

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

ROBERT SCHUMAN CENTRE

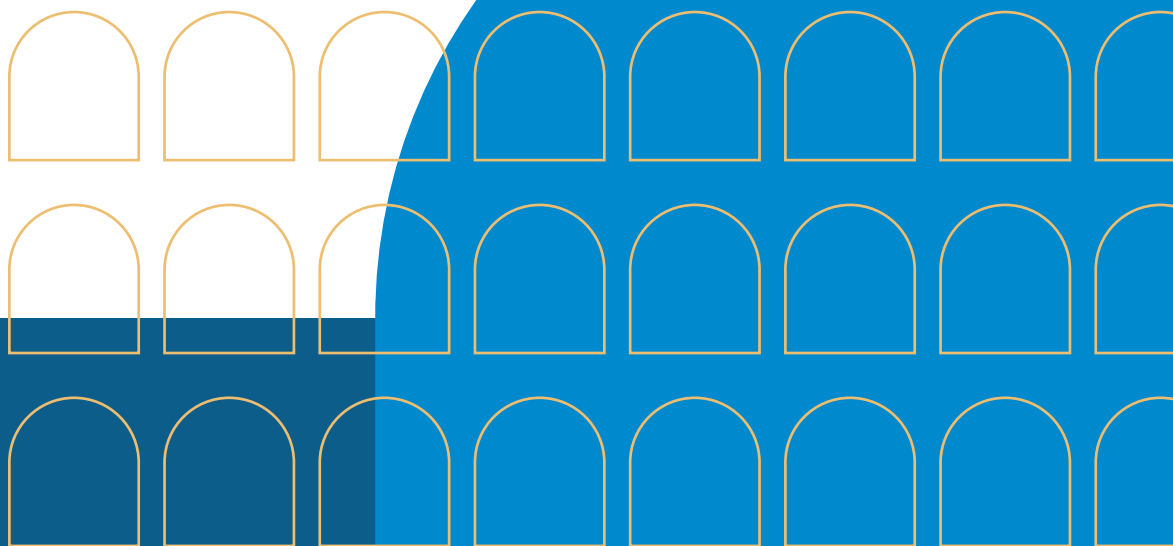




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DIRECTOR'S INTRODUCTION

The year 2020 was one of the strangest and most challenging in the history of the Schuman Centre. It began brightly in January with conferences, workshops, seminars and a full house. By mid-March we were migrating to on-line events, Zoom and Microsoft Teams. We hoped that this would be of short duration but as COVID-19 took hold, we began to adapt to a long period of remote working and remote contact. I want to thank and congratulate the Schuman community for its adaptability, flexibility and determination to keep the show on the road. Everyone played an essential part in ensuring that our core mission of excellent research was maintained and that we continued with our outreach activities. Earlier investment in on-line teaching and events provided us with the skills and knowledge to transfer our core activities online. Schuman expertise played a central role in assisting the EUI make that transition. There are important lessons to learn from the Covid experience which will undoubtedly be integrated into the Schuman and wider EUI model. Notwithstanding the challenges, the Schuman Centre had its best year ever in securing external funding which is the lifeblood of the programmes. To maintain the pipeline of projects is demanding and the level of grant capture is testimony to the quality of Schuman research and research management expertise. Our outstanding scholars continued to publish important books and journal articles.

As this is my last report as Director of Schuman, I want to thank all of the colleagues I worked with since 2013 for their support and stellar contribution to making the Robert Schuman Centre such a vibrant and attractive place. I wish my successor Professor Erik Jones all the best as he takes over on 1 September 2021.



EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

Despite the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which started in March 2020 with the complete closure of the EUI campus for a period of eight weeks, the Schuman Centre and its diverse and rich academic community showed resilience and commitment in pursuing their research programmes and engagement in fundamental and policy-oriented research. During 2020 scholars at the Schuman Centre continued to publish with high intensity (622 publications) and in quality outlets. The publications consisted of 196 articles in peer reviewed journals, 32 books, 61 contributions to books, as well as working papers, policy briefs, data sets and technical reports of research projects (see appendix 1 for all publications). Schuman scholars made significant contributions to a number of disciplinary and interdisciplinary themes notably comparative politics, governance, law, political economy, migration, sustainability, communications and media, economic governance and competition.

What follows are some highlights:

- Daniele Caramani, edited a major OUP volume on Comparative Politics and co-authored 'People Haven't Had Enough of Experts: Measuring Technocratic Attitudes among Citizens in Nine European Democracies' in the prestigious American Political Science Journal.
- Liesbet Hooghe and Gary Marks expanded their postfunctionalist theory in 'A post-functional theory of multilevel governance', which appeared in the British Journal of Politics and International Relations (22:4).
- Elias Dinas co-authored 'The ideological shadow of authoritarianism', Comparative Political Studies, 53:12.
- James Dennison published a number of articles including 'How issue salience explains the rise of the populist right in Western Europe', International Journal of Public Opinion Research, 32:3.
- Raffaella Del Sarto and Simone Tholens published their book *Resisting Europe: practices of contestation in the Mediterranean Middle East* just one of the many publications to emerge from the ERC project Borderlands which was hosted at the Schuman Centre.
- Nicolas Petit published *Big tech and the digital economy: the moligopoly scenario*. with OUP. This volume addresses the central topic of how to regulate the tech giants.
- A number of scholars associated with the Florence School of Regulation, Simone Borghesi, Jos Delbeke, Jean-Michel Glachant, Alberto Pototschnig and Pippo Ranci published *Climate and energy policies after COVID-19. Perspectives on the Economics of the Environment in the Shadow of Coronavirus* in Environmental and Resource Economics, 76 (2020).
- Bernard Hoekman and colleagues published *Rethinking international subsidy rules*. World Economy (43).

2020 was also an excellent year in terms of external research funding with almost 11 million Euro, the highest amount obtained in one year in the history of the Centre. The Centre was particularly successful in the highly prestigious and competitive European Research Council (ERC) programme. Three professors at the Schuman Centre were awarded new ERC grants in 2020:

- Professor Liesbet Hooghe seeks to explain the intensity of polarisation on the issues of immigration, Europe, and climate change.
- Professor Youssef Cassis examines how financial actors remember financial crises, looking for a missing link in the understanding of their recurrence.
- Professor Glenda Sluga studies the economic ideas— and their often invisible authors— that have fashioned alternative paths to globalisation.

Finally, this challenging year demonstrated the Centre's adaptability and agility to quickly adjust its research agenda to new development: five projects by Schuman academics were selected for the EU's [COVID-19 Knowledge Hub](#):

1. 'Citizenship, Migration and Mobility in a Pandemic: A Global Study of COVID-19 Restrictions on Human Movement', [Jelena Dzankic & Lorenzo Piccoli](#)
2. 'Coping with COVID-19: A Comparative Political Economy Analysis of European Policy Responses', [Sebastian Diessner & Arianna Tassinari](#)
3. 'Democracy in Lockdown: What Role for the European Parliament in the COVID-19 Crisis?', [Ariadna Ripoll Servent](#)
4. 'Citizenship Governance in the Age of Covid-19: The Case of Social Credit', [Liav Orgad](#)
5. 'The Airport Factor: Assessing the Impact of International and National Aviation Mobility on the Spread of Covid-19', [Ettore Recchi, Lorenzo Gabrielli, Emanuel Deutschmann](#).





POLICY DIALOGUE AND EXECUTIVE TRAINING

A key feature of the Schuman Centre's mandate is engagement with the world of practice. The Centre successfully achieves this by bringing academics and policy-makers together for policy workshops, executive education and summer schools and by providing high quality, accessible research in the form of policy briefs and policy papers.

