“Archives play an essential role in the development of societies by safeguarding and contributing to individual and community memory. Open access to archives enriches our knowledge of human society, promotes democracy, protects citizens’ rights and enhances the quality of life.”

(UNESCO, Universal Declaration on Archives, 2010)
said then President of the European Commission José Manuel Durão Barroso in his address at the European University Institute in May 2014, on the occasion of Europe Day.

The history of the grand project of European integration, with its achievements and setbacks, is present in the testimonials of those institutions and individuals who have tirelessly worked for the process of integration, of the people who have become part of this journey as European citizens, and finally, of external partners and critical observers.

The common European memory is best captured and preserved in the Historical Archives of the European Union, where the original documents of the institutions of the European Union are kept along with the papers of pioneers and visionaries, of political leaders, of European organisations, and of the numerous voices from European movements, associations and political groups.

More than thirty-five years ago, the European Communities decided to open their archives and grant the public a place to study the multifaceted European project in the thriving academic environment of the European University Institute in Florence.

This brochure shall inform both, academic scholars and citizens, about the Archives, its functioning, its precious holdings, and the opportunities for studying, learning and getting involved with the history of the European integration project and its stories of great human interest of success and failure.

The mission of the HAEU as the guardian of Europe’s memory was defined in 1983 by the decision of the EU institutions to open their historical archives to the public. The Italian state hosts the Archives as part of the European University Institute since 1986 and showed its continuous commitment by providing, since 2012, a prestigious location at the renowned Villa Salviati premises in Florence. Moreover, the numerous visitors, researchers and students from schools and universities who make their way to Villa Salviati confirm the vital objectives of this European project.

Dieter Schlenker
Director
Historical Archives of the European Union
The Historical Archives of the European Union (HAEU) is the official repository for the historical documents of the institutions, bodies and agencies of the European Union. These documents are preserved and made accessible for research according to the thirty-year rule governing access to archival material. The HAEU also collects and preserves private papers of individuals, organisations, movements, associations, and political groups, as well as copies from National Archives and Ministries of Foreign Affairs Archives on European integration.

The HAEU is a research centre dedicated to the archival preservation and study of European integration. It aims to facilitate research on the history of the European Union, promote public interest in European integration, and enhance transparency in the functioning of EU institutions.

Its holdings document the post-World War II efforts towards closer European cooperation, which led to the establishment of the European Union.

The HAEU was established following the decision by the European Communities in 1983 to open their historical archives to the public.

A subsequent agreement in 1984 between the European Commission and the European University Institute (EUI) laid the groundwork for establishing the Archives in Florence, where it opened its doors in 1986. The Council Regulation (EU) 2015/496 of 17 March 2015 amended the decisions of 1983, recently reinforcing the Archives’ role in preserving, promoting and providing access to the archives of EU institutions in a single location.

In 2012, the Archives moved to the prestigious Villa Salviati, made available by the Italian State following extensive renovations of the building and the construction of a state-of-the-art archives facility providing 10,000 linear metres of shelving.

Located in the Florentine hills along via Bolognese, the Villa, also known as the Villa del Ponte alla Badia or Villa Borghese, was named after one of its most illustrious owners, Alamanno Salviati, who took possession of the estate in 1445. The current layout of the Villa dates from the beginning of the 16th century, and a limonaia added in the 18th century houses the Archives’ reading room, conference room and offices.

The HAEU is part of the European University Institute (EUI), and the choice of Florence was closely linked to the EUI’s research mission to study European integration from legal, economic, political science and historical perspectives.

Set up under the terms of a Convention signed by the founding members of the European Communities back in 1972, the EUI opened its doors to doctoral researchers in 1976.

Today, the Institute offers one of the world’s largest doctoral and postdoctoral programme in the fields of Political and Social Science, History, Law and Economics. Its intellectual climate, rich in seminars, conferences and events of leading scholars and policymakers from Europe and beyond, provides an ideal framework for research initiatives valorising the rich collections deposited at the Historical Archives.
According to its mandate, the Historical Archives preserves and makes accessible in a single location the archival holdings of EU institutions, bodies and agencies, according to the 30-year rule governing access to EU institutional documents. Since the very first file transfers from the European Parliament, the Commission and the Council back in 1986, the Archives has steadily grown by annual shipments to its current size of 8,000 linear metres of paper files, comprising 6,000 linear metres from EU institutions, and 2,000 linear metres of private papers and collections. Each year, EU institutions and various private depositors transfer another 200 linear metres of files for integration into the Archives’ holdings.

Following the Council Regulation 2015/496 amending the original Archives Regulation 354/83, all EU institutions, bodies and agencies are now obliged to deposit their archives at the HAEU. The only exemptions to this regulation are the Court of Justice of the European Union and the European Central Bank, which may transfer files on a voluntary basis. The Court of Justice decided in 2014 to deposit its historical archives in Florence and has since then started transferring its judicial and administrative archives to the HAEU. Nowadays, all paper files of EU institutions are digitised prior to making them available to the public.
Sie erwarten ihre Zukunft von Europa

Leentje, Holland
Géraldine, Luxemburg
Daniel, Belgien
Barbara, Deutschland
Cesare, Italien
Jeannette, Frankreich
Jytte, Dänemark
George, Großbritannien
Sean, Irland

Direktwahl des Europäischen Parlaments 10. Juni 1979

Europa wartet auf Deine Stimme
The European Parliament is the directly elected legislative body of the European Union, sharing legislative powers with the Council. The archival holdings of the European Parliament preserved at the HAEU cover the period from 1952 to 1999 and comprise approximately 170,000 paper files.

