



## Newsletter Vol. 7 April 2021

by Maria Brokou

### SUMMARY

The Jean Monnet Project "[Enhancing the Debate about Intercultural Dialogue, EU Values and Diversity- EU VaDis](#)", at the Department of International and European Studies of the University of Macedonia, and the [Hellenic Association for European Law](#) (HAEL), in collaboration with the [Center for Research on Democracy and Law](#), and with the support of the [European Parliament Liaison Office in Greece](#), co-organized the e-Conference on "[EU Values, Diversity and Intercultural Dialogue: Enhancing the debate](#)", that took place on **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> to Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> of April, 2021**, through Zoom platform.

Forty academics from Universities in Greece, the United Kingdom, Cyprus, France, Germany, Belgium, Italy, Spain, Poland, Austria, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg participated with respective contributions, as well as senior officials from the Council of Europe, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), and the ERICarts Institute. Researchers working in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP) also featured at the Conference while its online nature and joint organisation with the Hellenic Association for European Law have contributed substantially to increased international participation.

The three-day e-Conference, that was conducted in English, began on Wednesday April 21<sup>st</sup>, with the Keynote Speaker, **Sir Francis JACOBS**, Professor of Law and Jean Monnet Professor at King's College London, and f. Advocate General at the Court of the European Communities (1988-2006). [Sir F. Jacobs delivered a speech on "The EU and the rule of law: recent developments and current prospect"](#). Professor **Takis TRIDIMAS**, Professor of European Law, in the same University of King's College, gave the introductory speech on "[Values, principles and rights: consensus and conflict](#)". **Vassilios SKOURIS**, f. President and Judge of the European Court of Justice, President of the Governing Board of the Hellenic Association for the European Law (HAEL), and President of the Governing Board of the Centre of International and European Economic Law (CIEEL) was the Chair of the Opening Session. Over the course of our 3-day e-Conference there were minimum 150 and maximum 450 participants in each Session.



On the one hand, the Conference focused on the debate regarding the theoretical challenges posed by the values of the European Union (Dignity, Freedom, Equality, Democracy, Rule of Law, Protection of Fundamental and Minority Rights, and Solidarity in a multicultural society) and on the other, the implementation of the Values in the era of algorithms and Artificial Intelligence, in various policy fields, such as the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), the European Asylum and Migration Policy and finally to what extent these Union values make an essential contribution to the common European identity and intercultural dialogue in a multicultural society.

The three-day e-Conference opened its virtual doors on Wednesday, 21 April 2021, with the opening remarks by the Vice Rector of the University of Macedonia, **Professor Evgenia Alexandropoulou - Egyptiadou**, who presented the EU values and the thematic areas of the Conference. She was followed by the Dean of the School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts, Professor **Athanasios Zervas**, who emphasized the influence of the values of Ancient Greece in the EU, and by the Head of the Department of International and European Studies, Professor **Ilias Kouskouvelis**, who wished success for the Conference work and underlined the scientific and administrative support of the Department graduates.

The European Commission Vice-President, Commissioner with the portfolio of Promoting the European Way of Life, **Margaritis Schinas**, prefaced the Conference. Among other things, in his video message, he mentioned that “the pandemic has put our societies under enormous pressure and reminded us how valuable the values and freedoms that we Europeans take for granted are. These values can become fragile and be threatened in such exceptional circumstances” and then he continued by analyzing the work of the European Commission to promote EU values.

The opening speeches were concluded with the Head of the European Parliament Liaison Office in Greece, **Constantinos Tsoutsoplides**, who stressed that the EU is first and foremost a “community of values”, which stem from the European Enlightenment. These values were developed and reinforced in the course of European integration. He also referred to the constant struggle needed, in particular to address the challenge of diversity.

Following the opening remarks, the moderation of the session was undertaken by Professor Emeritus **Vassilios Skouris**, former President and Judge at the Court of Justice of the EU, President of the Steering Board of the Hellenic Association for European Law (HAEL) and Chair of the Board of Directors of the Centre for International and European Economic Law (CIEEL).



The Chair of the inaugural session, V. Skouris, gave the floor to the Conference's keynote speaker, **Sir Francis Jacobs**, Professor of Law and Jean Monnet Chairholder at King's College University, London, former Attorney General at the Court of Justice of the European Communities (1988-2006). In his speech titled "The EU and the rule of law: recent developments and current prospects", Sir F. Jacobs presented the current threats to the protection of human rights, liberal values and even democracy itself and investigated with the means of effectively consolidating the rule of law.

**Takis Tridimas**, Professor at the University King's College in London, introductory speech followed, regarding the "Values, principles and rights: consensus and conflict", which proceeded to the typology of the aforementioned concepts and clarified their relationship on the basis of Articles 2 and 6 TEU and Article 52 (5) CFREU. He emphasized the primary role and necessity of continuously pursuing the application of the general principles of EU law in the Europeanisation of national laws with a view to creating a Jus Commune Europaeum, and outlined their connection with EU values.

The first thematic session titled "**EU Values as Common Values**" was chaired by **Nikos Scandamis**, Emeritus Professor of EU Law, at the School of Law of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. Initially, the session chair himself took the floor to present the dogmatic debate on human dignity as a value and a normative parameter (norm) in the European Union, both in French and German constitutional case-law and in philosophy, analyzing the teaching of Aristotle and Kant's ethics, stressing the link between freedom and dignity, as well as the rule of law and dignity. The next contributions were by:

- **Dr Kosmas Boskovits**, Deputy Legal Adviser of the Legal Service of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, examined the functioning and manifestations of the value of the rule of law in the light of Republican Freedom, based on Professor Quentin Skinner's theory of freedom as an absence of dependence on the will of others and as a precondition for the safe enjoyment of individual rights.
- Associate Professor **Susanna-Maria Cafaro** from the University of Salento, in Lecce, Italy, based on legal theory on European integration, presented the democratic political dimension of the EU and its governance system, as reflected in the rights of European citizens and its democratic principles, and concluded with the gradual creation of a supranational democratic model in the EU.



The second thematic session titled “**EU values and fundamental rights**” was moderated by **Dimitrios V. Skiadas**, Professor of the Department of International and European Studies at the University of Macedonia, Jean Monnet Chair on “EU Budgetary Governance and Audit”, and Visiting Researcher at the Centre for the Study of Europe, Boston University.

In this session, emphasis was placed on the Charter of Fundamental Rights, focusing on two specific fundamental rights (health and education) to draw general conclusions as well as the new policy of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights on the application of the Charter.

The contributions from this session were as follows:

- **Konstantinos Kouroupis**, Assistant Professor at the School of Law of Frederick University in Cyprus, presented his timely contribution on the right to health as the legal basis for restrictions imposed on fundamental rights and freedoms during the pandemic, emphasising the value of solidarity, the impact of the pandemic on a multitude of fundamental rights, citing compulsory vaccination as an example.
- The Assistant Professors, **Vasiliki Costa** and **Darinka Piqani**, from the School of Law of the University of Leiden in the Netherlands, analyzed the CJEU case C-66/18, *Commission v. Hungary*, from the perspective of the rule of law crisis in the Member State concerned. The case pertained to the Hungarian law on higher education institutions, which was held to be contrary to GATS, freedom of establishment, freedom to provide services and the Charter of Fundamental Rights (academic freedom, right to education and freedom to conduct a business).
- **Dr. Gabriel Toggenburg**, Honorary Professor at the University of Graz (Austria), Policy Coordinator in Vienna for Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) activities related to the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, analyzed the policies of the Commission, the Council and the Agency itself to operationalize the EU values by examining the current challenges to improve the implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the third decade since its adoption.

During the third thematic session on “**Democracy and European Citizenship in the EU**”, the following contributions were presented, under the **Ioannis Papadopoulos’** management of



the relative moderation process, an Associate Professor of the Department of International and European Studies, and Director of the Center for Research on Democracy & Law at the University of Macedonia:

- **Teresa Russo**, Associate Professor at the Department of Legal Sciences (School of Law), University of Salerno in Italy and Lecturer at the Law Faculty, Albanian University in Tirana, analyzed the question of “**The Democratic Principles in EU Legal Order: A Reality or A Challenge?**”. She presented the gradual process of EU constitutionalization, which contributed to the development of certain general principles of EU law into EU values, the establishment of democratic principles in parallel with the evolution of the EU legal order and assessed whether the EU comprises indeed an operational democratic model.
- **Jan Kleijssen**, Director of Information Society - Action against Crime at the Council of Europe, Strasbourg, provided an analysis of the artificial intelligence challenges for human rights, the rule of law and democracy, giving examples of the various AI applications that divide public opinion and civil society. In particular, he explained the risks of possible abuse of facial recognition technology in public spaces, the prioritization of content published on social networks, targeted advertising, or the support of the justice system with AI applications which can undermine European values and fundamental rights in cases of abuse.

In the fourth thematic session titled “**The value of the rule of law and its implementation**”, moderated by Professor **Michail Chrysomallis**, Jean Monnet Chairholder for the Rule of Law in the EU, at the Faculty of Law at the Democritus University of Thrace:

- **Asterios Pliakos**, Professor at the Department of International & European Economic Studies at the Athens University of Economics and Business, presented the principle of judicial protection in the application of EU law as a principle of a federal law union. In particular, he pointed out its establishment as a general principle of EU law and its relationship with the principle of EU law effective application. He also referred to the reaction of the Member States invoking the respect of their national identity, or allegations of decisions beyond the legal power/competences of the CJEU (*ultra vires*) by the German Constitutional Court in its judgments of 5 May 2020 and 26 March 2021. He also stressed that, in light of recent CJEU case law, the principle of effective judicial protection is now an integral part of the value of the rule of law,



*JM*euVadis



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

Jean Monnet Project

Enhancing the Debate about Intercultural Dialogue, EU Values and Diversity

while acquiring greater legitimization on account of its close connection with the right to a fair trial (CFREU), which could lead to the federal development of the EU legal order.

