

European Cooperation on Science, Technology and Innovation

What do I need to know before I start?

Scientific research, innovation, and common knowledge have played an important role in European integration. Over time, European countries have strengthened their scientific cooperation by sharing expertise, resources, and infrastructure, improving Europe's scientific and technological skills, and addressing common challenges.

In the early years of European integration, research cooperation was fragmented and mainly took place through international organisations such as the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) or the European Space Agency. At the same time, European Communities began exploring ways to coordinate scientific research more closely.

Building on earlier proposals by Altiero Spinelli, Commissioner Ralf Dahrendorf introduced the idea of a *“European Scientific Area, reflecting the growing recognition that scientific research and technological development should become an integral part of European cooperation.”*

The Single European Act, which entered into force in 1987, marked a major step forward by establishing the strengthening of the scientific and technological foundations of European industry through research and development as a new Community objective. It also established a framework for pursuing this objective through European framework programmes, laying out the foundations for a more structured and coordinated European research policy.

Space exploration and technology offer a particularly significant example of how European scientific cooperation developed beyond national borders. Although the European Union acquired official competences in shaping a common European space policy – prepared jointly by the European Commission and ESA and adopted on 22 May 2007 – only in the last two decades, cooperation between the European Communities, the EU and ESA progressively expanded. Indeed, with the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, Article 189, introduced by the Treaty of Lisbon, signed on 13 December 2007 the EU obtained the first explicit legal basis for European space policy. The first steps towards a common European approach to space research date back to the 1960s, when the European Preparatory Commission for Space Research (COPERS) was established followed by the European Space Research Organisation (ESRO), dedicated to scientific missions, and the European Launcher Development Organisation (ELDO), focused on developing launchers. The European Space Conference (ESC) was subsequently created to coordinate their activities. During the 1970s, Europe also developed the Ariane launcher programme to support its space applications. The merger of ESRO and ELDO in a single organisation culminated with the Convention signed on 30 May 1975 in the establishment of the European Space Agency (ESA).

The ESA-EU relations were enriched through two important programmes: the Copernicus and Galileo programmes. The Copernicus Earth observation program, introduced in 1998 in the Baveno Manifesto, initiated earlier initiatives for European environmental monitoring and was officially established under that name in 2014. The Commission's Space Advisory Group endorsed the view that a debate should be organised on Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES).

The European Commission launched the Galileo program, Europe's satellite navigation system, in 1999 and developed it jointly with ESA.

Before these two programmes established to monitor the environment, the European Environment Agency (EEA), which became operational in 1993, was created to provide reliable environmental information to EU Member States and cooperating countries, coordinate the European Environment Information and Observation Network (Eionet), and maintain close cooperation with national environmental agencies and other relevant bodies.

Similarly, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) was set up in 1993: a crucial repository for the history of life sciences, public health, and pharmacology in Europe. The EMA protects human and animal health across the Member States and the European Economic Area (EEA) by ensuring that medicines available on the EU market meet standards of safety, efficacy, and high quality.

European cooperation in science, research, and innovation has evolved from the coordination of scientific activities to the development of common policies and major technological programmes. Research has become an integral part of European integration, supporting industrial competitiveness, space exploration, environmental sustainability, and public health.

Languages: Please be aware that although most documents available in our Archives are in French, English or German, some may be in other EU languages. In order to check the languages used in fonds, please refer to our holdings page. Additionally, some fonds may contain a few files in a language other than those listed in the description.

Please bear in mind that archival sources are subject to the 30-year accessibility rules. Some files may therefore currently be listed as closed but will progressively become available as they reach the required period of accessibility (check the "Closed until" field in the description)

What can I find at the HAEU?

Science related fonds available at the HAEU are:

1) *EU institutions, bodies and agencies*

Council of Ministers

Since the fonds of the Council of Ministers is organised by year, you need to browse the fonds of each year separately to access the specific section on research (examples: 1960, 1964, 1974).