The archival plan follows the evolution of the Parliament, which, in 1952, was established as the consultative 'Common Assembly' of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC). In 1957, this Assembly was restructured to become the European Parliamentary Assembly, which became known as the European Parliament from 1962 onwards.

The most important group of records concerns the work of the Assembly and the Parliament before and after direct elections. They contain reports and documents from parliamentary commissions and delegations, motions for resolutions, parliamentary questions, joint meetings of the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament and minutes of plenary sittings.

Another group of documents produced by the Parliament's political bodies, such as the Bureau, the College of Quaestors and the private office of the Presidents (so far Simone Veil and Piet Dankert), reflects the organisation of the Parliament's work and its legislative planning. Two smaller file groups document the work of the Common Assembly of the European Coal and Steel Community from 1952 to 1958 and the preparatory work of the Ad-hoc Assembly on the Treaty for the European Political Community from 1952 to 1955. Furthermore, a fascinating though less-known group of files concerns the Parliament's initiatives in development cooperation from 1956 to 1980. A collection of European Parliament's Official Acts (1953-2004) illustrates EU inter-institutional relations and includes agreements signed by the European Council and original directives and regulations. Another group comprises the press cuttings of the European Parliament from 1956 to 1992.

The EP’s holdings constitute a key source to understanding the legal process leading to the adoption of various acts at the European level and the role of the EP in EU legislation, from the initial proposals to their implementation in Member States.
THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

The Council of the European Union is one of the main legislative bodies of the European Union. Its holdings preserved at the HAEU shed light on the work of the Council since its incarnation as the Special Council of Ministers of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) in 1952, through the addition, under the 1957 Rome Treaties of the Councils of the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (EAEC or EURATOM), and finally to the unified institution as it is known today, the Council of the European Union, created by the Merger Treaty of 1967.

The files contain minutes of meetings, decisions of the Council and the Committee of Permanent Representatives of Member States (COREPER), as well as the working files of the Council’s General Secretariat. These archives refer to the Council’s organisational structure, its strategies and policies, budget and finance, the work of the Control Commission, the Council’s relations with other institutions and Member States, and all political fields treated by the Council sessions: economic cooperation, transport, agriculture, energy, nuclear power, social policies, common market and tariffs. A specific file series is dedicated to the Intergovernmental Committee under Paul-Henri Spaak, which prepared the negotiations of the Treaties of Rome in 1957. Other important funds concern the intergovernmental negotiations related to the African States and Madagascar (EAMA) 1958–1975, and the African, Caribbean and Pacific group of states (ACP) dating back to the 1975 Lomé Convention.

These files provide important information on the inter-gouvernmental and inter-institutional negotiations leading to the adoption of numerous legal acts and shed light on the decisive role of the Council, of Coreper and of the Council’s various committees, in the decision-making processes at the Community level since the early years of European integration.
CEREMONIE D'INAUGURATION DU 60 000ème LOGEMENT
FINANCE AVEC L'AIDE DE LA C.E.C.A.

80 000 logements financés - 60 000 logements construits
pour les travailleurs des mines et de la sidérurgie

Depuis 1954, la Haute Autorité a contribué au financement de
80 000 logements dans les pays de la Communauté. Si toutes ces con-
structions étaient concentrées dans une même zone géographique,
elles représenteraient l'équivalent d'une ville comme Anvers, Florence,
Mannheim, Utrecht et plus qu'une ville comme Lille.

A ce jour, le 60 000ème logement est achevé et 20 000 sont en
préparation ou en construction. Cet effort a représenté au 1er juin 1964
pour la C.E.C.A. une contribution financière de 210 millions de dollars
(Lit.131 250 000 000).

Le coût total de la construction de ces 80 000 logements,
partiellement financés avec l'aide de la C.E.C.A., peut être estimé
à 750 millions de dollars.

En 1962, la Haute Autorité a décidé de lancer un nouveau pro-
gramme de 75 millions de dollars, pour 25 000 logements.

A la date du 30 juin 1965, il y aura dans les six pays de la
C.E.C.A. environ 100 000 logements financés avec l'aide communautaire.

Les premières étapes de l'activité de la Haute Autorité

Au moment où la Haute Autorité entra en fonction en 1952, la
plupart des bassins charbonniers et sidérurgiques de la Communauté
souffraient d'une grave pénurie de logements : destructions de la
guerre, retards et carence de la construction et manque d'entretien des
habitations pendant ces années, méthodes encore largement artisanales,
manque de capitaux à long terme, niveau relativement trop élevé du taux
d'intérêt. Tout cela expliquait la situation déficitaire de la Communauté
en matière de construction.
The archival holdings of the European Commission at the HAEU go back to the Commission’s origins in 1952, with the Luxembourg-based High Authority of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC). For the years 1958 to 1986, the holdings include the archives of the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) Commissions, established alongside the ECSC High Authority by the 1957 Rome Treaties. For the period after the Merger Treaty of 1967, the holdings include the archives of the single European Commission.

