Annual Evaluation Report (2024/2025)







Annual Evaluation Report

September 2024 – July 2025

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EU Law

1. Teaching

Course: EU Law

Website: https://planea.apps.uclm.es/web/guia/337/35318/ (Ciudad Real)

https://planea.apps.uclm.es/web/guia/335/35318/ (Toledo)

Person in charge: Luis Arroyo Jiménez

Isaac Martín Delgado

Academic year: 2024/25.

Teaching: September 2024-January 2025.

Hours taught by the instructors: 60

Evaluation: January 2025 (ordinary) and June 2025 (extraordinary).

Methodology: Lectures and seminars.

Number of enrolled students: 123 + 25

Syllabus: 1. Nature and evolution of the EU. 2. EU Institutions and the process of decision-making. 3. EU law and the national legal orders. 4. The judicial system of the EU. 5. Fundamental rights. 6. Internal market.

Impact: The course challenges the student not only to understand, but also to critically assess the structures, methods and content of EU law. At the end of the course students have a thorough understanding of the EU integration process and EU institutions; a clear understanding of the sources, nature and application of EU law, as well as of how to enforce their rights at national and European level; and a deep knowledge of the landmark judgments of the Court of Justice of the EU. The course helps to consolidate the study of EU law within the degree in law, providing students with knowledge of EU subjects relevant for their academic and professional lives. Thanks to the co-operation with instructors of the economics department, a special focus has been put on the interaction between the EU's legal structure (which is the course's main interest) and its economic foundations.







Activity: Curso de Formación Continua de Especialización en Unión Europea (01/04/2025)

Website (program): Curso de Formación Continua de Especialización en Unión Europea

Person in charge: Isaac Martín Delgado.

Working Package: WP2 EU Law.

Researchers involved: 3.

Number of persons enrolled: 22.

Abstract and impact: Activity. *European Union Expert Course (Curso de Formación Continua en Unión Europea)*. This is a postgraduate program on EU and EU Policies addressed to civil servants of the regional administration holding a university degree with three main aims: understanding the functioning of the EU; knowing the main political priorities; and deepening in european affairs regarding some relevant sesctors. The present edition is being celebrated from April 1st to December 15th. 22 public servants has been enrolled. It is taught in a hybrid format: online sessions (via Teams Platform and the UCLM Virtual campus) and two in person activities held at the School of Law and Social Sciences of Toledo. The first one of them toke place on May 8th, close to the European Union Day (May 9th), and it was devoted to Strategic Autonomy. The program has 150 hours of teaching per academic year and is composed by two types of topics: first, a profound examination of the EU institutional and legal system, and second, a selection of relevant EU policies and topics in terms of the target group, such as: transposition of Directives; State aids; EU funds management; open government; good administration; citizen participation and the participation of regions in the EU's legislative process.

The activity is generating new synergies between the Center for European Studies and the regional government and new contacts with actors at European level. As a consequence of the new contacts, on October we will organize a Seminar about working opportunities withing the European institutions addressed to UCLM students.

Incidences: No incidents to report.

Costs: The activity did not involve any related expenses.

2. Research

 Activity: Seminario de Teoría y Método del Derecho Público (STEM) [Seminar on the Theory and Methods of Public Law]

It focused on the concept of vulnerability in public law and on the use of Philosophy of Law in the framing and better understanding of modern administrative law, both at national and at European level (30/05/2025)

Website (program): XXIV Seminario de Teoría y Método del Derecho público.

Person in charge: Susana de la Sierra.







Working Package: WP2 EU Law [Task T2.5]. It is also linked to WP 4 [T4.6]. Indeed, when proposing the research topics for the seminar, in line with the general objectives of T2.5, it was deemed appropriate to link it also to the more specific topic of vulnerability, which is becoming a key concept in modern administrative law, also from a European dimension.

Researchers involved: Luis Arroyo; Susana de la Sierra; Isaac Martín; Pablo Meix, Juana Moreno.

Number of persons enrolled: 68.

Abstract and impact: The Seminar on the Theory and Methods of Public Law is a seminar that takes place twice a year and the host university changes each session. For the Spring 2025 session, the Law School in Toledo was proposed, in order to promote a theoretical debate on the research activities conducted under the Center of Excellence Jean Monnet.

Incidences: No incidents to report.

Costs: 1609,05 euros.

3. Events

 Activity: EL DERECHO AGROALIMENTARIO: Retos de futuro de la política agraria común (07/11/2024)

Website (program): <u>EL DERECHO AGROALIMENTARIO</u>: <u>Retos de futuro de la política agraria común</u>

Person in charge: Isaac De La Villa Briongos.

Working Package: WP2 EU Law.

Researchers involved: Isaac De La Villa Briongos.

Number of persons enrolled: 40.

Abstract and impact: On November 7 and 8, 2024, the Faculty of Legal and Social Sciences of Toledo hosted the First Conference on Agri-Food Law. Under the title "Agri-Food Law: Future Challenges of the Common Agricultural Policy", the event brought together legal professionals, members of the agricultural sector, students from the University of Castilla-La Mancha (UCLM), and the general public. The main objective was to exchange and debate legal provisions affecting the agricultural sector, highlighting the importance of legislation in agriculture.

The opening ceremony featured Ms. Mariana de Gracia Canales Duque, Deputy Minister of the Common Agricultural Policy and Agri-Environmental Policies of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Rural Development; Mr. Fernando Sánchez-Mayoral García-Calvo, Vice Dean of the Faculty of Legal and Social Sciences of Toledo; and Mr. José María de la Cuesta Sáenz, President of the Spanish Association of Agrarian Law. Their presence underscored the importance of collaboration between academic and governmental institutions in addressing the challenges of agri-food law.







The "Luis Ortega Álvarez" European Studies Center at UCLM played a significant role in organizing and developing the conference. Recognized as a Jean Monnet Center of Excellence by the European Commission, this center has been a cornerstone in promoting and consolidating teaching and research in European integration since its founding in 1994. Its involvement in the conference reflects its ongoing commitment to disseminating knowledge and fostering debate on crucial issues for agricultural and food development in Europe.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Rural Development of Castilla-La Mancha also demonstrated strong support for the event, being one of its main organizers. This support is part of the knowledge exchange and information transfer activities promoted by the Regional Government of Castilla-La Mancha within the framework of the region's Rural Development Program. The Ministry reiterated its commitment to supporting such initiatives at the university, recognizing the importance of collaboration between academia and the public sector for the sustainable development of agriculture.

Throughout the conference, various roundtables and presentations addressed key topics such as agrarian law and technology, agri-food quality labels, contracting and conflict resolution in the agri-food sector, and the food chain and animal welfare. Renowned academics and professionals from various legal fields, including civil law and private international law, participated as speakers.

The first roundtable, moderated by Mr. Carlos Iván Peces Moreno, explored the intersection of agrarian law and technology. Mr. Ángel Sánchez Hernández opened with an overview of Agrarian Law in Spain, followed by Mr. Domingo Bello Janeiro, who discussed the legal regime of genetically modified products. Ms. Ana Carretero García highlighted legal gaps in GMO regulations, and Ms. María José Cazorla González concluded with legislative updates and jurisprudential changes stemming from the Sustainable Development Goals.

The second morning session, moderated by Mr. Rafael Civantos Cuesta, focused on quality labels in the agri-food sector. Ms. Asunción Marín Velarde presented updates on Regulation 2024/1143 regarding geographical indications and traditional specialties. Mr. Isaac de la Villa Briongos discussed the use of quality-labeled products in processed foods, and Ms. Sara Martínez Novillo addressed European Food Law in the Castilla-La Mancha Wine and Vine Law.

The afternoon session began with a roundtable moderated by Ms. Sara Ugena Muñoz, focusing on contracting and conflict resolution. Ms. Esther Muñiz Espada emphasized the need for an agrarian jurisdiction. Mr. Francisco Millán Salas discussed pre-emption and redemption rights in the Rural Lease Law. Mr. José Luis Argudo Périz analyzed integration contracts from a legal perspective, and Mr. José María Caballero Lozano concluded with reflections on mediation and arbitration in the agri-food sector.

The fourth roundtable of November 7, moderated by Mr. Juan Manuel López Torres, addressed issues such as the food chain and animal welfare. Mr. José María de la Cuesta Sáenz presented the new Food Chain Law. Ms. Elisa Torralba Mendiola discussed the application of police laws in food chain regulation. Ms. Pilar Gil Adrados analyzed animal welfare from a legal standpoint, and Mr. Santiago Escribano Pintor offered a multidisciplinary approach to beekeeping.

On the second day, the first roundtable, moderated by Ms. Pilar Gil Adrados, focused on sustainable development and emissions regulation. Ms. María Tapia López discussed the market and regulation of carbon rights. Ms. Elsa García Barbero addressed climate change and the







environmental impact of the agricultural sector. Mr. Emilio Vieira Jiménez-Ontiveros concluded with the potential consequences of the Nature Restoration Regulation for Spanish agriculture.

