

ANNOUNCEMENT OF 18th December 2024 BY WHICH THE “CARLOS V EUROPEAN AWARD – ANGELA MERKEL EUROPEAN RESEARCH AND MOBILITY GRANTS FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES” OF THE EUROPEAN AND IBERO-AMERICAN ACADEMY OF YUSTE FOUNDATION ARE MADE PUBLIC.

The European and Ibero-American Academy of Yuste Foundation is a public non-profit entity with a cultural, scientific, research, and dissemination focus. It forms part of the foundational public sector of the Autonomous Community of Extremadura and is attached to the Regional Ministry of the Presidency, Interior, and Social Dialogue of the Regional Government of Extremadura, in accordance with Decree 231/2023, dated 12th September, which establishes the organisational structure of the Regional Ministry of the Presidency, Interior, and Social Dialogue of the Regional Government of Extremadura.

By means of Decree 54/2018, dated 8 May, the regulatory bases for the “Carlos V European Award” European Research and Mobility Grants for European Studies of the European and Ibero-American Academy of Yuste Foundation were approved (Official Journal of Extremadura (DOE), No. 92, 14 May 2018), which focus on the history, memory, and European integration, using as a framework and priority the profile of the individual, institution, project, or initiative awarded in each edition. The topic and research priorities are defined in collaboration with the awardee, adopting a multidisciplinary perspective. Article seven of the aforementioned decree establishes that the award procedure is competitive and that the call for applications shall be approved by the Executive Committee of the European and Ibero-American Academy of Yuste Foundation, with prior authorisation from the secretary general of the Presidency of the Regional Government of Extremadura. Therefore, in accordance with and by virtue of the provisions of Decree 54/2018, dated 8 May, the public call for the grants provided for in said decree is hereby announced.

In its 14th edition, the Jury of the Carlos V European Award granted the prize to German chancellor Angela Merkel “in recognition of her long political career in the service of Europe, having been a strong supporter of the European integration process and of the important strategic role of Europe in the international scene”. Considering these arguments, and after consulting with the awardee, the topic of the 14th edition of the European Research and Mobility Grants for European Studies will be: “The fortune of being united: Securing and strengthening Europe’s cohesion/La fortuna de estar unidos: garantizar y fortalecer la cohesión de Europa” / Zu unserem Glück vereint: Zusammenhalt in Europa sichern und stärken”.

In accordance with the competences conferred by article 23.1 of the Subsidies Law 6/2011 of 23 March of the Autonomous Community of Extremadura, I approve the present call of 18 November 2024 prior authorisation of the general secretary of the Regional Ministry of Presidency, Interior and Social Dialogue of the Regional Government of Extremadura.

BASES:

FIRST. – Objective.

The present call's objective is to offer 18 "Carlos V European Award" European Research and Mobility Grants for European Studies with an individual grant of €2,500, in accordance with Decree 54/2018, of 8th May, which approved the regulatory bases for the "Carlos V European Award" European Research and Mobility Grants for European Studies of the European and Ibero-American Academy of Yuste Foundation, which will fund:

- a) The study and documentary research within the European context to prepare the papers that are to be presented within the framework of the Carlos V European Award Doctoral Seminar of Multidisciplinary Studies on Contemporary Europe to be held at the Monastery of San Jerónimo de Yuste (Extremadura, Spain).
- b) The development of research projects undertaken within the framework of this call, which will later be published in a collective volume by the European and Ibero-American Academy of Yuste Foundation, with a renowned publisher.
- c) The mobility of researchers to conduct their research, to participate in the doctoral seminar where they will present their work, and subsequently to attend the presentation event for the publication of the research findings.

SECOND. - Orientation and priorities of the call.

The topic of this call will be "**The fortune of being united: Securing and strengthening Europe's cohesion**", taking into account the argumentation and context in Annex III, which will be published on Yuste Foundation's website together with this call, and the priorities set out below, without prejudice to the fact that applicants for the grants propose other innovative lines of research on the main topic of this call.

The specific and horizontal priorities to be considered when developing and submitting proposals are the following:

a) Specific priorities:

- The contribution of European Institutions throughout history to the European integration process, especially in the area of "European Cohesion," through:
 - The development of European policies, funds, initiatives, or programmes.
 - The drafting, implementation, and monitoring of EU regulations and legislation.
 - Interinstitutional cooperation among different European institutions and

community bodies, as well as between the European Union and other international organisations.

