

# **CVCE Mission Statement**

**approved by the Board of Governors**

**July 25, 2013**

## *CVCE Mission Statement*

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### **The CVCE is a documentation and e-research center in European integration studies**

The CVCE contributes to the creation of an enriched understanding of European integration, its past, present and future dimensions.

The center's main mission is to create valid, rich, curated, meaningful online documentary resources on the European integration process for research, education and lifelong learning, open to a large interested public. These resources are published within the center's digital infrastructure enabling collection, processing, exploitation, analysis, study and dissemination of the relevant materials, developing and deploying state of the art Digital Humanities tools and methods.

The center aims to become a reference center on the European integration process, documenting its historical, legal, economic and political dimensions. It fosters Digital Humanities research and sets out to create a subject-specific collaborative virtual research environment encompassing publications, resources, tools, services, competencies and networks. It promotes a scientific and interdisciplinary approach that supports researchers investigating issues of European integration and engages with the wider scholarly and educational communities.

The center's aim is to further develop high level international and national collaboration networks in European integration studies and Digital Humanities to interact with peers, exchange best practices and develop common projects related to the center's mission.

### **Projects and activities of the center are realized within the following framework:**

Topics for documentary collections are identified in cooperation with scientific and societal stakeholders. The foundations of the center's investigations consist in the documented analysis of the European integration process in a broad sense, including intergovernmental initiatives, launched after the Second World War. Specific areas of study are laid down in a 4 year program with the overall aim to develop a multidimensional understanding of the process of building a united Europe by adopting an interdisciplinary approach (historical, legal, economic and political) and working from a contextual, comprehensive and long-term perspective.

Documentary material on the chosen topics is spread out all over the world in digital and analogue formats. It comprehends not only textual artifacts but also iconographic, sound and audio-visual documents, as well as born-digital material in different languages and formats.

Relevant materials are selected, analyzed, processed and published in contextualized and comprehensive online collections, with the adequate scholarly apparatus by the center.

The center also participates in the creation of primary sources for European integration studies: a specific methodological focus is put on oral history and the production of interviews with key players or witnesses of events that have shaped European integration, particularly in relation to the center's major thematic research and documentation topics.

Two major types of documentary collections are created at the center and openly accessible to a large public: research corpora for scientific investigations and subject files for e-teaching and lifelong learning purposes.

The center further aims to implement Digital Humanities tools and methods, ranging from documentary analysis tools to visualization approaches, to enhance and study the material and thus acting as a generic test bed for the creation of new kinds of digital scholarship. The center will provide external users and collaborators with an environment in which to interact with the digital resources provided and the tools developed for studying them. The center will also focus on the use and development of content navigation and semantic exploration tools that facilitate retrieval, identification, correlation and dissemination of the resources and operate well-formed communication languages between the scholars and stakeholders interested in European integration studies.

In order to achieve its objectives, the center promotes an integrated and interdisciplinary approach, joining together European integration, Digital Humanities, Information and Technology experts.

The center's resources, as well as its services and tools are openly accessible to communities of teachers, journalists, scholars and public in general underlining the center's public engagement and focus on knowledge transfer activities.

International and national collaborations are of utmost importance to the center. In this context the center participates in and/or initiates conferences and seminars as well as collaborative documentation, research and innovation projects and initiatives. The center also submits, within its competency domains, papers to scientific journals and other peer-reviewed publication platforms.