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**UNU-CRIS**

Institute on Comparative  
Regional Integration Studies

Annual Report  
2017

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The United Nations University Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU-CRIS) is grateful to the following stakeholders for their core support:



# Introduction

## THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY



**UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY**

The United Nations University (UNU) is an international community of scholars engaged in research, postgraduate training and the dissemination of knowledge in furtherance of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

The University seeks to contribute, through research and capacity

development, towards efforts to resolve the pressing global problems of human survival, development and welfare that are the concern of the United Nations, its Peoples and Member States. UNU generates and transfers knowledge and strengthens capacities relevant to promoting human security and development, in particular in developing countries. Through its graduate training programs, the University enables scholars to participate in research in order to increase their capability to contribute to the extension, application and diffusion of knowledge. The University disseminates the knowledge garnered from its activities to the United Nations and its agencies, to scholars and to the public, in order to increase the dynamic interactions in the worldwide community of learning and research. Headquartered in Tokyo, Japan, the UNU operates through a decentralised system of research and training centers and programs around the world ([www.unu.edu](http://www.unu.edu)).

## THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY

### INSTITUTE ON COMPARATIVE REGIONAL INTEGRATION STUDIES



**UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY**

**UNU-CRIS**

**Institute on Comparative  
Regional Integration Studies**

The United Nations University Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU-CRIS) is a research and training institute of the United Nations University, a global network engaged in research and capacity development to support the universal goals of the United Nations and generate new knowledge and ideas. Based in Bruges, UNU-CRIS focuses on the provision of global and regional public goods, and on processes and consequences of intra- and inter-regional integration. The Institute aims to generate policy-relevant knowledge about new

patterns of governance and cooperation, and build capacity on a global and regional level. UNU-CRIS acts as a resource for the United Nations system, with strong links to other United Nations bodies dealing with the provision and management of international and regional public goods ([www.cris.unu.edu](http://www.cris.unu.edu)).

The mission of UNU-CRIS is to contribute to generate policy-relevant knowledge about new forms of governance and cooperation on the regional and global level, about patterns of collective action and decision-making, benefitting from the experience of European integration and the role of the EU as a regional actor in the global community.

UNU-CRIS focuses on issues of imminent concern to the United Nations, such as the 2030 Development Agenda and the challenges arising from new and evolving peace, security, economic and environmental developments regionally and globally. On these issues, the Institute will develop solutions based on research on new patterns of collective action and regional and global governance. The Institute endeavors to pair academic excellence with policy-relevant research in these domains.

UNU-CRIS receives its core funding from the Flemish Government and has an alliance with the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and Ghent University since October 2016. Prior to this, it received structural support from the College of Europe.

# Executive Summary



UNU-CRIS has entered a new phase in its existence. In October 2016, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between UNU-CRIS, Ghent University and the Vrije Universiteit Brussel which formally established a new partnership and brought about a new (and promising) era.

As the Institute's new Director since June 2017 I aspire to build on the important groundwork carried out by the Founding Director of the Institute, Luk van Langenhove and his team, which was maintained during the interim directorship of Anthony Antoine between the fall of 2016 and June 2017, while also embarking upon additional activities that the new partnership allows for.

We are very grateful to the Flemish government for its continued support and aim, in return, to fulfill the ambitions contained in the MoU of 2016 (as well as a second MoU signed in the summer of 2017). The goal is to create an active and academically 'visible' research community at UNU-CRIS, engaged with exploring a variety of challenges to regional and global governance.

In the fall of 2017, we released a new Strategic Plan for UNU-CRIS 2017-2021 which directly builds upon the previously issued document 'Towards a UNU-CRIS 2.0'. According to this plan, UNU-CRIS will seek to become a hub of academic excellence fostering synergies between its two partner universities and developing into an active and international center of research focused on the aims and activities of the United Nations. Specifically, it will focus its research on the search for new and stable patterns of governance in a variety of policy fields, including environmental policy, trade, economic policies and migration, in a regional and global context. It will address the tensions between globalization and regionalization, while exploring the potential that regionalization has for the creation of peace and stability at the global level. Furthermore, it will explore the evolving relationship between globalization, nation-statehood and democracy.

UNU-CRIS will focus on the provision of global and regional public goods, and on the processes and consequences of intra- and inter-regional integration, aiming to generate policy-relevant knowledge about new patterns of governance that are facilitating problem-solving in practice. UNU-CRIS will act as a resource for the United Nations system and aim to develop strong links with several United Nations bodies dealing directly with the provision and management of international and regional public goods.

Although the Key Performance Indicators for 2017 were only specified in detail in the fall, we are proud to report that most of these targets were nevertheless met over the course of the year, in terms of publications, activities and events as well as outreach. This bodes very well for 2018 which will certainly be even more active as the Institute builds upon its secured position. Let me thank all UNU-CRIS collaborators; the Institute's Founding Director, the Director *ad interim*, our academic partners at Ghent University and at the VUB, as well as our Associate Research Fellows for their considerable work and continued efforts to get the most out of UNU-CRIS. The future of the Institute certainly looks promising! I look forward to pursuing the overall ambition of the Institute's new orientation and strategic plan -- to become a 'hub of excellence' in Bruges.

Let us all work together to make this happen!

Madeleine Hosli  
Director UNU-CRIS

# Engaging with Academia

## 1. Academic session



On 9 February 2017, UNU-CRIS organized an academic session to announce the first Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations University, Ghent University, the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and the Flemish Government. The academic session took place in the Gothic Hall of the Town Hall of Bruges. The Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and UNU Rector David Malone came to Bruges to celebrate this special event and to present his vision on the changing role of UNU and UNU-CRIS.

The Governor of the province of West Flanders, Carl Decaluwé, and the Mayor of Bruges, Renaat Landuyt, outlined the importance of the United Nations and UNU's presence to the City and the Province.

The respective Rectors of the United Nations University, Ghent University and the Vrije Universiteit Brussel discussed the value the new partnership will have in supporting research on regional integration. Both the rector of Ghent University, Anne De Paepe, and the rector of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Caroline Pauwels, expressed their commitment to the United Nations University going forwards and underlined the importance of collaborations like this one for future successes.

Philippe Muyters, Flemish Minister for Work, Economy, Innovation and Sports, was unable to make it to the academic session but took the time to express his thoughts in a video message. He highlighted the importance of UNU-CRIS for Flanders and emphasized the Flemish Government's support for this collaboration between UNU and the Flemish universities.

Finally, the Director *ad interim* of UNU-CRIS, Anthony Antoine, elaborated on his vision of the renewed UNU-CRIS 2.0. He also thanked Founding Director Luk Van Langenhove and Rector of the College of Europe Jörg Monar for a long and successful partnership.

## 2. PhD Projects

As part of the 'First Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Flanders (Kingdom of Belgium), the United Nations University, the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and Ghent University concerning the funding of UNU-CRIS', Ghent University agreed to organize a call for two PhD projects to be hosted each year by UNU-CRIS. 2017 served as the kick-off year and UNU-CRIS welcomed its first PhD Fellows; Elke Verhaeghe and Sofie Vereycken.



Ms. Verhaeghe's PhD focuses on a comprehensive political science analysis of the EU Forest Law Enforcement Government and Trade (FLEGT) initiative and is supervised by Jan Orbie.



Ms. Vereycken's PhD focuses on public participation in environmental decision-making, analyzing *inter alia* stakeholder participation on the regional - in particular within the United Nations' Economic Commission for Europe (Aarhus convention) and the EU - and (sub)-national level and is supervised by Luc Lavrysen.



Further to the PhD projects supported by Ghent University, and also as stipulated in the MoU, VUB agreed to sponsor a four-year project, which will result in two PhD dissertations. The project started in 2017 is entitled 'Global and Regional Multistakeholder Institutions' (GREMLIN), involving PhD fellows Diana Potjomkina and Austin Ruckstuhl. The project focuses on understanding the impact of multistakeholderism on global and regional governance.



More specifically, Ms. Potjomkina's PhD focuses on multistakeholderism in trade governance and is supervised by Jan Orbie, and Mr. Ruckstuhl's PhD focuses on multistakeholderism in internet governance and is supervised by Jamal Shahin.

## 3. H2020 project EL-CSID



The European Union has made a major start articulating the relevance of cultural and science diplomacy for its external relations. What has yet to be done, however, is to make explicit the assumptions underpinning much of this work on cultural and science diplomacy and to codify and articulate it as part of a systematic and strategic approach that locates developments in these fields within the evolving global and EU external relations context. EL-CSID does this, while also identifying how the Union

and its Member States might collectively and individually develop a good institutional and strategic policy environment for extra-regional cultural and science diplomacy. The research generates both scholarly work and policy-oriented output, which will be disseminated in an extensive yet targeted manner.

The EL-CSID project is coordinated by the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and involves eight partner institutions, namely: UNU-CRIS, the University of Warwick (UoW), the Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (WZB), the Evro-Sredozemska Univerza (EMUNI), the Centre d'Etudes Diplomatiques et Stratégiques Turkiye (CEDS), the Joint Institute for Innovation Policy (JIIP), the National University of Singapore (NUS), and the Nazarbayev University (NU).

Within the project, the UNU-CRIS team, consisting of Project Researchers Elke Boers and Riccardo Trobbiani, leads Work Package 5: "Exploring the Effectiveness of the EU's Promotion of Regional and Inter-Regional Processes in the South through Science, Cultural and Economic Diplomacy". The main aim of the work package is to map the contours of the EU and its Member States' use of science, cultural and economic diplomacy to foster regional and inter-regional relations. It is organized into three tasks: 1) mapping regional and inter-regional relations in science, cultural and economic diplomacy, 2) examining RTAs' relation to science diplomacy, and 3) exploring the role of Higher Education as an instrument of EU cultural diplomacy in Africa.

In 2017, several mappings and assessments were conducted regarding science and cultural diplomacy in different regions in the South, the results of which were presented in a series of various working papers and a policy brief. Also several papers were presented at research workshops and conferences.

Finally, a UNU-CRIS Guest Lecture Series was organized by Luk Van Langenhove on “New Approaches to Diplomacy” at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (19 April - 24 May 2017).

#### 4. RIKS



The Regional Integration Knowledge System (RIKS) aims to provide a central node for information exchange on regional integration processes worldwide and to address the ‘missing link’ between the existing regional initiatives as regards information provision on regional integration and cooperation. RIKS functions as a platform where qualitative and quantitative information on various aspects of regional integration processes can be retrieved and exchanged. The information that is made available in the indicator system and through the treaty database is regularly updated and enriched with the latest available data, indicators and literatures. The RIKS network is coordinated by UNU-CRIS and is continuously expanded through the creation of successful new partnerships.

2017 was a turning point for RIKS. After the many years of pioneering, hard work inputted by project leader Philippe De Lombaerde, the project was further stimulated by the arrival of Glenn Rayp from Ghent University. Adding Peter Claeys (VUB), Samuel Standaert (Ghent University) and Ewout Ramon (UNU-CRIS), a new RIKS team was assembled. After a system crash early 2017, the team decided to go for a RIKS 2.0., started retrieving old and new data, developed a web development plan, and presented the latter to several web developers. The development and launch itself are scheduled for 2018.