- Partnerships and cooperation between European Institutions and other international organisations and institutions, such as the UN, UNESCO, NATO, or the Council of Europe, to name some of the most well-known.
 - Cooperation programmes and initiatives that enable local and regional actors (municipalities, provinces, or regions) as well as civil society actors, such as associations, foundations, networks, or NGOs, to contribute to the European cohesion process and policies.
 - Promoting dialogue, understanding, collaboration, solidarity, and ensuring among its members the defence of European values, freedom, human rights, equality, justice, the rule of law, stability, and peace.
- The role of European Institutions and Bodies (with a special emphasis on the European Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee) vs. the role of the Member States of both institutions and other levels of representation (regional or local) in the development of initiatives and policies aimed at promoting, ensuring, and strengthening European territorial solidarity and cohesion (i.e., regions with legislative powers or local authorities).
 - Cooperation between European Institutions and third countries outside the EU, as well as the role that policies and initiatives aimed at fostering, promoting, and developing European cohesion play or have played in relations with these countries and in promoting throughout the world the values and principles on which the European Union is founded.
 - The evolution of the functioning of European Union institutions during the process of European construction and integration, and their democratic legitimacy with respect to policies aimed at fostering European cohesion and their impact. This includes how, through these policies and initiatives, they contribute to promoting European values, peace and stability on the continent, the European identity, the concept of European citizenship, and active European citizenship in democratic processes.
 - The evolution of policies, initiatives, and actions aimed at fostering, ensuring, and strengthening European cohesion, encompassing diverse areas of study and analysis, such as:
 - The development and evolution of mechanisms throughout history in the process of European construction and decision-making, involving various institutions and

- organisations at different levels, as well as civil society and citizens in general.
- The advancement of Democracy, Human Rights, equality, justice, and the Rule of Law.
 - The development and evolution of European solidarity policies and European citizenship.
 - The reform of European Treaties and the development, functioning, and effectiveness of mechanisms such as European conventions for this purpose.
 - Multilevel cooperation between European Institutions and Member States, regions, and municipalities, as well as with other institutions and organisations such as businesses, universities, associations, foundations, NGOs, civil society organisations, and citizens.
 - The development and evolution of social cohesion policies and the role of the European Union and its institutions regarding policies still within the Member States' remit.
 - The division of competences within the aforementioned framework.
 - The socio-economic development of territories at various levels within EU Member States.
 - The promotion of social cohesion.
 - The promotion of sustainable policies that contribute to combating climate change and its effects.
 - The promotion of equality and Human Rights.
 - The development and evolution of reinforced policies.
 - Citizen security and protection.
 - Decision-making processes.
 - European governance and the role of European institutions in addressing territorial inequalities and responding to unforeseen challenges and international crises, as well as their effects and impact on affected territories and citizens (e.g., effects of health crises like the COVID-19 pandemic; wars in neighbouring countries and the accompanying food, economic, or energy crises; migration-related crises; economic crises of various kinds; climate change-related crises; or crises stemming from natural disasters).
 - The economic impact of European cohesion policies, initiatives, and programmes.
- The evolution of the European Union's influence in third countries, the development of external relations and diplomacy in general, the weight of citizens, and the role that citizenship and civil society can play in the European construction process, as factors or elements that allow us to analyse the future of the model based on soft power and diplomacy in external relations, in the context of the principle of solidarity and its development.
 - The contribution of the European Union, other international organisations, and countries and regions within the EU to the development of initiatives, programmes, and policies aimed at promoting social, territorial, cultural, or economic cohesion in Europe.

- The contribution of European cohesion policies to the development of relations with Latin America and the Caribbean through the development of key initiatives and programmes that help defend, develop, and strengthen international systems based on rules, and face global challenges together, including digital transformation, climate change, and the fight against poverty and inequality, as a necessary common challenge to promote cohesion not only within territories but also transnationally through the exchange of knowledge and resources.
- The role of women in the European integration process and their contribution to European cohesion policies, the promotion of European values, the strengthening of democracy, justice, human rights, the rule of law, and European citizenship, analysing and investigating the development of their participation in the various political processes of unification, integration, and European cohesion.
- The contribution of culture and/or education to fostering, ensuring, and strengthening European cohesion policies, as well as European values and citizenship, analysing and investigating the development of their role in political processes of unification and European construction.
- The contribution of organised civil society and individuals belonging to minority groups —whether due to cultural, ethnic, or belief-based reasons, sexual orientation, or having some form of disability, different abilities, or functional diversity— to European cohesion, the integration and construction process, European values, and the strengthening of democracy, justice, human rights, the rule of law, or European citizenship or the concept of European identity.
- Considering that the European Union’s action in the cultural field is limited and primarily complements the cultural policies of Member States in various areas, yet acknowledging that the cultural sector has been one of the most proactive in favour of the European integration process, contributing to the development of European cohesion, the principle of solidarity, European citizenship, democratic stability, the defence of human rights, and the promotion of active citizenship, submissions are invited that highlight the contribution of culture and the cultural sector to the process of European construction and integration, and to social, cultural, economic, territorial, and political cohesion in Europe.
- From the early stages of European integration, the different European Institutions have aimed to adopt a more active policy in the social sphere compared to the rest of the world. Europe boasts some of the highest levels of social protection and holds a prominent position in terms of quality of life and well-being. However, the EU has limited competencies in the social domain, which primarily depends on its Member States, and it constantly faces a wide range of challenges that threaten the development of this model and the aspiration for a more social Europe. There is a need to investigate and analyse how the social dimension can be further improved and developed through social cohesion policies.