- **Ioannis Papadopoulos**, Associate Professor of the Department of International and European Studies, and Director of the Center for Research on Democracy & Law at the University of Macedonia, co-organizer of the Conference, presented the importance of the values of Article 2 of the Treaty (TEU) as a common regulatory basis, gradually forming a common constitutional core of the EU and its Member States, with the aim of functionally facilitating the integration process, the political and moral legitimacy of a multinational construction and the creation of a common identity for its citizens and the EU institutions. He also underlined that the commitments on the protection of the rule of law, stemming from Article 2 TEU, offer greater safeguards as regards the EU's conditions of functioning and procedural legitimacy in the elaboration process of its common policies.
- **Alexandros Tsadiras**, Associate Professor at the Open University of Cyprus, Academic Coordinator of the postgraduate programme "European Union Law", assessed the review of Member States' compliance with the rule of law on the basis of a sectoral approach thanks to the respective EU legislation and a collective proposition based on provisions of broader institutional value with a view to resolving current EU political problems.
- **Ioannis Papageorgiou**, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Economic and Political Sciences, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, examined Member States' political reactions and the institutions' attitude towards the application of Article 7 TEU in two specific cases of infringement of the EU values, regarding Poland (2017) and Hungary (2018). He analyzed the reasons why these procedures did not proceed and assessed the viability and feasibility of the first stage of the Article 7 TEU procedure in the light of the political context. At the same time, he explored the possibility of an indirect EU right under Article 50 TEU to expel a Member State.

The second day of the conference, Thursday 22 April 2021, started with the fifth thematic session on "**EU Values in Education and integration of third-country nationals**". The session was chaired by Associate Professor of European Integration Theory and European



Educational Policy of the Department of International and European Studies, University of Piraeus, **Fotini Asderaki**.

**Bénédicte Fauvarque-Cosson**, a former Professor of Law at the University Panthéon-Assas (Paris II), and currently a Judge at the Conseil d'Etat, Paris, referred to the need to promote legal education and active citizenship across the EU in order to strengthen the rule of law.

This objective could be attained either through a separate course in the school curriculum in secondary education, in addition to the school subject of civic education, or a separate seminar at the beginning of university education or in preparation for Erasmus student mobility.

**Moritz Jesse**, Associate Professor at the Law School of Leiden University in the Netherlands, analyzed the dichotomy between the “Others” and “Us” as “Other” as immigrants as “Others” are not entitled to rights but are dependent on the granting of rights by the host society. M. Jesse elaborated on the ways the EU challenges and disrupts this dichotomy by automatically granting rights to European citizens as well as to categories of immigrants, leading to political frictions with Member States and affecting the legal status of migrants, for whom different categories are created. He concluded by stressing that the effort to manage migration has an impact on the variety of means EU values such as dignity and equality are applied in practice.

During the sixth thematic session titled “**Hate speech as the negation of EU Values**”, chaired by **Despoina Anagnostopoulou**, Associate Professor at the Department of International and European Studies at the University of Macedonia and Academic Coordinator of the Jean Monnet Project EU VaDis, the following contributions were presented:

- **Patrick Penninckx**, Head of the Information Society Department at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, examined the approach of the Council of Europe and the case law of the ECtHR (Article 10 (2) ECHR) on “hate speech on- and off- line”, focusing on the first respective form (on-line). Indeed, the digital environment is direct, international and promotes interaction whereas it is characterized by the difficulty of attributing responsibility and developing appropriate measures to address hate speech with devastating consequences for human dignity and the protection of fundamental rights for Roma, refugees, LGBTIQ people, but also for specific groups, such as women politicians.



*JM*euadis



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

Jean Monnet Project

Enhancing the Debate about Intercultural Dialogue, EU Values and Diversity

- **Dr Evangelia Psychogiopoulou**, Senior Researcher at the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP), investigated the EU's regulatory approaches to fight online hate speech that the EU has gradually developed together with other tools to stop those who spread their hatred via the internet.
- **Lina Papadopoulou**, Associate Professor at the Law School of Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, Jean Monnet Chairholder for European Constitutional Law and Culture and Academic Coordinator of the Jean Monnet Center of Excellence on European

Constitutionalism and Religion(s), delivered her talk about hate speech and religion by analyzing the ECtHR's jurisprudence on Article 17 ECHR in comparison with the case-law of the US Supreme Court seeking, inter alia, to identify the public good protected and the conditions under which such protection may require the restriction of freedom of expression. Finally, it raised the question whether liberal democracy could turn against its enemies, who use the freedoms and rights which it guarantees in order to destroy it, or whether, on the contrary, it should allow them to use all the means available to impose inequality, the denial of the injured parties human value, and ultimately totalitarianism.

- **Eleni Tsetsekou**, Head of the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Unit (SOGI), Council of Europe in Strasbourg, analyzed the current policy and actions of the Council of Europe on hate speech based on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Expression and Sex Characteristics (SOGIESC).

The seventh thematic session titled “**Equality and diversity in the EU - towards new meanings**” was moderated by **Vassilis Hatzopoulos**, Professor at the Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences and Visiting Professor at the College d' Europe/ College of Europe, Bruges, Belgium.

**Alina Tryfonidou**, Professor at Neapolis University in Pafos, Cyprus, and Visiting Professor at the University of Reading in the UK, analyzed the topic of “Equality and Diversity in the EU — Towards an LGBT - Inclusive EU?” by presenting the rules adopted by the EU based on Articles 17 and 10 TFEU, the right to non-discrimination under Article 21 CFREU, the relevant CJEU case law and the LGBTI + 2020-2025 Commission Strategy.

**Anna-Maria Konsta**, Lecturer at the School of Law of the Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, explored the principle of gender equality from the point of view of comparative law (US,





China, religious systems), emphasising the new “right to care” in the context of family relations. She stressed in her speech that gender equality is an ‘endemic’ value in the EU legal order, which includes not only men and women but also people who are discriminated against on the basis of their gender identity and sexual orientation.

**Anastasios Chardas**, Assistant Professor at the Department of Political Science at the Democritus University of Thrace, assessed the conceptual and political aspects of the European Union’s Cohesion Policy (EUCP) to promote equality. During his presentation, he concluded that in the light of the evolution of this policy, the prevailing view is that the problems of inter-regional disparities in the EU are no longer caused by the autonomous

externalities of market mechanisms, which the Member State cannot influence (as before 2000), but by endogenous factors in each Member State, which must align its policies with EU macroeconomic policies and New Economic Governance (2010). The new package of measures continues this policy by adding rule of law conditionality as a new endogenous factor for which the Member State is responsible, affecting European economic integration and its redistributive policies.

**Vassilis Hatzopoulos**, Professor at the Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences and Visiting Professor at the College d’ Europe / College of Europe, spoke about the impact of algorithms on Equality and Diversity, and presented the risks posed by the widespread use of algorithms for all types of decision making, from hiring employees to granting loans, and from the detention of suspects to the provision of health treatment. He also stressed that if algorithms were to replicate and reinforce existing human prejudices, there should be instruments to address the risks to equality.

The third day of the Conference was held on Friday 23 April 2021. The eighth thematic session focused on “**The promotion of EU Values in the world**” and was chaired by **Stelios Perrakis**, Emeritus Professor at Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences in Athens, Professor and Dean of the Law School of Neapolis Pafos University in Cyprus, former Ambassador - Permanent Representative of Greece to the Council of Europe, President of the Hellenic Society of International Law and International Relations (HSILIR) and Director of the UNESCO Chair for “Democracy, Human Rights and Peace”. Under his moderation, the following contributions were made:

- **Eleftheria Neframi**, Professor at the Faculty of Law, Economics and Finance at the University of Luxembourg, elaborated on the theme of “EU Values in the EU’s external action” in the light of the Union competences. She proceeded on the one



*JMevadis*



Jean Monnet Project

Enhancing the Debate about Intercultural Dialogue, EU Values and Diversity

hand to examine the conditions for EU participation/accession to international agreements concerning fundamental rights (e.g. ECHR) and, on the other hand, to examine how to promote the EU's values throughout the world as an objective of its external action without any specific competence being conferred on the EU (Article 21 TEU). She also underlined that the usual inclusion of a conditionality clause in its international agreements does not exceed the competences of the EU, while the EU's condition of compliance with the provisions of the Charter of Fundamental Rights on the legality

of its external action allows for indirect promotion of the Charter standards, in particular as regards access to an independent tribunal.

- **Manolis Perakis**, Assistant Professor at the Law School of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, presented the topic "The promotion of human rights protection in the EU's external relations: Legal aim or political tool?" focusing his analysis on the human rights conditionality clauses included by the EU in its international agreements with third countries on the basis of Article 21 TEU. However, the main question explored by the speaker is whether the EU is actually achieving this objective or whether it uses it as a justification to achieve other political and economic objectives.
- **Konstantinos Magliveras**, Professor of the Department of Mediterranean Studies at the University of the Aegean, examined the EU autonomous sanctions/restrictive measures regime against third countries accused of serious violations of human rights and the rule of law in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2020/1998 and Decision (CFSP) 2020/1999. These two legal acts create a global human rights violations sanctions regime known as the EU's "Magnitsky Act" (cf. US 2012) through which the EU seeks to export its values to third countries. In this context, EU sanctions against individuals and entities in the Russian Federation, China, North Korea, Libya, South Sudan and Eritrea were examined.
- **Metaxia Kouskouna**, Assistant Professor at the Law School of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, presented ways to promote the EU's circular economy environmental model globally as part of the EU Global Strategy (2016) and the European Green Deal, as well as the initiatives to create the Global Circular Economy Alliance (GCEA), the Partnership for a Safe Operating Space and a strong



*JMeuVadis*



Jean Monnet Project

Enhancing the Debate about Intercultural Dialogue, EU Values and Diversity

European Green Deal diplomacy, as climate change has a major impact on fundamental rights.

