

STG 2020-2021 REPORT

# ACADEMIC YEAR 2020/2021 IN 10 STEPS



## Introduction

Dear reader,

For the EUI's School of Transnational Governance, the academic year 2020-2021 has been one of adaptation, consolidation and growth. Adaptation was made necessary by the COVID-19 pandemic, which triggered a process of adjustment, especially in regard to teaching and training methods; for the same reasons, it also spurred technological acceleration and innovation. Consolidation has concerned the School's organisational structure, workflows, and allocation of resources. Growth has been determined by, most notably, the arrival of the first five full-time chairs, several major externally funded projects and initiatives in key strategic geographical and thematic areas of the School, as well as the arrival of the first class of master's students from all over the world.

The School was established in 2017 to teach and train the current and next generation of global leaders on issues of governance beyond the state. So far, it has advanced this mission by means of four key programmes: a two-year Master in Transnational Governance, an Executive Education programme, a Policy Leaders Fellowship, and Policy Dialogues. In Spring 2020, the STG community comprised about 35 individuals. It is currently composed of a faculty of full-time and part-time professors, a growing and specialised administrative team, a rotating cohort of 33 Policy Leader Fellows, and a class of 33 master's students. The foreseen arrival of 3 new full-time professors, a new Master in Transnational Governance class of 50 students and of a new cohort of 20 Young African Leaders Fellows in September 2021 will bring the School's community to about 200 individuals.

As the School's managers, we have tried to instil a dynamic and entrepreneurial approach to the School's operations, as well as to its teaching, branding, and outreach.

The STG has therefore adopted a new strategy, growth plan and organigram, which will also be instrumental in handling the complexities of the School's continuing expansion.

The strategy was formulated collectively by faculty and staff. It has enabled the School to clearly define its core mission under the heading of "transforming governance beyond borders". The resulting [mission statement](#) is the clearest document to date on the School's values, purpose, vision, and approach.

Furthermore, the STG strongly influenced the overhaul of the EUI website and the rebranding of the entire Institute. The two EUI-wide projects were launched in July 2020 and will have a major impact on future STG communication and outreach activities and were therefore key team activities in the second half of 2020.

In this publication, we will take you on a short tour of the STG academic year 2020-2021 in ten steps. For our staff, students, Fellows, and course participants it was quite a ride. We hope you enjoy the read.

Kind regards,

Prof Alexander Stubb, Director

Dr Fabrizio Tassinari, Executive Director

# 1 ■ THE GREAT TAKE-OFF: MASTER'S PROGRAMME WELCOMES FIRST COHORT OF STUDENTS.

September 2020 marked a seminal event for the School of Transnational Governance. The School welcomed its first cohort of master's students from Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America. The 35 students were selected among applications from 60 countries worldwide.

A lull in the COVID-19 infection rate in summer 2020 meant students were able to start the academic year in presence in Florence. Classes then proceeded with a mix of in presence, hybrid and virtual teaching, according to the different stages of the pandemic.

Despite the pandemic, students have been able to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by the programmes.

In fact, internships, mobility programmes and specialisation tracks are key components of the Master in Transnational Governance's curriculum.

Thanks to the programme's internship opportunities, all first-year students have been placed with 24 diverse policymaking institution worldwide, ranging from the OECD, to the World Bank, the European Parliament, the European Investment Bank and various United Nations agencies.

The Student Mobility Programme offers students the possibility to spend a semester at partner institutions all over the world, such as the Central European University, Bocconi University, Hertie School, Universidad de los Andes, Graduate Institute of Geneva, Renmin University, Keio Law School, or the European University of St. Petersburg. In the upcoming academic year, eleven students will take advantage of this opportunity.