b) **Horizontal priorities.**

Bearing in mind the multidisciplinary nature of these grants, papers must consider the following factors:

- The historical perspective, analysing the European construction process from its origins across various domains: the political, institutional, and operational realms; the relationships between Member States and with their neighbours; the accession processes; external relations, particularly with Ibero-America; relationships with other international organisations; and the development of programmes that have facilitated these relationships through policies of social, cultural, economic, territorial, or political cohesion. This includes initiatives aimed at promoting exchange, mobility, cooperation, sharing of best practices, intercultural dialogue, and relationships among citizens, businesses, institutions, and organisations within the EU.
- The recovery of Europe's memory and initiatives that have fostered unity, cohesion, and relationships among European peoples and citizens, promoting a better understanding, analysis, and reflection on our common past. This aims to critically and analytically examine key moments in European history concerning solidarity.
- The political and institutional relationships, both internal and external, that have enabled European countries to progress to their current situation, including the roles played by various community institutions and organisations. Consider in this point such important aspects as political, economic, legal, commercial, cultural, or security issues; as well as others, such as respect for human rights, cultural exchanges, the development and strengthening of civil society, the role of languages and linguistic diversity in these relationships and in identity development efforts, or development cooperation through cohesion policies as key factors in the consolidation of European values, freedom, solidarity, the promotion of intercultural dialogue, and the defence of peace.
- The role of organised civil society in developing and strengthening processes of cohesion, integration, and European construction, considering the work done by foundations, associations, NGOs, think tanks, universities, etc. It is also relevant to analyse the creation and development of networks, associations, and cultural entities of a European nature and the role they have played and continue to play in this process.
- The role of the media in promoting a cohesive Europe and fostering institutional, political, and diplomatic relationships by informing, clarifying, encouraging debate and reflection, analysing pros and cons, and raising citizens' awareness about the European integration process.

The papers should also promote reflection on the future of the EU and the role that social, cultural, economic, territorial, and political cohesion policies and initiatives should play in its internal development and in a global context, especially in connection with responses that cohesion policies can provide to current challenges and to the promotion of peace, human rights, and European values. This should also address other challenges requiring creative and original responses among Member States, aiming to contribute to a better mutual understanding that favours solidarity, good governance, inclusive policies, the fight against all forms of discrimination, the promotion of equal opportunities, security, citizen protection, and the participation of citizens, especially young people, in the democratic process.

THIRD. - Requirements of the beneficiaries.

Those who fulfil the following specific requirements before the deadline for the submission of applications, apart from those generally established in Article 12 of the Subsidies Law 6/2011 of the Autonomous Community of Extremadura of 23 March, may become beneficiaries:

1. - Be nationals of a Member country of the European Union or of one of the countries considered in this call or from third countries when proving that he/she is a permanent resident of one of the eligible countries before the date of the publication of this call.

Eligible countries of the call:

European Union (EU) Member States: Germany, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Slovenia, Spain, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Romania, Sweden.

Western Balkans: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro.

Eastern neighbourhood: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Territory of Ukraine acknowledged by international law.

Southern Mediterranean countries: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia.

Asia: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Philippines, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar/Burma, Nepal, Pakistan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam, Brunei, Korea, Hong Kong, Japan, Macao, Singapore and Taiwan.

Central Asia: Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Middle East: Iraq, Iran, and Yemen; Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Oman, and Qatar.

Pacific: Fiji, Cook Islands, Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, East Timor, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Australia, New Zealand.

Sub-Saharan Africa: Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Ivory Coast, Eritrea, Esuatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Djibouti, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Latin America: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

United States and Canada: United States of America and Canada.

Other regions: Andorra, Monaco, San Marino and Vatican City State, Faroe Islands, United Kingdom and Switzerland.

2. - Be enrolled in a doctorate programme of one of the universities of the eligible countries in the present call and be in the preparation stage of the doctoral thesis in History, Political Science, Economy, Law and other disciplines of Social and Human Sciences, as well as other branches of science, on a subject related with the aim and guidance established in the call.

