



Brugge

Alumni Association
College of Europe
Collège d'Europe
Association des Anciens Etudiants



Natolin

January - June 2026

ACTIVITY REPORT



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1. WORD OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear alumni,

As we look back on the past six months, I believe we can all be proud of what we have achieved together. It has been a challenging period for the College of Europe, marked by important changes and uncertainty. Yet throughout this time, our Alumni Association has remained united and dynamic.

Among the many achievements of this period, I would like to highlight two in particular. The first is the formalisation of our partnership with the UK Mission to the European Union, which opens new opportunities for alumni engagement, policy dialogue and professional development. The second is our High-Level Summer Reception, which brought together alumni, partners and friends of the Association and marked the first public appearance of the incoming Rector, João Gomes Cravinho, within our alumni community.

None of this would have been possible without the commitment of our Board. We all serve on a voluntary basis, alongside demanding professional responsibilities, and I would like to sincerely thank every Board member for their dedication and support.

I would also like to express my particular gratitude to Gabriel PAPEIANS, our Treasurer, for his professionalism and careful stewardship of the Association's finances; to Viktoryia SINKOVEC for her dedicated work in supporting the Anniversary Dinners; to Chiara LANZA for coordinating our Mentorship Programme; and to our newest Board members, Pauline DUBOIS-GRAFFIN and Daniela MEZZADRI, for their outstanding work in coordinating our regional groups and strengthening our international alumni network. I would also like to thank our Administrative Officer for her constant support in the daily work of the Association.

Finally, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your continued support, participation and trust. I am particularly pleased to see that membership numbers have steadily increased, and that there is growing interest in the work of the Alumni Association.

As we enter a new phase in the relationship between the Alumni Association and the College of Europe, I very much look forward to supporting this process and contributing to a stronger, more structured and mutually beneficial cooperation.

I am confident that this spirit will continue to guide the Association in the years ahead.

Dr. Teona Lavrelashvili
President, College of Europe Alumni Association



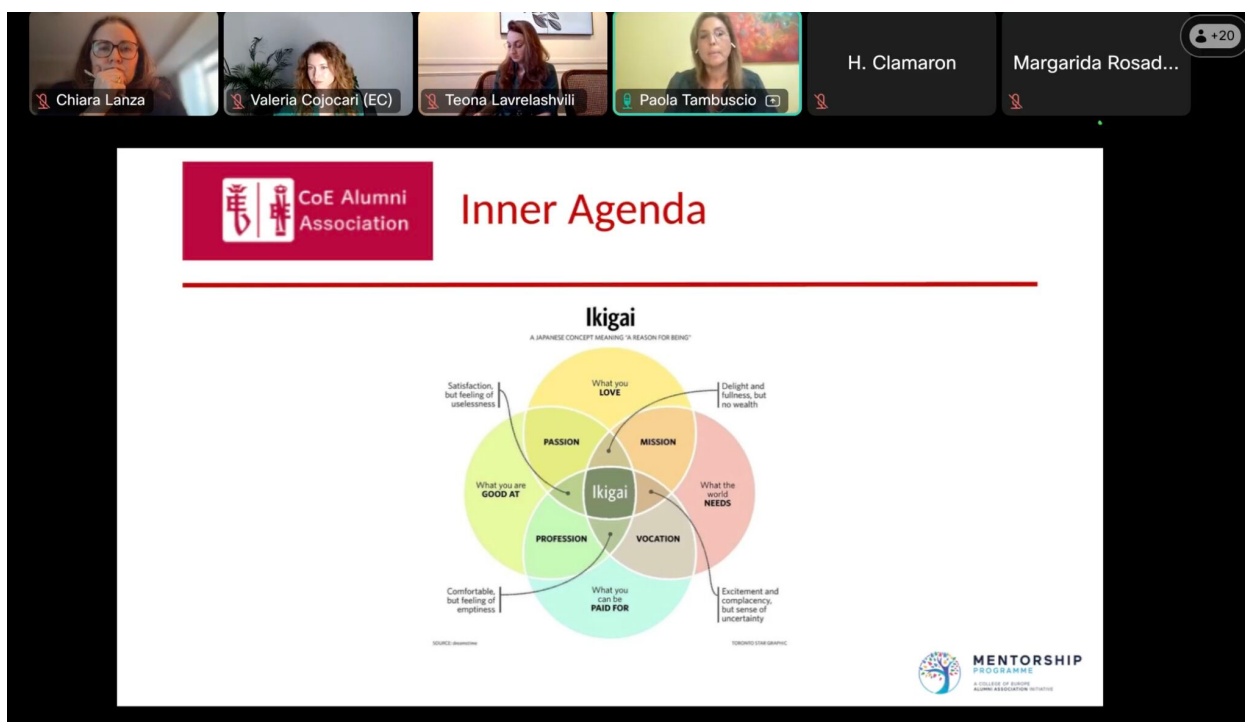
1. FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

