

# THE STATE OF THE UNION

OVER A DECADE OF HIGH-LEVEL  
REFLECTION, STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS,  
COMMUNITY BUILDING  
AND INCLUSIVE DIALOGUE

## SUCCESS FACTORS:

**BRIDGING ACADEMIA  
AND POLICY IN EUROPE**

**DIVERSE RANGE OF  
STAKEHOLDERS**

**PROMINENT MEDIA COVERAGE  
AND OUTREACH**

**EXCELLENT NETWORKING  
OPPORTUNITIES**

**STUNNING LOCATIONS IN  
FLORENCE**



*Florence*

*[stateoftheunion.eui.eu](http://stateoftheunion.eui.eu)*



## BRIDGING ACADEMIA AND POLICY IN EUROPE

Established in 2011, [The State of the Union \(SOU\)](#) conference has become a prestigious annual summit dedicated to high-level reflection on the European Union. It serves as a vital bridge between the esteemed research of the [European University Institute \(EUI\)](#) and policymakers at the highest echelons of power in Europe and beyond.

The SOU conference is renowned for its commitment to both academic rigour and engaging discussion. Its programme ensures the scientific excellence of each session, drawing on the expertise of a dedicated Scientific Committee comprised of influential academics and experts representing the EUI's diverse academic units. Panels within the programme are meticulously structured through collaboration with internal stakeholders and external partners. This collaborative approach ensures that discussions reflect the expertise and networks of all involved parties, offering a rich tapestry of perspectives on a range of critical themes relevant to the European Union.

**65+**  
SIDE EVENTS

**230+**  
PANELS, ADDRESSES  
AND CONVERSATIONS

**245+** HIGH PROFILE  
SPEAKERS

**37+**  
HEAD OF STATE  
AND GOVERNMENT

**443+**  
EU REPRESENTATIVES

**65+**  
NATIONAL  
POLITICIANS

**155**  
UNIQUE  
PARTNERS

**14**  
SUCCESSFUL  
EDITIONS

**1,200**  
TOTAL SPEAKERS

**149,000+** TOTAL  
PARTICIPANTS

**116,700+**  
VIRTUAL  
PARTICIPANTS

**10,850+**  
IN PERSON  
PARTICIPANTS

**21,000+**  
OPEN DAY  
PARTICIPANTS

**2** SPITZENKANDIDATEN  
DEBATES  
9 MAY 2014 and 2 MAY 2019

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR SPEAKER LINEUP OVER THE YEARS



**Josep Borrell Fontelles**  
High Representative/Vice-President,  
European Commission



**Dubravka Šuica**  
Vice President, European Commission



**Christine Lagarde**  
President, European Central Bank



**Kristalina Georgieva**  
Managing Director, International Monetary Fund

**Roberta Metsola**  
President, European Parliament



**Ursula Von Der Leyen**  
President, European Commission



**Sergio Mattarella**  
President, Republic of Italy



**Mario Draghi**  
President, European Central Bank



**Jean-Claude Juncker**  
President, European Commission



**Elly Schlein**  
Member, European Parliament



**George Soros**  
Founder, Soros Fund Management LLC



**Najat Vallaud-Belkacem**  
Minister of Education,  
Higher Education and Research,  
Republic of France



**Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**  
General Director, World Trade Organization



**Federica Mogherini**  
High Representative/Vice-President,  
European Commission



**Roula Khalaf**  
Editor, Financial Times



**Jeffrey Sachs**  
Professor and Director,  
Center for Sustainable Development,  
Columbia University

# TOPICS COVERED OVER THE YEARS:

Each year's edition is unique in its focus, with panels and conversations addressing the most pressing issues on the European agenda.

**EU EXPANSION & GEOPOLITICS**

**GREEN DEAL**

**DIGITAL REVOLUTION**

**ECONOMIC RESILIENCE**

**DEFENDING DEMOCRACY**

**MANAGING MIGRATION**

**GLOBAL LEADERSHIP**

**PUBLIC HEALTH & SECURITY**

**EMPOWERING YOUTH**

**BUILDING TRUST**

**EUROPE'S GLOBAL ROLE**

**POST-PANDEMIC RECOVERY**

**DISINFORMATION & FAKE NEWS**

**EASTERN EUROPE'S DEMOCRACY**

**IMMIGRATION & SOCIAL COHESION**

**EU CITIZENSHIP**

**REFUGEES & MIGRATION**

**WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT**



## DIVERSE RANGE OF STAKEHOLDERS ENSURING GENDER, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION OVER THE YEARS:

The State of the Union conference has achieved an inclusive and diverse environment both through its speakers and in the audience. When it comes to shaping the panels and inviting speakers, the Scientific Committee and stakeholders focus on three main pillars:

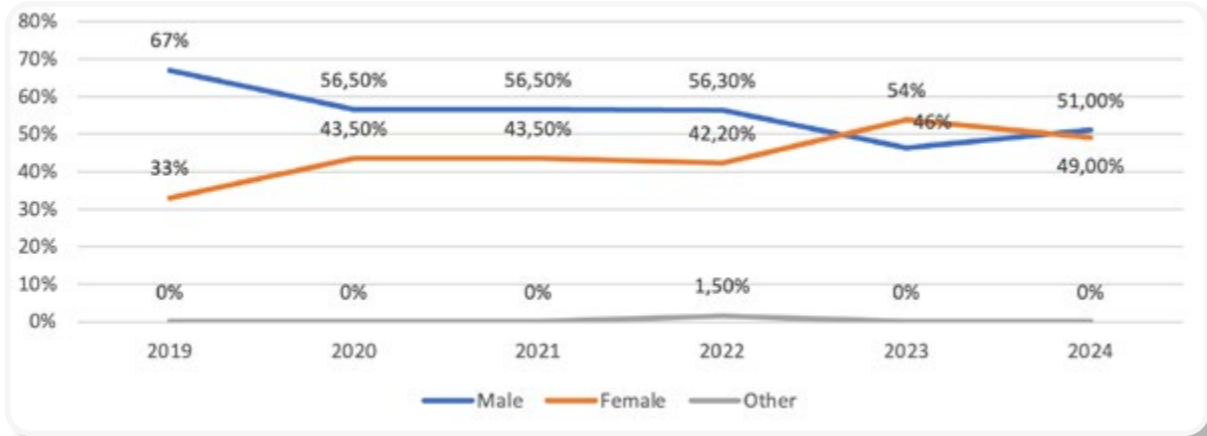
**GENDER**  
GENDER

**DIVERSITY**  
DIVERSITY

**INCLUSION**  
INCLUSION

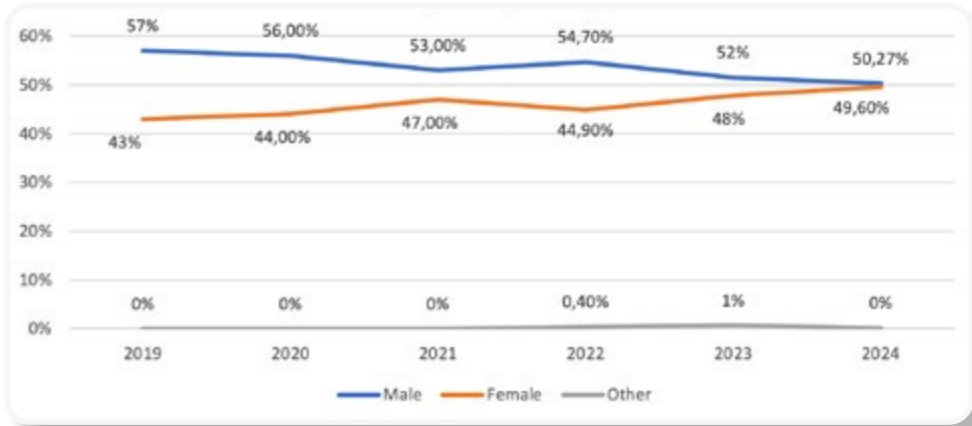
# GENDER DISTRIBUTION

In the last six editions, The State of the Union conference has achieved remarkable results in terms of gender balance. An improvement in the wealth of female policy expertise, often underrepresented at such high-level events, is highlighted by a comparison with previous editions.



