

24 in '24

A year at the EUI in review



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A year at the EUI in review

The year 2024 brought a new leadership to the EUI, ushering in an era of fresh energy and ideas. Under the guidance of President Patrizia Nanz, the EUI is embracing a bold, forward-looking approach, one that acknowledges both the challenges and opportunities of our time. The 2024 annual report aims to mirror this. With a vivid new look, and compiled through a collaboration spanning the Institute that embodies the new EUI spirit, this document offers 24 spotlights on the Institute's activities in 2024. It presents a brief glimpse into the Institute's many activities and demonstrates the EUI as a space for intellectual curiosity, critical inquiry, and open innovation.

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01

A NEW PRESIDENCY, A NEW VISION

In March 2024, the European University Institute welcomed [Professor Dr. Patrizia Nanz](#) as its new President. A distinguished scholar with extensive experience in democratic innovation and public policy, President Nanz is the first woman who has been selected for this position. Her appointment and, thus, the year 2024 marked an important moment in the Institute's history, signalling a renewed commitment to academic excellence, social engagement, and advancing knowledge and public discourse.

Upon her appointment, President Nanz launched a structured and participatory process to shape the Institute's strategic direction for the years ahead. Through an EUI-wide collaborative effort, involving interactive workshops, interviews, and an online consultation, the 'Vision of a future EUI' was developed and endorsed by the High Council at the end of 2024.

The Vision takes a deep look back at the EUI's history in advancing the European spirit, as well as at society and the social sciences and humanities today. It will guide the further development of the Institute and all its units, offering a clear perspective for the EUI to advance at the forefront of research and higher education, and as a place of reflection and exploration to provide orientation to Europe and its role in the world.

The Vision is based on three dimensions:

- maintaining excellence in research, teaching, and training
- co-creating knowledge that gives orientation to institutions and society at large
- communicating our work effectively beyond the confines of academia

At the heart of the Vision is a steadfast commitment to maintaining excellence in research, teaching, and training.

The EUI remains a leader in the social sciences and humanities, disciplines that play an essential role in fostering intellectual pluralism, informed debate, and long-term thinking.

Beyond academic excellence, the Vision foresees reinforcing the EUI's engagement with society. By co-creating knowledge and becoming a reflexive community at the critical intersection of academia, politics, and society, the EUI seeks to play a transformative role in addressing the major issues of our time.

A core aspect of this transformation is a renewed emphasis on how the EUI communicates its work. Engaging in public debate, reaching policymakers and practitioners, and ensuring that research informs the broader public are essential priorities.

"In these stormy times, the role of the European University Institute is more crucial than ever. The Institute is uniquely positioned to shape and lead the reflection on Europe's future. This is a time for forward-looking research and a renewed commitment to engagement beyond academia."

Patrizia Nanz, EUI President



02

TOWARDS A NEW EUI STRATEGY

Building on the Vision, the EUI President launched a second EUI-wide participatory process to build a fully-fledged strategy for 2025-2030. It kicked off with 15 dedicated strategic working groups, including researchers, fellows, faculty, and professional staff, each working on key topics that will shape the future of the Institute, each destined to author a dedicated chapter of the overall strategy. A broad overview of their work follows.

Interdisciplinarity and co-creation of knowledge and ideas:

The EUI community members addressing these topics are working on transversal themes the EUI should focus on, how they can be addressed from a methodological perspective, who should be included in the co-creation process, and how it might be best designed.

Supervision, teaching, and training:

Another crucial topic, the working group members are looking into how the EUI can ensure the highest level

of supervision across the board, what kinds of academics, teachers, leaders, professionals, and activists the EUI should train, and what skills they might need to thrive in an increasingly complex and fast-changing world.

Academic excellence:

Connected to the point above, this key area investigates what kind of environment the EUI can offer to enable its academics and attract the best students, researchers, fellows, and professors.

Data-driven technologies:

In another work stream, the EUI community is focusing on how the Institute might address the challenges and opportunities of knowledge production increasingly supported by data-driven technologies, as well as what ethical considerations must guide our approach, and how the EUI can harness these technologies to advance its mission.

An agile administration:

A dedicated working group is looking into how the EUI might simplify processes and reduce bureaucracy



to allow the Institute to truly focus on its core mission: to reflect, research and write, teach, and train.

Sustainability:

Another important topic is sustainability, with different groups focusing on all major angles: environmental, equality, diversity, and inclusiveness, as well as good governance and representation.

Communication:

Achieving a broader cultural, political, and social impact by communicating the EUI's work beyond the academic world is one of the three dimensions of the new Vision. Here, a dedicated working group is analysing what strategies, formats, and channels the EUI might adopt to ensure that insights reach and resonate with more and broader audiences.

Partnerships:

The point above will link to new partnerships, both inside and outside the academic world. A dedicated group from the EUI community is looking into this, while another one is devising strategies as how the EUI might build closer relationships with its alumni.

Quality assessment:

Finally, a strategic working group aims to understand how the EUI might develop a framework for quality assessment. This will include an assessment of teaching, training, and research, as well as the societal engagement, relevance, and impact of our work.

The final strategy will be presented to the High Council for adoption in November 2025.

The EUI [Department of Political and Social Sciences](#) focuses on contemporary challenges facing European politics and societies. One of Europe's leading centres for research on politics and comparative politics, political theory, international relations, and sociology, the Department enables cross-disciplinary research conversations, where ideas and research findings come together.

In 2024, the Department welcomed 23 new doctoral researchers and celebrated 28 thesis defences. The Department remains a top choice for aspiring scholars, attracting 614 applicants for the latest cohort.

A highlight of the year was the [EUI's performance in the Shanghai Ranking](#), securing the first position in the EU and sixth globally in political science. This recognition reaffirms the Department's leading status for research and academic excellence.

Alumnus [Lukas Schmid](#) was honoured with the 2024 [ECPR Jean Blondel Prize](#) for his PhD thesis, defended in 2023. This marks the third time in four years that an EUI PhD graduate has received this prestigious award. In further recognition of academic excellence, Professor Filip Kostelka was awarded the esteemed [Henrik Enderlein Prize](#) in 2024.



The Department played an instrumental role in the [EUI Widening Europe Programme](#). It hosted the [Summer Academy on 'Democracy and Society in Europe: Latest Insights from Political Science and Sociology'](#), with a special focus on participants from the Widening countries. In June, it organised the [Workshop on Political Behaviour in Central and Eastern Europe](#).

Additionally, faculty and researchers conducted seminars and lectures in Widening countries and the Department welcomed seven visiting students and four Fernand Braudel Fellows.

Also in 2024, the Department welcomed five new faculty members: Raffaella Del Sarto as Joint Chair in Mediterranean Studies; Valentina Di Stasio as Chair in Sociology; Kevin Munger as Assistant Professor in Computational Social Sciences; Sascha Riaz as Peter Mair Assistant Professor in Comparative Politics; and Léa Pessin as Assistant Professor and Programme Director in Social Inequality.

The Department also celebrated two new ERC projects: [TARGETS](#), led by Professor Valentina Di Stasio, and [WeEqualize](#), directed by Assistant Professor Léa Pessin. Additionally, the Department joined the Horizon 2020 project [LEARN](#) with Professor Herman van de Werfhorst as a key cooperation partner.

Another important event was the [2024 CIVICA PoBi Conference](#), organised by Professor Elias Dinas. Timed to coincide with the European Parliament elections, the conference brought together early stage and senior researchers from the CIVICA alliance and featured a roundtable discussion with EUI Professor Simon Hix and LSE Professor Sarah Hobolt.

04

ECONOMICS

The EUI *Department of Economics* prepares students on a wide range of theoretical and applied research topics. After courses that provide a solid foundation on microeconomics, macroeconomics, and econometrics, the Department offers a variety of courses, seminars, conferences and other activities, that contribute both to the advancement of knowledge about the complexity of the economic systems and prepare researchers for the policy debate on economic and social issues in the EU and beyond.

In 2024, 16 doctoral candidates successfully defended their theses in the Department of Economics, while 24 new doctoral researchers joined - representing the largest cohort in the Department's history, with special attention given to gender balance. Overall, 280 doctoral candidates conducted research at the Department in 2024. Confirming its reputation as the home of excellent scholars, all of the Department's final year doctoral researchers found employment – some receiving offers before officially entering the job market.

The Department consolidated its one-year *Master of Research in Economics* in 2024, admitting 12 students - the largest cohort thus far. Notably, two of the 2023 Master graduates continued their journey at the Department by starting a PhD.

In 2024, the Department successfully launched its first Summer School, '*The Core*', targeting prospective students for the Master. The one-week summer school was funded by the EUI Widening Europe Programme and offered financial support to students from Widening countries.

The Department expanded its faculty in 2024, welcoming *two new full-time professors*: Alexander Ludwig and Barbara Rossi, who both joined the EUI in September.

Academic production and recognition were very successful over the year. Among other achievements, Professor Fabrizia Mealli was appointed *President of the Society for Causal Inference*, while Professor Alexander Monge-Naranjo was appointed to the Stone

Center for Inequality at the University of Chicago. Faculty members obtained important grants for their research in 2024, with notable examples including Andrea Ichino and Fabrizia Mealli from *Unicredit*; and Alexander Monge-Naranjo and Alexander Ludwig from STEG-CEPR.

Multiple papers from the Department were accepted for publication in top journals, including the paper '*Of Cities and Slums*' by Alexander Monge-Naranjo (with Pedro Cavalcanti and Luciene Torres), published by the Journal of Political Economy.

In 2024, the Department launched '*Gender Talks at Villa La Fonte*', a monthly forum dedicated to discussing gender-related topics in the field of economics. In terms of research visibility, the *La Fonte Blog* and newsletter were very active during 2024, increasing the visibility of research outputs in economics with a variety of contributions from researchers and professors over the wide range of topics investigated within the Department.



The EUI *Department of History and Civilisation* focuses on global, comparative, and transnational approaches to the history of Europe in the world since 1400. The Department encourages critical reflection on the research, writing, teaching, and dissemination of history across national borders, and empowers researchers to relate and apply historical research to contemporary challenges.

In 2024, thirty doctoral candidates successfully defended their theses in the EUI Department of History and Civilisation, while 25 new doctoral researchers in history joined the EUI. The Department also welcomed three new professors: Monica Bolufer Peruga, Professor of Early Modern History, ca. 1500 to 1800; M'hamed Oualdi, Professor of Europe in the World in the Long 19th Century; Alexia Yates, Professor of 19th Century European History.