The COVID pandemic fundamentally altered the landscape of event organisation and the delivery of training courses. The onset of the crisis caused the abrupt closure of the EUI buildings and ended a key part of the Schuman's activities, namely on-site conferences, workshops and seminars. This necessitated a significant change overnight in how the Centre operated but the academic and administrative staff were determined to maintain the level and quality of Schuman's activities and ensure that research commitments were met. All executive training was moved entirely online and academic seminars, workshops and conferences were transformed. The Centre invested heavily in equipment and online expertise to support this unforeseen development. Programmes with prior experience of designing and delivering online courses offered their expertise to the wider EUI as it adjusted to the new reality of COVID-19.

Thanks to these efforts, during 2020, the Centre ran 26 online courses, more than doubling the number of online courses held in 2019. The courses were offered in four areas. First, the Florence School of Regulation Energy ran a large number of courses on the EU Clean Energy Package, Energy Systems, Electricity and Gas, linking emissions trading systems, sustainable development and electric cars. Two of the courses were tailor made for the European Commission's DG Energy and the World Bank. Second, the School of Banking and Finance offered courses on recovery and bank resolution, financial regulation and supervision, Fintech, panel data for banking sector analysts, and anti-money laundering. Third, the communications and competition cluster ran courses for competition judges on EU Competition Law and Regulation in the Telecom, Energy and Pharmaceutical Markets, an annual training on Competition and Regulation in the Digital Era, Spectrum Policy and Access and Regulation of Electronic Communications Networks. Fourth, The Migration Policy Centre organised courses on migration governance, the determinants of international migration and migration communication strategies. In addition, the Global Governance Programme ran 10 Massive Open Online Courses on cultural diversity and heritage, governing religion, interfaith dialogue, religion and radicalisation and on why people migrate.

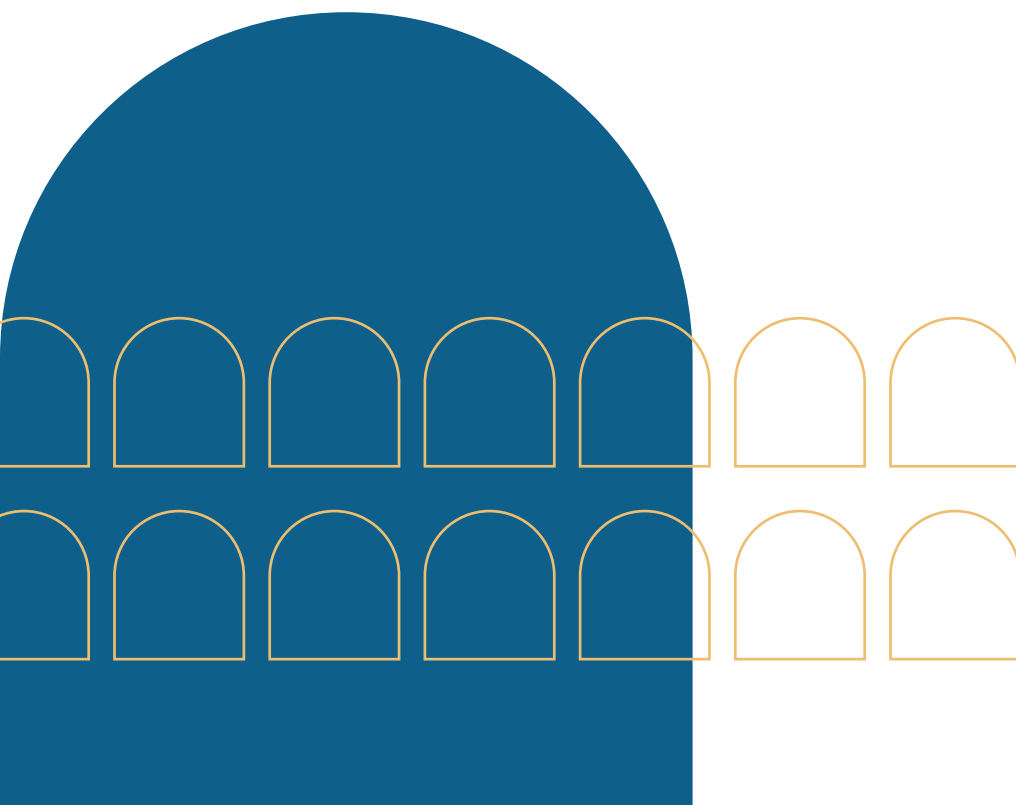
In 2020 the Centre published more than 50 Policy Briefs and six Policy Papers. These publications provide insights into policy problems and policy recommendations and address an audience of decision-makers and other stakeholders beyond academia.