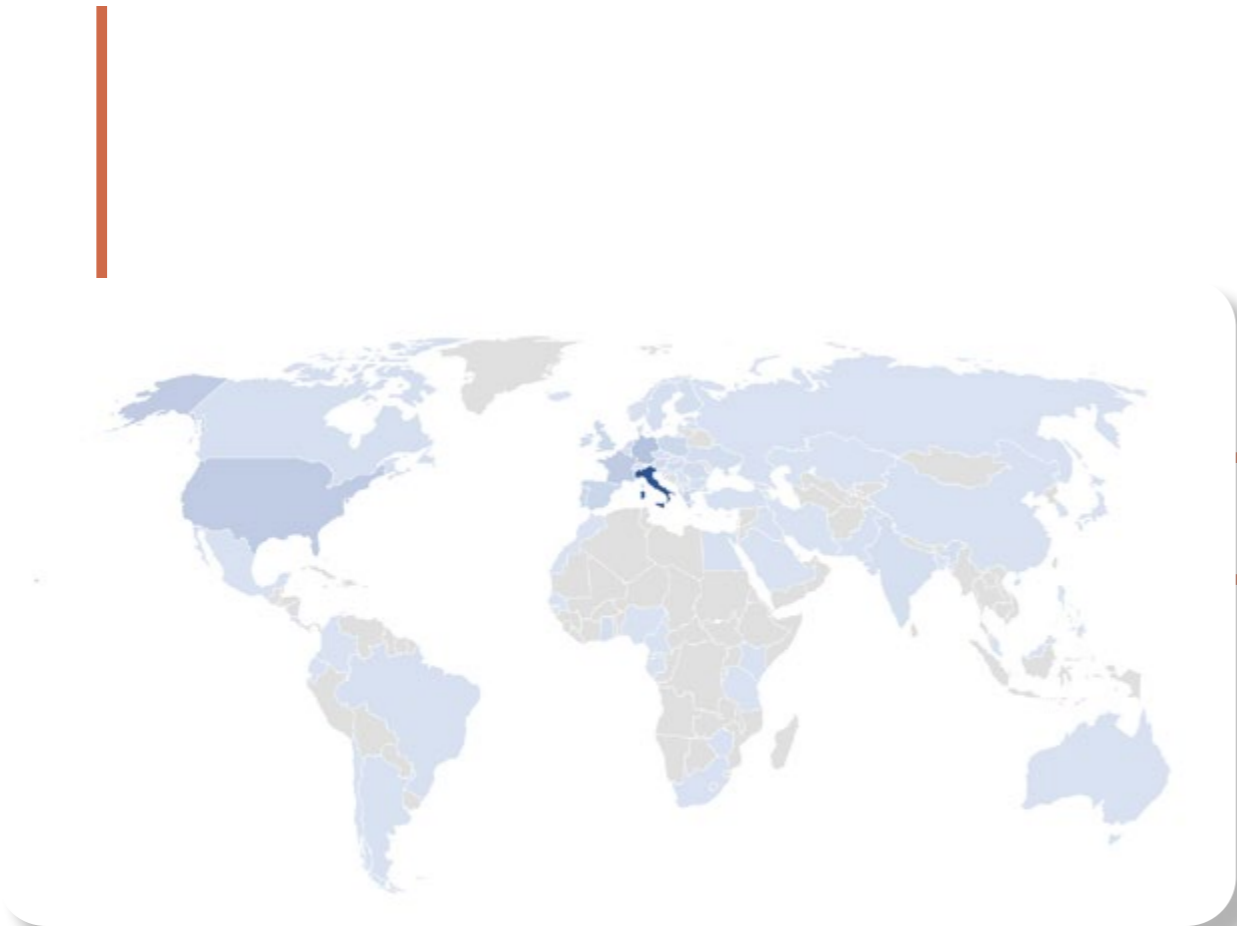
# SOU2019-2024 ON-SITE PARTICIPANTS' GENDER DISTRIBUTION

The 2024 edition has confirmed an increased growth in recent years with respect to gender balance and inclusiveness of the event, lowering the gap between male and female representation.