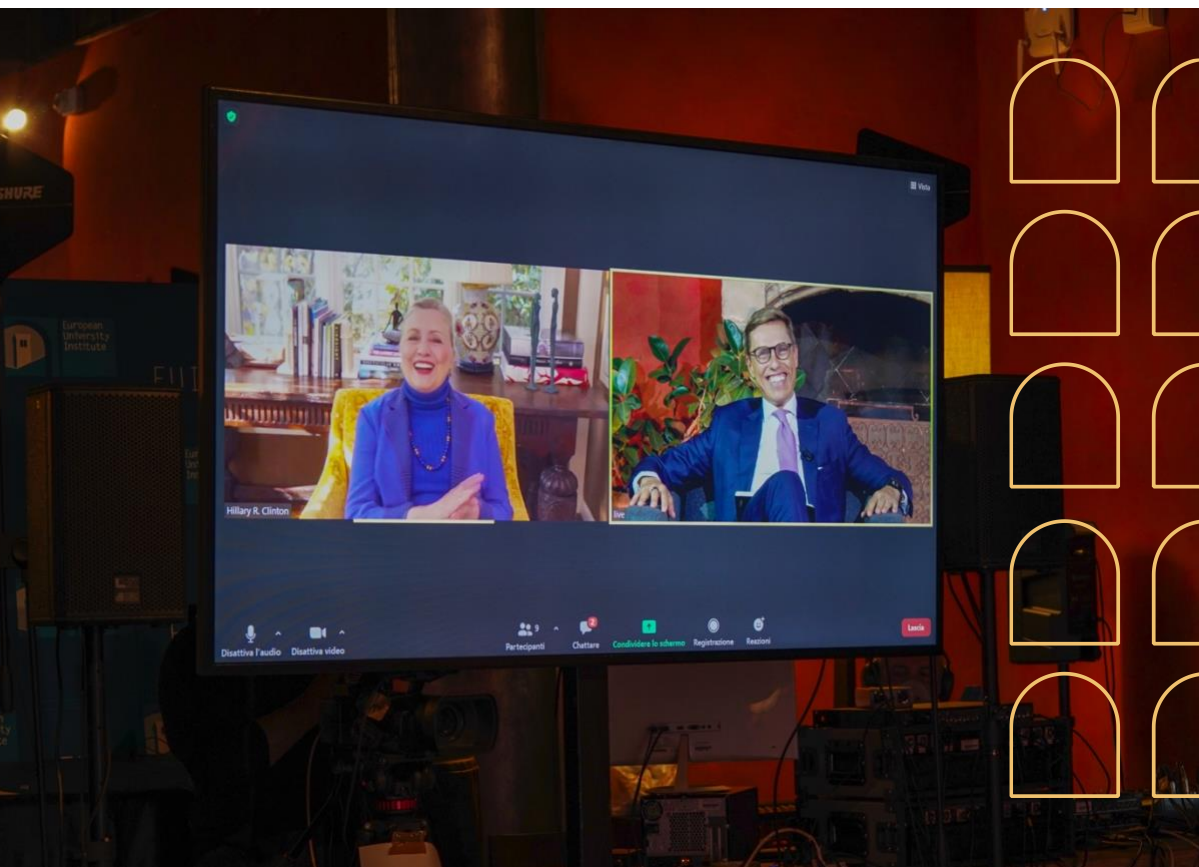
The Patron of the School's first cohort of master's students (2020-2021) is American political economist Elinor Ostrom. She was the first woman to be awarded the Nobel Prize in economics for her 'analysis of economic governance, especially the commons'. As a pioneer in offering innovative perspectives on the intricacies of governance, we trust Elinor Ostrom's example will provide orientation to our faculty, students and the entire STG community.

## 2 HISTORIC BEGINNINGS: HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON OPENS THE ACADEMIC YEAR

The official inauguration of the STG's first class of master's students was a historic moment, for both the School and the EUI. To mark the occasion, the STG was honoured to host Hillary Rodham Clinton as distinguished speaker for the opening of the Academic Year 2020-2021.

In conversation with Director Alex Stubb, STG master's students and Policy Leader Fellows, the 67th US Secretary of State shared her insights on women's leadership, public pressure, international policies, and democratic transition, as well as underlining the importance of transnational governance and the need to "apply rigour and analysis to the problems we face across borders."

The prestigious event was livestreamed to the public and garnered over 15,000 views from all over the world.



### 3 ■ MEET THE PROFS: WELCOMING NEW WORLD-CLASS STAFF MEMBERS

The last year has been a year of great expansion for the School, also thanks to the addition of new high-calibre professors and specialists to its staff. The STG now boasts 10 Full-Time Professors and 12 Part-Time Professors, covering a range of expertise in transnational policy.

#### Full-time Professors



**Kenneth Amaeshi**

Professor Kenneth Amaeshi is Chair of Sustainable Finance and Governance. He is a leading scholar on sustainable business and finance in the global South. His research focuses on sustainable finance, financial market reforms and governance, as well as on sector-level policies for sustainability and sustainability strategy in organisations.



**Michael Bauer**

Professor Michael Bauer is Academic Director of the STG Master of Arts programme in Transnational Governance. His research and teaching focus on European Multilevel Administration, Public Administration, and Comparative Policy Analysis.



