

Exclusive interviews with key players in the European integration process

Oral history of European integration



Over 160 hours of footage

For more than ten years now, the Centre Virtuel de la Connaissance sur l'Europe (CVCE) has been gathering oral accounts from people who have witnessed and/or been involved in the major events that have shaped the European integration process. To date, more than a hundred interviews have been filmed or recorded by the CVCE's research team and over 160 hours of footage are available for consultation in full in the 'Oral history' section of the CVCE website (<http://www.cvce.eu/en/oral-history>) and in the form of selected excerpts in the Centre's thematic publications.

Creating primary sources

The interviews are chiefly conducted for academic purposes, namely to provide new primary sources for researchers specialising in European integration studies. The Oral History Programme generates a wealth of original audiovisual material which is presented according to specific themes, thereby contributing to the development of new academic analysis in fields including history, law and political science. Each published interview is both the result of scholarly work and a basis for further research.

The CVCE's interviews constitute a precious legacy for present and future generations. These personal accounts offer an effective and appealing way to get closer to the history of European integration and understand how the process has developed. Several excerpts have clear educational applications or may be of interest to the media.

Eminent European figures

The choice of people approached to grant an interview is primarily determined by the CVCE's research topics. It depends on their involvement in the events being studied and/or their academic credentials. The CVCE has interviewed a host of eminent figures including Giuliano Amato, Egon Bahr, Étienne Davignon, Jacques Delors, Nicole Fontaine, Bronislaw Geremek, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, Elisabeth Guigou, Otto von Habsburg-Lothringen, Jean-Claude Juncker, Manuel Marín, Wilfried Martens, Romano Prodi and António Vitorino. The interviews are based on a questionnaire which covers biographical elements and specific subjects relating to European integration.

Enhanced interviews

The CVCE's Oral History Programme involves a major editorial dimension. Each interview has its own dedicated section on the website. The interviews are systematically published in full and accompanied by a short biography. Each interview is also indexed by theme and selected excerpts are published to offer easy access to the different topics covered. A transcription of the interview is also published in the dedicated section on the website, together with a translation into English and/or French.

The CVCE regularly designs and develops new features to facilitate and diversify the use of its interviews for research and teaching purposes. The transcription process is being stepped up to allow



Knowing the past to build the future

Centre Virtuel de la Connaissance sur l'Europe

Château de Sanem | L-4992 Sanem | Luxembourg

Tel. +352 59 59 20-1 | Fax +352 59 59 20-555 | cvce@cvce.eu

www.cvce.eu



'full text' searches. It is also planned to add subtitles to the interviews.

A positive expert assessment

In 2013, an external, independent committee composed of three international experts gave a positive assessment of the CVCE's Oral History Programme. These experts were Pilar Domínguez Prats, Professor at the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain, and former President of the International Oral History Association (IOHA); Pablo Pozzi, Professor in the History Department of the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina; and Pascaline Winand, holder of the Jean Monnet Chair and Director of the Monash European and EU Centre, Monash University, Australia. This review was an opportunity to strengthen the CVCE's expertise in oral history and to identify avenues for the future development of its programme.

European integration studies in the digital era

The Centre Virtuel de la Connaissance sur l'Europe (CVCE) is a documentation and e-research centre for European integration studies. As a public undertaking under the aegis of the Luxembourg Ministry of Higher Education and Research, the CVCE aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of the historical, legal, economic and political dimensions of European integration. In the pursuit of its mission, it produces knowledge on the European integration process which it makes available to the research and teaching communities and also the wider public. The CVCE is an innovative and committed player in the field of digital humanities. Its interdisciplinary team explores and adopts methods and tools based on digital technologies for its research and knowledge transfer activities in European integration studies.