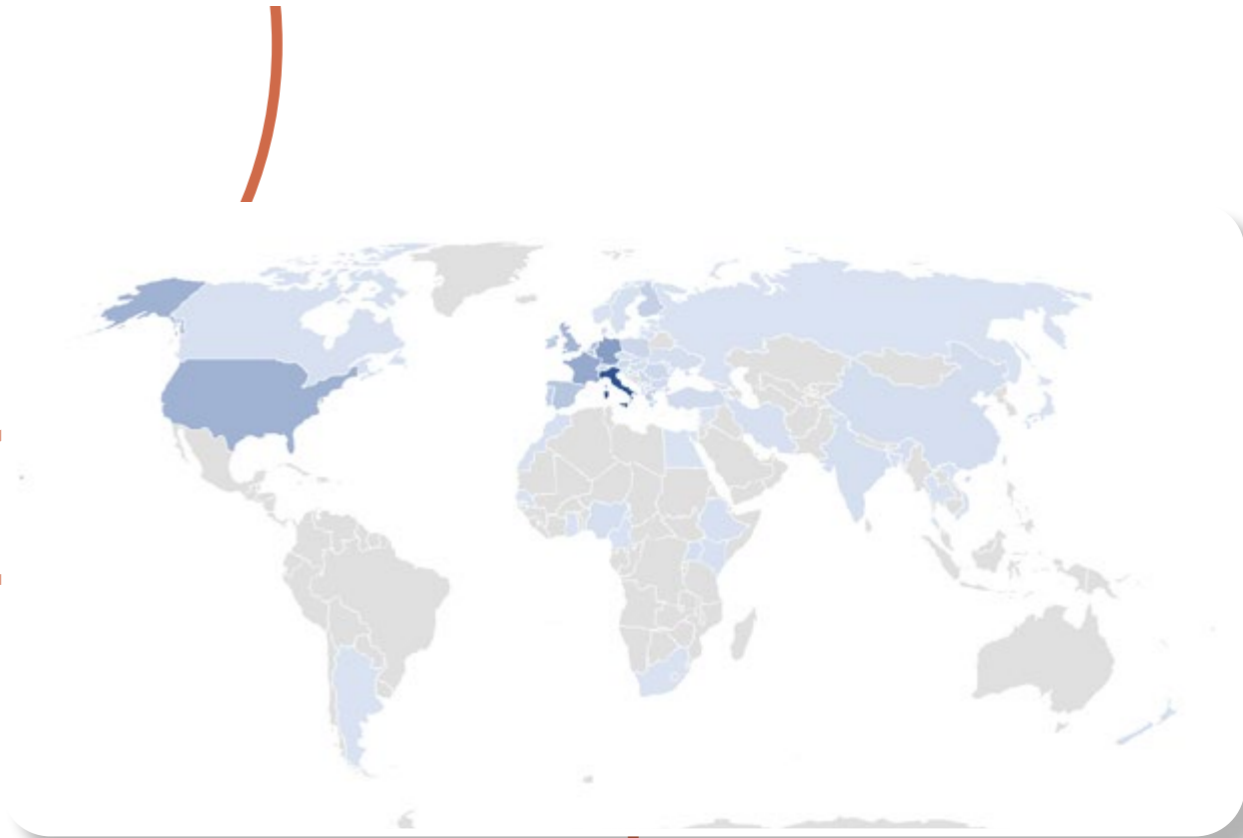
# PANELLISTS’ DIVERSITY IN TERMS OF PLACE OF ORIGIN

Throughout the years more than **sixty-five** nationalities were represented, resulting in a global meeting of minds and expertise rooted in different contexts.



# ON-SITE PARTICIPANTS’ DIVERSITY IN TERMS OF PLACE OF ORIGIN

Over **one hundred and twenty** nationalities were represented at the last five editions, creating a truly global conference where people from diverse cultures could meet and interact.



