

HOMER

Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence



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

Content:

Description of the implemented
activities.....page 2
Impact, visibility and
dissemination.....page 4
Team and publications.....page 5



WELCOME

Dear reader,

After three years of collaboration and after three joint seminar linked with three Brussels based workshops the HOMER now reaches its preliminary finish. After exploring the Hague summit 1969, the Maastricht summit 1991 and the summits that are linked with the Lisbon Treaty we have a deepened the understanding of European narratives and the linkage of narratives and summits. Seminars with students in Cologne and Maast-

richt as well as meetings with experts in Brussels provided the frame for in-depth debates and intense research on relevant material and sources (newspaper articles, archival material, memoirs, academic interpretations, interviews etc.). At the end the students presented their findings and discussed the offers and constraints of narratives on the European Union. This final newsletter sums-up the HOMER project and presents an overview on both its achievements and constraints. Though not all original targets have been achieved the project as a whole can be considered as

an asset to existing teaching approaches on European integration. The core team consisting of Wolfgang Wessels, Sophie Vanhoonacker, Kiran Patel and Juergen Mittag, substantially supported by Hartmut Marhold and Wilfried Loth, is looking forward to continue these activities in the next years. In order to realise this ambition, critical comments and further communications are appreciated.

On behalf of the HOMER team
Jürgen Mittag

For further information see:

dshs-koeln.de/iesf

jeanmonnetchair.uni-koeln.de

mceg-maastricht.eu

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES:

In order to contribute to the project's main target providing orientation on European memory by exploring the role of the European Council and its summits in view of narratives of European integration eight major activities have been implemented.

Three joint seminars (teaching) each with students from German Sport University, University of Cologne

and Maastricht University have been held.

Each of the three seminars was linked to one of three workshops in Brussels bringing together experts from the academic world and from politics. At each university a series of at least two public lectures a year has been organized.



- The first joined seminar was dedicated to The Hague Summit of 1969. Three joint sessions between April and July 2015 and additional individual session at the three universities were given.

- The second seminar focused on the Maastricht summit. It was held between October 2015 and February 2016. Three joint sessions and additional individual meetings have taken

place.

- The third seminar shed light on the Lisbon treaty of 2009 and its related summits. Again, three joint sessions and additional lectures have been held in this seminar between November 2016 and February 2017.

Each of the three seminars was linked to one of three workshops in Brussels bringing together experts from the academic world and from politics.

Experts of the workshops were:

(1) Wilfried Loth, Philipp de Schoutheete and Hartmut Marhold (17.4.2015)

(2) Finn Laursen, Wilfried Loth and Hartmut Marhold (6.11.2015)

(3) Justus Schönlaue and Hartmut Marhold (18.11.2016)

In the course of all three seminars data and material has been collected, analysed and processed. However, this material has not been yet trans-

formed into online modules due to different reasons

At each university additional teaching activities took place. The following lectures/seminars have been given:

→ Jürgen Mittag: Introduction to European Integration (WS 14/15; 16/17)

→ Kiran Patel: Policy Domains (WS

2014/15; 15/16; 17/18)

→ Wolfgang Wessels: The evolution of the EU's institutional architecture after the Lisbon Treaty: A European Council's perspective (WS 2014/15; 15/16)



For further information see:

dshs-koeln.de/iesf

jeanmonnetchair.uni-koeln.de

mceg-maastricht.eu

AT EACH UNIVERSITY A SERIES OF AT LEAST TWO PUBLIC LECTURES A YEAR HAS BEEN ORGANIZED:

German Sport University Cologne:

- (1) Dr. Philipp Vonnard (Lausanne): "The only European organization!" Some reflections about the construction of UEFA 1950 1961 (11.11.2014)
- (2) Prof. Dr. Harm Kaal (Nijmegen): Popular politics: the friendly matches between sport and politics in the Netherlands, 1960-1980s (16.06.2015)
- (3) Martin Schulz (Straßburg/Brüssel): Die Europäische Union als Wirtschafts- und Wertegemeinschaft: Chancen und Grenzen des Sports (6.07.2015)
- (4) Dr. Maren Kröger (UN-HCR): The United Nations' Perspective on Sport for Development and Peace (15.12.2015)
- (5) Dr. Stefan Scholl (Siegen): Das Wissen der europäischen Sportvernetzung (1962-1991): Die sportpolitische Aktivität des Europarats in historischer Perspektive (26.01.2016)
- (6) Dr. Ben Weinberg (GIZ Bonn) „The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and the project „Sport for Development”: Objectives and Perspectives (15.11.2016)
- (7) Prof. Dr. Jeroen Scheerder (Leuven) "National sport authorities and national sport bodies: it takes two to tango" (31.01.2017)
- (8) Dr. Philippe Vonnard (Lausanne) „How to write a history of European Football?" (17.5.2017)

University of Cologne:

- (1) Günter Verheugen (Brussels): 10 years Eastern Enlargement from the perspective of the „Enlargement Commissioner" (27.10.2014)
- (2) Prof. Dr. Céline Belot: The emergence of the EU as a political issue: cause for despair or source of hope for European integration? (27.10.2014)
- (3) Dr. Emiliano Grossmann (Sciences Po Paris): Tensions between the evolution of capitalism and the future of democracy (12.05.2015)
- (4) Prof. Dr. Wilfried Loth: The creation of the European council (3.11.2015)
- (5) Vassilios Skouris (ECJ): The European Court of Justice and politics (19.11.2015)
- (6) Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Wessels (University of Cologne): The European Council Who Calls the Shots? The Internal Dynamics: Answers to a Paradox (2.12.2015)
- (7) Prof. Dr. Alfred Grosser (Paris) : Ohne Europa keine Zukunft (1.03.2016)
- (8) Philippe Etienne (Paris/Berlin) „Germany and France - a common responsibility for Europe" (15.11.2016)

Maastricht University:

- (1) Dr. Julie Smith (University Cambridge): Britain's European Future After the Scottish Referendum (23.9.2014).
- (2) Commissioner Cecilia Malmström (Brussels): EU Trade Policy: Why should European citizens care? (17.04.2015)
- (3) Dr. Julian Priestly, former Secretary General of the European Parliament: The Making of a European President (21.05.2015)
- (4) Prof. Dr. Martin Westlake (Bruges/LSE): The Brexit Referendum: taking the longer-term view (9.11.2016).
- (5) Prof. Dr. Christine Neuhold (Maastricht): How to influence EU affairs? The role of national parliaments in selected EU member states (7.12.2016)
- (6) XXX (2017)

IMPACT, VISIBILITY AND DISSEMINATION

The general interest on the HOMER project was remarkable. When the seminars were announced a significant number of students expressed their interests to participate in one of the three HOMER joint seminars. However, the number of students that finally decided to formally register for the seminars was smaller. The first joint seminar was attended by 27 students who successfully finished the seminar, the second by 25 students and the third by 21 students. The evaluation of the HOMER seminar by the students indicated in general a very positive reception highlighting primarily the “group work with students from other universities” and new approaches to the “analysis of narratives” and the “discussion with experts”. The evaluation of the third seminar showed this in detail: Being asked for the reasons why they decided to participate in the HOMER project 41 % of the students (of the third joint seminar) anticipated more and detailed information about the Lisbon Treaty while just 29 % of students were primarily interested in the different European views and narratives. Nearly all of them (94 %) regarded their respective expectations as fulfilled. 52 % of the students stated that the interactions with different academics were most helpful; others also mentioned the introduction in research or narratives as useful. However, student’s presentations were seen critically by nearly half of the participants as critically (47%). Generally positively rated (88 %) was the support and the literature provided by experts and teachers. Several students highlighted in this context the video material that has been provided. Yet 12 % of the students were critical and wished to get more detailed information about alternative ways of finding literature for their

studies. 76 % of the participants evaluated the interaction with students from different universities as positive. “Something that should be done more often” is a typical statement that has been given in this perspective. Although the exchange in general was considered as encouraging, there was also criticism linked to the “coordination of discussion”, which “took too long” or the “different level of knowledge about politics and the EU”, which influenced the quality of contributions. Improvements have also been proposed regarding the number of experts (29%) or the implementation of additional meetings (17 %) between Brussels and the final seminar in order to get a more detailed feedback on the research that

eu-homer.eu

has been carried out in the meantime. Other critical comments were attributed to the “communication” and “pre-planning of the sessions”. The overall assessment at the end of the evaluation of the third as well as the first and second seminar presented remarks such as “great extracurricular seminar”, “interesting seminar”, “nice atmosphere”, “I would always chose to participate again”, “thanks for this opportunity (...) to deepening our knowledge” that underline the relevance of the HOMER project and the approach.