The holdings illustrate the activities of the High Authority, of the EEC and Euratom Commissions, and of the European Commission. The files comprise the minutes of the Commission meetings and the working files of the various Directorates-Generals. The working files contain notes, memoranda and correspondence on the workings of the Commission, its structure, strategies, policies, and relations with other institutions and Member States.

The files also document the work of the Commissions’ Cabinets and of the Commissions’ Secretariat-General and Legal Services. The Commission’s holdings also comprises the files pertaining to the Community’s common statistical office and its common press and information service. Moreover, the files document the Community’s enlargements and shed light on the Commission’s external relations.

The European Commission’s holdings constitute a key source of information to conduct research on European integration from a historical and institutional perspective and on the role of the European Commission in this process. Furthermore, the files allow to study the Commission’s relations with Member States, third countries, international organisations and private bodies, including business organisations, trade associations and various non-governmental organisations.
The Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) is the judicial institution of the European Union. Its origins go back to the Court of Justice of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), established in 1952 in Luxembourg, and to the Court of Justice of the European Communities (CJEC) taking office in 1958. Following the contract signed in July 2014 between the CJEU and the European University Institute (EUI) and governed by Council Regulation (EU) 2015/496 on the deposit of EU institutions’ historical archives at the HAEU, the Court opened its historical archives to the public. Since 2015, archival transfers are organised on a yearly basis.

The CJEU holdings include rulings, procedural dossiers, administrative documents and minutes of the Court’s audiences. Among other highlights, the collection includes the procedural files and original rulings of the renowned Van Gend en Loos and Costa v. Enel cases, which respectively introduced direct effect and supremacy of EU law over Member States national laws. These archives constitute a key source of information to analyse the historical processes leading to the adoption of various EU legal acts and to understand the role of the CJEU in the European Union’s legislative procedures.

The European Investment Bank (EIB) is the EU’s long-term lending institution. Established in 1958, it finances operations to contribute to economic development and social cohesion in EU Member States. The archives of the EIB preserved at the HAEU are organised in seven archival groups.

The first group on governance illustrates the preparatory phase of the Bank’s creation and contains the minutes of the Board of Directors. The second group deals with relations with Member States and the accession of new members to the Bank statutes. The third group relates to the EIB’s exchanges and emulations with international banking and financial organisations. The fourth group includes atypical series of files on aids allocated by the EIB, while the fifth group contains normative, periodical and thematic publications, studies and articles.

The sixth group documents the projects financed by the EIB and the last archival group concerns the management of the Bank’s buildings and premises. Finally, visual materials complement the fonds in documenting the different steps leading to the realisation of the financing projects – from the original idea to the signature of the loan contract.
**EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS**

The European Court of Auditors (ECA) was established in 1975 in Luxembourg as an external body to audit the accounts of the European Union institutions. It became an EU Institution with the 1992 Maastricht Treaty. The archives of the European Court of Auditors preserved at the HAEU include the annual reports on the execution of the EU budget, special reports on budgetary questions, annual reports for each institution and agency of the EU, specific audit reports and, finally, statements of the Court regarding new or revised EU rules and regulation that have a financial impact. The holdings also comprise the working files of the auditors, including reports and related correspondence. The ECA archives reflect the functions of the Court as auditing body of the European Union since its creation in 1975.

---

**EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) was established under the Treaties of Rome in 1957 as the consultative body for economic interest groups. It is composed of representatives of employers’ organisations, trade unions and representatives of other interest groups. The archives of the EESC comprise documents pertaining to the Committee sessions and referring to all thematic areas discussed at the EESC. The documents also cover the work of the special sections for agriculture, transport, social policy, states and territories, economics, employment and services. The archives also contain working files of the Presidencies, the Bureau, and the Control Commission of the Committee. These files document the role of private bodies, including business organisations, trade associations and various non-governmental organisations in the European integration process.
EUROPEAN FOUNDATION FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS

The European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (EF) was established in 1975 in Dublin. As one of the first decentralised EU agencies, EF was tasked to pursue ideas on the improvement of living and working conditions in the light of practical experience, and to identify factors leading to social change. Its governing body is formed of representatives from Member State governments, social partners, and the European Commission.

The EF archives were deposited in Florence in 2017 and cover the years from 1976 to 1987. The holdings mainly contain the documents on the governance of the Agency, including the minutes and working documents pertaining to the sessions of the Administrative Board and the Bureau. The archives also contain the records of the Committee of Experts and some files of the Agency’s Directorate.

EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING

The European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP) was established as decentralised Agency in 1975 in response to the economic and social challenges facing Europe in the early 1970s. Originally established in Berlin, its headquarters were relocated to Thessaloniki, in 1993.