Among the Department's notable achievements in 2024, the ERC Advanced Grant CAPASIA, under the direction of Professor Giorgio Riello, organised the exhibition 'Commodities and Environments: Florence in the Indo Atlantic World' at the Biblioteca Riccardiana in Florence. The exhibition was accompanied by an academic conference, exemplifying the EUI's efforts to build bridges between academic research and culture.

05

HISTORY AND CIVILISATION



The EUI Widening Europe Programme granted funding to two projects presented by History Department faculty: Benno Gammerl for *GLOBINTERSECT*, and Emmanuel Mourlon Druol for *OPENARCH*.

Also in 2024, the Department held its annual Summer School, with 21 participants from across the world. The topic was 'Intersectionality: Challenges and Opportunities for European History'.

Professor Mrinalini Sinha from the University of Michigan gave a lecture on '*Gender and Colonialism: A Retrospective*' for the annual Ursula Hirschmann lecture, jointly organised with the Robert Schuman Centre.

Finally, and importantly, in 2024, the Department of History and Civilisation carried out its self-assessment for 2019 to 2023. The process, which involved an extensive report and a two-day visit by three external evaluators, brought out the excellence of the Department in terms of teaching, training, and research.

06

LAW

The EUI *Department of Law* focuses on the challenges facing European law, international law, private and public law. EUI Law runs a structured, world class PhD programme with interactive and research-oriented courses designed to equip future legal academics with essential professional skills. The scholarship produced at EUI Law spans doctrinal empirical, socio legal, and critical methods.

EUI Law strengthened its academic profile in 2024 through faculty appointments that enhanced research focus. Professor Silvia Suteu joined in September, bringing expertise in constitutional law and human rights. The Department also welcomed Professor Thomas Streinz, whose work on global data law and digital transformation complements ongoing research by Professors Nicolas Petit, Deirdre Curtin, and Giovanni Sartor in law and technology.

In 2024, EUI Law welcomed 34 new doctoral researchers and five *LLM students*. Twenty-five successful theses defences were completed.

EUI Law conferred the *EUI Honoris Causa Degree to Professor Sacha Prechal*, judge at the Court of Justice of the European Union and Professor of European Law at Utrecht University. It also rewarded *Law alumna Tianying Song with the Antonio Cassese Prize* for the Best Doctoral Thesis in International Law in 2024.

In September, EUI Law inaugurated the academic year with an event on '*The EUI Legal Tradition in European and Global Context*'. The faculty reflected on the Department's historical identity and its contributions to addressing modern challenges, such as the protection of democracy and the rule of law, global crises, and technological advancements.

Also in 2024, EUI Law established a significant five-year partnership with the *Max Planck Law Institute* that facilitates academic mobility between both institutions.

To make a concrete impact on its commitment to diversity, EUI Law created a special LLM scholarship for

scholars at risk. In addition, through the *ASPIRE programme*, the Department recruited two new researchers from underrepresented countries (Nigeria and India), providing fully funded PhDs in Law focusing on competition, innovation, and technology policy.

The Department actively contributed to the EUI Widening Europe Programme by hosting specialised Summer Schools on '*AI and Law*' and '*Law and Logic*', emphasising participation from scholars from Widening countries. Professors Curtin and Gráinne de Búrca led significant research project initiatives focusing on Widening countries: *SUPER* by Professor Curtin, and *CINEM* by Professor de Búrca.

Additionally, the Department welcomed scholars from Widening countries through the prestigious Fernand Braudel Fellowship, strengthening its commitment to European integration and scholarship.



Zoom in

The EUI continues to attract talented and dedicated scholars from across Europe and beyond, with a highly selective doctoral programme that welcomed 124 new candidates for the 2024-2025 academic year. With an acceptance rate of approximately 8%, the EUI doctoral programmes maintain rigorous standards, ensuring that only the most exceptional individuals are admitted, contributing to the Institute’s research excellence.

The EUI’s commitment to academic excellence is reflected in the high completion rates among doctoral candidates, with 87.6% of those admitted between 2013 and 2017 successfully completing their doctorate. This speaks to the strong support structure, interdisciplinary approach, and robust academic environment that the EUI offers, equipping doctoral researchers with the tools necessary for success.

The EUI provides a distinctive research ecosystem where top scholars from diverse fields—law, economics, political science, and history—collaborate to address the most pressing global challenges. The EUI academic community is not only international but also deeply invested in fostering the next generation of academic leaders who will shape policy and contribute to social transformation.

Application by department

614	285	282
SPS	LAW	ECO
179	80	85
HEC	LLM	MRes

Admissions by department

24	34	24
SPS	LAW	ECO
25	5	12
HEC	LLM	MRes

1,525
Total applications

124
Total admissions

Figure 1: Application and admission by department, 2024-2025 recruitment procedure

The next generation of researchers

In the 2025-2026 recruitment campaign, the EUI saw a 33% increase in applications overall (PhD, LLM, MRes) thanks to a significant strengthened promotional campaign, with a special emphasis on widening participation and attracting high-calibre applicants.

The EUI hosted 27 webinar sessions, including a two-week PhD Prep Talks initiative offering peer-to-peer insights into the doctoral programme and researcher experience. Additionally, an Open Week event showcased the wide range of doctoral programmes. The EUI further expanded outreach by participating in academic fairs and virtual recruitment events, while targeted campaigns across various platforms increased awareness and applications. This was complemented by a mix of digital advertising, increased website traffic, and compelling video testimonials from alumni and researchers to raise visibility and engagement.

Through sustained outreach efforts and an expanded promotional campaign, the EUI continues to increase its visibility, attracting high-calibre applicants from all corners of the world. The significant rise in applications for the 2025-2026 academic year is a testament to the growing recognition of the EUI as a hub for academic excellence and innovation.

The doctoral programmes are integral to the EUI’s mission to advance cutting-edge research and provide high-impact education for tomorrow’s leaders. Looking to the future, the EUI remains committed to maintaining its status as a beacon of scholarly excellence, shaping the academic landscape of Europe and beyond.

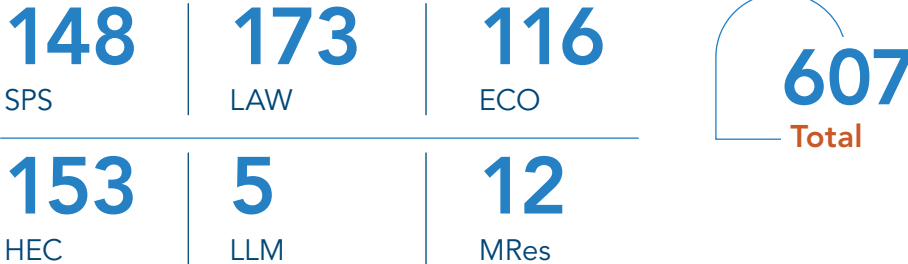


Figure 2: Total number of enrolled doctoral, LLM and MRes researchers for academic year 2024-2025, by department

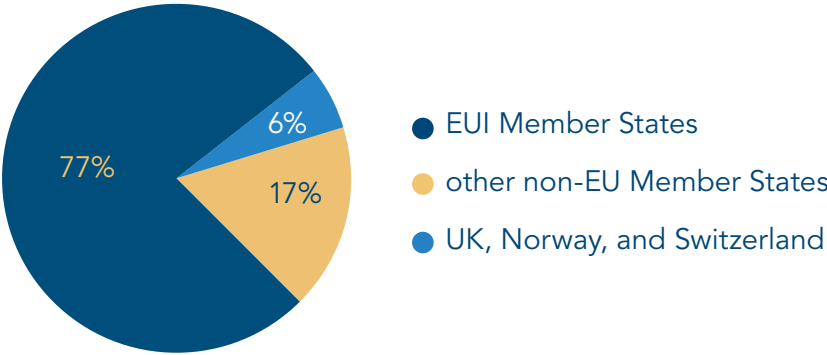


Figure 3: Nationality of enrolled doctoral, LLM, and MRes researchers for academic year 2024-2025

07

ENHANCING STUDENT AND RESEARCHER REPRESENTATION

In 2024, the EUI community took significant steps in advancing governance democratisation by establishing stronger representation for students and early stage researchers in key [governing bodies](#), including the High Council, Budget Committee, and Academic Council.

The EUI set up mechanisms to ensure student and researcher representation in [governance structures](#), with a view to enabling meaningful contributions to discussions on the EUI's vision, academic priorities, resource allocation, and policies. This approach is aimed to strengthen institutional transparency, accountability, and inclusivity

A President's Decision in December provided a concrete framework, with eight Researcher Representatives (two per department) participating in the Academic Council ordinary sessions, all 16 Researcher Representatives participating in Academic Council plenary sessions, and two Representatives participating in Executive Committee plenary sessions. This compares to only four in the Academic Council in years past, and one in the Executive Committee. These representatives will advocate for the visions and needs of students and ESRs, fostering a more inclusive and responsive governance model that reflects the needs of all stakeholders and effectively engage in governance processes. For restricted sessions of both the Academic Council and the Executive Committee, members will be consulted in writing before each session and, if no objections are raised, representatives may attend.



while creating a vibrant academic community that values diverse perspectives.

In 2024, the EUI also laid the foundation for a dedicated Student and ESR Governance and Activities Office, with a designated coordinator for administrative support to governance bodies, including the Researcher [Representatives](#), [the Researchers' Union](#), and the Interdisciplinary Working Groups. The Office will also support scholarly and community initiatives and facilitate [extracurricular activities](#) to enhance [campus life](#) and [interdisciplinary](#) engagement. This dual focus on governance and extracurricular programming will ensure that the voices and contributions of students and researchers resonate across both academic and community spheres.

Through these measures, the EUI aims to foster shared responsibility and inclusivity, enriching the academic environment for all community members.

The transformative research conducted by early stage scholars at the EUI is fundamental to addressing the complex challenges shaping Europe's future. Their innovative work contributes to reimagining Europe in the 21st century by advancing knowledge on fundamental research areas.

Fostering social development and shaping capabilities is necessary in a rapidly evolving landscape. Max Weber Fellow Kim Stienstra's project, *The Equalising Potential of Schools*, explored how educational exposure mitigates socioeconomic disparities. Similarly, the investigation by Eleonora Minaeva and Kirill Melnikov on *Local Elections and Elite Management in Authoritarian Regimes* sheds light on how political structures operate under constrained governance conditions.

