



**FLORENCE, 08 JUNE 2018**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**MALTA BECOMES 23<sup>rd</sup> CONTRACTING STATE TO THE EUI**

The European University Institute is proud to announce that Malta officially became a member of the EUI on 8 June, making it the 23<sup>rd</sup> contracting state of the Institute.

Vanessa Frazier, Ambassador of Malta to Italy, was present at the High Council meeting on 8 June, at which Malta's accession to the EUI was ratified by the representatives of the 22 current Member States.

With Malta's accession to the Institute, prospective researchers from that country will be able to apply to the EUI's graduate programmes in Economics, History, Law and Political and Social Sciences.

The accession is part of an ongoing effort of the EUI management to enlarge membership of the Institute, and in particular to bring in the countries that joined the European Union most recently.

"Malta is happy to take its place within the European University Institute and looks forward to a very fruitful relationship with the EUI for the mutual benefit of our academia and researchers alike," **said Ambassador Frazier.**

Commenting on the inclusion of Malta among EUI contracting states, **EUI Secretary General Vincenzo Grassi said:** "With Malta's accession to the EUI, we have taken a significant step towards stronger cultural and academic integration and scientific excellence, objectives that we share and that are of ever greater importance in the dynamics of Europe today."

**About the European University Institute**

The European University Institute was set up in 1972 by the six founding member states of the then European Communities. Its aim is to provide advanced academic training for doctoral and post-doctoral researchers, and to foster research in fields of particular relevance for the development of Europe. With 23 contracting states, the Institute hosts around 1000 academic members in its departments of Economics, History, Law, and Political and Social Sciences; the Max Weber Programme for Postdoctoral Studies; the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies; the School of Transnational Governance; and the Historical Archives of the European Union.

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