**Emma Lees**

Professor Emma Lees is Chair of Transnational Law. Her research focuses on environmental and land law, with a specific focus on the role of courts in adjudicating on environmental law issues, and on the national and European rules shaping this judicial role.



**Kalypso Nicolaïdis**

Professor Kalypso Nicolaïdis has published widely on international relations, global governance, trade ethics, law and democracy promotion, as well as the internal and external aspects of European integration in numerous journals.



### **Georgios Papakonstantinou**

Professor Georgios Papakonstantinou is Chair and Director of the School's Executive Education programme. He is an Economist and has served as MEP and as Greece's Finance Minister and as Minister of Environment and Energy.



### **Claudio Radaelli**

Professor Claudio Radaelli oversees the School's Policy Leaders Fellowship Programme. He is a political scientist specialised in public policy.



### **Diane Stone**

Professor Diane Stone coordinates the STG's External Relations team. Her research interests include the influence of ideas and expertise on policy; the political economy of higher education; the 'new diplomacy'; the study of policy networks; international philanthropy; policy transfer and translation; think tanks and policy advice.



### **Adam Kamradt-Scott**

Professor Adam Kamradt-Scott is Chair of Global Public Health. His research explores how governments and multilateral organisations respond to adverse health events such as epidemics, pandemics, and emerging health and security challenges.



### **Alexander Stubb**

Professor Alexander Stubb is Director of the School of Transnational Governance. He served as Prime Minister of Finland. His background is in academia, civil service and politics.



### **Fabrizio Tassinari**

Fabrizio Tassinari is the Executive Director of the School of Transnational Governance. His expertise lies in policy advice on questions of democracy, governance and international security, in and around Europe.

## 4 ■ EXECUTIVE TRAINING SEMINARS: GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE FOR GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

The STG has been building on the success of its Executive Training Seminars by formulating new formats to deliver its trainings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Soon after the pandemic hit Europe, the STG built on its longstanding partnership with the European Court of Auditors to deliver five webinars on the pandemic's impact on regulations, the economy, and the digital world.

Shortly afterwards, the School organised two open call trainings delivered online. The first was in collaboration with the EUI Migration Policy Centre and tackled how to depolarise debates surrounding migration, while the second call saw the STG deliver a stand-alone six-session online Executive Training Seminar covering cross-cultural negotiations.

The STG is also working with the Florence School of Regulation and the Florence School of Banking and Finance to increase the topics covered in its ETS.

However, the STG is also working closely with other world-leading institutions. In 2021, the School collaborated with universities such as Stanford University to jointly offer Artificial Intelligence policy labs to policy-makers, as AI is an issue posing important questions for governance in the future.

Other partnerships include those with national institutions (the Spanish Ministry of Research for an ETS), the European Investment Bank (in the context of trainings as part of the EIB Chair) and the European Court of Auditors.

Furthermore, the STG took advantage of the unfortunate disruption caused by the pandemic to organise the training pathways of the European Transnational Governance Network, a network that includes other top European universities.

In Autumn 2020, the STG reviewed the Executive Training Seminars delivered since the School's launch. The review highlighted that over 500 people participated in the trainings, with over 60% being women. The report has allowed the School to fine-tune its plans to continue enhancing and strengthening the programme.



## 5 ■ TRAINING TOMORROW'S LEADERS: POLICY LEADER FELLOWS AND THE YOUNG AFRICA LEADERS PROGRAMME

The Young African Leadership Programme is the latest programme to be launched by the STG. Part of the School's global outreach effort, the programme allows fifteen to twenty African professionals to fine-tune their global leadership skills. The three-month training programme is fully funded and takes place in Florence. In December 2020, the STG won a tender by the European Commission for the creation of the programme. The European Commission Directorate-General for International Partnerships financed the one-year pilot programme with a € 615,000 grant. The Programme is coordinated by Prof Mehari Taddele Maru (Academic Director) and Dr Fabrizio Tassinari (Executive Director).

The project has two distinct objectives:

- build policy-making capacity across the African continent, focussing on mid-career African policy practitioners who have potential to bring about impactful change;
- develop a community of African practitioners who work both in the public and private sector at the intersection of law, public policy and entrepreneurship, in order to promote a culture of knowledge sharing.

Partnerships and co-ownerships with African stakeholders are of paramount importance to the STG. After the first call for applications was finalised, a total of 1,850 individuals applied to be part of the programme. The first cohort of African Fellows arrived in Florence in September 2021.

