

Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence
Cologne - Paris

WELCOME

EUCOPAS was initiated in September 2015 as Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence together with our partner Sciences Po Paris. Our newsletter will be published yearly presenting all EUCOPAS activities. In October, we started with a public lecture on the European Monetary Union and Grexit. Not only researchers participated in the lively debate but also the interested public was eager to exchange ideas on the future of the Eurozone. In January, we continued with an excellent PhD Workshop in Paris. Young researchers presented their work in an academically fruitful environment. This event is particularly interesting for networking and to present research on the international academic scene.

Eventually, the inaugural EUCOPAS conference took place in March. We took the opportunity to invite well-known academics as well as young researchers and students from all over Europe, but also interested people from Cologne who wanted to dive into the discussions on (dis-)integration in the EU. The final event this year was the international and interdisciplinary MA summer school in Brussels. Students with different academic backgrounds came together to discuss current EU-Turkey relations and the refugee crisis. These five intense days created new pan-European friendships and academic exchange beyond borders. With this first very successful year in mind, we are looking forward to the forthcoming EUCOPAS activities in Paris, Cologne and Brussels. We hope you will enjoy keeping track of our activities and achievements.

Aline Bartenstein, *EUCOPAS Project Manager*

Wolfgang Wessels, *EUCOPAS Academic Co-ordinator*

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EUCOPAS INAUGURAL CONFERENCE

The inaugural conference 'THE EUROPEAN UNION BETWEEN INTEGRATION AND DISINTEGRATION' took place in Cologne on March 17th and 18th, 2016. The Conference was jointly organized with THESEUS, a European network of thinkers and actors. More than 100 international academics, politicians, young researchers, and the interested public discussed past and possible future developments of European integration and disintegration processes. They found that challenges at hand ask for new political and scientific approaches – leaving some speakers more optimistic than others regarding the EU's future.

The conference dealt with a reflection on the past and current crises taking place in and around Europe, and discussed if and how those have been working as catalysts for further institutional, economic or political integration or caused steps of disintegration. It analysed a set of theoretical understandings, concepts, and definitions of the disintegration phenomenon itself as well as possible causalities and

interplays between integrative and disintegrative processes. These academic debates took place within an introductory session, four panels and a conclusion. The first panel dealt with the varieties and different types of crises the European Union has dealt with so far. After creating this thematic fundament, the subsequent panel elaborated on how the institutional architecture of the Union was effected and subject to alteration due to the crises management displayed by the EU.

The third panel was dedicated to the external dimension, namely to the challenges the EU is confronted with on its borders. The fourth thematic panel reflected on possible exits of single member states as well as EU fragmentation. The concluding session characterised all discussions taking place in the respective panels as a sign for the need to actively address problems at hand, and to redefine theoretical models of European integration to better address processes of differentiation and disintegration.



Participants of the inaugural conference.



Informal discussions at the conference.

EUCOPAS is a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence consisting of the Jean Monnet Chair, Prof. Wessels, University of Cologne and the Jean Monnet Chair in European Union Law and Political Science at Sciences Po, Paris. The programme's objective is to promote and mainstream EU-related key subjects in different disciplines and to reach out to the wider public.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

PHD WORKSHOP

On 21 and 22 January 2016, the EUCOPAS-THESEUS PhD Workshop took place at Sciences Po Paris. Selected young researchers had the chance to present their studies about the impact of challenges such as the economic crisis, migration fluxes or geopolitical threats on the European Union. Following their presentation, they got detailed feedback from renowned professors of Sciences Po Paris and the University of Cologne. "Fellow PhD candidates come from all over



Students at the PhD workshop in Paris.

the world including countries being rather remote to the study of the EU, such as Japan. This environment provides for a great social experience", said David Schäfer, doctoral student at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and winner of the Best Paper Award that has been distributed after the workshop. In his study, David Schäfer depicts the role of ideas for establishing the EU's banking union. He concludes that they were not only constitutive for the preferences of member states, but also used strategically as a bargaining tool in the interstate negotiations. Christakis Georgiou, Université de Montpellier, presented his analysis on the effects of the Eurozone crisis on the EU's economic governance structure. Among further topics were "The European External Action Service (EEAS) as a diplomatic actor and its political significance in relation to the EU Member States' diplomacies" by Sonja Alapiha, University of Jyväskylä, or "Dynamics, actors and motives of European police cooperation centralisation in the fight against transnational organised crime" by Agathe Piquet, Université Panthéon-Assas Paris II.