The Schuman Centre also actively engaged with the world of practice online by organising 23 workshops, 13 roundtables and 96 webinars. This meant that despite the pandemic, the Centre continued to be engaged with its stakeholders and in fact turned the situation to its advantage, managing to broaden its audience by being more accessible online. A notable example was how over the period March-December 2020 the Florence School of Banking and Finance tripled the number of its monthly online debates and held 34 online seminars. 8,550 participants attended their events, with a minimum of 75 and a maximum of 646 attendees per event coming from 50 countries on average.

The Centre addressed major policy dilemmas and challenges. The MEDirections programme hosts a major programme funded by DGNear on '[Challenges and Policy Options in Wartime and Post-Conflict Syria](#)' and the EU's Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace funds a [Libya Dialogue Platform](#). Regular roundtables are organised with diplomats and policymakers, international NGOs and international organisations to discuss the research outputs. In 2020-2021, a series of policy briefs published on international and local dynamics in the city of Sirte raised the interest of the United Nations Special Representative to Libya and of international organisations working in the field of mediation between armed groups. This has led to official requests for advice and support. Formal cooperation is also in place with the United Nations Support Mission in Libya's Joint Analysis Hub. In addition, MEDirections hosted a Workshop on 'New Players and Dynamics in the MENA Region and Africa' at the Policy Centre of the New South, Morocco. In September, the MEDirections Annual Conference was on '[Rethinking the 'State' in Syria: Violence, Institutional Fragility and Economic Collapse](#)'.

The European Governance and Politics Programme continued its annual series of '[Conversations on the Future of Europe](#)', which has become a regular feature of the Centre's reflections on European integration.

In July the School of Banking and Finance held a debate on the topical issue of [Consolidation in the EU Banking Sector](#) that involved a member of the ECB Supervisory Board, a former member of Bundesbank and a Director of Unicredit. Across the Schuman programmes, attention was paid to the challenges raised by the pandemic in relation to fiscal policy, Europe's banking system, the role of migrant workers during the pandemic and trade policy coherence in times of COVID. The Green Deal and sustainability featured strongly in workshops and webinars that focused on carbon leakages, water management, electricity pricing, decarbonising the energy sector, and sustainable transport.





ENGAGING GLOBALLY: BECOMING MORE GLOBAL ONLINE

The Robert Schuman Centre has always been engaging globally through its research, fellowships, training and conferences. Four Schuman programmes in particular focus on Europe and the wider world, notably the Global Governance Programme, Migration Policy Centre, MEDirections and the Florence School of Regulation. In 2020, the Schuman Centre had 28 projects running in the thematic area '21st Century World Politics and Europe'. All projects involved academic and policy partnerships beyond Europe. The pandemic was also an opportunity to pivot online and further internationalise the audience. Through online conferencing tools and instruments, our events spanned different time zones and thus reached a more global audience. One such event was the '[E-Dialogue – COVID-19 and Trade – Sharing the Experiences of the Caribbean and Europe](#),' which took place on 29 October 2020 at 15.00 CET/10.00 AST. It was the first joint event of the University of the West Indies (UWI) and the EUI following a partnership agreement signed in mid-summer 2020. The e-dialogue was broadcast live on the UWI's multimedia public information and education service, UWITV, and was watched online by 565 people. An estimated 2,000 people saw the video post at least once.