Mentorship Programme

The seventh edition of the Mentorship Programme is currently underway and will conclude in June 2026, bringing together approximately **115 participants**, including students, recent graduates, and senior alumni. The initiative continues to provide structured guidance on career development while fostering long-term professional relationships and a strong culture of mutual support across the College of Europe network.



On 2 March 2026, the Association held the first online webinar of the programme, featuring two alumnae of the College of Europe, Paola Tambuscio and Valeria Cojocari, both specialised in coaching and career development. The session explored the value of mentoring relationships, with Paola Tambuscio reflecting on their purpose and overall impact, highlighting the importance of mindset, authenticity, and the willingness to share experience and expertise to support a mentee's personal and professional growth. Valeria Cojocari focused on how mentees can navigate their career paths with the support of a mentor, underlining the role of SMART goals and the importance of a clear mentorship agreement in shaping a meaningful and productive journey.



An informal networking gathering took place on 28 April 2026 in Brussels, bringing together mentors and mentees based in the city to strengthen connections, encourage informal exchange, and reinforce the community spirit beyond the formal programme structure.

The second and concluding webinar of the seventh edition will take place beginning of July, focusing on experience-sharing among participants and consolidating lessons learned from the mentorship cycle. Overall, the programme has been met with positive feedback from participants, reflecting strong engagement and appreciation of the initiative's structure and impact.

Anniversary Dinners

As every year, the Alumni Association organised the traditional Anniversary Dinners to celebrate milestone graduation years and strengthen intergenerational ties within the alumni community.

Date	Promotions and Anniversary	Participants
6 June 2026	<i>Thomas More (60th), Winston Churchill (55th), Adam Jerzy Czartoryski (50th), Jean Monnet (45th)</i>	50
13 June 2026	<i>Hans & Sophie Scholl (35th), Christopher Columbus (40th)</i>	110



Alumni Lunch Series

The Alumni Lunch Series has become one of the Association’s most impactful initiatives, becoming one of the Association’s flagship projects. Launched in 2025, it offers informal, off-the-record exchanges between senior alumni and high-level EU institutional figures under the Chatham House Rule.

Over the past six months, the following lunches were organised:

Keynote Speaker	Date
Belén Martínez Carbonell, Secretary-General , EEAS	26 January 2026
Sabine Weyand, Director-General (DG TRADE), European Commission	18 March 2026
Karolina Kottova, Deputy Head of Cabinet to Commissioner for Enlargement	14 April 2026

An upcoming Alumni Lunch will also take place on 30 June with Linda Robinson **Senior Fellow for Women and Foreign Policy at the Council on Foreign Relations**.





2. EVENTS

High-Level Events

- Rethinking Europe: Enlargement, Democracy and Political Responsibility – Rome, 19 February 2026:** The Alumni Association hosted the conference “*Rethinking Europe: Enlargement, Democracy and Political Responsibility*” in Rome, bringing together around **60 participants** including policymakers, academics, and alumni for a high-level discussion on the future of EU enlargement. The initiative was first conceived during a gathering in Rome in October 2025 with the Italian regional group, where Tirana alumnae Carlotta Migliore and Amy Kokalari discussed the idea with the President of the Association, helping to lay the groundwork for the conference.



