

United Nations University

Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies

Annual Report

2022



UNU
CRIS

United Nations University

Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies

2022 Annual Report

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Director: Philippe De Lombaerde

Designed and produced by Andrew Dunn with the support of Pascale Vantorre.

UNU-CRIS is grateful to the following stakeholders for their core support:





Visiting the Flanders Marine
Institute (VLIZ) in September
Photo: Ann-Katrien Lescauwae / VLIZ

Director's Welcome



2022 marked the start of a new five-year cycle for UNU-CRIS, governed by the second Memorandum of Understanding between United Nations University (UNU), the Flemish Community, Ghent University and Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), following a positive external evaluation and the decision of the Flemish Government at the Flemish Council of Ministers at the end of 2021. We thank our key stakeholders for their continued trust and support.

On May 24th the new MoU was formally signed in the Bruges Town Hall.

A strategic planning exercise was conducted in 2022 to further refine the Institute's research agenda, take stock of our growing and diverse expertise, and define priorities for the next five years. Our last strategic plan was devised back in 2016, and the world has evolved since then, but UNU-CRIS has once again shown its agility and ability to adapt. As the UN's research centre on regional and global cooperation and governance, it is our task to keep on top of trends and at the forefront of research on the most pressing issues across all levels of governance, and to do so, we are excited to introduce our new restructured and refocused research programme and a new strategic plan outlining how we will contribute to addressing these major challenges. The full text can be consulted on our website.

According to the new strategic Plan 2022-2026, our research is structured around three research programmes (the "3 R's") and several clusters. The study of governance and cooperation highlights the importance of regional organisations, despite facing strain from resurgent nationalist forces, as crucial

OUR MISSION

UNU-CRIS focuses on new patterns of regional cooperation and multi-level governance worldwide, centring on the implications of these changing patterns for public policy.

Through its research and capacity-building activities, it connects scholarly knowledge with policy, and directly contributes to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

yet underutilised entities in addressing cross-border issues in conjunction with other governance levels. Additionally, cities and substate regions have emerged as significant players on the governance spectrum, establishing themselves as powerhouses and engaging in international interactions.

In the 2023 report of the High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism (*A Breakthrough for People and Planet*) the crucial role of regions in global governance was underlined once more: “While having widely differing capacities, regional organisations have a special set of responsibilities and roles that make them indispensable for addressing issues of global concern. The meaningful political and financial investment in regional bodies proposed in this report would align the UN system with the principle of subsidiarity, deliver greater legitimacy across the multilateral system, and address many of the shortcomings in global governance identified in *Our Common Agenda*” (p. 20).

The Regions and Cities Governance Lab (Re-LAB), our first programme, aims to explore the evolving role of governance levels beyond the nation-state, including substate regions, cities, and regional organisations undergoing reform.

The Regional Integration Knowledge System (RIKS), our second programme, aims to provide reliable information on regionalisation patterns within the global system, the development of regional organisations, and quantitative methods applied to regionalism studies.

This programme also supports regional organisations and other authorities in developing indicator-based monitoring systems.

In today’s globalised world, cross-border issues pose the most significant challenges, as demonstrated by the Covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. Our largest programme, Regional Public Goods (RPGs), encompasses several clusters that analyse key policy areas, such as Migration and Social Policy, Economic Interactions, Digital Governance, and Nature, Climate and Health. The programme focuses on examining the structures within these areas and emphasises how greater cooperation can lead to greater benefits for all.

The challenges we face in the world are growing more urgent each day, and mere understanding of the situation is insufficient. We must strive to improve and correct our paths. At UNU-CRIS, through this focused and clear research programme, we not only research critical governance and cooperation issues but also provide policy-relevant output to guide policymakers in addressing these challenges.

2022 marked the return to (a new?) normality after the pandemic episode with a return to the office, and the return of visitors, interns, and in-person (or hybrid) events and trainings. We co-organised various in-person or hybrid events, including the UNU Climate Resilience Initiative in Maastricht, the EU-LATAM Symposium in Madrid, and several research seminars.



UNU Rector Tshilidzi Marwala and UN Secretary General António Guterres
Photo: Eskinder Debebe/UN Photo

We were also glad to receive the visit of the Secretary-General of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, diplomats from Angola, Ghana and Belgium, university staff and student delegations from Indonesia, The Philippines, and The Netherlands, as well as visiting researchers from China, Finland, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Spain, and many more.

2022 also meant the start of new research projects with external funding and partners, including the Flemish Research Fund (FWO), the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), TEPSA/European Parliament, FEPS, UNU-CPR/USIP, Finnish Work Environment Fund, and VVSG/IDEA, to name just a few.

Regarding capacity building, our three regular summer schools took place, of which the tenth (!) Doctoral School on Latin American, European and Comparative Regionalism was again organised in person at the Universidad Andina in Quito (Ecuador). The Summer School on Comparative Regionalism (in collaboration with Universitas Airlangga

and M. Narikbayev KAZGUU University), and the School on Modern Diplomacy (in collaboration with the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna) were still organised online.

We also welcomed the first successful PhD defenses after the first MoU with UGent and VUB involved the funding of young PhD researchers, formally enrolled at one of the two universities and conducting their research at UNU-CRIS (Els Bekaert/UGent, Diana Potjomkina/VUB, Presca Wanki/UGent).

Finally, 2022 was also the final full year in office of Rector David Malone. We thank him for his continued support of UNU-CRIS over the last ten years. His successor, Rector and UN Under-Secretary-General Tshilidzi Marwala, former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Johannesburg, took office in early 2023. He thus became the seventh UNU Rector. We are looking forward to working with him in the coming years.

Philippe De Lombaerde

Director of United Nations University Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies

Financial Overview

€2,133,696

Total Budget 2022

48.5%

Core Funding
Flemish Government

23.4%

External Project Funding*

18.3%

Ghent University

9.8%

VUB

*These include FWO (via UGent); BOF-DOS (via UGent); Network for Advancement of Sustainable Capacity in Education and Research in Ethiopia - Nascere; Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Addis Ababa/Oromia Regional State Government (Ethiopia)/Africa Studies Centre Leiden (ASCL); La Caixa Fellowship; EXCELLENT SCIENCE - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions; China Scholarship Council Programme at the VUB; Microsoft (via VUB); Microsoft; Eutopia; U.S. Institute of Peace; Foundation for European Progressive Studies; Organization of Eastern Caribbean States; European Parliament/TEPSA; VVSG/IDEA Consult

External project funding corresponds to 48.5% of core funding from the Flemish Government.

Highlight

Signing of the Second Memorandum of Understanding

A model for how academic collaboration should be – that was the sentiment of the evening as the United Nations University, the Flemish Community, Ghent University and the Vrije Universiteit Brussel signed the second Memorandum of Understanding on Tuesday 24 May, giving UNU-CRIS a further five years to advance its research on the various facets of regionalism and multi-level governance. The first speech of the evening came from the Mayor of Bruges, Dirk De fauw, who welcomed the guests to the historic City Hall and outlined the city's pleasure at having UNU-CRIS as part of its research and educational landscape.

Mayor De fauw was followed by the Director of UNU-CRIS, Philippe De Lombaerde, who gave a history of the institute, from its beginnings as a research arm of the College of Europe, through to the new trilateral partnership with Ghent University and the Vrije Universiteit Brussel in 2016, to where it finds itself today, as an internationally-renowned hub of knowledge and policy-relevant research, welcoming over 450 scholars from more than 70 countries to Bruges throughout its 21-year history.

Next, the Governor of West Flanders, Carl Decaluwé, spoke about the province's



Photo: Robbe Decloedt

history as a proactive and determined hub of business, culture, learning and innovation, and how the province is pleased to host an institute harbouring many of the same values in its capital, Bruges.

