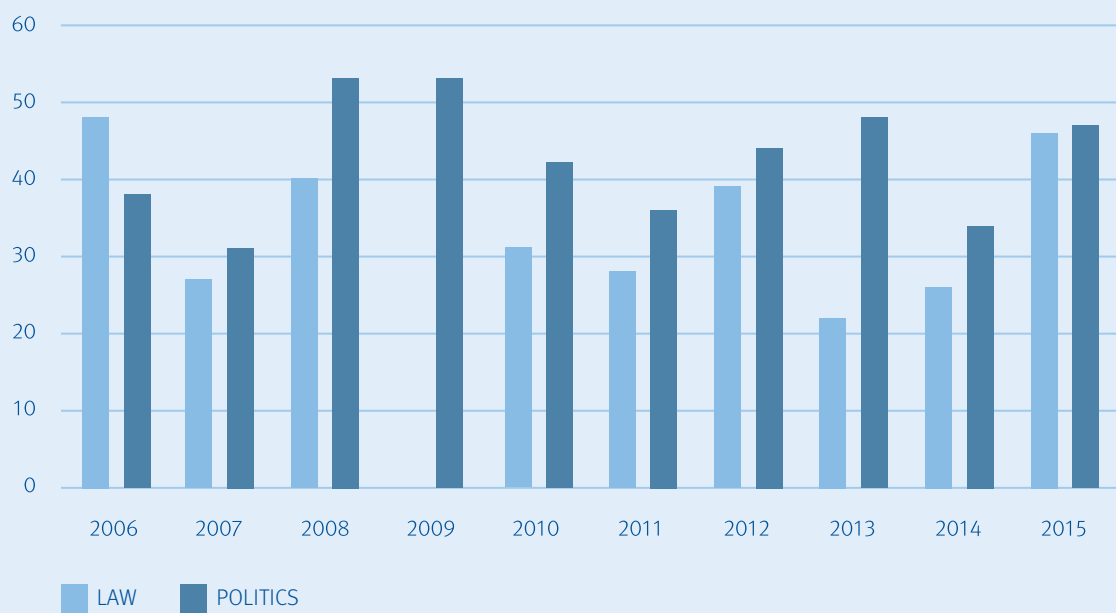


Graph 12  
GRADUATES PER ORIENTATION – 2006-2015

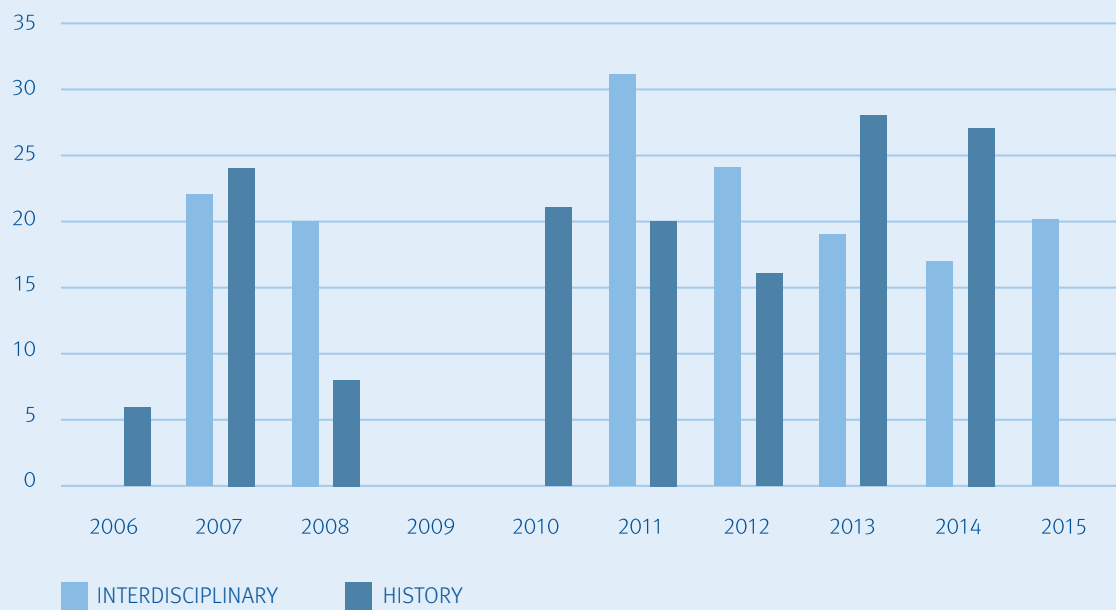


Although the number of European Studies graduates moderately exceeds the number of European Law graduates from 2010, in 2015 both orientations enrol the same number of graduates (graph 13).

Graph 13  
GRADUATES FROM EUROPEAN STUDIES AND EUROPEAN LAW ORIENTATIONS – 2006-2015



Graph 14  
GRADUATES FROM THE HISTORY ORIENTATION– 2006-2015



Overall, from the moment of its creation in 1964 up to 2015, the IEE of the ULB has among its graduates: 48% of European Law specialists, 33% of European Studies graduates, 11% from European Economy, 4% of graduates from History and Cultures of Europe, and 4% of students from the Interdisciplinary Specialisation. These proportions reflect both the seniority of each teaching program as well as the success and perennality of the original programs put in place at the Institute's birth.

To go beyond the numbers and graphic representations, we tried to understand the evolution of our graduates' career paths in the last ten years. The present section deals with the generations of students who graduated from the IEE of the ULB from 2003 to 2015<sup>5</sup>, a total of 1562 graduates.

The first steps towards the production of this study were taken in 2015, and the actual data collection was done between July and October 2017, mostly on LinkedIn, as well as on Google. On the basis of their LinkedIn profiles, we tried to examine the professional mobility and trajectory of past graduates, by focusing mainly on information such as the country of origin, the country of residence, the current professional activity, and the institution where they last worked. These should however be considered with caution because of their incomplete and uncertain nature. It is also important to note that this analysis is based solely on a limited sample, i.e. a little less than 25% of the population under study (22,47%).

With regards to the incomplete and uncertain nature of the data,

- It is impossible to know if the profile is up-to-date as, for example, the professional evolution. Furthermore, much of the information on LinkedIn pages is not explicitly formulated in all aspects, for example, the professional evolution. Such is the case, in particular, with the country of origin/nationality. Other indicators can however lead us to guess it: the country where the students first started their studies (or if need be, their high school), or the mother tongue they mentioned (even though this indicator has its limits too).
- The other ambiguity of this study is that it remains vague on the concept of 'country of origin', which is not the same as that of nationality.
- It is also important to point out that compound and/or homonymous surnames are difficult to trace.
- Another point to address is that many women could not be found; our hypothesis to explain this phenomenon is that, in some countries, women change their surnames when they get married.

5 - The year of reference is that during which students graduated. Students who have dropped out within the year are not taken into account.

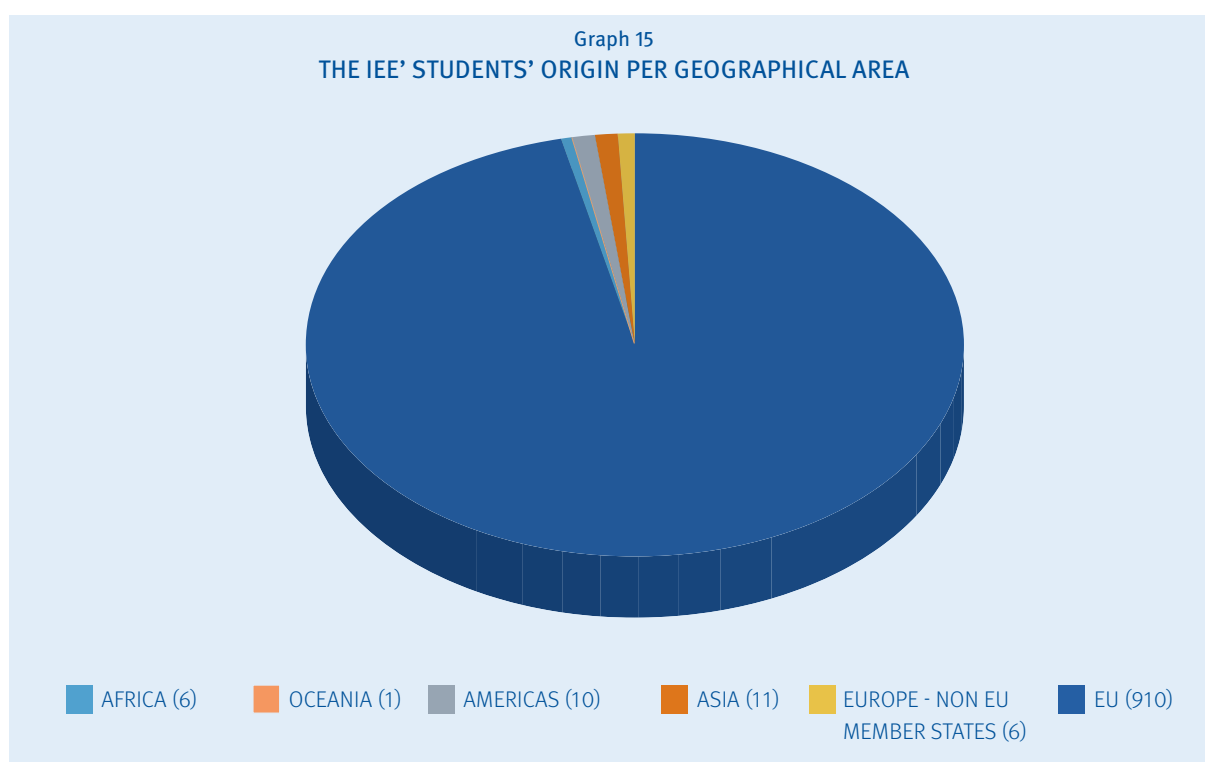
# THE IEE'S EUROPEAN IDENTITY AND ITS INTERNATIONALISATION

Jean Duclos

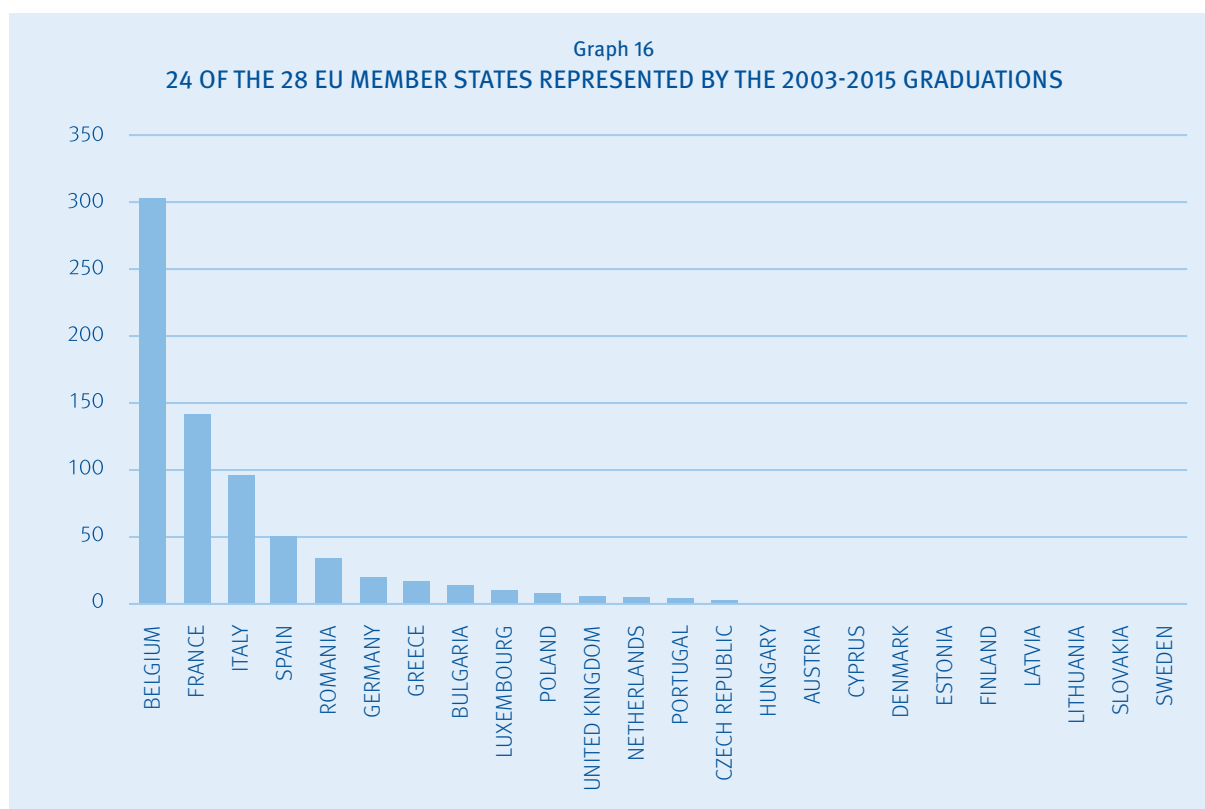
In this section, we will present the results concerning the graduates' country of origin, the current country of residence, thereby showing that a big majority has chosen to remain in Belgium for work. Even without precise geographic data, we can easily suspect that the Alumni of the IEE are concentrated in Brussels, i.e. the administrative capital of the EU, and the seat of the European political institutions.

