

“GEM-STONES” (2016-2020):**A new European Joint Doctorate endorsed by the Marie Skłodowska Curie programme,
And Coordinated by the ULB's Institut d'Etudes Européennes (IEE-ULB)**

As a 14-partner strong consortium endowed with a EUR 3.89 million budget, GEM-STONES (an acronym for “Globalisation, Europe and Multilateralism – Sophistication of the Transnational Order, Networks and European Strategies”) will employ 15 PhD students to study how the European Union manages the world’s growing institutional complexity.

A COMPETITIVE PROJECT

GEM-STONES was set up in response to the call for ITN (“Innovative Training Networks”) projects in the context of the European Horizon 2020 research programme (cf. *Factbox* on the following page). With a 10.5% average success rate, ITN calls are among the most competitive. This success **again illustrates the key position occupied by the ULB and its IEE in global European Studies networks.**

GEM-STONES is a **further step in a long line of IEE-ULB research projects** studying Europeanisation, European public policies and the interactions between European and global governance mechanisms.

AN AMBITIOUS RESEARCH AGENDA

The starting point of GEM-STONES' research agenda was a shared observation: **the proliferation of international institutions increases the complexity of the global system; managing the latter efficiently and fairly constitutes both a necessity and a challenge for the EU.** In response, GEM-STONES will investigate the EU's capacity to: (1) project its political choices through international institutions; (2) ensure public policy consistency via existing institutional networks; (3) collaborate in a targeted manner with other regional institutions; and (4) frame rational behaviours within international institutions. In a nutshell, GEM-STONES seeks to find an answer to the following question: Does the complexity of the global system resulting from the proliferation of international institutions strengthen or weaken the EU's capacity to interact with the world?

INNOVATIVE DOCTORAL TRAINING

Anchoring the implementation of its research agenda in an innovative doctoral school, GEM-STONES will seek to answer this question by offering: transnational methods training provided for through a series of collective activities organised by the participating universities; an internship programme hosted by the 6 non-academic partners aimed at providing work experience to the PhD candidates; and an interdisciplinary research environment involving legal scholars, political scientists, economists and sociologists from top research centres in European studies.

GEM-STONES will also actively contribute to the internationalisation of research and higher education through the institutionalisation of “joint doctorates”. Concretely, this means that each of the 15 PhD candidates will be jointly supervised by 2 academics from 2 universities belonging to the consortium and by a mentor from one of the non-academic consortium members. GEM-STONES therefore systematically delivers international double PhD degrees which are further enriched through the inclusion of a non-academic professional dimension.

LARGE-SCALE IMPACT

GEM-STONES' "research excellence" and "innovative doctoral training" dimensions are complemented by an **extended impact strategy based on a set of concrete initiatives**. These include a peer-reviewed series published by *Routledge*; the dissemination of non-academic products (policy recommendations, documentaries, etc.); the organisation of, or participation in, research events; and the organisation of fora aimed at building sustainable links between researchers, academics, civil society representatives and decision-makers.

FACTBOX

GEM-STONES

Budget : €3.89 million **Duration**: 2016-2020 **Central coordinator**: The ULB Institute of European Studies (BE). **Principal Investigator**: Pr. Anne Weyembergh (President of the IEE-ULB). **Chairman of the Academic Council**: Pr. Mario Telo (chairman of the academic council of the Erasmus Mundus GEM PhD school). **Project editorial team**: coordinated by Frederik Ponjaert (ULB and Waseda University researcher) & Johan Robberecht (Executive Director for Research at the IEE-ULB). **Partner universities**: University of Warwick (UK); LUISS Guido Carli (IT); University of Geneva (CH); University of Hamburg (DE) Copenhagen Business School (DK); Waseda University (JP); Laval University (CAN). **Non-academic partners**: German Marshall Fund of the United States (BE); German Institute of Global and Area Studies (DE); European Politics - Pol-Int (BE); Union of International Associations (BE); McKinsey and Company (BE); Istituto Affari Internazionali (IT).

EUROPEAN INNOVATIVE TRAINING NETWORKS (ITNs)

Background: one of the five "Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) of the European Horizon 2020 research programme. **Purpose**: to boost excellence and structure the doctoral training among early stage researchers. **Prerequisites**: must offer both academic training and transferable skills, providing prospects for a career in either academic and non-academic environments. **Three forms**: (1) European Training Networks (ETN); (2) European Industrial Doctorates (EID); and (3) European Joint Doctorates (EJD). GEM-STONES is an EJD.

THE INSTITUT D'ETUDES EUROPEENNES OF THE ULB AT A GLANCE

Founded in 1963, the IEE-ULB *Jean Monnet Centre Of Excellence* is a centre of interdisciplinary and interfaculty research and teaching within the ULB. **As a recognised breeding ground for knowledge and skills related to the European Union**, the IEE-ULB brings together some 100 academics and researchers who provide the necessary expertise and excellence needed for **international interdisciplinary research** activities. As for its doctoral training, the IEE-ULB promotes **disciplinary excellence** while simultaneously seeking to respond to the growing need for a more interdisciplinary, international and professionally diverse generation of researchers (for more information, see www.iee-ulb.eu).

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