


# Alcide De Gasperi Research Centre

ANNUAL REPORT ON 2024



*"The Alcide De Gasperi Centre (ADG) is a unique research hub on the history of European cooperation and integration from the twentieth century to the present, bringing together the **Historical Archives of the European Union** and the EUI's **Department of History and Civilisation**.*

*The ADG promotes innovative research projects, facilitates the use of primary sources, supports early career researchers, coordinates networks of historians, and increases public interest in the history of European integration broadly conceived."*

## **The ADG in brief**

The [Alcide De Gasperi Research Centre on the History of European Integration](#) (ADG) is co-directed by Emmanuel Mourlon-Druol, Professor of History of European Cooperation and Integration at the EUI, and Dieter Schlenker, Director of the Historical Archives of the European Union (HAEU).

The ADG was established in 2015 to raise the relevance of the history of European integration in current scientific research at the EUI.

### *ADG Advisory Board*

The ADG is supported by an Advisory Board composed of academic experts in the fields of European contemporary history and European studies:

- Daniele Caramani (Robert Schuman Center for Advances Studies)
- Stephanie Hofmann (Department of Political and Social Sciences)
- Claudio Radaelli (School of Transnational Governance)
- Urška Sadl (Department of Law)

### *ADG Staff*

Lisa Benvegnù (Administration, Budget, Fellowship program and Events)  
Jacqueline Gordon (Communication)  
Emmanuel Mourlon-Druol (Co-Director)  
Dieter Schlenker (Co-Director)

### *ADG Steering Committee*

Created in October 2024, the ADG Steering Committee allows a smooth and productive functioning of the Centre by involving EUI researchers (one representative per year of the programme), the ADG Max Weber Fellow and the Co-Directors. In particular, the ADG Steering Committee discusses the ADG scientific programme of activities and selects participants, ensures the development of relations with the University of Florence and other Italian universities, and brings to discussion any other relevant matter to improve the functioning and range of ADG activities.

The EUI Researchers members of the ADG Steering Committee members in 2024 were:

- Maria Sole Barbieri
- Jonah J. Berger
- Aude Foucoin
- Margaret Pulk

## Activities of the Centre in 2024

The [Fifth Annual Graduate Conference in the History of European Integration](#), the ADG's flagship event aimed at early career scholars, took place on 5-6 September. 12 early career scholars were selected for participation from a pool of around 50 applicants. 12 senior academics were also invited as discussants.

The participants represented a range of countries from the European research area: five came from EU Widening Countries including Hungary and Poland, while others hailed from France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland and the UK.

In addition to panel discussions focused on the emerging research projects and methodologies in the history of European integration, the [programme](#) included a training session by ADG Director Emmanuel Mourlon-Druol on publishing and career strategies. Another session by the [OPENARCH - Open archives for social science research in Widening countries](#) project provided insights into archival research conditions in a selection of Eastern European research archives.

The Fifth Annual Graduate Conference was backed by contribution from the EUI Robert Schuman Centre, the Florence School of Transnational Governance and the EUI Widening program.



## New research projects starting in 2024

- 2024-2026: ***Horizon 2020-funded ShaPE Project***

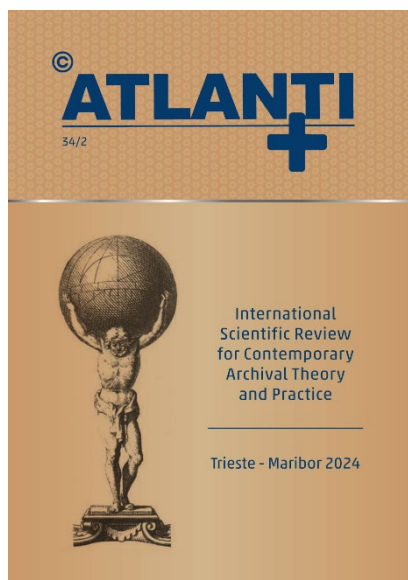
The [ShaPE](#) project examines the role social partners have played in treaty-making and law-making for social Europe. The objective is to deepen the understanding of the role played by trade unions, employer organisations and EU institutions in making and

shaping Social Europe up to the present day. This new knowledge will help us reflect on what roles they should play in meeting current large-scale challenges, most notably green, digital and demographic transitions as well as the objectives of EU 'open strategic autonomy' and resilience. The project is led by Professor Claire Kilpatrick, co-Director of the Academy of European Law.

