

European and Eurasian Studies Program NEWSLETTER

Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence

Volume 5, Issue 2 — Fall 2025

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Presentation 1
- FIU Student Global Summit 2
- MFJMCE Lecture Series 3-6
 - Türkiye's Role as a Link between Europe and the Middle East 3-4
 - The EU Sanctions in the Framework of the Common Foreign and Security Policy: The Case of Ukraine 5-6
- H.E. Jovita Neliupšienė
Ambassador of the European Union to the United States

The Transatlantic Partnership and the EU-Florida Relations 7-8
- High-Level Visit of International Government Officials 9-10
 - Metin Akverdi, German Government Transatlantic Coordinator 9
 - Leadership Academy of the Bundeswehr 10
- EU & Eurasian Studies Certificates 11
- Publications 12
- Contacts & Announcements 13

Follow us



FALL 2025 Highlights



Christine I. Caly-Sanchez
Associate Director, MFJMCE & EESP



Markus Thiel
Director, MFJMCE



Tatiana Kostadinova
Director, EESP

Dear Friends,

We are thrilled to share our Fall 2025 Newsletter, celebrating an exciting and impactful semester at the European & Eurasian Studies Program and the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence. From September to December 2025, we hosted 12 dynamic events—a perfect balance of 6 virtual and 6 in-person gatherings—bringing together students, faculty, diplomats, and leading experts from across the globe.

One of the semester's proudest moments was welcoming **H.E. Jovita Neliupšienė**, Ambassador of the European Union to the United States, along with **13 European Ambassadors**, for insightful discussions on the **transatlantic partnership** and **EU-Florida relations**.

Other highlights included:

Expert panels exploring *Türkiye's pivotal role as a bridge between Europe and the Middle East*.

In-depth analysis of *EU sanctions within the framework of the Common Foreign and Security Policy*.

We also strengthened our collaboration through the **EU Jean Monnet in the USA network**, connecting with more than **10 EU Centers** nationwide via six virtual roundtables featuring distinguished European scholars and practitioners.

Missed an event? Recorded videos and resources are available inside this newsletter—don't forget to check them out!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to students, faculty, speakers, sponsors, and friends for your unwavering support and engagement.

As we close this semester, we wish you a warm holiday season, a **safe, healthy, and prosperous New Year**. We look forward to welcoming you to our **Spring 2026 events** and continuing this journey of learning and collaboration together.

Sincerely,

Christine I. Caly-Sanchez
Markus Thiel
Tatiana Kostadinova



Happy Holidays

FIU Global

FIU GLOBAL STUDENT SUMMIT

Friday, Oct. 24, 2025



Florence Botello, Consulate General of France in Boston; Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, MFJMCE-FIU; and Elsa Hoyot Jornet, Spanish Embassy

MFJMCE Showcases Global Opportunities at FIU's Civic Engagement with Global Reach Student Summit

On October 24, Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence (MFJMCE) and the European & Eurasian Studies Program, joined by Graduate Student Assistant Noah Alves, proudly represented MFJMCE at FIU's Civic Engagement with Global Reach Student Summit. Organized by FIU Global, the event took place at the vibrant Graham Center, the hub of campus life.

The summit offered students a unique opportunity to explore global programs—both at home and abroad—and connect with leading organizations offering scholarships, study-abroad experiences, and research opportunities. MFJMCE engaged with enthusiastic students, sharing its diverse academic pathways and international opportunities designed to prepare future diplomats, scholars, and policymakers.

Our European-themed table stood alongside distinguished partners:

- **Florence Botello**, Higher Education Attachée and Executive Director of the **Lafayette Fellowship Program** at the **Consulate General of France in Boston**
- **Elsa Hoyot Jornet**, Cultural Liaison and Education Advisor for the **Spanish Education Office** at the **Embassy of Spain**, and Director of the Spanish Resource Center-FIU

Students learned about exciting programs such as:

- The [Lafayette Fellowship](#) for graduate studies in France
- [MFJMCE's EU research grant](#) for doctoral candidates and faculty
- **European Parliament Liaison Office, and Delegation of the European Union to the US traineeships** in Washington, D.C.
- The [NALCAP initiative](#), promoting English-Spanish linguistic exchange

Additionally, MFJMCE highlighted its popular **European & Eurasian Studies Undergraduate Certificate**—a flexible 15-credit program that complements any major. Students were thrilled to discover the wide range of courses and study-abroad options in Italy, Spain, and France, making global learning more accessible than ever.