The International Economics strand in the Global Governance Programme has built up niche excellence in global trade and was therefore an appropriate partner for DG Trade (European Commission) for the launch in 2020 of the EU's Trade Policy Review. The public consultation for the review was unveiled online in June 2020 by Commissioner Phil Hogan [at a Schuman event chaired by Professor Bernard Hoekman](#). The Commissioner touched on the details of the review process and how citizens and stakeholders could make their voices heard to assist the Commission to formulate EU trade policy for the future. The event received 3,700 views on YouTube, which underlines the importance of a strong online presence. The invitation to host the launch stemmed from the Programme's H2020 [RESPECT](#) project coordinated by Bernard Hoekman, which pursues four overarching objectives dealing with EU trade policy with valuable input from its [numerous consortium members](#). In late 2020, Hoekman submitted a [detailed report](#) on behalf of the RESPECT consortium outlining nine recommendations to the European Commission.

In February, the Global Governance Programme organised together with Ken Endo from Hokkaido University a Workshop on 'Europe and Japan under the Shadow of Sino-American Rivalries'. There are also a cluster of projects working on global citizenship law and on a [Global Citizenship Observatory](#) that requires engagement with country specialists across the globe. We host a very innovative [ERC project that studies pastoral societies](#) and draws lessons from the way in which pastoral societies manage uncertainty. The study focuses on pastoral tribes in Tibet, Kenya, Ethiopia, Tunisia and India. The MPC hosts a large number of projects on asylum and migration governance and people smuggling,

Finally, the Florence School of Regulation greatly enhanced its international agenda in 2020. In India, the FSR is becoming the official partner of the EU Embassy to implement the new EU-India energy cooperation platform. Moreover, DG Energy requested assistance to create a comprehensive programme of cooperation in China, which will be integrated in the new EU-China energy cooperation platform. This international outreach of the School, [FSR Global](#), builds on its legacy in Europe to facilitate the development and delivery of effective energy policy and regulation in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.



FACILITATING OUTREACH BEYOND ACADEMIA

In 2020, the Centre's communication staff gained new expertise in the use of online platforms for conferences and events, including Zoom, Microsoft Teams and Streamyard, in order to support their academic colleagues. The Centre developed an infrastructure to allow event organisers and academic coordinators to organise hybrid conferences, online courses and to livestream events.

The Yves Mény lecture on '[The EU's Response to Brexit: Rapid, United and Effective](#)' by Brigid Laffan which opened the academic year on 30 September was a very successful hybrid outdoor event, hosted in the beautiful Loggia of Villa Schifanoia, but the vast majority of the events organised through the year were online. Holding them online allowed for further outreach such as for '[A Schuman Conversation on the Biden Presidency](#)', and [The Digital Markets Act: EU Competition Policy at a Crossroads](#). The emphasis in previous years on the development of the Centre's multimedia capabilities paid off as it had the infrastructure and groundwork already in place to enable a smooth transition to online events.

Over 2020, the Centre also managed to continue the production of its video series such as the [Schuman Shorts](#) and the [Schuman Shelf](#), which aim to make the Centre's academic work accessible to a large audience. In spite of COVID restrictions and the EUI health and safety regulations that prevented in-person production of most audiovisual projects, the Centre was still able to produce nine new videos to the Schuman Shorts series. Inspired by the success and popularity of the Schuman Shorts, 2020 also saw the launch of the new 'Schuman Shelf' series in which academics and researchers at the Schuman Centre present their latest books three episodes of which were published before the end of the year. Additionally, due to the necessity of hosting online-only events, the Centre's Youtube channel saw an increase in the number of webinar recordings.