- 2024: **European Banks and Environmental Protection, 1970s-1990s** (funded by the Research Council)

The [project](#) aims at conducting a historical assessment, through the use of archival sources, of the environmental strategy of European investment and commercial banks in the early stages of European environmental policy, from the early 1970s until the mid-1990s. More specifically, it will address the following research questions: how did environmental legislation at national and Community level impact on banks' activities, and conversely how did they influence, if so, policy-making and legislation? Where did banks stand in the debate on the balance between environmental protection and economic growth, and how did it influence their investments and strategies? Who were the leading actors in the field, and how were they related to a broader network of European institutional and non-institutional actors, dealing with environmental issues? The study will be conducted by Research Fellow Jacopo Cellini, who will work closely with HEC Professors Corinna Unger and Emmanuel Mourlon-Druol, the project's joint PIs. Research output at the end of 2024 resulted in a [working paper](#).

- 2024: **OPENARCH - Open archives for social science research in Widening Countries** (EUI Widening Programme Project)



The research project [OpenArch](#) analyses the accessibility conditions, research experience, and levels of education and training on the right to access public archives of Widening countries, from the points of view of both archivists and scholars. Based on these findings, the project will formulate elements for a training curriculum for archivists and scholars on the access to public archives in these countries. A panel on the topic was organised during the De Gasperi Centre's Annual Graduate Conference in September 2024, and two panels were dedicated to the project during the yearly conference of the International Institute for Archival Science (IIAS) in Maribor, Slovenia, 26-27 November 2024. A selection of papers from the project have been published in [a special issue](#) of the journal of the IIAS: *Atlanti – International Journal for Archival Science*.

## The ADG organised the following seminars in 2024:

Seminar presentation title	Presenter	Date
<i>The Evolution of the Concepts and Practices of Development Cooperation: the Case of the Lome Convention (1975-1995)</i>	Alessandro Favilli	19 March 2024
<i>Political initiative and sectoral integration: Towards a widening of the European Commission's field of action (1985 - 1995)</i>	Paul-Antoine Tugayé	4 April 2024
<i>New Approaches in the History of Political Economy and Finance</i>	Marion Tosolini, Aurélien Goutsmedt Judith Koch	16 May 2024
<i>Alcide De Gasperi in the Habsburg Empire: Reflecting on Nation and Nationalism</i>	Jacopo Cellini	17 October 2024



Finally, the **Cover to Cover** series started in 2023 continued with its discussions of important new books in the field of European cooperation and integration history, broadly speaking.

In 2024, Mechthild Roos presented her volume *The Parliamentary Roots of European Social Policy: Turning Talk into Power* on 23 February 2024. Historian Lorenzo Mechi served as discussant.

The ADG also ran a series of workshops and larger conferences:

- 16-17 September 2024, Planning and programming in European cooperation and integration: the past of a rejuvenated idea, 1957-1992 <https://www.eui.eu/events?id=564445>
- 10-11 October 2024, Businesses, banks and the making of Europe's Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) <https://www.eui.eu/events?id=567156>

## The ADG visiting fellowship programme

In 2024, we invited four new ADG Visiting Fellows:

- **Aurélien Goutsmedt**, UCLouvain, 8 April – 21 May 2024, Debating Inflation in Europe - How Narratives Shape Anti-Inflation Policies.



- **Simon Godard**, Sciences Po Grenoble, 15 April – 31 July 2024, Considering Gender in Economics in the Process of European Integration (1950-1970).
- **Nobuyoshi Ito**, National Institute for Defense Studies, Ministry of Defense, 1 October 2024 – 30 June 2025, Western Europe, Universal Values and Activation of the Comprehensive European Security: From Democratisation in Southern Europe to the EC's Southern Enlargement.
- **Francesca Mascanzoni**, London School of Economics, September-December 2024, 1961 intra-parliamentary conference between members of the EP and parliamentarians from the associated African States.

**Our ADG Scientific Coordinator and Max Weber Fellow**, Dr Pierre Alayrac, left the Centre in the summer of 2024 to take up a permanent lectureship at Université Paris 8. In September 2024, we welcomed his successor Dr Szinan Radi.

