



EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY 16.06.2022

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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 2021 and some mentions of activities of early 2022. It is presented at the General Assembly of the EUI AA taking place on 16 June 2022 in Villa Schifanoia at 16.00 (as well as online) for members' approval.

1. Normalization of 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 the last year, yet there is considerable untapped potential. The current EUI AA board strives to strengthen the relations between Alumni and the Institute. The priorities for the next years are: 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.



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-

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-

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2. Academic and Social events

The Executive Committee of the EUI AA 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. Practically, it will make it easier for a greater number of members to attend the General Assembly, as they may already be in Florence for one of the other events. 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 were very flexible and accommodating in the practical organization of the GA in such busy time of the year. The EUI administration welcomed the idea of having the alumni more involved during this period, and particularly at the Conferring Ceremony. 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: because of the Coronavirus pandemic the 2022 Conferring ceremony included graduates from 2020, 2021, and 2022, attendance in the church was therefore limited to the graduates and their families (and the ceremony was split into two sessions).

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 2022 Conferring ceremony for one year (including graduates of previous years who had not been officially conferred their diploma because of the pandemic).

The EUI AA had organized a panel for the 2020 State of the Union Conference (7-8 May 2020), which was postponed because of the Coronavirus crisis. The selected panel was titled “*The EUI Alumni’s perspective: the future of Europe between populism and technocracy*”, and composed of Prof. Marina Aksenova (IE University of Madrid), Prof. Lorenzo De Sio (LUISS University of Rome), Dr. Johannes Karremans (University of Salzburg), and Dr. Monika Sus (Hertie School). However, the organizers of the 2021 State of the Union conference decided not to include this panel in the program. It remains an objective of the AA board to revive the earlier commitment of the EUI to secure the yearly placement of an AA panel at the State of the Union conference.



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-

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-

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3. Revive EUI AA local chapters

Because of the Covid-19 crisis, most local chapter activities were suspended throughout 2022 and 2021. The Board has received various expressions of interest for leading local chapter activities (Brussels, Netherlands, Paris, Vienna).

Still, the Brussels chapter (led by Alessandra Chirico) managed to organize an online event on 'EU's Strategic Autonomy' on 24 June 2021. The panel gathered alumni of different generations, from academia and EU institutions in a lively conversation (presenters: Alex Wilson, Karine Caunes, Filippo Vergara Caffarelli, Thomas Jorgensen, Jacob Oberg)

The role of Local Chapter Coordinator has been created through the revision of the EUI AA Statutes in 2020. As in-person events are the norm again in 2022, the EUI AA hopes to revive local chapters. The Executive Committee has decided to implement a procedure to allow Local chapters to finance parts of their events with the funds of the EUI AA.

4. Work on the institutional foundations of the EUI AA

In 2021, the Executive Committee has proposed a revision of the Statutes of the Association, which was voted in an extraordinary General Assembly (24/07/2021). The implementation of these changes required going through several legal and bureaucratic procedures with a notary and the administrative authorities in Florence (which induced further legal costs, see Financial Report).

5. 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.



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-

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-

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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, 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.

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). 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.

The Board 2021-2023 highlights the need to adapt and diversify the communication strategy in the future, as Facebook utility as communication tool has notably decreased.

6. Improve the EUI AA website

The EUI AA website has been thoroughly updated – as to make the Alumni personal online profiles the supporting infrastructure of the association. 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. Final step of the automatic



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-

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-

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registration/membership management process was implemented in April 2022 (automatic reminder to members about membership deadline).

7. EUI mentoring scheme

In 2021, the EUI has launched an initiative for First Generation researchers and students (first in their families to graduate from university). From the start, the EUI AA has supported this initiative and offered to help. EUI AA Executive Members attended several meetings of the initiative, the EUI AA offered to set up a mentoring scheme between current EUI first generation students and researchers and alumni. The EUI AA has set up this platform on its website. It consists of a directory of alumni volunteers who are willing to take part in the mentoring scheme (restricted to current EUI members who request access). So far, 10 Alumni have volunteered to act as mentors, and already 15 current EUI members have expressed interest in the mentoring scheme.

8. Other initiatives and issues

The Board has collected ideas and taken first steps for other initiatives and issues. These include:

- Video presentation and dissemination of alumni research
- Trainings (e.g. social media training etc) for alumni
- Inclusion of AA in job market event at the EUI (suspended due to Covid-19)
- ORCID inclusion of EUI publications
- Alumni pages on eui.eu website (EUI presidential approval – still in early stage of development)