

To Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence

In the Spring of 2024, I had the privilege of participating in the EU Study Tour, generously supported by the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, which greatly helped me offset the costs of the tour. This exceptional experience offered me firsthand insights into the operations of key European institutions and organizations, significantly deepening my understanding of EU governance and international relations.

The program featured visits to prominent institutions such as the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union, the European Commission, the Court of Justice of the European Union, the European Central Bank, NATO, the embassies of Turkey and Canada, and other organizations. Through lectures and discussions with policymakers and officials, we gained valuable insights into the EU's operations, decision-making process, and global partnerships. Importantly, these engagements included opportunities for students to ask questions and engage in debates on pressing issues of democracy and security, which are highly relevant in today's global context, fostering meaningful exchanges of ideas and encouraging thoughtful discussion.

The tour covered key locations including, Brussels, Luxembourg, and Frankfurt, each offering distinct perspectives on the EU's institutional framework. In Brussels, we observed the epicentre of EU policymaking; in Luxembourg, the judiciary's vital role in upholding EU law and economic policies of the European Investment Bank; and in Frankfurt, the financial governance surrounding the climate change challenges led by the European Central Bank.

This experience profoundly impacted me, complementing my academic studies in European, Russian and Eurasian Studies while enhancing my comprehension of the EU's intricate systems. The knowledge I gained has enriched my research on the EU Migration Policy and solidified my aspiration to pursue a career connecting academic inquiry with hands-on engagement with international institutions.

I am deeply grateful to the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence for making this invaluable learning opportunity possible.

Natalia Strelkova

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