#### 5. AMIREG



There are an estimated one billion migrants in the world today and demographic imbalances, economic inequality, increased globalization, political instability and climatic changes will all contribute to increasing large-scale migration in the coming decades, with the Global South predicted to be disproportionately affected.

The one-year UNU-CRIS funded AMIREG project (African Migration: Root Causes and Regulatory Dynamics) is divided in two Work Packages which look respectively at the root causes of migration from Africa and multi-level migration governance in West Africa, particularly in Ghana and Senegal. More specifically, the objectives of Work Package 1, are firstly to provide a deeper understanding of the root causes of migration with a specific focus on the role of financial incentives and constraints; and secondly to identify the effectiveness of, and scope for, regional agreements to ease mobility responses to such geo-localized shocks. There are however, inherent difficulties in predicting the scale and the dispersion of the ensuing migrant flows. First, international migration, traditionally understood to be caused by local differences in certain economic-related factors, is in fact not strictly economic in nature. Second, empirical analyses are typically subject to binding data constraints. Therefore, both economic and non-economic determinants are being explored by exploiting an original suitable micro dataset which has not yet been widely adopted in the academic literature.

The second work package of the project, seeks to understand the interest in, and the consequences of, a tighter regulation of mobility in West Africa as opposed to non-regulation. Moreover, AMIREG intends to investigate to what extent the regulatory agenda of intra-African migration is a product of interactions with external actors such as the EU (and its Member States) or the United Nations. As West African governments have only recently begun making efforts to develop clear migration policies, there remains a lack of systematic and comparative studies on this issue. Existing studies focus on individual West African countries and are built upon descriptive observations of migration cooperation within ECOWAS. The second work package moves beyond a purely empirical focus and develops a systematic and comparative case study design by focusing on migratory and regulatory issues in Senegal and Ghana. The two countries are relevant from the perspective of intra-African immigration and (international) emigration.

When AMIREG was launched in June, Sara Salomone began as the sole Project Researcher. Soon though the project was split into two work packages, and a vacancy therefore opened for another project researcher to work on the second Work Package. After a rigorous application process, Leonie Jegen was chosen to fill this role and started in October. So far in WP1 the data to be used for the empirical analysis has been gathered and the main variables have been selected. Work is still ongoing however in trying to distinguish between domestic, intra-African and third country migration. In the context of WP2, 2017 was the year in which the field work (to start in January 2018) and research design were being prepared. A first research paper based on the explorative field research already conducted in Ghana was presented at a Jean Monnet Chair Workshop in Salamanca in October. All progress, goals and (preliminary) research findings from both WP 1 & 2 were presented at both the UNU-CRIS internal research seminar and the UNU Migration Network Conference at UNU-MERIT in Maastricht at the end of November.

#### 6. Research Seminar Series

As a way of generating innovative ideas and bringing together academics, UNU-CRIS launched the Research Seminar Series. This series connects UNU-CRIS staff, academics at the partner universities, staff from organizations that focus on United Nations activities, interns and trainees with international scholars on subjects relevant to the UNU-CRIS research programs.



The series was kicked off by Melanie James (The University of Newcastle, Australia) on 16 October who gave a presentation on “Positioning Theory as a Framework to Study Science Diplomacy Discourses and Practices”. The seminar presented research work in progress where the analytic lens offered by Positioning Theory is used to understand how the social construct ‘Science Diplomacy’ is being used in a strategic positioning context. More specifically, a “positioning analysis” of a sample of written submissions to the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) White Paper on Foreign Policy was undertaken. “Positioning analysis” yields narratives that people or organizations use to position one another and themselves and also the discourse and rhetorical devices through which the parties in specific episodes are presented as standing in various kinds of relations to each other.

# Dialogue with Policy-Makers

## 1. Expert Seminar and Practitioner Dialogue on the 10th Anniversary of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance



The African Charter on Democracy Elections and Governance (ACDEG) was adopted on 30 January 2007 as the African Union's main normative instrument to set standards for better governance across the continent. It came into force in February 2012 after ratification by 15 countries. As of September 2017 the Charter has been ratified by 30 and signed by 45 out of 55 countries. The ACDEG is different from previous instruments as it combines, in a holistic manner, the key elements of democracy, human rights and governance. Its objectives are to enhance the quality of elections in Africa, promote human rights, strengthen the rule of law, improve political, economic and social governance, and address the recurrent issues relating to unconstitutional changes of government across the continent.

The ACDEG has provided the impetus for various policy and institutional initiatives at the level of the African Union (AU) and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and has become the yardstick upon which Member States' democratic governance progress is measured. One notable outcome

from the Charter is the development of the African Governance Architecture (AGA), which is the overall political and institutional framework for promoting and strengthening democracy, good governance and human rights in Africa. AGA provides the platform through which different Organs and Institutions of the African Union support the implementation of the provisions of the Charter at the Member State level. While the ACDEG encouraged changes in some Member States' approach to democracy and governance, in other Member States it has had limited impact. The level of acceptance and implementation of the ACDEG remains very mixed across Africa. Among the key challenges is that of achieving full domestic compliance.

In 2017, the ACDEG celebrated the tenth and fifth anniversaries of its adoption and entry into force, respectively. These milestones offered an excellent opportunity to reflect on the instrument's past, present and future. Bringing together a group of distinguished scholars and practitioners, a Practitioner Dialogue on "The African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance: the Tenth Anniversary" was held at the University of Antwerp's Institute of Development Policy (IOB) on 3 October 2017. The Practitioner Dialogue was jointly organized by the IOB, the AU and the Centre for Human Rights Law at SOAS University of London, and the program was coordinated by UNU-CRIS Associate Research Fellow Micha Wiebusch. The Dialogue focused on the challenges and opportunities presented by the Charter and addressed a range of issues related to its implementation from different theoretical, empirical and country-specific perspectives. The event reached out to a variety of stakeholders including academics, practitioners and policy-makers working in the areas of democratization, governance, rule of law, human rights and development in Africa.

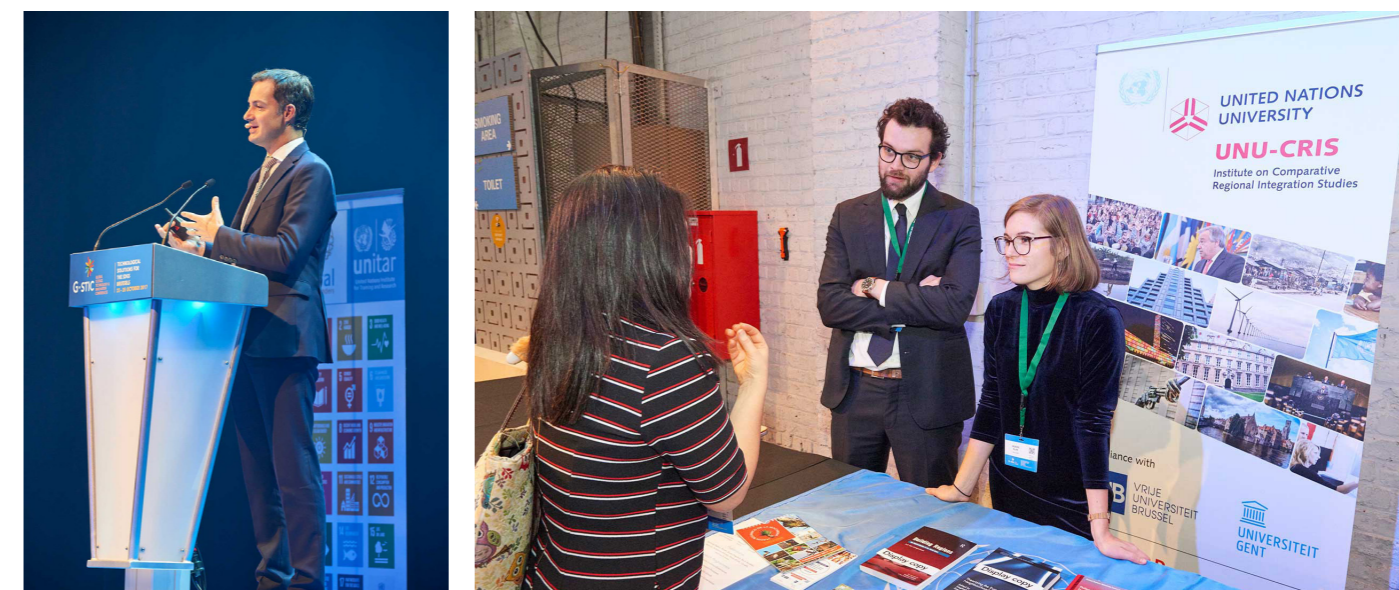
## 2. UNU Action Debate



Anthony Antoine, Director *ad interim* of UNU-CRIS, delivered a speech in a panel discussion at the UNU Action Debate: "High Time for UN reform?" High-Level Reflections Ahead of the 'Global Challenges Prize 2017: A New Shape'. It was a joint research and training initiative of Maastricht University and the United Nations University.

The debate mapped out the future of global governance, dealing with lessons the United Nations system learned from the Millennium Development Goals, the tasks of the new UN Secretary-General, the role of United Nations Member States in helping solve global challenges, possible new forms of global governance, etc. The event took place in the auditorium of Maastricht University on 6 March 2017.

## 3. UN Day Flanders



On Tuesday 24 October 2017, CIFAL Flanders | UNITAR hosted a High-Level Colloquium and Marketplace celebrating the 72nd anniversary of the United Nations in Brussels. This year's edition was held in the context of the Global Science, Technology & Innovation Conferences, an initiative of VITO, the Flemish Institute for Technological Research.

The High-Level Colloquium brought together people who are working hard on attaining the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and the development and deployment of integrated technological solutions that help the planet, the people and the economy.

Speakers and panelists included Nikhil Seth, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director of United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), Alexander De Coo, Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Development Cooperation, Digital Agenda, Telecommunications and Postal Services, Yannick Glemarec, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director for Policy and Programme for UN Women, Aisa Kirabo Kacyira, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director, UN-Habitat, and Li Yong, Director-General, United Nations Industrial Development.

UNU-CRIS, represented by Research Assistant to the Director Ewout Ramon and Project Researcher Elke Boers, informed the policy-makers and general audience about its activities at the Marketplace and during the United Nations networking event.



# Engaging with Society

## 1. Helsinki Challenge Global Impact Camp

The Helsinki Challenge is a science-based idea competition in which teams of scientists from ten Finnish universities work on solutions that help humankind reach the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The solution could be anything from a new scientific field to a commercializable idea, entrepreneurship or pioneering research.

The Helsinki Challenge finalist teams travelled to Brussels in September 2017 to seek new partnerships. The Global Impact Camp in Brussels was a two-day intensive co-creation session focusing on societal impact of research, funding and collaboration with international experts and EU decision-makers (including members from the European Parliament, the European Commission, the European Economic Social Committee, and the European Committee of the Regions).

Deputy Director Anthony Antoine represented UNU-CRIS and delivered the Keynote Speech on “The Salient Role of the Universities in Implementing the UN 2030 Agenda and the Particular Importance of the Societal Impact of Multidisciplinary Research in Developing Sustainable and Global Solutions”.



