



College of Europe  
Collège d'Europe

Brugge



Natolin

## **Ethical guidelines for external funding at the College of Europe** **as approved by the Academic Council on 21 June 2019**

The College of Europe is committed to ensuring high standards of integrity across all of its teaching, research and training activities. This includes the careful consideration of opportunities for external funding from the private or public sector, be it for the study programmes and research activities or for the work of the Development Office (Bruges campus) and Development Service (Natolin campus). As an educational institution of excellence, the College of Europe is committed to independent, non-partisan research, scholarship and training. It has a strong reputation in the field of European affairs, which it wishes to preserve and enhance.

When seeking sponsorship for any of its educational activities, such as academic chairs, research centres, research projects, conferences or student thesis awards, the College of Europe takes into account any circumstances which may make it inappropriate to accept funding from a particular private or public sponsor. This is especially the case where such funding might be inconsistent with the values, objectives or activities of the College of Europe, as set out in its [Statutes](#). While the sponsors of educational activities, with or without naming recognition, benefit from the prestige of the College of Europe, they must respect its academic freedom and not compromise its independence. They accept as a precondition not to have any influence on research outcomes and/or the contents of teaching in the study programmes. In the pursuit of financial support for the implementation of the abovementioned activities, the College fundraisers closely liaise with the Rector and, in the case of the Natolin campus, also with the Vice-Rector in their planning. In addition, if a sponsored activity will be located in an academic department or programme, the respective Director of Studies or Academic Coordinator is associated.

In considering whether or not to seek or accept funding for its educational activities, particular attention should be given to the question of whether doing so could conflict with the intellectual independence or integrity of the

researcher, the academic department, programme or the College as a whole. It may be appropriate to accept funds from a particular source for one type of activity (for instance a specific conference or event) but not for another type of activity (such as institutional support for an academic chair, research centre or project) or to accept funds only under particular, explicitly agreed conditions.

When considering a funding proposal for the cases listed above, the Rector, the Vice-Rector and the Director of Studies or Academic Coordinator, as the case may be, ensure that the funding is compliant with this policy. In case of any doubts regarding ethical or reputational risk, the matter will be brought before the Academic Council. In line with the Statutes of the College of Europe, any institutional support for academic chairs, research centres and projects (such as costs linked to personnel or donations other than those earmarked for a specific conference or event) must be approved by both the Academic Council and the Administrative Council. In no case can such support be provided by governments or state-owned enterprises of non-European countries. Institutional support from the corporate sector must not directly be related to the business interests of the sponsor. Sponsors who fund academic chairs or research centres and projects are not involved in the selection of the chairholders or other research personnel. External funding for specific conferences or other events organised or co-organised by the College of Europe is acknowledged on the programme of such events. The College fundraisers present an annual report to the Academic Council and to the Administrative Council of the College of Europe.

In the same way, in relation to the activities carried out by the Development Office/Service, the Rector, the Vice-Rector and the Director of the Development Office/Service concerned ensure that any external funding obtained for training and projects complies with the principles of the present policy. Both services present an annual report to the Administrative Council and to the Academic Council of the College of Europe.