- **Joanna Kielin-Maziarz**, Associate Professor at the Department of Constitutional Law of Kozminski University in Poland, delivered her speech about the shared values of the EU and the UN based on the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), namely the concept of the rule of law (goal 16.3.) compared to the concept of the rule of law as an EU value, by examining the example of Poland.
- **Laurence Potvin-Solis**, Professor at Caen Normandie University in France, and Jean Monnet Chairholder, expanded upon the notion of the protection of personal data, as an expression of the EU's constitutional identity and its values, in particular in the fight against terrorism and criminal activity. However, as stated, the case-law of the CJEU on the autonomous determination of the level of protection creates constitutional

frictions, both with Member States in balancing protection against external security objectives on the international scene, as illustrated by the recent jurisprudence of the French Conseil d'Etat, and with third countries with a lower level of protection.

During the ninth thematic session “**EU Values and Cultural Heritage: Solidarity and Justice**”, which dealt with the protection of cultural heritage in order to preserve the cultural identity and equality of all groups in a multicultural society, the following speeches were delivered, while moderated by the Assistant Professor at the Department of International and European Studies of the University of Macedonia, **Kalliopi Chainoglou**:

- The thematic field of “EU action on cultural heritage: Towards a ‘fairer’ and more ethical art market?” was presented by **Andrzej Jakubowski**, Assistant Professor at the Institute of Legal Studies of the University of Opole in Poland and Visiting Bekker Research Fellow at the Amsterdam Centre for International Law (ACIL). The speaker mainly examined the need to apply to the art market the Resolution of the European Parliament of 17 January 2019 on cross-border requirements for the restitution of works of art and cultural goods looted in armed conflicts and wars with a view to integrating the protection of cultural heritage into the EU's external action and ending terrorist financing.
- The topic “The ‘Last Leonardo’ and the problem of the authenticity on the international art market - general remarks” was presented by Professor **Mateusz**



*JM*euVadis



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

Jean Monnet Project

Enhancing the Debate about Intercultural Dialogue, EU Values and Diversity

**Bieczynksi**, Magdalena Abakanowicz University of Arts in Poznan, Poland, who referred to the protection of cultural treasures in the context of Regulation (EU) No 116/2009 and Directive 2014/60/EU and analyzed the new Regulation 2019/880 on the import of cultural goods into the EU. Building on the example of the masterpieces attributed only recently to Da Vinci and Caravaggio, the speaker identified gaps in the protection of cultural heritage, in particular as regards the temporary import or release for free circulation of art works and their authenticity.

- **Andreas Joh. Wiesand**, Professor Emeritus at the International University of Dresden and Executive Director at the European Institute of Comparative Cultural Research (ERICarts) in Germany, presented the paper entitled “Heritage professionals on the road towards gender equality? Empirical trends and contradictions”. The contribution looked at gender equality as a common value of the EU, the UN and the Council of Europe and carried out a comparative and statistical analysis of women’s access to cultural management positions in different Member States, in particular in the field of museums, concluding that de facto non-access to these posts gives rise to inequality.
- The always topical theme “Art and Culture in Times of Populism: Challenges for EU values and possibilities for action” was analyzed by **Beatriz Barreiro Carril**, Associate Professor at Rey Juan Carlos University, Madrid in Spain. Deputy Professor at Rey Juan Carlos University, Madrid, Spain. The rapporteur referred to the lack of understanding of the importance of freedom of art by politicians and civil society, especially in the political context of populism, giving concrete examples.

The tenth thematic session concerned the “**The EU Value of Solidarity in the Borders, Migration and Asylum policies and in the management of COVID19**” and under the moderating management of **Christos Paraskevopoulos**, Professor at the Department of Balkan, Slavic & Oriental Studies (BSOS) of the University of Macedonia, the following contributions were made:

- **Dr. Eleni Koutsouraki**, Postdoctoral Researcher at Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, analyzed the risks for Greece in relation to the new Pact on Migration and Asylum in the EU, proposed by the European Commission in September 2020. The speaker criticized the proposed Pact, stressing that Member States are trying to avoid responsibility for the protection of refugees by keeping asylum seekers close to the external borders with a view to returning to their countries of origin whereas the proposed Regulation on Asylum and Migration



*JM*euVadis



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

Jean Monnet Project

Enhancing the Debate about Intercultural Dialogue, EU Values and Diversity

Management reiterates the criterion of attribution of responsibility protection in the first Member State of entry (Greece). She also stressed that the new Pact would legitimize practices such as special arrangements or bilateral agreements/statements.

- **Lilian Tsourdi**, Assistant Professor at the Law Faculty of Maastricht University in the Netherlands, spoke about the additional challenges affecting the application of the principle of solidarity in EU asylum policy due to the pandemic and also assessed the new Pact on Immigration and Asylum on the basis of this principle of solidarity.
- **Elisabeth Kirtsoglou**, Associate Professor at the Department of Anthropology of Durham University in the UK, analyzed the concept of solidarity and noted the transformations it receives in various contexts to conceal and serve institutionalized socio-political inequalities and to depoliticize rights, reducing them to moral contingencies. Through the intense nationalization of responses to the pandemic and the sealing of borders, protecting equality and maintaining rights under 'states of emergency and exception' is a democratic task.
- **Rebecca-Emmanouela Papadopoulou**, Associate Professor at the School of Law of the National and Kapodistrian University in Athens, analyzed EU legislation and CJEU case law on the protection of the fundamental right to human dignity in the context of procedures for examining and assessing asylum seekers' applications, in particular for the purposes of verifying the claim of persecution on grounds of sexual orientation.
- **Georgiana Turculet**, Visiting Researcher at the University of Central Europe (Vienna / Budapest) and Researcher at Institutes and Laboratories in Paris, Copenhagen, Brussels, Barcelona and Timișoara, analyzed how the COVID-19 pandemic led to the suspension of fundamental freedoms and the lack of social security for many, such as migrants, thus revealing the fragmented social fabric where populism, racism and sexism metastasizes and explored ways to develop solidarity.

The eleventh thematic session titled “**EU Values in a multicultural society – how intercultural dialogue may help**” and under the moderation of **Despoina Anagnostopoulou**, Associate Professor at the Department of International and European Studies at the University of Macedonia, Academic Coordinator of the Jean Monnet EU VaDis Project, the following speakers delivered their contributions:

- **Oriane Calligaro**, Associate Professor at ESPOL Faculty of the Catholic University in Lille, France and Visiting Professor at the College d' Europe / College of Europe in



*JM*euVadis



### Jean Monnet Project

Enhancing the Debate about Intercultural Dialogue, EU Values and Diversity

Belgium, spoke about the role of values in the EU's approach to European identity. She clarified that the EU values are fundamentally universal values and are not sufficient to give it the desired European identity, while the growing diversity of the population in the EU casts doubt on the boundaries of the EU as a community of values. In this context, the speaker explored several questions such as: What role does European culture and ethos play from specific cultural and historical contexts? To what extent does the political use of European cultural heritage reflect European values? What role does intercultural dialogue play, a concept developed in the 1990s and aimed at a value-based European citizenship? And how the EU's self-determination is shaped by defending its values against strong populist political forces.

- **Dora Kostakopoulou**, Guest Professor at KU Leuven University, Chair of the Scientific Committee of the Fundamental Rights Agency of the EU, talked about human dignity and EU citizenship under Brexit. She stressed that during the night of 23 June 2016, following the referendum in the United Kingdom, European citizens, who resided in the United Kingdom, were identified by the authorities and their fellow citizens as 'others' numerically defined ('the numbered' others), while the process of alienation had culminated, which had started much earlier. The speaker concluded that the attempt to preserve their rights in the UK after Brexit is not only an implementation of the fundamental status of European citizenship but also a question of the effectiveness of the principle of respect for human dignity.
- **Panagiotis Grigoriou**, Professor and Jean Monnet Chairholder on European Political Integration and European Societies at the Department of Sociology of the University of Aegean, would speak about "Holocaust remembrance lessons for the European legal order and the European (non)-tolerant society", however, because of his feeling unwell, only part of his speech was read by the moderator of the session.
- **Nikos Gaitenidis**, Doctor of the University of Macedonia, Lecturer at the Department of Political Sciences at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, pointed out that the involvement of European citizens, originating from a third country, as fighters in the Syrian civil war and in Islamic State, comprised a failure of the European States' cultural diversity policy. Their expected return to the EU poses security challenges and calls for a review of the approach to intercultural dialogue as a means of integrating third-country nationals into European societies to investigate the causes and address the extremist phenomenon.

The entire Conference was administratively supported by **Maria Brokou**, Researcher for the Jean Monnet EU VaDis project, while the technical support was provided by the technicians of the University of Macedonia, **Lazaros Seremetidis** and **Stathis Tsakidis**. The scientific



responsibility of the organisation of the Court lies with **Despoina Anagnostopoulou**, academic coordinator of the Jean Monnet EU VaDis project.

Please find below the program of the event that divides the speeches per day and per session, and provides additional information regarding the speeches, contributions, and/or papers and presentations of the Speakers.