## 2. EUtopia Evening Debate on EU Migration Policy



Building on its location in Bruges, UNU-CRIS aims at forging good relations with local think tanks and engaging social actors that reach out to an interested public. To this end, UNU-CRIS Deputy Director Anthony Antoine moderated a debate between Bart Staes (MEP, Groen), Flor Didden (11.11.11) and Ilse Ruyssen (Ghent University) at the EUTOPIA debate evening in Bruges in collaboration with 11.11.11., a coalition of NGOs, unions, movements and various solidarity groups in Flanders working together to achieve a fair world without poverty.

This debate event entitled ‘Us against them? Critically Evaluating the European Migration Policy’ was held in Dutch (“Wij tegen zij? Het Europees migratiebeleid kritisch doorgelicht”). It took place on 26 September in Bruges and was able to attract over 200 people, including local politicians, academics and NGO representatives.

## 3. Best Thesis Award

In the context of the traditionally close relationship of UNU-CRIS with the College of Europe, both located in Bruges, UNU-CRIS again awarded one graduate in 2017 a ‘best thesis award’. This prize consists of a sponsored internship at UNU-CRIS. The award was attributed to Okeksandra Zmiyenko for her thesis on statelessness, and its relevance for the EU and the world. In her thesis, Ms. Zmiyenko points out the many legal shortcomings in the field, and this at both EU and international level.



## 4. The United Nations in (Primary) Schools

Inspired by the World Programme of Action for Youth which outlines four priority areas, i.e. Participation, Advocacy, Partnerships and Harmonization, UNU-CRIS engaged a few hundred children from five different primary schools in Bruges to help translate the United Nations’ message of peace and sustainability through children’s eyes. In setting up a drawing ‘competition’ geared at children from the age of 6-12, UNU-CRIS could benefit from their insights while bringing the work of the United Nations with and for youth closer to them. The drawing competition served as a basis for illustrating the new information material of UNU-CRIS, while a number of drawings were enlarged and now serve as decoration for the UNU-CRIS corridors and offices. The five schools visited the UNU-CRIS campus to see the result of this exercise, and to learn more about the work done at the United Nations in general and at UNU-CRIS more specifically.



## 5. Open Monuments Day

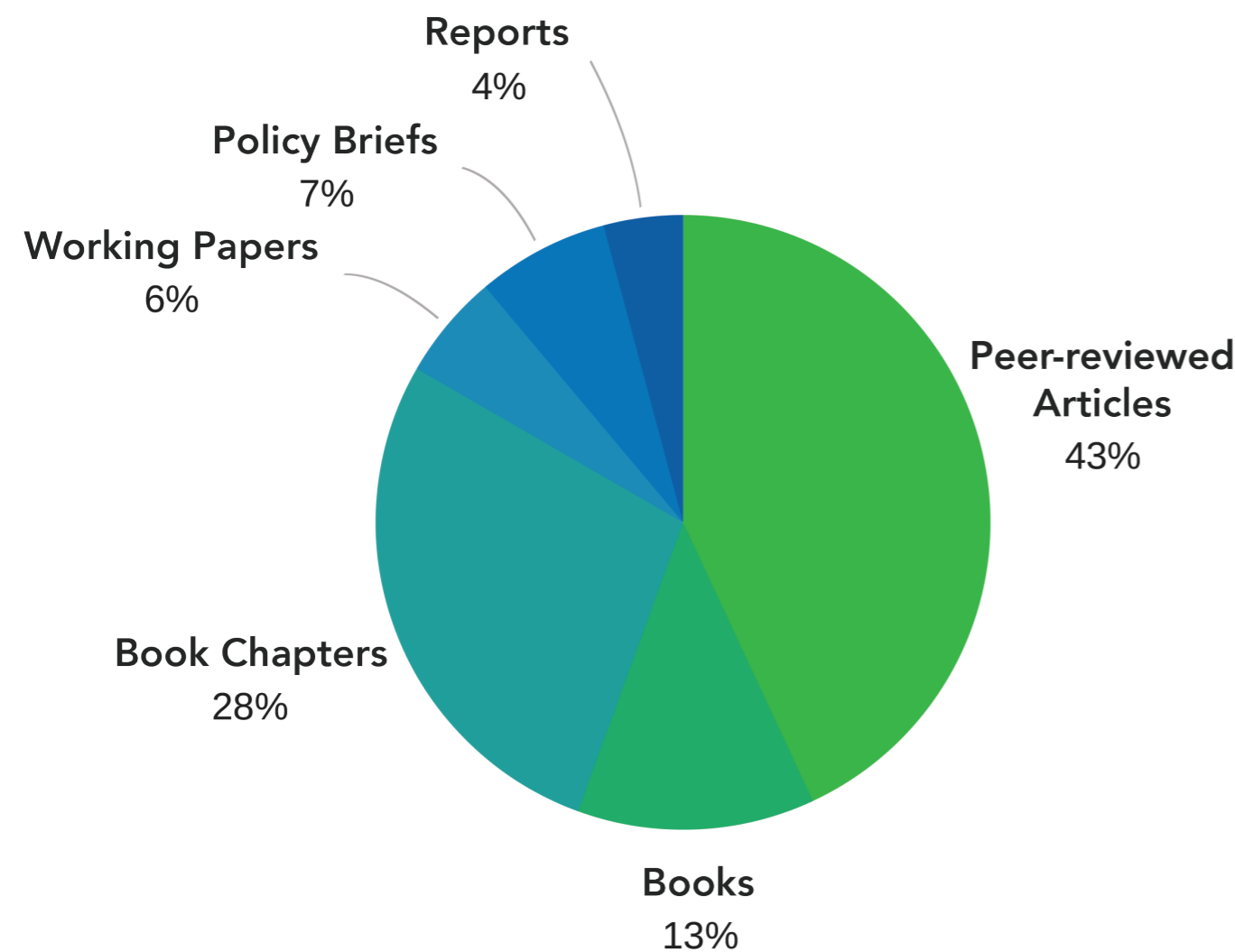


800 locals were welcomed and given a guided tour in Dutch by four licensed city guides in the episcopal seminary on 9 and 10 September 2017. Everyone left the building through the entrance hall of UNU-CRIS, with ample time to view the information panels on the institute and UNU. Over a hundred copies of the Dutch version of the UNU-CRIS brochure were picked up by the public. In addition, 22 visitors from the Harvard Business School were impressed by the lecture delivered by UNU-CRIS Associate Research Fellow Simon Schunz, as well as an abridged, English version of the guided tour.

# Scholarly Output

## 1. Introduction

Although 2017 was a year of transition for UNU-CRIS, UNU-CRIS staff and associates generated a steady output. No less than nine books and 20 book chapters were produced. As an indicator of the quality of the research, 31 articles were published in peer-reviewed journals. A total of 12 working papers, policy briefs, reports and other articles were written. The section below provides a general overview of the academic output of UNU-CRIS in 2017 in terms of publications.



## 2. Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

Chen, Lurong, Ludo Cuyvers, and Philippe De Lombaerde. 2017. Markets Matter: The Potential of Intra-Regional Trade in ASEAN and Its Implications for Asian Regionalism. *Asian Economic Papers* 16(2): 1–19.

Chen, Lurong, Ludo Cuyvers, and Philippe De Lombaerde. 2017. Asean Economic Integration Compared: What Do the Numbers Tell Us? *The Singapore Economic Review* 62(3): 619–641.

Claeys, Peter. 2017. Uncertainty Spillover and Policy Reactions. *Ensayos sobre Política Económica*. 35(82): 64–77.

Claeys, Peter, Ramos Raul, and Suriñach Jordi. 2017. Interaction of Government Tiers and Central Banks in a Federation: An Empirical Test. *Fiscal Studies* 38(2): 301–330.

Cooper, Andrew F., and Richard Stubbs. 2017. Contending Regionalisms: Hubs and Challengers in the Americas and the Asia-Pacific. *The Pacific Review* 30(5): 615–632.

Cooper, Andrew F., and Yanbing Zhang. 2017. Chinese Leadership in the Evolution of “Hub” and “Parallel” Globally Oriented Institutions. *Chinese Political Science Review* 3(1): 28–47.

Cooper, Andrew. F. 2017. Between Hub Status and Parallelism: Examining the G20-BRICS Dynamics in Global Governance. *International Organisations Research Journal* 12(2): 146–163.

Cooper, Andrew F. 2017. The BRICS’ New Development Bank: Shifting from Material Leverage to Innovative Capacity. *Global Policy* 8(3): 275–284.

De Lombaerde, Philippe and, Liliana Lizarazo. 2017. Regional Economic Integration and the Reality of Strong National Constitutional Powers in South America. A Comparative Analysis. *Vienna Journal on International Constitutional Law* 11(3): 365–386.

De Roeck, Frederik, Sarah Delputte, and Jan Orbie. 2017. Framing the Climate-Development Nexus in the European Union. *Third World Thematics* 2(1): 1–17.

Docquier, Frédéric, Ilse Ruysen, and Maurice Willy Schiff. 2017. International Migration: Pacifier or Trigger for Military Conflicts? *The Journal of Development Studies*. DOI 10.1080/00220388.2017.1355456

Gansemans, Annelien, Deborah Martens, Marijke D’Haese, and Jan Orbie. 2017. Do Labour Rights Matter for Export? A Qualitative Comparative Analysis of Pineapple Trade to the EU. *Politics and Governance* 5(4): 93–105.

Gashi, Krenar, Vjosa Musliu, and Jan Orbie. 2017. Mediation Through Recontextualization: The European Union and the Dialogue Between Kosovo and Serbia. *European Foreign Affairs Review* 22(4): 33–50.

Genna, Gaspare. 2017. Images of Europeans: Transnational Trust and Support for European Integration. *Journal of International Relations and Development* 20(2): 358–380.

Godsäter, Andréas, and Fredrik Söderbaum. 2017. Civil Society Participation in Regional Social Policy: The Case of HIV/AIDS in the Southern African Development Community (SADC). *Global Social Policy*. 17(2): 119–136.

Kingah, Stephen, and Eva Seiwert. 2017. The Contested Emerging International Norm and Practice of a Responsibility to Protect: Where are Regional Organizations? *North Carolina Journal of International Law*, 42(1): 115–189.

López de San Román, Alea, and Simon Schunz. 2017. Understanding European Union Science Diplomacy. *Journal of Common Market Studies* 56(2): 247–266.

Orbie, Jan, Fabienne Bossuyt, Petra Debusscher, Karen Del Biondo, Sarah Delputte, Vicky Reynaert, and Joren Verschaeve. 2017. The Normative Distinctiveness of the European Union in International Development: Stepping Out of the Shadow of the World Bank? *Development Policy Review* 35(4): 493–511.

Orbie, Jan, Deborah Martens, Myriam Oehri, and Lore Van Den Putte. 2017. Promoting Sustainable Development or Legitimizing Free Trade? Civil Society Mechanisms in EU Trade Agreements. *Third World Thematics* 1(4): 526–546.

Orbie, Jan, Lore Van Den Putte, and Deborah Martens. 2017. The Impact of Labour Rights Commitments in EU Trade Agreements: the Case of Peru. *Politics and Governance* 5(4): 6–18.

