COPFUTUREU NEWSLETTER

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JEAN MONNET MODULE
COPFUTUREU

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

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The Preface

BY PROF. DR. ÖZGÜN ERLER BAYIR
Jean Monnet Module CHAIR | COPFUTUREU

In the changing world of politics, our COPFUTUREU module at Istanbul University focuses on exploring the future challenges and opportunities facing the European Union (EU). It aims to inspire research and engagement among various actors, including young people, civil society organizations, policymakers, and professionals, encouraging them to be active agents of change and solutions.

The module delves into recent political, economic, and social developments within the EU, highlighting the need for innovative solutions, especially in today's globalized and digitalized world, which presents significantly more complex problems requiring sophisticated answers aligned with European values. Many contemporary complex problems, such as environmental degradation, aggressor nation-states, international terrorism, pandemics, etc., can only be solved through transnational collaboration. Therefore, efforts to achieve a better future require the participation of various social groups, the connection of societies, and the empowerment of individuals with democratic values and critical thinking.

This module is designed as an elective course for the Political Science and International Relations departments and is offered as a general elective to all departments and faculties of Istanbul University. It offers a platform for active student participation, promoting critical thinking and dialogue. By engaging students in debates, brainstorming sessions, and team-based learning activities, the course fosters a deeper understanding of EU institutions and decision-making processes.

The short-term goal is for students to share their knowledge with their social networks and develop research interests related to COPFUTUREU topics. In the mid-term, the module aims to bridge academia and civil society, encouraging collaboration and the exchange of ideas. In the long run, it aspires to influence the perspectives and actions of future decision-makers in Turkey, potentially shaping policy and fostering EU-Turkey relations.

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COPFUTUREU
JEAN MONNET MODULE
Challenges and Opportunities for the Future of Europe

Spanning from 2023 to 2026, the Jean Monnet Module COPFUTUREU is designed around MA and BA courses, as well as a seminar series. Course lectures involve a variety of teaching methods, including presentations, class discussions, oral presentations, essays, group work, debates based on readings, brainstorming on EU opportunities and challenges. They also include EU policy document analyses, web searches on EU budget-related security and transatlantic partnership, military investments, economic trends, and EU security and foreign policy institutions, including presentations on their structure, aims, functions, and activities. At the core of our curriculum are eleven pivotal topics that mirror the pressing challenges and opportunities facing the European Union today and in the foreseeable future:

- EU Structure and Institutions
- The Conference on the Future of Europe
- A Stronger Economy and Social Justice
- Education, Culture, Youth, and Sport
- Digital Transformation
- Future of European Democracy
- Values and Rights, Rule of Law, Security
- Climate Change & Environmental Degradation
- Pandemics and Health Politics
- EU in the World
- Migration and Integration



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Master's Level Course of Jean Monnet Module COPFUTUREU Successfully Completed

The master's level course of the Jean Monnet Module COPFUTUREU, designed as an area elective course for Political Science and International Relations departments at Istanbul University, has been successfully completed. This milestone marks a significant achievement in the module's teaching objectives, focusing on promoting critical and innovative thinking among students regarding EU institutions, policy implications, and decision-making mechanisms.

The course, part of a broader initiative aimed at fostering active student participation and engagement, saw intensive involvement of students through leading and participating in class discussions.



Throughout the master's level course, students participated in debates, brainstorming sessions, and team-based learning activities, enhancing their understanding of EU-related topics and encouraging analytical thinking. This approach aligns with the module's goal of nurturing critical thinking skills not commonly emphasized in Türkiye's education system.

The successful completion of the master's level course sets a positive precedent for future offerings and reinforces the module's commitment to promoting a dynamic and participatory learning environment for students across disciplines at Istanbul University.

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COPFUTUREU Seminar Series I: Digitalization and the Future of EU

18 December 2023



The first seminar of the Jean Monnet Module COPFUTUREU on "Digitalization and the Future of the EU: Lessons Learned From Estonia's Digital Transformation and Its Global Projection" was successfully held on December 18, 2023. Guest speakers Dr. Braghiroli and Anna Beitane, esteemed scholars from the University of Tartu in Estonia, provided invaluable contributions to Estonia's digital transformation and the lessons it brings for the entire EU.

Their insights and expertise shed light on the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for the EU in the realm of digitalization.

The seminar highlighted the importance of leveraging digitalization for economic growth, innovation, and governance within the EU.

Attendees explored key lessons from Estonia's experience, emphasizing the need for strategic planning, digital infrastructure development, and inclusive digital policies to harness the full potential of digital technologies across member states.