Digital technologies and AI advancements are reshaping how knowledge is created, accessed, and governed, thus influencing the development and transformation of our societies and institutions. As they redefine expertise and open new avenues for research collaboration, equitable access to these resources is crucial to bridging knowledge divides

across Europe. The *EUI Widening Europe Programme* tackles these disparities by fostering inclusivity in digital and academic infrastructures. Among the 16 Widening-funded projects in 2024, *Open Archives for Social Science Research in Widening Countries*, led by Emmanuel Mourlon-Druol and *Peter Pavel Klasinc*, exemplifies this agenda by improving access to archival research and digital resources in underrepresented regions. Another key initiative, *Supporting Ukraine's Progress on EU Reforms*, led by Deirdre Curtin and Iurii Barbash Yaroslav, highlights how digital tools and legal innovations can reinforce Ukraine's alignment with European norms.

*The EUI is home to 17 ERC-funded projects that exemplify research excellence with tangible social and policy impact, including Bernard Hoekman's *Plurilateral Integration Agreements and Noneconomic Objectives*, which investigates the effectiveness of selective international agreements in addressing security and governance challenges. By exploring the role of Europe in an increasingly fragmented global order, it illustrates the role of security and governance studies as a foundation for Europe's future.*

Finally, as Europe grapples with democratic turbulence, understanding the developments that underpin stability becomes ever more critical. Among the ERC-funded research addressing these issues, *What Makes People Targets?*, led by Valentina Di Stasio, examines ethnic discrimination and the strategies individuals and institutions employ to foster social cohesion in polarised societies. Complementing this, *Social Inequalities in Work-Family Strategies across 24 Industrialized Countries*, led by Léa Pessin, explores how policy frameworks shape work-family challenges—an essential factor for demographic and economic transformations.

These are only a small part of a wider research endeavour. The EUI runs more than 150 externally funded research projects, over half of which are EU-funded, illustrating its importance to the European policy and research communities, bridging fundamental academic inquiry with real-world challenges.

External projects 2024

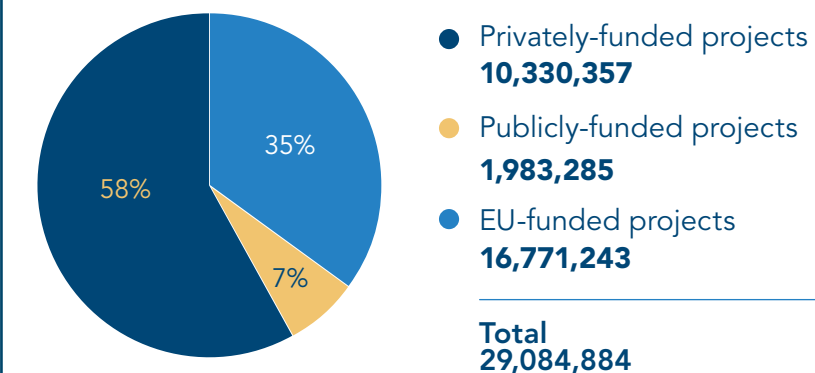


Figure 4: Breakdown of externally funded research projects in 2024



09

ROBERT SCHUMAN CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES

The Robert Schuman Centre, an inter-disciplinary research centre, was established in 1993 with the goal of developing cutting-edge, academic research and using that research to engage with a wide variety of stakeholders in the public and private sectors. The centre hosts eight research programmes and 350 scholars and staff members.

In 2024, the Robert Schuman Centre marked its *30th anniversary* with a week of *Joint Sessions of Workshops*, gathering more than 125 scholars from various institutions, disciplines, and career stages to collectively address and discuss timely issues. Throughout the week, sessions revolved around six themes central to the Robert Schuman Centre's *Research Agenda*: gender analysis in EU political economy; EU Eastern enlargements; the role of carbon markets in reaching carbon neutrality; the EU's long crisis decade, ethical dilemmas in migration and citizenship policies; and measures development of the digital transformation.

The year 2024 also saw the successful launch of the Economic and Monetary Union Laboratory (*EMU Lab*), a new initiative of the Robert Schuman

Centre, coordinated by Marco Buti (Tommaso Padoa-Schioppa Chair) and Giancarlo Corsetti (Pierre Werner Chair). The EMU Lab brings together scholars from across the EUI, as well as alumni and external scholars, in a multidisciplinary setting with the ambition of unlocking the debate on European economic and monetary integration.

The Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom hosted the Voices – European Festival of Journalism and Media Literacy in Florence. Co-funded by the European Union, the festival is a travelling initiative that moves across different European cities to engage with different communities, while emphasising media freedom and media literacy as essential elements for the functioning of our democratic societies. It provides a tangible contribution to fostering a European public sphere. In its first edition, Voices was a success with more than 1,300 participants from all over Europe and beyond, with the next edition in Zagreb in 2025.



Also in 2024, the Robert Schuman Centre launched *EU&I*, a voting advice application helping citizens identify the political party that best aligns with their preferences across all 27 EU Member States. Available in 25 languages, it involved 152 researchers positioning 290 parties and candidates on 30 policy statements and experimental research on the impact of informational tools on political behaviour. This was the fourth time the EUI developed a voting advice application for European elections since 2009.

The *Florence School of Regulation* celebrated two decades of expertise in policy and regulation, expanding from energy to transport, telecom, climate, water, waste, and gas. Its global initiatives were launched more recently, with regional focuses on India and Africa.

Also, in 2024 scholars of the Schuman Centre published a significant number of policy relevant research on issues such as media pluralism in Europe, *governance beyond the nation-state in the 21st century*, *blockchain governance*, the *challenges of EU enlargement to the Western Balkans*, *digital finance in the EU*, the *crisis of culture*, or on the *digital and technological future of Europe*.

The Robert Schuman Centre Programmes

The Global Governance Programme

The Global Governance Programme addresses global challenges through interdisciplinary research on global law and economics, international relations and security, global citizenship, global governance, knowledge-based policy-making, and Southeastern Europe in an interconnected world.

European Governance and Politics Programme

The European Governance and Politics Programme researches the restructuring of European politics and governance, analysing integration and disintegration dynamics by fostering academic research, hosting databases, and engaging a global network of scholars through funded projects, events, and conferences.

Migration Policy Centre

Migration shapes economies, societies, and governance globally, and the Migration Policy Centre provides research, expertise, and data to enhance understanding and inform better policies.

Florence School of Regulation

The Florence School of Regulation fosters independent discussion and knowledge exchange to enhance European regulation and policy through research, training, and events in the fields of energy, climate, transport, and water and waste.

Florence School of Banking and Finance

The Florence School of Banking and Finance is a European hub uniting policymakers, practitioners, and academics to foster a common regulatory culture while offering training, policy dialogue, and research with a global perspective.

Centre for a Digital Society

The Centre for a Digital Society fosters public debate on the impact of digitalisation on markets and democracy while advising decision-makers through high-quality independent policy-oriented research, events, and executive training.

Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom

The Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom is a research and training centre that aims to develop innovative and relevant lines of research on media freedom and pluralism in Europe and beyond, and to provide knowledge support to the international, European and national policy and rulemaking processes.

Centre for Judicial Cooperation

The Centre for Judicial Cooperation has built a network of judges, lawyers, and scholars to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange on judicial interaction through research, policy initiatives, workshops, and conferences.



The [Florence School of Transnational Governance](#) (STG) trains current and future leaders in the methods, skills, and theory of governance beyond the state, equipping them with the tools to address global challenges. As a global hub for research-based teaching and training, the school bridges theory and practice, offering a two-year [Master in Transnational Governance](#), a [Global Executive Master](#), [executive training courses](#), and a [Policy Leader Fellowship](#).

In 2024, the Florence STG demonstrated that it is a vibrant centre for dialogue, hosting more than 120 events throughout the year. These included major conferences and forums on climate, disinformation, transnational democracy and AI. Notably, the school celebrated former Florence STG Director [Alexander Stubb's election](#) as President of Finland, explored AI and philosophy with Professor Luciano Floridi, and discussed leadership in a fractured world with President François Hollande.

Also of relevance, the Director of Public Affairs of ENI, [Lapo Pistelli](#), addressed Africa's energy transition, Sudanese-British businessman Sir Mohammed Ibrahim delivered the 2024 La Pira Lecture, Nobel laureate [Bengt Holmström](#) questioned whether economics is still relevant, and Chilean economist and Professor [Andrés Velasco](#) shared his vision for a new economic consensus.

Also in 2024, the Florence STG expanded its faculty with Professors Trine Flockhart, Alain Lempereur, Josephine van Zeben, Laurence Boone, Simone Tagliapietra, and Joanna Pandera, bringing the total to 11 full-time and 25 part-time professors. Faculty and researchers

published seven books, 24 articles, and 34 policy papers.

The school also secured two EU-Horizon research projects, further cementing its role in policy innovation, democracy, and governance.

Marking a pivotal year, the Florence STG undertook a comprehensive review and [strategy exercise to define its direction for 2025-2030](#). This process, involving faculty, staff, and external experts, assessed the School's achievements since its founding in 2017 and reaffirmed its identity as a European public policy school with a strong global vocation.

The Florence STG also successfully completed [NVAO accreditation for its Master in Transnational Governance](#), affirming its academic excellence. The Master's programme also hit a new milestone with 100 students on campus, benefiting from a dynamic learning environment with in-person classes, high-profile lectures, personalised tracks, mobility opportunities, and career development support.

10

FLORENCE
SCHOOL OF
TRANSNATIONAL
GOVERNANCE



The Florence STG Programmes

STG Climate

EUI Climate Week is the annual highlight of STG Climate’s activities, culminating in a multi-day conference taking place at the Florence School of Transnational Governance. *EUI Climate Week* showcases the EUI community’s climate expertise and aims to bring together a diverse group of climate experts from around the globe.

AI&DEM

As technology transforms our world, the future of politics and democracy hangs in the balance. The rapid rise of robotisation, digitalisation, and automation poses unprecedented challenges—and opportunities—that we are only beginning to understand. The Chair on Artificial Intelligence and Democracy (AI&DEM) was established with the aim to develop a comprehensive theory of democratic decision-making within this new technological landscape and to establish a critical theory of algorithmic reasoning.

STG Transnational Democracy Programme

The STG Transnational Democracy Programme is an interdisciplinary, inter-institutional hub committed to producing action-oriented research that empowers the public in policy making across borders. Through its seminars and publications, the programme interrogates cutting edge innovations in representative, direct and deliberative democracy and synergies between these forms of engagement.

Democratic Odyssey (under the Transnational Democracy Programme)

The Democratic Odyssey is a crowdsourced, decentralised, and collaborative campaign developing a concept and strategy to institutionalise a permanent peoples’ assembly and participatory eco-system in the European Union.

