



Australian
National
University

Centre for European
Studies (ANUCES)
April - August 2026

Centre for European Studies Newsletter

Director's Foreword

The period from April to August 2026 has been one of sustained activity for the ANU Centre for European Studies (ANUCES), marked by a diverse programme of research, public engagement and international collaboration. As is evident throughout this newsletter, our work continues to reflect the Centre's commitment to fostering deeper understanding of Europe and the European Union, while examining the implications of global change for Australia, our region and the wider international community.

This edition highlights events that underscore the increasingly close relationship between Australia and Europe. Among the most significant was the June conference, Connected Continents: A New Era of EU-Australia Research Cooperation through Horizon Europe, which brought together Australia's and the European Commission's chief negotiators for Australia's association to Horizon Europe. The event reflected a defining development in the Australia-EU partnership and the growing recognition that research and innovation cooperation form an essential pillar of our broader strategic relationship. As geopolitical uncertainty continues to reshape international affairs, frameworks that strengthen collaboration between trusted partners assume even greater importance.

Questions of security, resilience and democratic governance also featured prominently in our programme. This year's fortieth anniversary of the Chornobyl disaster provided an opportunity to reflect not only on a defining event in European history but also on its continuing relevance in the context of Russia's ongoing war against Ukraine. Our panel discussion and documentary screening brought together diplomatic, scientific and historical perspectives, demonstrating how past events continue to shape contemporary debates about security, accountability and environmental risk. Further contributions to understanding the war in Ukraine came through lectures, roundtables, media

commentary and policy analysis undertaken by Centre colleagues and associates.

The Centre's engagement with contemporary policy challenges extended well beyond Europe's eastern frontier. We have hosted distinguished visitors and speakers whose expertise ranged across migration governance, international law, democracy and regional cooperation. We were particularly pleased to welcome Dr Nicholas Ioannides, Deputy Minister for Migration and International Protection of Cyprus, whose visit provided valuable insights into migration policy and the shared interests that increasingly connect Australia and the Mediterranean region. Similarly, our public lecture on the enduring influence of Ancient Greek legal traditions reminded us that contemporary democratic institutions continue to draw upon intellectual foundations established many centuries ago.

International engagement remains central to the Centre's activities. During the period, Centre members participated in major academic conferences and delivered lectures in Europe and across the Indo-Pacific. These engagements strengthen scholarly networks, create opportunities for collaboration and ensure that Australian perspectives contribute to international discussions on European affairs, regional security and global governance. At the same time, they reinforce the Centre's role as a bridge between Australian and European academic, policy and diplomatic communities.

The newsletter also highlights the achievements of our staff, visiting fellows and students. We were delighted to see the international recognition received by our Deputy Director, Dr Katarzyna Williams, whose contribution to strengthening Poland-Australia relations was acknowledged by the Polish Government. We also welcomed Visiting Professor Dorota Heidrich from the University of Warsaw and Dr Doichin Cholakov from the European Parliament, whose research enriches the intellectual life of the Centre and strengthens our international partnerships. The arrival of new student researchers and interns further demonstrates the continued attractiveness of ANUCES as a place for emerging scholars interested in Europe, international relations and public policy.

A university centre is ultimately defined by its people and the communities it builds. In this regard, the period has brought both celebration and sadness. We have taken pride in the accomplishments of our students, alumni and colleagues, many of whom are featured in these pages. At the same time, we were deeply saddened by the passing of our friend and colleague Kyle Wilson. Kyle's contribution to the Centre, its students and its wider community was immeasurable. His generosity, intellectual curiosity and commitment to public service left a lasting mark on all who worked with him. We remember him with gratitude and affection.

Taken together, the activities outlined in this newsletter demonstrate the breadth of the Centre's work and the continuing relevance of European studies in an era

of profound international change. Whether through research, teaching, public diplomacy, policy engagement or student development, our aim remains to foster informed discussion and deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing Europe, Australia and the wider world.

Save the Date:

We will hold our Schuman Lecture on Wednesday 18 November at 18:00. Venue and speaker details to follow shortly. Please save the date and join us for what will be a stimulating evening.

