

**ORIENTATION ON THE EUROPEAN AND IBERO-AMERICAN ACADEMY OF YUSTE
FOUNDATION'S "CARLOS V EUROPEAN AWARD –ANTONIO TAJANI EUROPEAN RESEARCH
AND MOBILITY GRANTS FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES" CALL**

The European Union invites us to build a space for tolerance and pacific coexistence among its peoples and aims to have a space where respect, the promotion of human rights and diversity make up an essential contribution to common values of all European cultures, founded on the respect of individuals' dignity and the quality of **solidary** life.

The European Union has been built upon **solidarity**.

As mentioned in the European Academy (now also Ibero-American) of Yuste's Declaration under the heading "Europe: a Culture for Solidarity"ⁱ, solidarity, as well as Europe itself, is not one, but manifold. It adds that "solidarity works separately or simultaneously at different levels: political, economic, social, legal or cultural". This document highlights how Robert Schuman's Declaration of 9 May 1950, whose project was prepared and drafted by Jean Monnet, confers a special emphasis to solidarity. It points out that the Declaration invites the European countries to begin by creating «une solidarité de fait», thus suggesting a pragmatic approach and advocating "solidarity in production" as a way to make any war between Europeans "not merely unthinkable, but materially impossible". The declaration also insists on social solidarity between countries and classes, which implies all European workers without any distinction of country or social status. In the like manner, it appeals to the solidarity of all the European countries by referring to "an organisation open to the participation of the other countries of Europe." Yuste's Academy members pointed out that today this solidarity is universal, although with different modalities of cooperation. Although based on economic solidarity, Schuman's declaration is also, according to Yuste's Academy, a plea for political and cultural solidarity, embodied in the institutions of a full-scale Community. Thus, Yuste's Academy affirms that "politically, Europe can only survive as a whole. Each attack on one country is ipso facto an attack on the whole of Europe. European leaders can no longer look away, when people are oppressed somewhere in Europe, and public opinion, would not allow it".

Unityⁱⁱ is the guiding principle of the EU and it is equality and solidarity which make that principle work. According to the European Commission's official pages, "Unemployment, inadequate growth, security of energy supply and environmental pollution have long ceased to be merely national problems, and they cannot be solved at national level. It is only in the context of the EU that a stable economic order can be established and only through joint European efforts that we can secure an international economic policy that improves the performance of the European economy and contributes to social justice. Without internal cohesion, Europe cannot assert its political and economic independence from the rest of the world, win back its influence on the international stage and regain its role in world politics".

This is based on the principle that States must consider the rest as part of their own under that principle of solidarity and aim to carry out a policy of stability and progress as a whole to the benefit of all. It is thus essential to defend this principle of solidarity and foster greater cooperation among Europeans for mutual and therefore individual gain. It is a question of continuing to develop a Europe that protects, that protects us, where we all feel protected.

On the other hand, *solidarity* is the necessary corrective to freedom, for inconsiderate exercise of freedom is always at the expense of others. For this reason, if a Community framework is to endure, it must also always recognise the solidarity of its members as a fundamental principle, and share both the advantages, i.e. prosperity, and the burdens equally and fairly among its members.

In its progress to achieve its objectives and unity, the European Communities first and later the European Union obtained the necessary resources and means, where willingness was the most important element to do so. The leaders of the countries that initiated this process came together and worked with great effort, giving up sovereignty and grudges to achieve that objective. Many countries followed, including those which accession negotiations are under way. To this end, they set up **institutions, laws and instruments, and a methodology of cooperation and solidarity** (which began in the Jean Monnet method), materialised through great agreements and instruments, creating something that was unimaginable 70 years ago and becoming a peace, collaboration, cooperation, solidarity and progress project that is currently an example to the rest of the world.

Among the abovementioned instruments the **solidarity clause**ⁱⁱⁱ, introduced by Article 222 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) is worthy of mention. It provides the option for the EU and EU countries:

- to act jointly;
- to prevent the terrorist threat in the territory of an EU country;
- to provide assistance to another EU country which is the victim of a natural or man-made disaster.

In 2014, the EU adopted a Decision laying down the rules and procedures for the operation of the solidarity clause. It ensures that all the parties concerned at national and at EU levels work together to respond quickly, effectively and consistently in the event of terrorist attacks or natural or man-made disasters. The clause was implemented as anticipated following the terrorist attacks in Madrid in March 2004.

We, furthermore, count with the **European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF)**^{iv}, which was designed to intervene mainly in cases of major natural disasters and provide European solidarity to European disaster-stricken regions. It was created in response to the great floods during the summer of 2002 in Central Europe. Since then, it has been applied in 80 disasters of different nature: floods, forest fires, earthquakes, storms and droughts. 24 European countries have been helped with more than 500 million EUR.

We also count with the **European Solidarity Corps**^v, whose objective is to bring together young people to build a more inclusive society, supporting vulnerable people and responding to societal challenges. It offers an inspiring and empowering experience for young people who want to help, learn and develop.

Bearing these arguments in mind, the topic and priorities of the 12th edition of European Research and Mobility Grants for European Studies will deal with: **“THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE PRINCIPLE OF SOLIDARITY”**, and the specific and horizontal priorities to be taken into account by candidates applying for a grant when developing and presenting their proposals will be looked into hereunder.

ⁱ http://www.fundacionyuste.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/europacultura2002_en.pdf

ⁱⁱ <https://op.europa.eu/webpub/com/abc-of-eu-law/en/>

ⁱⁱⁱ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/solidarity_clause.html?locale=es

^{iv} https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/es/funding/solidarity-fund/

^v https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity/mission_es