3. - Not to previously be in receipt of a “*Carlos V European Award*” *European Research and Mobility Grant for European Studies* of the European and Ibero-American Academy of Yuste Foundation or of the SEGEI network.

4. - Certify the knowledge of one of the two working languages (English or Spanish), with a B2 of the CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) level or higher in case neither of them are the applicant’s mother tongue.

FOURTH. - Concession procedure.

The procedure for awarding the grants established in this call is based on a competitive selection process and public notice.

FIFTH. - Selection criteria.

1. To assess the applications, the results of the scoring conducted by a jury will be considered, taking into account objective merits as well as the quality and relevance of the proposals submitted in this call.

Applications will be evaluated up to a maximum of 100 points, according to the following criteria:

ACADEMIC MERITS	SCORE
University titles	1 point for every title complementing the degree or main bachelor's degree Up to a maximum of 5 points
Average grade of the main degree's academic record	Up to 10 points corresponding with the average grade
Academic awards, grants and aid granted to carry out research work and/or projects related to the subject and priorities of the call	0,5 points for each Up to a maximum of 3 points
International research placements (for each placement of at least 15 days)	Up to 3 months: 0,5 points More than 3 months: 1 point Up to a maximum of 5 points
Scientific publications related to the subject of the call and its priorities	0,5 points for each one Up to a maximum of 5 points
Professional experience related to the subject and the priorities of the call	0,5 points for each worked year Up to a maximum of 2 points
Linguistic competence (Any official language)	Level B1: 0,5 points Level B2: 1 point Level C1 or higher: 1,5 points Up to a maximum of 5 points
RESEARCH PROJECT	SCORE
Orientation of the paper	Up to 15 points
Adaptation to the subject of the call	Up to 10 points
Adaptation to the priorities of the call	Up to 10 points
Quality of the proposal's subject	Up to 10 points
Quality of the proposal's structure	Up to 10 points
Quality of the proposal's methodology	Up to 10 points

2. The grants will be awarded to applicants who have reached a maximum score in the assessment carried out. In case of a tie in the score, the order of preference will be established according to the highest score reached in the global average grade of the academic record. If the tie remains, it will be solved by drawing of lots among the

candidates.

SIXTH. - Applications and deadline for submission.

- a. Applications shall be formalised completing the form in annex I of the present call.
- b. Applications and the annex documentation shall be submitted via electronic means, completing the digital form published on the website: www.fundacionyuste.org (Menu: («Premio Europeo Carlos V»/Becas Premio Europeo Carlos V) and submitting the required documentation to the following email: becas@fundacionyuste.org

Applications may also be submitted at the European and Ibero-American Academy of Yuste Foundation's registry at the Monastery of San Jerónimo de Yuste, 10430 Cuacos de Yuste (Cáceres) or via the post office, in which case the application should be taken there in an open envelope so that the person in charge may state the date when it was presented and sent by certificate mail.

3. The completed application form (Annex I) shall be accompanied by the following documentation:
 - a. A valid copy of the NIF and/or Passport.
 - b. A copy of the permanent resident card (only nationals from different countries to those eligible in the call).
 - c. A copy of the registration slip of the University's doctorate degree.
 - d. A copy of the candidate's Academic Record.
 - e. A copy of supporting documentation of the requirements and merits included in the application form.
 - f. A recommendation letter of the director of the thesis.
 - g. Declaration of Commitment (Annex II).
 - h. Certification of English or Spanish skills, having a B2 level or higher. (Only in case it is not the applicant's mother tongue).

The European and Ibero-American Academy of Yuste Foundation may request the comparison of the copies provided by the applicant at any time in a reasoned manner, and thus request the presentation of the original document.

4. The deadline for submitting applications will be 30 working days following the date of publication of this call in the Official Journal of Extremadura (DOE).
5. If the application does not comply with the requirements demanded, the applicant shall be asked to rectify the error or present the mandatory documents in a period of ten working days and shall be warned that in not doing so his/her application shall be relinquished.

SEVENTH. – Organisation and instruction of the procedure.

1. The organisation and instruction of the procedure for the granting of aid regulated by the present call rests with the Managing Director of the European and Ibero-American Academy of Yuste Foundation.
2. The instructing body will review the submitted applications, undertaking any necessary actions ex officio to determine, understand, and verify the data on which the resolution proposal should be based. In this phase, compliance with the conditions imposed to qualify as a beneficiary of the grant will be verified, following the issuance of the corresponding technical report, which will be forwarded to the jury to be constituted for this purpose.
3. A jury for the analysis, assessment and ranking of the submitted application forms - in accordance with the established criteria- shall be constituted and appointed by decision of the European and Ibero-American Academy of Yuste Foundation's Managing Director and shall be composed by:

A President and between 8 and 14 members appointed among personalities from the academic and university fields and with professional careers related to the European Union and/or the subject and priorities of the present call, where one of the members shall serve as secretary.

