



Monthly Bulletin

March edition

Co-edited by: Dr Serena Kelly and Mel
Haworth

President's Welcome

Welcome to the revived ESAANZ bulletin. We would like to take the opportunity to thank existing ESAANZ members and welcome new ones. The past couple of years has been a difficult time for many. In spite of the challenges, the ESAANZ community has continued to strengthen, offering intellectual stimulation and collegial relationships. Highlights of 2021 included our two successful online conferences (one was co-hosted with the Australasian Association for Communist and Post-Communist Studies) and we look forward to future collaborations in 2022.

Europe in the News

It has been a busy news week for the European Union and wider Europe. While the Russo-Ukraine conflict is rightfully on the forefront of everyone's minds, the EU continues to make the news on other fronts.

2022 Russo-Ukraine Conflict

After previously annexing Crimea from Ukraine in 2014, Russia is once again making news headlines. It has been reported that tens of thousands of troops have been stationed along Russia's borders with Ukraine. In addition, military equipment and medical units have been moved closer to the Ukrainian border.

While Moscow denies any plans for invasion into Ukraine, hopes of de-escalation of the situation remain dashed; the Kremlin's claim of removing troops from the border has been [reported](#) to be false.

The current conflict appears to be a Russian bid to re-establish their dominance in the region and in Europe in general. In particular, it has been [reported](#) that the Kremlin demands NATO stop any

expansion eastwards and to remove troops in Eastern bloc nations. These demands jeopardise the European Union's security and geopolitical power.

EU wins case against Poland and Hungary

The European Court of Justice has this week ruled against Poland and Hungary's appeal to challenge the new mechanism that withholds EU funding to Member States who violate rule-of-law. Poland and Hungary have been accused of democratic backsliding in recent years. ESAANZ member, Dr Mat Doidge has recently outlined the challenge that democratic backsliding in Hungary and Poland poses to European integration, as well as to the idea of Europe itself and the role that the EU seeks to play on the global stage.

EU to launch reset with the African Union at the EU-Africa Summit

40 African leaders met the EU in Brussels for the EU-Africa Summit. This comes at an important crossroads in the EU-Africa relationship as alternative powers become more active in the African continent. China and Russia are both establishing themselves as investment heavyweights on the continent.

This Summit also comes at a time where several African leaders have expressed their disappointment on the distribution of Covid-19 vaccines and essential protective equipment that was promised and donated to various African nations. The slow trickle of vaccines and equipment has meant that only 11% of Africans have been fully vaccinated as at the start of February. With patents being applied to the vaccine, many African nations cannot afford to buy the vaccine and with their pleas to forgo patents unheard, many nations are relying on donations.

In hopes of re-establishing and changing the relationship with Africa, the European Union pledged half of a new 300-billion-euro investment that will provide boosts to health, education and stability in the African continent. This is hoped to help health efforts, security concerns in Mali as well as rival China's belt and road initiative.

New Zealand Foreign Minister Mahuta to visit the EU

New Zealand Foreign Minister, Nanaia Mahuta is making her first visit to Europe this week. Mahuta will attend a forum on cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. According to the Mahuta, "The Indo-Pacific Forum in Paris will be an important opportunity to engage on key issues facing our region and to ensure that Aotearoa New Zealand's voice and perspectives on issues affecting us and our Pacific partners are well registered,"

News from the Jean Monnet Centre's of Excellence

EU Centre of Excellence at RMIT

The EU Centre of Excellence at RMIT will be running a public seminar in March related to the Centre's research network on Scientific and Social Innovation and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Further information will be disseminated via the EU Centre's Twitter account: @RMIT_EU_CENTRE

The EU Centre of Excellence at RMIT is running a workshop for teachers in Victoria (25 March 2022) and New South Wales (1 April 2022). This workshop is a one-day intensive program and will consider how to integrate European studies and EU issues into the Victorian and New South Wales secondary school curriculum respectively. The workshops are free but registration is required. In partnership

with:

- European Studies Association of Australia and New Zealand (ESAANZ)
- European Union Centre of Excellence at RMIT University
- University of Sydney (Sydney event)
- With support from the European Commission.

Further information and a registration facility is available via Eventbrite.

Teaching the Teachers – integrating the EU into the VIC secondary school curriculum
(25 March 2022)

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/teaching-the-teachers-integrating-the-eu-into-vic-sec-school-curriculum-tickets-231267907537>

Teaching the Teachers – integrating the EU into the NSW secondary school curriculum
(1 April 2022)

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/teaching-the-teachers-integrating-the-eu-into-nsw-sec-school-curriculum-tickets-231264547487>

On the 30th of November 2021, the European Union-Australia Cities Cooperation within the International Urban and Regional Cooperation (IURC) Programme was launched.

With the assistance of the European Union Centre of Excellence at RMIT University, Brisbane, Canberra, and Melbourne will begin to establish cooperation on urban development with Barcelona, Florence, Hamburg, and Madrid within the IURC programme.

An online event was held 30 November 2021 to launch the European Union-Australia Cities Cooperation within the International Urban and Regional Cooperation (IURC) Programme.

This launch included an introduction by HE Dr Michael Pulch, EU Ambassador to Australia, an overview by Dr Ronald Hall, Senior Advisor to the Directorate-General for Urban and Regional Policy (DG REGIO), and presentations by representatives of each city.