The archives of CEDEFOP contain documents produced by the Bureau of the Management Board and by the Management Board from 1975 to 1995. The papers of the Director Marino Riva, covering the years 1974 to 1985, constitute an important sub-fonds, offering valuable insight into the establishment and the early development of the Centre. CEDEFOP also transferred to the HAEU a set of audio-visual material, comprising videotapes, slides, photographs, and audiocassettes. The audio-visual collection documents the activities and projects of the Agency during the 1970s and 1980s.
PRIVATE ARCHIVES
AND COLLECTIONS
The achievements towards European integration since the Second World War are the result of the initiatives and efforts of generations of dedicated individuals and groups. These persons include the founders of the European Communities, officials of EU institutions and European organisations, as well as members of pro-European movements and associations, who sought to contribute to realising the vision of a united Europe. On 27 September 2004, a joint declaration by Romano Prodi, then President of the European Commission, and Yves Mény, then President of the EUI, recognised the HAEU’s mandate to collect, preserve and make the private archives of these individuals available to the scholarly community and the general public.

Individuals whose private archives are preserved at the HAEU include: The founders of the European Communities Alcide de Gasperi, Walter Hallstein and Paul-Henri Spaak; high-ranking EU officials, such as François-Xavier Ortoli, Jacques Delors, Fabrizio Baduel Glorioso, Piero Malvestiti, Emile Noël, Pascal Lamy, Peter Sutherland, François Lamoureux, and Romano Prodi; and pioneers of the European Union, such as Altiero Spinelli, Alexandre Marc, Pierre Uri, Max Kohnstamm, and Claus Schöndube.
Complete list (as of 2020)

in alphabetical order

Gordon Adam (GA)
Pierre Auger (PA)
Graham J. L. Avery (GJLA)
Enzo Enriques Agnoletti (EEA)
Mauro Cappelletti (MC)
Christopher Audland (CA)
Fabrizia Baduel Glorioso (EEA)
Enrique Barón Crespo (EBC)
Bocklet Report (BR)
Hendrik de Brujin (HB)
Henri Cartan (HC)
Antonio Cassese (ACA)
Lorella Cedroni (LC)
Albert Léon Coppé (ALC)
André Darteil (AD)
Alcide De Gasperi (ADG)
Pierre Debest (PDE)
Fernand Dehousse (FD)
Jacques Delors (JD)
Philippe Deshormes (PD)
Paolo Falcone (PF)
Giulio Fossi (GF)
Emanuele Gazzo (EG)
Enrico Gibellieri (EGI)
Helmut Goetz (HG)
Albert-Marie Gordiani (AMG)
Jean-Pierre Gouzy (JPG)
Jules Guéron (JG)
Etienne Hirsch (EH)
Danuta Hübner (DH)
Robert Hull (RH)
Uwe Kitzinger and Noël Salter (UWK/NS)
Max Kohnstamm (MK)
Fausta Deshormes La Valle (FDLV)
François Lamourex (FL)
Lionello Levi Sandri (LLS)
Ivan Matteo Lombardo (IML)
Philip Lowe (PL)
Sammlung 'Robert Schuman' von Hans August Lücker (HALK)
Franco Maria Malfatti (FMM)
Alexandre Marc (AM)
Edoardo Martino (EM)
Piero Malvestiti (PM)
Klaus Meyer (KM)
Keith Middlemas (MID)
Otto Molden (OM)
Walter Much (WM)
Lorenzo Natali (LN)
Emile Noël (EN)
Bino Olivi (BO)
François-Xavier Ortoli (FXO)
Tommaso Padoa Schiopppa (TPS)
Samuele Pii (SP)
John Pinder (JP)
Romano Prodi (RP)
Georg Pröpstl (GP)
Georges Rencki (GR)
Michel Richonnier (MR)
Raymond Rifflle (RR)
Ernesto Rossi (ER)
Carlo Scarascia Mugnozza (CSM)
Claus Schönombie (CS)
Paul-Henri Spaak (PHS)
Altiero Spinelli (AS)
Peter Sutherland (PSP)
Roland Tavitian (RTA)
Robert Toulemon (RTO)
Michael Tracy (MT)
Robert Triffin (RT)
Pierre Uri (PU)
Helmut von Verschuer (HVV)
Angel Viñas (AV)
Pier Virgilio Dastoli (PVD)
Michel Waelbroeck (MW)
Helen Wallace (HW)
Graham Watson (GW)
David White Papers (DW)
Orlof Zimmermann (OZ)
Giancarlo Zoli (GZ)
QUINZAINE DE L'EUROPE
The archives of pro-European movements, European organisations, and political groups of the European Parliament preserved at the HAEU offer a significant complement to the archives of EU institutions. The HAEU holdings include not only the archives of organisations, such as the European Space Agency, the Assembly of the Western European Union, the Organisation for European Economic Cooperation, and the European Free Trade Association, but also those of the Union of European Federalists, the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, and the European Consumer Organisation. Finally, several political groups of the European Parliament have deposited their archives at the HAEU, including the Socialist and Liberal Groups. These archives allow to study the initiatives and activities of various sectoral and umbrella organisations with a European scope and interest.