Despite the incomplete nature of the database, with more than a third of unavailable data with regards to the country of origin, the IEE's identity still seems to be prominently European.

According to the available data of the 2003-2015 sample, **the Alumni of the IEE come, for 96,39% of them, from an EU country.**



The largest share of IEE's graduates of graduations 2003-2015 come from **24 of the 28 EU Member states** (as illustrated in graph 16 below).



Regarding the EU citizens (see graph 17), it is important to note that **more than 60% of former students come from Belgium (42,2%) and France (20,3%).**

For Belgians, who are mainly concentrated in the Master in Law, the IEE features as a staple place of education in European Law. A thorough analysis of Belgians' presence in the Master in European Law and in European Studies showed a similar pattern: in both cases they represent around 40% of the graduates, i.e. the largest national group in 8 cases out of 10. When that is not the case, it is French students who constitute the major group. The only time when Belgians and French graduates were not the majority was in 2012 in the Master in European Law. That year, Spanish students constituted 42% of graduates. This momentary Spanish "wave" is probably due to an aspect of internal politics: indeed, in 2012 the conservative government of M. Rajoy decided, in the context of the economic crisis, to change the calculation method of university tuition fees<sup>6</sup>. This reform led to tuition fees for a Master to be raised by 75% in some regions<sup>7</sup>. The IEE was therefore seen as a fall-back solution for Spanish students who didn't have the resources to start a Master in Law in their own country.

The presence of French students – numerically the second largest group – seems more volatile, both for the Master in European Law and that of European Studies, without any perceptible explanation to this phenomenon.

Latin countries are overall in the majority, as if we add up the percentages of the five biggest countries of origin (Belgium, France, Italy (12%), Spain (8,8%), and Romania (4,2%)), we get a total of almost 85%, which seems to confirm the hypothesis that linguistic proximity is the main pull factor of the IEE.

Comparing the French and German students' presence is also very revelatory. French students have been ten times more numerous than the Germans in the period under study. Other than the language, we might assume that Germany has a wider variety of Europeanised university programs, as well as has developed European Studies (both Bachelors and Masters) much more than France.

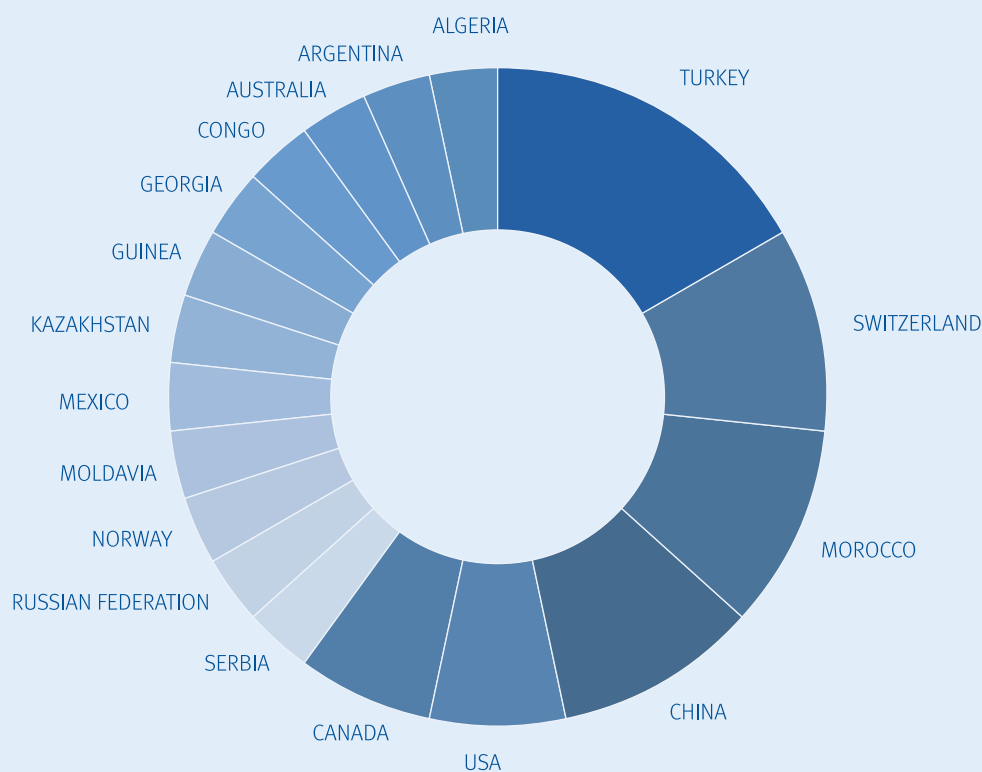
The overrepresentation of some countries also needs to be stressed, more specifically Romania, Bulgaria, and Greece.

6 - *Le Monde*, 24/04/2016, [http://www.lemonde.fr/campus/article/2016/04/22/en-espagne-de-tres-cheres-universites-publiques\\_4907173\\_4401467.html](http://www.lemonde.fr/campus/article/2016/04/22/en-espagne-de-tres-cheres-universites-publiques_4907173_4401467.html)  
7 - *El Mundo*, 15/04/2016, <http://www.elmundo.es/sociedad/2016/04/15/570f9b3ce5fdea6d578b45cd.html>

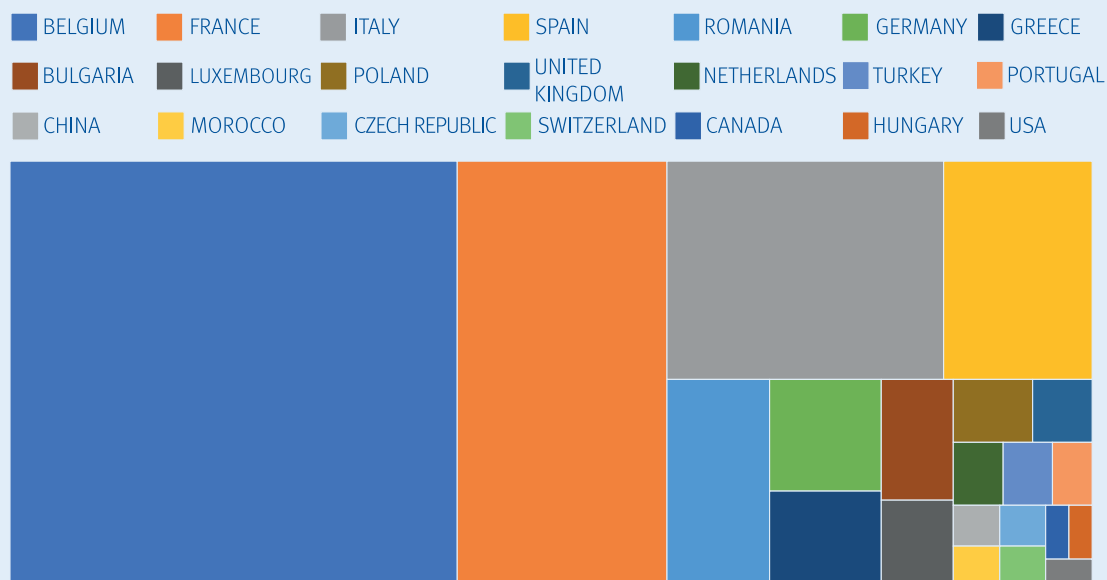


The remaining percentages are shared among Asia (for which Turkey represents more than half of the students), the Americas (mostly from North America), the rest of Europe (for which Switzerland represents half the number of students sent), Africa, and Oceania.

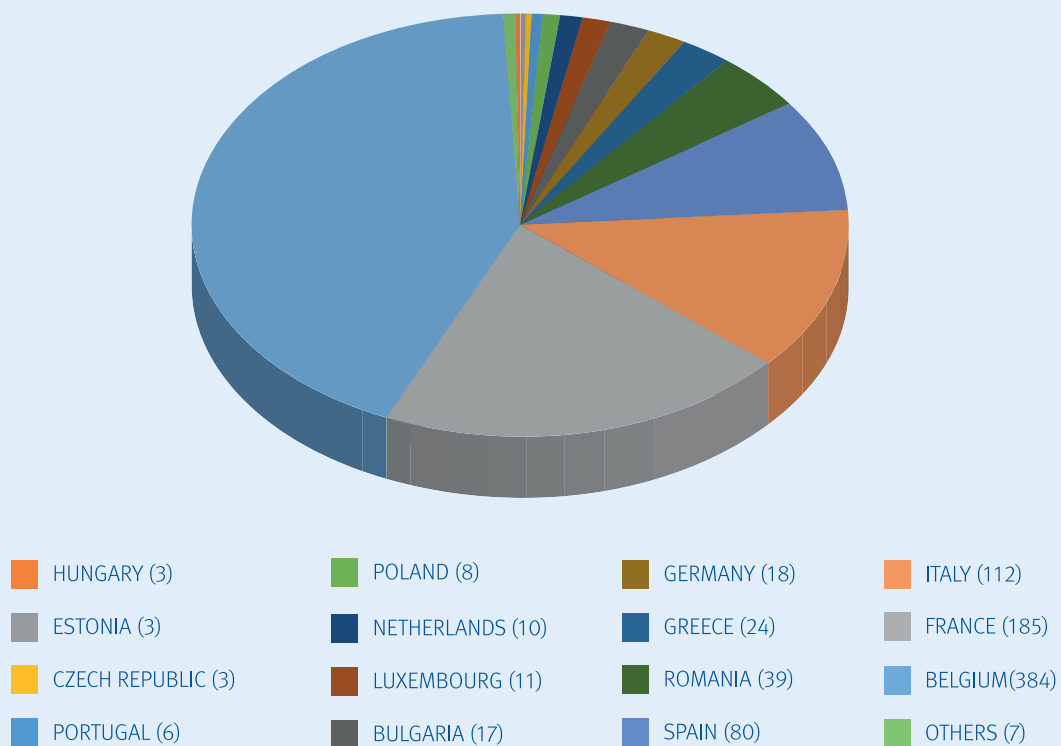
Graph 17  
THE IEE'S INTERNATIONALISATION – 2003-2015 GRADUATIONS



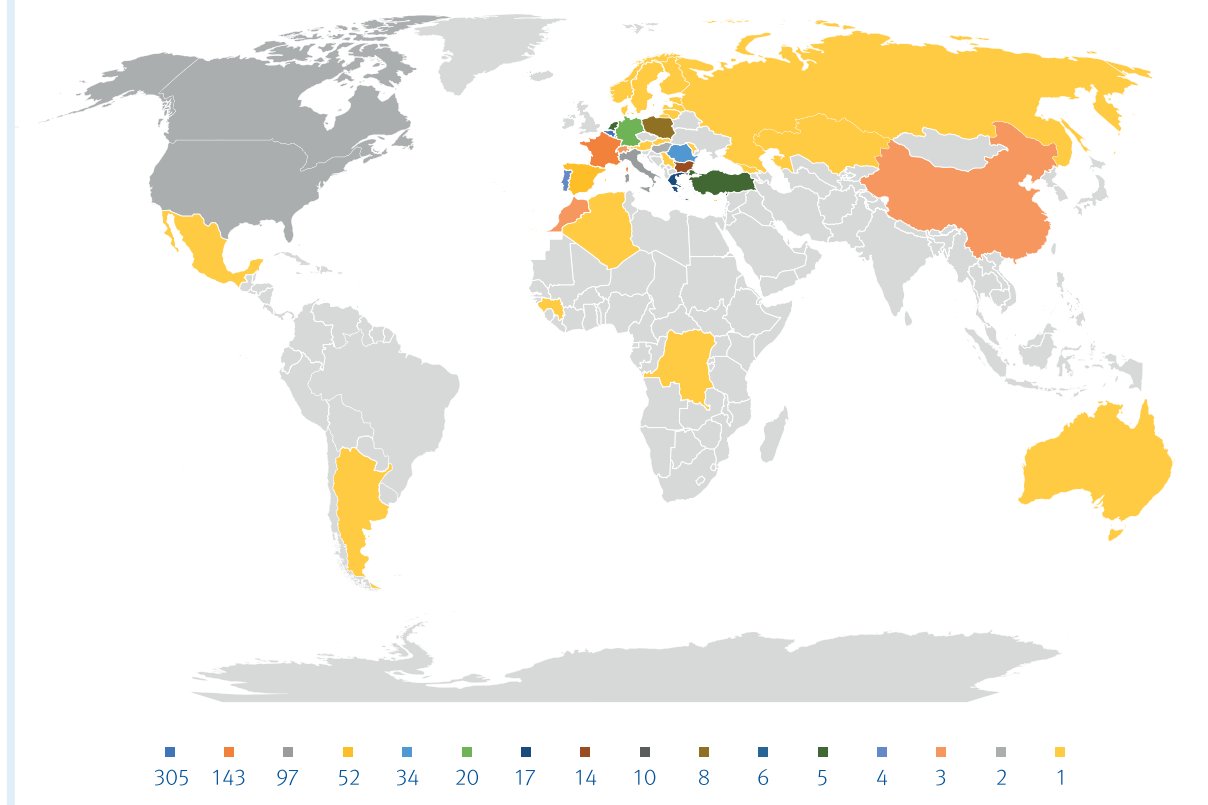
Graph 18  
THE MOST-REPRESENTED COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN BY THE 2009-2015 GRADUATIONS



