COPFUTUREU NEWSLETTER

Funded by the European Union

ISTANBUL UNIVERSITY
The Official Newsletter of
COPFUTUREU Jean Monnet Module

No. 4, September 2025

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

Welcome to the final newsletter of 2025!
It has been an incredibly enriching semester, and we are thrilled to share our latest updates with you. Since March, we have organized three insightful seminars featuring distinguished experts who explored a variety of European topics. Through these seminars, participants had the opportunity to both deepen their understanding and engage directly with experts on issues such as European integration, EU governance in security and counter-terrorism policies, cultural diversity in Europe, and the Union's economic strength in the digital era.
Our Jean Monnet 2025-2026 Fall Courses have also begun with an excellent curriculum. Thanks to this program, master's students are gaining strong academic and analytical foundations across key themes such as governance, security, and social affairs within Europe and the European Union.
We are also delighted to announce the successful completion of our 2024-2025 Spring Courses. Students who completed the course have acquired valuable knowledge and skills on policymaking and decision-making mechanisms within the EU and its neighborhood. Through classroom activities, seminars, debates, and various interactive methods, they were able to engage with the learning process not only in theory but also in practice.
We extend our heartfelt thanks to all our students and participants for accompanying us throughout this journey!

Within These Pages:

01 The Preface
02 Lectures
03 Seminar Series VI
04 Seminar Series VII
05 Seminar Series VIII
06 News in the EU I
07 News in the EU II

2024-2025 Spring Course successfully completed



This semester's spring course offered students a comprehensive journey into how the European Union functions and evolves. They examined the architecture of EU governance, key policy domains, and the interplay between member states and supranational institutions. Interactive sessions and analytical assignments encouraged students to evaluate European integration from political, economic, and global perspectives. By the end of the course, participants gained valuable insight into the EU's internal operations and its growing significance in shaping international politics.

2025-2026 Fall Course starts this semester



We are pleased to launch a new term with the Jean Monnet Module COPFUTUREU. This semester, students will deepen their understanding of how the EU works by exploring its institutions, policy-making processes, and key policy areas. Through interactive learning and practical discussions, the program will help students better grasp the EU's role in Europe and the wider world.

Funded by the European Union

Seminar Series - VI

From Innovation to Influence: The European Union's Economic Strength in the Digital Era

2 May 2025



The 6th seminar of our COPFUTUREU Jean Monnet Module series was successfully held online via Zoom. On May 2, 2025, participants joined a rich discussion moderated by Prof. Dr. Özgün Erler Bayır. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ertan Erol from Istanbul University and Dr. Laçin Akyıl from Istanbul Arel University offered in-depth perspectives on the European Union's digital transformation, highlighting its implications for innovation, economic competitiveness, and the future of the European economy. The seminar provided students and attendees with valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities that the EU faces in the digital age.



Funded by the European Union

Seminar Series - VII

Securing the Future: The Impact of EU Governance and Policy on Critical Infrastructure Security and Terrorism

12 June 2025





The 7th seminar of our COPFUTUREU Jean Monnet Module series was successfully held on June 12, 2025. Conducted online via Zoom and moderated by Prof. Dr. Özgün Erler Bayır, the session featured Ambassador (R) Mehmet Fatih Ceylan, President of the Ankara Policy Center (APM). During his presentation, Ambassador Ceylan offered an in-depth analysis of the European Union's response to contemporary security challenges, including terrorism, hybrid threats, and geopolitical instability. He highlighted how the EU protects critical infrastructure and utilizes governance and policy tools to ensure resilience across its member states. Participants engaged in meaningful discussions on the evolving nature of global security risks and the importance of cooperation in maintaining peace and stability within Europe and beyond. The seminar contributed to a deeper understanding of the EU's strategic role in safeguarding its citizens in an increasingly complex security landscape.