European Digital Media Observatory

The European Digital Media Observatory works to strengthen and enable collaboration among a multidisciplinary community of stakeholders tackling online disinformation. It brings together fact-checkers, media literacy experts, and academic researchers to understand and analyse disinformation, in collaboration with media organisations, online platforms and media literacy practitioners.

European Media and Information Fund

The European Media and Information Fund pursues objectives of public interest and provides grants, on a competitive basis, to researchers, fact-checkers, not-for-profits, and other public interest-oriented organisations working on disinformation research and strengthening media literacy and fact-checking.



EUI Executive Education offers training to professionals from around the world, supporting them in gaining new insight into their respective fields, honing key skills, broadening their professional networks, and enhancing their leadership performance and impact. With faculty and trainers that combine academic excellence with on the ground experience, training courses cover broad policy areas and may be in-residence, distance-based, or a combination of the two, meeting a wide range of training needs.

In 2024, the EUI expanded its executive education offer, delivering nearly 150 training activities led by international experts. More than 6,400 participants engaged in courses on climate policy, digital transformation, banking and finance, energy regulation, gender mainstreaming, migration governance, peace and security, and foreign policy, while also strengthening key professional skills such as negotiation, leadership, and policy communication.



Figure 5. EUI Executive Education in 2024

A major milestone was the launch of the *Global Executive Master programme* by the *Florence School of Transnational Governance (STG)*, the first EUI executive degree designed for policy professionals. The part-time, blended-learning programme attracted 150 applications in its first year, enrolling 32 participants from 22 countries, including 11 outside Europe.

Notably, the Florence STG also inaugurated a dedicated Executive Education Centre at Palazzo Buontalenti in Florence, which opened in 2024 as a hub for EUI-wide executive training. The Centre offers state-of-the-art training rooms, breakout spaces, and networking lounges.

The *Florence School of Banking and Finance*, in partnership with the Florence STG, in collaboration with the European Central Bank and the European System of Central Banks, concluded the inaugural academic year of its *Central Banking and Banking Supervision Programme* in 2024. The curriculum, featuring 11 modules, was delivered by leading academics and policymakers.



Marking its 20th anniversary, the *Florence School of Regulation (FSR)* achieved record revenue with €1.4 million and continued its flagship *Annual Training and Summer School on Energy Regulation*. The FSR also launched a four-year partnership with the Kyiv School of Energy Policy, training 240 professionals from Ukraine and Moldova, with 99 enrolled in 2024.

The *Centre for a Digital Society* advanced competition law training, completing the 17th Seminar for Telecom Judges and the 14th *ENTraNCE for Judges Programme*, both supported by the European Commission. These programmes included residential and online sessions, case study analysis, and hands-on coaching for 26 national judges from EU Member States. The training contributed to the development of the *DataComp project* – an online database of national competition law rulings co-funded by the European Commission.

The Centre for Digital Society also delivered the *Florence Competition Autumn School*, which introduced 10 scholarships for participants from the Widening countries, further strengthening expertise in EU competition law and regulatory practices.

For the third consecutive year, the Florence STG organised training activities for Western Balkan diplomats as part of a project funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The programme covered EU policymaking and enlargement, culminating in a *high-level policy dialogue* in Podgorica on the region's future in the EU.

12

MAX WEBER
PROGRAMME FOR
POSTDOCTORAL
STUDIES

The Max Weber Programme (MWP) is the largest international postdoctoral programme for the humanities and social sciences in Europe. Featuring a unique approach that integrates academic communication, teaching, and research support, the programme provides fellows the opportunity to share their research with peers from various disciplines and countries while developing their professional academic skills.

The Max Weber Programme provides an unparalleled platform for independent research while offering structured support through core activities such as the *Max Weber Lectures*, affiliated *Master Classes* with world-leading scholars, *multidisciplinary workshops*, job market preparation, and the Teaching Certificate.

In 2024, the programme introduced a grant-writing workshop to enhance fellows’ skills in securing research funding. Additionally, the EUI allocated small grant funds to support individual research projects.

The 18th Annual MWP June Conference marked a significant moment of intellectual exchange and community building under the theme ‘Continuity or Rupture: Towards an Interdisciplinary Inquiry’. Bringing together current and former fellows, the event fostered discussions on pressing global challenges – ranging from academic crises and political shifts to rising populism and conflict. With 18 panels and over 90 participants, the conference highlighted the unique interdisciplinary nature of the programme.

As part of the *EUI Widening Europe Programme*, the MWP hosted six postdoctoral fellows from targeted Widening countries, providing an excellent opportunity for early stage researchers to pursue their academic research, and expanded its outreach through a summer school in pedagogical training for early stage researchers in the region.

Notably, in 2024, the Max Weber Programme hosted two experienced journalists from the Widening countries in the framework of the *‘Journalist in Residence’* initiative, aiming to foster dialogue between researchers and journalists.

Furthermore, the programme actively supported scholars at risk, particularly from Ukraine, securing external funding to facilitate their academic pursuits.



Figure 6. Applications and admission to the Max Weber Programme, 2024-2025
*Admission figures include second- and third-year fellows.

With more than 900 applications in the 2024 call, an increase compared to the previous year, the Max Weber Programme continues to attract top-tier early stage researchers from all over the world, maintaining its position as a highly selective and globally recognised postdoctoral programme.

During the 2024-2025 academic year, the programme hosted 41 new fellows, 20 men and 21 women, joining the other 25 fellows already present in the programme,

affiliated across the EUI’s four Departments, the Robert Schuman Centre, and the Florence School of Transnational Governance. Together they represent 37 nationalities from around the world.



With over 700 fellows from more than 100 nationalities hosted since its inception, the Max Weber Programme remains an essential hub for academic excellence, fostering intellectual growth and professional development for early stage researchers worldwide.

The EUI offers a range of [prestigious fellowships](#) designed to support scholars and professionals at various stages of their careers. They provide an opportunity to conduct research, engage with leading academics, and participate in the vibrant intellectual community of the Institute.

[Jean Monnet Fellowship](#)

The EUI awarded 13 Jean Monnet Fellowships in 2024. This one-year fellowship continues to attract leading postdoctoral researchers, tenure-track academics, and scholars on sabbatical, fostering cutting-edge research in a stimulating academic environment.

[Fernand Braudel Senior Fellowship](#)

The Fernand Braudel Senior Fellowship provides established, high-level academics with an international reputation the opportunity to conduct research at the EUI for up to ten months. In 2024, 45 fellows were hosted by one of the EUI's four academic departments and encouraged to participate in departmental activities, collaborate with researchers, and contribute to teaching and thesis supervision, further strengthening the academic community at the Institute.

[Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Postdoctoral Fellowship](#)

The EUI acts as a host institution for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Postdoctoral Fellowships, awarded by the European Commission through its Framework Programme for research and innovation, Horizon Europe. In 2024, The EUI hosted six fellows, whose research contributed to EU policy development and addressed global challenges.

[Policy Leader Fellowship](#)

The Policy Leader Fellowship is a residential programme at the Florence School of Transnational Governance designed for mid-career professionals from diverse policy backgrounds. The fellowship hosts people with hands-on experience in policymaking and provides them with an insider's perspective on EU policy processes within one of Europe's leading academic institutions. The EUI hosted 20 Policy Leader Fellows in 2024, who contributed to key policy discussions on topics such as climate governance, digital transformation, and global security.

The EUI hosts many other fellows, including the Simone Veil Fellows, the CIVICA post-doctoral fellows, and fellows under the EUI Widening Europe Programme.



14

HISTORICAL ARCHIVES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

The [Historical Archives of the European Union](#) (HAEU) preserves and makes accessible for research the archives deposited by EU institutions according to the 30-year rule governing access to archival material. Housed at the EUI, it also collects and preserves private papers of individuals, movements and international organisations involved in European integration. Notably, it facilitates research on the history of the European Union, promotes public interest in European integration and enhances transparency in the functioning of EU Institutions.

In 2024, the HAEU celebrated the 40th anniversary of its establishment at the EUI. The anniversary was commemorated with a 'Declaration on the Historical Archives of the European Union at 40', signed by the Secretaries General of the European Commission and the EUI at the EU's Inter-institutional Archives Group meeting, held exceptionally in Florence in November with the participation of archivists and representatives from depositing EU institutions, bodies and agencies. The anniversary was also marked with the publication of two special volumes based on its holdings: 'The Art of Integration: 40 posters promoting Europe', and 'Forty years of access and preservation: Historical Archives of the European Union'.

The Historical Archives welcomed more than 7,000 visitors to Villa Salviati in 2024 through numerous research and public outreach activities. These included researchers conducting archival research in the reading room; academics participating in its regular programme of conferences and workshops, some in conjunction with the [Alcide De Gasperi Research Centre on European integration](#); on-site archives training activities; education programmes involving nearly 1,000 primary and secondary students, such as the new ['Young European Citizens'](#) project with the Fondazione CR Firenze; local life-long learning initiatives; and its annual [Open Day](#).

Notable archival deposits in 2024 included the [1988](#) and [1989](#) case law of the European Court of Justice, the first-ever transfer of archives from the European [Committee of the Regions](#), and private archives such as those from the [International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine](#). The HAEU also received 21 unique original letters of European Commissioner Altiero Spinelli, dating from the 1970s, recovered by the Italian Carabinieri.

The Archives awarded 23 grants for primary research on European

integration through its [five grant programmes](#). Moreover, in collaboration with the Interdisciplinary Research cluster on Environmental Challenges and Climate Change Governance, the HAEU organised, with Professor Corinna Unger and EUI graduate Gilberto Mazzoli, the exhibition ['Environing modernisation: exploring the photographic collection of the European Investment Bank'](#), at the Badia Fiesolana. Finally, it organised an exhibit on the [20th anniversary of the EU's eastern enlargement](#) in Palazzo Buontalenti.

The Archives continued its work on greater digital access with the installation of a new storage infrastructure that will provide 60TB of space for digital archives. Finally, in December 2024, the HAEU successfully renewed its [ISO 9001 quality management system certification](#), first obtained in 2021, via external audit.



The [EUI Library](#) is a leading research hub in the social sciences, offering extensive print and digital collections, expert librarian support, and cutting-edge research tools. As a European documentation centre, it provides access to official EU publications alongside vast databases, e-journals, and eBooks. With a strong commitment to Open Access, the Library supports the academic community in enhancing the visibility of EUI research through its repository, [Cadmus](#).