Graph 19  
THE ORIGIN OF IEE'S FORMER STUDENTS COMING FROM THE EU

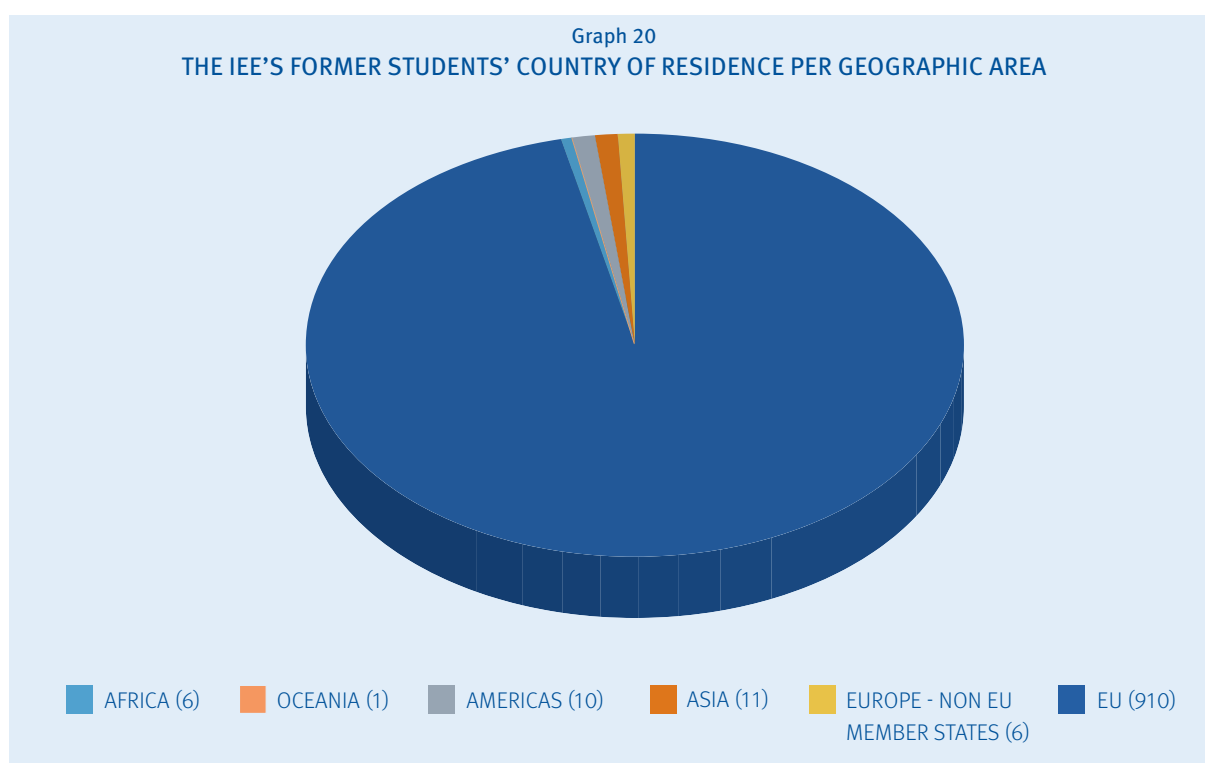


FORMER IEE STUDENTS - COUNTRY OF ORIGINS 2003-2015



According to the data collected on LinkedIn profiles (assuming that these were up-to-date), **92,5% of former students of the IEE currently live in one of the EU countries**. As significant as intra-European mobility is, mobility outside the EU or Europe is an exception.

Non-EU Europe represents 2% of former students, amongst which three quarters originate from Switzerland. The share of students living in the Americas is of 2,6%, and it is mainly distributed in Canada and the United States. As for the other areas, there is no country which stands out from the rest: neither in Africa (1,16%, of which one third comes from the Maghreb), Asia (0,91%, of which a small majority is from China), nor in Oceania (0,16%, coming only from Australia).



More generally, we could say that the IEE is a key agent of internationalisation, as the spectrum of countries of residence is markedly larger (58%) than the spectrum of countries of origin (44%).

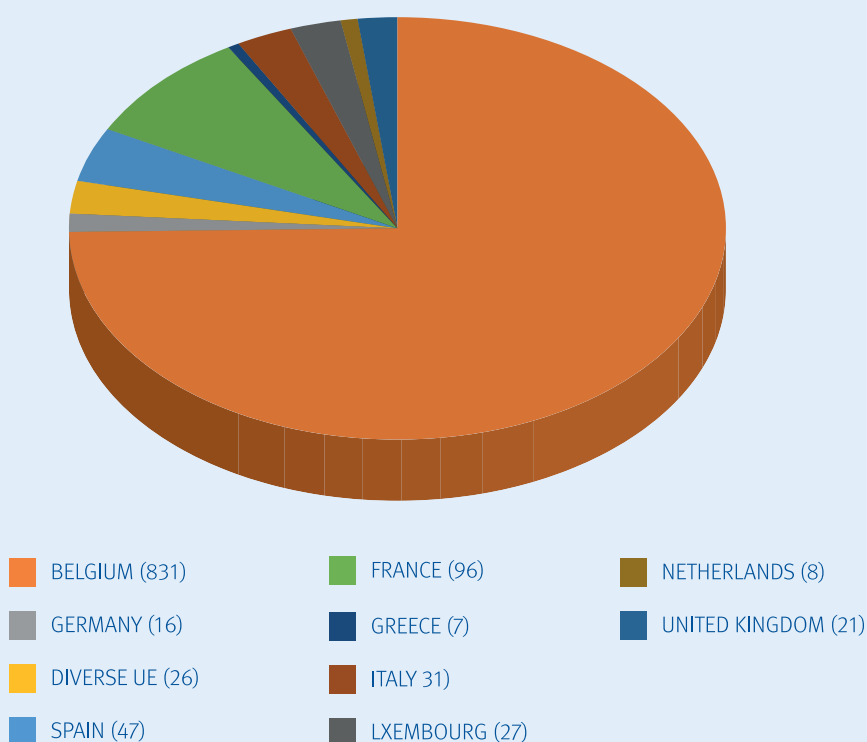
Therefore, even though the percentages are low for the rest of the world, **we can count 12 countries of residence in Africa, but only 4 African countries as countries of origin**. The same dynamic can be observed for the Americas and for Asia.

About whether students go back to their country of origin, it is difficult to get an overall picture of the situation because of the weak quantity of absolute numbers. The comparison of the countries of origin and of residence actually simply reflects the level of attractiveness of some countries on a global scale. For those who studied European affairs, Brussels is the most natural place to find work. Other than Brussels, the level of attractiveness of Luxemburg and Switzerland are very clear, and, to some extent, so is the attractiveness of North-American countries.

**It is clear that some of the biggest EU countries like France, Italy, and Spain have very important flows towards Belgium.**

It is impossible to detangle individual trajectories, but we can put forward the hypothesis that a large number of former students stays in Brussels to represent their countries within the European institutions. The economic crisis has probably also played a major role in this youth out-migration. This is visible for Italy: the number of former students having Italy as a country of origin is four times higher than that of those having it as country of residence. The proportion is the same for Greece. France and Spain also experience this phenomenon, but to a lesser extent: French and Spanish former students currently living in Belgium are twice as numerous as those having gone back to their country of origin.

Graph 21  
COUNTRIES OF RESIDENCE OF FORMER IEE STUDENTS WITHIN THE EUROPEAN UNION



Within the European Union, Belgium proves to be particularly attractive to IEE graduates as almost 75% of those living in the EU actually live in Belgium (69,3% worldwide)<sup>8</sup>.

The trajectories of German students largely confirm the “mobility” aspect present in most Alumni profiles. Despite Germany’s economic dynamism and very low unemployment rate, it doesn’t really attract former IEE students. It is the receiving country of 18 students, and the country of residence of 16 students: among which – according to the data available – only 4 have Germany both as a country of origin and a country of residence.

But this statement cannot be applied to all countries. France, for example, which is the second biggest provider in students, does not at all present the same characteristics as the other countries. Of the total of former students identified as French residents, only 10 are not French. “Less internationalised and/or Europeanised, less economically attractive, not speaking English enough; many could be the reasons to explain this situation”, notes Jean Duclos.

8 - While we do not possess more precise geographic data, we can assume that the majority of former students live and work in and around Brussels.

# CAREER PATHS: A DIVERSITY REFLECTING THE IEE'S MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

Julien Bourgeois, Ramona Coman, Jean Duclos and Ana Cristina Dobrisan

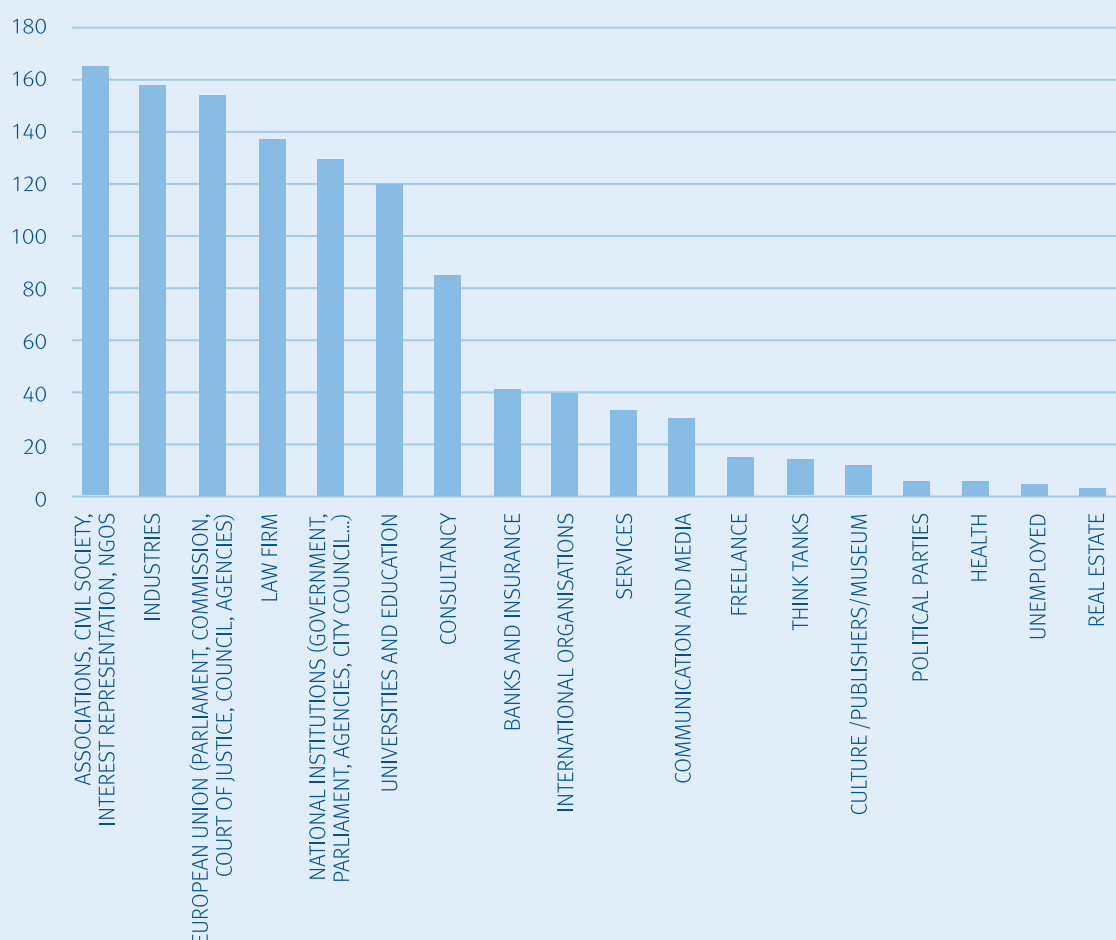
This section focuses on a sector by sector analysis of the IEE's former students' professional situation. "According to our analysis, **the IEE seems to be opening many doors to its students**", emphasises Jean Duclos.

Reading through the positions Alumni mention on their CV, it is clear that the IEE's graduates carry out the most diverse functions. They are assistants, lawyers, *business analysts*, project managers, mission heads, legal advisor, consultants, coordinators, project coordinators, diplomats, directors, doctoral students, editors, teachers, *experience designer*, experts, *expert talent*, European officials, clerks, journalists, managers, *policy advisors*, *policy officers*, professors, law clerks at the Court of Justice of the EU, human resources specialists, interns, translators, etc.