The final roundtable, moderated by Mr. Isaac de la Villa Briongos, addressed agri-food sustainability. Mr. Pablo Amat Llombart explored local and proximity agri-food production. Ms. Gloria Domènech Martínez presented new tools to address the environmental impact of land abandonment. Ms. Ana García Juanatey concluded with a reflection on the transition of food systems and intergenerational equity.

In closing, Professor Isaac de la Villa Briongos, co-director of the conference, emphasized the importance of student interest and participation, highlighting the need to foster engagement with such a vital sector for the region. He also praised the success of the conference, made possible through collaboration between UCLM, the European Studies Center, and the Ministry of Agriculture of Castilla-La Mancha. The event not only facilitated the exchange of knowledge and experiences among professionals and academics but also reaffirmed the commitment of the involved institutions to sustainable development and continuous improvement of the agrifood sector.

Incidences: No incidents to report.

Costs: 300 euros.

- Activity: Workshop: Inmigración, extranjería y asilo en la Unión Europea (11/12/2024)

Website (program): Workshop: Inmigración, extranjería y asilo en la Unión Europea

Person in charge: Isaac De La Villa Briongos.

Working Package: WP2 EU Law.

Researchers involved: Isaac De La Villa Briongos.

Number of persons enrolled: 100.

Abstract and impact: As part of the Jean Monnet activities, an academic seminar was held focusing on the analysis of economic competition between the European Union and the United States in the current geopolitical context. The event brought together experts in EU Law, International Economics, and International Relations, with the aim of reflecting on the challenges Europe faces in its pursuit of effective strategic autonomy.

The discussion centered on the EU's capacity to respond to U.S. protectionism—particularly following the adoption of the Inflation Reduction Act—and to position itself as a leader in key sectors such as artificial intelligence, the energy transition, and the digital economy. The legal and commercial implications of this rivalry were also addressed, along with the need to adapt European competition and fiscal policies to enable strategic investment.

The seminar highlighted the importance of a robust European industrial policy capable of competing globally without compromising the democratic and social values that define the European model. This activity aligns with the objectives of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence,







which seeks to promote critical and multidisciplinary thinking on the contemporary challenges of European integration.

Incidences: No incidents to report.

Costs: 300 euros.

 Activity: Workshop UCLM-Comité español ACNUR "Los refugiados en Europa: El derecho a un proyecto de vida" (02/04/2025)

Website (program): Los refugiados en Europa: El derecho a un proyecto de vida

Person in charge: Victoria Cuartero Rubio.

Working Package: WP2 EU Law.

Researchers involved: Victoria Cuartero Rubio, Isaac de la Villa Briongos, Isabel Lázaro González, Jesús Labrador Encinas y José Manuel Velasco Retamosa.

Number of persons enrolled: 12.

Abstract and impact: The workshop was started through the inaugural presentation "A life project in refugee situations: durable solutions and the work of UNHCR", presented by Cristina Dorado Ruano who is a project technician in the Spanish Committee of UNHCR. With her extensive experience in countries such as Ethiopia, Somalia or Chad, Cristina gave us a detailed overview of UNHCR's work and its main objectives: to provide durable solutions and guarantee protection through international cooperation and humanitarian aid. After explaining the beginnings of the organization in 1951 as an entity to solve forced displacement in Europe, the speaker began by explaining the concept of forced displacement, differentiating two types: international displacement and internal displacement, the latter being the most common. He then presented a number of statistics illustrating the volume of of displaced refugees, countries of destination and countries of origin. A notable relationship of proximity in these displacements was highlighted: for example, Colombia hosts the Venezuelan population and Iran receives refugees from Iraq, among other cases mentioned. Dorado also shared information about the work of the Spanish Committee of UNHCR, whose main objective is to raise funds for the financing of the projects and raise awareness. UNHCR's work is divided into three key pillars: the emergency phase, which addresses short-term problems; humanitarian action, for situations that require more than six months of intervention; and cooperation and development, which focus on durable solutions. Within durable solutions, several approaches stand out: voluntary repatriation, which facilitates the return of refugees by guaranteeing certain conditions; operation in third countries through resettlement; and local integration, which depends on the willingness of the host country. All this always with the corresponding psychosocial support, applying security protocols to protect refugees. The second session "The right to family life after flight" was developed by the Ordinary Professor of Private International Law at the Comillas Pontifical University (ICADE), Isabel Lázaro González. During his speech, he addressed the complexity of the concept of family in the context of refugees, highlighting the differentiation made by the regulations between nationals and residents when applying the right to family reunification. In this sense, he explained that the applicable regulations vary according to each specific case, being able to resort to the Immigration Law or International Law. He pointed out that the Aliens Law is stricter with respect to the verification of the necessary requirements for family reunification, especially with regard to marriages, economic dependence or to verify







paternity. To this end, the existence of genuine ties between spouses and family members is carefully examined to avoid fraud of the law. Lázaro reasoned how the veracity of these ties is questioned in each and every one of the phases of the process, since the State seems to be more concerned with the possibility of fraud than with facilitating family unity. He also stressed that family reunification is limited in many aspects, but especially in relation to the extension of the family. For example, it generally only applies to first-degree relatives or minor children, which leaves out many people who, despite their close family ties, do not meet the legal requirements. This reality contrasts with the objective of guaranteeing the right to family life, generating a gap between the regulatory framework and the real situation of many refugees.

The final touch to this workshop was the round table entitled "The European scenario: Europe as a life project". The associate professor of the UCLM, Jesús Labrador Encinas, was in charge of moderating the conversation between the participants: José Manuel Velasco Retamosa, Professor of Private International Law at the UCLM; Beatriz Quintanilla Navarro, Professor of Labour Law and co-director of the Extraordinary Chair in Turkish Studies at the Complutense University of Madrid (UCM); and Leticia Dorsch Buzón, co-director of the Extraordinary Chair in Turkish Studies at the UCM. Professor José Manuel Velasco took the floor to talk about the negative impact of the absence of common legislation in the EU on immigration and aliens, when it comes to developing a life project. He remarked that the heterogeneity that persists in Europe, in relation to this regulation, greatly hinders the ability of refugees to materialize their plans for the development of the environment. future. This means that each country has a different reality, and that therefore a specific project is needed and in accordance with the regulations of that State. Because of all this, Velasco hinted that the solution to this problem would imply a cession of sovereignty to make possible a Community immigration regulation, which includes the casuistry of movements within the territory of the European Union. Next, Professor Beatriz Quintanilla intervened, who reinforced the arguments presented by Velasco. To this end, he reviewed the evolution of the different pacts and agreements signed by the EU to try to harmonise legislation and give legal certainty to refugees. Likewise, he presented relevant data issued by Eurostat and specific cases that perfectly evidenced all of the above. In particular, it focused on the vulnerability of refugee women and girls, and the risk that returning to their countries of origin may pose to them.

Finally, the co-director and businesswoman Leticia Dorsch took the floor, presenting a more atypical approach to the subject from the perspective of the private sector. Leticia began her speech by pointing out that being a refugee is not a situation sought or desired by anyone, but is something forced and necessary in the absence of protection and security. He also argued that refugee crises are not the sole and exclusive responsibility of States, since the business sector and private initiative must be involved and collaborate in the effective management of the situation. As an example, Dorsch spoke about how his company has promoted the construction of a soap factory in Aleppo, in order to facilitate the integration and adaptation of Syrian refugees in Turkey. Finally, a few words of farewell and gratitude were dedicated to the participants and attendees, for the closing of this workshop.

Incidences: No incidents to report.

Costs: 330 euros.







Activity: XXXIV Seminario de Estudios Autonómicos: Cuestiones actuales del Estado autonómico (08/04/2025)

Website (program): <u>Seminario de Estudios Autonómicos: Cuestiones actuales del Estado</u> autonómico

Person in charge: Isaac Martín Delgado.

Working Package: WP2 EU Law.

Researchers involved: 2.

Number of persons enrolled: 140.

Abstract and impact: The seminar addressed the main legal challenges facing the European Union, the role of the Constitution as a legal norm and the functioning of the Constitutional Court, as well as Spain's territorial model and issues related to the environment and public employment, among others.

The Rector of the University of Castilla-La Mancha, Julián Garde, and the President of the Parliament of Castilla-La Mancha, Pablo Bellido, were responsible for inaugurating this 35th edition of the seminar. The opening ceremony was also attended by Professor Consuelo Alonso, representing the Department of Administrative Law at UCLM; the Director General of Universities, Research, and Innovation, José Antonio Castro; and the President of the Spanish Association of Administrative Law Professors, Concepción Barrero.

