COPFUTUREU NEWSLETTER

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COPFUTUREU Jean Monnet Module

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JEAN MONNET MODULE
COPFUTUREU

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

Prof. Dr. Özgün ERLER BAYIR

The Preface

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

Time flies! We have already completed the graduate-level course last semester and have now begun the undergraduate-level course for the Spring 2025. In this edition, we highlight key activities and events from the previous term, along with some exciting updates.

Throughout the semester, students engaged in dynamic discussions and role-playing sessions to deepen their understanding of EU institutions and policies. Beyond lectures, we also hosted two seminars led by esteemed experts in their respective fields.

As we move forward, we are excited to build on our achievements and expand the scope of our discussions. With each semester, we aim to foster critical thinking, encourage interdisciplinary perspectives, and provide a platform for engaging with real-world challenges. We look forward to another enriching term ahead, filled with new ideas, collaborations, and opportunities for growth.

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Graduate level course successfully completed



We are pleased to announce the successful completion of our graduate-level course. Throughout the semester, students explored the European Union's institutions, policies, and decision-making processes. Through discussions, debates, and a role-play session on the Russia-Ukraine war, they examined key challenges in global security and policymaking. The course provided a strong foundation for understanding the EU's internal dynamics and its role in international affairs.

Undergraduate level course starts this semester



We are excited to begin another semester! Building on the success of previous terms, the Jean Monnet Module COPFUTUREU will continue to explore key EU-related topics, providing deeper insights into the European Union's institutional structures, decision-making processes, and international affairs.

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Seminar Series - IV

Values and Rights, Rule of Law and Security as Cornerstones of Europe's Future: Cybersecurity as a Critical Case in the Russia-Ukraine War

21 October 2024



We held the 4th seminar of the COPFUTUREU Jean Monnet Module on October 21, 2024, at 13:00 in Vakur Versan Hall at Istanbul University. The seminar addressed the relationship between democracy, the rule of law, and security as essential elements shaping Europe's future.
Led by the module chair, Özgün Erler Bayır, and featuring expert speakers Karol Bieniek, Mustafa Çağatay Aslan, and Şenol Arslantaş, the seminar focused on cybersecurity's role in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict as a case study.



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Seminar Series - V

Digitalization and the EU programmes: Experiences and Research Practices from the Jean Monnet Modules (COPFUTUREU & POW-EU-R)

16 December 2024





We held the fifth seminar of our COPFUTUREU Jean Monnet Module at Istanbul Commerce University on December 16th, 2024. The seminar, titled "Digitalization and the EU Programmes: Experiences and Research Practices from the Jean Monnet Modules (COPFUTUREU & POW-EU-R)," was organized in partnership with the European Union Research and Application Center at Istanbul Commerce University, the Academic Network for EU Studies (A-NEST), the POW-EU-R Jean Monnet Module, Kocaeli University.

The event brought together our module chair, Özgün Erler Bayır, the Head of the EU Research Center, Uğur Yasin Asal, and the POW-EU-R JMM Chair, Pelin Sönmez, to discuss insights and experiences in EU project implementation and research practices.

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News in the EU - I

2024

How was it for Europe?

From climate change to digital disruption, and global conflicts to humanitarian crises, 2024 was a year of significant events for Europe.



Advancing on Climate Goals

Europe advanced on its climate goals, staying on track for a 55% emissions reduction by 2030 and climate neutrality by 2050. In early 2024, renewables generated 50% of the EU's electricity, while new laws strengthened the circular economy, tackled greenwashing, and improved environmental quality.

Creating a Safer Digital Space for All

Europe advances digital safety with the world's first AI law, ensuring both innovation and protection. The EU also enforced the Digital Services Act to combat misinformation, safeguard data, and create a safer online space.

Bolstering Defence and Security

Europe strengthens its defense by appointing its first Commissioner for Defence and boosting investment in innovation. A new strategy enhances the European defense industry and readiness for emerging threats.

Standing with Ukraine

Europe continues its support for Ukraine through political, financial, and humanitarian aid while maintaining sanctions on Russia. In 2024, the EU launched a €50 billion financial instrument and formally opened accession negotiations.