I hope you enjoy reading about these and our other activities as much as we have enjoyed bringing them to life.

Anne McNaughton

Director

ANU Centre for European Studies

Recent Centre Activity



On June 10, ANUCES hosted the high-level event ***Connected Continents: A New Era of EU–Australia Research Cooperation through Horizon Europe***, marking a defining milestone in the evolving partnership between the European Union and Australia.

The event featured two distinguished guests: **Ms Maria Cristina Russo**, Deputy Director-General for Innovation, Prosperity and International Cooperation, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (RTD), European Commission (Chief Negotiator for Horizon Europe Association); and **Mr**



On Monday 20th July, ANUCES welcomed **Dr Nicholas Ioannides**, the Cypriot Deputy Minister for Migration and International Protection, who delivered a public address highlighting shared interests between Cyprus and Australia.

Dr Ioannides' address at the ANU Research School of Social Sciences was one of several official engagements during his official visit to Canberra.

[More here.](#)

Anthony McGregor, Head of Division,
Department of Industry, Science and
Resources (Australia's Chief
Negotiator for Horizon Europe
Association).

As a key pillar of the EU-Australia
partnership, Horizon Europe opens
new avenues for research
collaboration between European and
Australian universities, research
institutes and industry.

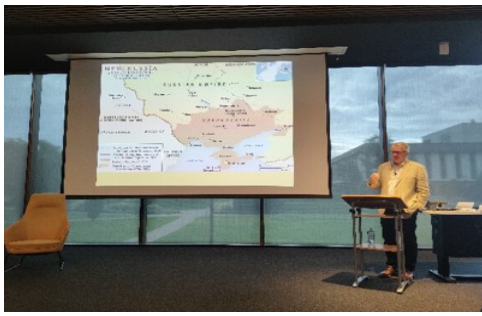


On August 4, ANUCES hosted the public
lecture ***Ancient Greek Law and Justice in
Modern Democracies*** by his Honour Justice
Andrew Kostopoulos, Justice of the Supreme
and National Courts of Papua New Guinea and
Resident Judge of Hela Province.

Justice Kostopoulos spoke to the genesis,
development and application of Ancient Greek
Laws and Codes to the modern systems of
justice in Western democracies, and addressed
the citation and reference to Ancient Greek
Law in the Courts of the European Union.

Find a copy of the speech [here](#).

Focus on Ukraine



On March 18, ANUCES organised the lecture ***The Russian-occupied territories: Crux of the Ukraine War*** by ANUCES Member **Jon Richardson**, with comments by Professor Don Rothwell, ANU Law School

In his lecture, Jon focused on the current occupation regime behind the Russian lines, which has had little media attention, as international journalists, the UN and NGOs have been strictly excluded. Professor Rothwell provided additional comment on the Ukraine war in the context of jurisprudence on genocide in international law.



Chornobyl Forty Years On: April 26 marked the 40th anniversary of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster, one of the most consequential events of the twentieth century. To reflect on what has followed, we hosted a panel discussion featuring: HE Mr Vasyl Myroshnychenko, Ambassador of Ukraine to Australia; Emeritus Professor Andrew Stuchbery, ANU Research School of Physics; Dr Filip Slaveski, ANU School of History; and **Dr Katarzyna Williams, ANU Centre for European Studies (ANUCES).**

Following the panel, we presented ***Chornobyl 22*** (2023), an award-winning short documentary directed by Oleksiy Radynski, that returns to Chornobyl through the lens of Russia's 2022 invasion.

Presence Overseas



26/05/2026

Director Dr Anne McNaughton once again delivered a guest lecture on Australia and the Indo-Pacific to students in the Master of Arts in Diplomacy and Global Governance at the Brussels School of Governance, VUB, Brussels, as part of their Intensive Capstone Course.



1/06/2026

Director Dr Anne McNaughton attended the annual EU Studies Association Asia-Pacific conference in Tokyo, Japan, where she delivered a paper entitled *Crisis, Integration and the Evolution of the EU's Security and Defence Policy*.