Sharing the views of the partners, Ghent University Rector Rik Van de Walle and VUB Rector ad interim Jan Danckaert took to the podium, sharing their conviction that collaboration between leading institutions and their researchers is vital, and their belief in the necessity for supranational organisations, such as the United Nations, to work with local universities, to share and generate the knowledge needed to tackle our most urgent problems. Their sentiment was clear: with an interdisciplinary, multi-level, globally-focused research structure, UNU-CRIS should be the model for research institutes.

The Flemish Minister of Economy, Innovation, Work, Social Economy and Agriculture, Jo Brouns, reinforced Flanders' commitment to research and innovation, and how the government is proud and steadfast in its investment in UNU-CRIS as a key interlocutor in the deliverance of evidence-based policy.

The audience then heard from David Malone, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Rector of UNU, as he outlined the importance of collaborative research in these times of geopolitical instability, thanking the partners and the Flemish government for their support in UNU-CRIS, and sharing his belief in the institute and its ability to deliver in the coming five years.



Photo: Robbe Decloedt

Highlight

Flood Knowledge Summit

In July 2021, the Rhine-Meuse region straddling Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands was affected by devastating floods that led to the loss of more than 240 lives and damage worth billions of Euros.

The event garnered significant attention from both regional and global agencies, who closely monitored and responded to the situation. As researchers, local and regional governments, media outlets,

development organisations, public offices, and citizen groups reflected on the event, it became clear that climate change and gaps in our preparedness for extreme events were major themes of discussion.

In recognition of the cross-border effects of climate change, the United Nations University institutes in Bruges (UNU-CRIS), Bonn (UNU-EHS) and Maastricht (UNU-MERIT) launched the *UNU Climate*



Photo: Herman Pijpers/UNU-MERIT

Resilience Initiative with the goal of sharing knowledge, shaping policy, and driving proactive adaptation, innovation, and transformation. As part of this initiative, researchers from the three institutes conducted research in the flood-affected areas and organised the *Flood Knowledge Summit 2022: From Risks to Resilience* in Maastricht, The Netherlands, on 7-8 July.

The event provided a platform for various actors including affected citizens, volunteers, authorities, scientists, and civil society from the region, the EU, and the Global South to come together and share experiences and dialogue on how to build resilient societies. The event also provided an opportunity to learn from previous events and other flood-affected regions, including in the Global South.

Over the course of two days, more than 70 speakers including practitioners, policymakers, students, and researchers from the three affected countries, other parts of Europe, and the Global South shared their insights. The event had about 170 participants, comprising both on-site and online participants, who actively engaged in the discussions. The summit created a regional momentum to support multidimensional efforts towards building resilience and adapting to climate-induced extreme events like floods and other hazard events. The summit complemented existing national initiatives and efforts in the three affected countries.

Drawing on the outcomes of the summit, the three institutes will publish a report in 2023 that outlines five key areas where further research and action is needed to tackle climate risks and facilitate pathways towards climate resilience.

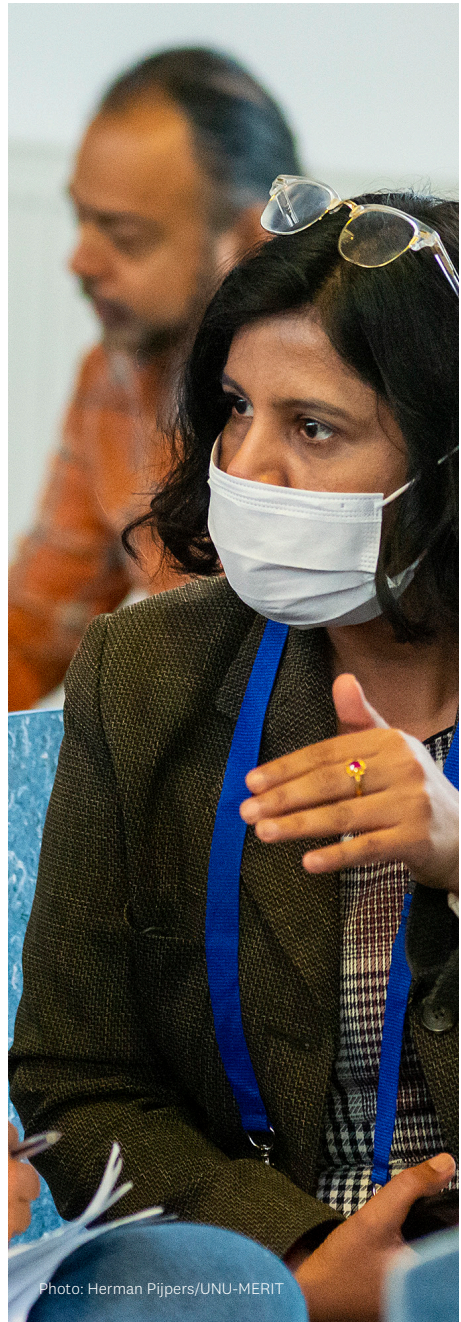


Photo: Herman Pijpers/UNU-MERIT

Highlight

Tenth Doctoral School on Comparative Regionalism

It has been an eventful decade in the study of regionalism, and the Doctoral School on Latin American, European and Comparative Regionalism has been one of the leading programmes bringing people together to discuss the events shaping the space.

This collaboration between UNU-CRIS and the Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar - Sede Ecuador celebrated its tenth edition in 2022. In this time, over 150 students have spent a week in Quito learning from leading figures in the study of regionalism, including Diana Tussie, Maria Luisa Sánchez Barrueco, Alice Ba, Anja Jetschke, Detlef Nolte, José Briceño Ruiz, Fredrik Söderbaum, Timothy Shaw, Andrea Ribeiro Hoffmann, Cintia Quiliconi, Alan Fairlie, Ernesto Vivares, Wolf Grabendorff,

Jean-François Ponsot, Pia Riggirozzi, Régis Dandoy, Stephen Kingah, to name just a few.

The programme has also offered a space for exchange and growth, making developing the student's research projects a core element by giving them the opportunity to present their research and get feedback from the instructors and other participants.

The proof of the Doctoral School's utility can be found in the careers its alumni have gone on to build, with former participants becoming professors, members of Parliament, judges in regional courts, diplomats, and experts at various agencies within the United Nations system and think tanks.



Photo: UASB

Highlight

First Cohort of PhD Defences From New Partnership

2022 was the year the first PhD candidates of UNU-CRIS 2.0, created by the trilateral partnership between UGent, the VUB and the Government of Flanders that began in 2016, successfully defended their theses.

It was a proud moment, marking the first full circles of research at UNU-CRIS and the start of two new ones, with two of the three candidates staying on in new capacities.

Multistakeholderism in the European Union's Trade Policy-Making: Analysing Domestic Advisory Groups

Diāna Potjomkina (VUB)

Promoters: Jamal Shahin and Jan Orbie



[Un]Certainty After Return: Unpacking Community Expectations, Familial Geopolitics and [In]Formal Support for Cameroonian Returnees

Presca Wanki (UGent)

Promoter: Ine Lietaert



Understanding Migration Drivers: The Role of Health and Climate Factors

Els Bekaert (UGent)

Promoter: Ilse Ruyssen and Gerdie Everaert



Research

Cluster Reports

Our clusters create spaces for exchange, interaction and development - they are the heart of our knowledge generation. In this section, you can find selected highlights from each cluster, with the full list of academic output available on page 42.



Photo: Jonas Vandecasteele/Capture Photography



Regions and Cities Governance Lab

In 2022, the Regions and Cities Governance Lab has continued to make significant progress in advancing our understanding of the complexities of multilateral cooperation and regional organisations.

Our research has covered a variety of topics, including regionalism and higher education, the external relations of regional organisations and regional identity politics. Given this cluster's prominent focus on Eastern Europe and Eurasia and the role played by Russia, the latter's invasion of Ukraine made 2022 a turbulent year for several of the researchers working in the cluster. The geopolitical tectonic shifts

and instability resulting from Russia's war against Ukraine had direct repercussions for the research projects on Eastern Europe and Eurasia, with some even having to abandon their projects and refocus entirely.