The summit was a resounding success, reinforcing MFJMCE's mission to connect FIU students with transformative international experiences. Through its academic programs, partnerships with European institutions, and dynamic events, MFJMCE continues to empower the next generation of globally engaged leaders.

The event was co-sponsored by the Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs, the Fulbright Program, and the Miami-Dade Beacon Council.

By Noah Alves and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez

► To view pictures, [click here](#)

Türkiye's Role as a Link Between Europe and the Middle East

Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2025



Drs. Müge Aknur and Markus Thiel

On October 28th, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence hosted an insightful lecture exploring Türkiye's pivotal role as a geopolitical bridge between Europe and the Middle East. The featured speaker, **Professor Müge Aknur**, from Dokuz Eylül University in İzmir, Türkiye, delivered a comprehensive analysis of the country's foreign policy and its influence on regional dynamics.

The discussion was moderated by **Professor Markus Thiel**, Director of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence and Professor of Politics and International Relations at FIU.

Professor Aknur began by revisiting Türkiye's historical transformation from the Ottoman Empire to a modern secular republic in the early 20th century. She emphasized the country's unique geostrategic position at the crossroads of Eurasia and the Middle East—a factor that continues to shape its relationships with neighboring states and global powers.

A key theme of the lecture was Türkiye's pragmatic alignment with the West. As a NATO member with the second-largest army in the alliance, Türkiye remains a critical security partner for Europe and the United States. Yet, Professor Aknur highlighted the persistent tensions in Türkiye-EU relations, particularly regarding its stalled accession process, democratic backsliding, and unresolved issues such as Cyprus.

Despite these challenges, Türkiye's strategic importance to the EU is undeniable. Bilateral cooperation increasingly centers on migration, trade, and security—issues amplified by the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian War. Türkiye's robust trade ties with European nations and its role as an energy corridor further underscore its economic and geopolitical significance.

Turning to the Middle East, Professor Aknur examined Türkiye's efforts to maintain stability and foster diplomacy. From mediating conflicts like the Syrian

Türkiye's Role as a Link Between Europe and the Middle East



Professor Müge Aknur presenting to FIU students and faculty

Civil War and the Arab Spring to facilitating peace talks between Russia and Ukraine, Türkiye has positioned itself as a regional peace broker while safeguarding its energy interests.

The lecture concluded with a lively Q&A session, where FIU students and faculty explored topics such as Türkiye's authoritarian trends, future EU relations, and its influence on regional actors.

This event was co-sponsored by the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, the Department of Politics and International Relations, the Mohsin & Fauzia Jaffer Center of Muslim World Studies, the Ruth K. & Shepard Broad Distinguished Lecture Series, and the Dorothea Green Lecture Series.

By Noah Alves and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



To watch video, [click here](#)

► To view pictures, [click here](#)

► To view flyer and Dr. Aknur's bio, [click here](#)



Professor Müge Aknur with FIU students



Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Markus Thiel, Müge Aknur, Canan Balkir

THE EU SANCTIONS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY The Example of Ukraine—Nov. 4, 2025



Professor Despoina Anagnostopoulou, Professor of European Union Law and Policies, University of Macedonia

On November 4, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence hosted an insightful lecture on the development and impact of European Union (EU) sanctions within the framework of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP). The event featured **Professor Despoina Anagnostopoulou**, an expert in European Union Law and Policies from the University of Macedonia in Thessaloniki, Greece, and was co-sponsored by FIU's European & Eurasian Studies Program and the Department of Politics & International Relations.

The discussion was moderated by Professor Markus Thiel, Director of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence and Professor of Politics and International Relations at FIU.

Understanding EU Sanctions: From Principles to Practice

Professor Anagnostopoulou began by outlining the legal foundations of EU sanctions, often referred to as "restrictive measures." Unlike traditional military sanctions, these measures target third countries, legal entities, and individuals, enabling the EU to safeguard its geopolitical interests through strategic and punitive actions.

She then examined the institutional process behind sanction implementation, emphasizing the interplay between EU bodies in crafting and enforcing these measures.

By Noah Alves and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez

The Example of Ukraine



Professor Despoina Anagnostopoulou

Case Studies: Ukraine and Beyond

The lecture highlighted real-world applications of EU sanctions, with a primary focus on the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Professor Anagnostopoulou detailed the EU's unprecedented response—an evolving set of restrictive measures aimed at penalizing Russia's breach of international law. These sanctions have expanded significantly over the course of the ongoing conflict, targeting Kremlin-linked business executives and other actors.