In the HAEU inventory, space policy matters are assembled in the section titled '[Activités de la CEE: Recherche et enseignement](#)', or '[Activités de la CEE: Recherche et coopération nucléaire](#)' or simply 'Sciences et Technologies' ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#)), which includes files related to the development of common research policies including in the field of space science.

European Commission

In the Commission's fonds, there is a specific section for [Research, Science, Innovation, Education and Technology](#), which includes the archives of the EURATOM Commission, whose competences were transferred to the DGXII following the fusion of the Community's executive bodies in 1967. You might also want to look into the sections related to the [Secrétariat général \(CEUE SEGE\)](#).

European Parliament

Concerning the early years of the Parliament, the fonds include the proceedings and reports of several parliamentary commissions concerned with research and technology, whose work is related to the development of research co-operation in the field of space science ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)). For the Parliament's first legislature, you may look into the proceedings and reports of the parliamentary commission for [energy and research](#) as well as that for [energy, research and technology](#). As for the [second](#), [third](#), and [fourth](#) legislature, the fonds includes the proceedings and reports of the parliamentary commission for energy, research and technology.

Court of Justice of the European Union

The fonds is a useful source for research on the development of European policies and legal frameworks relating to research, science and technology. It can offer interesting insights into the legal and institutional framework surrounding European research cooperation and the implementation of scientific and technological programmes.

A particularly relevant case is *Ainsworth and Others v Commission* ([joined Cases 271/83](#) and others, see the 17 volumes). The judgment concerns the Joint European Torus (JET), a joint undertaking established under the Euratom research programme on nuclear fusion and plasma physics. The case is about the recruitment of JET personnel and the application of the Euratom Treaty rules to staff participating in the programme illustrating the establishment of major European scientific and technological research projects based on cooperation between the Community, the Member States, and their research organisations. A complementary example could be the case of *Technische Universität München v. Hauptzollamt München-Mitte* ([Case C-269/90](#)). The Court examined the criteria for determining whether equipment qualified for the Community exemption, making the case a useful example of how European law facilitated access to scientific research equipment and shaped the conditions for research activity within the Community.

European Court of Auditors

It might be of interest to consult the ECA's [annual reports](#) (1977-1997), [special reports](#) (1978-1991) and [opinions](#) (1977-1997) as well as [internal documents](#), including [information documents](#) (1977-1994) and [working documents](#) (1977-1994).

Economic and Social Committee

The section 'Avis' comprises various documents (reports, articles, and position papers) related to scientific cooperation in Europe, including in the field of space science (example [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)), or to research [programmes](#). Similarly to the Council of Ministers, the inventory of the Committee is organized by year, each including a special section 'Avis' (example for [1975](#) or [1977](#)).

European Investment Bank

The EIB fonds can be used to explore how European integration was translated into investment for technological modernization, industrial development, research capacity, and innovation. It could be worthwhile to consult the [annual reports](#), as well as the sub-fonds '[Aides, dons et subsides exceptionnels](#)' and '[Publications](#)'. A few examples could be explored, such as the construction of a [diesel-engine manufacturing facility \(Alfa Romeo\)](#) in Pomigliano d'Arco

financed by the EIB illustrating the Bank's early role in supporting industrial and technological modernization in southern Italy.

European Environment Agency

You can get familiar with the early files related to the [Founding of the Agency](#) and [Management Board](#) and explore some Science environment strategy.

European Training Foundation (ETF)

You might be interested to consult the European Training Foundation (ETF) fonds if your interest is related to the process of vocational education and training reform in Central and Eastern Europe and the New Independent States and Mongolia (known as the Partner States).

2) Corporate bodies

European Space Agency (ESA)

You may consult the [ESA fonds and its related fonds](#) that preceded ESA. These include, in addition to the [ESA's fonds](#), the fonds of the [European Conference on Satellite Telecommunications \(CETS\)](#), the [European Preparatory Commission on Space Research \(COPERS\)](#), the [European Launchers and Development Organisation \(ELDO\)](#), the [European Space Conference \(ESC\)](#) and the [European Space Research Organisation \(ESRO\)](#).