Through our research and capacity building efforts, we are proud of our contribution to helping policymakers develop and implement effective governance strategies.

Frank Mattheis

Cluster Coordinator



ACHIEVEMENT

Inaugural FLAD Security Award

Frank Mattheis was the recipient of the first Luso-American Development Foundation (FLAD) Atlantic Security Award for his project *Maritime Regional Security Mechanisms in the Atlantic: A Comparative Study*.

The project studied maritime security mechanisms in 11 different regional organisations, seeking to understand what motivates the creation of different security mechanisms, thus contributing to promoting greater cooperation between regional organisations in detecting the first signs of conflict in the Atlantic and preventing an increase in violence.

EVENT

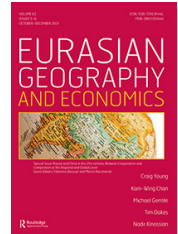
The Rise of Ocean Regions: Governance Challenges for the Indo-Pacific and the Atlantic

UNU-CRIS co-organised a research colloquium held at the University of Pretoria (South Africa) in November to explore ocean region governance challenges in the Indo-Pacific and the Atlantic oceans, covering topics such as what are the interests of the various internal and external actors, evaluating recent strategy documents towards the Indo-Pacific/Indian Ocean/South Atlantic, the issues driving ocean regionalisation, and African positions on its maritime spaces.

PUBLICATION

Russia and China Between Cooperation and Competition at the Regional and Global Level

This journal article, co-authored by Fabienne Bossuyt (UNU-CRIS/UGent), explores the history of the Sino-Russian relationship, outlines a need to move beyond the IR realist perspective that predominates the literature on the relationship, explores the limitations and dilemmas of the relationship, and stresses the need to pay specific attention to the agency of the “in-between” countries. Published in January 2022 before the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, it offers a fascinating pre-war insight into a relationship that would grow in importance and become a major discussion point among academics and policymakers throughout the year.



ACHIEVEMENT

Presidency of the EU Science Diplomacy Alliance

On 1 July, the Unit on Non-Traditional Diplomacy (UNTRAD) – a joint entity of UNU-CRIS and the VUB's Brussels School of Governance – assumed the sixth-month rotating presidency of the European Union Science Diplomacy Alliance. The priorities of UNTRAD's presidency were to empower the organisational capacities of the Alliance and to empower academia in the field of science diplomacy. Established in March 2021, the Alliance's goal is to maintain and increase awareness of science diplomacy in Europe.

Regional Integration Knowledge System

This year, the Regional Integration Knowledge System cluster focused on three main themes: gravity modelling, indicator systems and the economic impact of trade agreements and regional organisations.

We began the year with the release of a new database that imputes migration data. Addressing a major limitation in migration research, it has already proven useful to fellow academics and has opened up new opportunities for collaboration with our institute.

The cluster also contributed to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) monitor project with Flemish municipalities and IDEA Consult. Our cluster is also responsible for maintaining the RIKS-platform. We updated the data on regional organisations, and we have created new data on imputed migration flows, which will become available on the platform in 2023.

Samuel Standaert
Cluster Coordinator

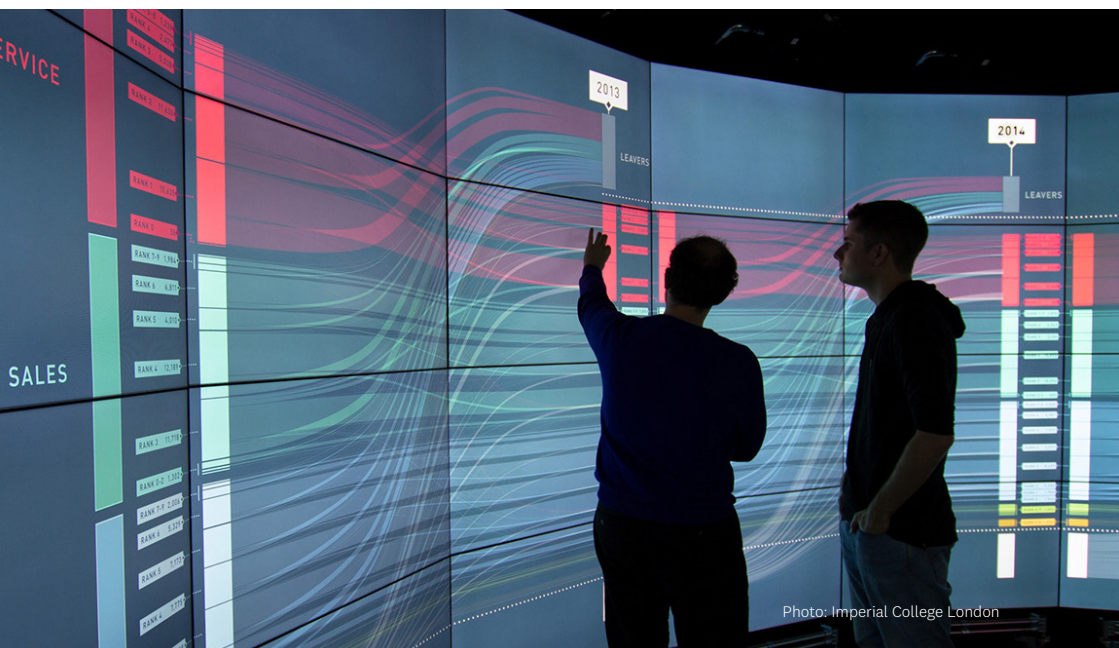


Photo: Imperial College London

PUBLICATION

Where Did They Come From, Where Did They Go? Bridging the Gaps in Migration Data

This working paper by Samuel Standaert and Glenn Rayp proposes a novel approach to estimating the most likely values of missing migration stocks and flows, using innovative modelling to combine information from multiple datasets on both stocks and flows into a single estimate.



The result is a global, yearly, bilateral database on the stock of migrants according to their country of birth. This database contains close to 2.9 million observations on over 56,000 country pairs from 1960 to 2020, a tenfold increase relative to the second-largest database. In addition, it also produces an estimate of the net flow of migrants.

PUBLICATION

Roundabout Way To Multilateralism: How Could Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs) And Plurilaterals Revitalise It?

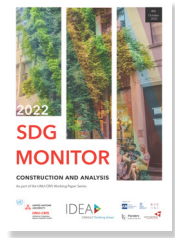
This policy brief for the Think20 Indonesia Summit, co-authored by Lelio Iapadre, examines some positive aspects of selected regional trade agreements that could support the multilateral system by strengthening global value chains (including through industrial policy tools), and the ongoing plurilateral processes at WTO level, by leveraging the G20 as an effective platform to foster dialogue among Member States.

PUBLICATION

The 2022 SDG Monitor: Construction and Analysis

This working paper co-authored by Samuel Standaert and Justine Miller outlines how the third edition of the SDG Monitor was constructed and updated from previous versions.

Based on the feedback and insights of a number of pioneering municipalities, the research team collected information on 243 indicators that track the SDG outcomes, 2.5 times the number of indicators in the previous version and therefore providing greater detail & relevance for the Flemish municipalities.



These have been organised into various SDGs and subgoals for which they created these indexes.

PUBLICATION

An Exploration of Bruges' SDG Performance Using the Flemish SDG Monitor

Samuel Standaert and Justine Miller review the performance of Bruges on reaching the SDGs using the 2020 SDG Index for Flemish Cities in this working paper.

They find that, overall, Bruges performs well, especially when compared to other regions and cities with similar characteristics. Further, they examine how and why the scores have changed over time, before suggesting a few possible paths for improvement.

Regional Public Goods

Migration and Social Policy

2022 saw migration studies return to the forefront of debate and coverage, with the exodus of Ukrainians fleeing the war and the ever-present, ever-tragic journeys of migrants attempting to reach the EU being two major talking points around policy and kitchen tables.