Source:https://commission.europa.eu/news/eu-paris-2024-olympic-games-unity-solidarity-and-diversity-2024-07-27_en

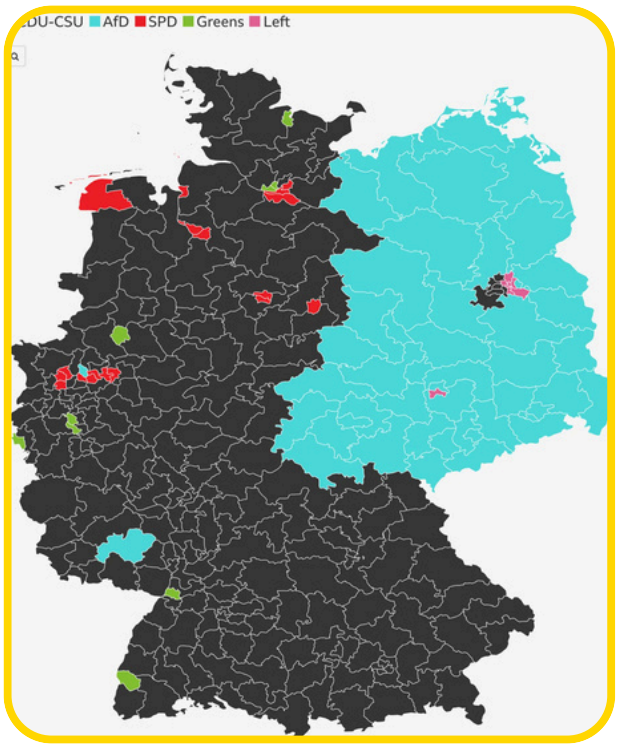
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News in the EU - II

German Elections: AfD's Rise

Germany's 2025 election brought big political shifts, with Friedrich Merz's conservative CDU-CSU winning, but the far-right AfD making the biggest impact. Doubling its support to 20.8%, the AfD expanded beyond its eastern stronghold, becoming the second-largest party. However, it remains blocked from government due to Germany's long-standing "firewall" against extremist parties. Voter turnout hit a 40-year high at 82.5%, showing how engaged Germans were in this pivotal election. The result also marked the collapse of Olaf Scholz's three-party government, with all its leaders, including Scholz, stepping down from frontline politics.





Meanwhile, the Left (Die Linke) staged an unexpected comeback, fueled by viral social media campaigns targeting young voters. The election revealed a growing generational divide—older voters stuck with centrist parties, while younger Germans leaned toward both the far-left and far-right. With political loyalties shifting and polarization deepening, Germany's future political landscape is anything but predictable.

Source:https://commission.europa.eu/news/eu-paris-2024-olympic-games-unity-solidarity-and-diversity-2024-07-27_en

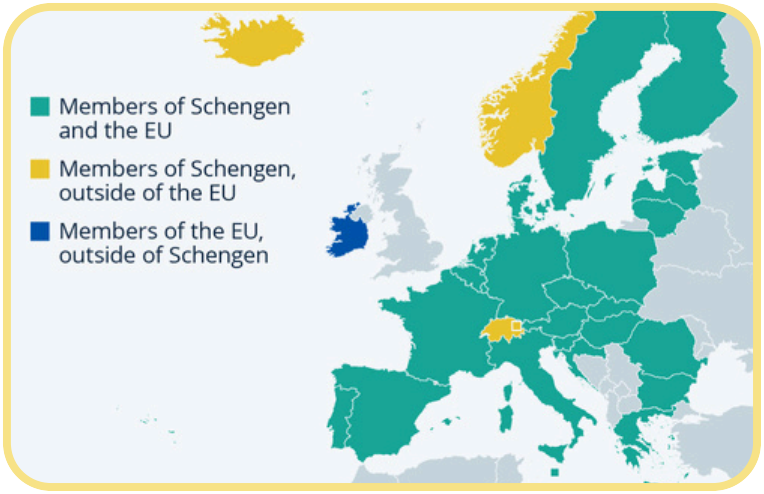
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News in the EU - III

Bulgaria and Romania join the Schengen Area

On 1 January, Romania and Bulgaria officially became full members of the Schengen Area! The internal air and sea border controls between Bulgaria and Romania and the countries of the Schengen area were already lifted since 31 March 2024. Welcoming both member states into the Schengen area will boost travel, trade and tourism and contribute to strengthening the internal market according to European Commission.





The Commission first confirmed that both Bulgaria and Romania were ready to become part of the Schengen area in 2011. Since then, both countries have continued to demonstrate that they fulfil the conditions for becoming Schengen members.

The Schengen area now spans 29 countries, including EU members and non-EU states such as Switzerland, Norway, and Iceland, allowing free travel without border checks.

Source:https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/bulgaria-and-romania-join-schengen-area-2025-01-03_en#:~:text=On%201%20January%2C%20Romania%20and,lifted%20since%2031%20March%202024.

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