The conference opened with remarks by **Teona Lavrelashvili, President of the College of Europe Alumni Association**, who framed EU enlargement as both a policy priority and a broader political and moral challenge in the current geopolitical context. A keynote speech by **Professor Lea Ypi** reflected on the link between enlargement and institutional reform, encouraging a broader, less technocratic perspective. The institutional panel featured **Senator Tatjana Rojc and Senator Cinzia Pellegrino**, who underlined the shared political responsibility of EU enlargement. Senator Rojc highlighted the strategic importance of the Western Balkans, while Senator Pellegrino stressed the need for credible reforms, the rule of law, and public trust throughout the process.



- **Visit to the Belgian Senate and exchange with President Vincent Blondel – Brussels, 5 March 2026:** The Alumni Association organised a visit to the Belgian Senate, where participants were welcomed by its **President, Vincent Blondel**. The exchange provided valuable insights into the Belgian parliamentary system and the role of the Senate, fostering a better understanding of national institutional dynamics within the broader European context. Introduced by President Teona Lavrelashvili, the visit also highlighted the importance of maintaining strong links between the international alumni community and Belgian institutions. The programme included a guided tour of the Senate's historic premises, and the visit gathered around **40 alumni**.



- High-Level Summer Reception – Brussels, 9 June 2026:** The High-Level Reception took place at Albert (Mont des Arts), bringing together around **140** alumni, EU stakeholders, partners, and friends of the Association in an elegant setting in the heart of Brussels. Designed as a moment of reconnection and exchange, the event strengthened ties across generations, fostered dialogue with European decision-makers, and highlighted the Association’s activities, achievements, partnerships, and growing role within the European affairs community.

The reception marked the first edition of what is envisaged as the Alumni Association’s annual flagship forum, bringing the community together in Brussels to reflect on the future of Europe with distinguished guests. The evening opened with welcoming remarks by **Dr Teona Lavrelashvili**, President of the Alumni Association, followed by a high-level discussion on “*The Future of Europe in a Fragmented World*”. The panel featured **Herman Van Rompuy**, President Emeritus of the European Council, **Pietro Ducci**, Director-General for External Relations at the European Parliament, and **João Gomes Cravinho**, incoming Rector of the College of Europe, making his first public appearance in this role.





Policy/Social Events

- Alumni Gathering with Live Music – 19 March 2026:** The Alumni Association organised an informal gathering accompanied by a live music performance. The event brought together around **40 participants** in a convivial and relaxed setting, offering alumni, friends, and guests of the Association the opportunity to enjoy live music while engaging in informal exchanges and strengthening connections within the community.



- Foresight Training with Professor Borges de Castro – 2 June 2026:** The Alumni Association organised a training session titled “*Foresight and the EU: Dealing with Uncertainty in a Shifting Global Order*”, led by Professor Borges de Castro. The session brought together 25 alumni and explored the role of strategic foresight in EU policymaking, combining theoretical insights with practical exercises to help participants reflect on future scenarios and policy challenges in an evolving global context.



Milestones

- Partnership with the UK Mission to the EU – 28 May 2026:** Following a series of successful joint events with the UK Mission to the European Union, the Alumni Association and the UK Mission of the EU formalised their cooperation through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding. The agreement was signed by Dr Teona Lavrelashvili, President of the College of Europe Alumni Association, and John O'Regan, Senior Representative of the UK Mission to the European Union. Members of the Association's Board, together with senior representatives of the UK Mission to the EU and partners, were present at the ceremony. The partnership is structured around three pillars – *Connect, Contribute, and Convene* – and creates a concrete framework of opportunities for the Association and its members. It enables enhanced access to networking and career development initiatives for young alumni, including mentoring schemes, career insight events, and institutional visits. It also opens the door to regular policy dialogue and co-hosted events with UK Mission representatives, strengthening exposure to EU–UK policy discussions. In addition, it facilitates higher-level engagement and visibility through participation in flagship events and exchanges in Brussels, London, and within the wider College of Europe network.