*JM*euVadis



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

Jean Monnet Project

Enhancing the Debate about Intercultural Dialogue, EU Values and Diversity

**WEDNESDAY, April 21st 2021**

Welcome – **Despina ANAGNOSTOPOULOU**, Associate Professor, Department of International and European Studies, Academic Coordinator of the Jean Monnet Project EUVaDis, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece

**Opening remarks**

**Evgenia ALEXANDROPOULOU**, Professor, Department of Applied Informatics, Vice Rector, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece

**Athanasios ZERVAS**, Professor, Department of Music Science and Art, Dean of the School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece

**Ilias KOUSKOUVELIS**, Professor and Head of the Department of International and European Studies, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece

**Margaritis SCHINAS**, Vice-President of the European Commission, Commissioner for Promoting our European Way of Life

**Costas TSOUTSOPLIDES**, Head of the European Parliament Liaison Office in Athens, Greece



Despina Anagnostopoulou



EUGENIA ALEXANDROPOULOU



ATHANASIOS ZERVAS



Ilias Kouskouvelis



Margaritis SCHINAS



Constantinos Tsoutsoplides



Vassilios Skouris



Francis Jacobs



Takis Tridimas





### **Opening Session**

Chair: Vassilios SKOURIS, Professor Emeritus, f. President and Judge of the European Court of Justice, President of the Governing Board of the Hellenic Association for the European Law (HAEL), President of the Governing Board of the Centre of International and European Economic Law (CIEEL), Thessaloniki, Greece

### **Keynote speech**

- **[The EU and the rule of law: recent developments and current prospects](#)**  
**Sir Francis JACOBS**, Professor of Law and Jean Monnet Professor at King's College London, UK, f. Advocate General at the European Court of Justice (1988-2006)

In his speech, Sir F. Jacobs presented the current threats to the protection of human rights, liberal values and even democracy itself and investigated with the means of effectively consolidating the rule of law. He further underlined that *“after many years of progress, serious concerns have recently developed in Europe: human rights, the rule of law, liberal values and even democracy itself face serious threats. This is a time in which it is necessary to consider how the rule of law can be strengthened. Indeed, it can be suggested that the rule of law is truly foundational in a system of values which needs to be strengthened. We have the opportunity and the need to consider the ways in which this can be effectively achieved”*.

An excerpt of Sir Jacobs' speech can be found [here](#), on our YouTube channel.

### **Introductory Speech**

- **[Values, principles, and rights: consensus and conflict](#)**  
**Takis TRIDIMAS**, Professor of European Law, Co-Director, Centre of European Law, Kings College, London, UK

In this speech, Professor Tridimas discussed the role of values and principles in EU legal order. As he underlined, “diverse and often bewildering judicial terminology serves to obfuscate the role of principles which, in terms of positive law, stand at the apex of the EU law edifice”. The presentation sought to explore the role of general principles as a source of Europeanisation of laws and attempted a typology of general principles, whilst it assessed their role both as generators of jus communae and as a source of constitutional conflict.



## **SESSION 1: EU Values as Common Values**

**Chair: Nikos SCANDAMIS**, Emeritus Professor of EU Law, School of Law, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece

- **Human dignity as a value and a norm in the European Union**

**Nikos SCANDAMIS**, Emeritus Professor of EU Law, School of Law, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece

Em. Professor Scandamis, who also chaired the first session of the e-Conference, decided to build his speech around the value of human dignity. As he explained, *“human dignity is the cornerstone of the whole system of human rights in any liberal state or meta-state as the EU. It stands, as a borderline value within and beyond of all particular legal orders composing the EU including its own”*. He continued stating that human dignity- by all its forms (right to life,

prohibition of death penalty, torture, degrading treatment, slavery, servitude etc.)- is an overarching value whose cementing impact lies in ensuring “objective conditions of freedom and dignity” (Reg. 1612/68) in exercising rights and freedoms as involved in the development of personality by ignoring formal limits and, in particular, as connected to market freedoms by outbalancing their encompassing effects. He added by commenting that *“the modern conception of human dignity formulated in Kantian terms, also portrays a “cultural institutionalisation manifesting a universal legal conscience” (D. Evrigenis, 1966) and offering substance to the formal concept of Rule of Law, strangely thus responding to the deep aspiration as formulated by Aristotle (1215b) at a time human dignity remained undefined and probably ignored, for “a human life which has to be made worthy of choice”*.

- **Rule of Law and the idea of Republican Liberty**

**Kosmas BOSKOVITS**, Deputy Legal Counselor, Legal Service, EU Affairs Hellenic Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Athens, Greece

Mr Boskovits decided to bridge the Value of the Rule of Law and the concept of liberty. As he mentioned in his presentation, *“the neo-Roman conception of liberty, as brilliantly exposed by Professor Quentin Skinner, refers to the absence of dependence on the will of another as a distinctive criterion of liberty and as a condition for the secure enjoyment of individual rights.*



*This distinction between liberty as absence of interference and liberty as absence of discretionary power offers valuable insights into the place and the function of the rule of law in the EU context".* He further elaborated on effective judicial review, institutional checks and balances and the principles of transparency and accountability aim at curtailing the exercise

of discretionary power in all matters connected with the operation of an area of freedom, justice, and security.

- **[Legal Theory of European Integration: A Supranational Democracy Model?](#)**

**Susanna - Maria CAFARO**, Associate Professor, Department of Legal Studies, University of Salento, Lecce, Italy

Professor Cafaro decided not to focus on the specific rights of the European citizens - even the civic and political ones - but on the overall conception behind them, i.e., the democratic political dimension of the Union and therefore, decided to explain aspects of the legal theory of European integration by particularly discussing the notion of the European citizenship. According to her, *"the European citizenship is a peculiar legal construct which stands apart for several reasons:*

- (i) *it is a citizenship without a State;*
- (ii) *then it is additional to national citizenship, finally,*
- (iii) *it adds on the status of Italian, German, French citizenship a non-discrimination principle allowing individuals to benefit of rights connected with other European citizenships when they move to another European country. Free circulation in the Union so it is not just a right of the European citizens, but a multiplier of their rights".*



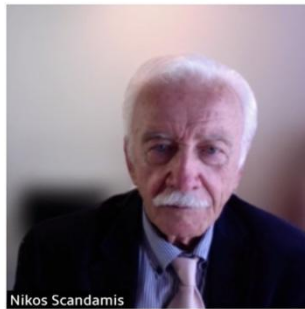
*JM euVadis*



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

Jean Monnet Project

Enhancing the Debate about Intercultural Dialogue, EU Values and Diversity



Nikos Scandamis



Kosmas BOSKOVITS



Susanna-Maria Cafaro



## **SESSION 2: EU Values and Fundamental Rights**

**Chair: Dimitrios SKIADAS**, Professor, Department of International and European Studies, Jean Monnet Chair on EU Budgetary Governance and Audit, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece; Visiting Researcher at the Center for the Study of Europe/Boston University

- **[The right to health as the legal basis of restrictions imposed on fundamental rights and freedoms during the pandemic](#)**

**Konstantinos KOUROUPIS**, Assistant Professor of European and Data Rights Law, Department of Law, Frederick University, Cyprus

The topic of this speech concerns the lawfulness of the restrictions imposed to the exercise of fundamental rights in favour of public health and safety, in the era of the pandemic. The examination of the research issues is structured in 3 levels: firstly, there is provided an intense interpretation of the principle of solidarity which penetrates the exercise of fundamental rights and freedoms. In addition, a thorough analysis of the special concept of the right to health is following on the basis of the EU legislation, European Convention on Human Rights and the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights. Therefore, the right to health is examined in connection with other fundamental rights, such as those to



*JMeuadis*



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

Jean Monnet Project

Enhancing the Debate about Intercultural Dialogue, EU Values and Diversity

education, to work and to free movement whose exercise is restricted in order to ensure public health and safety. Special emphasis is given to contemporary legal challenges which flow from the pandemic and are strictly bonded with the right to health, such as the lawfulness of the mandatory vaccination and rapid tests. The final conclusions demonstrate the result of the thorough research, provide solid answers to the exposed concerns and pursue to lead to a fair balance of the rights.

- **When trade and academic freedom meet at a rule of law crisis crossroad: some thoughts on case C-66/18 Commission v. Hungary**

**Vasiliki KOSTA**, Assistant Professor of European Union Law, Europa Institute, Faculty of Law, Leiden University, The Netherlands

**Darinka PIQANI**, Assistant Professor of European Union Law, Europa Institute, Faculty of Law, Leiden University, The Netherlands

In the paper that was presented during the second session of the conference, Professors Kosta and Piqani discussed the landmark ruling in Case C-66/18 Commission v Hungary (Higher Education). The case played out against the context of a general rule of law backsliding in Hungary and was highly anticipated. It concerns infringement proceedings against Hungary regarding amendments it made in 2017 to its Higher Education Law which

according to critics had the sole aim of preventing the activity of the Central European University (CEU) in Hungary. These circumstances moved the case centre-stage in the public eye, in political debates and in academic circles. This judgment was the first case in which the CJEU pronounced itself on academic freedom as enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and found a violation but it could only do so by ruling on trade first.

- **Making EU values operational: recent calls and proposals how to better implement the Charter of Fundamental Rights**

**Gabriel TOGGENBURG**, Policy Coordinator - EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), Vienna, Austria

In his presentation, Mr Toggenburg, briefly referred to the relationship between the EU values and the EU Charter, pointed to the impact the Charter had over the last 20 years, and elaborated the Commission's strategy and the adopted Council conclusions in that regard. He pointed to both the potential and the limitations of the Charter and explored the question "*what is needed to make sure that in the 3rd decade of its existence the Charter plays a relevant role in our lives?*".