Our contribution to these debates came in the form of deepening and developing our research on return governance, the climate/migration nexus, internal displacement, and the impact of borders and regional actors on social welfare services.

We contributed to a seminal Handbook of Return Migration, fostered debates on decentering research, and our researchers conducted fieldwork in places such as Georgia, the Philippines and Ethiopia.

It was also a year of change within the cluster, with two PhD fellows successfully defending their theses, and one starting their new journey.



Ine Lietaert
Cluster Coordinator



Photo: IOM - UN Migration/Flickr

EVENT

Journey for Life: Unaccompanied Refugee Minors

UNU-CRIS co-organised an event in Bruges on 29 April with Amnesty International, Avansa Brugge and BeMSA to discuss the full trajectory of the difficult and shaping journey undertaken by some of conflict's most vulnerable victims.

Based on the findings of the CHILDMOVE study, Ine Lietaert provided insights into the trajectories of unaccompanied minors through Europe before their arrival in Belgium, their experiences along the way, and the various aspects of the support received once in Belgium which have a positive influence on their psychological well-being.

PUBLICATION

Handbook of Return Migration

Ine Lietaert and Rosella Marino contributed two chapters to the *Handbook of Return Migration*, published by Edward Elgar.

One chapter critically addressed the evolution and development of Assisted Return Programmes in different EU Member States, while the second chapter critically analysed the Policy Objective of Sustainable Reintegration in the context of the governance of return migration.



EVENT

Migration and Governance Forum

On 22 November, UNU-CRIS hosted the Migration and Governance forum, which brought together scholars and students to hear from leading minds in the fields of migration, governance, and international cooperation.

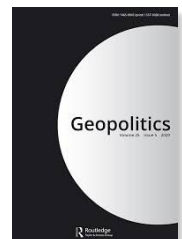
The event started with a lecture by Jean-Pierre Cassarino (University of Tuscia/ College of Europe), one of the foremost scholars on return migration. His lecture touched upon the externalisation of migration processes and the varying levels of engagement in non-EU countries on migration. The second session featured a panel of three guests discussing decentring and decolonising research.

PUBLICATION

Translating Europe's Return Migration Regime to The Gambia: The Incorporation of Local CSOs

This journal article by Rossella Marino examines how, following the end of a long-standing autocratic regime in The Gambia, EUrope renewed its geopolitical interest in the externalisation of (return) migration management to the West African country.

This paper demonstrates that local implementers endorse EUropean migration management because they broadly see it as beneficial; yet, with their criticism, requests and imagination, manage to limitedly alter it, and may, potentially, transform it.



Regional Public Goods

Economic Interactions

‘Economics is everywhere’ goes the old saying, and the activities of the Economic Interactions cluster in 2022 prove this to be the case, with a range of inter-cluster and interdisciplinary research and output.

This year, we worked closely with the Nature, Climate and Health cluster on an analysis of the environmental impact assessments of trade agreements, with the results expected in 2023.

With the RIKS cluster, we worked on a major migration data imputation project in which yearly estimates of bilateral migrant

stocks were constructed using the five-year UN and World Bank data, addressing a key limitation in migration research, and on the construction of an index of institutional strength and depth and scope of integration of regional organisations.

In 2022 we laid the groundwork for some exciting projects, and we look forward to seeing how high we can build in 2023.

Glenn Rayp
Cluster Coordinator

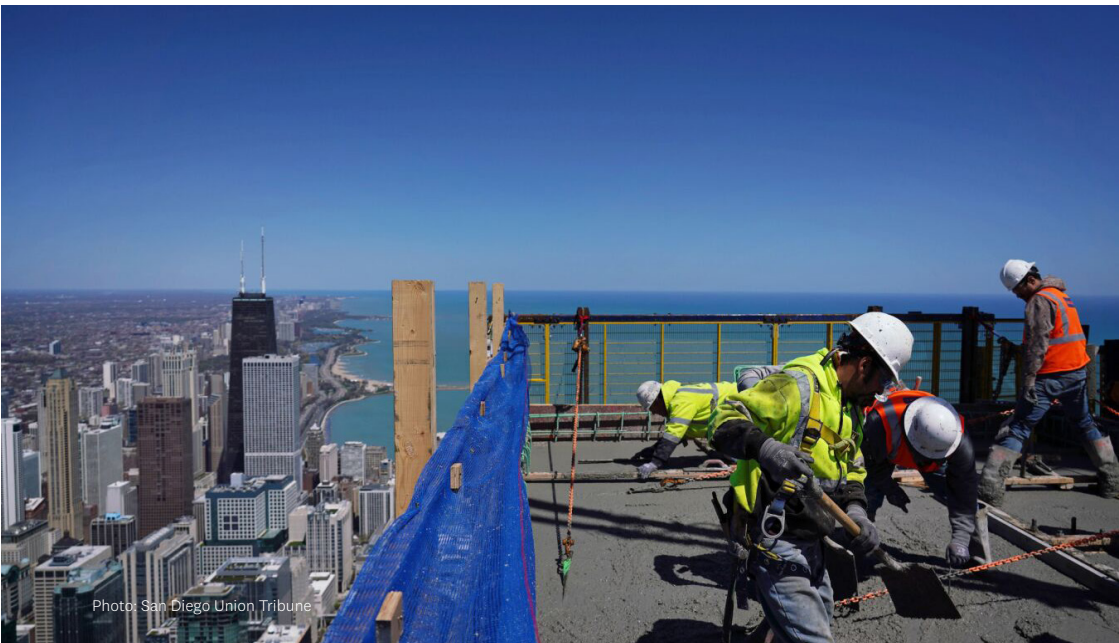


Photo: San Diego Union Tribune

BOOK CHAPTER

The G20 and the Poorest Countries in the Aftermath of the Global Financial Crisis

This book chapter by Sven Van Kerckhoven (UNU-CRIS/VUB) evaluates the G20 response to the impacts of the global financial crisis on least-developed countries, focussing on the first years after the crisis (2008-2015).

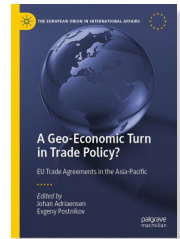
He outlines how the world's poorest countries were hit particularly hard, reviewing the transmission mechanisms from the crisis to the LDC's economic fortunes. The chapter outlines where the impacts were hardest felt, such as in drops in exports and foreign direct investment, before describing how the G20's lending capacity was most helpful in supporting the economic recovery of many of the worst-affected countries.

PUBLICATION

Sustainable Development in EU-Asia Trade Relations

Co-authored by Jan Orbie (UNU-CRIS/UGent), this book chapter explores how the EU satisfies sustainability demands in trade agreements and how geopolitical considerations impact the design of specific clauses in recent trade deals with five Asian countries.

It argues that while the relative impact of the international level on the design of sustainability clauses is not observable, the EU template allows for potential interactions between the sustainability dimensions of EU and US agreements.



PUBLICATION

Strategic Responses of Regional Economic Organisations to the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative: The Cases of ASEAN, EAEU, and EU

This journal article co-authored by Philippe De Lombaerde, Ikboljon Qoraboyev and Servaas Taghon undertakes a systematic comparative analysis of how regional economic organisations (REOs) in the wider Eurasian region have strategically responded to the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative. The analysis links the distinctive features of the REOs to the shape and impact of their strategic responses to the Belt and Road Initiative. At the same time, it shows the extent to which REOs play a functional role vis-à-vis their member states and large firms in a macro-regional strategic context.



PUBLICATION

Unobserved Heterogeneity in the Productivity Distribution and the Gains From Trade

This journal article co-authored by Glenn Rayp argues that heterogeneity in productivity is best captured by finite mixture models (FMMs) as they build on the existence of unobserved subpopulations in the data. Relative to commonly used parametric alternatives, the authors find that FMMs are the only distributions able to provide a sufficiently good fit to the data. They use a gains from trade exercise with Portuguese data to reveal that only FMMs approximate the “true” gains reasonably well.