This edition of the Seminar on Autonomous Studies began with a biographical account and report on Luis Ortega, presented by Luis Martín Rebollo, Professor Emeritus of Administrative Law at the University of Cantabria, and presented by Isaac Martín Delgado, Professor of Administrative Law at the University of Castilla-La Mancha.

Incidences: No incidents to report.

Costs: The activity did not involve any related expenses.

Activity: Curso Intensivo de Metodología de la Investigación Jurídica (23/04/2025)

Person in charge: María Victoria Cuartero Rubio y Isaac de la Villa Briongos.

Working Package: WP2 EU Law.

Researchers involved: María Victoria Cuartero Rubio, Lucía Serrano Sánchez, Isaac de la Villa Briongos, José Manuel Velasco Retamosa.

Number of persons enrolled: 8.

Abstract and impact: The Intensive Course on Legal Research Methodology, held from 23 to 30 April 2025 at the Faculty of Legal and Social Sciences of the University of Castilla-La Mancha, was a training event of great interest to all attendees. The course was aimed at doctoral students, researchers, doctors and lecturers in the early stages of their academic careers, especially in the field of Private International Law and European Union Law.







Participants showed a high degree of interest and engagement throughout the sessions. The course addressed fundamental topics such as initiation to research, quality standards in legal research, the university microcosm and the academic career after the LOSU. In addition, aspects of substantial and formal quality, as well as good practices in research, were discussed, which will undoubtedly positively influence the future researchers who attended.

The talk-colloquium on social responsibility and ethics in research, aimed at undergraduate and postgraduate students, was especially highlighted, providing a valuable perspective on the importance of ethics in the research career. In summary, the course was an enriching and formative experience that will contribute significantly to the professional development of the attendees and the advancement of legal research.

Incidences: No incidents to report.

Costs: 160 euros.

 Activity: Seminario Di Studio "The crisis of Europe and the role of the law. EU law and softlaw and administrative systems" (05/05/2025)

Website (program): <u>Seminario Di Studio "The crisis of Europe and the role of the law. EU law and</u> softlaw and administrative systems"

Person in charge: Luis Arroyo Jiménez.

Working Package: WP2 EU Law.

Researchers involved: 1.

Number of persons enrolled: 30.

Abstract and impact: Seminario sobre el alcance y los efectos jurídicos del soft law producido por las Instituciones y agencias europeas, fruto del proyecto de investigación sobre *EU Administrative Law and Scientific Uncertainty*.

Debate con profesores de Italia, España y Estados Unidos que ha permitido nuevas conexiones académicas.

Incidences: No incidents to report.

Costs: The activity did not involve any related expenses.

Activity: Seminario UCLM de Inmigración y Extranjería (07/05/2025)

Website (program): Seminario UCLM de Inmigración y Extranjería

Person in charge: Isaac De La Villa Briongos.

Working Package: WP2 EU Law.

Researchers involved: Isaac De La Villa Briongos.







Number of persons enrolled: 70 students.

Abstract and impact: As part of the Jean Monnet 2025 activities organized by the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence at the University of Castilla-La Mancha, a seminar was held focusing on human rights and their practical application within the European context. The event, structured over two intensive sessions, brought together experts from various legal fields whose contributions provided students with an enriching and applied perspective on current challenges in the area of fundamental rights.

The **first session** began with a presentation by **Cristina Garrido**, who offered a clear and in-depth explanation of the legal procedures for conducting marriages between foreign nationals in Spain. Her talk was particularly appreciated by attendees, as it provided a practical overview of the legal requirements, administrative steps, and legal challenges faced by foreign couples in Spanish territory. Student participation was notably active, generating a dynamic discussion that helped clarify specific questions and foster critical thinking.

Following this, **Lorena Sales** delivered a presentation focused on human rights advocacy, with particular attention to the protection of young women. Her talk was especially engaging and valuable for students, as it addressed issues of gender, discrimination, and access to justice from a fundamental rights perspective. The clarity of her presentation and the sensitivity with which she addressed the topics created a space for deep reflection among participants.

The **second session** maintained the high academic standard and interest of the audience. **Ignacio Martín Conti** presented a lecture on the legal procedures for conducting marriages between Spanish citizens abroad, as well as the legal implications of such unions within the framework of private international law. His presentation sparked considerable interest among students, who raised numerous questions about the validity, recognition, and legal effects of these marriages both in Spain and across the European Union.

Carlos Iván Peces concluded the seminar with a presentation focused on the legal aspects of divorce, addressing both national regulations and European instruments applicable to cross-border cases. His talk was clear, rigorous, and well-received by attendees, who showed great interest in the practical aspects of divorce proceedings, particularly in contexts involving international mobility.

Overall, the seminar proved to be a highly valuable educational experience, allowing students not only to acquire specialized knowledge but also to reflect on the practical application of law in real-world contexts. The quality of the presentations and the active participation of students highlighted the success of this academic initiative, reinforcing the university's commitment to education in European values and fundamental rights.

Incidences: No incidents to report.

Costs: The activity did not involve any related expenses.

4. Deliverables (Working papers and Pre-print series)

Arroyo Jiménez, Luis (2024). Control judicial y deferencia en el Derecho Administrativo (Pre-print Series. Center for European Studies "Luis Ortega Álvarez"- Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, Spain). Website: https://www.uclm.es/-/media/Files/C01-Centros/CEE/centro-de-excelencia-jean-monnet/working-papers/SeriesEU/Pre-Print-1-24.ashx







- Arzoz Santisteban, Xabier (2024). *La europeización del acto administrativo* (Pre-print Series. Center for European Studies "Luis Ortega Álvarez"- Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, Spain). Website: https://www.uclm.es/-/media/Files/C01-Centros/CEE/centro-de-excelencia-jean-monnet/working-papers/SeriesEU/Pre-Print-2-24.ashx
- Arroyo Jiménez, Luis (2024). *El soft law administrativo* (Pre-print Series. Center for European Studies "Luis Ortega Álvarez"- Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, Spain). Website: https://www.uclm.es/-/media/Files/C01-Centros/CEE/centro-de-excelencia-jean-monnet/working-papers/SeriesEU/Pre-Print-3-24.ashx
- De La Villa Briongos, Isaac (2025). *Derecho a la reagrupación familiar* (Pre-print Series. Center for European Studies "Luis Ortega Álvarez" Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, Spain). Website: https://www.uclm.es/-/media/Files/C01-Centros/CEE/centro-de-excelencia-jean-monnet/working-papers/SeriesEU/2025/1-25-isaac-super-def.ashx
- Fernández Masiá, Enrique (2025). Claves para salvaguardar el derecho al respeto a la vida familiar en los acogimientos ordenados conforme al Reglamento Bruselas II Ter (Preprint Series. Center for European Studies "Luis Ortega Álvarez"- Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, Spain). Website: https://www.uclm.es/-/media/Files/C01-Centros/CEE/centro-de-excelencia-jean-monnet/working-papers/SeriesEU/2025/2-25-enrique-fernndez-def.ashx
- Patrão, Afonso (2025). Admissibility of implicit choice of law applicable to matrimonial property regimes in European regulation 2016/1103 (Pre-print Series. Center for European Studies "Luis Ortega Álvarez"- Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, Spain). Website: https://www.uclm.es/-/media/Files/C01-Centros/CEE/centro-de-excelencia-jean-monnet/working-papers/SeriesEU/2025/3-25-afonso-patrao-def.ashx
- Velasco Retamosa, José Manuel (2025). Concepto de matrimonio en los Estados Miembros de la Unión Europea y Derecho Internacional Privado (Pre-print Series. Center for European Studies "Luis Ortega Álvarez"- Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, Spain). Website: https://www.uclm.es/-/media/Files/C01-Centros/CEE/centro-de-excelencia-jean-monnet/working-papers/SeriesEU/2025/4-25-JOSE-MANUEL-VELASCO.ashx

EU Economics

1. Teaching

Activity: International Business at the EU context

Website (program): Máster de Formación Permanente en Negocios Internacionales

Person in charge: Carmen Díaz Mora and Belén González Díaz.

Working Package: WP3 EU Economics.

Researchers involved: Carmen Díaz Mora, Belén González Díaz, Erena Mª García López.

Number of persons enrolled: 4.

Abstract and impact:







In a context of economic globalization, internationalization of companies is key to promoting economic growth and job creation. The Master's in International Business is a program that aims to be the source of training for future professionals who will lead the country's companies' commitment to international markets, providing them with the human capital necessary to do so. It is an advanced training program, of a specialized and multidisciplinary nature, aimed at acquiring the knowledge, tools and techniques necessary for the management of companies that operate in a global context, particularly in the EU, as this is the main destination and origin of our trade flows. For this reason, this Master provides theoretical and practical training that delves into the economic, business and legal framework of the European Union. The program is delivered through face-to-face sessions at the School of Law and Social Sciences on the Toledo Campus. Part of the program is open to academics and professionals alike. The Master's in International Business, recognized for the high employability of its graduates, is supported by various national and regional institutions as well as business organizations. During the 2024-2025 academic year, we celebrated the tenth edition of the MNIN program, which enabled us to incorporate four additional professionals into the network of experts who support our companies and institutions in their international operations, primarily within the European Union.