Even though a significant number of Alumni work for the European institutions rather than on the local or national level, many profiles have instead opted to work in the private sphere (for consultants and banks), but also in the culture and the information sectors, as well as for NGOs. There is also a significant number of Alumni who chose to stay in the academic realm to teach or conduct research (as illustrated in graph 22).

According to the data collected during the analysis of the IEE's graduates' career paths, of the 1149 people stating that they are professionally active, **98% of them are employed, and less than 2% who are self-employed.**

Graph 22  
GRADUATES' LAST WORKPLACES—2005-2013 GRADUATIONS



It is also important to note that among the 1154 Alumni whose career were identified in the study, **only 5 state seeking employment**. For Julien Bourgeois, these numbers could be explained by the study's methodology and its focus on LinkedIn. Indeed, it is rare for people to use LinkedIn as a means to finding employment in the field of European Studies. Also, seeking employment is not the kind of information that is brought out by the website.

**The analysis on the employers of the IEE's graduates shows great diversity:** as graph 22 demonstrates, the IEE's graduates work in various fields, both in the private and the public sector. By combining these sectors of activity, we can see that **38,6% of Alumni work in the public sector, while 61,4% work in the private sphere**.

## Careers in Interest Representations and Civil Society Organisations

It is in **associative domains**, in interest representation, and in non-governmental organisations that most former IEE's students are. Despite the large scope of this category, it illustrates the possibility to turn oneself to functions closely related to European affairs. In fact, many Alumni often hold expert positions on a specific issue, endorsing the roles of *policy advisors* or consultants. However, IEE graduates cannot be ranked as working in consultancy because they provide expertise to a company whose goal is not to provide consulting services. Let us take the example of an Alumni working at Peaceful Change Initiative, in charge of European affairs. His role is to help the association in understanding the EU and its inner workings, and not to offer strategic consulting to a third party. This category groups together NGOs and interest representation with a wide range of associations and organisations such as the International Federation for Human Rights, UNICEF Belgium, Inclusion Europe, WWF Belgium, Transparency International, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the European Youth Forum, Bread for the World, the Federation of Chemical Industries, etc.

## Industries and Economic Actors

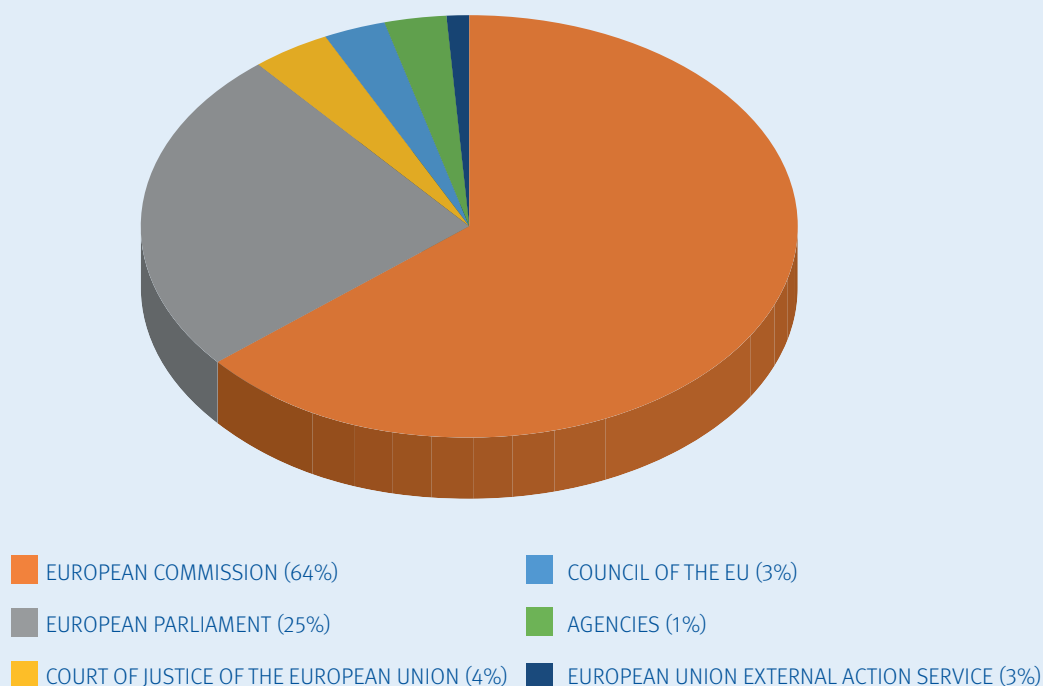
**Industries** come second in our analysis in terms of the number of Alumni working in this sector. This category is also very inclusive, but it is representative of the diversity in employment of the IEE's former students. Are included pharmaceuticals, chemical industries, car manufacturing industries, the telecoms sector, the computer industry, or even the toy industry.

## Careers in the European Institutions

In May 2018, in an analysis based on 22.000 LinkedIn profiles, Politico published an article affirming that **one out of six European officials is a graduate from one of the following universities**: the **College of Europe**, the **Université Libre de Bruxelles**, the **KU Leuven**, the **Université Catholique de Louvain**, and the **London School of Economics and Political Science**. While that study is based on a large sample including all graduates of the ULB, this study solely focuses on the IEE's graduates' professional trajectories of the last ten years, thereby excluding all those who attended the IEE between 1964 and 2002. Many former 2003-2015 graduates have pursued their career in the institutions (around 155 of them).



Graph 23  
THE AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS OF THE EU



**It will be noted that the European Commission includes two-thirds of the Alumni of this sub-section of our research. 89% of graduates (2003-2015) working in the institutions of the EU work in the Parliament (25%) and the Commission (64%).**

The fact that graduates get into the European institutions is significant since it requires them to pass a competitive entrance exam called EPSO in which an average of 98% of candidates fail. However, the EPSO competitive exam has changed in 2004 following the Kinnock reform; more research is required to understand whether these changes have had an impact on how many IEE former graduates entered in the EU institutions.

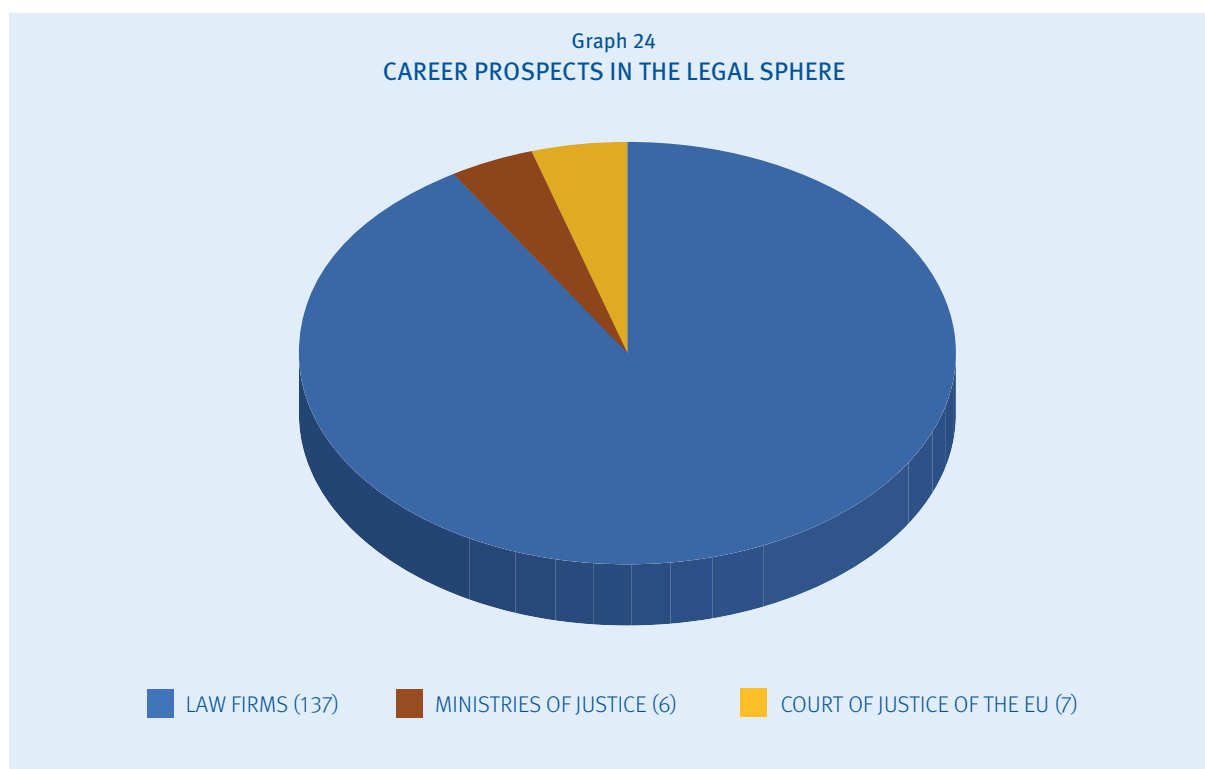
**It should also be noted that the IEE's Alumni usually hold policy advisor positions within the Commission, whereas in the European Parliament they generally are parliamentary assistants.**

## Careers as Lawyers and Jurists

With regards to the Master in European Law, **law firms are the usual career prospect for many IEE Alumni.** They can be found as lawyers working for private law firms, as well as as lawyers working for national public bodies such as the Belgian Prime Minister's Cabinet or local legal departments.

Being a jurist in the European institutions is also one of the usual career paths for Alumni. The only ones taken into account here were the ones clearly stating that they work in the legal sphere (such as officials of the CJUE, former students working in law firms, or employees of Ministries of Justice).

As graph 24 shows, of the 150 former students working in the legal sphere, the vast majority works for law firms (137 students), while only 7 do for the CJUE and 6 for Ministries of Justice. One explanation for these results could be the difficult selection processes of the last two categories. Furthermore, even though the fact that many IEE students tend to turn to law firms is in itself revelatory, there are still wide disparities within this category. Indeed, law firms can vary greatly both in terms of size and reputation. Some students have even created their own law firms and are thus self-employed.



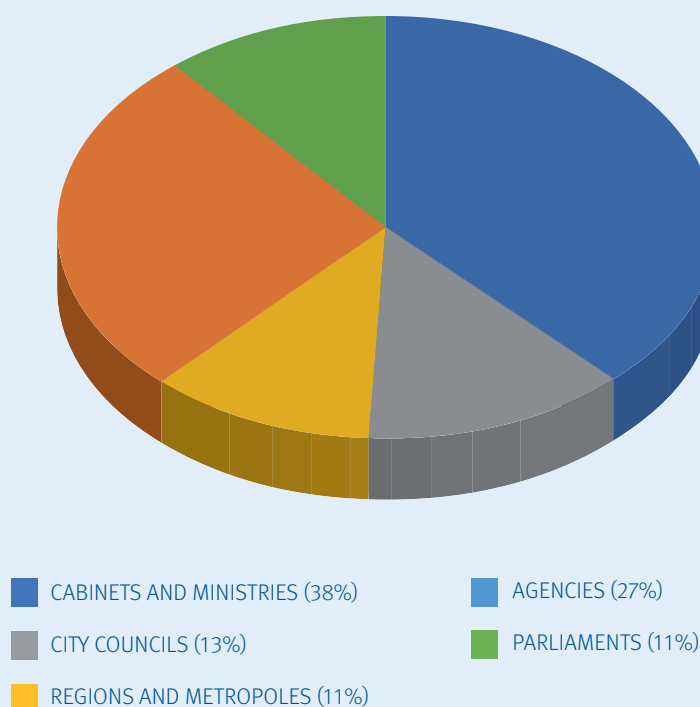
## Careers in Diplomacy and National Institutions

**The IEE's former students are also very present in national public institutions.** Indeed, many work on the national level, be it in governments' cabinets, parliamentary assemblies, government agencies, regional institutions, or some Member states' local administrations (see graph 25).

As detailed in graph 25, for former IEE students, ministries and ministers' cabinets are privileged workplaces in national institutions, with a total of 50 Alumni working in such places, thereby representing 38,5% of the former students of this sub-section. It can also be noted that government agencies host 27% of graduates (i.e. 35 people from our sample). We can thus assume that about 65,5% of Alumni working for a Member state's institution do so at the central or federal level. The remaining 35,5% of former students work for regional, metropolitan, and local parliaments in similar proportions.

Another area where our 2003-2015 graduates are present is **diplomacy**, notably at the **Permanent Representation of Belgium to the European Union** or in Belgian embassies or third-party countries. Some students from other Member States or third-party countries also represent their country of origin either in embassies or in Permanent Representations or Missions to the EU.