EUCOPAS PUBLIC LECTURE ON THE EUROPEAN MONETARY UNION

"Was the European Monetary Union a bad mistake? Should Grexit be the first step for a new system?" – These were the leading questions of the EUCOPAS Lecture on 26 October 2015 at the Fritz Thyssen Foundation in Cologne, jointly carried out with the European network THESEUS. The speakers were the two highly renowned Greek and German scientists Prof Loukas Tsoukalis, Hellenic Foundation for European & Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP), and Prof Wolfgang Streeck, former director of the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies (MPIfG). Their reflection on the state of the European Monetary Union was a critical, interesting and metaphorical debate in which they agreed in a central point: the situation is severe, but there are no simple solutions at reach.

Prof Streeck stated this conviction already in his opening statement: "The Eurozone will not survive the next five years". It had fundamental errors in its construction, explained the scientist. Planned by the French as a mechanism to contain Germany's power, the Union has turned out as the exact opposite: A German hegemony which was reflected not only in the way Germany dominated decisions taken in the course of the economic and financial crises, but also in handling the high numbers of refugees coming to Europe. "Monetary Union as constructed at Maas



Prof Loukas Tsoukalis, ELIAMEP.

tricht was against the law of gravity", stressed Tsoukalis. „An unbalanced construction based on a weak political base, member countries with different economic structures and different political economies – it does not work.“ EU actors were blinded during the early honeymoon period that hid growing economic divergence inside, argued Tsoukalis. "It was a bubble that finally burst." Talking about solutions for the situation, even these two experts had no clear answer. "There is no obvious way out", said Tsoukalis. One important step was to accept the fact that one solution does not necessarily solve the same problems in several countries, argued Streeck. "We need to start understanding other countries' way of thinking".

The debate was opened and chaired by Prof Wolfgang Wessels, Jean Monnet Chair at the University of Cologne.



Prof Wolfgang Streeck, MPIfG, speaks at the Fritz Thyssen Foundation in Cologne.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

MA INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL AND SIMULATION EXERCISE IN BRUSSELS

by Mario Kühn, University of Cologne

The intention behind the EUCOPAS-PROTEUS Summer School was to bring people from different nations together and make them think about the European idea in accordance with current political topics.



Participants discussing on the Turkey-EU Deal during the simulation exercise.

The best way to achieve this is a common trip to Brussels, a city which symbolizes the European idea like no other. The schedule was filled with events, dominated by the purpose of producing a common basis for students from different disciplines and various nationalities. On the first day general director Cars-

ten Pillath opened us the doors to look behind the political circus of the EU by his detailed description of his working atmosphere. To create a fruitful debate about the relation between Turkey and the EU, the next day offered us the opportunity to ask the Turkish ambassador in Brussels specific questions on the topic. Combined with an informative talk with a representative of the German embassy, we earned a general impression of diplomatic appearance.

The point of approaching the immigration and admission process was turned by lectures at the Commission visitor center to a pro EU standpoint. On the other hand Crisis Action and Human Rights Watch gave us a more critic view on the situation of refugees, who come to Europe. In addition to that the speakers gave us an evaluation about future trends regarding the European approaches of handling refugees concerning human rights. The highlight of the trip gave us the simulated opportunity to write a chapter in the



Participants after the simulation.

book of European policy. After hearing all the lectures and preparing floods of documents, we were looking forward to represent our countries interests as good as possible in the summit of the European Council on EU-Turkey relations. Conclusively, it was visible how the professional atmosphere led to a diplomatic attitude and influenced the behavior of us participants. After a long and heated debate, it was therefore a heroic feeling to finally sign the summit conclusions.

To cut a long story short, it is possible to say that even though the program was mainly not meant to relax, we had an enjoyable time full of memorable moments and a unique opportunity to see Brussels from a professional point of view.

The Summer School welcomed this year international participants from universities from Cologne, Istanbul, Paris and Prague. The topic was the European Refugee Crisis and EU-Turkey relations. The school combines practical experiences in Brussels with a simulation exercise of the European Council or a Moot Court on a current EU topic.



International students of the summer school visiting EU institutions in Brussels.

EUCOPAS ON FACEBOOK

Visit our Facebook page www.facebook.com/eucopas to interact with former participants, write a comment and to stay updated on current and future activities. On Facebook, you can also read reports on our current activities and get the latest pictures of our events. Daniela Tkadlečková, for instance, one of our summer school participants from Charles University Prague, wrote a very insightful report on her experiences during the summer school in Brussels. For the full report please visit the following link www.ukacko.cz/eu-simulation-game-and-my-brussels-fairytale. Join us now!

IMPRESSUM:

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