Panchuk, Dmytro, Fabienne Bossuyt, and Jan Orbie. 2017. The Substance of EU Democratic Governance Promotion via Transgovernmental Cooperation With the Eastern Neighbourhood. *Democratization* 24(6): 1044–1065.

Rayp, Glenn, Ilse Ruysen, and Samuel Standaert. 2017. Measuring and Explaining Cross-Country Immigration Policies. *World Development* 95: 141–163.

Ruysen, Ilse, and Sara Salomone. 2017. Female Migration: A Way Out of Discrimination? *Journal of Development Economics* 130: 224–241.

Scholte, Jan, and Fredrik Söderbaum. 2017. A Changing Global Development Agenda? *Forum for Development Studies* 44(1):1–12.

Söderbaum, Fredrik. 2017. Swedish Development Cooperation and Ownership of African Regional Organizations. *Forum for Development Studies* 44(3): 1–19.

Söderbaum, Fredrik, and Jan Scholte. 2017. A Changing Global Development Agenda? *Special issue of Forum for Development Studies* 44(1): 1–12.

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### 3. Books

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#### 3.2 Edited Volumes

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Philomena Murray: [“Collaborations and Research Networks: Engagement and Impact of Research”](#), Australian Research Council Research Leadership Mentoring Programme. The University of Melbourne (16 February).

Lorenzo Fioramonti: [“Beyond GDP: Promoting Change by Connecting Top-down Reforms to Bottom-up Pressures”](#) at ISA Annual Convention: “Assessing Global Indicators as a Tool for Change”, Baltimore (23 February).

Philippe De Lombaerde: [“Theorising Latin American Regionalism in the 21st Century”](#) at ISA Annual Convention: “Regional Organisations and Global Governance: In a Post-Hegemonic Era”, Baltimore (23 February).

Ana Amaya: [“Levels of Interaction of Regional Health Policy-making: SADC and UNASUR Explored”](#) at ISA Annual Convention: “International authority, state capacity, and domestic norms: The effectiveness of global health governance”, Baltimore (23 February).

Andrew Cooper: [“Regional Leadership by the BRICS and MIKTA Countries Compared”](#) at ISA Annual Convention: “Regional Powers Revisited”, Baltimore (24 February).

Gaspare Genna: [“The Complex Path to Regional Integration: The Roles Regional Leadership and Institutional Homogeneity Play in Deepening Regional Organizations”](#) at ISA Annual Convention: “Regional Powers Revisited”, Baltimore (24 February).

Trisha Meyer and Jamal Shahin: [“The EU and Effective Multistakeholderism in Internet Governance, Global Internet Governance Actors, Regulations, Transactions and Strategies”](#) at GIG-ARTS 2017, Paris (30 31 March).

Gaspare Genna: [“Economic Integration’s Complex Path: Regional Leaders and Homogeneity”](#), at 2017 Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago (6 April).

Riccardo Trobbiani: [“EU Cultural Diplomacy in the MENA: Fostering Regional and Inter-Regional Cooperation”](#), at the University of Westminster’s Regent Campus: “Conference on Mapping Cultural Policy in the Arab Region”, London (21 April).

Luk Van Langenhove: [“Towards a Global Science Diplomacy for the Sustainable Development Goals”](#), EL-CSID Workshop on Diplomacy and Development, Malta (27 April).

Riccardo Trobbiani: [“EU Cultural Diplomacy in the MENA: Fostering Regional and Inter-Regional Cooperation”](#), EL-CSID Workshop on Diplomacy and Development, Malta (28 April).

Ilke Adam: [“Varying over time, Across Sub-Policy Areas and Across Regions. Intergovernmental Relations on Immigrant Integration in Belgium”](#), at ECPR Joint Sessions, Nottingham (25 30 April).

Simon Schunz: [“Culture in EU External Relations: the Quest for a Cultural Diplomacy”](#), at the EU Studies Association Biennial Conference, Miami, FL, USA (4-6 May).

Simon Schunz: [“Theorizing the Emergence of EU External Engagement in Originally Internal Policy Fields”](#), at the EU Studies Association Biennial Conference, Miami, FL, USA (4-6 May) (with Chad Damro, Sieglinde Gstöhl).

Ilse Ruyssen: [“Networks and Migrants’ Intended Destination”](#) at the University of Lille: “International Conference Understanding Voluntary and Forced Migration - Research and Data Needs”, Lille (15 May).

Lotte Drieghe, Jan Orbie and Jamal Shahin: [“Understanding the impact of Multistakeholderism on Global and Regional Governance, a Proposal for an Analytical Framework”](#), at the ENIATP, Paris (12 13 June).

A. Brianson and Philomena Murray, [“Awkward Means Awkward: Comparative Perspectives on the UK and European Integration after Brexit”](#), at the University of Agder: “Paper to Workshop on Awkward States, Brexit, the Nordic Countries and Differentiated Integration”, Kristiansand (16 June).

Ilke Adam and Florian Trauner, [“Outsourced Sovereignty. EU Cooperation and Immigration Policy Development in Ghana”](#), at the Jean Monnet Chair EU External Action Conference of the University of Salamanca and CEPS: “The external dimension of EU migration policies: effectiveness, fairness and rule of law reconsidered - IMISCOE Conference”, Rotterdam (28-30 June 2017).

Luk Van Langenhove: [“Culture and Science Diplomacy in the 21st Century. Can we Talk of a Practice Turn?”](#), at the EL-CSID Panel: “Challenges in Global Policy Making: The Practice Turn in the New Diplomacy’ in the context of the 3rd International Conference on Public Policy (ICPP)”, Singapore (30 June).

Luk Van Langenhove: [“The Practice of Science and Cultural Diplomacy Studied from the Positioning Theory Angle”](#), at the EL-CSID Panel: “Challenges in Global Policy Making: The Practice Turn in the New Diplomacy’ in the context of the 3rd International Conference on Public Policy (ICPP)”, Singapore (30 June).

Philomena Murray, [“Does Regionalism have a Role When it Comes to Great Power Management?”](#) at the EU Centre on Shared Complex Challenges: “Paper to the International Conference on Rethinking governance in an era of global insecurities, regional tensions and rising nationalism”, The University of Melbourne (17-19 July).

Laura Allison-Reumann, M. Matera and Philomena Murray: [“Australia’s Options in the Context of Brexit: Balancing Relations with the EU and the UK”](#), at the EU Centre on Shared Complex Challenges: “The International Conference on Rethinking governance in an era of global insecurities, regional tensions and rising nationalism”, The University of Melbourne (17-19 July).

Philomena Murray, [“What Difference Does Populism Make in Elections? The Making of European Governments and Implications for Australia”](#) at the Electoral Regulation Research Network, Melbourne Law School (15 August).

Philomena Murray: [“Brexit: Unexpected Outcomes and Implications for the UK and Australia”](#), Australasian Study of Parliament Group Victorian Chapter, Parliament of Victoria, Melbourne (22 August).

Philomena Murray, [“The European Union and ASEAN: Strategic Engagement and Norms Diffusion”](#), at Griffith University (25 August).

Gaspare Genna: [“Trust, Influence, Self-Esteem, and the Brexit Vote”](#), at the APSA Political Psychology Interest Section Pre-conference Meeting, University of California, Berkeley, (30 August).

Ilse Ruyssen: [“Networks and Migrants’ Intended Destination”](#) at the 8th international conference Economics of Global Interactions, University of Bari (11-12 September).

Anthony Antoine: [“The Salient Role of the Universities in Implementing the UN 2030 Agenda and the Particular Importance of Societal Impact of Multidisciplinary Research in Developing Sustainable and Global Solutions”](#), Keynote Speech at the Helsinki Challenge Global Impact Camp, Brussels (26 September).

Madeleine Hosli: [“A New Order or No Order? Continuity and Discontinuity in the EU-China-US Relationship”](#), Keynote Speech at the International Conference: “A New Order or No Order? Continuity and Discontinuity in the EU-China-US Relationship”, College of Europe, Bruges (29 September).

Luk Van Langenhove: [“The Entanglement of the Social Realm: Towards a Field Theory Approach of the Social Sciences”](#) at Symposium “Worlds of Entanglement”, section “Social Sciences and Philosophy”, organized by the Centre Leo Apostel for Interdisciplinary Studies (CLEA) Brussels, (29-30 September).

Micha Wiebusch: [“A New Doctrine for the African Union on Presidential Term Limits: A Procedural Test for Government’s Undemocratic Changes of the Constitution”](#) at Expert Seminar: “The 10th Anniversary of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance”, IOB/University of Antwerp, AU, SOAS Centre for Human Rights Law/University of London, Antwerp, Belgium (2-3 October).

Micha Wiebusch: “Protecting Democracy in Africa and the Americas: The Continental-Regional Governance Nexus” – with Thomas Legler, Expert Seminar, “The 10th Anniversary of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance”, IOB/University of Antwerp, AU, SOAS Centre for Human Rights Law/University of London, Antwerp, Belgium (2-3 October).

Ilke Adam and Florian Trauner, “Outsourced Sovereignty. EU Cooperation and Immigration Policy Development in Ghana”, at the Jean Monnet Chair EU External Action Conference of the University of Salamanca and CEPS: “The external dimension of EU migration policies: effectiveness, fairness and rule of law reconsidered”, Salamanca (19-20 October).

Andrew Cooper: “Scenarios for International Cooperation – Perspectives of the Territory Performance”, at the Event Mundo Gerais, International Law Center/CEP, Belo Horizonte, Brazil (24 October).

Ilse Ruysen: “Understanding the Root Causes of Migration with a Micro Level Dataset” at the 12th United Nations University Migration Network conference, University of Maastricht (22 November).

Ilse Ruysen: “Just a Little Respect: Female Migration as a Way out of Discrimination”, at the GRaSP Research Seminar Series, Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research, Luxembourg (19 December).



# Teaching, Training and Capacity-Building

## 1. Traineeship and Internship Program

UNU-CRIS offers students with an interest and background in regional integration and/or global governance the opportunity to take part in the activities of the Institute. The research traineeship and internship programs are open to both undergraduate and graduate students, respectively.

Research trainees contribute to the activities undertaken under the research program *The Role of Regions in Global Governance*. They are tasked with updating the RIKS platform, which provides direct access to information and data on regional integration processes worldwide. They may also be requested to assist in administrative or organizational tasks.

Research interns take part in the activities of the research program for which they applied. Their duties involve research assignments related to ongoing research projects and activities based on the needs of their supervisor. The latter provide interns with guidance and advice during the internship.

Trainees and interns are provided with office space, computer facilities, access to the online library of UNU and access to the library and the restaurant of Ghent University and the College of Europe. They are also welcome to take part in seminars, workshops, conferences and other events organized by UNU-CRIS. In 2017, UNU-CRIS hosted 6 trainees and 11 interns. Tasks included assisting researchers with ongoing projects, assisting with the re-development of the RIKS platform, helping with the development of a simulation game, preparing materials to apply for research grants, presenting research and soliciting for feedback, and helping the staff with administrative tasks.