Regional Public Goods

Nature, Climate and Health

Floods in Pakistan, drought in Europe and cyclones in the United States - 2022 was a deadly and costly reminder of the urgency of the climate crisis and its wave of related effects.

Our research this year focused on the intersection of the economic, social and ecological impacts of climate change, and how to best work together to address these typically cross-border challenges.

We were present at COP27 in Egypt, bringing visibility to and raising awareness of the impacts of climate change on mental

health and gender-based violence, together with other UNU institutes and partners.

Our researchers were active around the globe, undertaking speaking engagements and conducting fieldwork in places such as India, Senegal, the United States and Latvia, reflecting how global this fight is, and how it is not one we win alone.



Nidhi Nagabhatla
Cluster Coordinator



Photo: A Melodi Lee/World Bank

EVENT

Climate Change and Gender-Based Violence as Double Threat to Gender Equality

Nidhi Nagabhatla was a panellist at the COP27 side event *Climate Change and Gender-Based Violence as a Double Threat to Gender Equality* organised by the Belgian Advisory Council on Gender and Development on 16 November in the Benelux pavilion.

The panel provided policymakers and civil society an opportunity to reflect on the close and mutually reinforcing links between gender, SGBV and climate change, in order to adopt a multisectoral approach within Belgium's national climate policy and international solidarity policy.

EVENT

Multifaceted Impacts of Climate Change on Mental Health – Towards Integrated Climate Services

UNU-CRIS co-organised a COP27 side event with four UNU institutes (EHS, MERIT, IIGH and IAS), UNESCO, WHO, UNICEF and two NGOs to discuss the multifaceted impacts of climate change and related hazards on mental health and psychosocial well-being.

The participants stressed the need for support services to deal with the mental health impacts of climate change and reiterated the role of partnerships in accelerating climate action through collective agenda-setting and collaboration.

PUBLICATION

Regional International Organizations and Health: A Framework for Analysis

This article, co-authored by Ana B. Amaya, proposes a framework that identifies Regional Organisations' direct health policies, the effects of their trade and market policies, and their effects on health via fiscal governance of their member states to better capture their health impact. The authors argue that such a framework will be useful in understanding the effects of ROs on health systems and policies because it captures indirect and even unintended health effects in a way that permits the development of explanatory theories.



PUBLICATION

Institutional Interplay in Global Environmental Governance: Lessons Learned and Future Research

This article, co-authored by Sebastian Oberthür (UNU-CRIS/VUB) and Thijs Van de Graaf (UNU-CRIS/UGent), synthesises primary contributions made in research on institutional interplay over the past twenty years. The authors find that there is insufficient empirical and conceptual research to fully understand the relationship, causes, and consequences of the interplay between intergovernmental and transnational institutions.

Regional Public Goods

Digital Governance

The Digital Governance Cluster launched its strategic plan for the period 2022-2026 this year, and started efforts to consolidate research carried out in the field of digital governance across UNU-CRIS.

We have been able to develop our network to include the Global Internet Governance Academic Network, by having members of our team elected for the positions of Communications and Programme Chairs.

The team shared their research at several conferences and other events, such as the Italian Political Science Conference

in Rome, the Belgian Cybersecurity Experience Sharing Day, and the Internet Governance Forum.

We were delighted to welcome two senior visiting fellows to Bruges, and give several interns the opportunity to contribute to the work of the cluster.



Jamal Shahin
Cluster Coordinator



Photo: Loey Felipe/United Nations Photo

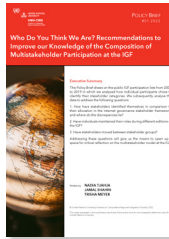


PUBLICATION

Who Do You Think We Are? Recommendations to Improve Our Knowledge of the Composition of Multistakeholder Participation at the IGF

This Policy Brief from Nadia Tjahja, Jamal Shahin and Trisha Meyer (UNU-CRIS/VUB) draws on the public IGF participation lists from 2006 to 2019 in which we analysed how individual participants chose to identify their stakeholder categories.

They subsequently analyse the data to address how stakeholders have identified themselves in comparison to their allocation in the internet governance stakeholder framework and where the discrepancies lie, whether individuals maintained their roles during different editions of the IGF, and whether stakeholders have moved between stakeholder groups.



EVENT

Regional Digital Governance: Research and Policy Challenges for the 21st Century

On 14 March, Jamal Shahin spoke at a webinar co-organised by UNU-CRIS and the Islamic Development Bank titled *Regional Digital Governance: Research and Policy Challenges for the 21st Century*.

The webinar touched upon topics such as digital governance as an embedded element of our economies and societies, multistakeholderism, the need for a global approach to infrastructure, data, and security on digital superhighways, the blockchain, and the possibility of a different way of ‘managing’ digital governance through the notions of digital interdependence and digital sovereignty.

The event was attended by members of the IsDB’s Regional Cooperation and Integration Department, including experts in South-South Cooperation, capacity development, and regional integration.

EVENT

Digital Sovereignty in the New Era of Internet Governance

This seminar, co-organised by UNU-CRIS as part of the Data Sovereignty Seminar Series, discussed the new phase of internet governance characterised by fragmentation and polarisation, examining projects of digital sovereignty in the making and their implications for how the Internet is globally governed.

The main speaker was Roxana Radu, a Departmental Lecturer in Technology and Public Policy at the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford.

PUBLICATION

Coping with New Technologies

Jamal Shahin contributed to the *State of the European Union* report, published by UK in a Changing Europe, a research group at the King’s College London. His section touched upon the EU’s legislative response to new technologies and how strategic autonomy has become the cornerstone of Europe’s contribution to the future of cyberspace, which seeks to find the balance between the protection of digital rights and economic growth.

Development

Capacity Building

Taking our research and expertise beyond the pages and into the minds of those bringing about change in the world.



Students at the UNU COP27 Simulation Game
Photo: Austin Gonzales/UNU-EHS

Internships

Training the next generation of researchers and giving them an opportunity to develop and highlight their skills is a central goal of UNU-CRIS.

In 2022, UNU-CRIS helped 27 promising young researchers grow through its internship programme. 15 of these interns came from countries in the global South, such as Colombia, China, Nigeria, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, demonstrating the global pull and attractiveness of the research internship programme. Several of the internships were financed via the Flanders Trainee Programme, which gives students who obtained their diploma at an institution of secondary or higher education, financed or subsidised by the Flemish Community, the opportunity to work in a multilateral organisation.

FLANDERS
Trainee
Programme

Each intern worked closely with one or more of the UNU-CRIS research personnel, undertaking tasks in support of new and ongoing projects, producing academic output such as working papers and policy briefs, or assisting with the planning and undertaking of events both in person and online. Examples of these include: assisting with the Climate Resilience Initiative; writing a policy brief on youth participation at the Internet Governance Forum for the GREMLIN project; chairing the UNU COP27 Simulation Game in Bonn; further developing the datasets available on the RIKS platform; testing the validity of the recently computed annual migration bilateral country-level data; and producing a working paper on the ethical implications of carbon border adjustment mechanisms.

TESTIMONIAL

“My time as an intern at UNU-CRIS was truly transformative and enriching. I had the privilege of constantly learning in a collaborative and supportive environment, characterised by its multiculturalism. UNU-CRIS, besides being located in the charming city of Bruges, offers multiple opportunities for learning and intellectual stimulation and discussion. Not only was I able to contribute to a variety of research projects but I was also encouraged by my supervisors to conduct autonomous research, participate in research seminars and other academic events organised by the institute and other institutions. I also had the possibility to expand my network with scholars and practitioners from around the world, further broadening my perspective on global issues. Overall, my internship experience was an incredible opportunity to learn and grow, which I would strongly recommend to anyone interested in regional integration and cooperation, and in the various fields of governance in which UNU-CRIS specialises.”