Incidences: No incidents to report.

Costs: The activity did not involve any related expenses.

- Activity: Economics of the EU Teaching activity

Website (program): https://planea.apps.uclm.es/web/guia/318/54333/;

https://planea.apps.uclm.es/web/guia/396/51431/; https://planea.apps.uclm.es/web/guia/316/53312/; https://planea.apps.uclm.es/web/guia/317/54333/

Person in charge: Leticia Blázquez and David Córcoles.

Working Package: WP3 EU Economics.

Researchers involved: Leticia Blázquez, David Córcoles, Carlos Alvárez and Mª Carmen Cuerva.

Number of persons enrolled: 150.

Abstract and impact:

This course on the Economics of the European Union is a compulsory component of the undergraduate Economics program and is offered as an elective in the Business Administration and International Studies programs. It has been taught at both the School of Economics and Business in Albacete and the School of Law and Social Sciences in Toledo during the 2024–2025 academic year. Instruction is delivered in person, with the University's Moodle platform serving as a supplementary tool for distributing teaching materials and for assessment purposes. The course "Economics of the European Union" aims to familiarize students with the processes of regional integration, which have arisen from increasing globalization and the predominance of a free-market economic model, leading to greater interdependence in economic relations among countries. The theoretical and practical content of the course is designed to provide students with both a general and specific understanding of the main aspects of European integration in the areas of trade, production, macroeconomics, and finance. It is essential for







economists to have a clear understanding of these issues. Such knowledge will enable them to identify the implications, as well as the main advantages and risks, that European integration presents for organizations, thereby allowing them to perform effectively in the workplace, whether in public administration or the private sector.

Incidences: No incidents to report.

Costs: The activity did not involve any related expenses.

2. Research

Research Project: Business at the EU context and EU industrial strategy

Researchers involved: Ángela Triguero, Lourdes Moreno, David Córcoles and Mª Carmen Cuerva.

Abstract:

Research on the European industrial strategy contributes to our understanding of how EU countries are facing transition towards climate neutrality and digital leadership, and how this will lead to a more sustainable, digital, resilient and globally EU competitive economy. Our research focusses on the analysis of the factors influencing the adoption of environmental and Industry 4.0 innovations towards a circular economy by the EU firms (with special focus on technological capabilities, open innovation strategies and external support), and the introduction of innovations and other competitive strategies at the firm level.

Impact. This project is generating knowledge about to how accelerate twin transitions of EU industries, many of which have to be faced by SMEs.

Research results:

Publications in academic journals and working papers:

Córcoles, David., Triguero, Ángela & Cuerva, Mª Carmen (2025). Technological Collaboration and the Industry 4.0 Transformation: Evidence for Spanish Manufacturing Firms. *Journal of the Knowledge Economy*, 1-35.

Córcoles, David & Triguero, Ángela. (2025). The influence of eco-innovation on high-performing firms: The dynamics of productivity in the context of circular economy. *European Research on Management and Business Economics*, 31(2), 100275.

Triguero, Ángela & Córcoles, David (2025). Leveraging eco-innovation and market knowledge for a circular economy transition: Insights from Spanish manufacturing firms. *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, 216, 124152.

Triguero, Á., Moreno-Mondéjar, Lourdes & Córcoles, David (2025). The Importance of the Eco-Innovation, Knowledge Network and the Geographical Dimension in the Adoption of Circular Economy Business Models. *Business Strategy and the Environment* (Early View).

Conference presentations:







Córcoles, David, Cuerva, M. Carmen, Triguero, Ángela, Álvarez-Aledo, Carlos. Exploring the Impact of AI on Export Performance in the context of Industry 4.0. Paper presentado en ETSG 2025 Annual Conference, Milán, 11-13 September 2025.

Research Project: Competitiveness and Trade at the EU

Researchers involved: Carmen Diaz Mora, Leticia Blázquez, Belén González, Carmen Díaz Roldán and Oscar Bajo.

Abstract: This project is contributing to our understanding of international entrepreneurship and export behaviour of EU firms, which is crucial to the competitiveness of the whole EU area. This is framed by EU international trade policies that react to the newest trends in globalization. Firms export behaviour is increasingly characterized by both servitization (where firms produce and sell both manufactures and services) and digitalization. The analysis of both strategies and interdependencies is crucial for our understanding of the role of EU firms at international trade. In the case of EU manufacturing firms, export strategies also respond to their concerns about potential disruptions of global supply chains. Identifying which strategies are effectively implemented will contribute to our understanding of EU firms' resilience and sustainable competitiveness. EU's leading role in trade globalization goes hand in hand with new generation trade agreements and, at the same time, diverse instruments to promote open strategic autonomy. Finally, public macroeconomic policies are also aimed to deal with the diverse challenges EU countries face in this multipolar, increasingly changing world.

Impact: This project is generating knowledge about how the reconfiguration of the global value chains is affecting the EU economy, providing an opportunity to strengthen regional value chains within the EU territory. This is crucial for policy-makers and firms given their direct implications for the competitiveness of EU economy, employment, and the well-being of our society. Understanding the factors that allow EU companies to be competitive abroad and the characteristics that enable exporters to be resilient to changes in the international environment are crucial for the design of trade policy in the EU in the coming years. The outcomes of this project will also be particularly relevant for EU companies, as well as for National public agencies entrusted with the design of economic policies to maximize the presence and performance of firms in foreign markets.

Research results:

Publications in academic journals and working papers:

Bajo, Oscar & Gómez-Plana, Antonio G. (2025): "Austerity and asymmetries in the fiscal policies of the Eurozone: the case of Southern Europe", *International Economics and Economic Policy*, 22(33). https://doi.org/10.1007/s10368-025-00658-8.

Coronel, Vicente J. & Díaz-Roldán, Carmen (2025): Business Innovations and Human Capital: Consequences for Economic Growth. In: Schiavone, F., Omrani, N., Gabteni, H. (eds) Advanced Perspectives and Trends in Digital Transformation of Firms, Networks, and Society. DTS 2024. Springer Proceedings in Business and Economics. Springer, Cham.

Coronel, Vicente J. & Díaz-Roldán, Carmen: "Economic growth in the European Union: Exploring the role of innovation and gender." *Economics and Business Review*, 11(2), 91-117. https://doi.org/10.18559/ebr.2025.2.1917







Díaz-Mora, Carmen, Gandoy, Rosario & González, Belén (2025): «Las CGV de la UE: una mirada hacia los países de la Unión por el Mediterráneo», *Cuadernos Económicos de ICE*, nº 109, 105-125. https://doi.org/10.32796/cice.2025.109.7923

Díaz-Mora, Carmen, Esteve, Silviano & Gil-Pareja, Salvador (2025): «<u>La Unión Europea y el comercio de servicios</u>», *Economistas*, «*España 2024. Un balance*», nº 188.

Díaz-Mora, Carmen, García, Erena & González-Díaz, Belén (2025): «FDI in Services: How Data Provisions are Shaping the New Global Economy«. Work in progress.

Blázquez, Leticia, Díaz-Mora, Carmen, García, Erena & González, Belén (2024): «<u>Data-intensive</u> services in GVCs: the role of trade agreements» (under review in *Structural Change and Economics Dynamics*).

Díaz-Mora, Carmen, Esteve, Silviano, Gil-Pareja, Salvador & Ríos Avila, Fernando (2024): «<u>The EMU effect on trade</u>: A re-assessment accounting for staggered treatment adoption» (under review in *The World Economy*).

Cernat, Lucian, Díaz-Mora, Carmen, Esteve, Silviano & Gil-Pareja, Salvador (2024): «<u>The Trade impact of CETA</u>: a <u>firm-level trade assesment</u>» (under review in *International Review of Economics and Finance*).

Conference presentations:

Díaz-Mora, Carmen, García, Erena & González-Díaz, Belén: «FDI in Services: How Data Provisions are Shaping the New Global Economy«. XXVII Applied Economic Meeting, Santander (Spain), 5-6 June 2025.

Díaz-Mora, Carmen, García, Erena & González-Díaz, Belén: «FDI in Services: How Data Provisions are Shaping the New Global Economy«. ETSG 2025 Annual Conference, Milan (Italy), 11-13 September 2025.