By means of regular participation the project benefitted from proposals and critical comments of the members of advisory board (Loth, Marhold). As an overall assessment on the project the two experts stated (... quote Marhold, Loth).

The newsletter and the regularly updated webpage ensured awareness and responsiveness in terms of visibility. The newsletter was distributed to different networks while the webpage obtained a regular attendance of around 500 hits a week (counter).

Dissemination in its qualitative dimension primarily was secured by the students that successfully participated in the HOMER program. The certificate issued by all four professors is considered helpful in view of professional job perspectives; a deep impact left the ceremony in which the students obtained their certificates from politicians, predominantly the one by Martin Schulz, at that time president of the European Parliament.

Dissemination in a quantitative dimension was achieved by the public lectures that attracted an attendance of around 30 to 60 people including students as well as citizens from Cologne and Maastricht.

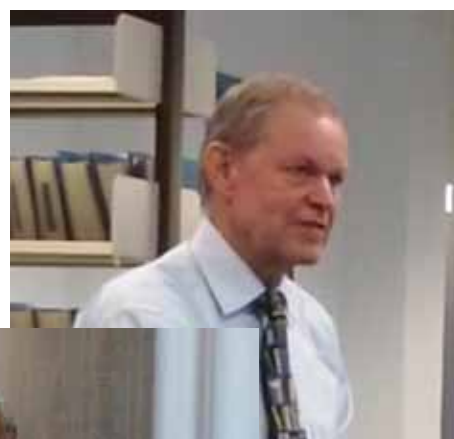
TEAM INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT AND THEIR ROLE

The HOMER project was jointly organised by the steering committee composed of Wolfgang Wessels, Sophie Vanhoonacker, Kiran Patel, and Jürgen Mittag. Communication among the project team was ensured by regular participation of the academics prior and after the joint seminars and workshops. Prof. Wolfgang Wessels contributed to the project also after his formal retirement in 2016. The project coordinator took part in all joint sessions of the seminars and the workshops alike (with the exception of the second workshop in Brussels). Additional communication was ensured by bi- or trilateral meetings of the core team and by the researchers

entrusted with the project.

The advisory board of the project has experienced some changes. Due to her commitment at the European University Institute in Florence Brigid Laffan was not able to attend the sessions of HOMER project. Philippe de Schoutheete who accompanied the first HOMER activities unfortunately passed away in September 2016. The two other members of the advisory board, Prof. Wilfried Loth and Prof. Hartmut Marhold took regularly part in the joint seminars and met also on a regular base after each joint seminar with the HOMER steering committee.

In order to ensure proper coordination and support for the students Johannes Müller-Gomez at the University of Cologne and Dr. Till Müller-Schoell and Diana Wendland at German Sport University were employed (partly) at the respective universities.



PUBLICATIONS

Ten issues of the HOMER-Newsletter have been published on the website of the project (www.eu-homer.eu). The regularly updated website informs about all activities of the project so far and ensures sustainability.

In order to ensure achievements of the project and to guarantee dissemination two academic articles have been published:

Kiran Klaus Patel/Alexandros Sianos/ Sophie Vanhoonacker: Does the EU Have a Past? Narratives of European Integration History and the Union's Public Awareness Deficit, in: *Journal of European Integration History*. Jahrgang 24 (1), S. 143-166.



Jürgen Mittag: European narrative zwischen Krisenerfahrung und Solidaritätssuche, in: Ulrike Kurth (Hg.): „Bildungsprojekt Europa“: Zwischen gestern und morgen: Wo steht Europa – heute?, Bielefeld 2018, S. 65-87.