**JM EUVaDis**



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

Jean Monnet Project

Enhancing the Debate about Intercultural Dialogue, EU Values and Diversity



DIMITRIS SKIADAS



Constantinos Kouroupis



Vicky KOSTA



Darinka PIQANI



Gabriel Toggenburg

### **SESSION 3: Democracy and European Citizenship in the EU**

**Chair: Ioannis PAPADOPOULOS**, Associate Professor, Department of International and European Studies, Director of the Center for Research on Democracy and Law, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece

- **The Democratic Principles in EU Legal Order: A Reality or A Challenge?**

**Teresa RUSSO**, Associate Professor of EU Law, of International Organization and of EU Migration Law, Department of Legal Sciences, University of Salerno, Lecturer of EU Advanced Law, Law Department, Albanian University of Tirana, Albania

The thematic that Professor Russo chose for her contribution in the conference focused on the democratic principles and the debate around them following the abandoned Constitutional Treaty of Rome. In her presentation, she mentioned that the process of constitutionalization-democratization of the Union, that goes back to the European



integration process, has gradually materialized the so-called common principles to the Member- States in the Union's legal system, which have partly converged into the general principles of Community/Union's law, and partly become constitutional or constitutive principles of the Union (now fundamental values according to article 2 TEU). In her presentation, she also shared the view that *“although democratic principles in the strict sense refer only to the Title II of the TEU introduced by the Lisbon Treaty, in a broad sense they have established in parallel with the entire construction of the European Union through the evolution of its legal system. Nevertheless, because of the time of difficulty that the Union is experiencing, one wonders whether the steps taken so far have led to a reality, that is a functioning democratic model, or represents a challenge to overcome.”*

- **[Artificial Intelligence challenges on Human Rights, Rule of Law and Democracy](#)**

**Jan KLEIJSEN**, Director of Information society and Action against Crime of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France

Mr. Kleijssen decided to debate on a trending issue for some time now, the AI and the challenges drawn upon human rights, the rule of law, and democracy. In his speech, he used examples of various applications that are constantly questioning public opinion. Whether it is the generalisation of facial recognition in public spaces or its use for deterministic purposes such as determining whether someone could be a potential criminal, the prioritisation of content published on social networks, advertising targeting or its use in public services and the justice system as a decision-making aid, the debates remain very open. As, he underlined, *“while there is certainly a great potential to be explored, with some helpful applications being developed, including in the framework of the current pandemic, civil society keeps warning us about the real and concrete negative consequences of some uses of AI and Television documentaries, such as the recent iHuman or Social Dilemma,*



illustrate abuses of AI, supported by the testimonies of various stakeholders”.



#### **SESSION 4: The Value of the rule of law and its implementation**

**Chair: Michail CHRYSOMALLIS**, Professor, Jean Monnet Chair on the Rule of Law in the EU, Law School, Democritus University of Thrace, Greece

- **[The principle of judicial protection in the application of EU law as a principle of a federal union of law](#)**  
**Asterios PLIAKOS**, Professor of European Law, Department of International and European Economic Studies, Athens University of Economics and Business, Greece

Professor Pliakos chose to present a paper focusing on the principle of Judicial protection in the application of EU law. According to his speech, “(...)judicial protection is a necessary prerequisite for the existence and function of the EU legal order. As a fundamental institutional principle of the EU, it has been connected with the effective application of EU law, a connection not always acceptable by the Member States, particularly after the Lisbon





*Treaty which institutionalized the obligation of the EU to respect the national identity*". Yet, he noted that defining judicial protection as a general principle of EU law the Court has set the foundations of its more acceptable development, especially with regard to the specification of its content. Further, he claimed that the recognition of the right to a fair trial by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU has given more legitimization to this approach, while the definition of the principle of effective judicial protection as an integral part of the rule of law, which after the Lisbon Treaty is a value of the EU, opens new perspectives as regards the federal development of the EU. In conclusion, he supported that the recent jurisprudence of the Court which combines the rule of law with the principle of judicial protection demonstrates its dynamic development, in parallel with the promotion of EU values, as an integral part of the European constitutional identity.

- [Protection of the rule of law in the EU: Foundational values, conditions of functionality and procedural legitimacy](#)

**Ioannis PAPAPOULOS**, Associate Professor, Department of International and European Studies, Director of the Center for Research on Democracy and Law, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece

Professor Papadopoulos commenced his speech by sharing the view that Article 2 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) constitutes a type of 'constitutional core' of the EU, as it defines the foundational values of the entire EU construct and requires a homogeneity between the constitutional principles of the Union itself and the relevant principles of its

Member States. In his paper he argued that the EU values form a normative basis, which potentially merges the – initially different, to some extent – fundamental values of the European constitutional orders into a common core, though not exclusively for the sake of philosophical declaration or abstract political theory, but also for the sake of the functional facilitation of the European integration process. *"By ensuring a more solid legal basis for political morality in a multinational project, such as that of the EU, the hard core of European values contributes reflectively to the understanding of a common identity by European citizens and European institutions, thus facilitating further integration"*. He concluded by saying that, more moral and political legitimacy at the basis of the Union brings about a stronger identity 'stamp' for the European edifice, which in turn produces a more functional system, with more and better procedural guarantees for the production of common policies.



*JM* **eu**adis



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

Jean Monnet Project

Enhancing the Debate about Intercultural Dialogue, EU Values and Diversity

- [Reviewing Member States' Compliance with the Rule of Law: a Sectoral and Omnibus Approach](#)

**Alexandros TSADIRAS**, Associate Professor of European Union Administration Law, Academic Coordinator of the postgraduate programme “European Union Law”, Open University of Cyprus, Cyprus

In his contribution he explored two main approaches through which Member- States' compliance with the Rule of Law can be reviewed, and even sanctioned at EU level. The discussion began with some introductory remarks that set the unfolding analysis into its proper historical, political, legal, and conceptual context. Then, this intro was followed by an examination of the two suggested approaches: the first based on sectoral legislation, while the second relied on EU law provisions of broader institutional value. The analysis concluded with a brief comment on the proper response to fundamental political problems.

- [Rule of law and its politics – Member States and EU institutions in the face of the application of Article 7 TEU](#)

**Yannis PAPAGEORGIU**, Associate Professor, Faculty of Economic and Political Sciences, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece

Professor Papageorgiou opened his speech by mentioning that it has now been more than three years since the Article 7 procedure of the Treaty on the European Union was initiated by the European Commission against Poland (on 20 December 2017) and more than 2,5 years since it was initiated by the Parliament against Hungary (on the 12 September 2018). Despite the initial interest in these developments, in particular regarding to initial Commission proposal, the development of the process is stalled since, due to political misgivings and internal Commission overhaul. In the presented paper he examined the political and policy reasons that pestered the application of Article 7 TEU in the two cases mentioned above and assessed the viability and feasibility of enforcing the first stage of the procedure established there. He further analysed the political context, the role of the various EU institutions, and the reactions of the Member States concerned. In addition, he looked into the relationship between Article 50 TEU (on the withdrawal from the EU) and Article 7 TEU, regarding to possibility to consider an implicit right to expel a Member- State from the EU.



*JM* **eu**adis



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

Jean Monnet Project

Enhancing the Debate about Intercultural Dialogue, EU Values and Diversity



Michail CHRYSOMALLIS



Asterios PLIAKOS



Ioannis PAPADOPOULOS



Alexandros TSADIRAS



Yannis PAPAGEORGIOU



Despina ANAGNOSTOPOULOU

**THURSDAY, 22nd April, 2021**

**SESSION 5: EU Values in Education and integration of third-country nationals**

**Chair: Foteini ASDERAKI**, Associate Professor of European Integration Theory and European Educational Policy, Department of International and European Studies, University of Piraeus, Greece

▪ **Promoting legal education and active citizenship at the EU level**

**Bénédicte FAUVARQUE-COSSON**, Professor of Private Law, University Panthéon-Assas, Paris II, Judge at the Conseil d'Etat, Paris, France

In her presentation, Professor Fauvarque- Cosson, she referred to the need to promote legal education and active citizenship across the EU in order to strengthen the rule of law and underlined that this objective could be attained either through a separate course in the school



curriculum in secondary education, in addition to the school subject of civic education, or a separate seminar at the beginning of university education or in preparation for Erasmus student mobility.

- [The “Others” amongst “Us” - Immigration, Integration, and the Law in the European Union](#)

**Moritz JESSE**, Associate Professor of European Union Law, Europa Institute of Leiden Law School, Leiden University, The Netherlands

From the perspective of the law, his presentation addressed questions such as who is the ‘other’, who are ‘we’, and what it means that ‘we’ express ‘otherness’ the way ‘we’ do in the context of the current political landscape and heated discussions about immigration. The presentation suggested a set of ideas and principles on how to minimize the negative effects of ‘othering’. The analysis covered policies to regulate immigration in the most pertinent areas, such as border controls, economic migration, EU Citizenship, and, naturally, the treatment of refugees and asylum seekers. Professor Jesse chose, through his contribution, to provide ideas, approaches, and developments on the topic “European Societies, Otherness, and the Law” in times of increasing nationalism, xenophobia, and skepticism to international cooperation.





## **SESSION 6: Hate speech as the negation of EU Values**

**Chair: Despoina ANAGNOSTOPOULOU**, Associate Professor, Department of International and European Studies, Academic Coordinator of the Jean Monnet Project EUVaDis, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece

- **[Hate Speech on- and off-line](#)**

**Patrick PENNINCKX**, Head of Information Society Department, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France

Mr. Penninckx investigated the EU's regulatory approaches to fight online hate speech that the EU has gradually developed together with other tools to stop those who spread their hatred via the internet.

- **[Hate speech and religion](#)**

**Lina PAPAPOPOULOU**, Associate Professor of Constitutional Law, Law School, Jean Monnet Chair for European Constitutional Law and Culture, Academic Coordinator of the AUTH Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence on "European Constitutionalism and Religion(s)", Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece

Professor Papadopoulou delivered her talk about hate speech and religion by analyzing the ECtHR's jurisprudence on Article 17 ECHR in comparison with the case-law of the US Supreme Court seeking, inter alia, to identify the public good protected and the conditions under which such protection may require the restriction of freedom of expression. Finally, it raised the question whether liberal democracy could turn against its enemies, who use the freedoms and rights which it guarantees in order to destroy it, or whether, on the contrary, it should allow them to use all the means available to impose inequality, the denial of the injured parties human value, and ultimately totalitarianism.

- **[SOGIESC based hate speech in Europe: the state of play](#)**

**Eleni TSETSEKOU**, Head of the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Unit (SOGI), Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France



Mrs. Tsetsekou, during her speech focused specifically on SOGIESC-based hate speech, that is hate speech on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression and sex characteristics. The areas of focus was on “what is happening in member states and why?” and then “what solutions can the Council of Europe – and we all, as citizens - bring?” The solutions closely reflected the Council of Europe SOGI Unit’s principles, strategy, and activities in this area.

