

INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES

EUNMUTE

Un-Muting Europe

Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence

www.eunmute.eu



Co-funded by
the European Union

UN-MUTING EUROPE - *EUNMUTE*

On November 2021, the Institute for European Studies (IES) of the Université Saint-Louis - Bruxelles was designated a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (JMCE). This recognition, which testifies to the quality of the activities carried out by the IEE for many years, is part of the European Union's Erasmus+ programme which aims to foster excellence in teaching and research in the field of European Union studies, as well as dialogue between universities, civil society and policymakers.

The EUNMUTE Jean Monnet Center of Excellence is co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union.

Call: ERASMUS-JMO-2021-HEI-TCH-RSCH

Acronym: EUNMUTE

Project number: 101047658

Type of Action: ERASMUS-LS

THE AIM

The aim of the EUNMUTE project is to explore the capacity of the European Union to make heard the voices of the "muted," namely those categories of people or other living beings who are usually voiceless, insufficiently heard or unsatisfactorily defended at the national political level: minorities of all types, non-citizens, future generations, and non-human living beings. In so doing, the project ultimately raises questions about the conditions for improving the quality of democracy in Europe.

The EUNMUTE JMCE is an interdisciplinary platform centred on law, political science, political theory and sociology. It enables academics, students, policymakers and civil society actors to debate and better understand the role of the European Union in addressing some of the most important societal challenges of our time.

THE ACTIVITIES

As an academic Brussels-based research centre and university faculty, the JMCE's goal is to provide cutting-edge research and teaching, as well as to stage events and create knowledge platforms in European Union studies.

During the 2022-2025 period, the JMCE will host **18 research seminars, public conferences and lectures, 13 policy-oriented conferences and one Ph.D. workshop**. The centre will provide **lectures** to undergraduate and graduate students on the Un-Muting power of the European Union. The JMCE will also offer **research mobility grants** to promote interactions between the JMCE and foreign universities by funding short-term visits for researchers from all over the world.

The JMCE activities concentrate on five major challenges:

- Safeguarding the rule of law
- Ensuring inclusiveness
- Preserving the climate and natural resources
- Fostering a digital future for Europe
- Strengthening democracy.

Overall, the JMCE will offer a venue for EU studies and broaden the visibility of, interest in, and understanding of the European Union while building long lasting partnerships.





TEACHING

The Institute for European Studies organizes various educational and training programmes in European Union studies at graduate, post-graduate, doctoral and post-doctoral levels, with master's courses given in French and/or English. True to the tradition of interdisciplinarity that characterizes USL-B, the IES offers its students an environment that blends approaches specific to law, economics, political science, history, and philosophy.

In the framework of the IES' Master's and Advanced Master's in European Studies, the aim of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence is to raise students' awareness of the EU's un-muting power. Findings from research activities, such as research seminars and academic conferences and workshops, will give rise to lectures by the EUNMUTE team members, and will also be made available to the academic community, practitioners, decision-makers, and civil servants of the European institutions and diplomatic circles teaching in our master's programmes.

The JMCE will develop original and innovative pedagogical activities aiming to involve students in a collective reflection on EUNMUTE issues. It will also foster a fruitful dialogue between master's students, policymakers and civil society actors.

MULTIMEDIA TEACHING MATERIAL

The EUNMUTE team will produce teaching material in the form of five pedagogical videos per year. The video series will consist of short videos and/or podcasts on issues related to the EU's un-muting role regarding the five key challenges at the core of the project. Each video or podcast will address one specific challenge. All videos will be made available to students on the EUNMUTE JMCE's Youtube channel, as well as to a wider audience.

Link: www.eunmute.eu/seminar-series/



PRACTICAL DIGITAL EXERCISE

In the context of specific courses taught in the Master's in European Studies, students are required to create, to review and to edit Wikipedia pages on topics related to the un-muting power of the EU. The aim of this activity is to have students contribute to improving public information on the subject, while simultaneously strengthening their own writing and reasoning skills (mastering of language, editing, peer reviewing by experts, etc.). This innovative teaching activity focuses on one of the five key challenges identified in the EUNMUTE project, namely EU social and economic inclusiveness.

FAUSTA DESHORMES LA VALLE PRIZES

Each year, the JMCE will award two *Fausta Deshormes La Valle* prizes for the best research paper and master's thesis on the un-muting power of the European Union. One prize will be awarded to an undergraduate student and another to a graduate student enrolled in one of the IES master's programmes.

