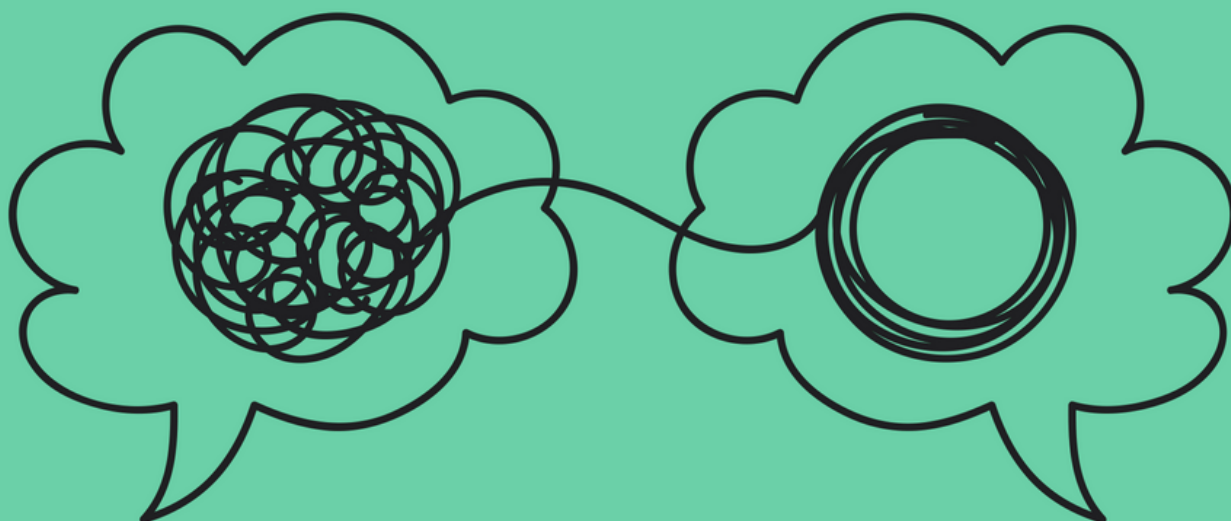




INTERDISCIPLINARY
CONFERENCE ON
EUROPEAN ADVANCED STUDIES

IDEAS

*Institut d'études européennes,
Université libre de Bruxelles
May 27-29, 2026
Brussels, Belgium*



PROSPER
Jean Monnet Network



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CALL FOR PAPERS IDEAS CONFERENCE

***New paths towards prosperity
in the European Union***

***Rethinking Governance, Integration and
Collective Well-Being***

Organised by
IEE-ULB & Jean Monnet Network PROSPER



PROSPER

Project to Research Opportunities
to Strengthen Prosperity and
Economic Resilience in the EU



IDEAS

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CONFERENCE ON EUROPEAN
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About the conference

The biennial Interdisciplinary conference on **European Advanced Studies (IDEAS)** is a three-day scientific event organized by the Institut d'études européennes of the Université libre de Bruxelles (IEE-ULB) in collaboration with the Brussels School of Governance of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (BSoG-VUB) and the Politics and International Studies Department at the University of Warwick (PaIS-UoW).

The IDEAS26 edition is co-organised with the Jean Monnet Network PROSPER. The conference will take place in Brussels, on May 27-29, 2026. The conference will focus on **New paths towards prosperity in the European Union – Rethinking Governance, Integration and Collective Well-Being.**

Providing prosperity, alongside democracy, to European citizens has been a foundational aspiration underpinning the rise of the European Union. In the second half of the 20th century, the integration of a Single Market, guided by the principles of regulated capitalism and multilateralism, was seen as the strong cement that would ensure Europe's prosperity. Since the turn of the century, however, the picture has become increasingly complex.

The Eurocrisis and the ensuing aggravation of imbalances among territories across Europe, persisting social inequality, climate change, the contestation of liberal democracy, and the resurgence of war in its direct surroundings have all called into question the intellectual matrix and policy beliefs which had shaped the EU for decades.

On both sides of the Atlantic, reactionary political forces have gained traction by exploiting fears of decline, calling for a return to exclusionary and aggressive nationalism. The mainstream governing parties in the EU have seemed to converge on an external policy reinforcing collective security and securitizing migrations, but remain divided on an internal policy for an ambitious sustainable socio-economic strategy.

This raises the question as to how Europeans can collectively find new paths towards prosperity. Beyond economic growth and competitiveness, prosperity is best understood as an overall state of economic, social and environmental well-being that ensures every private and public actor the opportunity to thrive. It requires peace and security, widespread welfare and justice, the sustainability of the environment and livelihoods, and democratic governance. To what extent can the EU, as a multi-level polity, provide these collective goods? What are the key institutional challenges and obstacles standing in the way of renewed prosperity in Europe? What practical arrangements and governance mechanisms can be activated to achieve these goals? And how would integration methods, Europeanisation modes and the relationship between the EU and its Member States be reshaped along the way? How would the various political actors and social groups in national arenas be affected by these changes, and are they committed to build new paths to prosperity in Europe?

About the call for papers

The IDEAS26 & PROSPER conference provides an **interdisciplinary forum** to present and discuss cutting-edge research investigating these issues. It will bring together researchers in political science, law, history, sociology, and related fields to investigate how the EU can and should steer politics and policies towards new qualitative forms of prosperity.

A particular emphasis will be put on the following fields and policy areas:

Topic 1 : **Fiscal integration and the EU budget**

Topic 2 : **Environment and just transition**

Topic 3 : **Industrial policy, competitiveness and defence**

Topic 4 : **Socio-economic governance and social rights**

Topic 5 : **European multi-level governance and democracy**

Scholars interested in presenting their research are invited **to submit a 250-word abstract**. When submitting an abstract, **applicants will have to specify under which of the 5 topics they wish to introduce their proposal**. Panel submissions are not possible, but interested parties may highlight the links between two or more different papers in their abstracts, thereby inviting the evaluators to consider their individual submissions as a group.

The online submission system is open and will be accessible via the IEE-ULB website (www.iee.ulb.be).

The deadline for submission is **November 30, 2025** (Midnight CET). Notifications of acceptance will be communicated early January 2026, with draft papers expected to be submitted by May 5, 2026.

Papers will be selected by the conference's Scientific committee based on relevance and quality.

Submit your abstracts



Scientific committee

Ramona Coman (ULB), Amandine Crespy (ULB), Paul Dermine (ULB), Özlem Atikcan (Warwick University), Max Nagel (VUB), Ian Cooper (DCU). The scientific committee is assisted by the Research logistician of the IEE-ULB.