Complete list (as of 2020) in alphabetical order

Association européenne des enseignants (AEDE)
Bureau Européen de Coordination des Organisations Internationales de Jeunesse (BEC)
Bureau Européen des Unions de Consommateurs (BEUC)
Centre international de formation européenne (CIFE)
Conférence permanente des Recteurs, Présidents et Vice-Chanceliers des Universités européennes (CRE)
Conseil des Communes et des Régions d’Europe (CCRE)
Council of European National Youth Committees (CENYC)
European Association for Banking and Financial History (EABH)
European Free Trade Association (EFTA)
European Space Agency (ESA)
European Science Foundation (ESF)
European University Institute (EUI)
European Spatial Data Research (EUROSDR)
European Youth Forum (EYF)
Femmes d’Europe (FDE)
Groupe de l’Alliance des démocrates et des libéraux pour l’Europe au Parlement européen (ADLE)
Groupe du Parti socialiste européen au Parlement européen (GPSE)
Groupe parlementaire européen vert (GRAEL)
Groupe du Parti populaire européen au Parlement européen (PPE)
Jeunesse européenne fédéraliste (JEF)
Ligue européenne de coopération économique (LECE)
Mouvement européen (ME)
Mouvement fédéraliste européen français (MFE/F)
Movimento federalista europeo (MFE)
Organisation française du Mouvement européen (OFME)
Organisation for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC)
University Association for Contemporary European Studies (UACES)
Union européenne des fédéralistes (UEF)
Assembly of Western European Union (WEU)
Youth Forum of the European Communities (YFEC)
A final group of materials preserved at the HAEU are collections of extracts and copies of archival documents on European integration from private archives, foundations, and from National Archives and Diplomatic Archives of EU Ministries of Foreign Affairs. These collections complement the original archival holdings preserved at the HAEU and allow in particular to study the negotiation process and the different positions adopted by Member States during the negotiations of the 1951 Paris Treaty, the 1957 Rome Treaties, and of the first enlargement of the European Communities in 1973.

Complete list (as of 2020) in alphabetical order

- Advertising Europe Film Collection (AE)
- Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on European Integration (BE)
- Conférence des régions de l’Europe du Nord-Ouest (CRNO)
- Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs on European Integration (DK)
- Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs Documentary Information Systems (NL)
- European Community and Associated Institutions Library Cooperative Group (EUROLIB)
- Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs on European Integration (FI)
- French Foreign Ministry Collections (MAEF)
- French General Secretariat of the Inter-Ministerial Committee for European Economic Cooperation Questions (SGCICEE)
- French Ministry of Foreign Affairs on European Integration (FR)
- Jörg Friedrichs Research Material (JFRM)
- German Foreign Ministry Collection (AA/PA)
- German Ministry of Foreign Affairs on European Integration (DE)
- Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs on European Integration (GR)
- International Paneuropean Union (PAN/EU)
- International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER)
- Irish Ministry of Foreign Affairs on European Integration (IE)
- Italian Foreign Ministry Collections (PS & RD)
- Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on European Integration (IT)
- Jean Monnet American Sources (JMAS)
- Jean Monnet Duchêne Sources (JMDS)
- Jean Monnet Perth Sources (JMPS)
- Jean Mussard (JM)
- Johannes Westhoff (JW)
- Keith Smithson Press Cuttings (KS)
- National Archives of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg (LU)
- Nicola Di Gioia’s collection (NDG)
- Richard Griffiths’ Collection (RTG)
- Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs on European Integration (SE)
- UK National Archives (UK)
- Walter Hallstein Papers (WH)
“I have always considered that, in Europe, the future is intimately connected with the past. We have to understand Europe as it was and as it is now in order to open our eyes to how it could be tomorrow.”

(Jean-Claude Juncker)
The Historical Archives of the European Union is the repository for various oral history programmes, launched to preserve the voices of European politicians and high-level officials. The Archives makes the original audio and video recordings, and the written transcripts, available for research in digital format.

The HAEU’s oral history holdings currently comprise more than 900 interviews with EU high officials and Member States politicians, complementing the written sources of EU institutions, private organisations, and individuals.

The Voices on Europe programme on European integration and cooperation was carried out on behalf of the European Commission by professors holding Jean Monnet chairs, and includes 104 transcripts of interviews with politicians, diplomats and executive officials from eight EU Member States.

Three oral history programmes were launched in relation to the project “The European Commission. History and Memory of an Institution”, dealing respectively with the years 1958-1972, 1973-1986, and 1986-2000. Together, they comprise more than 550 interviews conducted with senior EU officials, available in the HAEU’s oral history database as audio or video recordings and transcripts.

The Jean Monnet, Statesman of Interdependence programme was carried out by François Duchêne, the biographer of Jean Monnet. It includes 64 interviews with personalities who worked alongside the ‘founder’ of the European Communities.

The EUI series of interviews includes accounts pertaining to the EUI’s research activities and retraces the steps in the European construction at the institutional, political, economic, and scientific levels.

The programme Oral History of Europe in Space of the European Space Agency (ESA) records the memories and experiences of key players in the development of European space cooperation, including personalities of ESA and national space agencies, ministries, scientific institutes and industries.

The programme Collecting memories: European Parliament 1979-2019 was deposited by a team of researchers and former EP officials, who conducted more than 100 interviews with former MEPs.