- [The EU’s regulatory approaches to countering hate speech online](#)

**Dr. Evangelia PSYCHOGIOPOULOU**, Senior research fellow at the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP), Greece

Dr. Psychogiopoulou opening her speech by stating that digitization has transformed society on many fronts and continued by saying that *“In recent years, we have seen the rise of social media, the expansion of blogging (and micro-blogging), the development of video-sharing sites and the broad uptake of instant messaging services. Online platforms and social media have expanded the possibilities of individuals to exercise the right to freedom of expression and to obtain and diffuse information. At the same time, they have become a principal means for disseminating illegal and harmful content. Amongst other issues, online platforms and social media nowadays provide a space where haters can utter and spread their hate in ways that would have been unthinkable some years ago. Responsive to the challenge, the EU has gradually developed a broad range of legal instruments and tools to counter online hate speech”*. In her paper she discussed the key characteristics of the EU arrangements made to



JM euVadis



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

Jean Monnet Project

Enhancing the Debate about Intercultural Dialogue, EU Values and Diversity

fight online hate speech, shedding light on what is a multi-faceted, yet daunting regulatory



Despina Anagnostopoulou



Patrick Penninckx



Lina Papadopoulou



Eleni Tsetsekou



Evangelia Psychogiopoulou



task.

## **SESSION 7: Equality and diversity in the EU - towards new meanings**

**Chair: Vassilis HATZOPOULOS**, Professor of EU Law and Policies, Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, Athens, Greece, Visiting Professor, College d' Europe, Bruges, Belgium

- **Equality and Diversity in the EU – Towards an LGBT-Inclusive EU?**

**Alina TRYFONIDOU**, Professor of European Law, Neapolis University Pafos, Cyprus, and Visiting Professor of Law, University of Reading, UK

According to Professor Tryfonidou, "...the EU began its life as three economically-orientated Communities. Accordingly, the founding Community Treaties did not contain any reference to fundamental (human) rights and, naturally, they did not make any reference to LGBT rights. Despite this, some tentative steps aiming to protect the rights of LGBT persons were taken by

Page 31 of 48



JMevadis



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

Jean Monnet Project

Enhancing the Debate about Intercultural Dialogue, EU Values and Diversity

*the EU already in the 1980s although, until 1999, all initiatives to this effect consisted of the adoption of soft law measures. The coming into force of the Treaty of Amsterdam in 1999 brought with it the first legal basis which enabled the EU legislature to promulgate legislation prohibiting discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation. Since then, a number of measures have been adopted which prohibit discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation. This together with the drafting of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights which prohibits, inter alia, discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation and the introduction of Article 10 TFEU in 2009 (which is a mainstreaming provision) have meant that there are currently a number of legally binding provisions and instruments under EU law which aim to make the EU more LGBT-inclusive. The Court of Justice has, also, had the opportunity to rule in situations involving the protection of LGBT rights". Her paper aimed to examine the above developments in order to assess how LGBT-inclusive the EU currently is. The Commission's announced LGBTIQ+ Equality Strategy 2020-2025 were also considered during her speech in order to assess its potential contribution to making the EU a more LGBT-inclusive polity.*

- **[Gender Equality as a Value in EU Law: A Comparative Perspective](#)**

**Dr. Anna – Maria KONSTA**, Lecturer, School of Law of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece

In her words, “the legal concept of gender equality has been, recently, redefined in the context of the European Union, in order to include other societal groups that have been discriminated against, because of their gender subjectivities, such as identity, orientation and preferences. Thus, legal protection in relation to gender in the EU no longer only encompasses equality between men and women, but, also, the prohibition of discrimination based on

sexual orientation and gender identity. Moreover, through the Court of Justice of the EU case-law, and recent EU secondary legislation, a new “right to care” emerges. The legal recognition of the concept of “care” allows for the reconciliation of the public and private divide, and marks a new era in reconceiving family relations and law”. In the context of this presentation, it was argued that these specific features of EU Law reveal a value system which is endemic to the European legal culture, if compared to other legal cultures in the world, such as those of the US and China, or other religious and traditional legal systems.





- [An assessment of the conceptual and policy underpinnings of the European Union Cohesion Policy in promoting equality in the European Union](#)

**Anastassios CHARDAS**, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Democritus University of Thrace, Greece

In his paper, Professor Chardas said *“that conceptual rationale, ideological underpinnings and policy philosophy of the European Union Cohesion Policy (EUCP) has been a matter of debate since its’ inception in the late 1980’s”*. He then continued, *“the conceptual bedrocks of the EUCP have been linked with the policy realities that it has sought to address, the operational ways in which it has been implemented in practice, but also wider ideological political configurations vis-à-vis the EU budget at the level of the European Union (EU)”*. In his article he identifies two periods of policy development for the EUCP, each one influenced by different policy and ideological dynamics. The former period stretched from the initiation of the policy in the late 1980s and lasted until the mid-2000s, whilst the second period initiated with the period of the preparations for the fourth programming period (2007-13) and has been ongoing. According to him, in conceptual terms, the former period can be analysed as influenced by an understanding that the problems of interregional disparities in the EU were caused by the unfettered market mechanisms unleashed by the project of the Single Market as well as the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU).

- [Algorithms, Equality and Diversity](#)

**Vassilis HATZOPOULOS**, Professor of EU Law and Policies, Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, Athens, Greece, Visiting Professor, College d’ Europe, Bruges, Belgium

The generalized use of algorithms for all sorts of decision-making, from hiring employees to giving out loans, and from detaining suspects to delivering health treatments, raise a very important issue: algorithms risk replicating and amplifying already existing human biases. Professor’s Hatzopoulos paper discussed the risks and some means of tackling those.



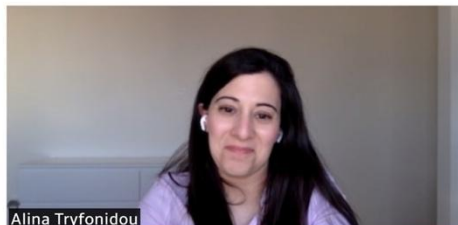
*JM EUVadis*



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

Jean Monnet Project

Enhancing the Debate about Intercultural Dialogue, EU Values and Diversity



Alina Tryfonidou



Vassilis Hatzopoulos



Anna-Maria Konsta



Anastassios Chardas



**FRIDAY, 23rd April 2021**

**SESSION 8: The promotion of EU Values in the world**

**Chair: Stelios PERRAKIS**, Professor and Dean of the Law School of Neapolis Pafos University, Pafos, Cyprus, Emeritus Professor of International and European Institutions, Panteion University of Athens, Athens, Greece, f. Ambassador - Permanent Representative of Greece to the Council of Europe, President, Hellenic Society of International Law and International Relations, UNESCO Chair for "Democracy, Human Rights and Peace"

- **EU Values in the EU's external action**

**Eleftheria NEFRAMI**, Professor, Faculty of Law, Economics and Finance, University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg



According to Professor Neframi, *“the role of values in the Union’s external action could be examined from a double perspective: the participation of the Union in international agreements concerning fundamental rights and the promotion of the Union’s standards of protection in the world”*. In her first approach, she examined the Union’s competence to conclude or to accede to international agreements concerning human rights’ protection. A dynamic interpretation of the Union’s external competence enables the Union’s participation in international human rights instruments, however the need to preserve the autonomy of the EU legal order impeded the Union’s accession to the ECHR. The second perspective examined the promotion of the Union’s values in the world as one of the Union’s external action objectives. As no competence is conferred to the Union with regard to this objective, the contribution presented the methodological tools enabling the Union to promote its values. On the one hand, the global approach of the external action objectives following Art.21 TEU allows the Union to promote its values through conditionality clauses which do not raise any question of competence. On the other hand, human rights compliance as a condition of legality of the Union’s external action allows the promotion of the Charter’s standards, which has a particular importance as far as the right of access to an independent tribunal is concerned.

- [The promotion of human rights protection in the EU’s external relations: Legal aim or political tool?](#)

**Manolis PERAKIS**, Assistant Professor of European Law, School of Law, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece

The speech’s main focus was the human rights protection as a supreme value of the EU legal order and as a principal aim of the EU’s external policy. The so-called “human rights clauses” are examined, among other tools and mechanisms, as the means the EU uses to affirm and promote human rights protection in the international sphere. The basic question set by the speaker was whether the goal of the EU’s external policy to share and promote these fundamental values is, indeed, sufficiently achieved or just used as a pretext for the pursuit of political and economic purposes, though perhaps the answer lies in between.

The first part of the speech was devoted to the roots of the human rights protection as a fundamental value in the Treaty provisions and the important step of a state’s accession to the EU. Subsequently, in the second part, the speaker presented and analyzed the general framework of legal tools used by the EU to pursue human rights protection in its agreements with third states and refers specifically to the “human rights protection clauses”. Furthermore, the differences spotted between the pursuit of the human rights protection in



general and the protection of labour rights by the EU are very enlightening when it comes to its intentions and priorities in its external relations. Finally, the speech concluded with the epilogue, in which the speaker made some points regarding the initial question and attempted to answer it, while making specific remarks regarding the EU's consistency in its external action.

- [The recently established EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime pursuant to Regulation 2020/1998 and Decision 2020/1999](#)  
**Konstantinos MAGLIVERAS**, Professor of the Law of International Organisations, Department of Mediterranean Studies, University of the Aegean, Rhodes, Greece

The paper examined the recent attempts of the European Union to further strengthen its sanctioning system against third countries, which are accused of not observing their human rights and rule of law obligations. In particular, the paper will review Council Regulation (EU) 2020/1998 as well as Council Decision (CFSP) 2020/1999, which were approved on 7 December 2020 and concern the adoption of sanctions (or “restrictive measures” in the parlance of EU law) for serious human rights violations and abuses. These two instruments, which create an EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime, have been dubbed the EU ‘Magnitsky Act’, after the namesake legislation passed in the USA in 2012. The paper also examined how this specific regime, which falls into the scope of the so-called ‘autonomous sanctions’, has been applied so far. Thus, reference was made to the sanctions ordered against individuals and entities located in the Russian Federation, in China, in North Korea, in Libya, in South Sudan and in Eritrea. Finally, it was argued that, through this regime, the EU attempts to export its values and guiding principles to third states.