The **Policy Leader Fellowship (PLF)** is a global programme for early and mid-career policy practitioners from around the world to enhance their work and professional skills, whilst participating in workshops, trainings, skill-development sessions, conferences and other events. In addition, they get the chance to interact with other Fellows, policy-makers and the academic community at the EUI. PLFs are selected based on an open competition of a global call for applications. The programme is coordinated by Prof Claudio Radaelli.

For the academic year 2020-2021, 741 people of 118 different nationalities applied for the fellowship. 33 Fellows were selected, with almost perfect gender balance for fellowships lasting between three and ten months.

## 6 ■ POLICY DIALOGUES AND EVENTS: NEW FORMATS FOR CHALLENGING TIMES

COVID-19 forced organisations to rethink how they deliver events, leading to the creation of hybrid and online events. The STG has consistently worked hard to find innovative ways to share knowledge with the wider public.

### #FlorenceLive: a repeat success

The #FlorenceLive series is a prime example of how the STG adopted technological solutions to rise to the challenges of the pandemic. Launched in May 2020, the weekly webcast tackled the many impacts of COVID-19 on policy. Livestreamed to provide accessible information to the public, the webcasts garnered over 30,000 views from around the world. Topics included democracy, the digital world, state versus market and the pandemic's impact on migration. The webcast hosted high-level speakers, such as Mo Ibrahim, Ylva Johansson, Cecilia Malmström, Alexander Schallenberg and Anne-Marie Slaughter. Due to the success of #FlorenceLive, a second edition was launched in September 2020, focussing on a wider range of world issues. Topics included “Women on 2020” and a US Election Special.

### Policy Dialogues: bridging the gap between academia and policymaking

Key to the School's [mission](#) of blending theory and practice, the School's Policy Dialogues (taking place online) continued to provide a platform for representatives from different sectors to discuss new approaches to policy issues. During the Academic Year 2020-21, the School organised 17 Policy Dialogues, bringing together 360 participants, and publishing a number of related Policy Briefs.

### The STG Policy Papers Collection: knowledge for better policies.

In December 2020, the School launched the [STG Policy Papers Collection](#). The collection furthers the School's goal of creating a bridge between the worlds of academia and policymaking by providing actionable knowledge for policymaking. The collection boasts three interconnected and distinct types of publications: 1) Policy Points (which provide targeted information “at-a-glance”); 2) Policy Briefs (concise summaries of issues and recommended policy options); and 3) Policy Analyses (in-depth analysis of specific topics). The contributions, authored by STG members and guest authors, provide timely and policy-oriented perspectives on a variety of issues relevant to transnational governance.

## Two Forums, one objective: democratic participation in Europe.

As part of the STG's transnational democracy initiative, the School launched the [EUI Forum on Democratic Participation and the Future of Europe](#) in September 2020. The Forum explores the range and potential of citizen participation in Europe, by taking the *Conference on the Future of Europe* (CoFoE) as a prime example. In line with the STG's mission, the Forum provides a bridge between academia, European institutions, practitioners, and civil society.

Alongside the Forum, the [Young EUI Democracy Forum \(YEDF\)](#) was founded by a group of EUI-STG master's students and Fellows, but has since widened to include young researchers and early academics from the EUI community. The YEDF focuses on the intersecting issues concerning the restriction of civic space in Europe, the disconnection between decision-makers in Brussels and EU citizens, inequality, and the relationship between the EU and the broader international community. The YEDF tackles these issues from the angle of ensuring that young people's voices in Europe are heard.

Have a look as well at the [EUI transnational democracy blog](#).

## After COVID-19: The STG and the Reform for Resilience Commission (R4R)

In April 2021, the School started its activity as a Europe Hub for the "Reform for Resilience – The Post-Pandemic Policy Commission" (R4R Commission). The Commission seeks to frame recommendations for a post-COVID world for policymakers across governments and international agencies, including the G7/20, the OECD and the WHO. Acting as Europe Hub of the Commission, the STG will contribute to the empirical insights needed for policy proposals that integrate health and economics for the post-COVID world. Furthermore, the School organised a "European COVID Summit" in mid-April to reflect on issues such as infodemics, the EU vaccine roll-out and the transformations of work environments.

More here: [www.r4rx.org](http://www.r4rx.org)

## 7 ■ CLIMATE CHANGE: THE EIB CHAIR AND THE CLIMATE WORKSHOPS FOR G20 COUNTRIES

The STG is committed to the fight against climate change.