3. ALUMNI REGIONAL GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

The Alumni Association continues to rely on a strong and steadily expanding network of **16 regional groups** across Europe and beyond, including Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France (Paris and Strasbourg), Greece, Hong Kong, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Scotland, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Ukraine, and the United States. These regional groups play a key role in fostering local engagement, strengthening the sense of community among alumni, and increasing the visibility of the Association at national and international level.

During the reporting period, new regional groups were successfully established in **Strasbourg, the Netherlands, and Washington, D.C., Tirana and Madrid**, further broadening the global reach of the network. This expansion reflects the Association’s continued efforts to reinforce the role and importance of regional groups by supporting local coordinators more actively and by developing clearer guidance and a stronger framework for the creation and management of new chapters.

In particular, on 16 June, the Spanish Alumni Regional Group was officially established in Madrid through an inauguration dinner held in the heart of the city. The event brought **together 22 alumni** and proved to be a great success, further highlighting the strength of intergenerational and international connections within the network.



In addition, the Association has laid the foundations for the launch of a Tirana Chapter, planned for end September or beginning of October, and is currently in contact with regional coordinators to support its preparation and ensure a successful rollout.

Between January 2026 and June 2026, international and regional gatherings were held in London, Washington D.C., Paris, Cambridge, Luxembourg, Florence, Tirana and Madrid combining policy discussions with informal networking.

International Gatherings

City	Date
Brussels, Belgium – Nordic Alumni Drinks in cooperation with the Nordic Group of the current promotion (Victoria Amelina)	25 February 2026
London, UK	11 March 2026
Washington DC, USA	12 March 2026
Paris, France	22 April 2026
Cambridge, UK – Wine Tasting co-organised by the Hungarian Alumni of the College of Europe	28 April 2026
Luxembourg, Luxembourg	19 May 2026
Florence, Italy	21 May 2026
Madrid, Spain	16 June 2026