The recent EUI programme Leaders beyond the State records the experiences of former Presidents of EU institutions as leaders in transnational governance. The project, running over a number of years, is organised by the HAEU with support from the EUI School of Transnational Governance and the EUI Department of History and Civilization.
AUDIO-VISUAL COLLECTIONS
The audio-visual collections are an integral part of the institutional and private archives preserved at the HAEU, and consist mainly of photographs, posters, audio recordings and videos. These records are crucial to recount the history of the European integration process, and to offer additional insights into the personal and professional activities of key actors in contemporary European history. Indeed, audio-visual records do not simply complement the textual documents; they are a historical resource of their own.

The HAEU manages more than 60,000 photographs tracing the establishment of European institutions by documenting conferences, meetings, institutional visits around the world, as well as a plethora of educational and scientific projects throughout Europe. More than 7,500 audio recordings are also available, including 900 interviews with high-level EU officials and European personalities, who played an important role in European integration. The HAEU acquired a collection (NDG) of more than 1,200 posters produced mainly by EU institutions with a focus on Italy.

The HAEU also holds hundreds of video recordings, in the form of documentaries, advertisements, films and interviews that illustrate a variety of institutional conferences, events, and EU activities. The film collection “Werben für Europa”, whose inventory comprises detailed information on over 250 information films on European integration dating from the 1940s to the early 1970s, is a particularly rich digital collection that was deposited by a research team of the University of Hamburg.

Campaigns and events of pro-European movements are illustrated in the fonds of the European Movement, the Union des fédéralistes européens (UEF), and the private papers of Claus Schöndube. The papers of François-Xavier Ortoli and Romano Prodi contain numerous photographs depicting high-ranking European personalities in their official roles and their private lives.

To ensure that these materials are easily accessible, the Archives are constantly working to improve their preservation conditions and consultation tools to cope with new technological developments. The HAEU has invested in a bold digitisation project and in equipment, capable of reproducing various media formats no longer in use, thereby guaranteeing the durability of fragile materials and long-term public access to these materials.

Furthermore, in 2018 the HAEU implemented a new system to describe and visualise its audio-visual material in a user-friendly digital environment. The new system allows users to preview the digital items and key facts about the original document and its origins.
The Council Regulation 2015/496 sets particular focus on digital access to the historical archives of EU institutions. The HAEU’s digital strategy is therefore threefold and sets priorities in: online user services via its archival database for search and retrieval of archival materials; digitisation for the preservation and online access to digitised files; a digital archives management system for comprehensive management and access to, as well as long-term preservation of, all forms of digital and digitised archives.

The HAEU’s open archival database system hosts descriptions of more than 520,000 archival items, either transferred from EU institutional archives, or prepared by HAEU archivists. These inventories comply with the International Standards for Archival Description ISAD(G) and for Archival Authority Records for Corporate Bodies, Persons and Families ISAAR(CPF). Data import from EU institutional depositors is based on the Encoded Archival Description (EAD and EAC) framework.

Digital preservation at the HAEU aims to combine conservation policies, strategies and actions to ensure that the digital content renders accurately over time, despite the challenges of media lifecycles and technological change. These policies dictate the file formats to preserve and the level of preservation, while ensuring compliance with standards and best practices.

For many years, the HAEU has been at the forefront of digital archive programmes. Indeed, the digitisation of archival material for consultation and preservation purposes has been high on the agenda of the HAEU before the confirmation of this priority by the 2015 Regulation. Back in 2008, the HAEU digitised its first archival fonds and 20,000 files have been digitised since then. Due to various digitisation projects of EU institutions, nowadays more than 30 holdings are fully, or in parts, digitally available through the HAEU online platform.

EU institutions also launched ambitious digitisation projects, and nowadays all paper files are digitised prior to making them available to the public after 30 years. Through the close collaboration with EU institutions, the figures of digitised material available online in the HAEU database are growing rapidly. The HAEU interfaces with the Archives Services of EU institutions to exchange data and provide, in a single access point, the users with the digital contents available along with their description and contextual metadata.

To facilitate remote access to the HAEU archival holdings and guarantee services towards its international users, the HAEU launched a programme of digitisation on request. Users can contact the Archives to request the digitisation of archival files, within certain limits and according to the provisions of the respective deposit agreements. Users are thereby able to pursue their research without necessarily travelling to Florence.

“Cultural heritage is the thread that connects us to each other, to our elders and to our children. And this, ladies and gentlemen, is how we find meaning. To digitise our heritage is to provide longevity and depth to this meaning, allowing more people to find they belong to larger and larger communities”

(EU Commissioner Tibor Navracsics, Digital Day 2019)
One of the main goals of the Historical Archives is to grant to the scholarly community and interested citizens access to EU institutional archives. Competent personnel are available to deliver state-of-the-art services to users who wish to consult these archives, and the documents open to the public can be consulted in a dedicated reading room of the HAEU at Villa Salviati in Florence. All on-site users are requested to apply for admission to the Historical Archives by compiling an admission form.

The HAEU online database provides access to the inventories of all holdings preserved at the HAEU, as well as to many digital or digitised documents or audiovisual items that are directly available for online consultation after registration on the online platform.

Within the online database, the inventories of the fonds are assembled under four separate groups: EU institutions, Corporate Bodies, Individuals and Collections. To start research through the inventories, one may either browse the inventories of the various fonds or search the database by keywords.