## 2. Visiting Scholars

UNU-CRIS offers professors, researchers and professionals with a relevant background the opportunity to spend a research period in Bruges. Visiting scholars are “scholars in residence”. They conduct their own research on a topic related to the academic research programs of the Institute, or contribute to the training and capacity-building initiatives linked to the broad area of global governance and/or regional integration. These projects are selected for their interdisciplinary, comparative and future-oriented approach, and for their relevance in terms of policy-making in the domain of regional integration and global governance. Visiting scholars are expected to contribute to the research activities of UNU-CRIS and to take part in seminars, workshops, conferences and other events. In 2017, UNU-CRIS hosted three visiting scholars; Marta Lenartowicz, Domenico Valenza and Melanie James, respectively from, the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, the College of Europe and the University of Newcastle, Australia. Research included devising an inventory to guide observation of integrative interventions performed by one social system on another; an analysis of EU and Russian cultural diplomacy attempts in Central Asia; and an analysis of strategic communication and positioning in science diplomacy.

### 3. (Online) Simulation Game on EU-UN Relations



UNU-CRIS, in collaboration with the Jean Monnet Network on EU-UN relations EUN-NET, developed a simulation game on EU-UN relations. The simulation game was trialled at Leiden University in The Hague on 18 October with students from the two-year MSc International Relations and Diplomacy Program. After receiving feedback from students and an internal evaluation, the game was slightly adapted. The game is already accessible for the EUN-NET partners and is being played in their classes. The goal is to make it available online on the UNU-CRIS website for teachers and students in the future. The launch of the online version of the original game, focusing on the refugee crisis in the framework of a special session of the European Council, is foreseen for 2018.

### 4. Master of Science in Public Policy and Human Development

The Master of Science in Public Policy and Human Development (MPP) is jointly organized by the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance (MGSoG) and the United Nations University – Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT). It aims to prepare its students to be able to actively participate in policy processes, as either policy designers or analysts, or as civil servants or academics. To achieve this goal, it emphasizes the connection between public policy and decision-making processes, or more specifically, the effectiveness and efficiency of governance. Students are equipped with a variety of skills, tools and knowledge, which enable them to work as policy designers and policy analysts.



The MPP program combines a joint semester and a specialization semester with a Master's thesis into a one-year full-time study program. The first semester consists of six intensive courses that ensure all of the students reach the same high level of knowledge and skills, the focus being on theories and practices of governance and policy analysis. The second semester consists of six specialisations, including a specialised course on "Regional Integration and Multi-Level Governance" (RIMLG), which is organised by UNU-CRIS.

The UNU-CRIS specialisation has been offered since 2013, with an annual enrolment rate of 10 to 15 students. The students' evaluations are overall very positive. Besides the teaching component, UNU-CRIS also offers MPP students the possibility to undertake an internship and/or write their master's thesis in Bruges. In 2017, three UNU-MERIT students interned at UNU-CRIS and successfully defended their thesis thereafter.

### 5. Doctoral School on Latin American, European and Comparative Regionalism



The sixth edition of the Doctoral Summer School on "Latin American, European and Comparative Regionalism" was held from 17 July to 21 July in Quito, Ecuador. This one-week summer school brought together a group of 16 PhD students and young researchers to attend a series of lectures held by leading senior academics in

the field of Latin American, European and Comparative Regionalism and to discuss their research projects in tutorial sessions. The target audience is doctoral students investigating Latin American Regionalism or Comparative Regionalism from different social science sub-disciplines who are at various stages of their research projects. The school was co-organized by UNU-CRIS and the Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar (UASB), in collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Latin American Trade Network (LATN), the German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA), and the Universidad de Puerto Rico. The partner institutions intend to repeat this successful undertaking in 2018.



### 6. Guest Lecture Series on "New Approaches to Diplomacy"



#### New Approaches to Diplomacy Guest Lecture Series\*

19 April 16:00 - 18:00	<b>Public Diplomacy in The Context of European International Economic Relations</b> By <b>Prof. Steve Woolcock</b> (Venue: Room 'ROME' at the IES, floor -1, Pleinlaan 5)
26 April 16:00 - 18:00	<b>Exploring the Role of Diplomacy for (Industrial) Innovation</b> By <b>Dr. Jos Leijten</b> (Venue: Room 'ROME' at the IES, floor -1, Pleinlaan 5)
03 May 16:00 - 18:00	<b>The New EU Strategy for Cultural Diplomacy</b> By <b>Dr. Andrew Murray</b> (Venue: Room 'ROME' at the IES, floor -1, Pleinlaan 5)
10 May 16:00 - 18:00	<b>Chinese Cultural Diplomacy in Today's World</b> By <b>Prof. Xinning Song</b> (Venue: Room 'ROME' at the IES, floor -1, Pleinlaan 5)
17 May 16:00 - 18:00	<b>EU Cultural Diplomacy: Can it Mitigate the Negative Transnational Impact of Populism on European Intercultural Relations?</b> By <b>Prof. Richard Higgott</b> (Venue: <b>Room E. 0.10</b> , VUB, Pleinlaan 2)
24 May 16:00 - 18:00	<b>New Paths Towards International Cultural Relations. Recent Developments at EU Level</b> By <b>Sana Ouchtati</b> (Venue: Room 'ROME' at the IES, floor -1, Pleinlaan 5)



\*organised by Prof. Luk Van Langenhove in the context of the VUB course 'Current Case Studies: Global and Regional Governance'

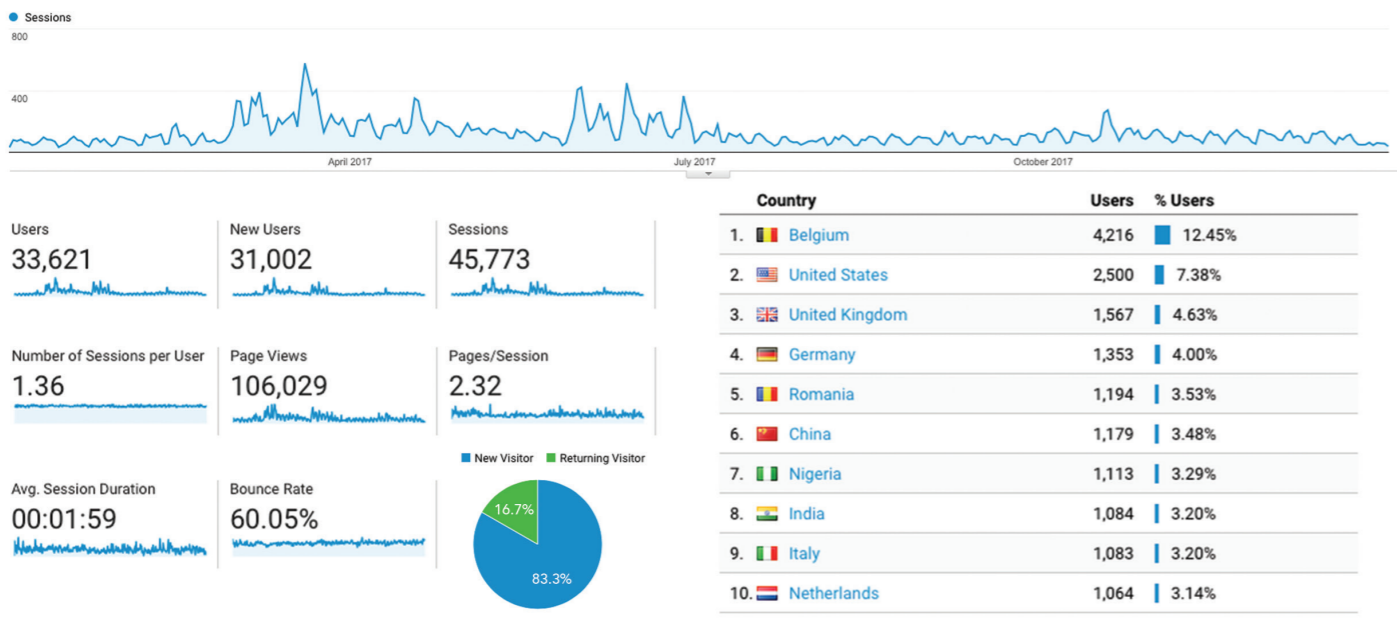
In the context of the H2020 EL-CSID project on science and cultural diplomacy, a public guest lecture series was organized on 'New Approaches to Diplomacy' in the framework of the course 'Current Case Studies: Global and Regional Governance' at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel.

Guest speakers included Steve Woolcock (London School of Economics), Jos Leijten (Joint Institute for Innovation Policy), Andrew Murray (EU National Institutes for Culture), Xinning Song (Renmin University), Richard Higgott (Vesalius College and Warwick University) and Sana Ouchtati (More Europe).

# Communications

## 1. UNU-CRIS Website

A new website for UNU-CRIS was developed in the course of 2015 and was launched on 25 February 2016 ([www.cris.unu.edu](http://www.cris.unu.edu)). In total, 106.029 pages were viewed by **33.621** visitors in 2017. Compared to 2016, this represents an increase of 42% in page views, and 67% in the number of visitors. Most of the website visits (12,45%) were made from Belgian IP addresses.



## 2. Facebook

The UNU-CRIS Facebook page has been a genuine success since its creation in July 2013. At the beginning of 2014, the page had already been liked by 363 people. By the end of 2014, the number had increased to 746, 1287 by the end of 2015, 1664 by the end of 2016, and **2210** by the end of 2017 - an increase of 28,2% compared to the year before. Demographic analyses demonstrate that 41% of the followers are female, 57% are male and 2% is unknown (this number could include organizations). The 25-34 age group is the most prone to consult our Facebook page, and most of the followers are residing in Belgium.