Beyond Ukraine, she explored the landmark case of Saudi businessman Yassin Kadi, initially sanctioned by the EU following UN allegations of ties to terrorism. The European Court of Justice later overturned these sanctions due to insufficient evidence, underscoring the importance of judicial review, fairness, and human rights in EU policy-making.

Strategic Autonomy and the Future of CFSP

Concluding her lecture, Professor Anagnostopoulou connected the EU's sanction regime to its broader pursuit of European strategic autonomy. These measures not only deter aggression but also reinforce continental security and defense investment, ensuring the EU remains a key actor in global geopolitics while upholding its core values.

The event concluded with a dynamic Q&A session, where FIU students, faculty, and guests discussed the **legal implications and geopolitical impact** of EU sanctions and speculated on future developments in the Ukraine conflict.

Despoina Anagnostopoulou

*Professor of European Union Law and Policies
Department of International and European Studies
University of Macedonia in Thessaloniki, Greece*

Despoina Anagnostopoulou is a Professor of European Union Law and Policies in the Department of International and European Studies at the University of Macedonia in Thessaloniki, Greece. She has been awarded a Jean Monnet Chair twice by the European Commission (2012 and 2025) and has coordinated both a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence and a Jean Monnet Project. Since 2014, she has served as Director of the UNESCO Chair on Intercultural Policy for Active Citizenship and Solidarity. She has also been an elected member of the Council of the European Law Institute in Vienna since 2021. In addition, she has taught at the Open University of Cyprus since 2016 and at the Hellenic Open University since 2025.

This lecture was proudly co-sponsored by the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs and the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence.



Despoina Anagnostopoulou and Markus Thiel

To view pictures, [click here](#)

FIU Welcomes Historic Visit from H.E. Jovita Neliupšienė Ambassador of the European Union to the United States Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2025



H.E. Jovita Neliupšienė, Ambassador of the European Union to the United States, along with 13 European Ambassadors, and FIU President Jeanette Nunez, FIU Vice President, Dean Shlomi Dinar, Markus Thiel, and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez

FIU Welcomes Historic Visit from EU Ambassador and 13 European Ambassadors

On November 4, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence and the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) at Florida International University (FIU) had the distinct honor of hosting [H.E. Jovita Neliupšienė](#), Ambassador of the European Union to the United States, along with **13 European Ambassadors**.

This landmark occasion marked **the first-ever joint visit by the EU Ambassador and European Ambassadors to Florida**—a truly historic moment for FIU and the South Florida region. We extend our deepest gratitude to Ambassador Neliupšienė and her fellow ambassadors for their **insightful presentation on Transatlantic Partnership and EU-Florida Relations**, as well as for engaging in a dynamic dialogue with our students. Topics ranged from foreign policy, defense, peace, unity, shared EU values, trade, AI and cybersecurity, and global cooperation. More than 139 students participated in this enriching exchange.

Countries represented included: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, and Poland.

- European Union: Ambassador Jovita Neliupšienė
- Austria: Ambassador Petra Schneebeauer
- Belgium: Ambassador Frederic Bernard
- Denmark: Ambassador Jesper Moeller Soerensen

- Greece: Ambassador Ekaterini Nassika
- Latvia: Ambassador Elita Kuzma
- Lithuania: Ambassador Gediminas Varvuolis
- Luxembourg: Ambassador Nicole Bintner-Bakshian
- Netherlands: Ambassador Brigitta Tazelaar
- Poland: Chargé d'Affaires a.i., Dorota Markiewicz-Zemke
- Estonia: DCM Inga Bowden
- Finland: DCM Marjut Akola
- France: DCM Agnès von der Mühl

This historic visit underscores FIU's commitment to fostering global dialogue, diplomacy, and transatlantic cooperation.

Following the Danish Ambassador's insightful closing remarks, Dr. Shlomi Dinar, Dean of the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs, joined FIU President Jeanette M. Núñez, FIU Provost Elizabeth Béjar, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence Director Dr. Markus Thiel, and Dr. Kimberly Green, president of the Green Family Foundation, in expressing their gratitude to Ambassador Neliupšienė for her visit to FIU and her commitment to strengthening transatlantic ties. In recognition of her efforts, the Green School was honored to present Ambassador Neliupšienė with its commemorative glass bowl—the institution's highest distinction, reserved for dignitaries who exemplify FIU-SIPA's mission to advance a more just, peaceful, and prosperous world.