2020 also saw the Schuman Twitter account reach the notable milestone of over 1 million total annual impressions (1,200,000 total) while the bi-monthly Schuman Newsletter reached over 10,000 recipients.

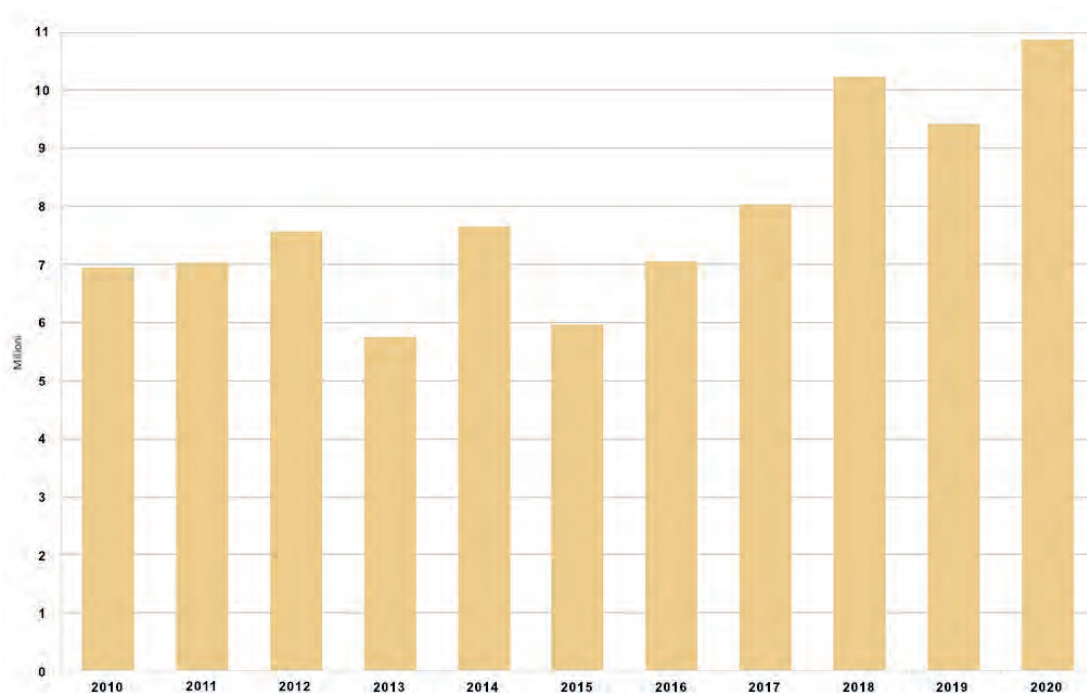
In summary, in partnership with the EUI's Communication Service, in 2020 the Schuman Centre has strengthened the resources it invests in communication and dissemination across all media, both in terms of infrastructure and expertise.



FUNDING AND RESOURCES

The year 2020 brought two different developments for the Schuman Centre in terms of funding and resources. On the one hand, external funds allocated to the accounting year reached an all-time high with almost € 11,000,000. Even if this number is slightly inflated by the fact that three substantial first instalments for two ERCs and one Libya project were received in late 2020, the upward trend of the last six years has been confirmed by this amount. Funding from European Institutions, in particular the Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Framework Programme, accounted for approximately two thirds of the overall amount, 10% came from other – also national – public sources and the remaining amount from non-public sources including participation fees.

Schuman Centre External Funds 2010-2020



Source: EUI Annual Accounts (for 2020: draft Annual Accounts)

On the other hand, actual expenditure during the accounting year 2020 decreased. Looking at annual financial commitments on all Centre-related budget lines provides a more flattened out perspective, as it considers research expenditure of the actual year and not income that may not necessarily relate to the accounting year during which it is cashed. The decrease of 8.5% from 2019 to 2020 is a direct consequence of the pandemic and the fact that from March 2020 de facto no on-site activities were organised and hence no funds were expended for participants' travel, accommodation and catering costs.