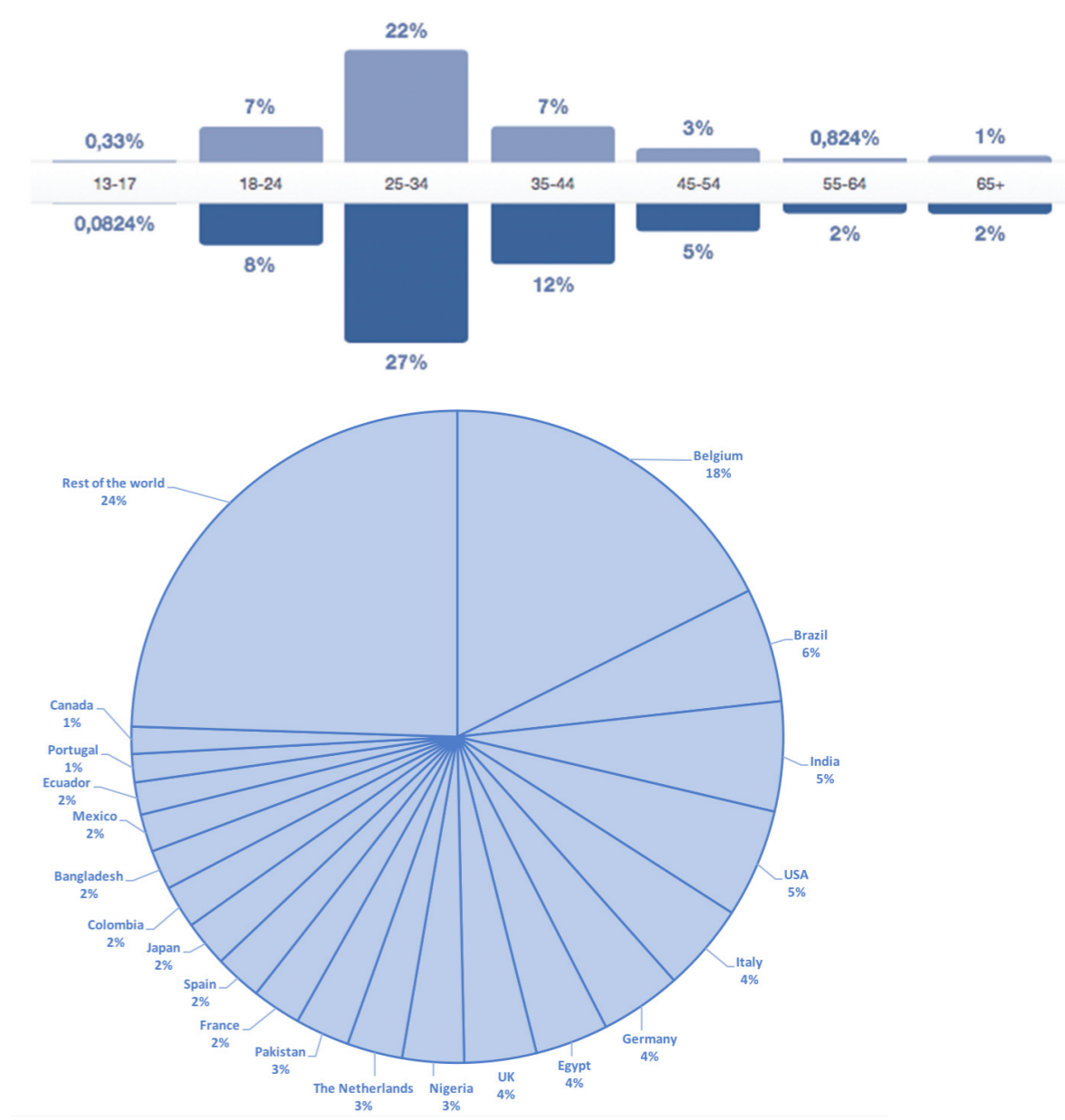


## Women

41%

## Men

57%

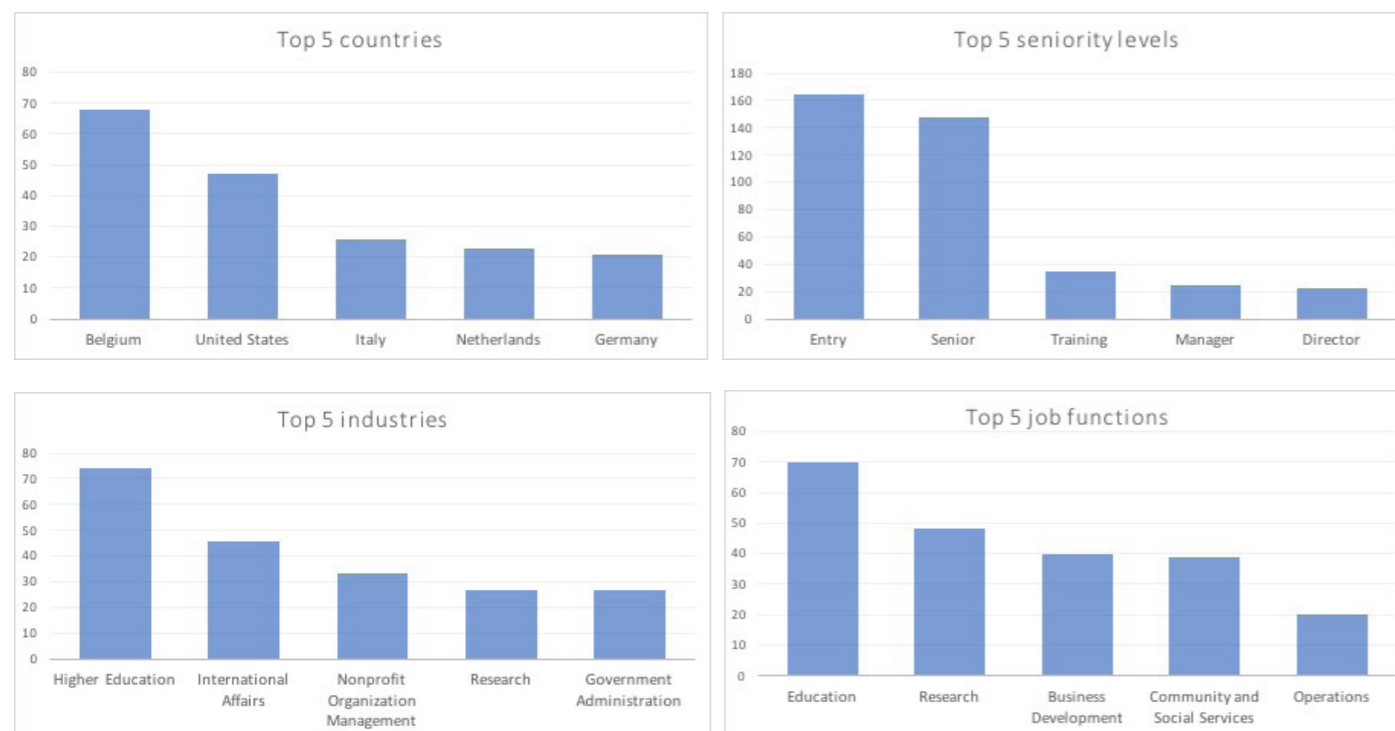


## 3. Twitter

The UNU-CRIS Twitter account was created in July 2012. At the end of 2017, the page featured 591 tweets. The number of followers rose from 538 at the end of 2016 to 893 at the end of 2017; an increase of 49.6%. Followers include UNICEF, UNCTAD, UNITAR, UN Water, UNHCR, EU Defence, the Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies, Palgrave Politics, the UN Chronicle, the Institute of Latin American Studies, the Dag Hammarskjöld Library at the UN, the Institute of Development Policy and Management (University of Antwerp), Ashgate Politics, the Center for UN and Global Governance Studies, ECPR, the Flanders Department of Foreign Affairs, Transparency International EU, GPPAC, UNU-FLORES (Dresden), UNU-GCM (Barcelona), UNU-IIGH (Kuala Lumpur), UNU-MERIT (Maastricht), UNU-WIDER (Helsinki), UNU Office at UNESCO, UNU Press, and many more.

## 4. LinkedIn

The United Nations University - CRIS LinkedIn page was created in May 2013 and had 242 followers by the end of 2014, 382 by the end of 2015, 496 by the end of 2016 and grew by 30,7% to 676 in 2017. The page provides a brief description of the Institute and has a link to the UNU-CRIS website for further information. Most of the followers have a senior position (including managers and directors), have a function in education or research and are affiliated with an institute of higher education or an international affairs agency.



## 5. ResearchGate and Academia.edu

These two social networking platforms for academics and scientists are used by UNU-CRIS researchers to share their research, monitor its popularity and follow the research of others in specific fields. The publications available on these websites can be consulted without charge, which increases their accessibility and, consequently, contributes to the dissemination of our research findings.

## 6. Newsletter

Because of the transition, no newsletters were sent out in 2017. Nevertheless, over 4000 people were subscribed to receive the UNU-CRIS newsletter at the end of 2017. The year 2017 also marked a new beginning for the UNU-CRIS newsletter. A new layout was developed, with the launch of the first new version scheduled for 2018. Also because of new privacy regulations, all subscribers had to be asked for their explicit consent to remain part of the list.

## 7. Media Appearances

UNU-CRIS scholars also weighed on national debates through newspaper articles, radio interviews and television appearances. UNU-CRIS itself was pictured several times in the aftermath of the academic session it held in February to celebrate the new MoU. Articles appeared in Exit (City of Bruges' monthly magazine): 'Anthony Antoine: Universiteit van de Verenigde Naties werkt samen met UGent en VUB', Het Brugs Handelsblad and Kerk en Leven. The institute also reached local television news through Focus/WTV Television: 'Hoog bezoek in Universiteit van de VN in Brugge (9 February)'. <http://www.focus-wtv.be/nieuws/hoog-bezoek-universiteit-van-de-vn-brugge>

## 8. UNU Global Communications Meeting

The fourth Global Communications Meeting was hosted by UNU-GCM in Barcelona from 31 May – 2 June. It brought together almost all of the UNU institutes and their communicators.

UNU-CRIS was represented by Research Assistant to the Director Ewout Ramon. The focus of the retreat was to understand the current realities of the office of communications (OC) in Tokyo and the different institutes, to develop a common vision and broad strategies to reach that vision, and to discuss how the OC and institutes could collaborate, including identifying the roles and responsibilities of each. As a goal for 2017, the Rector charged the Head of Communications at UNU with developing a comprehensive strategy for improving coordination between UNU programs in order to more effectively fulfil the organization's mission. The retreat was staged to help realise this aspiration.



An external facilitator was brought in to assist with developing the content of the retreat, including expected outputs, key questions/activities, and a final report documenting action items and recommendations. After a welcome by the Head of Communications and a message from the Rector's office, delivered by David Passarelli, the facilitator conducted a round of introductions among the participants. The remainder of the first day was then devoted to establishing a clear understanding of the current state of communication efforts, and what internal and external factors influenced these. During the second day the participants defined where they wanted to go, what success meant, and what clear steps they each had to take to move from where

they were to where they wanted to be. The third and final day dealt with the specifics of how the group wanted to work together to achieve these clearly defined goals.

In the end, the discussions resulted in five bold steps, and a task force for each of them. The task force was responsible for defining each step (intent), proposing a process for carrying out the action, and for proposing the appropriate roles for the institutes and the OC in executing the action. Critical actions that were (nearly) concluded by the end of the year included establishing an internal framework for collaboration and creating a global UNU Communications strategy.



# Self-Assessment

## Introduction

This self-assessment is based upon the set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) laid out in the UNU-CRIS Strategic Plan (2017-2021) as worked out in the fall of 2017, and co-designed by the Department of Economy, Science and Innovation of the Flemish Government, according to Art. 6 of the First Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Flanders, the United Nations University, the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and Ghent University concerning the Funding of UNU-CRIS. The evolution of the performance of UNU-CRIS is measured against a set of indicators organized into four specific dimensions (see below) and a set of deliverables. This allows the performance of the Institute to be assessed both from a quantitative and a qualitative perspective.

For a full overview of all UNU-CRIS activities in 2017, please refer to the UNU-CRIS 2017 activity report. Actual activities related to several KPIs could only start under a new directorship at UNU-CRIS (i.e., in June 2017), implying that the actual time span to implement these was just over half a year in practice.