The definite composition of the jury shall be published on the Foundation's website.

4. After the evaluation phase of the submitted applications, the jury will issue a report detailing the results of the evaluation and will attach a list of the applicants, ranked by score, along with those excluded and the reasons for their exclusion.
5. The instructing body, in view of the file and the jury's assessment, will formulate the final resolution proposal for the granting of the grants, which, properly justified, will be submitted to the competent authority to resolve the procedure. For this purpose, the jury's report will be binding. The resolution proposal will be accompanied by a list of the selected candidates for the grants, which will distinguish between selected candidates and reserve applicants, ranked in descending order of score.

6. The resolution proposal will be notified to the interested party at the email address they have provided, informing them of the availability of the provisional list on the website of the Foundation <www.fundacionyuste.org> (Menu: “Premio Europeo Carlos V” / Becas Premio Europeo Carlos V), allowing a period of ten working days to submit objections to the email address becas@fundacionyuste.org. After this period, if no objections are raised, the proposed resolution will be deemed definitive.
7. After examining any objections raised by the interested parties, if they are related to the evaluation carried out, the jury will send a valuation report to the instructing body so that, in light of it, the definitive resolution proposal can be formulated.
8. The resolution of the granting procedure corresponds to the person holding the presidency of the Executive Committee of the Foundation, following authorisation from the General Secretariat of the Regional Ministry of Presidency, Interior, and Social Dialogue of the Regional Government of Extremadura to proceed with the processing of the grants and grant them in accordance with the regulatory bases and this call.
9. The maximum period to resolve and notify the resolution of the procedure will be three months, counted from the day following the end of the application submission period. If the maximum period elapses without the resolution of the grant being communicated, the application may be considered denied.
10. The resolution of the procedure will be notified individually to each interested party. Likewise, the grant resolution will be published on the website of the European and Ibero-American Academy of Yuste Foundation: www.fundacionyuste.org and in the Official Journal of Extremadura (DOE), as provided for by Article 45 of Law 39/2015 of 1 October on the Common Administrative Procedure of Public Administrations.
11. The grant resolution must include the beneficiaries of the grants, the score of the application, as well as the obligations and commitments acquired by them.
12. Once the grant resolution has been notified, the beneficiary must accept it within a maximum period of 5 working days; if there is no express indication after this period, it will be deemed tacitly rejected.
13. Additionally, the list of beneficiaries, as well as the reserve candidates, will be published, detailing the score obtained by each of them, prioritised by the score of the application.
14. Any renunciations that occur after the publication of the resolution, as well as failure to comply with obligations, unforeseen incapacity, or any other cause that implies the loss of the status of beneficiaries, may lead to the incorporation of a

new beneficiary, following the order established in the list of reserve candidates and their scores. The resolution awarding the aid to the reserve candidate will be notified to the interested party, and the reserve beneficiary must accept it under the same terms established in point 12 of this section.

15. In the exercise of control functions and others involving administrative powers, as provided in the additional provision three of Law 6/2011, of 23 March, the resolution that concludes the granting procedure may be appealed to the holder of the General Secretariat of the Presidency of the Regional Government of Extremadura within a month from the day following the notification of the act, without prejudice to the fact that interested parties may exercise any other resources they deem appropriate.

EIGHTH. - Funding and amount.

1. The amount of the present call shall be funded by the European and Ibero-American Academy of Yuste Foundation's 2024 budgets approved by its Board of Trustees on 13 December 2023.
2. The amount of each grant shall be 2.500 EUR, where the total amount of the present call is 45.000 EUR.

NINTH. - Obligations of the beneficiaries, payment and forms of justification.

1. The beneficiaries of the grants in the present call are subject to the obligations that are generally established in Article 13 of Law 6/2011 of 23rd March and should —following the deadlines of the present call— specifically:
 - a) Send a scheme and a summary of his/her research work in English or Spanish. In case it is sent in Spanish, an English version should be provided of no more than 8.000 characters (including spaces).
 - b) Participate throughout the doctoral seminar organised at the Monastery of San Jerónimo de Yuste (in Extremadura, Spain) during the date communicated sufficiently in advance to the selected candidates.
 - c) Send the complete text of his/her paper in one of the two working languages, which will have a maximum length of 50.000 characters (including spaces and notes). The deadline for its submission as well as the norms and editorial rules for its publication shall be indicated to each beneficiary once the doctoral seminar has concluded.
 - d) Accept to become a member of Yuste's Alumni Network which gathers

researchers who have participated in previous seminars.

