

MA- Summer School: „The Living Practice: EU@Work - Excursion to Cologne and Brussels “

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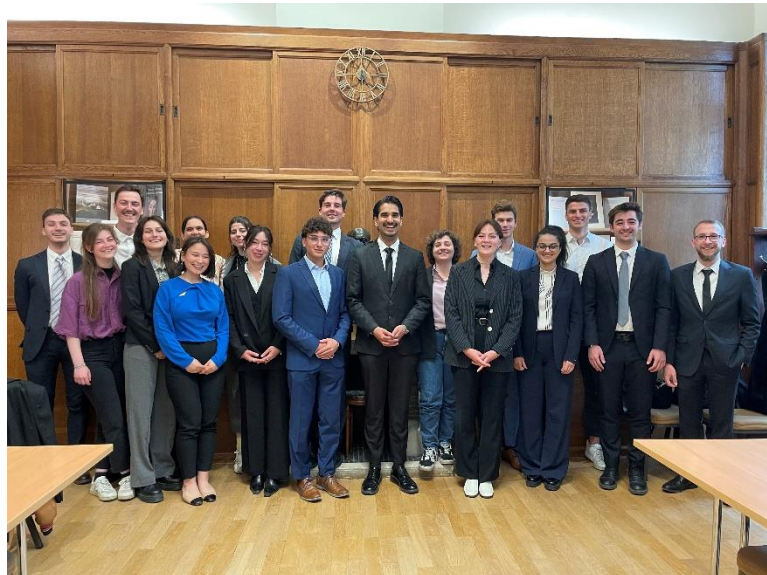
Seminar: EU@WORK

**Summer Semester 2023
Cologne and Brussels
May 20 – May 26, 2023**

Report

The joint MA- Summer School of the Turkish-German University (TGU) and the University of Cologne (UoC) in 2023 took place from May 20th to May 26th. Students enrolled in the European and International Affairs Master's Program at TGU were presented with a unique opportunity to explore Cologne and Brussels, enabling them to deepen their knowledge and gain valuable firsthand insights from practitioners in the realm of political institutions.

During their stay in Brussels, 4 TGU students collaborated with 14 students from the political science and law departments of UoC to organize and conduct a Moot Court. This collaborative effort was part of the interdisciplinary and international seminar known as PROTEUS, which focused on the law and politics of the European Union. The PROTEUS seminar served as a platform to familiarize the students with current European affairs, culminating in an excursion to Brussels. During their time there, the students not only had the privilege of experiencing the key institutions of the European Union (EU), but they also actively engaged in a moot court session. Throughout the program, the students demonstrated a high level of interest in the expansive field of political expertise and were captivated by the diverse array of potential job opportunities.



Our students together with the PROTEUS group in Brussels.

During the excursion, the first and last few days were dedicated to immersing our students in Cologne's rich cultural offerings. Our group of eager learners embarked on an exciting journey, starting with visits to two prominent museums that hold significant historical and artistic treasures: the Ludwig Museum and the Wallraf-Richartz Museum. At the Ludwig Museum, the students were captivated by an array of modern and contemporary art pieces. The striking exhibits showcased the boundless creativity of renowned artists, both local and international, offering a glimpse into the ever-evolving world of art. From thought-provoking paintings to thought-provoking sculptures, the students were encouraged to interpret the artwork's meaning and appreciate the various artistic techniques.



Our TGU students during their visit to Ludwig Museum in Cologne

Following this, the students embarked on an enriching adventure to the Wallraf-Richartz Museum, where they stepped back in time to explore the mesmerizing wonders of the past. From ancient artifacts to classic masterpieces, the museum houses an extensive collection that spans centuries, providing a unique opportunity for the students to connect with the diverse heritage of Cologne. As they traversed through history, they marveled at the exquisite craftsmanship and learned about the significance of art in preserving the stories of our ancestors.

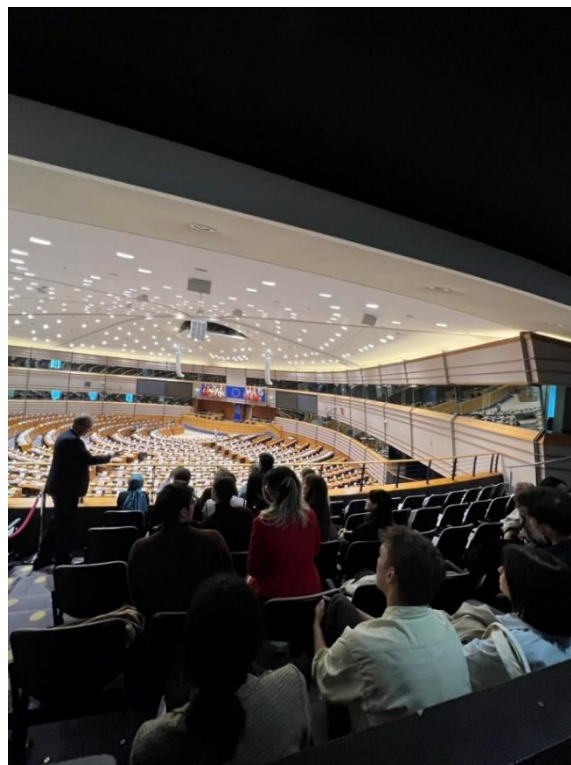
In addition to these museum visits, our students enthusiastically participated in a city tour, which allowed them to witness Cologne's vibrant and dynamic atmosphere. They meandered through bustling streets, lined with charming architecture, and absorbed the city's pulsating energy. A particular highlight of the tour was their visit to the Cologne Cathedral, a majestic masterpiece that stood as a testament to the city's enduring history and architectural prowess. The students were humbled by the grandeur of the cathedral's interior and learned about its cultural and religious significance.



