Co-funded by
the European Union

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.

08.2026

For more information visit:
https://www.eui.eu/en/academic-units/academy-of-european-law

European University Institute
Badia Fiesolana, Via dei Roccettini 9
50014 San Domenico di Fiesole (FI), Italy
Tel. +39 055 4685 399

EUI EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE

Academy of European Law

Connecting people, ideas, and legal traditions across Europe and beyond.



Origins and Raison d'Être of the Academy

Established in 1990 by Professors Antonio Cassese and Joseph H. H. Weiler, the Academy of European Law is a free-standing unit within the EUI Law Department. Rooted in European law, human rights law and international law, the Academy provides a space for critical reflection, advanced legal training and intellectual exchange across disciplinary and geographical boundaries.

Courses

The Academy's main activity is its annual summer course programme, which attracts participants from around the world. The programme is designed for both advanced students and experienced professionals in European law, human rights law and related fields. Its international and diverse composition creates a distinctive educational and social experience, combining academic excellence with open discussion and exchange. Each year, the summer courses offer a rich blend of general courses, specialised lectures, and innovative teaching methodology.

Distinguished Lectures

A distinctive feature of the Academy's programme is the series of Distinguished Lectures. Each year, leading academics, judges, policy-makers and holders of public office are invited to share their expertise, reflections and practical insights. These lectures offer participants the opportunity to engage with prominent voices in European and international legal debates.

Diploma of the Academy

Participants with advanced knowledge in European Union law and human rights law may sit written examinations for the Academy's diploma. The required standard is exceptionally high, and the diploma is awarded only to candidates who demonstrate outstanding academic performance and comprehensive knowledge of the relevant field.

Social Events and Networking

The summer courses are not only an academic experience but also an opportunity to build lasting professional and personal connections. Networking is encouraged through organised social events, which create space for informal exchange among participants, lecturers and the wider EUI community. Optional activities may include visits to the Historical Archives of the EU and the EUI Library, as well as opportunities to learn more about study and research possibilities at the EUI.

Publications

To ensure the lasting value of the lectures delivered at the Academy and to make them available to a wider audience, many lectures are subsequently developed and published in book form as the Collected Courses of the Academy of European Law. They offer accessible introductions to major areas of European law and human rights law, and provide in-depth analysis of selected topics. Together, these publications contribute to a living corpus of European and international legal scholarship.

Applications

Applications for the Academy's summer courses open in February each year. Admission is based on merit, while attention is also paid to ensuring a broad and balanced geographical distribution among participants. A limited number of scholarships or fee waivers may be available, depending on the year and programme. All courses are held in English.

Projects

Alongside its teaching and publishing activities, the Academy contributes to research initiatives and collaborative projects that reflect current developments in European, human rights and international law. These projects strengthen the Academy's role as a forum for advanced legal inquiry and exchange. Check out our most recently developed CJEU Equality Law Database.

ESIL Secretariat

Since 2005 the Academy has hosted the Secretariat of the European Society of International Law (ESIL). The Secretariat serves as the administrative and operational hub of the ESIL and acts as a key point of contact for members, partners, and event organisers. The Secretariat helps ensure the smooth functioning of the Society and contributes to advancing ESIL's mission of fostering the study and development of international law through an inclusive and dynamic scholarly community.