Washington DC, USA, 12 March

Firenze, Italy, 21 May

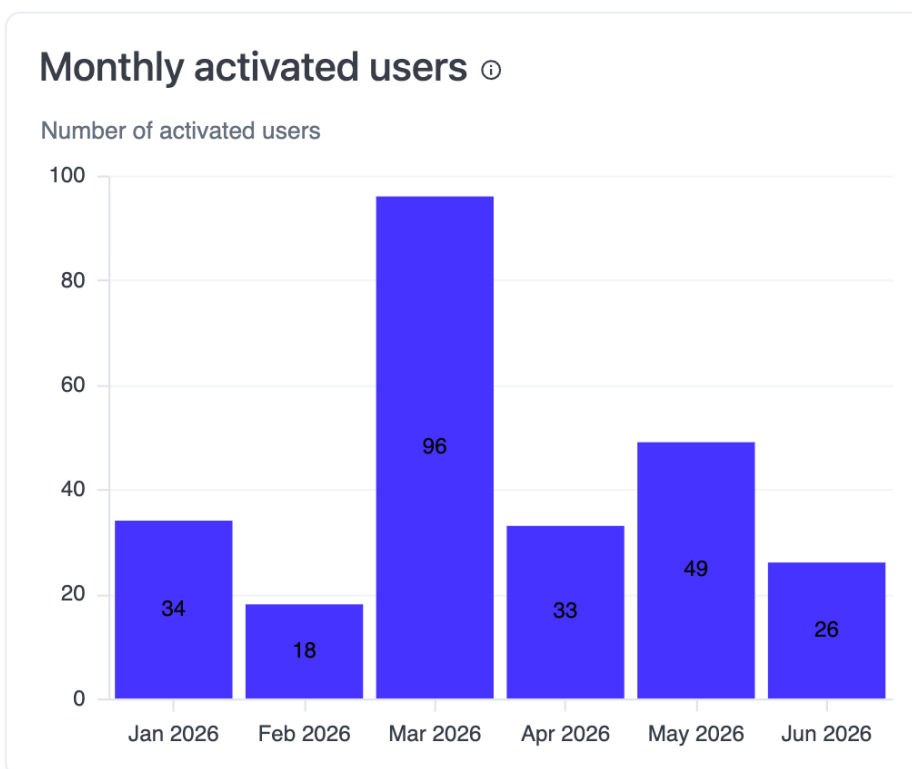


4. HIVEBRITE PLATFORM

The Hivebrite platform is the Association’s online community management tool, designed to connect and engage members within a structured digital environment. It serves as the main internal communication channel, enabling the dissemination of activities, news, and opportunities across the alumni network, while also showcasing events and initiatives to a community of **more than 18,000 graduates**. In this way, it plays a central role in strengthening engagement, visibility, and interaction within the wider alumni community.

Over the reporting period, the platform has shown sustained and growing engagement, with approximately 300 users activating their profiles. A notable peak was recorded in March 2026, when nearly 100 new activations took place, coinciding with key Association communications and the launch of flagship activities.

In particular, spikes in registrations and engagement were observed around major flagship events, such as the Anniversary Dinners and the High-Level Summer Reception, as well as through registrations linked to international and regional group events. These activities have consistently contributed to increased platform activity and new subscriptions. This pattern confirms the role of high-visibility and locally anchored events in driving engagement and attracting new users to the platform.

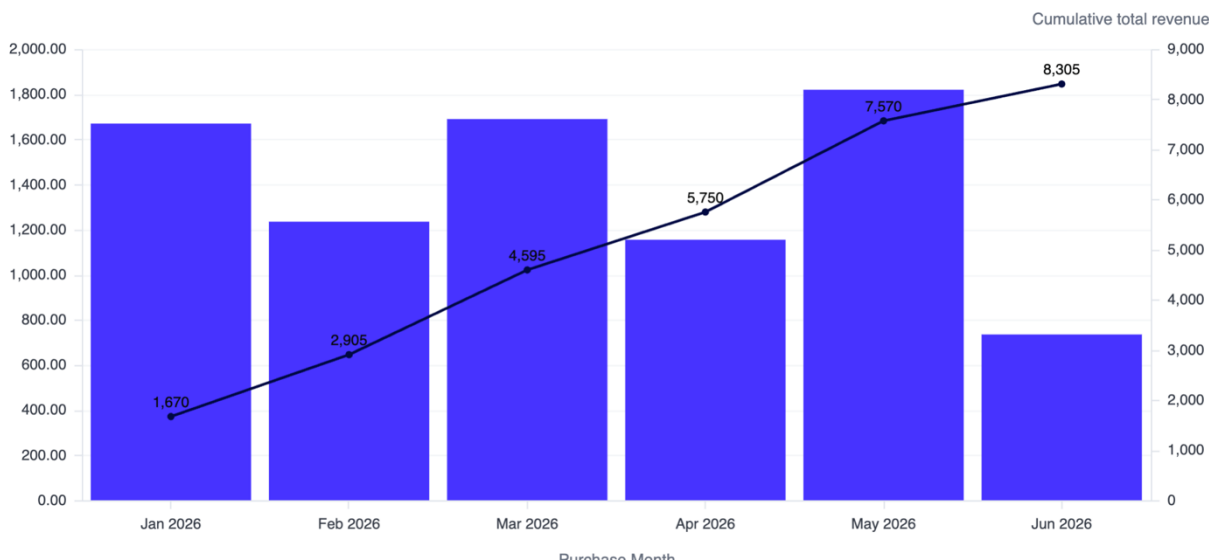


5. MEMBERSHIP

The total number of subscribed, paid-up members has increased over the past six months, reflecting steady growth in interest and participation within the Association. Between January and June 2026, around 110 alumni either joined the Association as new members or renewed their membership, contributing to this positive trend in engagement and commitment. In terms of membership revenue, more than **€6,000** was generated over the period.

Membership levels tend to rise in particular around key Association activities, such as the Anniversary Dinners, Lunch Discussions, and Alumni Discussions, as well as specific events and training sessions reserved exclusively for or prioritised to paid-up members. These formats have proven particularly effective in reinforcing the value of membership and encouraging both renewals and new registrations.

