

THE HISTORY OF THE EDC FROM 1952 TO THE END OF THE SEVENTIES

The Centre was set up within the Faculty of Law of the University of Ferrara, during the early days of the European Community, in December 1952, shortly after the creation of the ECSC. The initiative was led by professors Guido Lucatello and Giulio Bruni Roccia (cf. G. Lucatello, *The European Community Documentation and Study Centre during its first decade*. Faculty of Law of the University of Ferrara, 1963). It was inaugurated with a series of conferences held by distinguished speakers: Giuseppe Maranini, Felice Battaglia, Manlio Udina, Luciano Bolis (the latter of the European Federalist Movement that at the time appeared to have a solid future). This was followed by Prof. Bruni Roccia holding a five-month Course. In the summer of 1953, the Faculty of Law debated the Centre's regulation, including the establishment of a School of specialization, which never took off due to lack of funds. Under the direction of Prof. Guido Lucatello, in subsequent years the Centre encouraged the purchase of monographs and collections of documents relating to European institutions, organised a number of conferences and courses to illustrate the legal and economic aspects of these institutions, and oversaw the publication of studies analysing existing European institutions and the main projects of the federal organization of Europe. In 1954, the Centre organised a series of eight conferences entitled "The Current Problems of Europe". In the same year, the Centre, with the approval of the Faculty, began a publishing line with Cedam of Padua, aimed at collecting, in individual volumes, non-State legislative acts related to the structure of each European institution, framing and illustrating the collected texts from the historical and, above all, the legal point of view, coupled with a comprehensive introduction and correlated Notes. From 1954 to 1958, conferences on European issues were held with increasing success. In addition to distinguished scholars from the universities of Ferrara, Milan, Padua and Trieste, interesting legal, economic and political topics were covered by Professor Roy P. Franchino of the American University of Washington, Professor Daniel Villey of the University of Paris and Ambassador Pietro Quaroni. With the relaunch of the European ideal by the Treaty of Rome, which created the foundations for the European Communities (EEC and Euratom), and the now clear fact that the unity of Europe would be implemented mainly by means of Community institutions, in 1958 the Documentation and Study Centre changed its name from "European Union" to "European Community". At the same time, the organism's activities were growing: in 1959, the series of conferences were transformed into Cultural Courses, authorized by the Ministry of Public Education, under the direction of Prof. Lucatello, flanked, as Secretary of the Centre and Course Coordinator, by Professor Giorgio Stefani. The first Course tackled "The Political, Economic and Fiscal Problems of the European Community". The second Course, in 1960, looked at "The Historical Background, Legal System and Policy Perspectives of the European Community". The 1961 Course dealt with "Economic Exchange between European Countries". The 1962 Course concerned the development of the European Community, with particular regard to Italian problems. This course was the first collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Crafts and Agriculture of Ferrara, which also attempted to encourage the participation of businesses. The 1963 Course was dedicated to the history and development of European integration. Only graduates of the Scuola Media Superiore could access the courses and, following acceptable attendance at lessons and passing the final examination, were able to gain a Certificate of expertise in the subject. To enable the large number of students enrolled to prepare for their final examination, between 1959 and 1961, immediately after each Course, the texts of many lessons were published. In the interests of the themes covered, and, above all, to value the scholars and suggest further topics, given the high level of interest shown by pro-Europeans, the Centre decided to publish Journals containing a number of lessons from each Course (the Journals were published by Giuffrè).

Subsequent periods.

Following the transfer of Prof. Lucatello to the University of Padua and a certain level of public disinterest in the EEC, the Centre's activities slowed down. Nevertheless, documentation grew, together with the interest of the Faculty of Law in pro-European matters. In fact, at the end of the Seventies, the chair of European Community Law was given to prof. Laura Forlati Picchio and the teaching of Community Agricultural Law and, subsequently, of European Community Private Law was established. The Governing Council of the Centre was reshuffled with the appointment as director of Prof. Giorgio Stefani, professor of Public Economics and Director of the Institute of Economics and Finance. The Statute was then approved by the University and updated with subsequent modifications to the University of Ferrara's regulations.