



EUROPEAN STUDENT CONFERENCE 2016

A EUROPEAN HORIZONS CONFERENCE

Young Minds Envisioning
the Future of Europe

Yale University • February 5–6, 2016



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SUMMARY

On February 5th and 6th 2016, one hundred undergraduate and graduate students from universities across the USA will gather at the Yale School of Management to address some of the major challenges confronting the European Union. As participants of the European Student Conference (ESC 2016) they will:

- Craft policy papers that deal with European challenges in the areas of economics, immigration, institutions, European identity, and security.
- Engage in debates with distinguished professors, current and former decision-makers from Europe, and representatives of the European Commission.
- Draft a concrete plan of action for implementing the policy visions and strategies that they develop.
- Learn about **European Horizons**, a think-tank with chapters at 18 American universities and College d'Europe, dedicated to exploring the meaning of European identity, modernizing and reforming the concept of the social market economy, pursuing European integration, and deepening transatlantic relations.

The ESC 2016 is a **European Horizons** conference that is co-funded by the European Union as a Jean Monnet Activity under the Erasmus+ Programme.

WORKSHOPS CONCEPT

Young Minds Envisioning the Future of Europe

Each of the six workshops at ESC 2016 will focus on a particular theme that is relevant to the future of the European Union. Each student will attend one workshop throughout the Conference. Before the Conference, students will be divided into groups. Each group will author a policy-paper on a particular aspect of their Workshop theme. At the Conference, students will present their policy-papers in their Workshops to professors and policy advisers. From the constructive debate that will ensue, students will receive feedback that they will use in order to refine and deepen their policy-papers. Ultimately, students will generate a series of finalized policy papers that analyze the dimensions of their Workshop themes, propose policy prescriptions for the European Union to adopt, and outline ways in which the students themselves can endeavor to implement their visions for the European ideal.

WORKSHOP THEMES FOR 2016

ECONOMY & INNOVATION:

Pursuing growth and innovation through small and medium enterprises

DEMOCRACY & INSTITUTIONS:

Establishing a Eurozone Treasury

IMMIGRATION & INTEGRATION:

Formulating a European integrated immigration and asylum policy

EUROPEAN IDENTITY:

Considering religion and secularism

TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS:

Rethinking the European defence strategy

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

WORKSHOP: Integrating admitted immigrants into European economies and societies through innovative business ventures

ENTREPRENEURSHIP WORKSHOP

Unlike most think-tanks, European Horizons believes that changing Europe requires not only policy proposals but also practical business ideas. As such, ESC 2016 will feature an Entrepreneurship Workshop that will bring together business school students, entrepreneurs, and innovators in order to develop business projects that can have a positive economic and social impact on Europe. Participants will present their business plans to a panel of judges consisting of distinguished business figures, the MBA student coordinating the Entrepreneurship Workshop, and our Executive Directors. The panel will then confer to decide the winner. The winning team will receive a monetary award that it will employ in order to implement its business plan.

This year, the Entrepreneurship Workshop seeks business plans on the following topic:

More than 350,000 migrants have reached Europe in 2015. This number is expected to increase dramatically in the near future. These migratory flows present a new challenge for European societies that now need to integrate those arriving. This entry of immigrants will impact European Identity as well as the European economy.

Given this challenge, please provide a proposal for a (non-profit or for-profit) business venture that you believe can foster the integration of admitted immigrants into European societies. Your business plan should aim to improve the quality of life of both the admitted immigrants as well as the European citizens. In addition, please evaluate the potential impact that your business venture will have on the European economy and European identity.

EXPECTED PROFESSORS AND POLICY ADVISERS AT ESC2016

FEATURED SPEAKERS AND POLICY ADVISERS

PIERRE MOSCOVICI

European Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation, and Customs

JAMIE SHEA

Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges at NATO

PIERRE VIMONT

Former Executive Secretary-General of the European External Action Service and former French Ambassador to the USA

KLAUS WELLE

Secretary General of the European Parliament

FEATURED PROFESSORS

DAVID CAMERON

Professor of Political Science and Director of EU Studies at Yale University

DAVID BACH

Senior Associate Dean for Executive MBA and Global Programs at Yale School of Management

VIVIEN SCHMIDT

Jean Monnet Professor of European Integration and Director of the Center for the Study of Europe at Boston University