This prize was named after *Fausta Deshormes La Valle*, an Italian journalist who joined the European Commission in 1961 and dedicated most of her career in the Press and Information Service to raising awareness among and mobilizing young people and women in favour of European integration. She was a pioneer who worked tirelessly to give a voice to the voiceless.

Ph.D. WORKSHOP

By the end of 2024, a two-day Ph.D. workshop on EU un-muting power will be held in Brussels. The workshop will offer an opportunity for Ph.D. students to present and discuss research related to the EUNMUTE issues. Ph.D. students, selected following a call for contributions, will be invited to present their research to an interdisciplinary set of academics from the JMCE and beyond. This event will help students improve their research and develop networks of researchers and academics from diverse backgrounds and different levels of experience.

The Ph.D. workshop will welcome submissions from Ph.D. students worldwide. To facilitate participation of students from low- and middle-income countries, the JMCE will offer up to five Travel Grants to cover travel and accommodation expenses.



RESEARCH



EUNMUTE RESEARCH SEMINARS SERIES

The research seminar series provides an interdisciplinary platform centred on law, political science, political theory, and sociology. It aims to foster an academic conversation between the JMCE team members and the broader national and international scientific community. Each seminar tackles a specific topic related to EUNMUTE, and benefits from the insights of external speakers and discussants.

Six seminars are organized each year in a hybrid meeting format, with some of the audience joining remotely. Through audio and video conferencing technology, the seminar series reaches an audience beyond the university campus. Recordings of the seminars are publicly available online on the EUNMUTE YouTube channel and website.

Link: www.eunmute.eu/seminar-series/



ACADEMIC WORKSHOPS

In 2025, an academic workshop will aim to take stock of the research carried out in the framework of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence.

Organized during the last semester of the project, the workshop will consist of a two-day international academic conference organized at UCLouvain Saint-Louis - Bruxelles and broadcast online. The workshop will be an opportunity for the EUNMUTE team to showcase the findings of their research. In addition to the EUNMUTE team members, speakers will be selected from among those who previously participated in the research seminar and through an international call for contributions.

EUNMUTE academic conclusions will be collected in an edited volume to be published in the “Idées d’Europe” book series.

EUNMUTE ACADEMIC SHORT STAY GRANT

The EUNMUTE Academic Short Stay Grant is a research mobility scheme that aims to promote interactions between the EUNMUTE Centre of Excellence and foreign universities by funding short-term visits. This mobility scheme supports research projects carried out in domains covered by EUNMUTE.

The EUNMUTE Academic Short Stay Grant is intended for junior and senior researchers who wish to stay IN or OUT for academic purposes for a period of up to three months. Grant for outgoing mobility supports researchers from USL-B interested in EU Studies and willing to collaborate with foreign research centres and universities abroad in research domains covered by the EUNMUTE project. Grant for incoming mobility supports foreign researchers interested in the EUNMUTE project and willing to visit the JMCE in order to collaborate with the EUNMUTE research team.

Depending on the length of the research stay, funding opportunities are up to 2,500 euros.

More information: www.eunmute.eu/mobility/



OUTREACH

CULTURAL EVENTS

Building on past successful collaborations and existing networks in various cultural and artistic domains, the JMCE will organize two cultural events during the project, such as screenings of feature movies or documentaries, theatrical performances, exhibitions, etc. These cultural events are intended to extend the dialogue on EUNMUTE themes beyond academic circles.

EUNMUTE cultural events will bring together artists, academics, civil society actors, and the broader public. They will provide forums for identifying and discussing with the public and, eventually with the muted, outnumbered or voiceless actors themselves, specific challenges that arise in the European Union and how these might be addressed.

PUBLIC DEBATES ON THE EU UN-MUTING POWER

Twice a semester, the JMCE offers public debates on issues connected to the Un-Muting power of the EU. The goal of the EUNMUTE public debates is to develop reflection on the future of European integration and EU policies. These public debates bring together the European Policy Community, civil society actors and academics.

PRIVACY CAMP

Privacy Camp is an annual conference organized in Brussels and held in association with the Computer Privacy & Data Protection International Conference (CPDP). The event brings together digital rights advocates and activists, as well as academics and policymakers from across Europe and beyond to discuss the most pressing issues facing human rights online. For eleven years, Privacy Camp has aimed to grasp how digital technologies impact the life and fundamental rights of European and non-European citizens and foster multiple crises. Privacy Camp approaches the digital world critically and questions what it means to regulate digital technologies and infrastructures in our times.

Privacy Camp is jointly organized by the EDRI, a network of NGOs, experts, advocates and academics working to defend and advance digital rights across the continent, the interdisciplinary Research Group on Law, Science, Technology & Society of the Vrije Universiteit Law (VUB-LSTS), Privacy Salon vzw and the Institute for European Studies at USL-B.