Our students during the Cologne City Tour.

Throughout their time in Cologne, the students also engaged in meaningful interactions with the locals, who shared intriguing stories and insights into the city's past and present. They were warmly welcomed by the city municipality, where they gained an understanding of the administrative aspects that contribute to Cologne's seamless functioning as a cultural hub. The excursion not only provided an educational experience but also kindled the students' passion for art, history, and heritage. The city's vibrant and creative ambience left a lasting impression on each student, inspiring them to view the world through a more artistic and culturally aware lens.

During our time in Brussels, our main objective was to gain insight into the functioning of the European institutions. To enhance our understanding, we arranged visits to several key institutions, including the European Data Protection Supervisor, the European Commission, and the European Parliament. Under the guidance of German MP Axel Voss, we received valuable insights into the inner workings of the European Parliament. Additionally, we had the opportunity to visit the European Council, further deepening our understanding of the decision-making processes within the EU.



All students at the European Parliament in Brussels

Furthermore, we visited the Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the EU and the Permanent Representation of Germany to the EU, where our students engaged in insightful discussions with the Turkish ambassador Faruk Kaymakcı and officials, addressing Turkey's EU perspective, Germany's European politics, priorities, and their relationship with the European Union. These visits provided us with a comprehensive understanding of the functioning and dynamics of the European institutions, contributing significantly to students' overall knowledge and academic growth.

Gökmen İlhan Çura, a TGU student in MEIA, eloquently recounts his extraordinary and fruitful experience as follows: *'The excursion, particularly the captivating tour of Köln led by Christian Raphael, proved to be a truly intriguing and enjoyable adventure. Despite the initial stress caused by the challenges we faced during the spring semester, we ultimately had the opportunity to encounter both professional and amicable moments in Köln and Brussels. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all those involved for granting us this exceptional experience.'*

Senem Gökmen, another TGU student in MEIA, highlights the exceptional richness of the excursion itinerary. She emphasizes the significance of engaging with experts and civil servants to comprehend the evolving landscape of international and bilateral relations, particularly during a time when the European Union and Turkey are navigating a complex phase in their association:

'The trip to Brussels and Cologne proved to be captivating, as it provided us with an exclusive opportunity to witness the political epicenter of the European Union and visit its pivotal institutions. Interacting with the students from the UoC was an enjoyable experience, and participating in the moot court for the first time added a fresh dimension to my journey. Overall, every aspect of the excursion was flawlessly executed, and I wholeheartedly recommend it as an annual event. I extend my heartfelt appreciation for the meticulous organization and effort that went into making this trip truly exceptional.'



Our TGU students together with Prof. Wolfgang Wessels at the CETEUS



All students during the Moot Court in Brussels

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EU@WORK 2023

Status from 15.05.2023

"The Living Practice: EU@Work- Excursion to Cologne and Brussels"

Saturday, 20 May

08:45 – 11:00	Flight from Istanbul to Cologne
12:00 – 14:30	Get together with CETEUS and lunch
15:00 – 16:00	Hotel "Trip in Conti Hotel" Check -in
15:30- 18:00	Meeting with Prof. Wolfgang Wessels (Welcome and introduction into the proceedings of the summer school)
18:30	Dinner

Sunday, 21 May

09:30 – 12:00	Cultural activity: Visiting museums (Wallraf- Richartz Museum and Luwig Museum Cologne)
12:30 – 13:00	Lunch break
16:00 – 18:00	Historical City Tour of Cologne (With tour guide Mr. Christian Raphael)
18:30	Dinner

Monday, 22 May

7:00	Meeting at Cologne Central Station
7:42- 9:35	Train from Cologne HBF to Brussels with PROTEUS students
12:00 – 13:30	Visit at the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS)
14:00 – 16:00	Visit of the Permanent Representation of Turkey to European Union (Meeting with Mr. Faruk Kaymakçı, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs & Director of EU-Affairs)
17:00- 18:00	Visit of the European Parliament with Mr. Axel Voss (MEP)
19:00	Dinner

Tuesday, 23 May

09:00 – 12:30	Visiting the European Commission
12:30 – 14:30	Lunch break
15:00 – 17:00	Visiting the European Council
18:00	Dinner together at “East at West” restaurant in Brussels

Wednesday, 24 May

09:00 – 12:00	Welcome; Speech by the CETEUS team and Prof. Hobe; Start of the Moot Court
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch break
13:00 – 17:00	Moot Court Continuation
18:00	Dinner

Thursday, 25 May

09:30 – 10:00	Presentation by a TEPSA representative (Mr. Lorenzo Mariani)
10:00- 12:30	Continuation of the Moot Court; Results
12:30- 13:30	Lunch break
13:30- 14:15	Moot Court: Results and Prizes
18:25- 20:18	Return from Brussels to Cologne

Friday, 26 May

09:00 – 11:30	Visiting Stadtverwaltung Köln (Dr. Uwe Korch)
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch break
15:00 – 17:30	Meeting with Vice-Consul Mr. Ahmet Atilla at CETEUS (Turkish Consulate General in Cologne)
18:00	Dinner

Saturday, 27 May

09:00 – 11:30

Flight (TK1674) from Cologne (CGN) to Istanbul