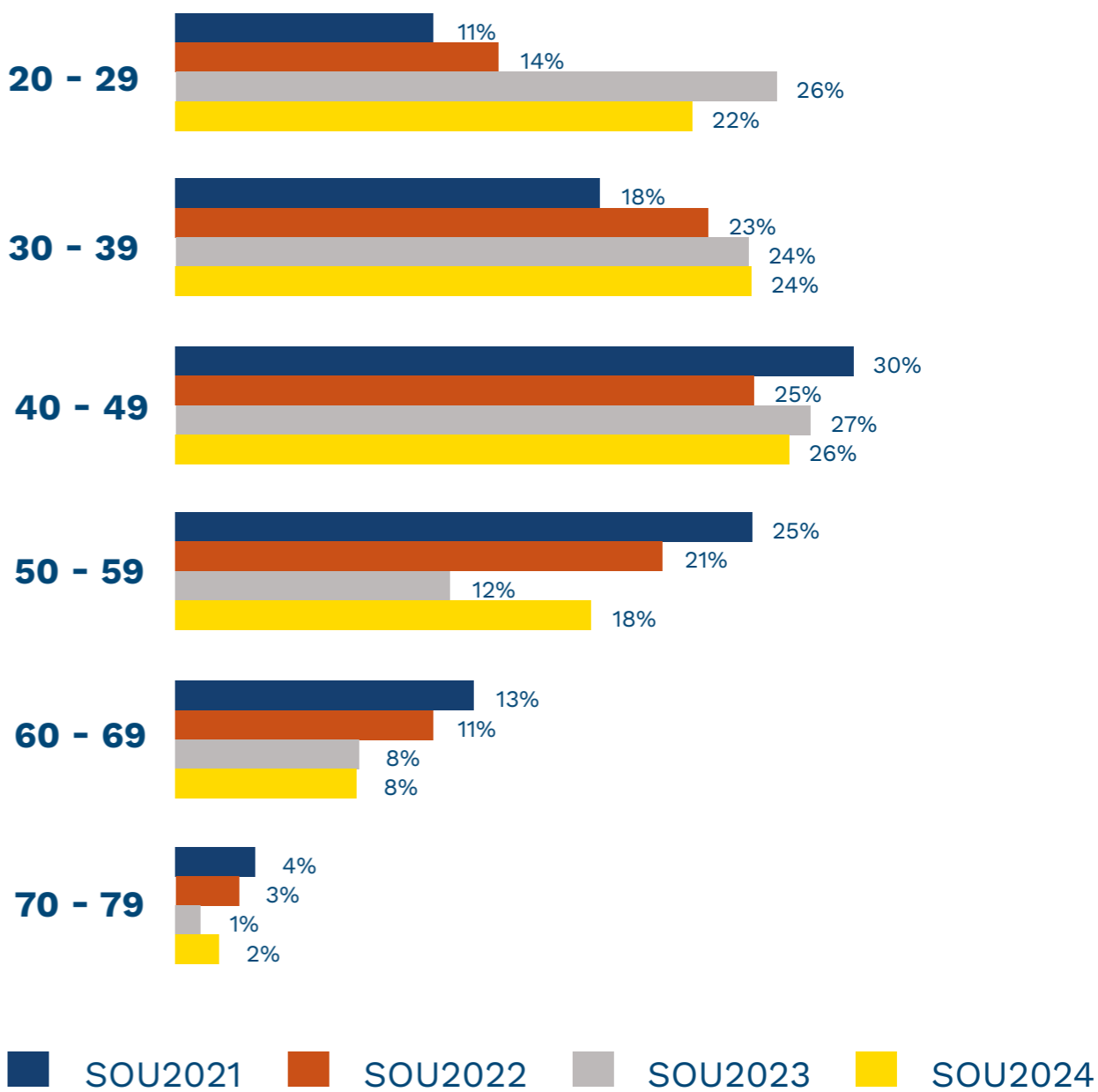
# PANELLISTS' INCLUSION IN TERMS OF AGE RANGE

SOU is dedicated to fostering a truly inclusive platform where speakers from all age groups are represented. This commitment extends beyond simply ensuring diversity. SOU actively works to create a space where younger voices are amplified. By doing so, the conference aims to cultivate a more dynamic and forward-thinking environment, with the average age of speakers ideally falling below 55 years old.



# ON-SITE PARTICIPANTS' AGE RANGE

Inclusion plays a pivotal role in the State of the Union, aiming to ensure generational diversity among participants. During the 2024 edition, 72% of participants were under the age of 50, demonstrating the event's commitment to engaging younger generations.



# PROMINENT MEDIA COVERAGE AND OUTREACH

Digital promotion and media coverage have always been the mainstays of the conference. The number of media partners has steadily grown over the years, counting major international media outlets. More than 1,780 journalists have attended the 14 editions of SOU, and 5900+ between articles (national and international) and video reports were produced. More than 900 articles, TV, radio, and online reports were published from 2020 to date.



