



## **EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

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### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY 15.06.2023**

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### **ANNUAL REPORT**

The current Executive Committee of the EUI Alumni Association was elected on 17 July 2021, it is composed of Elie Michel (President), Hanna Schebesta (Vice-President), Diego Garzia (Treasurer), Elisa Volpi (Secretary) and Argyri Panezi (Local Chapter Coordinator).

The following Annual Report accounts for the activities of the EUI AA during the civil year 2022 and mentions activities of early 2023. It is presented at the General Assembly of the EUI AA taking place on 15 June 2023 in Villa Salviati at 14.00 (as well as online) for members' approval.

#### **1. Relations with the EUI**

Since the EUI AA is an independent association under Italian Law, the Executive Committee had to organize the legal transition of the association with Florence's administrative authorities (where the association is located) and with the bank and service providers of the EUI AA (webmaster, accountant).

The relation between the Alumni Association and the EUI has significantly improved. Over 2022, there have been increased academic exchanges between alumni and current institute members; greater (physical) presence of the EUI AA and alumni in the EUI, more visible representation of the EUI AA in EUI events.

For instance, several Alumni (not only from the Executive Committee) have participated in the online meeting organized by the EUI Academic Service on



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#### **2. Academic and Social events**

Since 2022, the Executive Committee of the EUI AA had decided to move its annual General Assembly to mid-June in order to occur around the days of the Conferring Ceremony, the June Ball, and the Max Weber Conference. Unfortunately, this has not led to increased participation in the 2022 GA. Still, a decision has been taken to maintain the GA around this date for 2023. Symbolically, it is important for the EUI AA to be visible at that period of the EUI, which constitutes the peak of academic and social events. The EUI services remain flexible and accommodating in the practical organization of the GA in such busy time of the year. In 2022 (and 2023) the Executive Committee of the AA attended the social events of the Conferring Ceremony. However, EUI AA representatives did not attend the ceremony itself for practical reasons: attendance in the church was therefore limited to the graduates and their families (and the ceremony was split into two sessions).

Two major events were organized in early 2023 (and largely planned in 2022). First, the EUI AA jointly organized 'Book Month' in April with the EUI Library. On that occasion, six alumni have presented their book online, or in hybrid events, with current EUI researchers or professors as moderators and commentators. Francois Delerue (IE University), Dónal Hasset (University College Cork), Chiara Bottici (University of Florence), Marie Petersmann (Tilburg Law School), and Antonio Marcacci (compliance professional) presented their recently published books. Second, the EUI AA organized the 'Alumni Conference' in April. The conference was articulated in two parts. The first panel discussion focused on the rule of law in Europe, Michal Bobek (Justice at the Supreme Administrative Court, Czech Republic, formerly Advocate General at the Court of Justice - EUI, 2011), Cristina Blanco Sio-Lopez (historian of the EU integration process at the University of La Coruna EUI, 2008), and Marina Aksenova (international law scholar at IE University, EUI, 2014). The three following panels were geared towards current EUI researchers and fellows, to provide advice and practical information on topics that are essential to career developments. They included a roundtable co-organized with the EUI Library, in which the director Pep Torn discussed



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with several alumni who had successfully transformed their PhD theses into books; a panel on Grant application (introduced by Cristina Blanco Sio-Lopez and Diego Garzia); and a panel on legal careers (with Michal Bobek and Dimitri van den Meersche). The event gathered around 40 participants throughout the day, and was followed by a social event.

In the spirit of reaching out to recent graduates the EUI AA Executive Committee unanimously decided to waive membership fees to all the graduates of the 2023 conferring ceremony for one year (including graduates of previous who had not been officially conferred their diploma because of the pandemic).

#### **3. EUI AA local chapters**

The Brussels chapter, led by Alessandra Chirico, is still the most active local chapter. After its event on ‘EU’s Strategic Autonomy’ (2021), it organized a social event in March 2023 (about 40 participants), and is planning on hosting a book presentation by Dr. Stefaan de Rynck, Head of the European Commission’s Representation in Belgium, to present his book “Inside the Deal: How the EU Got Brexit Done” in July 2023.

The Paris chapter has also organized itself in 2022 – organizing regular social events (10-20 participants).

#### **4. Improve the AA communication**

The new AA communication strategy wants to live up to principles of transparency and inclusiveness by using a mix of communication channels. All of the important documents and events of the association are communicated to members via email (to the address they provide in their profile on the EUI AA website). Daily exchanges between EUI AA members, and the wider public, take place on social media.

For internal communication, the EUI AA relies on its Facebook group. It is open to EUI alumni, this includes active and inactive members. It is meant to be an internal communication platform,



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both for sharing information and for exchange of views between members. The Executive Committee has posted regular updates about the activities of the association and – in order to enhance transparency – posted summaries of board meetings. Members share information about local chapter or other events relevant to the association. Additionally, some local chapters have created Facebook groups of their own, or use WhatsApp conversations (e.g. Paris Alumni).

For external communication, the EUI AA relies mostly on its Twitter account. The EUI AA Twitter is reaching an increasing audience: followers have increased from 230 (July 2019) to 600 (June 2020) to 917 (July 2021) to 1107 (June 2022) to 1466 (June 2023). Alumni wishing to have conference calls or vacancies distributed can use the @EUIAlumni handle or can request distribution by private message. The EUI Twitter account now also explicitly targets current EUI researchers, in order to enhance inter-generational inclusiveness. The EUI now encourages current researchers to follow the EUI AA Twitter account for professional opportunities. The account is supported by Alex von Witzleben (History Alumnus), to whom we are indebted for his daily support.

#### **5. EUI AA website**

The EUI AA website has been thoroughly updated in 2021. The website has been largely simplified and made more functional modernized – and particularly the section to manage your membership to the association. Members can now fully manage their membership, and renew it directly online through a secured payment system, which automatically updates the members' database. The automated registration process was programmed by the webmaster Fabio Di Lupo. The automatic registration/membership management process was fully implemented in April 2022 (automatic reminder to members about membership deadline). Despite these efforts, it seems that several users face difficulties renewing their membership on the website. Some technical problems have been fixed by the webmaster (particularly for mobile devices) – but further improvement may be needed.