A collection of research guides provides a general overview of the archival material to conduct research on specific topics pertaining to European integration and policies developed at the European level. Each research guide gives a general introduction of the policy area and the relevant archival sources.

Users requiring further information can contact the Archives service desk electronically or by phone, and can arrange an appointment with the responsible archivist. Upon request, the HAEU also organises visits of the Archives and Villa Salviati, including the archival vaults, the Villa’s gardens and the Grotto.
The Historical Archives of the European Union, in collaboration with external partner institutions, offers a variety of Postgraduate Research Grants. The grant programmes are intended to enable researchers to broaden their research through access to the primary sources held at the HAEU and also at associated archives. Applicants should apply in view of preparing a thesis, dissertation or academic article, in a discipline of human and social sciences. The different grant programmes may have specific requisites; applicants are thus advised to consult the grant web page for more detailed information.

The Vibeke Sørensen Grant scheme for visiting scholars was set up in 1993 by then President of the European University Institute (EUI) Emile Noël with the support of the European Commission. The grant scheme adopted its current name in 1997 to honour the memory of Dr. Vibeke Sørensen (1952-1995), former researcher at the EUI History Department and staff member of the Historical Archives of the European Union (HAEU). The grant scheme aims at encouraging research on the history of European integration based on primary sources held at the Historical Archives of the European Union.

The European Court of Auditors (ECA) and the Historical Archives have set up an annual grant scheme for researchers in the field of European public finance and on the EU budget in 2007. The aim is to promote original research into the EU’s public finances and their impact on EU policies, decision-making and governance, including the development of the EU’s accountability and audit. Aimed at forging a community of researchers in this field, the scheme is open to academic researchers from a wide range of disciplines, including law, political science, economics, sociology, public administration and history.

The Group of the European People’s Party in the European Parliament (EPP) and the Historical Archives have created a grant programme for researchers interested in the history, role and impact of Christian Democracy, and in particular of the EPP Group in the European Parliament, on decisive moments in the process of European integration. This grant programme is designed to enable researchers to broaden their research by studying the primary sources held in Florence, at the EPP Group’s archives in Brussels and at the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) in Sankt Augustin, Bonn.

The HAEU is working actively on expanding the available grants. A new grant programme with the International Visegrad Fund (IVF) is currently under preparation. Other research grants for the consultation of primary sources at the HAEU are managed by external partners, such as the yearly grant scheme of the University Association for Contemporary European Studies (UACES). These grants have, through the years, enabled original research into many areas, including the role of the EU institutions, the development of audit methodology, shared management in policy implementation, multi-level governance, the EU regional policy, the emergence of institutional norms and values, and the EU development policy.
“Créons cette solidarité de la raison et du sentiment, de la liberté et de la justice. L'Europe ne trouvera son salut que dans cet esprit héroïque de liberté et de sacrifice qui a toujours décidé aux grandes heures de l'histoire.”

Alcide De Gasperi. «Les bases morales de la démocratie», Brussels, 20 November 1948 (HAEU, ADG 96)
The Alcide De Gasperi Research Centre on the History of European Integration was established in 2015 by the then EUI President Joseph Weiler to raise the relevance of the history of European integration in current scientific research at the EUI. The Centre promotes innovative research projects, facilitates the use of primary sources, supports young researchers, coordinates networks of historians, and increases public interest in the history of European integration.

The Centre is co-directed by Dieter Schlenker, Director of the HAEU, and Federico Romero, Professor of History of Post-War European Cooperation and Integration in the Department of History and Civilization at the EUI, thereby combining the expertise of the History Department with the resources available at the Historical Archives. It also receives support from an Advisory Board composed of academic experts in the fields of contemporary European history and European integration history.

The Alcide De Gasperi Research Centre gathers a growing team of experts in the field of European integration history, initiating and carrying out research projects and academic activities. Academics can benefit from the Centre’s expertise through a cycle of De Gasperi Centre seminars, during which researchers present their work on different aspects of European Integration history and receive feedback from experts in the field.

The Annual Graduate Conference on the History of European integration is another hallmark project of the Centre, as it provides a unique setting for PhD students and early career researchers to discuss ongoing research. The conference is organised jointly with two European associations of young researchers, namely RICHIE (Réseau international de jeunes chercheurs en histoire de l’intégration européenne) and HEIRS (History of European integration research society). It also receives support from the Department of History and Civilization and the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies.

The ADGRC also hosts several research projects, bringing together different academic institutions as well as providing key financial and staff resources. Recent projects concerned: the European Investment Bank and the ‘Mezzogiorno’ in the context of regional development (1958-1973); The European ambition: study on the EPP Group’s contribution and its impact on the European integration process and on the directly elected European Parliament; Collecting memories: European Parliament 1979-2019; Looking West: the European Socialist regimes facing pan-European cooperation and the European Community (PanEur1970s); The European Commission (1986-2000): History and Memories of an Institution (Histcom3).