In 2024, the EUI Library continued to expand and enhance its collections and services to support research and learning in the social sciences and humanities. Among the most notable additions is [Arcanum](#), a full-text database featuring Hungarian scientific journals, encyclopaedias, newspapers, and monographic series from the 1800s to the present.

The Library added several new databases, including [NewsGuard](#), a browser extension that assigns trust scores to over 8,500 news websites

worldwide, promoting media literacy and source credibility, and the [EURACTIV Intelligence Platform](#), which offers real-time insights into EU policy, with searchable articles and profiles of EU policymakers.

To support researchers in identifying funding opportunities, the Library subscribed to [Funding Institutional](#), a database listing over 37,000 calls and millions of awarded grants from more than 14,000 funders. It provides personalised alerts and recommendations tailored to researchers' interests.

New journal subscriptions in 2024 included [Le Monde](#), [EUobserver](#), [Journal of AI Law and Regulation \(AIRe\)](#), [Critical AI and the Financial Times Historical Archive](#). [The eBook collection](#) was also expanded with 241 new titles from ElgarOnline, covering sociology, social policy, education, political science, and public policy.

The EUI remained strongly committed to Open Science. In 2024, 66% of the 1,200+ research outputs in [Cadmus](#), the EUI Research Repository, were available in Open Access. Thanks to transformative publishing agreements, EUI authors can now publish Open Access in over 8,000 journals at no cost. Between 2020 and 2024, the Library supported 234 Open Access articles, saving researchers nearly €700,000 in article processing charges, over €166,000 in 2024 alone.



Seamless access to resources was further enhanced by the implementation of OpenAthens, enabling direct access to electronic materials. The discovery interface continues to integrate print, electronic, and Cadmus holdings. The [Library Café](#), launched in 2023, has grown into a popular initiative for community engagement. Monthly gatherings across campus in 2024 encouraged dialogue and discovery around Library resources.

Finally, the Library launched two new partnerships offering EUI members discounted access to major lending libraries in Florence. The Harold Acton Library at the British Institute offers one of Europe's largest English-language collections. Meanwhile, the [Médiathèque](#) of the [Institut Français](#) provides French-language materials and access to [Culturethèque](#), a rich digital resource for press, books, comics, and media.

16

COMMUNICATING BEYOND ACADEMIA

In 2024, the EUI took courageous decisions to rethink its communications efforts in a saturated and rapidly changing information landscape. In line with the third dimension of the new EUI Vision, communicating our work effectively beyond the confines of academia, a reorganised EUI Communications Service set out to position the Institute more clearly as a research university providing orientation to politics and society in Europe and beyond.

With research at the heart of its work, the new Communications Service transformed a small project on research communications into a proper team, specialised in and dedicated to putting research storytelling at the heart of EUI communications. As a result, in 2024, science communications experts embedded even deeper into the four departments, raising visibility efforts. At the same time, EUI Communications aligned this work with the Robert Schuman Centre and the Florence School of Transnational Governance to communicate research across the EUI and with one voice.

Notably, the EUI developed innovative flagship formats for research communications, covering academic research in all career phases, and ranging from formal interviews to informal conversations, podcasts, and experiential storytelling – all with their own visual identity, and dissemination potential. Importantly, these efforts began feeding a new, refreshed EUI homepage, and provided new contents to EUI social media channels, including a refresh of the EUI YouTube channel. Over the year, the EUI doubled its research storytelling contents and launched a new monthly research newsletter, with an external audience of 20,000+ readers. Finally, [EUIdeas](#) contributions doubled in 2024 and laid the groundwork to transform the blogsite into a proper thought leadership platform in 2025, allowing more flexibility and coverage for EUI academics.

The new EUI Communications Service also played a key role in supporting the consultation process on the new EUI Vision and Strategy. It created a dedicated internal web page including an internal blog to engage



the community in the process, as well as an [external page on the new vision](#). The EUI identified internal communication as a priority and the Service began the launch of a proper function, mainstreaming the flow of internal communications in late 2024.

Also during the year, the new Communications Service led on bold decisions regarding the EUI's presence on social media platforms, by disengaging from X and opening EUI accounts on Bluesky. A broader internal review of the EUI presence on social media will continue in 2025. Building on The State of the Union conference experience, the Communications Service also put events at the heart of its new agenda, looking to innovate and put ideas centre stage.

Finally, and notably, the EUI Communications established team of experts tasked with advancing a coordinated marketing strategy, underpinned by regular collaboration across units and programmes. This included a comprehensive mapping exercise to provide a structured overview of the EUI's offerings, refine communication channels, and identify key target audiences. A priority was the dedicated task force for the PhD campaign, which worked intensively to deliver significant results, including a 33% increase in applications - a new milestone for the EUI's post-graduate programmes.

17

ENGAGING WITH THE WORLD

In alignment with the EUI's commitment to excellence in research, teaching, and training, the Institute expanded its global partnerships in 2024, reaching 132 agreements, with a significant focus on EU accession countries and Africa. Notable partnerships include universities in Albania, Montenegro, Turkey, Ghana, and South Africa. These alliances reflect the EUI's dedication to co-creating knowledge that addresses complex, interconnected challenges, and contributes to Europe's future development in connection with the world.

In 2024, the EUI also strengthened its policy engagement by tightening its relations with the EU institutions, including the signing of a new and long-term partnership with the European Committee of the Regions. These collaborations enhance cooperation in research and innovation, particularly at the intersection of academia, local governance, and policymaking.

In terms of mobility initiatives, the EUI enhanced its schemes through its commitment and participation in Erasmus+, allowing PhD researchers and Master students to participate in international exchanges with the Institute's academic partners in Europe and worldwide. The Institute also hosted numerous incoming researchers and facilitated teaching placements for its PhD candidates, promoting a multicultural learning environment. Administrative staff also benefitted from mobility initiatives.

The EUI maintained and developed strategic partnerships for student internships with public and private institutions globally. This engagement was complemented by initiatives like the Young African Leaders Programme, which provided tailored training for emerging African leaders and outreach events in Africa.

In 2024, the EUI continued its commitment towards supporting scholars at risk, particularly those affected by the war in Ukraine and the Israeli-Hamas hostilities, through

dedicated fellowships and partnerships with organisations like Scholars at Risk. Furthermore, the Institute launched a dedicated crowdfunding to further support its capacity to host scholars at risk. Notably, the EUI engaged with UNHCR, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italian universities, and civil society organisations to facilitate educational opportunities for students with a refugee background through the initiative 'University Corridors for Refugees'.

Also in 2024, the Institute enhanced its relationship with part of the academic community based in Tuscany. In addition to the University of Florence, the EUI enjoys relationships with the New York University Florence Campus, James Madison University Florence, the Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florence, and the Monash University Prato Campus.

Internationalisation remains a key strategic priority for the EUI, serving as a framework for fostering a global community of higher education and research. Through its consolidation of partnerships and mobility initiatives, the EUI is committed to openness, collaboration, social justice, and equity, actively working to mitigate global asymmetries in learning, training and research.

Finally, an important novelty in 2024, the EUI launched the Development and External Relations Service to provide strategic support to EUI management, aligning institutional goals with broader societal needs.



Selected by the European Commission as one of the pioneering alliances under the European Universities Initiative, [*CIVICA – The European University of Social Sciences*](#), brings together 10 leading European higher education institutions in the social sciences, including the EUI. Being part of CIVICA offers EUI early stage researchers an opportunity to connect with other European centres of excellence through seminars, workshops, summer schools, and online activities.

In 2024, the EUI led the successful launch of the second call for the [*CIVICA Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme*](#), designed to support early stage researchers in their career development by fostering mobility across the alliance. Twelve selected fellows had the chance to spend up to 10 months at a CIVICA partner institution, four of whom were welcomed at the EUI.

*The launch of the first [*CIVICA Teacher Development Programme*](#) was a key initiative of the year, spear-headed by the EUI. The online courses presented a unique opportunity for early stage researchers to prepare for the academic job market by strengthening their skills and expertise as teachers in higher education.*

18

CIVICA
ALLIANCE



Also in 2024, ten EUI faculty and postdoctoral researchers were selected to participate in the CIVICA Short Visits Scheme, enabling them to spend five days at a partner institution to foster collaborative activities, such as talks at conferences and workshops, strengthening existing links, and establishing new ones.

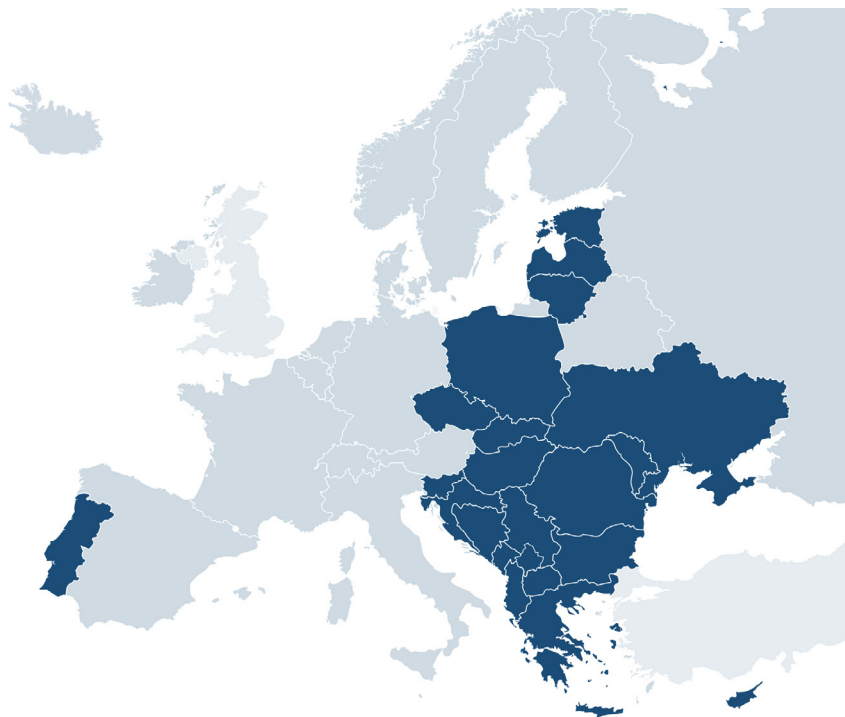
The EUI hosted two important conferences in 2024. In May 2024, the second annual edition of the [*CIVICA PoBi Conference*](#) brought together early stage and senior researchers from across the alliance to explore political behaviour, European elections, and institutional dynamics. In November 2024, the [*KIND conference*](#) gathered academics, policymakers, and stakeholders to explore the evolving role of universities as informal diplomatic actors in addressing shared global challenges.