Carlos Andrés Fonseca Díaz, Research Intern

Training Programmes

School of Modern Diplomacy 2022

The Third edition of the School of Modern Diplomacy trained its participants how to enact effective diplomacy in today's turbulent world. The two-week programme, co-organised by the Diplomatische Akademie Wien - Vienna School of International Studies, brought together a select group of diplomats, academics, practitioners and policymakers to study modern diplomacy from multiple perspectives and to learn from an experienced and renowned team of experts about how to engage in diplomacy that best accommodates today's needs and challenges.

Tenth Doctoral School on Latin American, European and Comparative Regionalism

The Tenth Doctoral School on Latin American, European and Comparative Regionalism took place in Quito from 11-15 July, with 10 students from across Europe, Latin America and Africa selected to take part. The tenth edition brought a new format, with each day ordered by thematic focus, with themes including interdisciplinary debates, methods and methodologies, and policy influence and dissemination. Each theme was covered by several leading experts, while each participant was given the opportunity to present their research projects and get feedback from the group.

Second Online Summer School on Comparative Regionalism: The Future of Regionalism After the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Second Summer School on Comparative Regionalism took place from 30 May - 3 June, under the theme of *The Future of Regionalism After the Covid-19 Pandemic*. This programme, a collaboration with the Postgraduate School Universitas Airlangga (Indonesia) and the International School of Economics of M. Narikbayev KAZGUU University (Kazakhstan) welcomed 50 participants from 17 countries.



Visiting Research Fellows

The Visiting Research Fellowship programme aims to bring outside expertise into the UNU-CRIS research ecosystem, adding different disciplinary and geographical viewpoints to the network, and giving the visiting fellows the opportunity to make use of UNU-CRIS' in-house expertise.

In 2022, 16 scholars from 14 different countries were selected to be Visiting Research Fellows at UNU-CRIS. In visits ranging from two to twelve months, they worked on a host of topics including trade openness and international production networks in emerging Asian countries; the distribution of competencies in supranational integrations; artificial intelligence, human security and digital sovereignty; the principles of regional cooperation; LGBTIQ+ rights in multilevel governance systems; and Economic Partnership Agreements concluded between the European Union, its member states, and the ACP States.

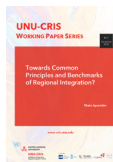
This resulted in several outputs, some of which are highlighted below.



Putting Lessons Learnt to the Test During Challenging Times: The East African Community And The Covid-19 Pandemic

Mariel Reiss

This paper discusses how and in what ways the current EAC has implemented mechanisms in its institutional design which can be traced to lessons learnt from its past; that is the first EAC (1967-1977).



Towards Common Principles and Benchmarks of Regional Integration?

Mario Apostolov

This paper seeks to define a list of fundamental principles that outline common advantages for any regional integration entity and can be used as benchmarks to assess progress. Yet we also include critical arguments for each of the six principles to show that there should be strategic thinking in world society, focused on negotiation and agreement for a balanced, multidimensional, constructive, and consensual approach to integration.



Science Diplomacy in the Age of War

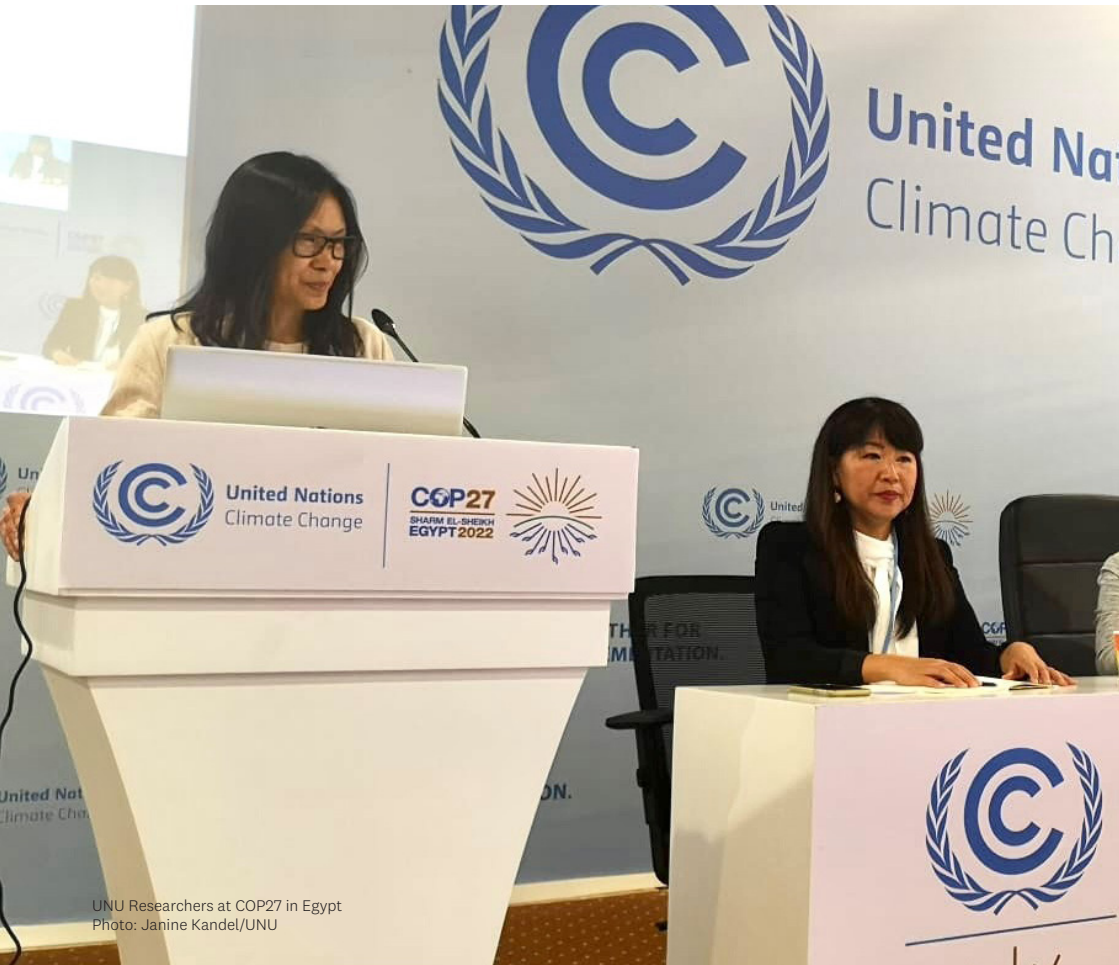
Luk Van Langenhove, Luc Soete and Eric Piaget

How is the devastating war in Ukraine affecting scientific cooperation between Russia and the rest of the world? While the deployment of coercive power is justified in times of war, this article explores to what extent science diplomacy should fall within the arsenal of hard-power tools.

Outreach and Engagement

Global Impact

From Bruges to the world - how our research reached all corners of the globe.



UNU Researchers at COP27 in Egypt
Photo: Janine Kandel/UNU



Policy Briefs

Influencing and informing policy and those that make it is a core component of UNU-CRIS' mandate and strategy, and producing clear, concise policy briefs is one of the most effective tools to do so. In 2022, UNU-CRIS researchers and their collaborators focused on some key policy challenges, studying all angles, understanding the context, and translating their research into clear and actionable recommendations for consideration by those shaping policy.