Among the ESA predecessor fonds [European Preparatory Commission on Space Research \(COPERS\)](#) are included also files on the European Study Group of senior scientists [Groupe d'Etudes Européen pour les Recherches Spatiales \(GEERS\)](#) that helped prepare the ground for European cooperation in space research.

The ESA fonds offers information on its [decisional](#) and [operational](#) structure, as well as on its [Establishment Management \(ESTEC and ESOC\)](#) and [Corporate Communication](#).

Furthermore, the available material can provide insightful information on [ESA's external relations](#) (e.g., [ESA Member States](#), [ESA Non-Member States](#), [Relations with the European Communities/EU](#)), [ESA's Directorate of Science](#).

European Spatial Data Research (EuroSDR)

It is recommended to consult the fonds of the EuroSDR and its predecessor OEEPE, that was established in 1953 in Paris, and which were established to carry out [common research programmes](#) in Europe. The spatial data research interests of European countries are represented through the membership in EuroSDR of national organisations from their production and research sectors.

European Science Foundation

To understand Europe in science, it is recommended to consult the fonds of the ESF.

It can be useful to consult the sub-fonds devoted to the ESF Standing Committees to study the history and development of research in various fields including [Physical and Engineering Sciences](#), [Life and Environmental Sciences](#) and [European Medical Research Councils \(EMRC\)](#).

The work of the ESF's [Standing Committee on Astronomy](#) and in particular its [European Space](#)

[Science Committee](#) is particularly relevant to understand research cooperation in space science in Europe, ESA-ESF [relations](#) with US research institutions including NASA and the US National Science Foundation (NSF) in the development of common space research programmes, as well as European involvement in the Space Shuttle project.

Organisation for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC)

Consulting the fonds of the OEEC is important to understand the early development of research policy at a European level as the organisation was, together with NATO, one of the two major organisations concerned with the overall organisation of scientific cooperation in Western Europe back in the 1960s. For instance, the minutes of the Executive Committee and of the Council meetings can provide additional information on general research policy developments at a European level within the context of the OEEC and in relation to the Community ([example](#)).

European University Institute

The EUI was founded in 1972 by the Community's Member States as an independent institution, with the main objective of providing advanced academic training to PhD students and promoting research in Europe. You might therefore want to take a look into the EUI's fonds to learn more about [initiatives](#) taken at the European level to promote scientific cooperation beyond the realm of EU institutions such as [conferences](#), [seminars](#).

European Free Trade Association (EFTA)

The fonds of the EFTA includes a section on the [EFTA-EEC Joint Committee](#) that can be relevant in relation to R&D cooperation in Europe more widely, as the Committee was composed of high officials from the EFTA countries and from the Commission, who met on a regular basis to discuss, among others things, the growth of cooperation in research and development and in such fields as transport, agriculture, fisheries and energy. The fonds also includes a section on [Research and Development](#) with several files concerned with government aids destined to R&D programmes.

University Association for Contemporary European Studies

The UACES was established in 1967 with the objective of promoting teaching and research in European Studies within the field of social sciences, as well as fostering coordination of teaching and research between universities and related institutions in European countries. In the [UACES fonds](#) you can find documents elaborated by the administration of the Association, including the minutes of Committees and Officers' meetings as well as reports on the UACES' annual general meetings.

3) *Individuals*

Pierre Auger

Pierre Auger, together with Edoardo Amaldi, recommended that European governments set up a joint organisation for space research taking the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) as a model.

Auger worked in the field of space science at the French national level in the Centre National

d'Études Spatiales and at the European level through ESRO, playing an important role in the development of European cooperation in space research. You may consult his private fonds, which includes archival material related to the [European Preparatory Commission on Space Research \(COPERS\)](#) and to the [European Space Research Organisation \(ESRO\)](#). The fonds also includes Auger's handwritten notes, which complement the other Pierre Auger files.