Graph 25  
NATIONAL AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS



## Careers in Academia and Research

There is also a high number of graduates who have directed themselves towards research, whether in academia or in think tanks. They are researchers, university professors, and assistants who have furthered their education with the completion of a doctoral thesis, and who, at the time of this study, were being employed by 43 different universities across Europe. Others have turned to think tanks on the European level, whose research activities have intensified and diversified themselves over the last ten years. Bruegel, CEPS, European Policy Center, Open Society, Friends of Europe are a few such examples. Research centres from political parties or trade unions must also be considered.

## Careers in the Banking and Insurance Sectors

The banking and the insurance sectors represent 3,20% of career prospects for former IEE students (37 students out of 1154). They mostly come from the Masters in Law and Economy.

A little less than a quarter of them work in an “institutional” bank: i.e. the National Central Bank or the Public Investment Bank (BPI France and European Investment Bank). The others work in commercial banks. The insurance sector is therefore underrepresented as it only employs 8,1% of graduates (i.e. 3 people from this sample), all working for AXA in Belgium.

As for commercial banks, almost every bank established in Belgium is represented, as well as a few private ones (3). The BNP Paribas group is by far the biggest employer (especially Fortis, its Belgian subsidiary, which employs 10 students). All the other banking institutions only have one hit each (ING, KBC, Belfius, as well as two other small “ethical” banks: Argenta et Triodos). We make two kinds of hypotheses on this matter. On the one hand, we can suppose that there might be a network of Alumni working at Fortis/BNP Paribas who put forward the IEE within the company. On the other hand, the language could also be a key factor of explanation: being a French group, it recruits people who speak French fluently, i.e. one of the mandatory requirements of the IEE. The ING group, of similar size and importance on the Belgian market,

employs far less from the IEE – hardly any student according to our data- as, this company being Dutch, its managerial functions are more likely to be dealt with by Dutch-speakers.

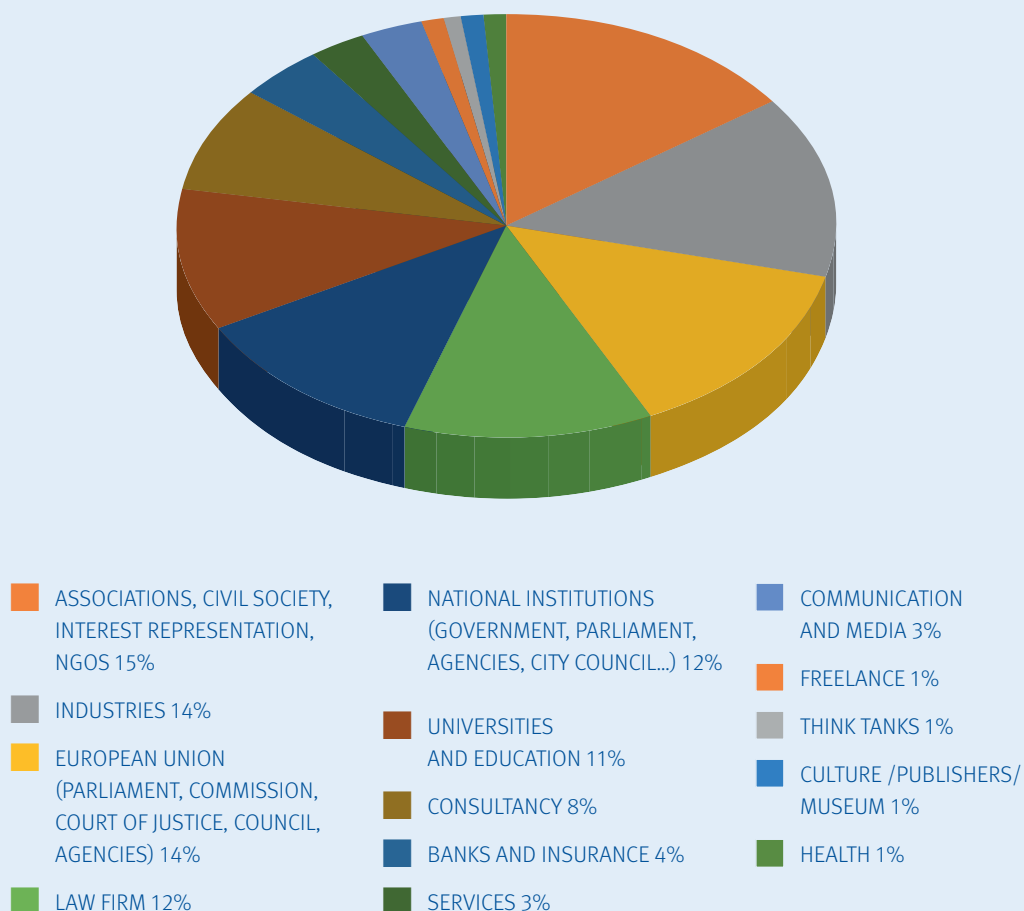
As to their location, half this category works in Belgium (i.e. 19 people), and a quarter works in France and Luxemburg. The other quarter is distributed in several countries (of which only 2 are outside the EU).

## Consultancy

The last important category, consultancy, also recruits IEE graduates, i.e. 85 people from our ample.

There are also other smaller categories such as the fields of health or culture, which only represent 31 out of the 1149 students from our sample.

Graph 26  
CAREER SECTORS –2003-2015 GRADUATIONS



# BEYOND THE NUMBERS. ALUMNI'S TRAJECTORIES AND TESTIMONIES

Ramona Coman

Beyond the numbers, we wished to look closer at some individual professional trajectories. In order to do so, we have – more or less randomly – gone through some former students' CVs to illustrate their professional insertion in the fields of activities identified as major employment fields of our graduates. As we contacted them to inform them of this study, some of them gave us a thought, a testimony, or a piece of advice for new students that we share below, warmly thanking them for their contribution.

## The Associative and Interest Representation Sectors on the European and National Level

**Holger Haubold (IEE – graduation of 2013):** upon finishing his studies in Germany, Holger decides to study at the IEE in the Master in European Studies to further his education. He does a 3-months-internship at the German Embassy in Stockholm. He then works for 11 months as a *policy analyst*, to later become, in 2013, an intern for the European Council. Since 2014, he is a *policy officer* at the **European Cyclists Federation**.

**Annalisa Buscaini (IEE – graduation of 2013):** after completing her studies in Political Science in Italy, Annalisa continues to study at the IEE in the Master in European Studies. In 2014, she first becomes an intern for the UNHCR – **United Nation High Commissioner for the Refugees** for 3 months, and then for the EPIM (European Programme for Integration and Migration) for another 6 months. Since 2015, she works for the **Open Society Foundation** in Brussels as a *program advocacy assistant*.

**Léa Charlet (IEE – graduation of 2015):** after studying Law in France, Léa continues her education at the IEE in the Specialised Master in Interdisciplinary EU Studies. In 2016, she is selected for the European Commission's Blue Paper, where she works as an intern for 5 months. She then works for the **Women Political Leaders Global Forum**, first as a *consultant* for 4 months, and then as a *team manager* for 6 months, to finally become, in 2018, *research director* for the EU DisinfoLab, an **international NGO** which brings European experts specialised in the fight against disinformation together.

**Mauro Striano (IEE – graduation of 2008):** after an internship at the European Economic and Social Committee, he works as a research assistant for 2 years, and then in 2011 becomes a *policy officer* in the field of migration within the **European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless**.

Invited to send us his testimony, Mauro answers:

"I finished my studies at the IEE, and only a few months later I started an internship at the European Economic and Social Committee. Once the internship was over, I easily found opportunities in social NGOs. I've been working for the same NGO for 8 years as immigration mission head, and the theoretical knowledge I learned at the IEE is still very useful. Some of my professors then are now political speakers.

As for new IEE students... I am aware that the job market has drastically changed over the last ten years. It is probably much harder to find a job in the European arena today. However, in my own experience, my studies at the IEE have helped me tremendously in my career.

The only piece of advice that I would like to give to new students is to find an internship during their studies to immediately immerse themselves in the practical side of European policy." Mauro Striano, 6 August 2018

*"I finished my studies at the IEE, and only a few months later I started an internship at the European Economic and Social Committee." Mauro Striano*

“At a time when societies are becoming more and more polarised, the IEE shows the importance and necessity to enable a dialogue between different academic disciplines and perspectives to better understand Europe.” Thibaut L’Ortye

**Thibaut L’Ortye (IEE – graduation of 2014):** he works at the **American Chamber of Commerce to the European Union** since 2014. After 2 years of being an *executive assistant*, he became *content adviser* in the same organisation in 2016.

“What I recall from the IEE is a very open form of teaching on Europe and the rest of the world; a critical and thoughtful take on European integration; and a rather relaxed atmosphere which is typical of the ULB. At a time when societies are becoming more and more polarised, the IEE shows the importance and necessity to enable a dialogue between different academic disciplines and perspectives to better understand Europe. Its privileged position in Brussels provides a unique opportunity to its students, researchers, and teachers to directly interact with the actors of the European ecosystem. The Institute must continue to be involved in society by contributing to the debates on the future of the European Union. This is where the combination of scientific rigor and commitment to humanistic and democratic values makes complete sense.” Thibaut L’Ortye, 22 August 2018.

**Patricia Rio Branco (IEE – graduation of 2004):** after her studies at the University of Cape Town and the University of Kent, Patricia furthers her education at the IEE in the Master in European Studies. After 5 months working for the Brazilian Embassy in Brussels as a *sales consultant*, she becomes an *administrator* for a consulting firm in Brussels for 11 months. In 2011, she settles in Austria where she works first as a *project manager*, and then as a *HR Systems and Processes for Peaceful Change Initiative*, an organisation which seeks to reduce the violence created by radical change.

**Lionel Sola (IEE – graduation of 2003):** Lionel is a graduate from the Master in European Studies of the IEE. From 2009 to 2017, he worked at the **European Commission** in various positions (*project manager, policy assistant, inter-institutional coordinator*). In 2017, he becomes communications director for **DigitalEurope**, which represents digital technology in Europe.

## EU Agencies and Institutions and International Organisations

**Mombert Hoppe (IEE – graduation of 2004):** after his studies at the University of Maastricht and the University of the South Pacific, Mombert takes courses in the Master in European Economy at the IEE. After 3 months of working as a consultant for the **OECD**, and 5 months of being an intern at the **European Commission**, he is working since 2005 at the **World Bank** where he has held several posts (*junior professional associate, trade economist, economist, senior trade economist*).

**Kai Fahnenbruck (IEE – graduation of 2004):** after studying at the University of Maastricht and the IEE of the ULB (Master’s in European economy), Kai worked in bank based in Brussels, first as an intern, and then as a *credit analyst*. From 2008 to 2015, he is a *principal risk manager* at the **European Bank for Reconstruction and Development**. Since 2015, he is a *policy officer* at the **European Commission** (Banking regulation and supervision).

**Bogdan Ionut Deleanu (IEE – graduation of 2009):** after his Bachelor in political science at the University of Bucharest, Bogdan attended the courses of the Master in European Studies at the IEE. During his years of study, he worked as a *policy officer* for the **EU Democrats**. In 2011, he works as an *electoral coordinator* to the **United Nations** (Jeremie Haiti). From 2009 on, and for a period of 6 and a half years, he works as a *consultant in foreign affairs* for the **European Parliament**, to a Romanian deputy. Since 2016, he is a *civil servant* for the **European Economic and Social Committee**.

About the IEE, Bogdan says:

“I find that the European job market in Brussels has a way of making it work for everyone who truly wants to find their place. Most of my generation from the IEE is around, in the institutions, in the private sector or in affiliated public offices, for the graduates from Belgium.

Perhaps we were a more applied generation than others, but few remained in academia.



*“Most of my generation from the IEE is around, in the institutions, in the private sector or in affiliated public offices, for the graduates from Belgium.”*  
Bogdan Ionut Deleanu

For me the institutions certainly had an allure. We visited them, interacted with officials, with MEPs and lobbyists during my studies and I was lucky enough to get a traineeship quite fast during the first year of my MA programme.

Luck, I find, plays a big part – I had my job interview the day after an exam and I was asked almost the same questions in both parts. But one has to set himself up for being lucky: I did study hard for that exam. It wasn't easy, having to balance studies and a part-time-but-sometimes-full-time job, but the two sides were often complementary.

The professors in the IEE certainly helped and were quite understanding of my situation. By the time I finished the MA and defended my final thesis, I had quite a good rhythm going on.

I dare to say that the applied nature of most IEE classes were a big factor in this.” Bogdan Deleanu, le 6 août 2018

*“By the time I finished the MA and defended my final thesis, I had quite a good rhythm going on. I dare to say that the applied nature of most IEE classes were a big factor in this.”*  
Bogdan Ionut Deleanu

**Tomasso Ripani (IEE – graduation of 2013):** after a Bachelor in Italy, Tomasso studies at the IEE in the Master in European Studies. He goes back to Italy where he works as an assistant in the field of media and communication at the **Centro Studi Internazionali** for 8 months, and as *web editor* and *journalist* for NEU (Rimini). He comes back to Brussels in 2016, where he works as an *editor* for 5 months. In 2017, he works as an intern for the **European Council**. Since October 2017, he is a *public information officer* at the **United Nations OCHA** (Goma Area, RDC).