3. Events

 Activity: "Comercio, empleo y tecnologías disruptivas: ¿Cuál es la receta para la competitividad futura de la UE?" by Lucian Cernat, Head of Global Regulatory Cooperation and International Procurement Negotiations, DG Trade, European Commission (17/10/2024)

Website (program): "Comercio, empleo y tecnologías disruptivas: ¿Cuál es la receta para la competitividad futura de la UE?"

Person in charge: Prof. Carmen Díaz Mora.

Working Package: WP3 EU Economics.

Researchers involved: Prof. Carmen Díaz Mora, Prof. Belén González Diaz, Prof. Leticia Blázquez Gómez.







Number of persons enrolled: around 150 students from the Bachelor's Degree in International Studies, the Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and Management, and the Double Bachelor's Degree in Law and International Studies.

Abstract and impact: Lucian Cernat explored the evolving role of EU trade policy in a world marked by geopolitical shifts and technological disruption. He emphasized the transition from traditional trade agreements to strategic tools like the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism and foreign subsidies regulation, reflecting the EU's ambition for "strategic autonomy." Despite these innovations, multilateralism is in crisis, and trade agreements face growing public skepticism.

Cernat highlighted the "new new trade theory," which shifts focus from nations to individual firms, especially SMEs, which account for over 80% of EU exporters and millions of jobs. He also addressed "blind spots" in EU competitiveness, such as lagging behind China and India in tech innovation and underestimating the role of services—particularly "Mode 5" services—in industrial exports.

For undergraduate students in Business Administration and in International Studies, the conference offered a unique opportunity to connect academic theory with real-world policy challenges. It deepened their understanding of how trade policy shapes employment, innovation, and global competitiveness, while encouraging critical thinking about the EU's role in a rapidly changing global economy. The session also sparked interest in trade economics as a dynamic and impactful field of study.

Incidences: No incidents to report.

Costs: 600 euros.

Activity: "Trade, jobs and disruptive technologies: what is the recipe for future EU competitiveness?" by Lucian Cernat, Head of Global Regulatory Cooperation and International Procurement Negotiations, DG Trade, European Commission (18/10/2024)

Website (program): Charla-Coloquio con Lucian Cernat

Person in charge: Prof. Carmen Díaz Mora.

Working Package: WP3 EU Economics.

Researchers involved: Prof. Carmen Díaz Mora, Prof. Belén González Diaz, Prof. Leticia Blázquez.

Number of persons enrolled: around 20 researchers from the Faculty of Social and Juridical Sciences.

Abstract and impact: Lucian Cernat delivered a thought-provoking presentation on the evolving challenges and opportunities in EU trade policy. Cernat explored how disruptive technologies—AI, robotics, and digital platforms—are reshaping global trade dynamics, potentially rendering existing policy tools obsolete. He stressed the growing dominance of "unicorn" firms and the declining labor intensity of exports, raising questions about future employment and competitiveness. A key insight was the overlooked importance of services, especially "Mode 5" (embedded services in goods), in industrial performance.







The presentation also addressed the disconnect between academic research and policymaking. Cernat urged researchers to engage with policy dilemmas, tailor their communication, and seek societal impact beyond academic metrics.

The conference had a significant impact on attending researchers, encouraging them to rethink how their work can influence real-world policy. It fostered a deeper understanding of the policymaker's perspective and inspired new strategies for bridging the gap between academic insight and policy relevance. Many participants left with renewed motivation to pursue research with tangible societal outcomes.

Incidences: No incidents to report.

Costs: 600 euros.

- Activity: I WORKSHOP of ISPEC, International and Spanish Economics Research Group (31/01/2025)

Website (program): I Workshop of ISPEC

Person in charge: Prof. Mª Angeles Davia.

Working Package: WP3 EU Economics.

Researchers involved: Prof. Mª Ángeles Davia, Prof. Leticia Blázquez Gómez, Prof. Angela Triguero, Prof. Carmen Díaz Mora, Prof. David Córcoles, Prof. Mª Carmen Córcoles, Prof. Belén González Diaz, Prof. Carlos Álvarez Aledo and the remaining members of the ISPEc research group.

Number of persons enrolled: 25 researchers (all members of ISPEc research group and some invited researchers).

Abstract and impact: The first ISPEC Workshop, hosted at the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences in Toledo, brought together leading economists and researchers to explore the intersection of trade, innovation, and digital transformation.

The event opened with a keynote lecture by Erik van der Marel (ECIPE, Université Libre de Bruxelles, World Bank), who examined the trade effects of Al-related provisions in Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs), questioning the significance of non-binding clauses. The first research session featured a paper by Leticia Blázquez, Carmen Díaz, Erena García, and Belén González (ISPEC Group), analyzing the role of trade agreements in shaping data-intensive services within global value chains.

This was followed by a second keynote by Elena Cefis (University of Bergamo, Sant'Anna School), who presented empirical insights on the Italian Industry 4.0 Plan and its impact on firm productivity and innovation. The final research paper, presented by Ángela Triguero, David Córcoles, and M. Carmen Cuerva (ISPEC Group), explored how technological turbulence and market dynamics influence eco-innovation strategies.

The workshop had a significant impact on participating researchers, fostering interdisciplinary dialogue and offering valuable feedback on ongoing projects. It strengthened collaboration







within the ISPEC group and provided a platform to align research agendas with emerging global economic challenges.

Incidences: No incidents to report.

Costs: 2000 euros.

Activity: "De-globalization: new problems and new solutions" (13/02/2025)

Website (program): La desglobalización: nuevos problemas y nuevas soluciones

Person in charge: Oscar Bajo Rubio/Carmen Díaz Roldán.

Working Package: WP3 EU Economics.

Researchers involved: Oscar Bajo Rubio, Carmen Díaz Roldán, Juan Luis Manfredi Sánchez y Vicente Coronel Gutiérrez.

Number of persons enrolled: 92 students of the Degree in Business Administration.

Abstract and impact: The term "de-globalization" has recently appeared in the debates on the current International order. In order to provide a discussion on this new International configuration, we hosted in this seminar a number of academic experts which first showed a broad panorama of the current affairs, characterized by the challenges of de-globalization, but also for the opportunities offered by digitalization. Next, a discussion of the usefulness of the methodology provided by economic analysis to face these challenges, from the experimental method to optimization techniques, was also given. Finally, some sectoral analyses were also presented, focusing on the fields of the real estate market, the price of energy, infrastructures, and the fundamental role played by public investment in order to give an answer to the challenges faced by today's society.

Incidences: No incidents to report.

Costs: 1997,65 euros.

 Activity: Research Seminar "Análisis y Modelización de políticas europeas de comercio e industria" by José Manuel Rueda Cantuche, Joint Research Centre (JRC)-European Commision (21/03/2025)

Website (program): <u>Seminario de Análisis y modelización de las políticas industriales y de comercio europeas</u>

Person in charge: Prof. Carmen Díaz Mora.

Working Package: WP3 EU Economics.

Researchers involved: Prof. Carmen Díaz Mora, Prof. Belén González Diaz, Prof. Leticia Blázquez.

Number of persons enrolled: around 25 researchers from the University of Castilla-La Mancha.







Abstract and impact: Prof. Rueda Cantuche presented the AMADEUS framework, a comprehensive system for analyzing and modeling European trade and industrial policies using advanced input-output methodologies. Central to the presentation were the FIGARO and FIDELIO models, developed in collaboration with Eurostat and the Joint Research Centre (JRC). FIGARO provides harmonized inter-country supply-use and input-output tables, while FIDELIO is a dynamic econometric model used to simulate long-term policy impacts on trade, employment, and value added.

The session also introduced CARMEN (FIGARO-REG), a regional extension of FIGARO that enables detailed analysis at the NUTS2 level, supporting regional policy evaluation and impact assessments. Applications include measuring the effects of EU policies on specific sectors (e.g., the automotive industry), regional interdependencies, and global value chains. The presentation concluded with insights into the Macroeconomic Globalisation Indicators (MEG), offering new tools to assess value-added trade and employment supported by exports.

The presentation had a profound impact on the attending researchers, offering them access to cutting-edge tools and datasets for empirical policy analysis. It fostered a deeper understanding of how to integrate regional and sectoral dimensions into macroeconomic modeling and encouraged interdisciplinary collaboration. Many participants expressed interest in applying these models to their own research on trade, innovation, and regional development.

Incidences: No incidents to report.

Costs: 300 euros.

 Activity: Lecture by Fernado Torija, Head of European Investment Bank Group
 Office in Spain: "El Banco Europeo de Inversiones y el Desafío Climático: Financiando el Cambio" (03/04/2025)

Website (program): El Banco Europeo de Inversiones y el Desafío Climático: Financiando el Cambio

Person in charge: Carmen Díaz Mora.

Working Package: WP3 EU Economics.

Researchers involved: Carmen Díaz Mora.

Number of persons enrolled: around 100 students from the Bachelor's Degree in International Studies, and the Double Bachelor's Degree in Law and International Studies.