William Owen Lock

It can be useful to consult Lock's private archives to gain additional information on [the internal workings of](#) ESRO, on the work of the [Bannier-Group](#) and on their [mutual relationship](#).

Jean Mussard

Mussard was Executive Secretary of COPERS, the European Preparatory Commission for Space Research. His private fonds includes notes, memoranda and proceedings of meetings he organized during his time in this preparatory commission, as well as [reports and notes](#) pertaining to the development and organisational activity of the European Space Research Organisation ([ESRO](#)). The fonds also includes Mussard's handwritten notes.

Jules Guéron

Several files from Guéron's private fonds relate to his work in [EURATOM](#), to the use of nuclear power in space, and to the development of a [common space and atomic programme](#).

Hendrik de Bruijn

De Bruijn participated to the European [Dragon Project](#), launched in 1959 to examine the most practical and fruitful methods of collaboration in the field of an experimental and prototype reactor. You may consult De Bruijn's private fonds which includes [reports](#) of the project and [scientific studies](#) including files relating to [EURATOM](#).

Gordon Adam

Adam having worked as Vice-Chairman of the Energy, Research and Technology Committee of the European Parliament, his private fonds includes [material](#) accumulated from 1987 and 1995 during his time in the Committee which can provide additional information to understand the development of a common R&D policy and the role of the Parliament in this context.

Émile Noël

Because of E. Noël's central position within the European Commission, his private fonds is an important source for research on the development of European policies in [science](#), [research](#), [technology](#) and industry. E. Noël maintained extensive exchanges with its services and commissioners and in particular with the DG III (Industrial and Technological Affairs), DG XII (Research, Science, Education) and DG XIII (Information and Innovation).

Altiero Spinelli

You can consult Spinelli's private fonds for early developments in R&D policy, which includes a specific [section](#) concerned with his role as Commissioner for industrial and research policy

during the years 1970-1976.

[François-Xavier Ortoli](#)

The Ortoli fonds includes a [section](#) pertaining to his tenure as minister of industrial and scientific development in France in the early 1970s, which might provide additional information on the French position in the development of a common R&D policy in Europe. Moreover, the fonds includes some dossiers concerning his time in the Commission, first as its [President](#) and then [Vice-President](#).

[Georg Pröpstl](#)

Pröpstl's fonds includes several dossiers important to understand the development of a common R&D policy. It includes several [dossiers](#) relating to the work of the bureau Eurisotop of EURATOM and to its links to the other European institutions, as well as [files](#) on his role in the different working groups and committees of the Commission, including the CIRD, CREST and CORDI.

[Enrico Gibellieri](#)

His fonds comprises various files concerned with the development of R&D policies at a European level in the context of his work in the [Consultative Committee of the ECSC](#) within the [Steel Research and Development Committee](#).

4) Oral History

In addition, take a look at the [oral history holdings](#), which comprise numerous interviews of European politicians and officials, including important figures and officials active in the development of science related topics at the European level. Below, you can find a (non-exhaustive) list of individuals interviewed who addressed the topic of science cooperation.

[Fredrik Engström](#)

[Jörg Feustel-Büechl](#)

[Walter Kröll](#)

[Joachim Trümper](#)

[David Ashford](#)

[Horst Uwe Keller](#)

[Klaus Pseiner](#)

[Heinz Riesenhuber](#) [Otto Zellhofer](#)

[Michael Heseltine](#) [Michel Bignier](#)

[Hanspeter Schneider](#)

[Yves Sillard](#)

[Manfred Fuchs](#)

[Helmut Ulke](#)

[Peter Jankowitsch](#)

[Wolfgang Finke](#)

[Willibald Riedler](#)

[Horst Rauck](#)

[Peter Creola](#)
[Hubert Curien](#)
[Daniel Sacotte](#)
[Hermann Strub](#)
[Jean-Pierre Causse](#)
[Frédéric D'Allest](#)
[Herbert Allgeier](#)