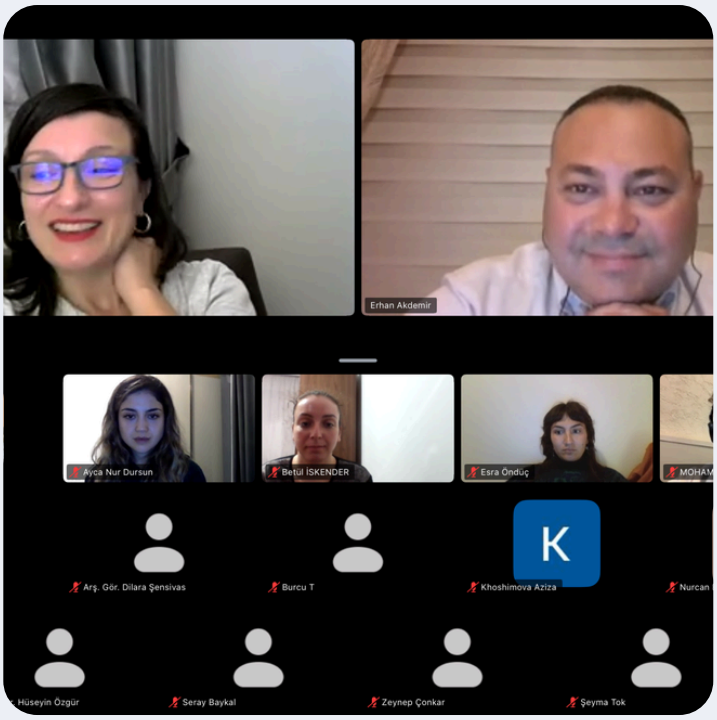
Funded by
the European Union

Seminar Series - VIII

The Future of European Integration from the Perspective of Cultural Pluralism

9 October 2025





The 8th seminar of our COPFUTUREU Jean Monnet Module series took place on October 9, 2025. Held online via Zoom and moderated by Prof. Dr. Özgün Erler Bayır, the session welcomed Assoc. Prof. Dr. Erhan Akdemir, Chair of the VOICEU Jean Monnet Module. Dr. Akdemir delivered valuable insights into the importance of dialogue and knowledge-sharing in fostering an inclusive European identity. He emphasized how cultural diversity enriches the European project and contributes to stronger cooperation among societies. Through discussions on European integration, social cohesion, and the representation of diverse communities in EU processes, participants developed a deeper understanding of how the EU aims to build unity while respecting cultural differences. The seminar encouraged critical reflection on the evolving concept of European identity and highlighted the significance of active citizen engagement in shaping the future of the Union.

Funded by the European Union

News in the EU - I

Goodbye Passport Stamps, Hello Biometrics: EU Introduces the Entry/Exit System

From 12 October 2025, the Entry/Exit System (EES) will begin its operational rollout across the external borders of the 29 European countries of the Schengen Area and associated states. The system replaces the traditional passport-stamping process for short-stay visitors from non-EU/Schengen countries (up to 90 days in any 180-day period) with automatic registration of biometric data (such as fingerprints and facial images) and travel document information each time they enter or exit.





The primary goals of the EES are to modernise border management, enhance internal security and accelerate travel procedures. By enabling real-time tracking of entries and exits, the system helps identify overstayers, detect identity fraud and prevent irregular migration. At the same time, travellers should expect some adjustment as border authorities adopt the new automated checks.

Sources:
https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/schengen/smart-borders/entry-exit-system_en
https://travel-europe.europa.eu/en/ees

Funded by the European Union

News in the EU - II

Security and Migration Hand in Hand: Von der Leyen's Vision for the EU

President von der Leyen underlined that migration management and security must now be addressed together. She emphasized the importance of swift returns of rejected asylum seekers, stronger external border protection, and the dismantling of smuggling networks. Highlighting the rise of hybrid threats and the use of migration as a political tool, she called for reinforced cooperation and resources to safeguard Europe's stability and ensure an effective and fair migration system.



Source:https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/state-union-president-von-der-leyen-addresses-migration-and-security-2025-09-11_en

Europol Strengthens Action Against Migrant Smuggling



Source:https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-welcomes-agreement-boost-europols-role-fight-against-migrant-smuggling-and-trafficking-2025-09-30_en

On 30 September 2025, the European Commission confirmed a political agreement to strengthen Europol's role in tackling migrant smuggling and human trafficking. The updated mandate reinforces the European Centre Against Migrant Smuggling, improves information-sharing among Member States, and boosts Europol's operational capacity with additional funding and staff. These measures aim to more effectively dismantle organised smuggling networks and enhance cross-border law-enforcement cooperation to protect vulnerable migrants.

In order to reach more information about the outputs of the COPFUTUREU, follow us on social media :

copfutureu_jm

Website:
https://jeanmonnet.istanbul.edu.tr/en/_

Funded by the European Union