Academic staff of the Centre curated the travelling exhibition “Ever Closer Union - The legacy of the Treaties of Rome for Today’s Europe (1957-2017)” organised in collaboration with the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union, the European Commission, the Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the National News Agency ANSA. It travelled to 62 countries, 100 cities, reaching more than 200,000 people, and was translated in 28 languages.
One of the main missions of the HAEU is to raise the visibility, public recognition and consultation of the EU institutions’ historical archives. The Archives strives to give a voice to the history of European integration and pays tribute to the efforts and achievements of past generations. To this end, the HAEU maintains a communication strategy, opens its doors to interested citizens, and offers a range of educational and cultural activities.

Online presence is an important element of the HAEU’s strategy. The Archives’ website, launched in 1993, has evolved over the years, and is continuously updated to strengthen the visibility of the HAEU. In 2014, the Archives started using social media channels (Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn), making the HAEU’s activities more accessible, not only to the scholarly community, but also to citizens.

Open days and other events allow the public to visit the Historical Archives and enjoy guided tours of the buildings and gardens of Villa Salviati. The Open Day on the occasion of Europe Day is organised annually in the framework of the EUI’s State of the Union Conference and includes arts, music and circus activities to celebrate a united Europe.

The professional development and training of young archivists is another priority. Workshops for students of archival science are regularly organised. Furthermore, the Historical Archives offers traineeship programmes for young archivists under the rubric of the European University Institute’s internship programme.

Finally, the HAEU is involved in academic endeavours that reach beyond its Florentine campus. The HAEU works with universities all over Europe, providing seminars in the reading room with the use of archival documents or presenting the Archives and its holdings in online seminars. For these academic seminars, HAEU staff assists in proposing research topics, identifying and preparing relevant materials, in paper or digital formats, for thematic research and group work, and by supporting the students as tutors.

The HAEU also participates in the European Archives Group (EAG) and the European Union Diplomatic Archives Group (EUDIA), and is hosting the European Integration Database, an online application, displaying primary sources on European integration and cooperation in archives of EU Member States Ministries of Foreign Affairs and National Archives.
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

The Historical Archives offers tailored educational programmes for teachers and students of all ages, from primary to university, all over Europe. The programme helps to fulfil the aims of the Archives - to promote public interest in European integration and enhance transparency in the functioning of EU institutions.

Students and teachers are introduced to important themes on the history of European integration and the current challenges facing EU institutions. The educational programme creates social spaces for interactive reflection, discussion and learning about issues around Europe.

All programmes make use of the primary sources kept at the Archives, thereby engaging students in an interactive learning process that layers history lessons, primary document analysis and active debate.

In recent years, the education activities have grown into a thriving programme for teachers and school students in Florence and beyond. The HAEU educational team also participates in Erasmus programmes and collaborates with the Metropolitan City of Florence, INDIRE, the European Parliament Former Members Association (FMA), and other partners.
The Archives makes available to its users a specialised collection on the history of European integration from the early 1940s until today. The collection of 15,000 books and journals includes the personal library donated by Enzo Enriques Agnoletti; publications of EU institutions; the series of European Parliament debates; and the Official Journal of the European Communities since 1952. The collection also includes many theses and papers whose findings are based on research carried out at the HAEU. Finally, specific license agreements adhered to by the EUI offer researchers at the HAEU access to various online databases from the reading room.

In addition to its reference library, the HAEU is also a repository site for parts of the European Commission’s Documentation and Research on European Institutional Issues collection (DORIE). Since 2010, the HAEU has had an active role in the online cataloguing and digitisation of this collection. DORIE contains documents or document extracts of legal acts, minutes of meetings, articles and press releases, speeches by European leaders, internal Commission working documents and notes from the Communities’ beginnings.

Furthermore, the HAEU hosts a collection of Bulletin Quotidien Europe (French edition) from 1953 to 1999 and Europe Daily Bulletin (English edition) from 1979 to 1999, which was recently digitised and published online jointly with the EUI Library, following an agreement with Agence Europe signed in July 2018.
ACCESS

The Historical Archives may be used by anyone who agrees to abide by its regulations. Researchers should read the ‘Rules Governing the Access and Use of the Historical Archives of the European Union (HAEU)’ available on the HAEU website:
www.eui.eu/Research/HistoricalArchivesOfEU

The reading room is open from Monday to Friday, from 8:30 to 17:00. Pens, paper and portable computers are allowed in the reading room, whereas bags, drinks and food must be left in the lobby area. Wifi connection is available in the reading room upon admission. Researchers can consult a maximum of three files at a time. The use of digital photo devices for reproduction is permitted. Computers and reading devices for microfiches and microfilms are available in the reading room.

CONTACT US

Historical Archives of the European Union
European University Institute
Villa Salviati, Via Bolognese 156
IT - 50139 Florence
Tel: (+39) 055 4685 649
Email: archiv@eui.eu

KEY FIGURES (2019)

- 258 fonds, 7,950 linear metres
- 522,050 database descriptive items
- 449,965 archival paper files
- 47,266 digitised archival files
- 60,578 photographs
- 1,143 posters
- 12,007 digitised images
- 7,630 audio recordings
- 920 oral history interviews
- 291 video recordings
- 14,937 library units

Access statistics
- 1,044 research sessions
- 145 new registered users
- 297,460 website visits (179,839 on the archival database)
- 14,515 files consulted (7,501 reading room, 7,014 online)