

Alcide De Gasperi Research Centre

ANNUAL REPORT ON 2023

*"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)

Activities of the Centre in 2023

Since January 2023, we have reviewed the activities of the ADG to attract more participants and improve the visibility of our research activities. To that end, we:

(a) reactivated the Annual Graduate Conference on the History of European Integration

The new three-year cycle of annual graduate conferences is organised in collaboration with the Robert Schuman Centre, the Florence School of Transnational Governance and the International Visegrad Fund.

For the 2023 Conference, a [call](#) was issued in February 2023, to which 50 prospective candidates responded. 12 early career academics were selected to present their work at the September event.

The [Fourth Annual Graduate Conference](#) took place on 7-8 September 2023 and included the participation of 24 scholars from different countries (France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Serbia and UK) to discuss new research and methodologies in the history of European integration. Four academics from Visegrad countries took part in the event.

In addition to panel discussions focused on the emerging research projects, the [programme](#) included training sessions on publishing and career strategies, and archival research.



(b) welcomed new research projects

- ***EURECON: the Making of a Lopsided Union: Economic Integration in the EEC, 1957-1992*** (Prof. Mourlon-Druol, funded by the ERC)

The goal of the EURECON project was to explore European policymakers' views on how to make the organisation of the European Economic Community (EEC) fit for the creation of a single currency, from 1957 to 1992. The project looked at the origins of the issues that are currently bedevilling the EU by investigating the period between the creation of the EEC in 1957 and the decision to create a European single currency in 1992. The project concluded in December 2023, and was the second ERC grant hosted by the ADG after the PanEur1970s project.



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

The project aimed to conduct 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. The study addressed 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 was conducted by Research Fellow Jacopo Cellini, in close collaboration with HEC Professors Corinna Unger and Emmanuel Murlon-Druol, the project's joint PIs. The output of the project after one year is a working paper.



- 2022-2023: ***The European Parliament Contribution to the European Project: Perspectives from insiders and associated actors, 1979-2019*** (self-financed)

This self-financed project aims to deepen understanding of the contribution made by the European Parliament to European integration, as seen by the actors involved, since the direct elections of 1979. This collective work is coordinated by Alfredo De Feo and Michael Shackleton with the support of Prof. Adrienne Heritier. The project is open to contributions from practitioners and scholars, who share the spirit and the approach of the research.

(c) revamped the ADG seminar series by

(1) sharing a Call for Papers to select the participants, and invite:

Seminar presentation title	Presenter	Date
<i>Building Modern European Capitalism. Étienne Hirsch, Piero Malvestiti and the foundations of industrial policy in post-war France and Italy (1945-1958),</i>	Cesare Vagge	12 January 2023
<i>Integration through Law: The History of the European Court of Justice (1950-1993)</i>	Morten Rasmussen	24 February 2023
<i>The European Investment Bank and Environmental Protection, The history of the EIB's environmental strategy from the 1970s to the 1990s</i>	Jacopo Cellini	9 March 2023

<i>Building Europe by Branding Europe?</i>	Anne Bruch	27 April 2023
<i>Federalist thought in mid-20th century Central-Eastern Europe: Contributions from the Slovak region</i>	Marián Sekerák	15 June 2023
European constitutionalism as a response to deteriorating state constitutional orders	Guy Kelleher	26 October 2023

(2) creating a new series, called **Cover to Cover**, to discuss important new books in the field of European cooperation and integration history broadly speaking:

Cover to Cover title	Author(s)/Editor(s)	Discussant	Date
<i>European Socialist Regimes' Fateful Engagement with the West: National Strategies in the Long 1970s</i>	Federico Romero Angela Romano	Stefano Bottoni	18 April 2023
<i>Reinventing Europe: The History of the European Union, 1945 to the Present</i>	Brigitte Leucht Katja Seidel Laurent Warloutzet	Boglarka Koller	07 September 2023
<i>Robert Triffin: A Life</i>	Ivo Maes	Marco Buti	21 November 2023
<i>Le parcours d'un fondateur de l'Europe</i>	Alessandro Giacone		7 December 2023



(3) running a series of workshops and larger conferences:

- 14 April 2023, Workshop on recent research in the history of US foreign policy, <https://www.eui.eu/events?id=558670>
- 27-28 April 2023, Economic thought and the making of the Euro, <https://www.eui.eu/events?id=554141>
- 11 May 2023, *Idee d'Europea: Sport e identità Europea?*, annual PhD workshop organised with the University of Florence and the University of Siena. <https://www.eui.eu/events?id=558845>
- 25 May 2023, Social Europe and European Economic and Monetary Union, <https://www.eui.eu/events?id=559233>
- 30 May 2023, [New approaches on the History of European financial integration](https://www.eui.eu/events?id=557381), <https://www.eui.eu/events?id=557381>
- 22 June 2023, Women and Gender in International Economic History, <https://www.eui.eu/events?id=558372>
- 6 December 2023, Developing a database of EU history policymakers and institutions?, <https://www.eui.eu/events?id=564106>

(d) Developed a visiting fellowship programme

We formalised our visiting fellowship programme on the ADG [website](#) and started accepting applications from 2023. The invited fellow is:

- **Roberto Ventresca**, University of Padua, September 2023-August 2024, project on *Economic thought and the making of the euro: intellectual patterns and policymaking in European integration, 1950s-1990s*

(e) welcomed our first Max Weber Fellow on 1 September 2023, Dr Pierre Alayrac. The Max Weber Fellow acts as a Scientific Coordinator of the ADG and supports the Centre in designing our research activities, selecting applications and developing new projects.