Notably, in 2024, the EUI designed the first CIVICA workshop on ‘Ethics and Integrity in Academic Research’, taking place in May 2025. The event, available in the [*online course catalogue*](#) developed by the EUI in 2020, will provide insights on academic freedom, research integrity, and data protection.

The *EUI Widening Europe Programme* embodies the EUI's mission to act as a European public good for all of Europe, enhancing cohesion and competitiveness across the continent by addressing key challenges in academic and research ecosystems, particularly in the targeted countries whose research and innovation environments require support en route to scientific excellence.

Launched in 2024, the programme prioritises maintaining solid ties between early stage researchers based at the EUI and their home countries, addressing the risks of brain drain by fostering collaborative research within the local academic landscape. Over the year, ten promising Widening scholars engaged with European research networks and broadened their own academic horizons.

Collaborative projects focus on creating new knowledge and establishing robust academic networks, which serve as channels for diverse scholarly exchanges and critical reflections on Europe's shared future. In 2024, the EUI launched a call for collaborative research projects between EUI professors and academics from



targeted Widening countries, offering seed funding to integrate into Europe's research landscape. *Eleven research projects were selected* out of 24 applications. Through these initiatives, 16 academics from seven countries joined EUI research communities, thus enriching scientific practice with their own perspectives and methodologies.

Notably, the *EUI Widening Europe Programme* developed a series of tailored training courses for academics based on a bottom-up approach. Twenty-one early stage researchers

from the EUI Department of Political and Social Sciences and the Max Weber Programme, at the initiative of the EUI Centre for Academic Literacies and Languages, had the opportunity to teach in 15 Widening countries, establishing lasting connections between the Institute and the targeted countries.

The spotlight initiative of 2024 was the first-ever Summer School in the EUI Department of Economics, developed as a knowledge-exchange forum where nine emerging scholars from the widening countries, among 22 participants, tackled advanced methodologies. The course, taught by the Department's PhD researchers, was tailored to provide the students with an in-depth understanding of the fundamental background material that is covered in most PhD programmes in economics.

By fostering collaboration, research, and knowledge exchange, the EUI Widening Europe Programme strengthens Europe's academic landscape and supports the next generation of scholars



20

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSIVENESS

The EUI aims to achieve equality, inclusion, and belonging for every individual, and particularly those who face systemic barriers and discrimination in our society. The EUI has dedicated institutional structures and policies to provide leadership, accountability, and ideas for integrating equality, inclusion, and diversity into all aspects of community life.

In 2024, to support a healthy working environment, the [EUI Equality, Diversity, and Inclusiveness \(EDI\)](#) team organised various in-person trainings on preventing harassment and bullying, and to strengthen EUI members' skills in being active when witnessing discrimination or harassment. The EUI organised dedicated trainings for the Directors of Service, the Human Resources team, researchers, academic assistants, research fellows, and the [Confidential Harassment Advice Service \(CHAS\)](#) members. An online training on creating an upstander culture was offered to the whole EUI community, as well as a session on the EUI policy on harassment, sexual harassment, and bullying for external contractors.

The [Gender Equality Committee](#) and the [Diversity Policy Committee](#) continued their work of implementing the [Gender Equality Plan](#) and the [Ethnic and Racial Equality Plan](#). Over the year, both committees reviewed the first reporting from units and services on the implementation of the respective action plans. This information will be used to inform the Committees' objectives for 2025. The Gender Equality Committee also reviewed the language of the Gender Equality Plan to move beyond binary classifications of gender.

Also in 2024, the EUI's first LGBTQIA+ Staff Network, [Proud to BE!](#) was launched in May, with the goal of creating a safe and supportive environment where LGBTQIA+ EUI members can freely express themselves. For the second time in the Institute's history, the EUI participated as an [official delegation to Toscana Pride](#).

The slogan 'Queering EUI – *Lottiamo per ciò che è giusto*', was chosen by a committee representing all EUI main constituencies among more than 40



proposals submitted by EUI members. In parallel, the EUI introduced all-gender toilets in all main EUI buildings.

In 2024, the EDI podcast 'Elephant in the Room' welcomed guests discussing a wide range of topics from [mental health awareness](#) to [disability inclusion](#), from the [legacy of Pride](#) to [gender equality](#) and [reproductive rights](#).

Finally, to make evidence-based decisions, the EUI produced the [EDI Annual Report](#), analysing data on the EUI population along gender lines. The report showed that there is still work to do to attain gender parity at the Institute, while slow, but consistent progress could be observed among full-time professors across units. To complement this effort, the EUI launched an EUI-wide survey at the end of the year to collect responses on experiences of harassment and bullying, as well as awareness of available support mechanisms at the EUI.

In 2024, The *Real Estate and Facilities Service* led the EUI through a strategic reflection on sustainable space management in light of new ways of working.

In January, the Institute launched a dedicated working group and started discussing draft guidelines for effective space allocation based on physical characteristics and staff functions. The group also worked on developing specifications for a design project tender and achieved substantial consensus on draft guidelines and principles by year's end.

In parallel, the EUI implemented the Environmental Management System across campus, resulting in significant environmental improvements. The carbon footprint decreased by 4.95% (41.55 kg CO₂eq/sqm in 2024 vs. 43.72 kg CO₂eq/sqm in 2023), with electricity consumption reduced by 3.86% (78.91 kWh/sqm vs. 82.07 kWh/sqm), and gas consumption down by 6.75% (5.79 smc/sqm vs. 6.21 smc/sqm). The EUI also created a formal Environmental Policy document for public disclosure.

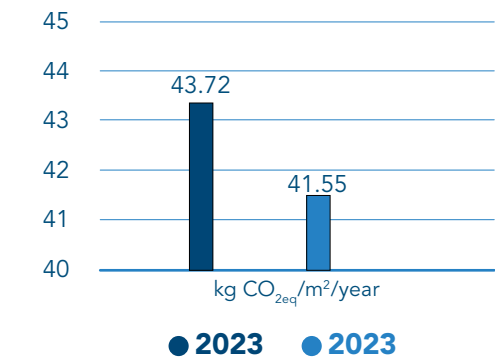
21

SUSTAINABILITY AT THE EUI



KPI: GHG Emissions 2024 vs 2023

Scope 1&2: EUI premises+EUI flats



The EUI added and equipped 3,160 sqm of new areas in *Palazzo Buontalenti*, including a canteen, three seminar rooms, an amphitheatre, 60 working spaces, and a wing for the EUI Global Executive Master. In this effort, the EUI installed energy-efficient heating pump systems with room-by-room monitoring at Buontalenti, and closely followed a tender awarded for accessibility improvements at the *Badia Fiesolana*, with works scheduled to start in 2025.

Health, safety, and security compliance advanced through comprehensive training programmes, including multiple risk assessments on issues such as asbestos, work-related stress, and acoustic impact, work environment analysis, updated informational obligations, an Emergency Plan for Palazzo Buontalenti, implementation of an external supplier control system, an updated Physical Security Risk Assessment, and the layout for a structured management system based on the ASIS Physical Asset Protection standard for physical security.

22

DIGITAL STRATEGY

The EUI's Digital Strategy is structured around three key areas: teaching and research, training and executive education, and competitiveness and attractiveness. Together, these pillars guide the Institute's commitment to excellence in academia and innovation in digital infrastructure.

In teaching and research, the EUI continues to respond to global shifts towards online, hybrid, and blended methodologies. To maintain its high standards, the Institute develops tools and platforms that enhance digital research collaboration and educational delivery. In training and executive education, the EUI invests in scalable and competitive digital infrastructure to meet the growing demand for professional and lifelong learning, thereby strengthening its financial sustainability. Finally, through the competitiveness and attractiveness dimension, the EUI positions itself as a forward-thinking institution, ready to attract top-tier scholars and professional staff by embracing cutting-edge technologies.

To implement this vision, 36 digital projects have been identified and prioritised across three levels, reflecting available funding and resources. In 2024, the EUI made significant progress in several of these initiatives,

coordinated by the [Information and Communication Technology Service](#).

A major focus was the enhancement of cybersecurity, with improved systems for incident management, identity access, and security monitoring. These upgrades ensured secure onboarding of new users, safe access for external consultants, and robust hosting of EUI project websites.

The EUI also placed strong emphasis on user experience. A [redesigned homepage](#) improved navigation and visibility of key institutional content, while new building pages made practical information more accessible. Additionally, the launch of the EUI Strategy Intranet Website created a central hub for staff and stakeholders to follow strategic developments.

In terms of physical infrastructure, 2024 saw the completion of major audiovisual renovation projects, transforming key EUI spaces into flexible, cutting-edge conference rooms. These newly equipped environments now support high-level events, hybrid meetings, and dynamic academic collaboration, offering a modern, future-ready experience.



In the spirit of technological innovation, the EUI also launched an experimental AI pilot project, exploring how AI-powered services can enhance user experience and support both academic and administrative workflows. This was complemented by the rollout of an intelligent Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) system, which delivers personalised search results from a curated knowledge base, ensuring faster and more accurate access to information.

To further support research and institutional activities, the EUI broadened access to data platforms, including new agreements with the Research Data Centre and Meta's Data for Good programme, giving researchers access to valuable datasets and advanced services.

Through these developments, the EUI continued to push its Digital Strategy forward, combining innovation, user focus, and academic excellence.

23

THE STATE OF THE UNION AND ALTSOU

The 14th edition of *The State of the Union conference* took place in Florence in May 2024. Organised by the EUI in collaboration with key partners and stakeholders, the event brought together 150 speakers, including global leaders, policymakers, and journalists. Across 30 sessions, they tackled issues such as EU enlargement, demography, democracy, the rule of law, industrial policy, and the digital and green transitions.

The event saw the presence of many outstanding participants, including Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, President of The Republic of Portugal, Katerina Sakellaropoulou, President of the Republic of Greece, and the Minister of Communications and Digitalisation from Ghana, Ursula Owusu-Ekuful.

The 2024 edition set new milestones, welcoming over 850 in-person attendees and 11,000 online participants. Reinforcing the EUI's commitment to diversity, over 70% of on-site participants were under 50 and there was a strong gender balance. Supported by 49 local and international partners, the conference highlighted the importance of collective efforts in shaping Europe's future.

The event was complemented by an Open Day at Villa Salviati, co-hosted by the Historical Archives of the European Union and Fondo Ambiente Italiano. Visitors delved into Europe's rich history within the Archives and enjoyed the villa's beautiful grounds.

