

General Principles Concerning the Receipt of External Funds, Including Donations

According to the Code of Ethics, the European University Institute is committed to promoting and maintaining high standards of integrity and accountability in the conduct of academic research and endorses a culture of honesty and transparency in all its institutional activities. In undertaking this commitment, the Institute emphasizes that academic freedom is a core value to be safeguarded and sustained.

This document presented for adoption by the EUI Academic Council is based on an initiative of the EUI Ethics Committee and establishes certain principles concerning the receipt of external donations or funding by the EUI and its various units.

General principles related to the acceptance of external funds

1. The EUI is a public institution, established by EU Member States and primarily funded by them and the European Commission. This does not preclude the receipt of public funding from other sources, or of private funding.
2. The acceptance of external funding must not compromise academic freedom and independence or the EUI core missions -teaching and research, both at the highest academic level.
3. Funding from the national research councils (or equivalent bodies) of EU Member States, or of states with an association agreement with the EUI, as well as funding from European Union sources (e.g. the Commission and its research funding organizations and programmes, or the Parliament), enjoys a presumption of being compatible with the principles enshrined in this document.
4. Funding from other sources needs to be assessed against the principles enshrined in this Policy Document before acceptance. Such funding will be reviewed by a funding committee to be established by the President in consultation with the Executive Committee. It is foreseen that a member of the Ethics Committee would be a member of the funding committee. All units of the EUI will submit an annual report on external funding to the President.
5. The EUI welcomes donations from EUI Alumni.
6. The EUI will not accept donations or funding in any form from its current or prospective PhD researchers or their families.
7. The EUI will not accept donations or funding that would derive from activity that was or is illegal, or runs counter to the core values of impartial and independent research, scholarship and teaching, or that would cause it reputational damage.
8. Discussions with potential donors that are likely to give rise to significant publicity, or which raise complex questions with regard to acceptability, should be considered at the earliest stage possible by the funding committee and the appropriate EUI decision-making body (for example the Academic Council, the

President, the Director of the RSCAS) who should be fully informed of the purpose and the background to the donation and the source of funds.

9. Any decisions related to the use of funds received through a donation are taken by appropriate EUI bodies (e.g. the EUI's President, Academic Council or the Director of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies), in accordance with applicable internal rules and standard procedures. This does not preclude offering donors opportunities for continuing engagement with the activities that they have funded.
10. Any earmarking of funds received through a donation, for instance for research programmes or PhD and postdoctoral scholarships, must respect the academic independence and integrity of the EUI and must not result in any deviation from applicable rules and procedures.
11. Within an EUI authority or body that is considering any issue related to the acceptance or use of external donations, issues of conflict of interest (e.g., close personal or professional relations or other private or shared economic interests which may be perceived to compromise the impartiality, objectivity, and independence in the performance of the individual's duties) will be dealt with through early disclosure and, whenever pertinent, non-participation by the individual concerned. Neither a person's nationality nor area of research will on its own be regarded as creating a conflict of interest.