Making European Society | MAKErS
The interdisciplinary thematic institutes of the University of Strasbourg & CNRS & Inserm

BETA Bureau d'économie théorique et appliquée
Faculté des sciences économiques et de gestion Université de Strasbourg

UNU MERIT

LUISS Research Center for European Analysis and Policy
Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence on EU Inclusive Open Strategic Autonomy
Co-funded by the European Union

Jean Monnet Summer School 2026.

Europe's Innovation Nexus: Science, Technology & Industrial Policy.

The European Union has been facing several challenges in the recent years. Economic growth has been sluggish, geopolitical tensions are on the rise, and Europe seem to have been losing ground in the innovation race for artificial intelligence (AI). Yet innovation has never been more relevant to ensure economic growth and rising standards of living.

This year's Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences has emphasised this, rewarding contributions of scholars that have looked specifically at the role of innovation in fostering economic growth. Mokyr's work has highlighted the mechanisms that enable scientific breakthroughs and their application leading to sustained economic growth over the course of time. Aghion and Howitt's work has formalised the process of creative destruction through product and process innovation, which is at the core of Schumpeterian theories of economics.

Against this background, the Summer School on "Europe's Innovation Nexus: Science, Technology, and Industrial Policy" will take place at the **University of Strasbourg from June 29 to July 1 2026**, co-organised with LUISS University and UNU-MERIT, with financial support from the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence at the LUISS Research Centre on European Analysis and Policy (LEAP) and Interdisciplinary Thematic Institute MAKErS of the University of Strasbourg.[1]

The three-day summer school is designed for PhD students in economics, innovation studies and the social sciences more broadly. It will directly engage with the themes highlighted by the Schumpeterian tradition and the Nobel laureates: how scientific advances, technological change and industrial transformation interplay to shape growth, competitiveness and policy in European contexts.

The Summer School will begin by examining **Science Policy**, exploring the economics of scientific production and the transformative role of AI in research. The second day will focus on **Technology Policy**, delving into structural and technical change, including the geography of datacentres and digital infrastructure. Finally, the third day will look at **Industrial Policy**, analysing how policy makers in Europe can identify and foster specialisation patterns in new products and how industrial dynamics are evolving in Europe.

[1] *This work of the Interdisciplinary Thematic Institute MAKErS, as part of the ITI 2021-2028 programme of the University of Strasbourg, CNRS and INSERM, was supported by IdEx Unistra (ANR-10-IDEX-0002), and by SFRI-STRAT'US project (ANR-20-SFRI-0012).*

The structure of the Summer School along with details of **topics** and **faculty** is available at the end of this document.

Participants will engage in lectures linking theory and practice and, crucially, will also have the opportunity to present their own work and receive feedback by senior researchers from the Summer School faculty.

The summer school culminates just before the **International Schumpeter Conference, also taking place at the University of Strasbourg**, allowing students to carry fresh insights directly into a broader research community. Join us to understand, critique and shape the future of Europe's innovation-policy landscape in the new current geopolitical landscape.

Key information and application.

Dates: June 29 – July 1, 2026.

Location: University of Strasbourg, Strasbourg, France.

Cost: Participation is free for selected students (travel and accommodation are not covered).

Applications deadline: 20/04/2026

Application Procedure: Applications must be submitted by email to leap@luiss.it, with all required documents attached. Please use the following subject line: "Jean Monnet Summer School 2026 – application – Name Surname"

Application Requirements:

- Curriculum vitae.
- Short motivational statement.
- Most recent research paper (or PhD chapter), also in draft format.

Applications will be evaluated based on their fit with the PhD Summer School's topic, the students' previous experience and the quality of the submitted research paper.

Applicants will be notified of the decision by May 5.

Contact: leap@luiss.it – A detailed programme schedule with specific session timings and topics will be available on the website https://leap.luiss.it/centre-of-excellence/ in the coming weeks, as well as on the University of Strasbourg Bureau d'économie théorique and appliquée and ITI Makers websites.

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Jean Monnet Summer School Programme 2026 edition

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
	29-Jun	30-Jun	01-Jul
	Science policy	Tech policy	Industrial dynamics and policies
09:30 - 09:45	Welcome	Structural Change and technical change. Tommaso Ciarli, UNU-MERIT	Selective industrial policy and relatedness. (Valentina Meliciani, LUISS and Filippo Bontadini, LUISS)
09:45 - 11:00	The role of universities in scientific production. (Robin Cowan, University of Strasbourg and UNU-MERIT)		
11:00 - 11:15		Coffee Break	Coffee Break
11:15 - 11:30	Coffee Break		
11:30 - 13:00	Student presentation (3x)	Student presentation (3x)	Student presentation (3x)
13:00 - 14:15	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
14:15 - 15:45	AI and scientific production. (Stefano Bianchini, University of Strasbourg)	The economics of data centres. (Maria Savona, LUISS and SPRU)	Student presentation (3x)
15:45 - 16:15	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break
16:15 - 17:45	Student presentation (3x)	Student presentation (3x)	International Schumpeter Society Keynote

Please note the schedule might be subject to slight changes due to logistics and to accommodate organisational needs.
Further details on the International Schumpeter Society Keynote will become available in due course.