- e) Participate in the presentation of the collective publication which will include the final version of all the beneficiaries' papers.
2. The payment will be made according to the following timelines: two-fifths of the total after the final resolution of the grant award, one-fifth after the celebration of the Carlos V European Award – Angela Merkel Doctoral Seminar at the Monastery of San Jerónimo de Yuste, and the remaining two-fifths after the submission of the final version of the text for publication.
 3. The justification shall be carried out by the explicit certification of the submission of the final works (definite version), signed by the managing director of the Foundation.
 4. The European and Ibero-American Academy of Yuste Foundation commits itself to paying the different payments of the grants in a maximum period of three months since the resolution of the call.

TENTH. - Effects.

The present call shall take effect the day after its publication in the Official Journal of Extremadura (DOE).

ELEVENTH. - Reimbursement of the awarded grant.

1. Total or partial reimbursement of the awarded grant will be required, as well as the collection of interest on arrears accrued from the effective payment of the grant until the date on which the reimbursement is deemed necessary, in the following cases:
 - a) Concealing or falsifying data taken into account for the granting of the aid.
 - b) Cancellation of university enrolment.
 - c) Failure to complete the research work or non-compliance with any of the obligations outlined in Base Thirteen of Decree 54/2018 of 8 May.
 - d) Any others provided for in Article 43 of Law 6/2011, of 23 March, on Grants of the Autonomous Community of Extremadura.
2. When the compliance by the beneficiary is significantly close to full compliance, and they provide evidence of unequivocal action towards fulfilling their

commitments, the amount to be reimbursed will be determined according to the principle of proportionality. Compliance is considered significantly close to full compliance when the obligations established in sections a), c), and d) of the aforementioned Base Thirteen have been met. In the event of non-compliance with point b), a reimbursement of 20% of the total amount of the awarded grant will be required, and 10% in the case of non-compliance with point e) of that Base Thirteen.

In Mérida, on 18 December 2024. The President of the Executive Committee of the European and Ibero-American Academy of Yuste Foundation, ABEL BAUTISTA MORÁN.

ANNEX I
**APPLICATION FORM: “ANGELA MERKEL-CARLOS V EUROPEAN AWARD” EUROPEAN
RESEARCH AND MOBILITY GRANT FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES**

THE APPLICANT’S PERSONAL DATA

NAME:	
SURNAME/S:	
PHONE NUMBER/S:	
COMPLETE ADDRESS:	
EMAIL:	
NATIONALITY:	
PLACE AND DATE OF BIRTH (day/month/year):	
PASSPORT NUMBER / DNI:	
RESIDENT CARD NUMBER: (in case you are not a national from any of the eligible countries in the call)	
UNIVERSITY WHERE THE DOCTORATE IS BEING COMPLETED	

- **University titles:**

YEAR	TITLE / DIPLOMA	DEGREE	UNIVERSITY	AVERAGE GRADE IN ACADEMIC RECORD
+				
AVERAGE TOTAL:				

(+) Add more rows if necessary

- **Academic awards, grants and aid granted:**

NAME	AIM	GRANTING ENTITY	DATE
+			

- **International research placements:**

RESEARCH CENTRE	COUNTRY	DATES	DURATION
+			

- **List of scientific publications related to the subject of the call:**

TITLE	PUBLISHER	PLACE OF PUBLICATION Journal, book, minutes, etc.	ISBN ISSN	DATE OF PUBLICATION	LINK / ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
+					

- **Linguistic competence.** Following the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR): User - A1 / A2 Basic User; B1 / B2 Independent User; C1/C2 Proficient User.

	LEVEL (CEFR)
English	
Spanish	
Others	

- **Title of the ongoing doctorate** (Describe content. Maximum length of 10 lines):

- **Title of the thesis:**

- **Name, surnames and contact data of the director(s) of the thesis:**

Mandatory: attach a support letter written by the director(s) of the thesis.

- **Date of the beginning of the thesis:**

- **Approximate date of the defence of the thesis:**

- **Current profession(s) and/or function(s)** (Name and address of the employer):

- **Title and orientation of the paper submitted in the present call.** (Summary of a maximum of 5.000 characters, including spaces).

TITLE: _____

SUMMARY:

- **Biographical sketch of the candidate (CV)** (Text of maximum 10 lines in paragraph format).