3/06/2026

Director Dr Anne McNaughton attended the annual Asia Law Institute conference in Jakarta, Indonesia, where she delivered a paper entitled *Regional integration, preferential trade agreements and non-tariff measures: a new application for the Functional Method of Comparative Law*.

Diplomatic and academic engagements



On 6 May, **Dr Kasia Williams**, Deputy Director of the ANU Centre for European Studies, received a state decoration from the Republic of Poland in recognition of her outstanding contribution to strengthening Polish national identity abroad and

her exceptional efforts to advance relations between Poland and Australia. The decoration was presented by Professor Władysław Teofil Bartoszewski, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on behalf of the Prime Minister of Poland. The ceremony was hosted by the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Australia to mark the anniversary of Poland's Constitution of 3 May 1791.

[More information here.](#)



On June 3, **Dr Kasia Williams** attended the *Romania-Australia Roundtable on Trusted AI, Engineering Talent and Digital Capability*, which brought together a select group of senior leaders from government, academia and industry to discuss the evolving role of artificial intelligence, automation and engineering capability in shaping economic resilience, public sector transformation and future workforce development.

One of the objectives of this event was to explore opportunities for deeper collaboration between Romania and Australia in technology, skills and trusted digital partnerships.



On August 11, **Professor Ottavio Quirico** convened the workshop *Global Regulatory Paradigms for Climate Change Adaptation* at the University of New England in Sydney.

Among the speakers were Dr Kasia Williams, Joshua Woodyatt and Broneal Sarkosh-Nejad



On 25 August, ANUCES colleagues attended the farewell reception for H.E. Gabriele Visentin, Ambassador of the European Union to Australia, marking the end of his posting in Canberra. Ambassador Visentin's term in Australia saw key developments in the EU-Australia relationship, including the conclusion of the FTA negotiations, the launch of the EU's Indo-Pacific Strategy and Australia's accession to Horizon Europe as an associated country. He was a generous and engaged interlocutor for the Centre throughout his posting, contributing to ANUCES seminars and public events, and supporting our work on European affairs in Australia. We thank the Ambassador warmly for his collaboration and wish him every success in his next role.

Visiting Fellows



From June 7 to 19, ANUCES hosted **Visiting Professor Dorota Heidrich**, from the University of Warsaw.

During her visit, Professor Heidrich focused her research on international institutions, refugees, the UN system, and norms and values in IR.

On 18 June, she delivered the seminar 'Instrumentalisation' of migration and its impact on asylum protection in the EU: Norm contestation perspective.



On August 12, ANUCES joined the National Security College in farewelling **Dr Frédéric Grare** whose secondment at ANU has finished. Dr Grare joined ANU in 2023 as part of an expert program sponsored by the French government, bringing with him extensive experience in European foreign policy, South Asian security, and Indo-Pacific strategic affairs.

During his stay in Canberra, he contributed richly to the work of both centres through his research, publications and engagement with Australian policy and academic communities. The farewell was an opportunity to acknowledge his generous collaboration and to wish him well on his return to France.



ANUCES welcomes a new Visiting Fellow from the European Parliament, **Dr Doichin Cholakov**, who will be based at ANUCES from August until December 2026. He will be working on a comparative project that examines how Australia, the United Kingdom and Taiwan have approached the criminalisation of Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI), and what lessons these experiences offer for the EU's evolving counter-FIMI legal framework. Doichin's stay at ANU is part of the EU Fellowship Programme hosted by ANUCES.

Publications

Below is a selection of recent work by ANUCES colleagues across academic, policy and media outlets:

- **Jon Richardson**, "Russia doesn't have much to celebrate on Victory Day, as Ukraine brings the war home to Putin", *The Conversation*, 7 May 2026.
- **Denise Fisher**, "France tries again to rewrite New Caledonia's voter rolls". *The Interpreter*, Lowy Institute, 25 May 2026
- **Sonia Mycak** interview with ABC News on Ukraine's drone manufacturing and long-range strike capabilities, 4 June. Watch on [YouTube](#).
- **Denise Fisher**, "New Caledonia: *Plus ça change*". *The Interpreter*, Lowy Institute, 30 June 2026
- **Katarzyna Williams and Jacqueline Lo**, *Claiming Presence: Cultural Participation and Citizenship in Europe*. *Journal of Intercultural Studies*.
- **Bruce Wilson, Katarzyna Kwapisz Williams, Anne McNaughton, Hector Samuel Martinez Sanchez-Mateos and Richard G. Whitman**, "Australia and the EU: Like-Minded Yet Untapped Partners in the Indo-Pacific," in *Regional Perspectives on the EU's Indo-Pacific Strategy: Beyond Brussels*, ed. by N. Ross-Smith and M. Holland, Routledge, 2026.
- With a final briefing to the Department of Defence, ANUCES completed the project *Russian activities and Australian interests in the Indo-Pacific*. The concluding report is available [here](#).

From our Students



From 20–22 August, ANUCES held its second Model EU. This is one of the activities under the auspices of our Jean Monnet Module: 'The Rule of Law in the Pacific: Comparative Perspectives on EU Values', and it provided students with an opportunity to experience European



Respondents found the experience both pertinent and engaging, citing its central importance, interest, realism, critical relevance, and the benefits of engaging with EU diplomats. All indicated that they would (a) welcome another opportunity to participate in a similar

diplomacy and policymaking through a simulated negotiation. Feedback from the post-event survey indicated that participants considered the Model EU a highly valuable learning experience, with over half the respondents assigning it 10 out of 10 as a highly positive experience.

activity and (b) be happy to recommend its value to friends and acquaintances. This was another opportunity to cooperate with the EU Delegation and Member State diplomatic missions, which we at the ANUCES greatly appreciate and value.



At the end of August, we welcomed **Miriam Forno** back to the Centre as a visiting research student from the University of Bologna, Italy.

Miriam will be undertaking research related to her thesis, *Australia's Hedging Strategies in the Indo-Pacific: A Middle Power's Response to Sino-US Rivalry*, under the supervision of Professor Antonio Fiori, Department of Political and Social Sciences, University of Bologna.

Miriam will be with us until the end of January 2027.



We are proud to share that **Julia Kobic**, former ANUCES alum, has been selected (as one of four students!) to join the double degree program between Sciences Po Paris and ISAE-SUPAERO, where she will jointly pursue a Master's in International Security and a degree in aerospace engineering.

Julia joined ANUCES through the ANIP internship program in July 2023, working on the EU's green energy policy and European security issues. We are thrilled to hear that Julia is pursuing her passion for science policy and wish her all the best in France!

New ANIP students



Nazarii Lialiuk

I am a third-year International Relations student at the University of Edinburgh, currently undertaking an exchange at the ANU.

I'm interested in European politics, international relations, Ukraine, migration and diaspora communities, with a particular interest in the role of Ukrainian communities in shaping political narratives and maintaining cultural identity abroad.



Jannis Baur

I am in my final year of my Bachelor of International Relations and Public Policy. I studied in the UK for two years before starting at the ANU. I am very interested in contemporary international affairs and international development policy.

My research focuses on the EU Global Gateway in the Pacific, on how geostrategic interests intersect with international development policy in this region.



Aria Kanhukamwe

I'm currently in my third year studying a Bachelor of International Relations and a Bachelor of Languages with a major in German and a minor in Spanish. I find the intersection between language, culture, politics and international relations particularly interesting and love interdisciplinary research!

With the Centre, I am currently researching the new EU Pact on Migration and Asylum and how it interacts with migration policy in Germany.

In Memoriam



Our dear friend and colleague, **Kyle Wilson**, passed away on Monday, 29 June, 2026. A generous, committed and always thoughtful member of our Centre, he contributed in myriad ways not only to the fulfilment of our mission but also to our students and community. He is sorely missed. Please read the [complete tribute to Kyle here](#).

(Photo: Jamie Kidston/ANU)

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Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge and celebrate the First Australians on whose traditional lands we meet and work, and whose cultures are among the oldest continuing cultures in human history. We pay our respect to the elders past, present and emerging.