

# European integration studies in the digital era

## Centre Virtuel de la Connaissance sur l'Europe



### **The Centre Virtuel de la Connaissance sur l'Europe (CVCE) is a documentation and e-research centre for European integration studies.**

The CVCE's mission is to contribute to a deeper understanding of the historical, legal, economic and political dimensions of European integration. In the pursuit of its objectives, it produces knowledge on the European integration process which it makes available to the research and teaching communities and also the wider public. The CVCE is an innovative and committed player in the field of digital humanities. Its interdisciplinary team explores and adopts methods and tools based on digital technologies for its research and knowledge transfer activities in European integration studies.

### **The CVCE's scientific project: research, innovate, share**

The CVCE's scientific project links social and human sciences with information and communication technologies.

Its research and documentation activities focus on an interdisciplinary analysis of the European integration process, from the pioneering plans of the 20th century to the latest developments, with a particular emphasis on the origins and development of the European Union. These activities are structured around four key strands:

- a temporal strand that examines European integration from a historical perspective, identifying the milestones in this process;
- an institutional strand that looks at the role of European organisations in European integration and/or cooperation;
- an oral history strand that creates new primary sources by recording interviews with key players and eyewitnesses of European integration;
- a cross-cutting strand that explores specific questions.

The work programme for the period 2014–2017 covers topics such as the European Union's changing socio-economic model, recent developments in European integration in a context of recurrent crisis and revival, Luxembourg's European policy, and the European vocation and achievements of Pierre Werner. One of the Centre's flagship projects is its 'Oral history of European integration' programme.

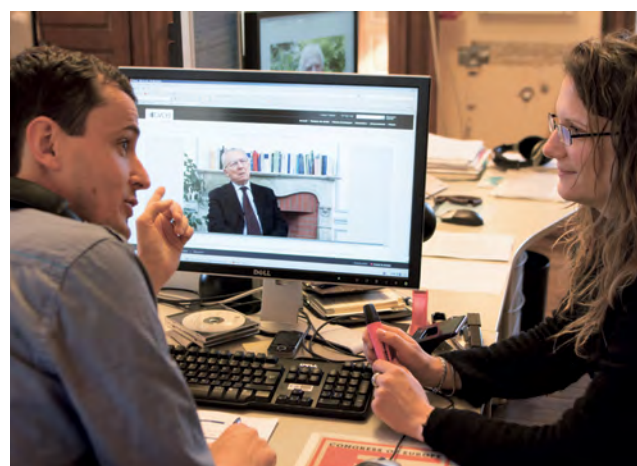
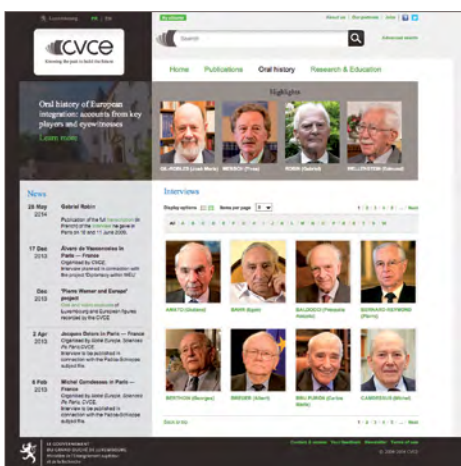
In methodological terms, the CVCE adopts an innovative approach that incorporates methods and tools based on digital technologies in its efforts to create and share knowledge in the area of European integration studies.



Knowing the past to build the future

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## The first research infrastructure on European integration: CVCE.eu

By associating information and communication technologies with subject-specific documentation and analysis, the CVCE has created the first digital research infrastructure on European integration. The aim of this infrastructure, which comprises publications, resources, tools, services, skills and networks, is to support collaborative research and knowledge advancement among the research and teaching communities. It also contributes to knowledge transfer in a broad sense, raising public awareness of how Europe works and helping citizens grasp the issues surrounding its past, present and future.

The CVCE's digital infrastructure includes a collection of enhanced thematic publications on key subjects relating to the European integration process. This collection incorporates more than 20 000 documents representing a wide range of scientific, political, geographical and linguistic origins, including original treaties, diplomatic documents, press articles, contemporary footage, photos, cartoons and interviews. All publications are subject to an external peer review procedure.

Given the integrated approach and unique positioning of the CVCE's infrastructure, it serves as a test bed in the field of European studies and digital humanities. It is constantly being developed to incorporate the experience of researchers and to integrate new technological innovations. It provides

an experimental basis for data visualisation, analysis and representation.

The CVCE is committed to working towards greater integration in scientific and technological cooperation programmes and initiatives at European level and has spearheaded Luxembourg's participation in DARIAH, the Europe-wide Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities, as a founding member. The CVCE is the National Coordinating Institution for DARIAH at European level.

The CVCE's research infrastructure is listed by the MERIL platform (Mapping the European Research Infrastructure Landscape), a European Science Foundation initiative. The Centre also contributes to the Europeana cultural heritage platform.

## A Luxembourg public undertaking with an international outlook

The CVCE is a public undertaking under the aegis of the Luxembourg Ministry of Higher Education and Research. It is based at the Château de Sanem. The Centre carries out its activities with the help of a multinational team and a number of visiting researchers, and through partnerships with external organisations. It is a member of various international networks (DARIAH, DHBenelux, UACES, the RICHIE network, AFHé, NeDiMAH, DHd, etc.). It works in close cooperation with specialists in European studies and ICT, other research centres and universities, particularly for competitive projects.