Mr./Ms. _____, with DNI
/ NIE/ PASSPORT NUMBER _____, declares that:

- All the data in this application are true.
- That his/her payments with the National Treasury and with the Social Security are up to date.
- That he/she is aware and accepts the conditions of the call and fulfils its established requirements.
- That he/she fulfils all the requirements pointed out in Article 12 of the Subsidies Law 6/2011 of the Autonomous Community of Extremadura of 23 March.

In _____, on202_

Signature:

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ANNEX II

The undersigned (name and surname(s)) declares, on the basis of the present call's provisions, to commit him/herself —in case his/her application is awarded a “Carlos V European Award” European Research and Mobility Grants for European Studies were accepted— to:

- I. Send a scheme and a summary of his/her research work in English or Spanish —in case it is sent in Spanish, an English version should be provided— of no more than 8.000 characters (including spaces).
- II. Participate throughout the doctoral seminar organised at the Monastery of San Jerónimo de Yuste (in Extremadura, Spain) on the date communicated sufficiently in advance to the selected candidates.
- III. Send the complete text of his/her paper in one of the two working languages, which will have a maximum length of 50.000 characters (including spaces and notes). The deadline for its submission as well as the norms and editorial rules for its publication shall be indicated to each beneficiary once the doctoral seminar has concluded.
- IV. Accept to become a member of Yuste's Alumni Network, which gathers researchers who have participated in previous seminars.
- V. Participate in the presentation of the collective publication which will include the final version of all the beneficiaries' papers.

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ANNEX III RATIONALE AND CONTEXT OF THE CALL

The cohesion policy¹ is the European Union's primary investment policy. It benefits all regions and cities in the Union, fostering economic growth, job creation, business competitiveness, sustainable development, and environmental protection.

The European Union's (EU) cohesion policy is a cornerstone of the European integration process and has been one of the main tools for promoting balanced development and reducing disparities among the various regions within the territories of EU Member States, both current and former. Over the years, the cohesion policy has evolved to address emerging economic, social, and territorial challenges, becoming a key instrument in the European integration process. This policy aims not only to drive economic development but also to foster greater social solidarity and cohesion, objectives that are essential for the stability and progress of European integration.

The roots of cohesion policy trace back to the early days of the European integration project. Following World War II, European countries recognised the need for economic cooperation to secure peace and development. The Treaty of Rome, signed in 1957, established the European Economic Community (EEC) and already contained references to economic and social cohesion, although the priority at that time was the creation of a common market. Article 158 of the Treaty of Rome highlighted the importance of promoting "harmonious development", acknowledging the need to reduce the differences between more advanced and less advantaged regions.

However, territorial and social cohesion did not gain significant traction until the 1970s. During this period, regional disparities became more evident as economic integration policies, such as the customs union and the development of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), began to disproportionately benefit the more developed areas. In response, specific mechanisms were introduced to foster more balanced development.

The establishment of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) in 1975 marked a turning point in European cohesion policy. The ERDF was the EEC's first instrument specifically dedicated to redistributing financial resources to support poorer regions. The creation of this fund reflected a recognition that regional disparities could jeopardise the European integration process by creating political and economic tensions among Member States.

Cohesion policy gained further prominence in the 1980s with the signing of the Single European Act in 1986. This treaty, the first major institutional change in the EEC since the Treaty of Rome, introduced significant reforms that expanded the Community's competences, particularly in the areas of economic and social cohesion. Article 130A of the Single Act stated that the Community's objective was to "reduce disparities between the

¹ <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets/es/sheet/93/la-cohesion-economica-social-y-territorial>

levels of development of the various regions and the backwardness of the least-favoured regions”. This mandate became the legal framework for a more active cohesion policy, accompanied by a significant increase in funding allocated to this purpose.

The momentum for cohesion policy continued with the Maastricht Treaty, signed in 1992, which transformed the EEC into the European Union. The treaty not only strengthened commitments to economic and social cohesion but also introduced a new focus on territorial cohesion. In Title XIV, the Maastricht Treaty set out the principles guiding cohesion policy, including the creation of a new cohesion fund to support Member States with a GDP per capita below 90% of the EU average, specifically to help these countries prepare for the adoption of the euro.

The Treaty of Lisbon, signed in 2007 and in force since 2009, further consolidated European cohesion policy as one of the EU’s main priorities. The treaty introduced a more comprehensive approach to cohesion, bringing together the objectives of economic, social, and territorial cohesion under a single framework. Article 174 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) states that the EU shall “aim at reducing disparities between the levels of development of the various regions and the backwardness of the least-favoured regions”, with particular attention to rural, island, mountainous, and sparsely populated regions.