Who Do You Think We Are? Recommendations to Improve Our Knowledge of the Composition of Multistakeholder Participation at the IGF

Nadia Tjahja, Jamal Shahin and Trisha Meyer

Coping with Climate Change to Safeguard the Seaweed Industry in Eastern Africa: Spotlight on Tanzania

Flower E. Msuya, Ivy Matoju, Amelia Buriyo, Sadock Rusekwa, Louise Shaxson, Virginie Le Masson, Nidhi Nagabhatla, Elizabeth J. Cottier-Cook and Philippe De Lombaerde

Towards a More Inclusive and Sustainable Red Seaweed Industry

Azam Asri, Juliet Brodie, Elizabeth J. Cottier-Cook, Virginie Le Masson, Ivy Matoju, Valeria Montalescot, Nidhi Nagabhatla, Louise Shaxson and Jee Suyoo

The European Union's Approach to the Caspian Sea Region: The Energy- Environment Nexus

Natalia Skripnikova and Servaas Taghon

Regional Organisations and Africa's Development Challenges

Fredrik Söderbaum and Sören Stapel

Mercosur-Pacific Alliance Convergence: Quo vadis?

Karla Verónica Félix Jaramillo, Lorena Granja Hernández, Alan Fairlie Reinoso, Roberto Javier Mirabelli and Alberto José Hurtado Briceño

The EU and North Africa: Towards a Just Twin Transition

Reinhilde Bouckaert, Amira El-Shal and Mauro Santaniello

Roundabout Way To Multilateralism: How Could Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs) And Plurilaterals Revitalise It?

M. Sait Akman, Axel Berger, Fabrizio Botti, Chiara Criscuolo, Peter Draper, P. Lelio Iapadre, Guy Lalanne, Stormy-Anika Mildner, Amelia U. Santos-Paulino, Cyrille Schwellnus, Claudia Schmucker, Lucia Tajoli, Davide Tentori and Claudia Trentini

Policy Engagement

UNU-CRIS is regularly asked for policy advice by a range of actors, seeking to capitalise on the knowledge generated at the institute and throughout its global network. This engagement with policymakers and policymaking bodies took various forms in 2022, including UNU-CRIS researchers taking part in policy advisory committees and groups, public events, invited presentations, and producing reports, some highlights of which you can find below.

Nadia Tjahja was an advisor to the **Council of Europe - European Commission Steering Committee** on AI & Youth research.

Nahuel Oddone gave a presentation on health cooperation in MERCOSUR border regions at the **Paraguay Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare**.

Fabienne Bossuyt was invited to share her thoughts on the EU's role in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine at the 2022 Annual **Belgian Foreign Policy Conference**.

Nahuel Oddone gave a keynote lecture on climate change at the **Honduras Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation**.

Glenn Rayp was invited to a hearing of the **Belgian Central Business Council** to discuss the effect of the Employment Promotion and Preventive Safeguarding Competitiveness Act (1996) on the second pension pillar.

Reinhilde Bouckaert and Mauro Santaniello spoke at the *Figuring out the Twin Transitions* conference in Barcelona, organised by the **Foundation for European Progressive Studies**.

Frank Mattheis was a rapporteur and expert evaluator for the **Research Executive Agency** of the European Commission.

Samuel Standaert and Justine Miller conducted the analyses and helped write the report that will be presented at the upcoming **SDG Voluntary Subnational Review**.

Philippe De Lombaerde and Andrew Dunn were invited to lecture at the **Young African Leaders Programme** organised by the European University Institute and funded by the European Commission.

Philippe De Lombaerde gave the keynote speech at the Multi-Level Governance at the Core of the Future EU: Current Challenges for a Successful Green Transition in the EU conference, organised by **DIPLOCAT** and the **Delegation of the Government of Catalonia to the European Union**.

Engaging with the UN System

As a knowledge generator in the United Nations system, it is imperative for UNU-CRIS to engage with other UN agencies and bodies to provide support and input.

In 2022, UNU-CRIS worked with major UN agencies like UNDP and UNESCO to collectively spotlight some major challenges and determine pathways towards resolving them.

PUBLICATION

Accelerating Gender Equality in the Water Domain: A Call for Action

Nidhi Nagabhatla is a core member of the UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme's *Call for Action to Accelerate Gender Equality in the Water Domain Initiative* and co-authored the UNESCO WWP Water and Gender Working Group Position Paper.

CONSULTATION

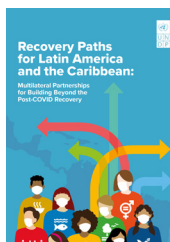
Towards 2021/2022 Human Development Report

Frank Mattheis participated in the consultative process led by the Human Development Report Office (HDRO) of UNDP, taking part in the *Uncertain Times, Unsettled Lives* consultation event, jointly organised by the UNDP and the European Think Tanks Group, in Brussels on 22 March.

PUBLICATION

Recovery Paths for Latin America and the Caribbean: Multilateral Partnerships for Building Beyond the Post-COVID Recovery

This UNDP report, co-authored by Philippe De Lombaerde, Andrew Dunn, Geert Haghebaert and Frank Mattheis, examined the various recovery pathways for the LAC regions after Covid-19 and examined the key partnerships required for success.



EVENT

Policymaking for Sustainable Development in a Multiplex World

On 25 October, Philippe De Lombaerde spoke as part of the UNU-organised BIG IDEAS Dialogue, joining UNU Senior Vice-Rector Sawako Shirahase for an online discussion.

He explained the concept of a multiplex world, which refers to a high degree of interdependence, multiple and transnational actors, and a multi-level governance architecture.

Collaboration with Regional Organisations

Given its core mandate, it is natural that UNU-CRIS would seek to engage and collaborate with various regional organisations. In doing so, its researchers grow their understanding of how they work, how their research can be used to improve internal processes and effectiveness, and how these organisations can better utilise their positions to improve the lives of those that live within them.

PROJECT

Regional Integration in the Organisation of East Caribbean States Region

Philippe De Lombaerde and Fredrik Söderbaum were part of a team selected and tasked with developing a methodological framework to monitor and measure regional integration and development progress in the OECS region.

The project aims to deliver new indicator-based monitoring tools for the region for both internal and external purposes.

EVENT

European Actors and the Transformation of Regional Security Governance in Africa

This event on 28-29 April, co-organised by UNU-CRIS and part of an Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Project, explored the dynamics of regional security governance in different parts of Africa in the context of the evolving multi-faceted relationship between European and African actors.

EVENT

EU-ASEAN Youth Summit

Nadia Tjhaja and Maria Pilar Lorenzo took part in the EU-ASEAN Youth Summit in December, a space for Young Leaders to contribute with their different perspectives on the EU-ASEAN relationship.

EVENT

League of Arab States

Frank Mattheis gave a workshop on regional integration for the League of Arab States in January.

EVENT

Lecture by the OACPS Secretary-General

On 24 November, UNU-CRIS welcomed the Secretary-General of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) for a lecture in Bruges.

H.E. Mr. Georges Rebelo Pinto Chikoti gave a brief historical overview of the transformation of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) into the present-day OACPS and discussed the upcoming Post-Cotonou Agreement with the European Union.

Outreach and Engagement

Local Impact

Change begins at home - how we brought the world to Flanders.



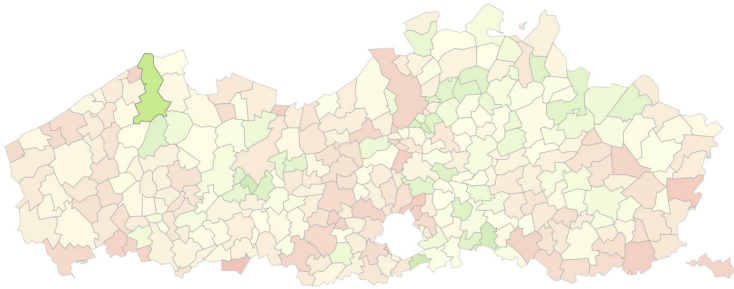
Photo: Jonas Vandecasteele/Capture Photography

PUBLICATION

Presenting the SDG Monitor to Bruges

On 2 September, Samuel Standaert and Justine Miller presented their analysis of Bruges' progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals for the management team of the Bruges local government.

They outlined their findings that, overall, Bruges performs well, especially when compared to other regions and cities with similar characteristics. They discussed how and why the scores have changed over time, and suggested possible paths for improvement.