 **150**
Speakers

 **30**
Sessions

 **850**
Live audience

 **11,000**
Attended online

 **73**
Countries

 **49**
Partners



The Alternative State of the Union

Also held in May 2024, *The Alternative State of the Union (un)conference* provided a space for over 200 researchers and academics to gather and reflect on their role in academia, and to engage with and archive their immanent and intersectional critique of the EUI and academia.

The independent grassroots initiative, led by 22 EUI PhD researchers, featured 34 different speakers generating a lively dialogue between academics, activists, and legal experts in the field of humanitarian action and investigative journalism. The 2024 edition of AltSOU functioned as a counterpoint to the often insular and elitist discussions of academia; giving voice to the youth, to the marginalised, and to those often forgotten or silenced in the debates in and about Europe.

On 20 May, EUI President Patrizia Nanz opened the event at Villa Schifanoia. In her remarks, President Nanz stated, “The Alternative State of the Union exemplifies the essence of research universities as spaces for reflection, for asking difficult questions, and for challenging assumptions that many take for granted.”

24

EUI SECRETARY GENERAL

The EUI Secretary General carries primary responsibility for ensuring the efficiency, integrity, and high standards of the administrative structures that support the EUI's research and education mission. The Secretary General also plays a key role in institutional decision-making and policy implementation, ensuring alignment with the Institute's strategic objectives.

In 2024, following extensive negotiations led by the Secretary General, Marco Del Punta, since its EU accession, Croatia notified the EUI in February that it had initiated the process of acceding to the EUI Convention, which progressed smoothly throughout the year. Croatia is expected to become the EUI's 24th member by mid-2025.

To address the current student housing crisis felt in many university cities, including Florence, the Secretary General presented a strategy to the governing bodies that aims to increase the availability of researcher and student accommodation via short and

medium terms initiatives, both stand alone or in cooperation with the local authorities.

The Secretary General also continued to develop the EUI Real Estate policy. In 2024, he secured the funding and authorisation for the extraordinary renovation of Palazzo Buontalenti, thus allowing the EUI to accommodate the rapid expansion of its training activities. Moreover, the Secretary General led the drafting of a new text of the Headquarter Agreement, introducing numerous positive innovations in the EUI's relations with Italy.

The Secretary General also supported the EUI's fundraising effort by expanding the *Florence School of Regulation's* training activities in the Gulf countries, and by signing an agreement with Oman to train public and private professionals of the Sultanate in Florence. He also supported the *Florence School of Transnational Governance* in expanding its activities in the Western Balkans, with training courses for diplomats of the region,



financed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

In 2024, following the conclusion of the procedure to appoint the new EUI President with the dedicated Presidential Search and Selection Committee of the High Council, the Secretary General proposed a revised Decision and guidelines on selecting the EUI President. These were approved by the High Council and optimise and streamline the procedure for future selections.

Finally, the Office of the Secretary General, alongside the EUI *Human Resources Service*, coordinated the administration's contribution to the *EUI Widening Europe Programme* by organising *an institutional event* that brought together 70 staff from the EUI and institutions in the Widening countries to share expertise, foster networks, and advance academic excellence by improving administrative capacities. Teams of EUI staff also delivered nine training sessions in the Widening countries.

EUI IN NUMBERS



EUI PEOPLE

Full and part-time professors	228
Academic and research staff	258
Doctoral researchers and students	733
Global Executive Master students	23
Max Weber Fellows	66
Simone Veil, Fernand Braudel, Jean Monnet, and CIVICA Postdoc Fellows	65
Policy Leader Fellows	20
Alumni	6,000+
Support staff	365
Countries represented	101

RESEARCH AND TRAINING

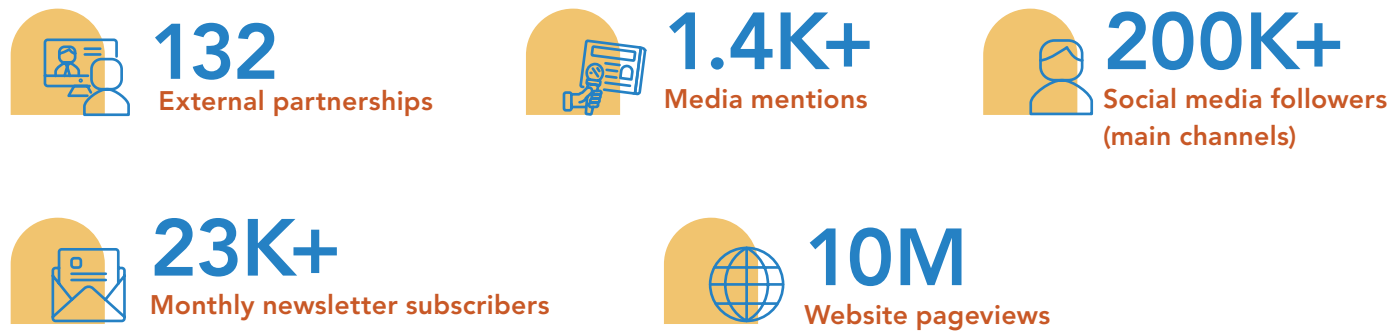
Interdisciplinary research clusters	6
Defended PhD and LLM theses	101
ERC projects	15
External funding for research activities	€29,084,884
Summer schools	12
EUI research outputs	1,257

2024 RESEARCH OUTPUT

(source: Cadmus, EUI research repository)

66% in Open Access	825
Articles	513
Contributions to books	181
Theses	140
Working papers	124
Books	83
Technical reports	83
Videos	38
Datasets	9
Other	86
Total	1,257

ENGAGING EXTERNALLY



BUDGET FIGURES

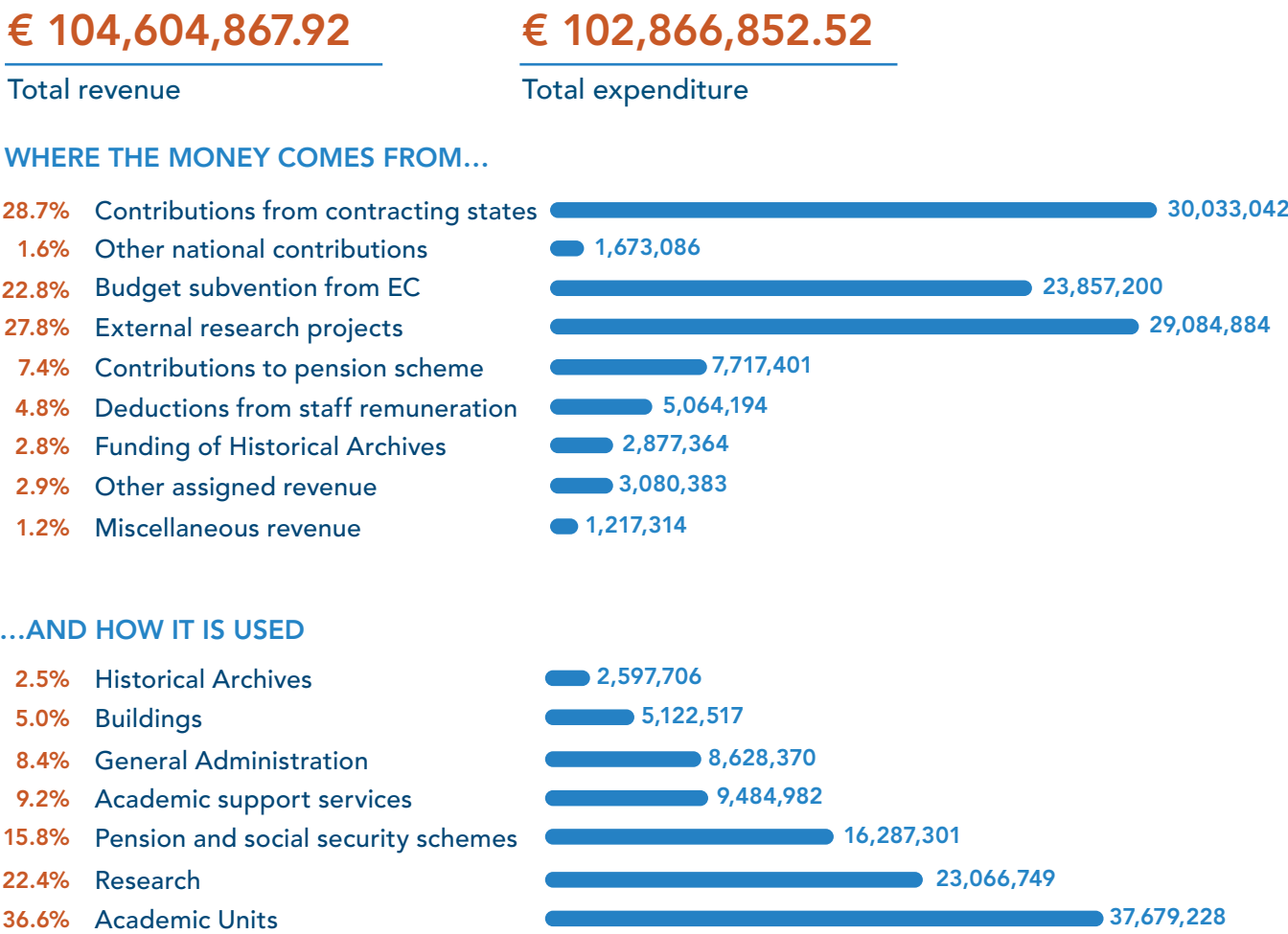


Figure 8: The funding of the Institute: Revenue and expenditure for the 2024 financial year in euros