The Transatlantic Partnership and EU-Florida Relations



H.E. Jovita Neliupšienė, Ambassador of the European Union to the United States—H.E. Jesper Møller Sørensen, Ambassador of Denmark to the US



Special thanks to **Dr. Markus Thiel**, Director of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence and Professor of Politics and International Relations, for moderating the distinguished panel, and to the **Consuls General of France, Ireland, the Netherlands**, and the **Honorary Consul of Monaco** for joining this exceptional event.

We are also grateful to the dedicated teams at **SIPA**, the **FIU College of Law**, and the volunteers for their outstanding support in making this event a success. Finally, a heartfelt thank you to **FIU President Jeanette M. Núñez** for warmly welcoming the delegation. ► [To view pictures, click here](#)

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



Markus Thiel, FIU President Jeanette Nunez, H.E. Jovita Neliupšienė, Green School Dean Shlomi Dinar, FIU Vice Provost Elizabeth Béjar, and Dr. Kimberley Green

A Key Diplomatic Moment: Welcoming Germany's Transatlantic Coordinator



Metin Hakverdi, German Government's transatlantic coordinator with FIU students and faculty

FIU Welcomes German Transatlantic Coordinator Metin Hakverdi for Dialogue on Education and Global Relations

On Thursday, October 23, Florida International University had the honor of hosting Metin Hakverdi, the German Government's Coordinator for Transatlantic Cooperation and member of the Bundestag, alongside

German Consul General Christofer Burger. The visit provided FIU faculty and students with a unique opportunity to engage in an insightful conversation about the state of higher education in the United States and the evolving landscape of transatlantic relations.

Hakverdi, a distinguished lawyer and politician representing the Social Democratic Party (SPD), has served in the German Bundestag since 2013, representing the Hamburg-Bergedorf-Harburg district. In his current role as Coordinator of Transatlantic Cooperation at the Federal Foreign Office, he plays a pivotal part in strengthening ties between Germany and the United States—a responsibility he assumed in the coalition government of Chancellor Friedrich Merz in 2025.

The discussion highlighted shared challenges and opportunities in academic collaboration, research exchange, and the importance of fostering mutual understanding between Europe and the U.S. We extend our sincere gratitude to Consul General Burger for facilitating this visit and enabling FIU students and faculty to connect directly with a leading voice in international diplomacy.



Metin Hakverdi with FIU students

By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez

Transatlantic Leadership Dialogue: German Armed Forces Academy at FIU—Nov. 2025



Leadership Academy of the Bundeswehr

In November, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence proudly hosted a distinguished delegation from the **Leadership Academy of the Bundeswehr** for an intensive seminar on **transatlantic relations, global security challenges, and the evolving U.S.-EU security partnership**.

This high-level event brought together 20 senior military officers and defense ministry officials from Germany, Poland, and Austria—underscoring its strategic importance in today's rapidly shifting geopolitical landscape.

In an era marked by technological innovation and complex security threats, understanding U.S. and European perspectives has never been more critical. FIU scholars from the Department of Politics & International Relations led dynamic discussions on pressing issues across Latin America, Europe, Eastern Europe, Russia-Ukraine, China, the Arctic, and the Middle East.

Through expert analysis and interactive discussion, participants gained valuable insights into the complexities shaping global security in the 21st century.

The seminar featured two panels:

Panel 1: Moderated by Dr. Markus Thiel, Director of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, this session examined regional security dynamics and strategic priorities shaping transatlantic cooperation.

Panel 2: Focused on the transformative impact of hybrid warfare, emerging technologies, and innovation on global security.

Opening remarks by Dr. Shlomi Dinar, Dean of the Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs, highlighted FIU's commitment to advancing international dialogue and building bridges between academic and military communities.

This event was co-sponsored by the Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs, the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, and the FIU Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy, reaffirming FIU's leadership in promoting global engagement and security cooperation.

By Noah Alves and Christine I. Caly-Sanchez



Congratulations to the recipients of the Fall 2025 European & Eurasian Studies Certificates



Recipients of the Fall 2025 European & Eurasian Studies Certificate:
Maria Almanza, Leonardo Denny Galetti Rodrigues, and Elisa Siri

Congratulation Grads!