“Having graduated in European Studies in the politics orientation in 2013, I have worked in Brussels, the Hague, and Rome in public relations, events management, and digital communication for European and international organisations such as the EU, NGOs and think tanks, thereby tackling several fields like security, terrorism, conflict prevention, migration phenomena, human rights, and humanitarian aid. For a little over a year, I worked as an advocacy and communications officer for the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in the North Kivu province, in the Democratic Republic of Congo. From my years at the Institute, I really enjoyed the additional activities to our studies – to which we were constantly exposed – and which have given us the opportunity to understand Europe and the European Union concretely, such as debates, simulations of EU legislative procedures, visits to the European institutions, or the university periodical. I also liked the diversity of the teaching staff, which joined theorists and European experts, which gave us a critical overview as well as the necessary competences for our future professional challenges.”

Tomasso Ripani, 2 October 2018

*“From my years at the Institute, I really enjoyed the additional activities to our studies – to which we were constantly exposed – and which have given us the opportunity to understand Europe and the European Union concretely, such as debates, simulations of EU legislative procedures, visits to the European institutions, or the university periodical.”* Tomasso Ripani

**Suzana Prisacariu (IEE – graduation of 2012):** after a Bachelor and a Master in Law at the University of Alexandru Ioan Cuza of Iassy, Romania, Suzana continues her studies with a Master in European Law at the IEE-ULB. She starts her professional career as an academic assistant at the Brussels School of Competition to be selected to the Commission's Blue Paper in 2014 for an internship in the legal department. In 2015, she starts as an intern to the **Court of Justice of the EU** and has since become a *legal advisor* in that same institution.

**Anastasia Valavanidou (IEE – graduation of 2009):** after a Bachelor's degree in Law in Greece at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and a Master's degree in European Law at the IEE of the ULB and at the Columbia Law School, she is selected in the European Commission's Blue Book (2010-2011) and does a four-months internship at the **Court of Justice of the EU**. After a year working as a *legal advisor* for the **European Central Bank**, she continues her career as a *legal counsel* at the **Single Resolution Board**.

**Sylvie Estriga (IEE – graduation of 2007):** after working for several months as an intern at the French Embassy, she worked for the European External Action Service and the EU's Delegation to Mozambique from 2010 to 2017. Since 2017, she is a *political analyst* for the Central Africa Division of the **European External Action Service**.

"After the IEE, I worked for a year for the French Embassy in Slovenia as a political attaché on European affairs and the press, in order to prepare and help the Slovenian Presidency to the EU that France was supporting. Afterwards, I made a foray into the private IT sector as I worked for a company called Unysis, which offered its services to the DG TAXUD. In the framework of a consortium, we delivered computer applications to be used for customs union and cooperation in the field of VAT. It was a new world for me which worked with very concrete matters through very technical terms. I discovered the world of European technical committees on such issues, for which I briefed interpreters and reported to the Presidency (European Commission). Then, I was offered and took a position of political attaché in the EU Delegation to Mozambique, which enabled me to work on the field in the domain of the EU's external policy at the time when the European External Action Service was born (EEAS). Following this experience, I wanted to work for the head office of the EEAS, which I did by taking a position of relations manager with Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe within the Central Africa Division of the EEAS in September 2016. Next September, I will take a new position where I will be in charge of the relations with Angola, and the Republics of Seychelles and Mauritius, within the Southern Africa Division.

Whenever the occasion presents itself and when I am available, I partake in the 'Apéros du droit européen'. It is for me an opportunity to nostalgically be back on university benches for a night, but also to take time to inform myself and ponder on issues related to European law, which is often linked to my work but also provides me great pleasure."

Sylvie Estriga, 10 August 2018

*"Whenever the occasion presents itself and when I am available, I partake in the 'Apéros du droit européen'. It is for me an opportunity to nostalgically be back on university benches for a night, but also to take time to inform myself and ponder on issues related to European law, which is often linked to my work but also provides me great pleasure."*  
Sylvie Estriga

**Florin Dascalescu (IEE – graduation of 2007):** After having worked as an associate in a law firm for 4 years, since 2012, he works as a *legal advisor* for the **European Investment Bank** and teaches at the Université Catholique de Lille.

**Julien Zylberstein (IEE – graduation of 2005):** after a Master in European law at the IES and another Master in European Sports Governance, he completes an internship at the **European Commission** and gets his first job at the UEFA in 2015. He becomes *Director of European Affairs* of the **UEFA** in 2017.

**Sophie Bories (IEE – graduation of 2014):** after an internship at the **European Parliament**, she becomes *associate joint operations officer* in the **United Nations** (Central African Republic). As of March 2018, she works as an *events coordinator* for the **OECD-OCDE** in Paris.

**Gaspare L'Episcopia (IEE – graduation of 2009):** after a Bachelor in International Relations at the University of Trieste and a Master in European Studies at the IEE, Gaspare completes an internship at the Italian Permanent Representation to the EU. He starts working for the **European Commission** in 2010 as a *communications assistant* and until 2014, and as a *procurement, financial and budget officer* until 2015. In 2015, he becomes *project manager* at the INEA – **Innovation and Networks Executive Agency**.

**Eszter Bako (IEE – graduation of 2012):** after studying at the University of Corvinus at the Sorbonne, Eszter furthers her studies with a Master in European Studies at the IEE-ULB, as well as a Master in Law at the KUL. After an internship and several work experiences as a *consultant*, she becomes a *parliamentary assistant* at the **European Parliament** to a Greens deputy.

**Jozef Michalek (IEE – graduation of 2015):** after accomplishing his studies in Slovakia, Jozef continues his studies at the IEE in the Specialised Master in Interdisciplinary EU Studies. After a work experience of 9 months as *transport account manager support*, he does an internship at the **Committee of the Regions** (2014). Since 2014, he is a *parliamentary assistant* at the **European Parliament** to a Slovak deputy.

**Valentin Capelli (IEE – graduation of 2014):** graduate in political science from the ULB, Valentin enrolls himself in the Master in European Studies of the IEE in 2012. After 6 months working in Paris as a *junior officer*, he becomes an intern at the **European Olympic Committees EU Office** in Brussels in 2015 for a period of 5 months. He grows within that same organisation first as a *policy officer* and, since 2018, as *project manager*.

## Diplomacy and National Institutions

**Mathieu Rouleau (IEE – graduation of 2016):** after studying in France and the United States, Mathieu enrolled in the specialised Master in Interdisciplinary EU Studies of the IEE. In 2015, he completes an internship at the **French Embassy** in Zambia. Since 2017, he works as a *redactor* for The **Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs** in France.

**Loé Lagrange (IEE – graduation of 2009):** after her studies in France and at the IEE in the Master in European Studies, Loé works for 2 years and 9 months as a *legal advisor* for the **Aliens Litigation Council** in Brussels. She becomes an *advocacy officer* for 11 months at the **Anti-Discrimination Central Memorial**. For 3 years, she works as an *election observer* for the **OSCE/ODIHR**. As of 2017, she holds several positions for the **French Ministry of Foreign Affairs**.

**Barbara Boutriaux (IEE – graduation of 2007):** After a Bachelor in Political Science at the ULB and a Master in European Studies, Barbara starts her career as a *European officer* in Romania (Prefectura Judetului Hunedoara). From 2009 to 2013 she becomes an agent for the cohesion policy at the **Belgian Permanent Representation to the EU**. For a little over 4 years, she works as an *advisor in European affairs* to **Wallonia's Minister-President's Cabinet**, to come back in 2017 as an *agent for the cohesion policy* at the **Belgian Permanent Representation to the EU**.

*“It is thanks to my Master thesis in criminal law that I got the opportunity to partake in the preparation of the Belgian Presidency to the European Council within the European Criminal Law Department of the SPF Justice (2009-2010).” Aude Van Grootenbruel*

**Aude Van Grootenbruel (IEE – graduation of 2009):** after a professional experience of a year and a half at the **SPF Justice** in Belgium as an *agent for the preparation of Belgian Presidency* of the European Council, and an internship at the **European External Action Service**, she becomes a *legal advisor* in human rights for the **Center for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism**. Since 2013, she is a *legal advisor* for the **Belgian Prime Minister’s Cabinet**.

Contacted during the summer, Aude quickly replied:

“I keep an excellent memory of my specialisation in European law at the IEE. It was a memorable year where I learned many interesting things and met many friends from all over Europe.

It is thanks to my Master thesis in criminal law that I got the opportunity to partake in the preparation of the Belgian Presidency to the European Council within the European Criminal Law Department of the SPF Justice (2009-2010).

Enriched by this unique experience, I then became a Blue Book intern for the European External Action Service within the Human Rights instruments departments (spring 2011), and am, since 2013, a jurist to the Prime Minister’s SPF Chancellery, where I work as a European coordinator and the Prime Minister’s representative within the Inter-ministerial Commission for Human Rights.

If there was one thing I would recommend to students, it is to make good use of this year to deepen their knowledge in European studies, and to increase their contacts so as to create a network for themselves.”

Aude Van Grootenbruel, 7 August 2018

**Cindy Bauwens (IEE – graduation of 2008):** after a one-year-internship at the European Mediator, and her first employment as a *legal advisor* for a year and 4 months, she has been working as a *legal advisor* for the **Ministry of Economy of the Great duchy of Luxembourg** since 2014.

**Marine Thizon (IEE – graduation of 2009):** she starts her career in 2011 as a political advisor for the Embassy of New Zealand and for the EU’s and NATO’s Missions for four years. After a year as an *event coordinator* for **International Events**, she works a year as a *policy officer* for **Health Education England NHS** in London. Since 2017, she is a *political advisor* in the field of trade for the **Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade – Mission to the EU and NATO**.

**Anthony Ferreira (IEE – graduation of 2012):** after a Bachelor’s degree in Law in France, Anthony decides to enter in the Master in European Law of the IEE to further his education. After an experience of a little less than a year as a *policy analyst* at the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, he holds the position of *assistant policy officer* at the **European Commission** for over a year in the DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. He then becomes an *advisor* for the LVMH for almost 2 years, to become a political advisor in 2015 at the **European Parliament** (to the vice-president of a political group) for a year and 7 months. Since 2015, he is *deputy head of compliance and data management* for the **High Authority in Transparency in Public Life** (HATPL), a State institution whose goal is to promote public officials’ probity and to secure lobbying regulations.

## Media, Communication, Culture

**Alice Debatis (IEE – graduation of 2015):** after an internship of 4 months as a journalist at the RTBF, she becomes *news anchor assistant/content editor* in 2015 for a period of 8 months. In 2016, she is a correspondent in Belgium and in the Netherlands. Since 2017, she is a *journalist* at **radio – service Europe of the RTBF**.

**Tamara Goldstein (IEE – graduation of 2003):** after having completed a Bachelor at the Tel-Aviv University, Tamara enrolls herself in the Master in European Studies of the IEE. She completes an internship at the **Jewish Museum in Berlin** in 2002, to later become an intern at the **European Commission** in 2005. Since 2004, she is a *project assistant* at the **Museum of Europe**.

## Research, Education, and Teaching

**Yann-Sven Rittelmeyer (IEE – graduation of 2005):** Graduate of the IEE (Master in European Studies), Yann-Sven is a doctor in Political Science at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB). He has also graduated from the Institut d'études politiques of Strasbourg and has spent a year at the Freie Universität of Berlin. He has also had various professional experiences in European and national institutions (European Commission, European Parliament, French Embassy in Berlin). First *policy analyst* at the **European Policy Center**, He is *policy analyst* at the **European Parliament** – European Parliament Research Service since 2018.

**Spasova Slavina (IEE – graduation of 2008):** Graduate from the Master in European Studies – politics orientation, Slavina is a doctor in Political and Social Sciences from the ULB. After several years being a *researcher* at the ULB, she now works for the **European Social Observatory** as a *specialist* in social dialogue, trade unions, pension reforms, and social protection in Europe.

“Integrating the Institute for European studies (IEE) was part of what I envisioned my academic path would be from my first year in the Bachelor of political science at the Université libre de Bruxelles. Except for the Institute’s excellent scientific reputation – which at that time was still one of the only ones in Europe to offer a program covering all the aspects of the functioning of the European Union – my motivation, as a young Bulgarian woman, was to acquire the tools to understand this Union which fascinated all political debates in Bulgaria right before its membership.

Here I am, accepted in the Master in European studies orientation politics for the 2007-2009 period. I could sum up my experience in three keywords: diversity, professionalisation, and commitment. First, the diversity both in terms of courses as well as in terms of professors (be they academics or field professionals) has helped me to acquire the knowledge and competences I wished for. Also, there was a wide diversity in terms of nationalities which always led to interesting debates and to a festive atmosphere. Here, I would like to emphasize that the Institute’s administrative staff is always available and friendly. Second, the Institute puts forward students’ professionalisation through facilitations for internships (the possibility to gain credits, its links with professional circles and the meetings with « Europe’s professions »). So, in parallel to my studies, I had the opportunity to complete an internship at the European Parliament, to work for an agency in European public affairs, but also to do a research internship at the Institute. This last opportunity was one of the defining moments leading me to pursue a doctoral thesis. Finally, the Institute’s commitment in Europe’s political and social debates and challenges is the third element which has greatly affected me. I am furthermore pleased to see that this commitment is still ongoing: the economic and social crisis of 2008, the refugee crisis, etc.