<https://www.rmit.edu.au/news/eu-centre-news/launch-of-european-union-australia-cities-cooperation>

National Centre for Research on Europe

The Jean Monnet Project, DIPLO: EU Public Diplomacy and Outreach in New Zealand aims to promote the visibility and understanding of the EU in NZ. In February 2022, two articles have been published on Hungary, Poland and the EU and the EU's response to the Ukrainian crisis. More details can be found here: [Outputs – EU Public Diplomacy and Outreach in New Zealand](#)

With the support of the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



The University of Canterbury's National Centre for Research on Europe (in cooperation with the Department of Professional and Community Engagement) has just successfully completed the first offering of a new Summer School course on *EU Diplomacy and Policy Engagement*. Taught by Dr Mathew Doidge, and with funding under the European Union's International Partnerships framework, the course offered a select group of 20 final year undergraduates and intensive introduction to the European Union and European public diplomacy in New Zealand and the Pacific. During the course, students participated in a Round Table event on Rethinking Europe's Impact on the Pacific, in which an academic panel (Prof. Steven Ratuva, Dr Lindsey Te Ata o Tu Macdonald, Dr Serena Kelly, Ashalyna Noa), the Round Table provided a stimulating and challenging discussion on the role of Europe from a Māori and Pasifika perspective. Students also took part in a three-day field trip to Wellington, where they had the opportunity to engage directly with New Zealand officials and European diplomatic representatives, to examine and question EU–NZ relations and the role of

public diplomacy. In addition to sessions with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the National Assessment Bureau of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, and Shadow Foreign Minister Hon. Gerry Brownlee, students were hosted by the European Union Delegation and all eight EU Member States with an embassy in Wellington (France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Poland and Spain). The Wellington trip was enormously successful, providing students with an opportunity to engage in a range of stimulating discussions and generate interesting information and insights for their formal assessments. We thank the European Union for its generosity in funding the course, as well as all the institutions who hosted us in Wellington, and we look forward to convening the course again over the coming years.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Updates from fellow European Institutes in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand

University of Auckland European Institute

The University of Auckland European Institute has a lot to celebrate with resounding success of their seminars last semester and a very successful summer school course. Professor Bernadette Luciano writes:

“We just finished offering our 2022 ‘European Integration’ summer school course, supported in part by the EU Europe Aid grant. The course, a broad introduction to the workings of the EU, was taught to a large cohort of 75 students by a team of academics associated with the Europe Institute, representing a range of academic disciplines, including Prof. Bernadette Luciano (Italian/European Studies), Prof. Maartje Abbenhuis (History), Dr An Hertogen (Law), Associate Professor Maureen Benson-Rea (Business) and Ms Logan Carmichael (Politics and IR). It offered students historical, legal, economic, political, and cultural approaches to

understanding the EU and its institutions and offered them current concerns to investigate and assess, including the impact of COVID-19, migration, BREXIT, and digital security challenges. The highlight of the course were two workshops led by the EU Ambassador to New Zealand, Ms Nina Obermaier, and Europe Division Leader of the NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr Taha MacPherson facilitated by Mr. Colin Ballantine (MFAT, Auckland). Mr. Kevin O'Connell provided valuable input into a lecture on EU Politics and Digital/Cyber Security. Students mobilised these workshops to write assignments which included group questions for the invited guests and reflections on their responses. The final assignment for the course was a case study emerging from current challenges facing the EU, and the students produced well-researched and original analyses on issues ranging from COVID response, geographical indicators, geopolitics, EU citizenship, EU -NZ trade, and digital challenges. Once again, the course was a resounding success!"

Upcoming ESAANZ Events

The University of Auckland European Institute has two upcoming seminars: 'Climate Change and the EU-NZ Free Trade Agreement' and 'Sustainable Cities.' More details to come.

The Australian and New Zealand Journal of European Studies

Beginning with the first issue of the *Australia and New Zealand Journal of European Studies (ANZJES)* in 2022, the journal will only be made available in soft copy and will no longer be circulated in hard copy. Since the emergence of *ANZJES* in 2008, receiving a hard copy of the journal has been provided in conjunction with membership of the European Studies Association. From its modest origins the journal has grown and has become an essential scholarly tool for the European Studies Community in Australia and the region, published three times a year. Moving the journal entirely to the Online Open Platform has increased the exposure of high quality papers to a wider audience covering all areas of Europe from EU policy and operations to broader contemporary social and cultural issues. We look forward to your continued support and engagement with our journal and hope you continue to stay with us on this important journey.

You can access all the issues here: <https://openjournals.library.sydney.edu.au/index.php/ANZJES/index>

-- Peter Morgan

Chief Editor on behalf of the Editorial Board,
Bruno Mascitelli, Gosia Klatt, Natalia Chaban, Mathew Doidge Marco Brunazzo

Recent publications by EEAANZ members and colleagues

Author

Article

Dr Nina Markovic
Khaze

[Perceptions of the EU in the Western Balkans Vis-à-vis Russia and China](#)

Published in: European Foreign Affairs Review

[Power Plays: the growing competitions to fuel energy transitions](#)

Published in: The Interpreter

If you wish to have something included in a future EEAANZ bulletin, please contact Mel Haworth

Email: Mel.Haworth@pg.canterbury.ac.nz