	Target met		Target not met		In process
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## RESEARCH QUALITY

KPI	Time of evaluation	Target	Result 2017
Number of publications in refereed journals	Annually	10 (at least 5 by UNU-CRIS staff)	29 (8)
Number of monographs or contributions to refereed books or edited volumes	Annually	5	29
Number of academic presentations at international conferences (with selection committee) and invited lectures <a href="#">In Flanders</a> <a href="#">Outside Flanders</a>	Annually	15	35 5 30
Ensuring UNU-CRIS' involvement in research applications by organizing focused sessions on research grant acquisition	Annually	2	0
Co-organization of major international conferences	At the end of the MoU, 2021	2	0

In the research quality dimension, 75% of the goals for 2017 were met. 29 peer-reviewed articles were published in high-quality journals, nine books were published, and 20 book chapters were produced. 35 academic presentations and invited lectures were given at international conferences, of which five took place in Flanders. Unfortunately, sessions that focused on research grant acquisition (in collaboration with the two partner universities) could not be organized yet, but staff were informed and stimulated via staff meetings and e-mail. The groundwork for these sessions was also laid out so as to ensure that they take place in 2018. Finally, although only two research seminars were organized throughout the year, a new academically attractive format for 2018 was developed that will directly tackle this shortfall.

## CAPACITY BUILDING

KPI	Time of evaluation	Target	Result 2017
Organization of joint partnership research seminars and colloquia	Annually	20	2
Online Simulation Game aimed at graduate or post-graduate level education, focused on a topic such as the refugee and migration crisis, crisis management in conflict affected regions or on the mitigation of environmental degradation	At the end of the MoU, 2021	1	0
Number of summer schools	At the end of the MoU, 2021	3	1

Hosting of visiting scholars: well-known international academics to be hosted as visiting scholars at UNU-CRIS with a substantial (more than one week) visiting period and with a close scientific cooperation between the visiting scholar and UNU-CRIS of at least three months around the time of visit	Annually	2	3
Number of students conducting an internship at UNU-CRIS contributing to the research activities of the Institute	Annually	20	17

In the capacity-building dimension, 33% of the goals for 2017 were met. Three visiting scholars conducted a research stay at UNU-CRIS, with two of them staying longer than three months, but only two research seminars were organized, and only 17 internships were conducted at UNU-CRIS.

## IMPACT

KPI	Time of evaluation	Target	Result 2017
Attract external research funding through open and competitive financing channels	Annually	25% of core funding from Flemish Government	7,54%
UNU-related presentations for stakeholders including think tanks and civil society organizations	Annually	5	>5
Participation by UNU-CRIS members in policy expert groups and policy advisory committees	At the end of the MoU, 2021	5 policy expert groups 3 policy advisory committees	>5 2
Major announcements on the value, relevance and impact of the work of UNU / UNU-CRIS to audiences in the form of policy briefs on the UNU-CRIS webpage	Annually	2	3
Publication of UNU-CRIS working papers focusing on topics that are relevant to the Institute's program areas	Annually	10	4

In the impact dimension, half of the goals for 2017 were met. Three policy briefs were published on the UNU-CRIS website, and presentations for think tanks and civil society included the Academic Session to celebrate the First MoU between UNU, Ghent University and VUB on 9 February, the panel session on 'Protecting Democracy in Africa and the Americas: The Continental-Regional Governance Nexus' on 2 October, the discussion on 'Migration, Forced Displacement and Fertility during Civil War: A Survival Analysis' on 8 June, a debate session on the EU Migration Policy on 26 September and a keynote speech on EU-US-China relations at the international conference "A New Order or No Order? Continuity and Discontinuity in the EU-China-US Relationship" on 29 September, reaching the target of five presentations annually. For a full list of presentations, please refer to the UNU-CRIS 2017 activity report.

Unfortunately, due to the fairly limited time span of actual activity, the external funds UNU-CRIS was able to attract in 2017 only amounted to 7,54% and only four UNU-CRIS working papers were published.

## COMMUNICATION

KPI	Time of evaluation	Target	Result 2017
Presentation on UN/UNU for local schools (secondary education)	Annually	2	0
Public lectures focusing on the work of UNU-CRIS and on challenges to regional or global governance and stability	Annually	10	8
Outcomes communicated in local or international media	Annually	5	36
Young Persons UN meeting, debate in the Flemish Parliament (200 students)	At the end of the MoU, 2021	1	0

In the communication dimension, 33% of the goals were met. UNU-CRIS made 36 international or local media appearances in 2017, but was unable to present on the United Nations or UNU at local secondary schools, and only eight public lectures focusing on the work of UNU-CRIS and on challenges to regional or global governance and stability were organized.

UNU-CRIS did however invite children from local primary schools De Spiegelrei - Vrijdagmarkt, De Tandem and De Pannebeke, to visit its premises and to learn more about UNU and the United Nations.



DELIVERABLES

KPI	Time of evaluation	Target	Result 2017
Best Thesis Award	Annually	1	1
Development of the RIKS database, providing indicators of regional integration and organization, to be made available online	At the end of the MoU, 2021	Annual follow-up	
Meeting with the Department of Economy, Science and Innovation (EWI) and other interested Flemish parties, where the UNU-CRIS annual report is presented	Annually	1	1
Publication of bi-monthly UNU-CRIS newsletter	Annually	6	0
The UNU-CRIS website to be actively maintained and kept up-to-date at all times	Annually	Annual follow-up	
Improvement of visibility and accessibility of UNU-CRIS premises	Annually	Annual follow-up	
Gender balance for research activities	Annually	40%	40,45%
New functions filled by women	At the end of the MoU, 2021	45%	80%

In the deliverables section, 83.3% of the targets for 2017 are met and most others are in the pipeline to be met at the beginning of 2018:

- A best thesis award, that came together with a sponsored internship, for a top thesis from the College of Europe was awarded to Oleksandra Zmiyenko (see *supra*).
- Also, the foundations for a new (global) Annual Best Dissertation Award were developed in 2017. It will be advertised globally and focus on the work and activities of the United Nations. The meeting with EWI took place on 24 August to discuss the new Strategic Plan 2017 – 2021, and UNU-CRIS updated its website weekly with information about events, publications, activities and/or news.
- Because of the transition, no newsletters were sent out in 2017. But 2017 also marked a new beginning for the UNU-CRIS newsletter. A new layout was developed, with the launch of the first new version scheduled for 2018.
- With an accumulated gender balance of 212 Male (M) vs. 144 Female (F) participants in UNU-CRIS research activities, a 40,45% balance was reached, just over the 40% target. The total balance includes all the research activities (the Academic Session (114 M / 52 F), the Guest Lecture Series (63 M / 58 F), Research Seminar (7 M / 10 F), Doctoral Summer School (12 M / 4 F), Simulation Game on EU-UN Relations (16 M / 20 F). Of the 10 new positions created in 2017, 8 were filled by women.
- Finally, the visibility and accessibility of the UNU-CRIS premises were improved by installing a security and intercom system, and by putting up poster panels in the entrance hall to welcome and inform visitors. In addition, lights were changed to LED, in accordance with UNU-CRIS's green policy.

Projection for 2018

Introduction

For the past 15 years, the focus of UNU-CRIS has been on comparative regional integration studies. UNU-CRIS will, in coming years, build on the legacy and networks it has created so far, while shifting the focus more towards the provision of global and regional public goods and new patterns of stable governance.

The programmatic shift of UNU-CRIS to the analysis of public goods provision and management at the regional and global level – from a focus on comparative regional integration – is due to the fact that the expertise of the partnership is largely centered on a) European integration and b) the search for new patterns of stable regional and global cooperation and governance. This expertise will help UNU-CRIS to successfully expand its scope of research, benefitting more from its geographical location close to several main institutions of the EU, while being embedded explicitly as an institution within the United Nations and UNU. The first steps in this direction were already taken in 2017 and will continue in 2018.

In the course of 2017, UNU-CRIS developed and refined its Strategic Plan 2017-2021 which built on the document ‘Towards a UNU-CRIS 2.0’ that forms an integral part of the 2016 MoU between the Flemish Government, UNU, the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and Ghent University. The plan presents a number of strategic objectives that build on the MoU and on the UNU-CRIS 2.0 background document. At its core is the ambition to develop UNU-CRIS into an academically excellent institute with clear policy relevance. The key strategic objectives can be summarized as follows:

- Explore patterns of public goods provision and management at the regional and global level;
- Assess how regional integration agendas impact policymaking, in the context of European integration and beyond;
- Analyze the role of regionalization processes for the attainment of the SDGs;
- Provide policy support focused on peace and stability to public institutions at various levels of governance;
- Explore possibilities for new patterns of collective action, decision-making and stable governance on the regional and global level;
- Establish UNU-CRIS as a sustainably-financed institute.

UNU-CRIS aims to attain these goals through various methods of research and training:

- Thorough policy-relevant research programs and related projects concerning new patterns of regional and global collaboration and governance;
- Training and capacity-building of policy-makers and policy-shapers through teaching and training programs;
- Networking within the partnership, at ‘Brussels-level’ and within the United Nations and UNU;
- Communication and outreach to civil society and public awareness building through open lectures and debates, and through the use of electronic and social media.

## Projects for 2018

Below is a list of projects for the year 2018, each corresponding to one or multiple of the before-mentioned research and training activities.

### Two Professorships

As part of its strategic partnership with UNU-CRIS, Ghent University, in collaboration with UNU-CRIS, will recruit two full-time Professors of Global Governance and Regional Integration Studies. The selected candidates will need to have an excellent publication track record in one of the research areas relevant to UNU-CRIS and work at the institute.

### Two PhD calls

As part of the strategic partnership with UNU-CRIS, Ghent University, in collaboration with UNU-CRIS, will launch a call for two new PhD Scholarships every year. Students who are interested in this scheme have to find a supervisor at Ghent University. The scholarships will initially be awarded for two years. A second term of maximum two years will be granted after an intermediate evaluation. The aim of these scholarships is to obtain a doctoral degree within a time span of four years. The PhD Fellows will be based at UNU-CRIS.

### Current PhD projects

In 2018, UNU-CRIS will continue the PhD projects it launched in 2017: Global and Regional Multistakeholder Institutions (GREMLIN), the PhD fellowship on 'the EU Forest Law Enforcement Government and Trade (FLEGT) initiative' and the PhD fellowship on 'Public Participation in Environmental Decision-making: Aarhus Watched with Argus eyes?'. For a full description of the projects, please refer to the section 'Engaging with Academia'.

### EUIA conference



Together with the Institute for European Studies at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (IES-VUB), the Institut d'Études Européennes at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (IEE-ULB), and Egmont – the Royal Institute for International Relations UNU-CRIS will co-host the 2018 EUIA Conference, which provides a major forum for academics and policy-makers to debate the role of the EU in the turbulent realm of current affairs. The sixth edition of this event will take place from 16 to 18 May 2018 and will focus on the theme "Protecting and Projecting Europe". The EUIA biennial conference provides a major forum for the discussion and exchange of ideas among academics and policy-makers who engage with such issues.

United Nations Under-Secretary General and UNU Rector David Malone will be part of the opening keynote panel, and UNU-CRIS will organize a policy-link panel on EU-UN relations.