These three key elements gave me the drive to further my academic journey and the opportunity to deepen my thinking on my country, Europe, and the social aspect. Therefore, after my Master, I continued with a Ph.D. in political science in the Centre d’étude de la vie politique (CEVIPOL) which dealt with the relations of Bulgarian trade unions with Europe. During my doctoral thesis, I was often torn between my research and a more concrete type of commitment with the actors. The Institute has most certainly much to do with that thanks to the professional experiences and encounters I had. Thus, during my Ph.D. I had a clear idea of pursuing in the field of applied research. After my research was over, I was hired as a researcher for the European Social Observatory, an applied research centre concerned with social policies. In my current function, I am one of the main researchers involved in the European Social Policy Network (ESPN), which is composed of 35 national teams of researchers and experts whose goal is to bring to the European Commission an independent analysis in terms of social policies. Thanks to this work, I can observe and partake in discussion on important matters in the social domain (in the meetings of the EU Social Protection Committee, or of organisations such as the ETUC, the ILO and the OECD). This often leads me back to topics tackled during my academic journey, such as, for example, international socialisation. This work thus enables me to continue to deepen my reflection on the social and on Europe as much as possible.” Slavina Spasova, 28 August 2018

*“I could sum up my experience in three keywords: diversity, professionalisation, and commitment.”* Spasova Slavina

*“These three key elements gave me the drive to further my academic journey and the opportunity to deepen my thinking on my country, Europe, and the social aspect.”*  
Spasova Slavina

*"I also appreciated the international atmosphere and, in the specific instance of my Master, the diversity of the academic backgrounds of my peers." Giulia Bonaquisti*

**Giulia Bonaquisti (IEE – graduation of 2015):** graduate of the Master in European Studies of the IEE, she has been working for the **European Policy Studies Associations** (TEPSA) since 2016.

"There are several aspects that I particularly appreciated at the Institute and which sets it apart from other universities where I have had the opportunity of studying. It notably has to do with the combination of courses being taught by academics and professionals – I have a particularly good memory of a conference given by the former European Commissioner László Andor and of a course given by Isabelle Montoya, an official at the European Parliament, for example. This more practical approach was the added value of this learning experience. I also appreciated the international atmosphere and, in the specific instance of my Master, the diversity of the academic backgrounds of my peers. It is during my studies at the IEE that I heard about the organisation where I have now been working for 2,5 years, the Trans European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA) of which the Institute was a member at the time, and where my position is to manage research projects.

My piece of advice for new and future students is to take this opportunity to have as many exchanges as possible with the professionals of European politics on the occasions put forward by the Institute."

Giulia Bonaquisti, 9 August 2018

*"There are several aspects that I particularly appreciated at the Institute and which sets it apart from other universities where I have had the opportunity of studying. It notably has to do with the combination of courses being taught by academics and professionals."*  
Giulia Bonaquisti

**Dalibor Sternadel (IEE – graduation of 2012):** graduate in Sociology from the Université Paris Sorbonne and the USL in Brussels, in 2010-2012 Dalibor continues his studies at the IEE-ULB in the Master in European studies. First an intern at the European Parliament in 2013, he then continues his experience in the Parliament as an assistant between 2013 and 2014. He settles in Berlin for 11 months to work as a *PR account executive*. Since 2015, he works in Vilnius in Lithuania, where he is working as a *researcher* for the **PPMI**, a renowned research centre in European public policies since 2017.

"My career path after my IEE studies has been very diverse and, in that sense, very similar to the Master in European studies that I had the opportunity to attend in 2010-2012. In parallel to a complementary Master in human rights at the Université Saint-Louis, I worked as an intern and then as a parliamentary assistant at the European Parliament in the field of immigration and external borders policies. This experience came to a conclusion at the end of the European elections of 2014, after which I decided to pursue my career in Berlin to work in a public relations firm. After a year in Berlin, I continued my journey to Vilnius where I have now been working for three years at PPMI, a research institute where I have specialised myself in European education and training policies. I keep from my experience at the IEE many strong memories and friendships. Beyond the knowledge that the Master has brought me, the IEE has also reinforced my passion for European history and politics. Its open-mindedness, its pluridisciplinary approach, the quality of its teaching staff and the wide variety of its students' profiles are its main strengths. I can only recommend its future students to enjoy it as much as they can!"

Dalibor Sternadel, 3 September 2018

*"I keep from my experience at the IEE many strong memories and friendships. Beyond the knowledge that the Master has brought me, the IEE has also reinforced my passion for European history and politics. Its open-mindedness, its pluridisciplinary approach, the quality of its teaching staff and the wide variety of its students' profiles are its main strengths. I can only recommend its future students to enjoy it as much as they can! "*  
Dalibor Sternadel



**Benjamin Roelants Du Vivier (IEE – promotion 2016):** civil engineer physicist graduated from the ULB, he also holds a Specialised Master in Interdisciplinary EU Studies, as well as other diplomas from other European universities, such as the ENA. After an internship in the European Parliament and another at the European Commission (DG Transport), Benjamin creates his own start-up in the digital and the learning assistance fields, which gives high-level scientific courses to young university students.

**Jean-Yves Stenuick (IEE – graduation of 2013):** trained in Belgium, Jean-Yves continues his studies at the IEE of the ULB in 2012 in the Specialised Master in Interdisciplinary EU Studies. After his studies, he works a *project assistant* and an *editorialist* until 2014, when he becomes *project executive* at **Friends of Europe**.

**Julie Vander Meulen (IEE – graduation of 2016):** after her studies in Modern Languages and Literature at the ULB during which she completed a 3-months internship at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, she continued her studies at the ULB in Political Science, as well as at the IEE in the Specialised Master in Interdisciplinary EU Studies. She is now writing an interdisciplinary doctoral thesis on a European issue and is an *assistant* at the **ULB**.

“For the whole of my studies in languages and literature, I held the IEE in high esteem for its serious reputation and its selection criteria to get in. It is thus full of hopes and fears that I introduced my candidacy to the specialised Master. What struck me as I was admitted, and the feeling that I kept with me during the completion of the program, was the open-mindedness of the Institute and its members; the wish to promote and encourage diversity. I could have foreseen the great cultural and linguistic diversity of the program, but knowing the primary fields of European studies, I was afraid of feeling left alone because of my own preference for the arts and the humanities more generally. To my greatest surprise, my background was not an issue at all! To the contrary, the particularity of the way I was trained to think was encouraged and valorized, and I learned by experience that interdisciplinarity is always considered as a strength at the IEE, and that original thinking is always worth the try. If there was one thing I would recommend for students who are in self-doubt, wondering whether studying at the IEE is the right choice for them, I would encourage them to leap unafraid, because even though these studies are far from being easy, they will bring them much more than a golden diploma, but will give them all the tools to transform their future by developing their full potential.”

Julie Vander Meulen, 10 August 2018

*“What struck me as I was admitted, and the feeling that I kept with me during the completion of the program, was the open-mindedness of the Institute and its members; the wish to promote and encourage diversity.”*  
Julie Vander Meulen

## Consultancy

**António Abreu Gonçalves (IEE – graduation of 2015):** after having studied in London and Lisbon, Antonio continues his studies at the IEE in 2014 in the Master in European Law. He completes an internship at the European Commission at the DG Trade in 2014, and then creates his own company which specialises in personal data management. Since 2016, he works as a *manager* in the field of data protection at **Deloitte Belgium**.

**Sébastien Baqué (IEE – graduation of 2003):** after having studied in France and the Netherlands, Sébastien attends the courses of the Master in European Studies of the IEE. His first professional experiences begin in the field of consultancy and insurances. After a few years in the field, he starts his own company specialised in the management of patrimony in 2017.

## Banks and the Insurance Sector

**Liubomira Eskenazi (IEE – graduation of 2013):** after her studies in Bulgaria, Liubomira furthers her studies at the IEE in the Master in European Studies. She works as an intern at the European Parliament for 7 months, and then works as an intern in Bulgaria for 3 months. Since 2015, she works as a *claims adjuster* at **AID** (insurance company).

**Tanguy De Volder (IEE – graduation of 2004):** He has studied at the IEE in the Master in European Economy. After three years of experience in a bank based in Brussels, he becomes a *business analyst consultant* for **The Boston Consulting Group**. Since 2015, he holds a position of *strategic planner manager* in a Brazilian bank.

## As a conclusion...

A thorough analysis of each profile, completed with other types of information, would enable us to also discover the grey zones of these trajectories, in an even more critical and well-informed approach.

However, this qualitative analysis of a limited number of trajectories allows us to make a few hypotheses, which articulate themselves as such :

The IEE's graduates have a **high level of training**. Their Bachelor's degrees are usually completed with a Master and/or a specialised Master in a specific area (environment, management, fundamental rights, etc.)

***Giulia Giacomelli**, graduate from the IEE in the Master in European Law (2016) presents herself on her LinkedIn page as such:*

*"I am definitely pro-Europe, yet holding a critical approach. I specialized in the JHA (Justice and HomeAffairs) domain, but I do have a solid background in general EU law. I am a tireless thinker and a free intellectual."*

The former students of the IEE possess **several university degrees** and are trained in two, three (and sometimes even more) universities from the EU and beyond.

**The internship** is a recurring characteristic. **The IEE's graduates complete – either during or after their studies – one or two internships of 3 to 5 months.**

The Alumni experience **great professional mobility**. This study cannot tell whether this degree of mobility has to be interpreted as the sign of a certain degree of professional instability and uncertainty or as a choice. Some start their careers in the European institutions where they change positions, institutions, and levels of responsibility regularly. Others begin their professional career in the private sector, to later create their own start-ups and companies.

The IEE's graduates show **outstanding levels of geographic mobility**. Originating from one of the EU's Member states, after completing their studies at the IEE, they settle in another Member state or third-party country to pursue their professional activity. However, the proportion of students undertaking triangular mobilities is rather low.

It is nonetheless important to recall that this qualitative analysis remains unfinished, and that it is based on a limited sample, comprising graduates who have a LinkedIn profile. This analysis therefore excludes all those who have not publicly shared their career paths.

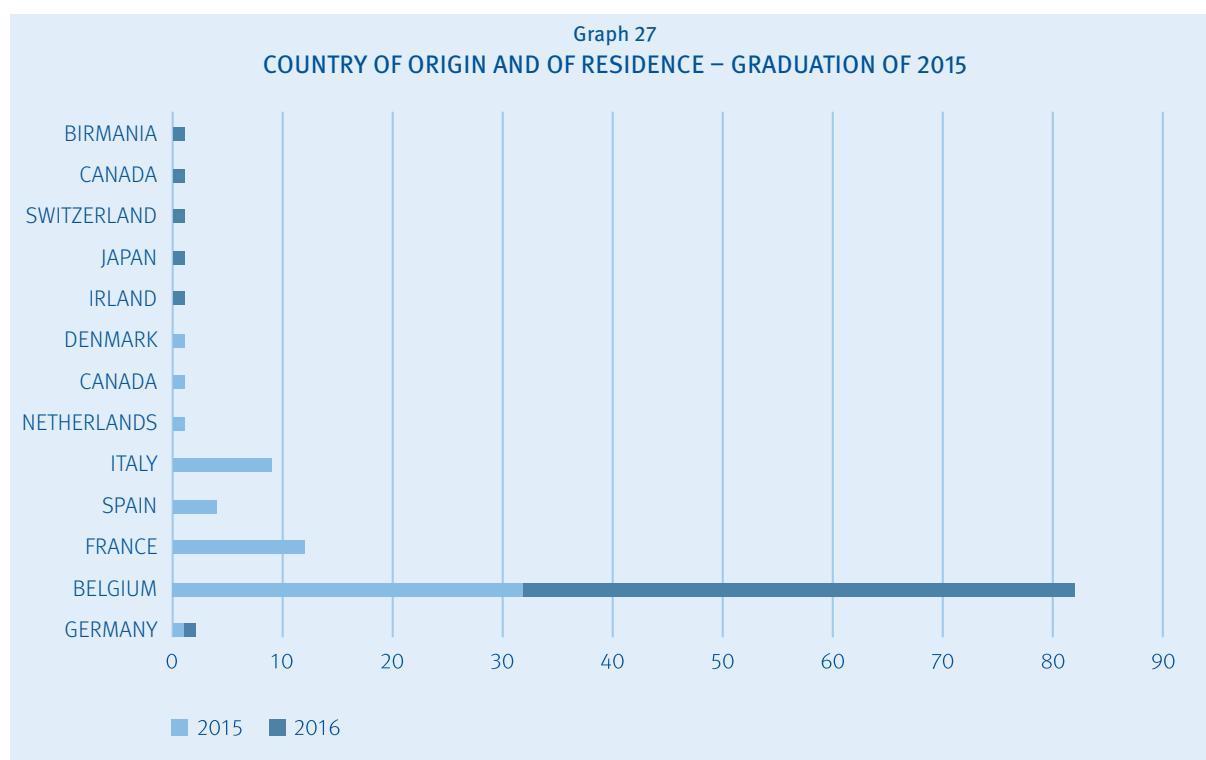


The time between when students finish their studies or their first internship and when they get their first job varies depending on the graduations.