The European Investment Bank (EIB) and the School of Transnational Governance established the Chair on Climate Change Policy and International Carbon Markets (EIB Chair) with a mission to become a world-leading centre of research and teaching on climate change policy over the following 5 years.

In September 2020, Professor Jos Delbeke, former founding Director-General for Climate Action at the European Commission, was appointed EIB Climate Chair.

The EIB Chair focuses on four areas of climate change policy: carbon-prices, sustainable finance deals, technological innovation, and energy. It pays particular attention to the promotion of cost-effective policy solutions and distributional issues, ensuring the 'just transition' to more sustainable forms of energy.

STG Climate aims to share knowledge and best policy practices to face the transnational challenge of climate change. The project is funded by the EU Commission and the German Environment Ministry and is implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). The first workshop was in partnership with the World Bank's Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition (CPLC) and took place in Cape Town, South Africa, in March 2020. South African and European experts discussed how emerging economies can build on existing carbon pricing initiatives to honour their commitments under the Paris Agreement in a socially just and effective manner. Workshops took place in India, Mexico, Brazil and Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia is also on the agenda for the remainder of 2021.

More here: [www.eui.eu/research-hub?id=eib-chair-on-climate-change-policy-and-international-carbon-markets](http://www.eui.eu/research-hub?id=eib-chair-on-climate-change-policy-and-international-carbon-markets)

## 8 ■ EDMO: TACKLING ONLINE DISINFORMATION

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of high-quality information in democratic societies.

The European Digital Media Observatory (EDMO) was established in June 2020 to fight online disinformation. EDMO is an independent hub for collaboration among fact-checkers, academics and other relevant stakeholders, who actively work with media organisations and media literacy experts, while providing support to policy makers.

Following a successful tender application to a call of the European Commission, EDMO based its activity on a consortium led by the STG. The Observatory has received an overall funding of € 2.5 million. The project is coordinated by STG Professors Miguel Poiaras Maduro, who is Chair of EDMO's executive board and Professor Madeleine De Cock Buning, Chair of its advisory board.

In its first year, EDMO promoted access to the data of online platforms for research purposes in order to produce a map of fact-checking activities in Europe, launched its first training activities, contributed to relevant policy and research debates and launched an online secure collaborative platform for fact-checkers.

In 2021, EDMO started coordinating the work of national and regional hubs, which are funded by the European Commission, who will support its mission in EU member states.

More about EDMO here: [edmo.eu](https://edmo.eu)

## 9 ■ FUNDRAISING: TOWARDS MORE SELF-SUFFICIENCY

The STG has set the ambitious goal of reaching 50% self-financing within seven years of existence. It is therefore fully committed to building a strong and sustainable fundraising programme.

In June 2020, the European Investment Bank and the EUI established the 'EIB Chair on Climate Change', which helps disseminate best climate policy practices across the world. The partnership is an important milestone for the STG, as it is the School's first externally funded Chair, allowing the School to secure € 1.7 million in funding over five years.

Furthermore, the executive training programme in climate policies funded by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) now includes four additional G20 countries (Mexico, Brazil, Saudi Arabia and Indonesia). The project has therefore been extended until October 2021, after securing additional funding of approximately € 200,000 (out a total of € 544,000).

The STG Digital Cluster has also been gaining momentum. In March 2021, the EUI partnered with the Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian to establish the 'European Digital Media Fund'. The Fund supports research on disinformation and media literacy and fact-checking initiatives. The STG-based European Digital Media Observatory (EDMO) acts as an advisor for the Fund, assisting in the formulation of calls for applications and in the selection of projects.

Google pledged a € 25 million donation to the Fund. In line with the Fund's policy on donations, Google will not be involved in the management or governance of the Fund, in order to adhere to principles of academic freedom and independence.

It is expected that the Fund will support the STG Digital cluster and activities connected to the Fund with € 5 million over five years.

Other STG clusters are also attracting funding. The STG Gender Cluster is a prime example, with the Open Society Institute granting in December 2020 support for research on how to develop strategies and tools to address the gender gap (ca. € 94,000).

In July 2020, the Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian also agreed to fund full scholarships for master's students and Policy Leaders (ca. € 224,000 over three years). More recently, EUI's long-standing partner Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio Firenze has renewed its generous "Giorgio La Pira" scholarship scheme for African and local students (ca. € 200,000).