Revenue from memberships trend Cumulative total revenue



The most popular option remains the standard one-year membership, while a significant number of members also opted for renewal or for the five-year membership package, reflecting both flexibility in membership choices and long-term engagement with the Association.

In addition, a relevant number of recent graduates also joined Association activities as paid-up members, confirming their interest in the services offered and highlighting the Association's ability to engage multiple generations of alumni, from recent graduates to more senior profiles.

6. PARTNERSHIPS

UK Mission to the EU

The reporting period saw the consolidation and expansion of strategic partnerships aimed at strengthening the Association’s institutional outreach, professional development offer, and community engagement activities. Cooperation with the UK Mission to the EU was further reinforced through the development of joint initiatives, notably within the framework of the 2025–26 Leadership Event Series and broader policy dialogue activities. This was officially formalised on 28 May through the signing of a partnership agreement at the British Residence in Brussels, marking an important milestone in the relationship between the two organisations. Building on a series of successful joint initiatives, the partnership provides a framework for developing new events, exchanges and policy discussions, while exploring further opportunities for cooperation in the years ahead.

EU Training



A partnership with EU Training was established to offer alumni discounted access to EPSO AD5 preparation materials, supporting professional development and access to EU career opportunities. In addition, a series of trainings and webinars was organised between December 2025 and January 2026, providing participants with targeted preparation across the key components of EPSO competitions, including numerical, verbal, abstract, and written tests. The partnership is still ongoing, and in September 2026 another round of trainings will be launched in preparation for the upcoming AD5 general competition.

Goethe-Institut

A partnership was launched with the Goethe-Institut to promote cultural exchange and strengthen alumni access to German-language cultural and policy-related events. The collaboration was officially promoted via Hivebrite and shared with the alumni community in April.

Cercle Francophone

At the same time, the Association laid the foundations for an ongoing partnership with the Cercle Francophone, one of Brussels’ longstanding francophone cultural and networking associations. The Cercle Francophone offers opportunities for professional exchange, cultural engagement, and networking within the city’s international and French-speaking community, making it a natural partner for the Alumni Association. A draft agreement has been prepared and the partnership is expected to be formalised with a signing in the near future.



Institutional Partnership with the College of Europe

The College of Europe Alumni Association and the College of Europe are currently in the process of finalising a **Memorandum of Understanding** establishing an annual **Thesis Prize**. The initiative concerns the creation of a prize for the best Master's thesis on a specific topic to be defined annually by the Board of the Alumni Association.



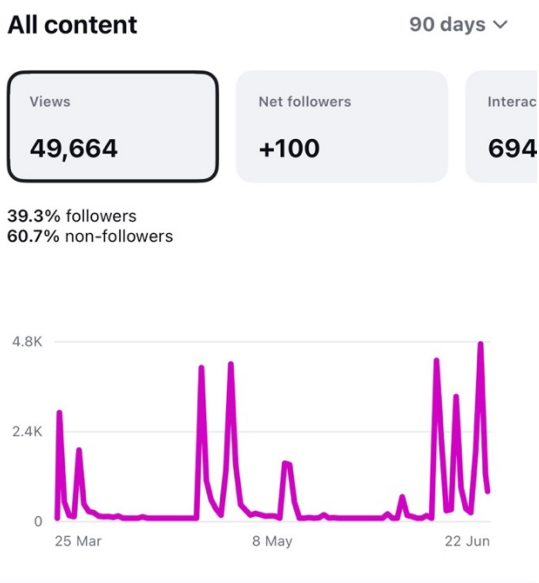
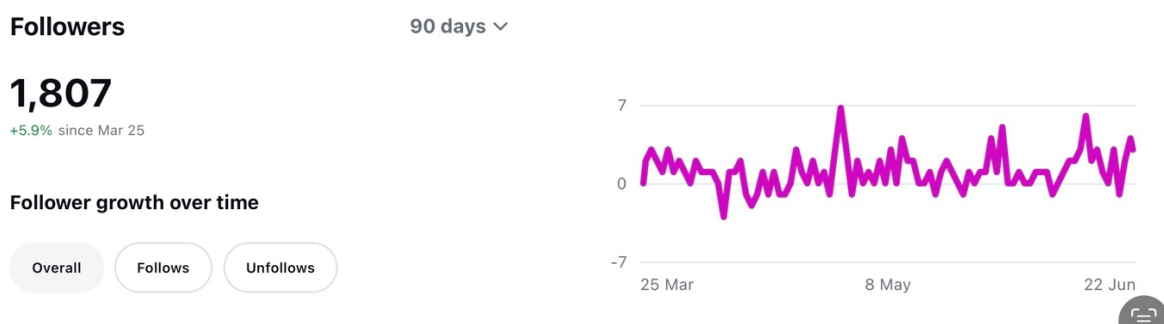
The award, once formalised, will amount to €500 and will be granted to a student obtaining a minimum grade of 16/20. The selection procedure foresees the submission of thesis abstracts to the Academic Administration Office, followed by an evaluation and ranking by the Alumni Association.