Throughout its history, European cohesion policy has undergone various phases of adaptation and expansion to address the challenges of a changing continent, remaining in constant evolution. With the accession of new Member States, especially after the 2004 enlargement, which brought Central and Eastern European countries into the EU, economic disparities widened significantly. Cohesion policy had to adjust to address the substantial differences in development between the wealthier regions of Western Europe and the poorer regions of Eastern Europe. This adjustment was accompanied by increased funding through the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), which sets the EU’s long-term budget.

In the 2014-2020 period, cohesion policy was allocated over €350 billion, representing roughly one-third of the total EU budget. These funds were channelled through three main instruments: the ERDF, the European Social Fund (ESF), and the Cohesion Fund². Funding supported a wide range of projects, from infrastructure modernisation to workforce skills enhancement, aiming to promote inclusive and sustainable growth across all regions.

However, cohesion policy has faced significant challenges in recent decades. The 2008 economic crisis exacerbated regional disparities, especially in Southern European countries, which experienced high levels of unemployment and economic contraction. More recently, the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic fallout have placed additional strain on less-developed regions, highlighting the need for a robust and flexible cohesion policy. This was compounded by the significant impact of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine on EU territory and globally, causing uncertainty and a sharp increase in prices due to disrupted supplies of essential raw materials in the food sector, as Ukraine is one of the EU’s major suppliers of

² <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets/es/sheet/96/el-fondo-de-cohesion>

many of these products.

In addition to economic challenges, cohesion policy has had to adapt to new priorities, such as the transition towards a green and digital economy. The European Green Deal, launched in 2019, prioritises combating climate change and the ecological transformation of the economy at the heart of the EU agenda. Cohesion policy has been adjusted to support these objectives, directing resources towards the modernisation of energy infrastructure and the promotion of clean technologies in the most disadvantaged regions.

It should also be noted that in the 2021-2027 period³, EU funding comes from two sources: the “classic” Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), which sets the Union’s annual spending limits, and the NextGenerationEU recovery plan, an extraordinary initiative designed to help Member States recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Cohesion policy will also be financed by the MFF and, in certain cases, by NextGenerationEU⁴. During this period, resources allocated to the “Investment in Growth and Jobs” objective of cohesion policy will total €322.3 billion and will be directed towards less-developed regions, transition regions, more developed regions, Member States receiving Cohesion Fund support (with €10 billion earmarked for the “Connecting Europe Facility”), additional funding for outermost regions, and interregional innovation investments.

Furthermore, resources from the ERDF for the “European Territorial Cooperation” (Interreg) objective will be allocated to cross-border maritime and land cooperation, transnational cooperation, interregional cooperation, and cooperation with outermost regions. Additionally, the new Just Transition Fund, which supports areas most affected by the transition towards climate neutrality and aims to prevent increasing regional disparities, will have a budget of €17.5 billion, sourced from both the MFF and NextGenerationEU. In December 2020, another instrument, REACT-EU, was adopted to supplement cohesion programmes for 2014-2020, adding to the cohesion allocations for 2021-2027 to support key sectors essential for a robust recovery following the COVID-19 crisis.

In the 2021-2027 period, cohesion policy encompasses five political objectives for the ERDF, the ESF+, the Cohesion Fund, and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF):

- a smarter Europe: innovative and smart economic transformation;
- a greener, low-carbon Europe;
- a more connected Europe: regional mobility and connectivity within the scope of ICT;
- a more social Europe: implementation of the European pillar of social rights; and
- a Europe closer to its citizens: sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural, and coastal areas through local initiatives.

³ <https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/ministerio/servicios/red-de-autoridades-ambientales-raa/programacion-2021-2027.html>

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/2021-2027_en

The Common Provisions Regulation sets the rules for the use of these funds. The Regulation was amended in October 2022 to enable Member States and regions to more easily and flexibly use cohesion policy funds allocated for the 2014-2020 and 2021-2027 programming periods to support measures aimed at addressing the migration challenges resulting from military aggression by the Russian Federation.

In summary, European cohesion policy has been and remains a fundamental pillar in the EU integration process. From its origins in the Treaty of Rome to its consolidation in the Treaty of Lisbon, this policy has evolved to address the challenges of a diverse and constantly changing continent. Through the redistribution of funds and support for less advantaged regions, cohesion policy has contributed not only to the economic development of these areas but also to the social stability and cohesion of the EU as a whole.

Students and researchers interested in exploring this policy should consider not only its economic impact but also its social and territorial dimensions. Cohesion policy is not merely a tool for reducing regional disparities; it is an essential component of the EU's political architecture, promoting solidarity, sustainability, and European integration. In this sense, cohesion policy remains a strategic priority for Europe's future⁵.

⁵ <https://cohesionlab.eu/conoce-la-politica-decohesion/>