- [Promoting the EU environmental model of circular economy at the global level](#)  
**Metaxia KOUSKOUNA**, Assistant Professor of European Law, School of Law, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece

Professor Kouskouna presented her paper and claimed that the European Union's external engagement is marked by the pursuit of the diffusion of its own values and norms; it reflects the organisation's ambition to play a distinct role in the international scene. The “EU Global Strategy” launched in 2016 showed concern about the critical state of the world; climate change and environmental related challenges are included among those to be tackled. The European Green Deal, a new growth strategy aiming at transforming the EU into a fair and



prosperous society, was presented as the response to the above challenges: a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy free from greenhouse emissions in 2050 and a

successful achievement of economic growth independent from resource use. The transformation will include all EU actions and policies following the environmental integration principle set out in Article 11 TFEU. In parallel, the EU's collective ability to transform its economy and society to a more sustainable path is to be promoted in the international scene via its strengths as a global leader on climate and environmental measures, consumer protection, and workers' rights. More specifically, in its efforts to tackle the global character of climate change and biodiversity loss, the EU shows ready to grasp the opportunity to "use its influence, expertise and financial resources to mobilise its neighbours and partners to join it" on the sustainable path of a circular economy. To support the above global shift, the European Commission promises to propose a Global Circular Economy Alliance (GCEA) in order to identify knowledge and governance gaps in advancing this objective; it declares ready to promote partnership initiatives to explore the feasibility of a "Safe Operating Space" for natural resource use and initiate discussions on the international management thereof.

Together with the High Representative and the Member States the European Commission promotes its ambitious environment, climate and energy policies across the world: the development of a strong "green deal diplomacy" is the main tool for "convincing and supporting others to take on their share of promoting more sustainable development".

- [EU and UN shared common values on the basis of SDG 16 of the Agenda 2030](#)

**Joanna KIELIN-MAZIARZ**, Associate Professor, Department of Constitutional Law, Kozminski University, Poland

Professor Kielin-Maziarz delivered her speech about the shared values of the EU and the UN based on the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), namely the concept of the rule of law (goal 16.3.) compared to the concept of the rule of law as an EU value, by examining the example of Poland.

- [Common values and the protection of personal data: what identity for the European Union?](#)

**Laurence POTVIN-SOLIS**, Professor, University of Caen Normandy, Jean Monnet Chair, France



Professor Potvin-Solis claimed that the personal data protection can be considered as the expression of an identity of the European Union about fundamental rights guarantee. She further underlined that the reference to EU values serves to consolidate the affirmation of this European identity concerning the definition of essential elements of personal data protection, the determination of appropriate level of protection, the legal treatment of

sensitive data and the guarantees of the independence of supervisory authorities. These requirements apply to EU members and to relations between EU and third countries. This EU identity is linked to the Treaty on European Union, the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. It therefore has a constitutional nature and impact in the European Union. In her paper, she commented on the level of protection in the Union that reflects a « common system of values » which must be specific to the Union but also respect the « scales of values » which are different from one Member State to another. She also stated that It makes it possible to define the terms of reconciling the protection of personal data with legitimate objectives such as public policy and security objectives, which are also interests requiring constitutional protection at national and European level. It concerns key aspects of the external action of the European Union and in particular the fight against terrorism and crime on the international stage. The determination of the level of protection by the European Union and by the Court of Justice of the Union creates tensions with national laws and national courts, as shown by the recent judgment of the French « Conseil d'État », already mentioned in this e-conference. This contribution analysed, in the light of recent judgments, how the autonomous determination by Union law of the level of personal data protection creates constitutional tensions in order to deal with international challenges of reconciling the fundamental rights of individuals with the objectives of security. The affirmation of an identity of the European Union in the international arena creates such tensions in relation to the Member States of the European Union and third countries. Her contribution was built on the following two parts:

Part I. Autonomy of the conciliation between the personal data protection and the external security objectives of the European Union

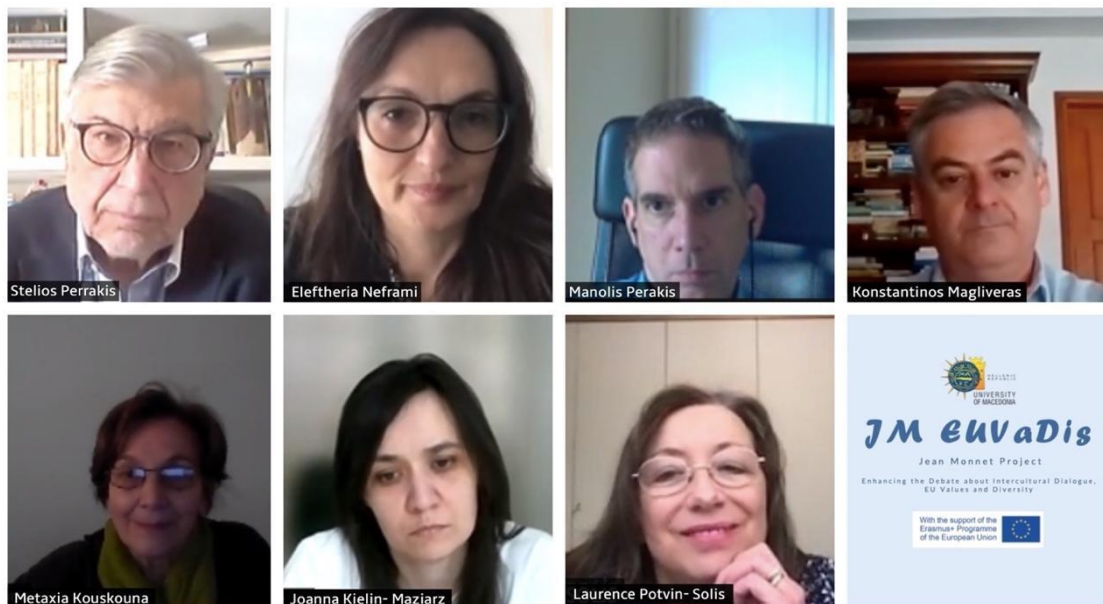
- the definition of the level of personal data protection through reference to the constitutional framework of the European Union;
- the substantive constitutional tensions between the Court of Justice and national courts;

Part II. The affirmation of the European Union identity in the personal data protection



in relation to third countries

- The level of personal data protection as an expression of the EU's own value system on the international stage;
- Tensions linked to the respective territorial scope of EU law and of the law of third countries;



### **SESSION 9: EU Values and Cultural Heritage: Solidarity and Justice**

**Chair: Kalliopi CHAINOGLOU**, Assistant Professor, Department of International and European Studies, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece

- **EU action on cultural heritage: Towards a 'fairer' and more ethical art market?**  
**Andrzej JAKUBOWSKI**, Assistant Professor, Institute of Legal Studies, University of Opole, Poland, and Visiting Bekker Research Fellow, Amsterdam Centre for International Law (ACIL), The Netherlands



This paper examined the issue of the EU's institutional and legal involvement in global efforts to combat the illicit trafficking of cultural goods. Firstly, it outlined the basic elements of the EU legal and institutional system in relation to the art trade. Second, it discussed the main objectives of Regulation 2019/880 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the introduction and import of cultural goods. It then discussed possible implementation routes for the European Parliament's resolution of 17 January 2019 on cross-border restitution claims for works of art and cultural objects looted in armed conflicts and wars. Finally, this paper addressed the development of an ethical art market in the EU as a key element of the EU's integrated agenda for the protection of cultural heritage in its wider external dimension.

- [The "Last Leonardo" and the problem of the authenticity on the international art market - general remarks](#)

**Dr. hab. Mateusz BIECZYŃSKI**, UAP Professor, Rector's Representative for International Affairs, Magdalena Abakanowicz University of the Arts, Poznan, Poland

2019 was a jubilee year in which the entire art world celebrated the 500<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of Leonardo da Vinci – the master of the Italian Renaissance, who, according to many rankings, has no competitor as a pretender to the title of "the most famous artist of all time". This status was confirmed shortly before the jubilee with an auction record of all times belonging to the work attributed to Leonardo - "Salvator Mundi" sold in 2017. The unusual sale, as well as the very finding of a lost painting by a Renaissance master, raises many ethical and legal questions related to fundamental assumptions about cultural heritage in international terms. The presentation was an overview of this case.

- [Heritage professionals on the road towards gender equality? Empirical trends and contradictions](#)

**Andreas Joh. WIESAND**, Professor Emeritus, Dresden International University, Executive Director, European Institute for Comparative Cultural Research (ERICarts), Germany

According to Professor Wiesand, international legal instruments and case law as well as the European Commission, Council, and Parliament, and national and international organisations active in the different fields related to Cultural Heritage have called, since many years, for ensuring a gender balance. If we look at empirical evidence, one could assume that this goal has already been achieved – in some fields like libraries and archives we could even suppose





a trend towards "feminisation". However, at "senior leadership levels", especially in museums, things look still different, despite encouraging developments in some countries. We should not avoid the question: what could be the criteria to confirm a true gender "balance"? Would a 50:50 ratio be the best yardstick, especially if we take qualifications into account? On the other hand, seeing the present "clash of identities" fueled especially through social media: What should be a proper share for other social groups or cultural communities such as those of ethnic origin, colour, religion or other beliefs, age, disability or sexual orientation? Food for debate...