JOLYON HOWORTH

Visiting Professor of Political Science and Jean Monnet Professor of European Politics ad personam and Emeritus Professor of European Studies at the University of Bath

CHRISTINE LANDFRIED

Max Weber Chair in German and European Studies at New York University

ADAM TOOZE

Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Professor of History at Columbia University

JOSE MANUEL MARTINEZ SIERRA

Jean Monnet ad persona Professor of European Union Law and Government, Faculty Affiliated of the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies at Harvard and Faculty Associate of the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies

MICHELE CHANG

Professor of European Political and Administrative Studies at College d'Europe

EUROPEAN HORIZONS

The Think-Tank Behind ESC2016

European Horizons was founded on February 14th, 2015 at the European Student Conference 2015 at Yale University by undergraduate and graduate students from 45 American universities and College d'Europe.

The idea of the think-tank sprung from a group of European students at Yale University who were inspired by their deep commitment to the future of the European ideal and the state of transatlantic relations. Studying and living in the United States, these students aspired to use their perspective from both sides of the Atlantic to build a think-tank that could unite bright young minds in order to articulate and advance a credible plan for the future of the European Union.

After a period of preparation, we conceived the name “European Horizons” as an evocative symbol of the think-tank’s focus on the future potential of the European project. The inaugural European Student Conference provided a great opportunity to share the idea for the think-tank with students studying in the United States and Europe, policy-makers, decision-makers from civil society and business, and professors. The overwhelming support and insightful feedback that emanated from the Conference provided the final motivation to build European Horizons.

At European Horizons, we have decided to focus on four key areas relevant to the future of the European Union: European identity, the social market economy, European integration, and transatlantic relations. We believe that these areas capture the bulk of the challenges that the European Union must comprehensively address in order to develop into a more confident and prosperous Union.

From the beginning, non-Europeans, and particularly Americans, were central to European Horizons. European Horizons was created as a think-tank open to all individuals with an honest interest in the future of the European Union, and we currently have many non-Europeans participating in our activities. We have valued this inclusiveness and are convinced that it will raise awareness about the values, vision, and actions of the European Union in countries beyond Europe.

For more information about European Horizons, please visit www.europeanhorizons.org.

ESC2016 PROGRAM

FIRST DAY (February 5th, 2016)

Yale School of Management

TIME	ACTIVITY	DETAILS
9.00 – 10.00	Breakfast and Registration	
10.00 – 11.00	Group Activity	An opportunity for Workshop participants to socialize, network and get to know each other.
11.00 – 12.00	Introductory Remarks	
12.00 – 12.30	Keynote Speech	
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch break	
13.30 – 15.30	WORKSHOP SESSION # 1	Discussion on policy-papers with professors and policy advisers. Students will defend their ideas in debates with seasoned decision-makers and prominent academics.
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee break	
16.00 – 18.00	WORKSHOP SESSION # 2	Continued discussion on policy-papers with professors and policy advisers.
18.00 – 18.30	Coffee break	
18.30 – 20.00	Business Panel Discussion	A panel of business executives and innovative entrepreneurs will discuss why the European Union lags behind the United States in innovation.
20.00	Reception	

SECOND DAY (February 6th, 2016)

Yale School of Management

TIME	ACTIVITY	DETAILS
8.00 – 12.00	WORKSHOP SESSION # 3	Revision of Friday’s ideas and incorporation of feedback from professors and policy advisers. Students will finalize their policy-papers and submit them to their Workshop coordinators.
12.00 – 13.30	Lunch break	
13.30 – 14.30	PRESENTATION OF EUROPEAN HORIZONS ANNUAL POLICY PERSPECTIVE	<p>Presentation of the interim findings of the European Horizons Annual Policy Perspective by European Horizons’ Policy Director and chapter representatives.</p> <p>Opportunity for participants to learn about the range of activities organized by European Horizons.</p>
14.30 – 15.00	Break	
15.00 – 15.45	FIRST PLENARY SESSION: FINAL OUTCOMES	<p>Student presentations of final Workshop outcomes.</p> <p>Announcement of the winning team of the Entrepreneurship Workshop.</p>
15.45 – 16.00	Break	
16.00 – 18.30	FINAL PLENARY SESSION: KEYNOTE SPEECHES	Keynote speeches from our dignitaries.