To get more precise information on the matter we have examined the graduation of 2015-2016 more closely. In 2016, the IEE has graduated 68 students, 32 lived in Belgium at the time of their enrolment. After their studies, 50 stayed in Brussels for an internship or a career opportunity. At the moment of their registration, IEE's students came from 7 EU Member states and two third-party countries. The great majority has remained in Belgium, only one student went back to his country of origin. 5 settled in another country, one Member state and 4 third-party countries (Japan, Switzerland, Canada, and Burma).

Brussels remains the country of residence of many graduates, 8% undertaking triangular mobilities.

Graph 27: Country of Origin and of Residence – Graduation of 2015



Six graduates were put aside from the analysis as their LinkedIn pages were not updated.

Taking into account the internships and their duration, we can conclude that **the average internship duration for the graduation of 2015-2016 was of a little over 5 months.**

Table 28  
INTERNSHIP DURATION – GRADUATION OF 2015-2016

Internship Duration	< 5 mois	6-10 mois	11-14 mois	15-23 mois	24 mois
	12%	27%	6%	8%	3%

It should be noted that **32% of graduates have completed two internships** (usually one in an EU institution and the other in another organisation).

The longer internships often took place in law firms.

Since the end of their studies in 2016, 11% of our former graduates changed employers 2 to 4 times. The great majority is still working with their first employer.

Table 29  
YEAR OF HIRING

Year of Hiring	2015	2016	2017	2018
	12%	29%	24%	4%

A more in-depth study would be necessary to know whether the job the graduates have found meets their expectations and level of training.

As to the employers of the 2015-2016 graduation:

- 29% work in a law firm
- 10% in academic research or think tanks
- 8% at the European Commission
- 8% in national institutions
- 4% in the private sector
- 3% in diplomacy
- 3% in consultancy
- 3% in NGOS
- 1 graduate in the banking sector and 1 in the field of interest representation
- 3 graduates state being in search of employment in their field of expertise.

## IEE ALUMNI IN HIGH-LEVEL RESPONSIBILITY POSITIONS IN NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC DEBATE

**Pedro Solbes (IEE – graduation of 1975):** began his Law Studies at the Complutense University of Madrid (where he got his doctorate in Political Science). Pedro Solbes started his political career in Spain as *Minister for Foreign Trade* in 1968. In 1973, he is appointed *Counsellor for Commercial Affairs* at the Spanish Mission to the European Communities. He plays an important role in the negotiations for his country's membership to the EU. Pedro Solbes has had several functions at the national level: in the Ministry of Agriculture and Fishing or in the Ministry of Economy and Trade. In 1996, he is elected *deputy* for Alicante in the legislative elections. In 1999, he becomes *European Commissioner* for Economic and Monetary Affairs. During his mandate, he was in charge of putting the euro in place and of reinforcing Member states' policy coordination. From 2004 to 2009, he was *Ministry of Treasury and Economics* in Rodriguez Zapatero's government.

**Christopher Vajda (IEE – graduation of 1977):** law graduate from the University of Cambridge, he gets a Special Degree in European Law at the IEE of the ULB in 1977. Called to the Bar of England and Wales (Gray's Inn, 1979), *barrister* (1979-2012), called to the Bar of Northern Ireland (1996), **Queen's Counsel** (1997); *advisor* to Gray's Inn (2003); *judge* at the **Crown Court** (2003-2012), *treasurer* for the **United Kingdom Association for European Law** (2001-2012), he is *judge* to the **Court of Justice** since the 8<sup>th</sup> of October 2012.

**Dimitris Avramopoulos (IEE – graduation of 1984):** is a graduate from the University of Athens where he studied at the Faculty of Political Science and in Law School. In 1984, he gets his Certificate in European Studies from the IEE. He starts his diplomatic career in 1980 at the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** in Athens. From 1983 to 1988, he is *Greek Consul* in Liège. In 1990, he becomes the *diplomatic advisor* of Greek Prime Minister Costas Mitsotakis. At the political level, he is elected to the Greek parliament in 1993 as a member of the New Democracy party. From 1995 to 2002, he is the *mayor of the city of Athens* for two consecutive terms. He lays the basis for the Standing Conference of Mayors of Capital Cities of Southern Europe and becomes its president in 1995. In 1997, he is elected as a member of the **Committee of Regions**. Elected several times on the national level, he holds the position of *Minister for Tourism and Development* (2004-2006), *Minister for Health and Social Solidarity* (2006-2009), *Minister of Defence* (2011), *Minister for Foreign Affairs* (2012), *Minister of Defense* (2013). In 2014, he was appointed *European Commissioner* for Migrations, Internal Affairs, and Citizenship. (Source : CV).

**Paul Magonette (IEE – graduation of 1993):** graduate in Political Science (1993) and holder of a Special Degree in European Political Studies (1994) from the IEE, Paul Magonette specialises in History of Political Thought at the University of Cambridge (1994-1995). He becomes a *professor of political science* at the **Université libre de Bruxelles** in 2005. Since 1999, he is also an *external professor* at the **Institut d'études politiques de Paris** and, since 2003, holds a Jean Monnet Chair *ad personam*. *Research director* and *director of the Institute for European Studies* of the Université libre de Bruxelles (2001-2006), Paul Magonette wins the Francqui 2000 Prize for European interdisciplinary research (with Éric Remacle) and the Jean Rey 2004 prize. Expert in European affairs, author of several leading publications, he has remarkably contributed to research development and teaching in European Studies. Long-time socialist activist, he has held numerous political responsibility positions : *Walloon Minister* (2007) *Federal Minister* (2007-2010); *Walloon Deputy* (2009); *Senator* (2010-2011); *Federal Minister in Current Affairs* (2010-2011); *Federal Minister* (2011-2013) ; *Mayor and Communal Council President* (01/2013-07/2014) ; *Senator* (01/2013-06/2014) ; *Walloon Deputy* (06/2014-07/2014) ; *Walloon Minister-President* (07/2014-07/2017). Paul Magonette has become the *mayor of Charleroi* in 2014. (Source: Centre d'archives privées de Wallonie, Institut Destrée, Revues de Presse 2009-2014) Cfr *Encyclopédie du Mouvement wallon, Parlementaires et ministres de la Wallonie (1974-2009)*, t. IV, Namur, Institut Destrée, 2010, p. 399-400).

**Pedro Sanchez (IEE – graduation of 1997):** member of the Spanish Socialist Worker Party (PSOE), Pedro Sanchez is the President of the Spanish government as of the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June 2018. Graduate in economy from the Complutense University of Madrid, he then attends courses in the DSS in European Economy of the IEE. *Assistant* at the **European Parliament** in 1998, he partakes in the municipal elections of Madrid in 2003 and becomes a *municipal councillor*. In 2014, he is elected *secretary general* of the **PSOE**, position from which he resigns in 2016 after the electoral defeat at the early legislative elections (Source : CV).

**Diego Canga Fano (IEE – graduation of 1987):** law graduate from the University of Oviedo in Spain, he attends classes in the Special Degree in European Law of the IEE between 1987 and 1988, to later continue his education in the area of law of the University of Cambridge, where he gets a Certificate in English Law in 1988. Diego Canga Fano begins his career in academia as an *assistant* in Public International Law at the University of Oviedo. After two years as a jurist in Madrid, he starts his career as an *official of the European Institutions* in 1991. He starts at the **General Secretariat of the Council** as an *administrator* until 1994, when he becomes primary administrator in the Council's Legal Service. In 1999, he is appointed *legal advisor* at the **European Commission** to Vice-President Loyola de Palacio's Cabinet. During his mandate, until 2003, he works on issues regarding State aid (such as Ryanair, Sabena, Alitalia, etc.) among other things. In 2003, he returns to the Council's Legal Service and becomes the *Council's Representative* for 60 cases held before the Court of Justice. In 2007, he is the Deputy Head of the Cabinet of Commissioner Antonio Tajani, the Commission's Vice-President. Since January 1, 2017, Diego Canga Fano is the *Deputy Head of the Cabinet of the President of the European Parliament*, Antonio Tajani (source : CV).

**Clara Martinez Alberola (IEE – graduation of 1988):** law graduate from the University of Valencia, Ms. Alberola studies at the College of Europe in 1987 where she obtains her degree in EU Law, and continues her training at the IEE, where she graduates in 1989 from the Special Degree in European Law. She starts her career in the European institutions in 1991 at the DG "Internal Market and Industry". As a **Commission's official**, she was responsible for the implementation of the provisions on the free flow of goods in Member states. Between 1997 and 2000, she has coordinated the aspects of the internal market which had to do with the enlargement of the EU. From 2000 on, she joined the Pharmaceutical unit of the DG "Enterprise". She was first appointed Deputy Head of Unit, to become *Head of Unit* in 2005. In February 2005, she is designated *member of Cabinet of the European Commission's President*, José Manuel Barroso. In 2012, she becomes the *President's advisor*. After a short period at the DG Justice in 2014, Ms. Clara Martinez Alberola was made *Deputy Head of the Cabinet of the Commission's President*, Jean-Claude Juncker, in 2014.

**Eddy Caekelberghs (IEE – graduation of 1985):** graduate in Political Science and International Relations from the ULB, he attends the Special Degree in European Studies of the IEE. He is the founder, the host, and the presenter of the program « Face à l'info » of the Radiotélévision belge de la Communauté française (**RTBF**). He supports many causes and leads debates on current political and social issues. Eddy Caekelberghs is the *President of the Alumni Association* of the ULB and *member of the Strategic Council of the Institute for European Studies* since 2015.

# THE PRESIDENTS OF THE IEE-ULB ALUMNI NETWORK

Ramona Coman



## **Mendel Goldstein**

President of the Association 2013-2018  
IEE's Graduation of 1972

Mendel Goldstein was born in Berlin in 1946, where he has spent all his school years. He has graduated from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Political Science and History (1970).

In 1971, he gets a degree in the International Course on European Integration from the University of Amsterdam.

In 1972, he completes an internship at the European Commission, and obtains the Special Degree in European Studies (Politics orientation) at the IEE of the ULB.

From 1972 to 1976, he works as an assistant to the General Secretary of the European Centre for Wholesale Trade in Brussels.

Since 1976, he starts a career as a European Commission official through the following steps:

- 1976-1982: Development Cooperation (DG 8): In charge of the promotion of European Direct Investments in developing countries
- 1982-1992: External Relations: Desk officer in several Asian (1982-1986) and Central American (1986-1992) countries
- 1993-2001: External Relations (DG 1) Head of Unit in Relations with Cuba, Mexico and Central America
- 2001-2005: Head of the Delegation of the EC in Peru, Lima
- 2005-2009: Head of the Delegation of the EC in Mexico, Ciudad de Mexico
- 2009-2011: Head of the Delegation of the EU in Central America, Managua headquarters, Nicaragua

By the end of 2011, Mendel Goldstein retires from the EU and settles back in Brussels.

From 2013 to 2018, he holds the position of President of the IEE-ULB Alumni Association, and organises several conferences, gatherings, and mentoring sessions.

In 2017, Mendel Goldstein takes the function of President of the Lay Jewish Community Centre David Susskind (CCLJ) in Brussels.

Mendel Goldstein is married to Silvia Ioffe-Goldstein and has two daughters.



## **Kader Chérigui**

President of the IEE-ULB Alumni Network since 2018  
IEE's Graduation of 1994

Born in Lyon (France) in 1971 Kader Chérigui, holds a Master in Economic Sciences and a Joint Diploma in European Studies from the Institute of Political Studies, the Faculty of Economic Sciences, and to the Faculty of Legal Sciences. He leaves his home town in 1994 to enrol himself in the Special Degree in European Economy of the Institute for European Studies.

At the end of his studies, he joins the DG II (Economic and Financial Affairs) of the European Commission as an intern, then as a consultant to the task force in charge of the advocacy and communications strategy to the changeover to the single currency.

In 1996, he worked for the Regional Representation of Upper Normandy in Brussels, then in 1998, for Cobaty International Association, which focuses on Building, Town Planning, and the Environment, where he partakes in the preparation and realisation of projects for the European Union, in Latin America in particular.

In 2003, he joins Transtec, an engineering consultancy company, where he currently holds the position of Director of Cooperation and Partnerships.

Kader Chérigui is married to a former IEE student in EU Law and is the father of 3 boys.







**ULB**

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