INTERVIEW

Philippe De Lombaerde in het Brugse Stadsmagazine (Bruges City Magazine)

Philippe De Lombaerde was interviewed for the October edition of the Brugse Stadsmagazine (Bruges City Magazine).

The wide-ranging interview (in Dutch) covered the history of UNU-CRIS, the institute's mission and work, and what it contributes to Bruges.

He outlines how UNU-CRIS contributes to the profile of Bruges as an economic hub and as an international hub of people and ideas, and highlights that Bruges is the only Flemish city to host a UN agency.

Bringing highly-educated people to the city through capacity-building programmes and events is another positive point for Bruges, showcasing all it has to offer.



Photo: Matthias Desmet/Stad Brugge

PRESENTATION

Lectures on the SDGs and Climate Change at Local Schools

UNU-CRIS personnel gave lectures at Sint-Lodewijkscollege and HOWEST Bruges Campus, bringing the work of the UN and UNU directly into the classroom.

On 28 October, Andrew Dunn gave students at Sint-Lodewijkscollege an introductory lecture to the UN and UNU systems before Els Bekaert led a Climate Workshop, outlining the efforts to address climate change and utilising the ENROADS Climate Simulator to demonstrate how each policy change can contribute to limiting global warming to 2 degrees.

On 24 March, Anthony Antoine gave a lecture at HOWEST, providing students with an overview of the Sustainable Development Goals and EU institutions.



Photo: Andrew Dunn/UNU-CRIS

EVENT

Undressing Diplomacy

On 21 October, former Belgian Permanent Representative to the United Nations and Ambassador to the United States and United Kingdom, Johan Verbeke, gave a keynote speech at UNU-CRIS about diplomacy as a profession in light of his upcoming book *Diplomatic Skills – The Basics*.

Ambassador Verbeke guided the audience through the most mysterious concepts of diplomacy such as protocol rules, privileges and immunity, 'le corps diplomatique' and new types of diplomacy, illustrating it with historical examples. He also discussed how diplomacy has changed in recent decades, utilising his extensive experience to outline what skills and traits make a good, effective diplomat in the modern world.



Photo: Andrew Dunn/UNU-CRIS

EVENT

Lecture at the LIGO Centre for Adult Basic Education

Ine Lietaert was invited to give a lecture for staff of the LIGO Centre for Basis Education in Antwerp on how the Belgian return policy and return measures function and what is known so far about the experiences and challenges of the people returning through this process.

EVENT

Visiting the Flanders Marine Institute

On 16 September, UNU-CRIS personnel visited the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ) in Ostend. The UNU-CRIS contingent was welcomed by Ann-Katrien Lescrauwaet, the director of International Relations at VLIZ, who gave the group an overview of VLIZ's activities and its international partnerships.

EVENT

VIVES Delegation

On 24 November, UNU-CRIS welcomed a delegation from Bicol University (Philippines), led by Lies Verstraete, Global Engagement Officer, and Sabine Poleyn, Coordinator of International Relations of VIVES University of Applied Science.

The delegation, which included 13 professors from Bicol University, was visiting Bruges for an "International Academic Visit and Transdisciplinary Research Conclave" and requested to visit UNU-CRIS.

They were given a tour of the premises, heard a presentation from Director Philippe De Lombaerde, and met with several research personnel to discuss their projects and potential collaboration.



The delegation from Universitas Airlangga
visiting UNU-CRIS in November
Photo: Iana Ovsianikova/UNU-CRIS

Scholarly Output

Books, Monographs and Edited Volumes



Overlapping Regional Organizations in South America and Africa. Coexistence Through Political Crises

Clarissa Correa Neto Ribeiro

United Nations University Series on Regionalism, Volume 22

ISBN: 978-3-030-98900-2



The European Union and the Kurdish Issue. The EU as a Rational and Normative Actor

Zana A. Kurdi

United Nations University Series on Regionalism, Volume 23

ISBN: 978-3-031-05186-9



De erfenis van 1947. Geboorte en toekomst van de huidige werelddordening

Yannis Skalli-Housseini and Luk Van Langenhove

Academic and Scientific Publishers.

ISBN: 978-9-461-17414-7



EU-MERCOSUR Interregionalism – Diplomatic and Trade Relations

Mario Jarrin Torres and Lourdes Gabriela Daza Aramayo

United Nations University Series on Regionalism, Volume 24

ISBN: 978-3-031-19217-3



The Challenges for Building Regional Integration in the Global South. The Case of Brazilian Foreign Policy towards Mercosur

Vigevani Tullo and Haroldo Ramanzini Junior

United Nations University Series on Regionalism, Volume 18

ISBN: 978-3-030-93348-7

Scholarly Output

Publications in Refereed Journals



Water infrastructure and Regional Governance: The Co-Constitution of Regional Politics and Massive Infrastructures in the Transaqua Water Project

Ramazan Caner Sayan and Nidhi Nagabhatla

Territory, Politics and Governance



Inclusive Europe: The Impact of the EU Cohesion Policy on Immigrants' Economic Integration in Italy

Mara Giua, Rezart Hoxhaj and Eleonora Pierucci

Journal of Policy Modeling



The Hegemonic Politics of 'Strategic Autonomy' and 'Resilience': COVID-19 and the Dislocation of EU Trade Policy

Thomas Jacobs, Niels Gheyle, Ferdi De Ville and Jan Orbie

JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies



Assessing the Impacts of Climate Change on Climatic Extremes in the Congo River Basin

Sara Karam, Ousmane Seidou, Nidhi Nagabhatla, Duminda Perera and Raphael M. Tshimanga

Climatic Change



ASEAN Regionalism and Cross-border Research of Philippine Higher Education: The Case of the University of the Philippines Diliman Campus

Maria Pilar Lorenzo

Globalisation, Societies and Education



An Ocean Free of Nuclear Weapons? Regional Security Governance in the South Atlantic

Frank Mattheis and Pedro Seabra

Politics and Governance



Loops of Violence(s) within Europe's Governance of Migration in Libya, Italy, Greece, and Belgium

Giacomo Orsini, Marina Rota, Océane Uzureau, Malte Behrendt, Sarah Adeyinka, Ine Lietaert and Ilse Derluyn

Politics and Governance



Courts and International Legal Order: International Rule of Law and Transnational Judicial Dialogue

Ikboljon Qoraboyev

Law and State



In Search of the Invisible People: Revisiting the Concept of “Internally Displaced Persons” in Light of an Ethiopian Case Study

Dereje Regasa and Ine Lietaert

Refugee Study Quarterly



On the Optimal Size and Composition of Customs Unions: An Evolutionary Approach

Takfarinas Saber, Dominik Naeher and Philippe De Lombaerde

Computational Economics



Options and Strategies for Planning Water and Climate Security in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

Amal Sarsour and Nidhi Nagabhatla

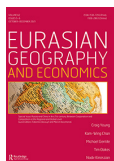
Water



The 'European Green Deal' - A Paradigm Shift? Transformations in the European Union's Sustainability Meta-Discourse

Simon Schunz

Political Research Exchange



Russia's Cultural Diplomacy in the Post-Soviet Space: The Making of "One People"

Domenico Valenza

Eurasian Geography and Economics

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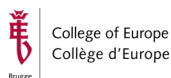
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The UNU-CRIS Advisory Committee at their meeting in May. From left: Philippe De Lombaerde, Adriana Abdenur, Freddy Evens, Luc Soete, Michael Baldock, Louise Fawcett, David M. Malone (absent: Fukunari Kimura and Célestin Monga)
Photo: Andrew Dunn/UNU-CRIS

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The United Nations University Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU-CRIS) is a research and training institute of the United Nations University.

UNU-CRIS focuses on new patterns of regional cooperation and multi-level governance worldwide, centring on the implications of these changing patterns for public policy. Through its research and capacity-building activities, it connects scholarly knowledge with policy, and directly contributes to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

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