Abstract and impact: In his talk "The European Investment Bank and the Climate Challenge: Financing Change," Fernando Torija, head of the EIB office in Spain, highlighted the crucial role of the EIB in financing sustainable projects. He emphasized the importance of investing in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and clean technologies to mitigate climate change. Torija also stressed the need for collaboration between the public and private sectors to achieve global climate goals.

Attending a conference on the global climate challenges has a profound impact on undergraduate students. It provides them with a deeper understanding of the complexities and dynamics of these challenges from an economic perspective.







Incidences: No incidents to report.

Costs: The activity did not involve any related expenses.

 Activity: Lecture by Oscar Guinea, senior economist at ECIPE: "Current challenges facing the EU: a view from an international economic policy think tank" (05/05/2025)

Website (program): <u>Desafíos actuales de la UE: una visión desde un think-tank de política económica internacional</u>

Person in charge: Carmen Díaz Mora.

Working Package: WP3 EU Economics.

Researchers involved: Carmen Díaz Mora, Belén González Diaz y Leticia Blázquez Gómez.

Number of persons enrolled: around 150 students from the Bachelor's Degree in International Studies, the Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and Management, and the Double Bachelor's Degree in Law and International Studies.

Abstract and impact: The European Union (EU) faces several significant economic challenges in 2025. One major issue is maintaining economic competitiveness in the face of rapid technological advancements and global competition. The EU needs to enhance its digital infrastructure, particularly through the deployment of 5G technology, and increase investment in research and development to foster innovation. In this context, it is important to highlight the detrimental impact of overregulation on the digital economy, noting that the EU's extensive regulatory framework, comprising nearly 100 technology-focused laws, stifles growth and productivity. Hence, a balanced regulatory approach that safeguards consumer interests while enhancing the competitiveness of the EU's digital sector is needed. Attending a conference on the current economic challenges facing the European Union has a profound impact on undergraduate students. It provides them with a deeper understanding of the complexities and dynamics of the EU's economic landscape, including issues such as technological competitiveness and trade conflicts. This exposure will not only enhance their academic knowledge but also inspire critical thinking and problem-solving skills. By engaging with realworld economic issues, students will be better prepared for careers in economics, policy-making, and international relations. Additionally, the conference offers networking opportunities with experts and peers, fostering a collaborative learning environment that can lead to future research and professional opportunities.

Incidences: No incidents to report.

Cost: The activity did not involve any related expenses.

4. Deliverables (Working papers and Pre-print series)

Cernat, Lucian; Díaz-Mora, Carmen; Gil-Pareja, Salvador; Esteve, Silvio (2024). Countries don't trade, firms do: A firm-level assessment of CETA (Pre-print Series. Center for European Studies "Luis Ortega Álvarez"- Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, Spain). Website: https://www.uclm.es/-/media/Files/C01-Centros/CEE/centro-de-excelencia-jean-







monnet/working-papers/Series-Industrial-Strategy/Pre-Print--Industrial-Strategy-and-International-Trade-01-2024-Impact-of-CETA.ashx

EU Politics

1. Teaching

 Activity: Teaching activity / Non-official university degree (Curso Universitario de Formación Avanzada) "Incluye e Inserta UCLM: actividades auxiliares en entornos públicos" (1º ed.) (30/10/2025)

Website (program): Incluye e Inserta UCLM: actividades auxiliares en entornos públicos

Person in charge: Juana Morcillo Moreno y Carmen Mª Fajardo Martínez.

Working Package: WP4 EU Politics.

Researchers involved: Juana Morcillo Moreno, Pablo Meix Cereceda y Carmen Mª Fajardo

Martínez.

Number of persons enrolled: 15.

Abstract and impact: this is an extraordinary program offered by the UCLM to provide young people with intellectual disabilities with an appropriate social and labour training within a university context. The program, whose goal is to combat youth unemployment, will let them hold an extraordinary, non-official university degree. It has been developed in Albacete, and it consists of one academic course designed to improve skills in the public sector. During the last two months, students did internships in public institutions. Teaching is face-to-face in small groups (15 people). The program has 30 ECTS. A professional from "Plena Inclusión" (federation that brings together numerous associations of people with intellectual disabilities) is available to serve as a liaison between the university and the families of the participants. Regarding the impact, the program will improve the skills of young people with intellectual disabilities, not only to find a job, but also to improve their quality of life and autonomy. In addition, the entire university community will learn from the experience of being closer to young people with disabilities. It will contribute to the achievement of goals 4 and 8 of the SDGs. Likewise, this activity will contribute to bring the EU to a collective of Europeans that is rarely reached by EU formative actions.

Incidences: No incidents to report.

Costs: The activity did not involve any related expenses.

Course: Periodismo y comunicación internacional (diplomacy and foreing policy)

Website: https://planea.apps.uclm.es/web/guia/396/51411/

Person in charge: Juan Luis Manfredi Sánchez







Academic year: 2024/25.

Teaching: September 2024-January 2025.

Hours taught by the instructor: 60.

Evaluation: January 2025 (ordinary) and June 2025 (extraordinary).

Methodology: Lectures and seminars.

Number of enrolled students: 80.

Syllabus: 1. Information, IR and Diplomacy 2. Soft power, hard power and Sharp power. 3. Strategic Narratives. 4. Public Diplomacy. 5. Propaganda and Conflicts. 6. Free Speech and Censorship. 7. New Challenges for Democracy Impact: This subject presents an overview of the theoretical development and main lines of research regarding international communication linked to international relations and diplomacy.

We use four big ways of understanding communication power (hard, soft, sharp power, and the strategic narratives). In particular, it is relevant to understand what the role of journalism in sustaining democracies is, and how current international scenario undermines free speech, accountability and transparency. On the other hand, the course introduces tools to understand structures and global information systems in the face of a multifaceted arena with less "CNN effect" than expected, along with a dynamic situation of constant propagandistic innovation. European communication strategies is part of the practical approach.

2. Research

 Activity: national research project "Legal protection and opportunities for vulnerable groups in the face of digitization and artificial intelligence" (PRODIGIA), ref. PID2021-124967OB-I00 (2022-2025)

Website (program): https://prodigital.web.uclm.es/

Person in charge: Juana Morcillo Moreno and Susana de la Sierra.

Working Package: WP4 EU Politics.

Researchers involved: Juana Morcillo Moreno, Susana de la Sierra, Pablo Meix Cereceda, Antonio Villanueva Cuevas, José Antonio Moreno Molina, Francisco Puerta Seguido, Pablo Gómez Iniesta, Juan Azorín Toboso, Sandra Pámpanas Aparicio, Carmen Mª Fajardo Martínez.

Number of persons enrolled: 18.

Abstract: This project examines the impact of digitization processes on individuals or groups that can be considered vulnerable. It also addresses the main issues raised by AI. In short, it deals with the so-called "digital divides" that affect people with disabilities, those who live or work in rural areas, and women. In addition to these three divides, there are others, such as those related to older people and migrants. The project also addresses administrative and judicial







protection mechanisms, as well as elements that ensure the inclusion of these individuals in digital transformation processes carried out by public bodies and in relation to courts responsible for judicial review of administrative decisions. Digital transformation brings undeniable advantages, but also considerable difficulties, both for infrastructure reasons (insufficient devices and networks) and for reasons of lack or absence of digital skills, not to mention possible discriminatory biases in the design of algorithms. For all these reasons, PRODIGIA analyzes administrative and judicial oversight, as well as the elements that guarantee the inclusion of these individuals in the digital transformation processes of public administrations and also in relation to the contentious-administrative jurisdiction that controls the former.

Impact: Numerous activities have been carried out as part of this research project, which can be viewed on the aforementioned website. These include several seminars, an international conference, a summer course, a guide to best practices, and a collective book entitled "El Estado Social Digital: poderes públicos, inteligencia artificial y derechos" ("The Digital Welfare State: public authorities, artificial intelligence and rights"), which will be published by Aranzadi

Incidences: No incidents to report.

Costs: The activity did not involve any related expenses.

 Activity: regional research project "Digitization and vulnerable groups: protection, guarantees and proposals for its implementation in Castilla-La Mancha" (PRODIGITAL), ref. SBPLY/21/180501/000089 (2022-2025)

Website (program): https://prodigital.web.uclm.es/

Person in charge: Juana Morcillo Moreno and Susana de la Sierra.

Working Package: WP4 EU Politics.

Researchers involved: Juana Morcillo Moreno, Susana de la Sierra, Pablo Meix Cereceda, Antonio Villanueva Cuevas, Pablo Gómez Iniesta, Juan Azorín Toboso, Sandra Pámpanas Aparicio, Carmen Mª Fajardo Martínez.

Number of persons enrolled: 13.