## Research Seminar Series

### Research Seminar Series

As a way of generating innovative ideas and bringing together academics from various institutions, UNU-CRIS will launch an updated version of the Research Seminar Series. This series will connect UNU-CRIS staff, academics from the partner universities, staff from organizations focusing on United Nations activities, interns and trainees, with international scholars working on subjects relevant to the UNU-CRIS research programs. Registration will be open to the public and will be promoted online and through social media channels.

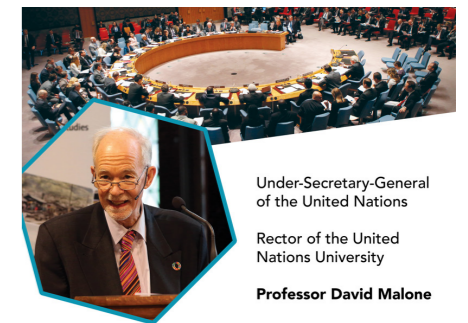
### UNU-CRIS Newsletter (bimonthly)

In 2018, UNU-CRIS will launch its renewed newsletter which will be sent out on a bimonthly basis. The new newsletter will contain information on aspects such as ongoing and upcoming activities at UNU-CRIS, including research seminars and workshops, an overview of personnel changes and recent publications.

### High Level Lecture and Panel

In May 2018, UNU-CRIS will organize and host an Advisory Committee Meeting, followed by a Distinguished Lecture and Academic Panel Session. The main theme of this event focuses on **Challenges to the United Nations Security Council** in a changing geo-political environment and relations between the European Union and the United Nations.

The keynote speech will be delivered by Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and UNU Rector David Malone and the High-Level Academic Panel will focus on **Shifts in Global Power Relations, the European Union and the United Nations**, including UNU-CRIS Director Madeleine Hosli, Helen Nesadurai (Monash University), Katie Laatikainen (Adelphi University), Spyros Blavoukos (Athens University of Economics and Business) and Andrew Bradley (International IDEA, Director of the Office to the EU).



The UN Security Council,  
at Grips with Tectonic Geo-Strategic Change

Followed by a High-Level Academic Panel on  
Shifts in Global Power Relations, the European Union and the United Nations

15 MAY 2018 - 17:00 - BRUGES

Register before 8 May on  
[www.cris.unu.edu/15May2018](http://www.cris.unu.edu/15May2018)



### RIKS

The Regional Integration Knowledge System (RIKS) aims to provide a central node for information exchange on regional integration processes worldwide and to constitute a 'missing link' between the existing regional initiatives for information provision on regional integration and cooperation. For a full description of the project, please refer to the section 'Engaging with Academia'.

2018 should mean a fresh new start for RIKS. After eight research workshops and meetings, and having designed a web development plan in 2017, the implementation will take place in 2018. With the help of a few research trainees and interns, and the support of a web development firm, RIKS 2.0. should be launched before the fall of 2018.

### UNU simulation game



The United Nations University (UNU) will organize and host its first student simulation game for graduate students. This program has been designed by UNU-CRIS, UNU-EHS and UNU-MERIT and aims to bring graduate students from across UNU and beyond together to advance their understanding of the international system. For this first edition, a Leader's Summit of the Group of 20 (G20) will be simulated. Students will have the opportunity to develop their skills across a range of disciplines.

including; research, public speaking, teamwork and leadership and, at the same time, they will also get a glimpse of the complexities of international negotiations at the highest level. This event will take place in April 2018, with a total of 60 students participating, of which 10 students are from Ghent University and VUB.

### New External Projects

To match the contributions by the Flemish Government, UNU-CRIS will continue trying to attract external research funding in 2018, through open and competitive financing channels, including the EU’s Horizon 2020 program. To prepare and stimulate staff to be involved in this undertaking, UNU-CRIS will organize at least two sessions focused on research grant acquisition in the course of 2018.

### New Educational Activities

In 2018, UNU-CRIS will be drafting new educational materials and activities, including a simulation game on EU-UN relations (available online) and plans for a new summer school (to be offered on a regular basis). The development of the EU-UN relations simulation game began in 2017 in collaboration with EUN-NET, and will be finalized in 2018 in order to make it available online on the UNU-CRIS website. The summer school will be hosted in Bruges and will focus on challenges to global governance and the interaction between patterns of global and regional governance.

### Workshops and Outreach Events

In 2018, UNU-CRIS will continue in its efforts to become more visible by organizing activities such as workshops and outreach events. Possibly in collaboration with the partner universities, UNU-CRIS will develop activities both for the general public as well as other target audiences (i.e. local community, students, academics, international community, etc.). Workshops will be focused on substantive areas that are central to the activities of UNU-CRIS.

### Sustainable Development Explorer

In 2018, UNU-CRIS will participate in the Sustainable Development Explorer Campaign ([www.unu.edu/explore](http://www.unu.edu/explore)), an online tool developed by UNU bringing together some 400 researchers engaged in more than 180 research projects.

Interconnections are central to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015, the SDGs inspire global action to overcome the world’s related challenges — from hunger and poverty to equality and peace. Governments, businesses, civil society, and the UN system are working together to achieve the goals by 2030, and improve the lives of people everywhere. The SDGs offer a convenient and recognisable framework under which to organise UNU’s work. The SD Explorer enables UNU’s various publics to explore the “who” and “what” of UNU, meet the UNU experts, and learn how UNU’s ideas are generating knowledge to develop realistic solutions to achieve all 17 SDGs.



## Human Resources

### 1 Resident Personnel

Name	Position	At UNU-CRIS since
Madeleine Hosli	Director	June 2017
Anthony Antoine	Deputy Director (since June 2017)	October 2016
Ewout Ramon	Research Assistant to the Director (since January 2016)	April 2013
Simon Schunz	Research Fellow / Associate Research Fellow	July 2016
Glenn Rayp	Research Fellow	April 2017
Riccardo Trobbiani	Project Researcher (since February 2017)	June 2016
Elke Boers	Project Researcher	April 2017
Sara Salomone	Project Researcher	June 2017
Leonie Jegen	Project Researcher	September 2017
Elke Verhaeghe	PhD Fellow	September 2017
Sofie Vereycken	PhD Fellow	September 2017
Diana Potjomkina	PhD Fellow	December 2017
Pascale Vantorre	Management Assistant	June 2000
Noël Neven	Financial and Administrative Officer	January 2002

### 2 Associates

Name	Position	Affiliation	Associate since
Luk Van Langenhove	Associate Senior Research Fellow	Vrije Universiteit Brussel	October 2016
Philippe De Lombaerde	Associate Senior Research Fellow	NEOMA Business School Rouen	January 2016
Fredrik Söderbaum	Associate Senior Research Fellow	University of Gothenburg	April 2006
Lelio Iapadre	Associate Research Fellow	University of L’Aquila	November 2006
Eric Maertens	Associate Research Fellow	ILO	October 2007
Rodrigo Tavares	Associate Research Fellow	Granito Partners	December 2008
Philomena Murray	Associate Research Fellow	University of Melbourne	July 2009
Stephen Kingah	Associate Research Fellow	Pan African University Institute on Governance and Social Sciences, Yaoundé	January 2017
Ludo Cuyvers	Associate Research Fellow	University of Antwerp	December 2011
Timothy Shaw	Associate Research Fellow	University of Massachusetts Boston	January 2012
Tatiana Skripka	Associate Research Fellow	Maastricht University UNU-MERIT	March 2012
Lorenzo Fioramonti	Associate Research Fellow	University of Pretoria	May 2012
Bernard Mazijn	Associate Research Fellow	Ghent University	January 2013
Gaspare Genna	Associate Research Fellow	The University of Texas at El Paso	February 2013
Andrew Cooper	Associate Research Fellow	Centre for Global Cooperation Research University of Waterloo	April 2013
Micha Wiebusch	Associate Research Fellow	University of Antwerp	January 2016

Ana B. Amaya	Associate Research Fellow	Pace Univeristy, New York London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	January 2017
Joren Selleslaghs	Associate Research Fellow	Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs	August 2017
Samuel Standaert	Associate Project Leader	Clemson University Ghent University	May 2017
Peter Claeys	Associate Project Leader	Vrije Universiteit Brussel	May 2017
Ilse Ruysen	Associate Project Leader	Ghent University	June 2017
Ilke Adam	Associate Project Leader	Vrije Universiteit Brussel Université Libre de Bruxelles	June 2017
Florian Trauner	Associate Project Leader	Vrije Universiteit Brussel	June 2017
Jamal Shahin	Associate Project Leader	Vrije Universiteit Brussel	December 2017
Jan Orbie	Associate Project Leader	Ghent University	December 2017

### 3 List of UNU-CRIS Visiting Scholars, Trainees and Interns

#### 3.1 Visiting Scholars

Name	Sex	Nationality	Home University	Duration
Marta Lenartowicz	♀	Poland	Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium)	6 months
Domenico Valenza	♂	Italy	College of Europe (Belgium)	6 months
Melanie James	♀	Australia	Newcastle University (Australia)	1 month

#### 3.2 Trainees

Name	Sex	Nationality	College / University	Academic Program/Degree	Position	Duration
Sammy Plovie	♂	Belgium	Howest Bruges	Bachelor Office Management	Management Assistant	2 weeks
Niels Taghon	♂	Belgium	VIVES Bruges	Bachelor Office Management	Management Assistant	15 weeks
Robert Menzies	♂	United Kingdom	University of Glasgow	Bachelor of Law	Research Trainee	2 months
Olesya Dovgalyuk	♀	Russia	University of Bristol	Bachelor Politics & International Relations	Research Trainee	2 months
Ajsela Masovic	♀	Belgium	Hogeschool Gent	MA in Translation: English - French	Management Assistant	3 months
Isidoro Noack	♂	Italy	Leiden University	Bachelor International Studies	Research Trainee	3 months

#### 3.3 Interns

Name	Sex	Nationality	College / University	Academic Program/Degree	Research Program	Duration
Anke De Craemer	♀	Belgium	Ghent University	Bachelor and Master in Political Science Master of Science in General Economics	Communication Intern	4 months
Rory Johnson	♂	United Kingdom	Leiden University	Master in International Relations	Research Intern	4 months
Andrew Dunn	♂	Australia	University of Kent	Master in International Relations	Research Intern	4 months
Oleksandra Zmiyenko	♀	Poland	Jagiellonian University College of Europe	Master in Law, Master of Arts in European Inter-disciplinary studies	Research Intern	3 months
Glaudio Garcia	♂	Mexico	Maastricht University, UNU-MERIT	Master of Public Policy and Human Development	Research Intern	3 months
Rachit Sharma	♂	India	Maastricht University, UNU-MERIT	Master of Public Policy and Human Development	Research Intern	2 months
Maisha Fairuz	♀	Bangladesh	Central European University	Master of Arts in Economic Policy and Global Markets	Research Intern	1 month
Rossella Marino	♀	Italy	University of Trento	Master in European and International Studies	Research Intern	2 months
Joris Ramm	♂	The Netherlands	Vrije Universiteit Brussel	BA in History, Master Political Science	Research Intern	1 month
Clémence Pricken	♀	Belgium	Maastricht University, UNU-MERIT	Master of Public Policy and Human Development	Research Intern	1 month
Abhiram Reddy	♂	United States	University of Southern California	Bachelor in International Relations	Research Intern	1 month