- [Art and Culture in Times of Populism: Challenges for EU values and possibilities for action](#)

**Beatriz BARREIRO CARRIL**, Associate Professor of International Law, Rey Juan Carlos University, Madrid, Spain

Her intervention parted from two recent Spanish cases. In the first, a rapper was sentenced to prison after being found guilty of, among others, the crime of apology of terrorism (including humiliation of victims). The second dealt with a feminist mural, which was object of a municipality resolution for its removal. Professor Barreiro-Carril analyzed the two cases from a socio-legal perspective taking into account the socio-political Spanish context of polarisation. Even if very different, these two cases share in her opinion a highly dangerous lack of understanding of what freedom of art really means, both among politicians and civil societies, including artists. She analysed then these two cases through the lens of the European Union treaties proposing possible developments that can contribute to an adequate understanding of freedom of art and the full enjoyment of this right. While doing this, Professor Barreiro-Carril took into account the threat of populism and its particular characteristics, which makes especially difficult in Europe an adequate understanding of such right.



*JM euVaDis*



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

Jean Monnet Project

Enhancing the Debate about Intercultural Dialogue, EU Values and Diversity



Ilia Chainoglou



Andrzej Jakubowski



Andreas Johannes Wiesand



Mateusz Bieczynski



Beatriz Barreiro- Carril



**SESSION 10: The EU Value of Solidarity in the Borders, Migration and Asylum policies and in the management of COVID19**

**Chair: Christos PARASKEVOPOULOS**, Professor of Political Science and European Public Policy, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece

- **[From the 2015 crisis to the new EU pact: Greece at the centre of migration and asylum management](#)**

**Dr. Eleni KOUTSOURAKI**, Postdoctoral researcher, Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, Athens, Greece



*JM*euVadis



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

Jean Monnet Project

Enhancing the Debate about Intercultural Dialogue, EU Values and Diversity

This paper examined the continuous efforts of EU member states since the 2015 “crisis” to avoid responsibility sharing in refugee protection by keeping migrants close to the external borders, with special focus on Greece. At that time, Greece was placed at the centre of bilateral, multilateral, formal, informal, and in any case “special” arrangements (European Council Decisions on the Relocation of Asylum Seekers 2015/1523 and 2015/1601, Joint EU-Turkey Statement of March 2016, Administrative Arrangement between Greece and Germany on the return of asylum seekers to Greece of August 2018). The EU pact of September 2020 seems to endorse and develop further these practices, aiming at restricting access to rights while keeping asylum-seekers close to the external borders with a view to facilitating their removal from the European territory. The “Asylum and Migration Management Regulation” kept intact the first entry criterion, while the Commission adopted many elements of the above special arrangements in the proposed instruments. In addition, the proposed “solidarity mechanism” depends on quasi-permanent negotiations and focuses on returns rather than refugee protection.

- [COVID-19, Asylum in the EU, and the Great Expectations of Solidarity](#)

**Lilian TSOURDI**, Assistant Professor of International and European Law, Faculty of Law, Maastricht University, The Netherlands

In her contribution, she critically assesses the solidarity deficit in the design and implementation modes of EU’s asylum policy. She analysed the emergency-driven nature of initiatives to realize solidarity to date and their limitations, while highlighting how the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these challenges. Finally, Lilian Tsourdi reflected on whether the approach proposed in the Commission’s “New Pact on Migration and Asylum” will enhance intra-EU solidarity.

- [Debating solidarity in emergency contexts: Crisis and exclusion in EU Migration and Asylum policies during the Covid19 pandemic](#)

**Dr. Elisabeth KIRTSOGLOU**, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, Durham University, Durham, UK

According to Dr. Kirtsoglou, scholars, civil society and political actors employ the narrative of solidarity in order to stress the need for sharing responsibilities at national and international levels. Her paper claimed that the notion of solidarity has transformed from its original inception into a multitude of different frameworks that mostly serve to mystify and mask



*JM* **euVadis**



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

Jean Monnet Project

Enhancing the Debate about Intercultural Dialogue, EU Values and Diversity

institutionalized socio-political inequalities, supporting the radical de-politicization of rights and reducing them to moral contingencies. Through a discussion of the intense nationalization of responses to the pandemic, the symbolic role of national and supra-national borders, and a brief overview of the historical transformations in the concept of solidarity, she argued in favour of more inclusive notions of citizenship and for the conceptualization of rights as political duties and obligations. “Upholding equality, instituting and following equitable political processes and doing away with states of exception of all kinds, is a democratic duty, rather than a matter of exhibiting ‘solidarity’ as a moral desirable”, she mentioned during her speech.

Professor Kirtsoglou also examined Covid19 as yet another “crisis”, “state of emergency” and “exception” and enquired:

- a) the usefulness of a 'rights-based' approach (vis-a-vis the open-borders perspective);
- b) the concept of solidarity as a term whose remit has 'opened up' in Greece since 2015-2016 to cover all sorts of perspectives, including those closer to humanitarianism.

- [Dignity as a fundamental right, namely in the framework of asylum examination procedures](#)

**Rebecca-Emmanouela PAPAPOPOULOU**, Associate Professor of European Law, School of Law, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece

Professor Papadopoulou claimed that the right to dignity is a cornerstone of the EU legal order and it is enshrined in the Union's Charter of Fundamental Rights and that its role in the field of common asylum policy is decisive as it dictates both the behavior of MS when determining the MS responsible for examining an asylum application according to the Dublin Regulation, and the methods to be followed during the assessment of the application, especially with regard to the sensitive issue of the applicant's sexual orientation.

- [Reflections on Migration and Solidarity under COVID-19 Global Health Crisis](#)

**Dr. Georgiana TURCULET**, Visiting Faculty and Researcher at Central European University (Vienna/Budapest), Research Affiliate at the European Institute for Development Studies, Paris, France, Researcher at the INTEGRIM Lab, Belgium, Brussels, Marie S. Curie Award, Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona, Spain, Researcher at the Big Data Science Laboratory in University of West Timisoara (WUT), Romania

In 2020, everyone’s life changed almost overnight as governments strongly recommended or ordered the suspension of fundamental rights, such as the freedom to move, to assemble, and for very many, to work, in an effort to counter the coronavirus. The suspension of these



JMevadis



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

Jean Monnet Project

Enhancing the Debate about Intercultural Dialogue, EU Values and Diversity

freedoms, coupled with the lack of universal social insurance for everyone—for example, via universal coverage of bare minimums of income and of healthcare—exposed the fragmented social fabric that populism thrives upon and exploits to its advantage. Dr. Turculet raised some questions about and offered some reflections on the sources of solidarity we may reasonably advocate, under the circumstances, in which populism, racism, and sexism are characteristics often displayed by country leaders under COVID-19 pandemic.



### **SESSION 11: EU Values in a multicultural society – how intercultural dialogue may help**

Chair: Despoina ANAGNOSTOPOULOU, Associate Professor, Department of International and European Studies, Academic Coordinator of the Jean Monnet Project EUVaDis, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece

- **[The role of values in the EU's approach to European identity](#)**

**Oriane CALLIGARO**, Associate Professor in Political Science, ESPOL, Catholic University of Lille, France, Visiting Professor, College of Europe, Bruges, Belgium



*JM*euVadis



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

Jean Monnet Project

Enhancing the Debate about Intercultural Dialogue, EU Values and Diversity

- [Human Dignity and EU Citizenship under Brexit](#)

**Dora KOSTAKOPOULOU**, Professor KU Leuven, Chair of the Scientific Committee of Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union

Professor Kostakopoulou chose to highlight the Value of human dignity in question, following the exit of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union. In her presentation, she explicitly said that “*EU citizens living in the United Kingdom and EU citizens-qua-UK nationals living in other Member States following the referendum on the UK’s continued membership of the EU on 23 June 2016 became ‘the numbered’ others. Their identities were redefined overnight not by them, but by state authorities and their co-EU citizens*”. In her contribution, she tried to trace the process of Othering of EU citizens, which had started several years before the referendum in 2016 and unravel the key moments, forces, and strategies that made it possible by utilising a discursive theoretical approach. She further argued that the quest for EU citizens’ rights in the UK under Brexit, just like the quest for migrants’ rights, is a quest as much for the realisation of the fundamental status of Union citizenship as for the effectiveness of the principle of respect for human dignity.

- **Holocaust remembrance lessons for the European legal order and the European (non)-tolerant society**

**Panagiotis GRIGORIOU**, Professor of International and European Institutions, Jean Monnet Chair on European Political Integration, Department of Sociology, University of Aegean, Mytilene, Greece

In his paper, he discussed the definition adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance that in 2016 was recognized by the European Commission, the European Parliament, and the EU Council. He elaborated on anti-semitism, barbarism, the theory of “cultural trauma” and raised the question of how important are cultural and political symbols to modern European democracy.

- [European Fighters and the failure of cultural diversity](#)

**Dr. Nikos GAITENIDIS**, Adjunct Lecturer, School of Political Sciences, Faculty of Economic and Political Sciences, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece

In his paper, he argued that the Syrian civil war has highlighted the phenomenon of foreign fighting, in which individuals leave their home State to join an armed conflict overseas with a



large number of foreign fighters originating from European Union states. The prospect of the return of the European fighters in their home countries poses a series of challenges and opportunities to deal with the potential security threats as well as re-examine the current approaches of intercultural dialogue and de-radicalization in Europe: Until recently, intercultural and interreligious dialogue has been regarded as a channel favoring the successful integration of third country nationals to European societies. However, the Syrian civil war, as well as the most recent terrorist attacks in EU states, make clear that the focus

The stimulating speeches and the timely comments from the Speakers were widely appreciated by the attendees, who actively participated in the discussion.

This e-Conference was not meant to be a single event, but a milestone point for the work of the Jean Monnet EU VaDis project towards increasing the interest and broadening knowledge, stimulating multidisciplinary research, reflection and dialogue, and enhancing cooperation between academia and civil society.

For more information click on our website [www.jmpeuvadis.uom.gr](http://www.jmpeuvadis.uom.gr) or our social media platforms ([Facebook](#)/[Instagram](#)/[YouTube](#)), or write us at [jeanmonnetproject-euvadis@uom.edu.gr](mailto:jeanmonnetproject-euvadis@uom.edu.gr)

Thank you for reading us!  
The Jean Monnet EU VaDis Team



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



The European Commission's support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents, which reflect the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.