Abstract: This research project focuses on the impact of digitization processes in Castilla-La Mancha, especially in relation to the legal protection of vulnerable groups. It analyzes the so-called "digital divides" from the perspective of administrative and judicial protection. Within this framework, three areas related to the research and professional experience of the team members have been selected, namely: the gender gap, the disability gap, and the rural gap. These three gaps, which sometimes overlap and connect with others such as age, nationality, etc., have some common elements and other specific ones, which has been taken into account. Although PRODIGITAL's scope of action is limited to the region of Castilla-La Mancha, a proper analysis of the issue requires knowledge of what is happening in other parts of the country and even in neighbouring countries that are leaders in this field.

Impact: Numerous activities have been carried out as part of this research project, which can be viewed on the website mentioned above. These include several seminars, an international conference, a summer course, a guide to best practices, and a collective book entitled "El Estado







Social Digital: poderes públicos, inteligencia artificial y derechos" ("The Digital Welfare State: public authorities, artificial intelligence and rights"), which will be published by Aranzadi.

Incidences: No incidents to report.

Costs: The activity did not involve any related expenses.

 Activity: Audiovisual platformization: a propositional diagnosis of platformization processes in the contemporary Spanish media landscape" (UCLM Research Plan -FEDER Funds 2022-GRIN-34309)

The research project "Audiovisual platformization: a propositional diagnosis of platformization processes in the contemporary Spanish media landscape" has concluded meeting the objectives of related publications and committed actions. An international conference was held, and at least two additional research actions were carried out involving various sectors of the university community (faculty and students) and audiovisual sector professionals (Castilla-La Mancha Film Commission, Oficina Media España, Castilla-La Mancha Media, among others) for reflection on the platformization dynamics in contemporary media. Additionally, one of the main academic achievements of the project (the book already submitted, La plataformización del sistema mediático europeo y español Regulación, estructura y contenidos, Tirant Lo Blanch) has allowed for the gathering of 18 researchers from 10 national and international universities (Universitat de València, Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom, European University Institute, Maastricht University, Universidad de Navarra, Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Universidad de Santiago de Compostela, Università di Siena, Universitat Jaume I, Universitat Pompeu Fabra). This publication addresses the diagnosis of the contemporary Spanish and European media landscape, but also the legal challenges involved in platformization processes, business dynamics, and changes in audiovisual content.

3. Events

- Activity: Platformization Processes and Media in Spain and in Europe (14/11/2024)

Website (program): <u>Procesos de plataformización y medios de comunicación en España y en Europa</u>

Person in charge: Susana de la Sierra y Nieves Limón Serrano.

Working Package: WP4 EU Politics.

Researchers involved: Susana de la Sierra, Nieves Limón Serrano, Carlos Alberto Gómez Méndez, Minerva Campos Rabadán, Mª José Establés, Azahara Cañedo Ramos, Ana López Cepeda, Pablo Gómez Iniesta, Juan Luis Manfredi, Clara López Cantos.

Number of persons enrolled: 30.

Abstract and impact: The congress took place on November 14–15, 2024, at the University of Castilla–La Mancha (UCLM). The event was supported by UCLM's own Research Plan, FEDER funds, the Luis Ortega Álvarez Center for European Studies (Jean Monnet Center of Excellence),







the Faculty of Communication, and the Chair of Open Government. It was aligned with the research lines of the project "Audiovisual platformization: a propositional diagnosis of platformization processes in the contemporary Spanish media landscape" (UCLM Research Plan—FEDER Funds 2022-GRIN-34309).

After ten years of the consolidated research group ComPublic, national and international experts came together to reflect on platformization processes from regulatory, economic, social, and narrative perspectives, offering a space for innovative proposals to address the challenges and opportunities in this changing environment. Presentations were made by researchers from the following universities and institutions: University of Castilla—La Mancha, University of Valencia, Pompeu Fabra University, Carlos III University of Madrid, Jaume I University, Castilla—La Mancha Film Commission, the European Commission, Radio Televisión Española, Canal Sur, and Castilla—La Mancha Media.

Discussions focused on 21st-century media and legal challenges; corporate structures, content, and contemporary narratives in the context of media platformization; the role of public institutions; and future strategies and proposals for public media and platforms.

In summary, the congress offered an interdisciplinary forum to analyze and debate the effects of platformization on the Spanish and European media landscape. The presentations and panel sessions examined key issues such as the regulation of digital markets, the sustainability of public media, and innovation in narratives and business models. This event highlighted the commitment of the University of Castilla—La Mancha and the ComPublic group to rigorous research and critical thinking in a constantly evolving media environment.

Incidences: No incidents to report.

Costs: 5651,45 euros.

 Activity: International Conference / Meeting of the European Association for Education Law and Policy on Inclusive Education in the Age of AI (27/11/2024)

Website (program): Inclusive Education of Al

Person in charge: Pablo Meix Cereceda, Juana Morcillo Moreno and Susana de la Sierra.

Working Package: WP4 EU Politics.

Researchers involved: Pablo Meix Cereceda, Juana Morcillo Moreno and Juan Azorín Toboso.

Number of persons enrolled: 26.

Abstract and impact: in recent years, educational inclusion has become key in the organization of education systems worldwide. However, as is often the case with human rights, its implementation is subject to cultural and economic differences across regions and countries. Edutech, information technologies in general and Al in particular offer an array of possibilities to bridge many educational gaps. These technologies, nevertheless, entail new risks for equality, quality, cultural adaptability and other dimensions that are essential for a fair education system. All the sessions were recorded and are available at the UCLM channel on YouTube:

https://youtu.be/5M0sORjy32I?t=1266







Incidences: No incidents to report.

Costs: 675 euros.

- Activity: Creative Europe MEDIA Strand: Creation and Distribution of European Audiovisual Content in the Context of Media Platformization (06/05/2025)

Website (program): Encuentro Programa Media- CLM Film Commission

Person in charge: Susana de la Sierra y Nieves Limón Serrano.

Working Package: WP4 EU Politics.

Researchers involved: Susana de la Sierra, Nieves Limón Serrano, Carlos Alberto Gómez Méndez, Minerva Campos Rabadán, Mª José Establés, Azahara Cañedo Ramos.

Number of persons enrolled: 25.

Abstract and impact: On May 6, 2025, the meeting titled "Creative Europe MEDIA Strand: Creation and Distribution of European Audiovisual Content in the Context of Media Platformization" took place with the Media Office Spain and the Castilla-La Mancha Film Commission. Held in the Antonio Saura Room of the Vice-Deanery for Culture, Sports, and Social Engagement, the event introduced audiovisual professionals, companies, and productions to the funding programme designed to support their internationalisation—targeted at faculty, students, and industry professionals in attendance. The Creative Europe MEDIA Strand promotes the internationalisation of professionals, companies, and audiovisual productions to enhance their competitiveness in the market and defend our European cultural diversity. Attendees included audiovisual sector professionals based in Castilla-La Mancha, final-year students of the bachelor's degree in Audiovisual Communication and the double degree in Journalism and Audiovisual Communication, and researchers from the Faculty of Communication at the University of Castilla-La Mancha. The presentations were delivered by Peter Andermatt (Director of Media Office Spain), Christian Solanas (Communications Manager of Media Office Spain), and Miguel Ángel Villanueva Munguía (Director of the Castilla-La Mancha Film Commission). The meeting was also linked to the research lines of the project "Audiovisual platformization: a propositional diagnosis of platformization processes in the contemporary Spanish media landscape" (UCLM Research Plan—FEDER Funds 2022-GRIN-34309).

Incidences: No incidents to report.

Costs: The activity did not involve any related expenses.

 Activity: "Summer course on disability, gender and rurality: a digital perspective" (02/07/2025)

Website (program): <u>Cursos de Verano y Extensión Universitaria 2025</u>: <u>Discapacidad, género y ruralidad</u>

Person in charge: Juana Morcillo Moreno and Susana de la Sierra.

Working Package: WP4 EU Politics.







Researchers involved: Juana Morcillo Moreno, Susana de la Sierra, Pablo Meix Cereceda, Juan Azorín Toboso, Carmen Mª Fajardo Martínez.

Number of persons enrolled: 30-35 approx.

Abstract and impact: the objectives of this summer course were to provide a comprehensive overview of how digitalization and Al affect people with disabilities, women, and those living in rural areas; To delve deeper into the most important issues (e.g., accessibility, bias, discrimination, etc.); To gain insights from policymakers, academics, professionals, and technical staff on the topic, including first-person accounts; To develop a guide to good practices for public administrations.

Incidences: No incidents to report.

Costs: 946,27 euros.