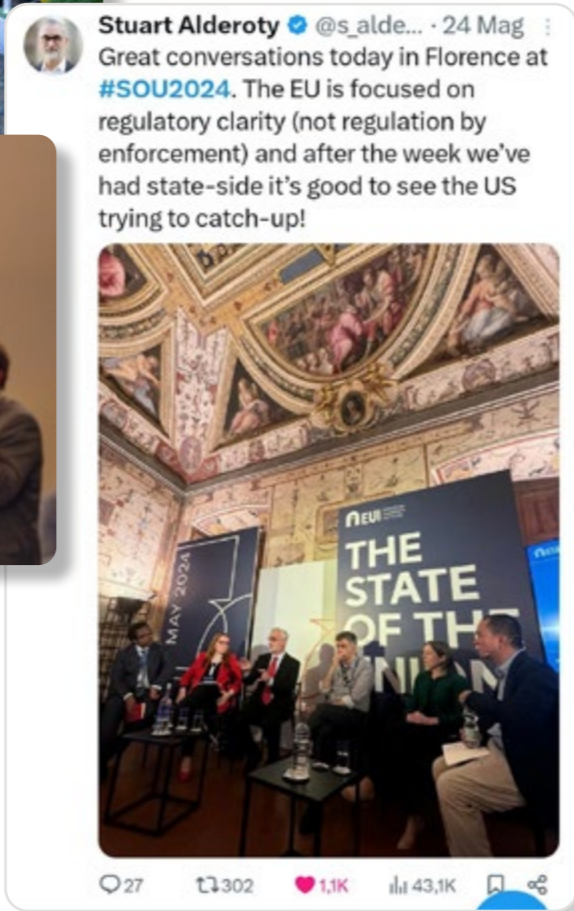
Social networks have increased SOU visibility throughout the years due to stand-alone campaigns and partner promotion, a significant amount of posts, a steady surge in followers, and the use of four different paid campaigns in the run-up to the event.

## SOU2019-2024 SOCIAL MEDIA IMPRESSIONS TREND



# EXCELLENT NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

The added value of having a SOU with in-person audience is the opportunity to build networking in different spaces and moments. Moreover, many high-level speakers have the chance to benefit from bilateral meetings, especially at the EUI premises, fostering substantive conversations, exchanges on political views, and the establishment of diplomatic relations.



# STUNNING LOCATIONS IN FLORENCE

VILLA SCHIFANOIA, *Florence*



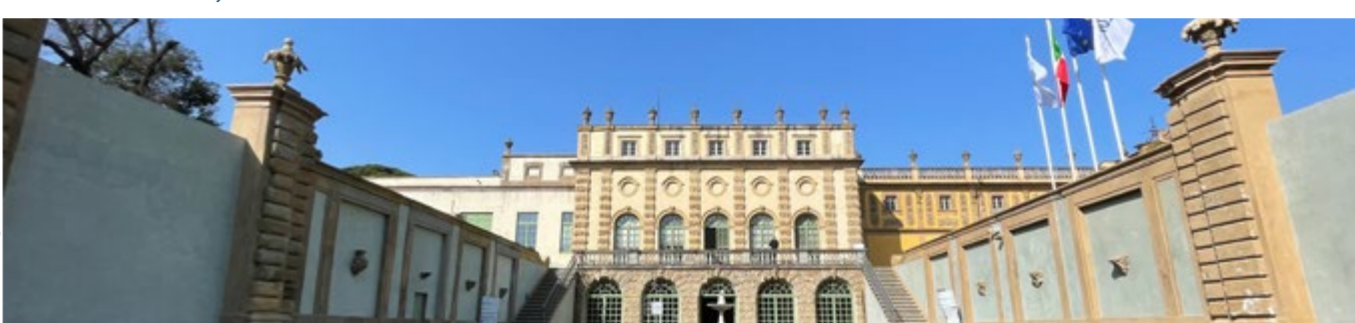
BADIA FIESOLANA, *Fiesole*



PALAZZO VECCHIO, *Florence*



VILLA SALVIATI, *Florence*



# PARTNERS OVER THE YEARS

The State of the Union conference is possible in large part thanks to the contribution of long-standing and new partners. The value of SOU attracted more than 150 unique partners over the years, with a steady increase. Press, business, and service sectors, as well as research institutions and foundations, contributed to the shaping of the conference in terms of active participation, engagement, and financial support, as well as promotion and planning.

[FIND OUT HOW TO BECOME A PARTNER](#)



# SOU2024 PARTNERS

### Media Partners



### Partners



### Supporting Partners



FIND OUT MORE ON [STATEOFTHEUNION.EUI.EU](https://stateoftheunion.eui.eu)

FINAL REPORT 2024