## 10 ■ GLOBAL STG: PRESTIGIOUS PARTNERS AND THE UNHCR'S UNIVERSITY CORRIDORS

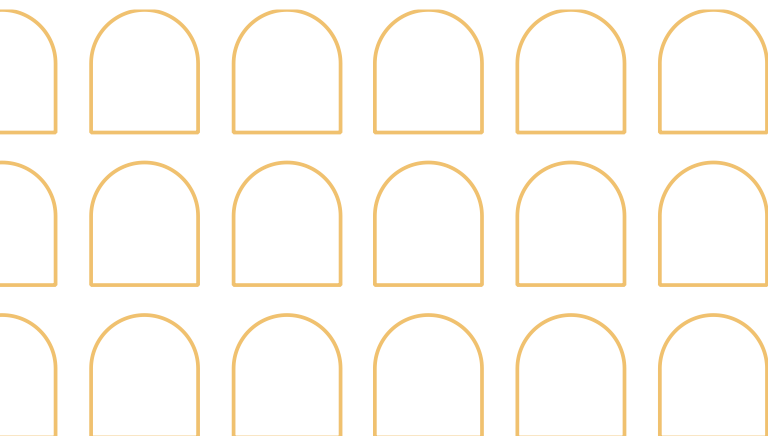
External relations are key to the School's success, as the STG operates across different academic and policy-making networks. Coordinated by Professor Diane Stone, STG partnerships make the School's transnational focus a lived reality.

The STG's extensive network of partnerships are at the heart of the creation of collaborative teaching programmes and research networks for Executive Education and Policy Dialogues, leading to exciting mobility opportunities for scholars, staff, Fellows, and students.

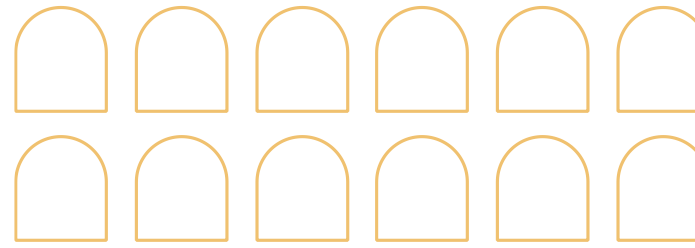
New partnerships established this year include Bocconi University, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, the Conflict Management Initiative, the European External Action Service, the European Institute for Gender Equality, the EU Institute of Security Studies, Indiana University, Renmin University of China, and the Italian School of Administration. The STG also spearheaded the EUI's participation in the Open Society University Network, which fosters critical thinking, open intellectual inquiry, and fact-based research to strengthen the foundations of an open society.

Furthermore, the STG strongly believes in inclusive access to higher education. In March 2021, the STG joined the UNHCR-led project "[University Corridors](#)" to provide young refugees residing in Ethiopia access to master's programmes in Italy. The STG offered scholarships to two refugee students.

Finally, the STG is also working with the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, contributing to its programme which delivers training on Evidence-Informed Policy-Making to Western Balkans policy-makers.



# THE WAY AHEAD



In highlighting the progress of the past year, this report underscores how the School of Transnational Governance, now in its fourth year of existence, is not only growing in each of its thematic areas and programmes, but is developing a coherent offer that is faithful to its founding mission. Each programme is driven to carve out a unique niche in teaching and training activities that spell out the School's transnational component, the need to systematically include actors beyond the state in the formulation and execution of public policies. Finally, the STG has an unreserved and undimmed ambition to reach out beyond Europe, to Latin America, Africa and East and South Asia.

This ambition is further reinforced by the arrival in Autumn 2021 of three new full-time Chairs in the area of transnational law, the Global South and Public Health, as well as part-time professors of the calibre of Nobel economics prize winner and MIT professor Bengt Holmström, former European Commission President José Manuel Barroso, and EU Special Representative and former Slovak Foreign Minister Miroslav Lajčák.

The relocation to Palazzo Buontalenti in the centre of Florence, which took place in Summer 2021, is a landmark in the school's development. Palazzo Buontalenti is equipped with state-of-the-art technical and architectural solutions to ensure teaching and training activities are delivered to the highest standard. In line with the scale of its growth, the School will however retain a base in Fiesole at Villa Malafrasca, close to the EUI's headquarters.

The post-Covid world will require from all of us stamina, creativity, and a desire to rebuild and reopen after an unprecedented disruption. The School's continuing progress, even during this unusual year, gives reasons to be optimistic. It is not accidental that its underlying proposition—that governance takes place beyond the State—also represents the single most effective recipe for the post-pandemic recovery.

The STG has secured the necessary funds to make this ambitious project a reality, garnering a total income of € 10,905,670 for the Academic Year 2020-2021.



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