4. Deliverables (Working papers and Pre-print series)

Morcillo, Juana and Bornman, Juan (2024). *Promoting autonomy and employment of individuals with intellectual disability: the role of universities* (Pre-print Series. Center for European Studies "Luis Ortega Álvarez"- Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, Spain). Website: https://www.uclm.es/-/media/Files/C01-

Centros/CEE/PREPRINTS/2024/1PROMOTING-AUTONOMY-AND-EMPLOYMENT.ashx

<u>Applicable to all three work packages: EU Law, EU Economics and EU Politics</u>

- Activity: XXVIII JORNADAS SOBRE LA UNIÓN EUROPEA. "La Unión Europea en el contexto global: el reto de la autonomía estratégica" (09/05/2025)

Website (program): La Unión Europea en el contexto global: el reto de la autonomía estratégica

Persons in charge: Isaac Martín Delgado and María Valle Camacho.

Working Package: WP2 EU Law, WP3 EU Economics and WP4 EU Politics.

Researchers involved: Isaac Martín Delgado, Juan Luis Manfredi y Susana de la Sierra.

Number of persons enrolled: 58 persons, 13 online and 45 in-presence.

Abstract and impact: The event focused on one of the most pressing issues currently facing the European Union: the pursuit of strategic autonomy within a complex, competitive, and multipolar global context. The session facilitated a multidisciplinary reflection -from the perspectives of economics, geography and communication- on how the EU can strengthen its strategic autonomy to safeguard its interests and values abroad in crucial areas such as defence, economy and technology.

Throughout the event, various experts, together with the active participation of students, addressed the challenges and opportunities the EU faces in achieving strategic autonomy in a







context shaped by geopolitical shifts, transformations in supply chains (particularly in the technology sector) and the twin energetic and digital transitions. All of this taking place in a global landscape where alliances are changing.

The event had a significant impact by fostering a deeper understanding of the EU's pursuit of its strategic autonomy within an increasingly complex global framework. It provided a platform for dialogue between experts and students, promoting critical reflection and debate. By addressing the main challenges and opportunities in the identified key sectors, the day made a meaningful contribution to academic discussions on how the EU can assert its interests and values more effectively on the international stage and achieve its strategic autonomy.

Incidences: Some speakers were unable to attend due to health issues; however, this did not affect the quality of the contributions made by the remaining speakers, nor their ability to adapt to the circumstances.

Costs: 1122,50 euros.

1. Deliverables

Dissemination

1. Website

The website that collects all the activities, media, Working papers and Pre-print series: <u>Centre of Excellence Jean Monnet</u>

2. Social Media Profiles

Profiles on X, LinkedIn, Instagram and YouTube

3. Video Series

The video series can be found on our YouTube channel and in the Media section of our website.

Lectures and conferences

- El Banco Europeo de Inversiones y el Desafío Climático: Financiando el Cambio
- Conference 'Platformisation processes and media in Spain and Europe', 14 and 15
 November 2024 COMPUBLIC research group UCLM
- Opening

Interview

- Presentation of the Centre of Excellence Jean Monnet
- <u>Lucian Cernat, Director of Global Regulatory Cooperation and International Procurement Negotiations at the European Commission.</u>







• Entrevista a Enrique Feás. Investigador principal del Real Instituto Elcano.

Disability, gender and rurality: a digital perspective

- <u>Inauguración</u>
- Ponencia: Digitalización, Administración Pública y colectivos vulnerables: ¿hacia dónde vamos?
- Mesa 1: ¿Cómo avanzan las Administraciones Públicas?
- Mesa 2: Retos de la digitalización en el ámbito judicial y en el acceso a la información pública
- Mesa 3: La importancia del tercer sector y otras asociaciones
- Mesa 4: ¿Cómo ayuda el sector privado?
- Mesa 5: Desafíos pendientes 1
- Mesa 6: Desafíos pendientes 2 y actuaciones

Throughout this year, the CES has held approximately 25 activities, covering a variety of topics related to Europe. These activities have received feedback from attendees and newspapers.

Date	Media / Social networks	Link	Content type	Activity
09/07/25	Colegio Oficial de Ingenieros en Informática en Castilla la Mancha	https://coiiclm.org/la-uclm-inicia-sus-cursos-de-verano-en-albacete-con-uno-sobre-discapacidad-genero-y-ruralidad-desde-la-digitalizacion/	Report	Curso de verano extensión universitaria: discapacidad, género y ruralidad
02/07/25	Diputación Provincial de Albacete	https://web.dipualba.es/la-diputacion-de-albacete-destaca-su-apuesta-por-una-digitalizacion-justa-e-inclusiva-en-la-inauguracion-del-curso-de-verano-de-la-uclm-sobre-discapacidad-genero-y-medio-rural/	Report	Curso de verano extensión universitaria: discapacidad, género y ruralidad
	Asociación española de profesores de derecho administrativo	https://www.aepda.es/xo_even t/curso-de-verano- discapacidad-genero-y- ruralidad-una-mirada-desde-la- digitalizacion/	Post / Report	Curso de verano extensión universitaria: discapacidad, género y ruralidad
	Gobierno de Castilla la Mancha	https://europa.castillalamancha .es/europe- direct/actividades/curso- propio-de-especializacion-en-la- union-europea-1	Report	Curso propio de especialización en la Unión Europea







	Toledo exporta	https://toledoexporta.es/curso- de-formacion-continua-de- especializacion-en-union- europea/	Report	Curso propio de especialización en la Unión Europea
	Blog UCLM	https://blog.uclm.es/grupo- compublic/encuentro- programa-media-clm-film- commission/	Report	Programa Media y la Europa Creativa. Creación y distribución de contenidos audiovisuales europeos en el contexto de la plataformización mediática
13/02/25	Cuadernos Manchegos	https://www.cuadernosmanche gos.com/castilla-la- mancha/ciudad-real/expertos- en-economia-analizan-en-la- uclm-los-nuevos-problemas-de- la-desglobalizacion-y-posibles- soluciones/	Report	La desglobalización: nuevos problemas y soluciones
13/02/25	UCLM tv	https://www.uclmtv.uclm.es/ex pertos-en-economia-analizan- en-la-uclm-los-nuevos- problemas-de-la- desglobalizacion-y-posibles- soluciones/	Report	La desglobalización: nuevos problemas y soluciones
7 months ago	LinkedIn	https://www.linkedin.com/post s/elena-cefis-1861339 ispec- toledo-activity- 7291164928764166146-BYn8/	Post / Report	I Workshop of ISPEC
3 months ago	LinkedIn	https://www.linkedin.com/post s/digitalizaci%C3%B3n-y- colectivos-vulnerables- 0050a0306 juanazor%C3%ADn- stem-teor%C3%ADa-activity- 7335356172813627393- BC3t/?originalSubdomain=es	Post / Report	Seminario de Teoría y Método de Derecho Público
3 months ago	LinkedIn	https://www.linkedin.com/post s/gustavo-manuel-d%C3%ADaz- gonz%C3%A1lez- 23ab861b0 albanogueira- jorgegarc%C3%ADaandrade- activity-7335215388055552001- Biar/?originalSubdomain=es	Post / Report	Seminario de Teoría y Método de Derecho Público













On December 19, 2024, the 30th anniversary of the Center for European Studies «Luis Ortega Álvarez» was celebrated. The event also included the European Commission's recognition of the CES as a Centre of Excellence Jean Monnet. A working meeting was also held for researchers from the five research groups affiliated with the CES, among many other activities.

Date	Media / Social networks	Link	Content type
19/12/24	Gobierno de Castilla- La Mancha	https://www.castillalamancha.es/actualidad/galeriaimagenes/directora-general-asuntos-europeos-30-aniversario-centro-estudios-europeos	Report
19/12/24	clm24.es	https://www.clm24.es/articulo/sociedad/centro- estudios-europeos-luis-ortega-cumple-30-anos- enfocado-investigar- ue/20241219163336439320.html	Report
19/12/24	La Comarca de Puertollano	https://www.lacomarcadepuertollano.com/articu lo/region/junta-destaca-labor-educacion- permanente-centro-estudios-europeos- importancia-colaboracion- institucional/20241219204925574628.html	Report
19/12/25	La Tribuna Toledo	https://www.latribunadetoledo.es/noticia/zbd8d 6b73-07c6-460b-96f63e4541f4677b/202412/el- centro-de-estudios-europeos-cumple-30-anos- de-servicio	Report
15/01/25	Blog UCLM	https://blog.uclm.es/grupo- compublic/2025/01/15/compublic-participa-en- la-celebracion-y-reunion-de-trabajo-del-30-	Report







		aniversario-del-centro-de-estudios-europeos-luis- ortega-alvarez/	
14/01/25	Youtube UCLM	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ND6EfvENo	Video
19/12/24	X Lanza digital	https://x.com/Lanzadigital/status/186979120384 0962640	Post
19/12/24	X Objetivo CLM Noticias	https://x.com/ObjetivoCLM/status/18697420791 83667708	Post