The agreement is expected to be finalised shortly, with implementation foreseen for the next academic cycle.

7. SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

The College of Europe Alumni Association is active across its main social media channels, namely Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram. Among these, LinkedIn and Instagram remain the most dynamic in terms of engagement and audience growth.

Instagram followers continued to increase throughout the reporting period, with the Association gaining more than 200 new followers. The platform remains a key communication channel, particularly for younger alumni and current students, helping to strengthen the sense of community across generations of the College of Europe network. The Association’s close collaboration with the College of Europe on joint posts and campaigns has also contributed significantly to increasing visibility and expanding outreach to new audiences.



LinkedIn remains the Association’s primary professional channel, used to promote activities, share updates and engage with a wider professional audience. During the reporting period, the Association

recorded a steady increase in both followers and user engagement, with more alumni and stakeholders interacting with content and following the Association’s activities.

Highlights

Data for 3/25/2026 - 6/22/2026

44,923

Impressions

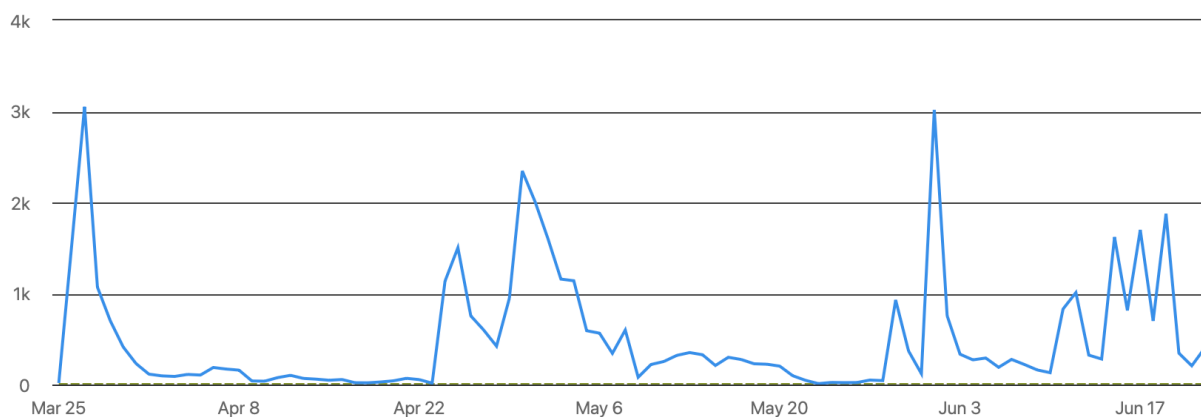
▲ 97.8%

487

Reactions

▲ 69.7%

Impressions ▾



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- **Instagram:** https://www.instagram.com/collegeofeuropealumni?igsh=MTVleG51aHg4cG4xbw%3D%3D&utm_source=qr
- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/coleuropealumni/>
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