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COPFUTUREU Seminar Series II: Populism in Central Asia and Eastern Europe

5 April 2024

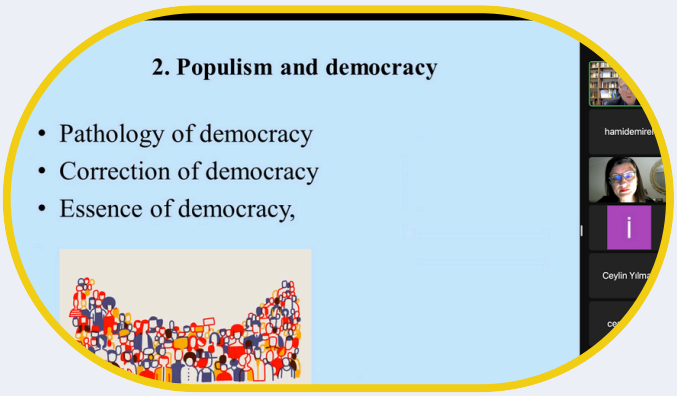


The second seminar of the Jean Monnet Module COPFUTUREU was successfully held on April 5, 2024, with Dr. Rakusa-Suszczewski, an esteemed member of the renowned Warsaw University in Poland, as the guest speaker, addressing the topic "Challenges for the Future of the EU: Populism in Central and Eastern Europe."

Dr. Rakusa-Suszczewski's profound insights and expertise shed light on the current state of populism, providing a comprehensive understanding of the challenges it brings for the EU.

Dr.Rakusa-Suszczewski's presentation delved into the complexities of populism in Central and Eastern Europe, offering nuanced perspectives on its impact on regional politics and the European Union.

Through the seminar, attendees gained a deeper insight into the complexities surrounding populist movements and their implications for the European Union's cohesion, as well as potential strategies to navigate these challenges effectively in the future.





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What's Happening in the EU?

New Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership with Egypt

17 March 2023



President Ursula von der Leyen's visit to Cairo highlighted the deepening partnership between the EU and Egypt. The signing of a joint declaration marked a significant step, backed by a substantial EUR 7.4 billion investment package over four years.

Key areas of focus include intensified political dialogue, economic stability support, enhanced investment and trade cooperation, migration, management, security collaboration, and people-to-people exchanges. The visit underscores the strategic importance of EU-Egypt relations in addressing regional challenges and advancing mutual interests.

Source:https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_24_1521

Two Years in, EU Continues to Stand with Ukraine

23 February 2024

In response to Russia's invasion in 2022, the EU has stood firmly with Ukraine, providing over €88 billion in support, including €28 billion for military needs. Recent actions include approving negotiations for Ukraine's EU membership and implementing sanctions against Russia. President Ursula von der Leyen reaffirmed the EU's commitment during her visit to Kyiv, announcing new security cooperation initiatives and delivering 50 vehicles for war crimes investigations.

Source:https://commission.europa.eu/news/two-years-eu-continues-stand-firmly-ukraine-2024-02-23_en



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Progress Made to Manage Migration and Asylum in the EU

12 March 2024



The European Commission has highlighted significant achievements in managing migration and asylum over the past four years. Key reforms include the adoption of the Pact on Migration and Asylum, establishing a fair and efficient framework for migration management with secure borders, swift asylum procedures, and enhanced solidarity and responsibility. Operational actions have targeted irregular migration and migrant smuggling, strengthening border management, combating criminal networks, and facilitating returns. The Commission emphasizes ongoing engagement with international partners to address migration root causes and promote legal pathways.

The Commission, under President Ursula von der Leyen, aims for a sustainable EU framework. Timely implementation of the Pact is prioritized, with a common implementation plan expected by June 2024. The Commission pledges support to EU countries throughout this process.

Source:https://commission.europa.eu/news/progress-made-manage-migration-and-asylum-eu-2024-03-12_en

EU Boosts Support for AI Start-ups to Foster Innovation

24 January 2024

The European Commission is ramping up its backing for European start-ups and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in developing trustworthy artificial intelligence (AI) aligned with EU values and regulations. The new AI package introduces various measures, including privileged access to supercomputers, the establishment of AI Factories, an AI Office for policy coordination and enforcement, and support for digital infrastructure consortiums. These initiatives aim to spur innovation, enhance competitiveness, and ensure trust in AI technologies under the EU's comprehensive AI Act, marking a significant step towards fostering innovation and responsible AI development in Europe.

Source:https://commission.europa.eu/news/more-support-artificial-intelligence-start-ups-boost-innovation-2024-01-24_en



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