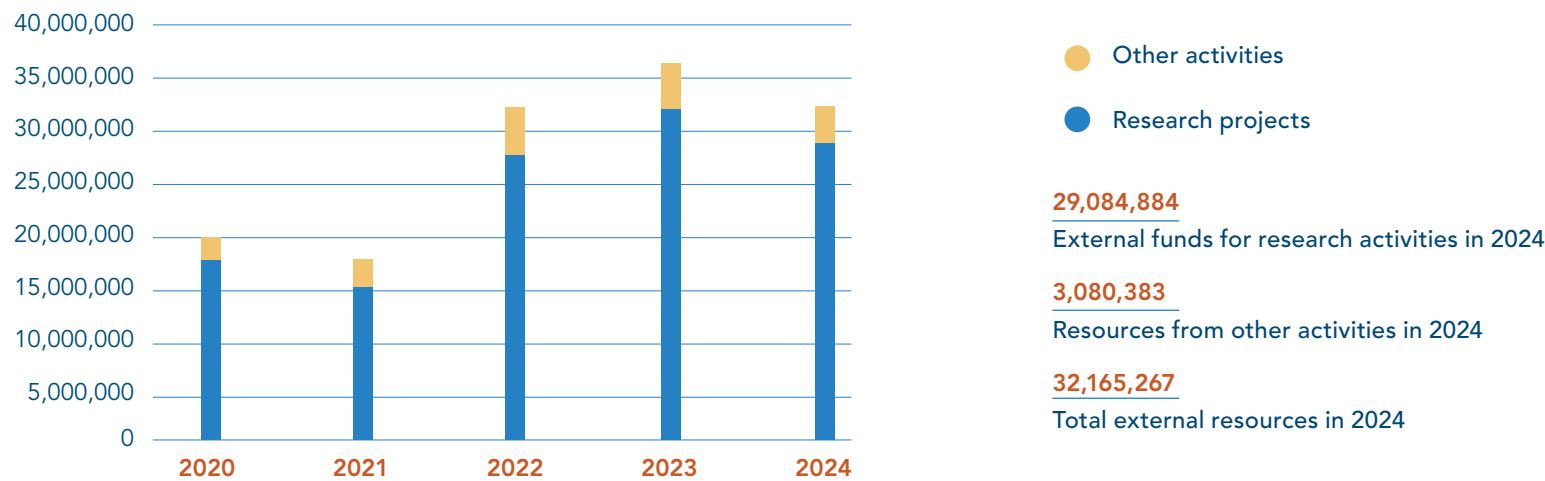


Figure 9: External resources 2020-2024

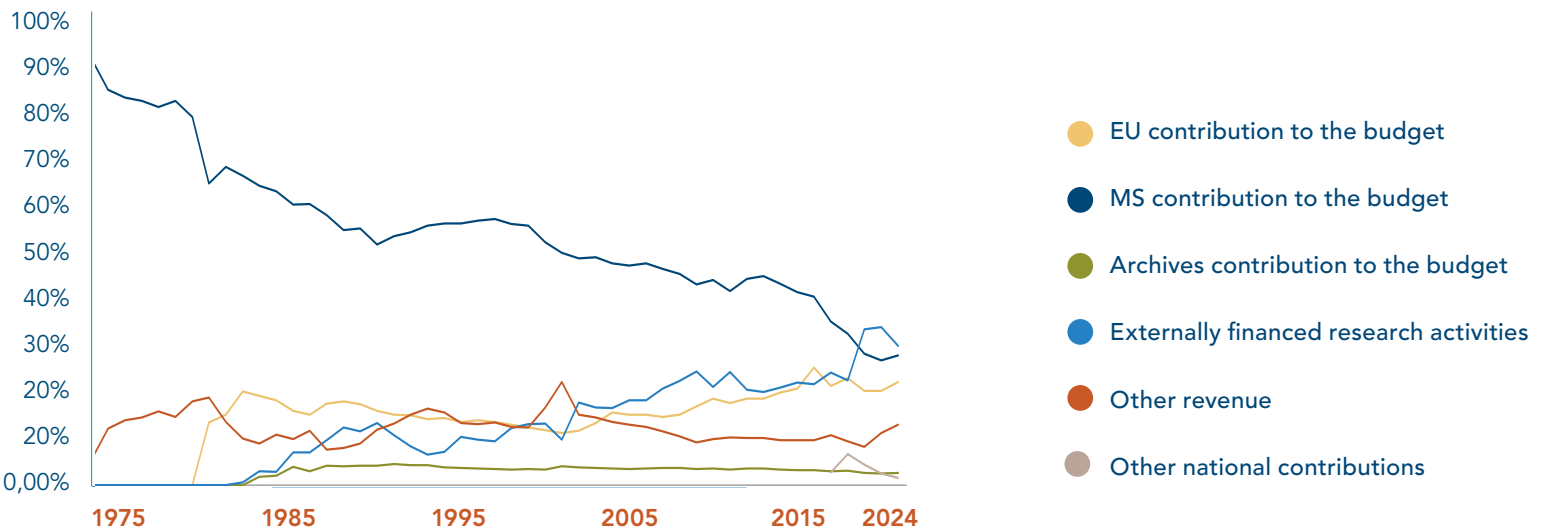


Figure 10: Evolution of contributions to the EUI budget, 1975-2024

For more information, please see the [Accountability & Financial Transparency page](#) of the EUI Budget and Financial Service.

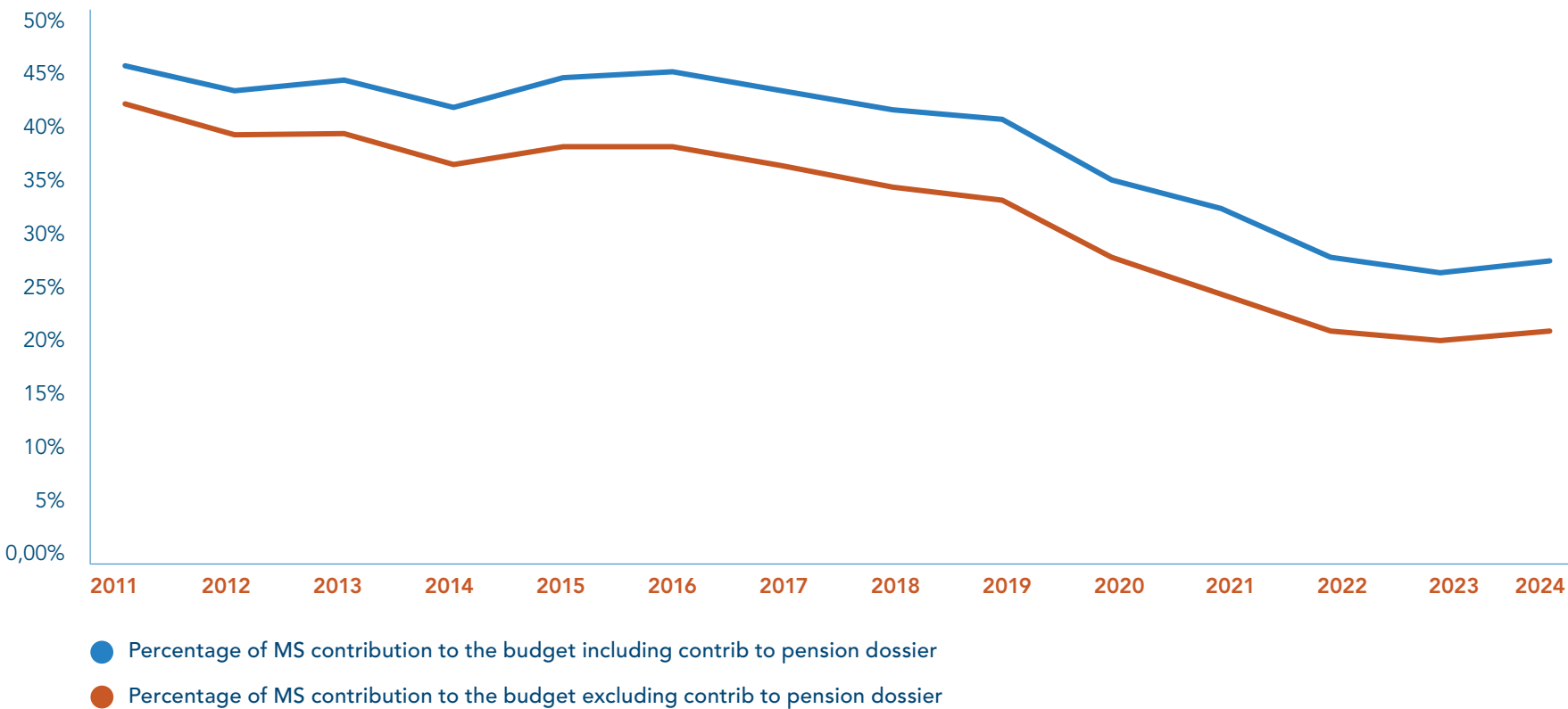


Figure 11: Evolution of member states' contribution to the budget, 2011-2024

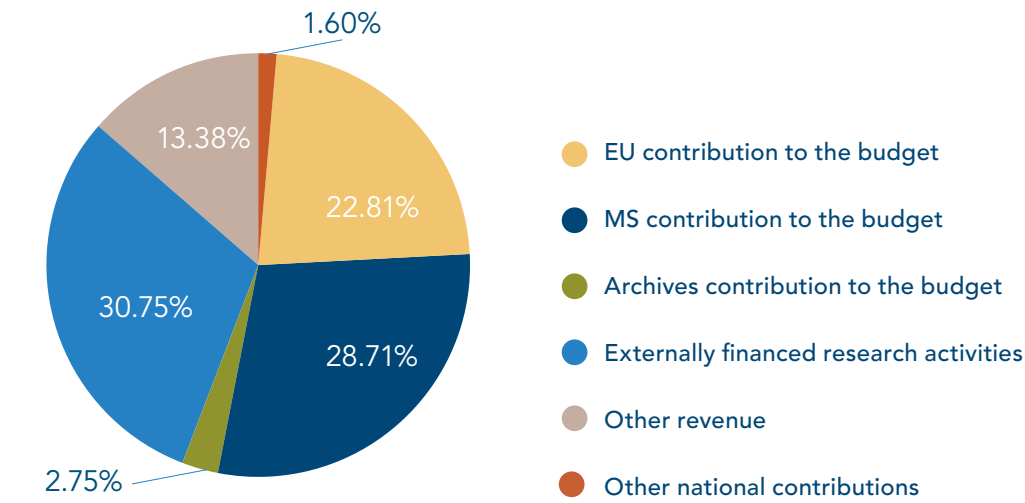


Figure 12: EUI sources of funding in 2024

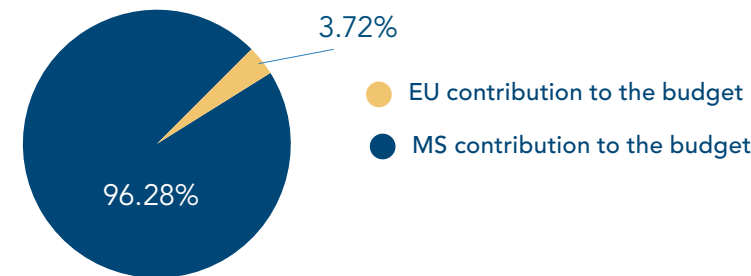


Figure 13: EUI sources of funding in 1976



Figure 14: Stipends disbursed in 2024

For more information, please see the [Accountability & Financial Transparency page](#) of the EUI Budget and Financial Service.

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