Over the lifetime of the grant, the EUNMUTE Centre of Excellence will actively support the organization of Privacy Camp.

For more information: www.eunmute.eu/privacy-camp/



JEAN MONNET CHAIRS

In addition to the EUNMUTE Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, two other Jean Monnet Chairs have been established at the IES USL-B for the period from 2022 to 2025: the EUGlobalGreen Chair and the EUGendering Chair.

EUGLOBALGREEN

EUGlobalGreen is a Jean Monnet Chair project on the environment, led by Prof. Amandine Orsini, and is part of a reflection on the global disturbances and transformations generated by human beings.

The objectives pursued by the chair:

- The objective of the Chair is to respond to the challenge of the Anthropocene by proposing an innovative and intensive programme of study that aims to encourage teaching and research excellence to address this very issue, by mobilizing European studies to reflect on global governance.
- Each year, the Chair dispenses 90 hours of teaching on the role of the European Union as a global player in environmental challenges. In parallel, the Chair develops a «EUGLOBALGREEN toolbox» including at least five case studies, four video clips, and four series of conferences (broadcast online).
- In addition to these annual teaching and research activities, produced in French and English, the Chair also includes an academic workshop and two international peer-reviewed publications including an edited book and a special issue in an academic journal.

More information: www.euglobalgreen.eu/



EUGENDERING

The EUGendering Jean Monnet Chair, led by Prof. Sophie Jacquot, constitutes a multidisciplinary platform allowing researchers, students, policymakers, civil society, and the larger public to better understand the challenges linked to the establishment of a Union of gender equality, non-discrimination and diversity. It focuses on how the EU confronts these challenges, and how it could better tackle them.

The objectives pursued by the chair:

- To build on the flourishing, dynamic and innovative scholarship which is currently developing in the field of gender and the EU, and to close the gap between the analytical dynamism of this field and its under-representation in students' training and curricula;
- To address the democratic challenge of rising gender+ inequalities in a context where the COVID-19 crisis has dramatically increased these inequalities;
- To raise the political question of the polarization of gender+ equality issues and the impact of illiberal attacks on gender+ equality policies at the EU level.

More information: www.eugendering.eu/



THE TEAM



Denis DUEZ

Project leader
Full professor of political science and European Studies



Antoine BAILLEUX

President of the Institute for European Studies
Professor of EU law and legal theory



Florence DELMOTTE

Research associate at the Belgian Fund for Scientific Research (F.R.S.-FNRS)
Professor of political science



Nicolas DE SADELEER

Full professor of law, Jean Monnet Chair (2010-2014 & 2019-2022)



Clément FONTAN

Professor of European Economic Policy at UCLouvain and USL-B, co-director of the journal *Politique européenne*



Sophie JACQUOT

Director of the Institute for European Studies
Professor of political science, Jean Monnet Chair
EUGENDERING (2022-2025)



Amandine ORSINI

Professor of political science, Jean Monnet Module
(2016-2019), Jean Monnet Chair EUGLOBALGREEN
(2022-2025)



Cecilia RIZCALLAH

Senior researcher at the Institute for European
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Professor of EU law and Human Rights at USL-B



Rocco BELLANOVA

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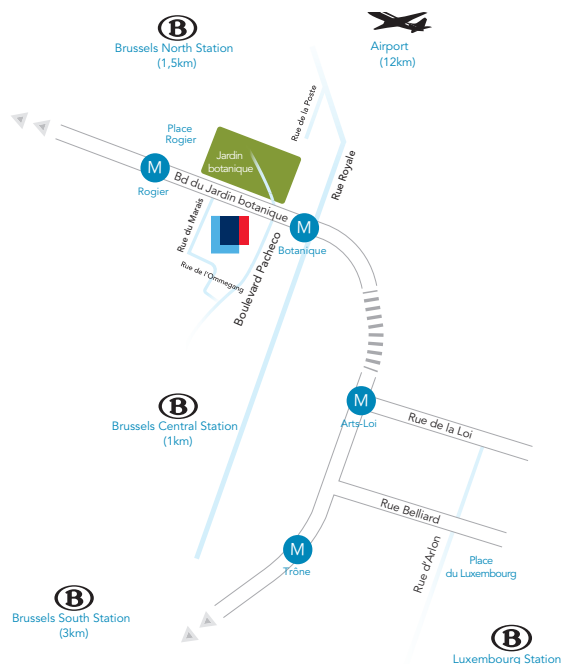
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