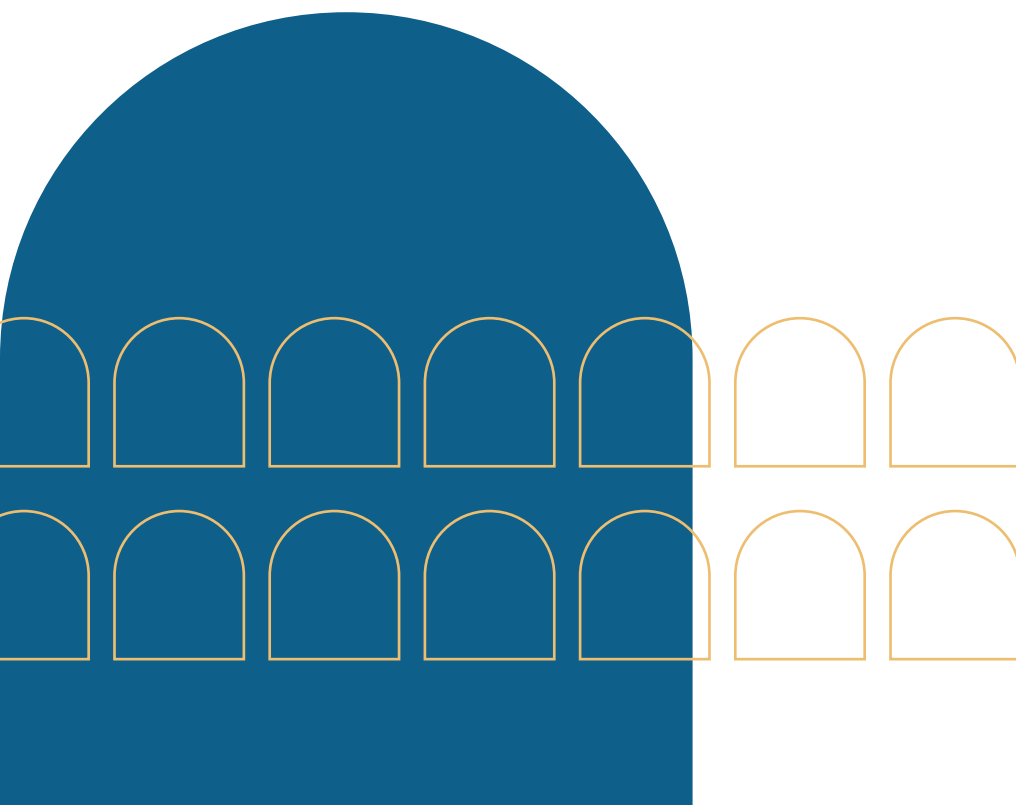


THE SCHUMAN COMMUNITY

The Robert Schuman Centre is more than a research centre – it is also a *community of people*. In 2020 the staff of 234 people consisted of 15 full-time professors, 54 part-time professors, 23 research fellows, 103 academic assistants with a contract of 50% part-time or more and 39 administrative staff. The fellowship programmes add a crucial cohort to the intellectual community of the Centre. In 2020 Schuman hosted four Institutional Fellows, four Robert Schuman Fellows, 20 Max Weber Fellows and 15 Jean Monnet Fellows. Visiting Fellows were fewer than previous years given the pandemic and the possibility for Visiting Fellows to postpone their stay.

In December 2020 the community boasted 45 different nationalities. These included all but five countries in the European Union and four out of five of the accession countries: Albania, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey. It also included people from seven Middle Eastern countries, three African countries, two South American countries, Australia, Canada, India, Russia and the USA.

Of course life at the Centre in 2020 was very different from previous years, with limited access to the campus and many fellows unable to take up their fellowship as planned due to the pandemic. Nevertheless the fellowship programmes have not been interrupted and the Schuman community has continued to participate in the RSC activities through online channels.



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