This Fall, we proudly honor the newest members of our Panther Alumni family who have successfully completed their **European & Eurasian Studies Certificate**. These graduates have demonstrated exceptional dedication to exploring the complexities of Europe and Eurasia—regions that continue to shape global politics, economics, and culture.

CERTIFICATES IN EUROPEAN & EURASIAN STUDIES

Fall 2025 Undergraduate Awardees

- **Helen Maria Almanza**
BA in History, Minor in International Relations
- **Leonardo Denny Galetti Rodrigues**
BA in History
- **Elisa Siri**
BA in International Relations



UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN EUROPEAN & EURASIAN STUDIES

- The undergraduate European & Eurasian Studies Certificate program is open to all who have an interest in any aspect of European civilization, past or present.
- It is an interdisciplinary program that draws on a broad range of courses from throughout FIU to complement a student's own interests.
- Approved study-abroad courses, including those offered by the Honors College, may be accepted for certificate credit.
- The certificate program is only open to all degree-seeking students enrolled at FIU.
- Since Spring 2001, 244 Students obtained their Certificates in European & Eurasian Studies.

Requirements

The program requires 15 credits hours (5 courses) from at least 3 departments, distributed as follows:

► Language Requirements (3 credits)

One course in a European language at the intermediate (2000) level or above.

► Breadth Requirement (12 credits)

- **Three courses at 3000-level or above**, not all of which can be in either Social Science or in Humanities.
- Courses must be from an approved list published in the class schedule each term, or else contain substantial European content and approved by the Director. Such courses are offered by the Departments of:
 - Art and Art History,
 - Economics,
 - English, Environmental Studies,
 - History,
 - Humanities,
 - International Relations,
 - Modern Languages,
 - Philosophy,
 - Political Science,
 - and Religion, among others.

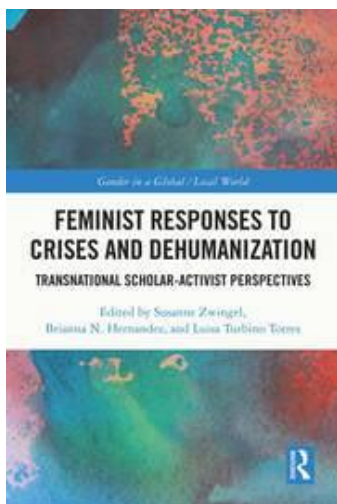
► For more information on the program, visit the following page:
<http://europe.fiu.edu/certificate-programs/undergraduate-advising/>

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN EUROPEAN & EURASIAN STUDIES

► For more information on the requirements, visit the following page:
<https://europe.fiu.edu/certificate-programs/graduate-certificate-program/requirements/>



PUBLICATIONS

RECENT PUBLICATIONS
FROM OUR EXPERTS**Feminist Responses to Crises and Dehumanization**

Transnational Scholar-Activist Perspectives

Publisher: Routledge

Edited By [Susanne Zwingel](#), [Brianna N. Hernandez](#),
[Luisa Turbino Torres](#)

Susanne Zwingel

ABSTRACT

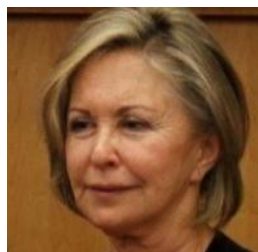
Feminist Responses to Crises and Dehumanization brings together academic knowledge with activist strategies and lived experiences from different socio-geographic angles—bridging the gap between theory and on-the-ground impact.

Chapter 1|14 pages[Introduction](#)

By Susanne Zwingel

ABSTRACT

The introduction consists of three parts. First, it traces the evolution of this volume, explains the concept of crisis, and clarifies the focus on the three dimensions of crisis: (1) Ecological devastation and economic exploitation, (2) political authoritarianism and violence, and (3) the denial of reproductive justice and bodily autonomy. The second section discusses the concept of transnational feminism, which serves as the volume's foundation and reflects on the collective situatedness of its contributors, both in terms of socio-geographic location and manifestation of scholar-activism. The third part gives an overview of the volume's twelve chapters along the three thematic clusters.



Canan Balkir

Chapter 7|18 pages[Resilience amidst regression](#)

Gender policy, political authoritarianism, and women's activism in Türkiye

By Canan Balkir

ABSTRACT

This chapter explores the complex connection between gender policy and democratic backsliding in Türkiye, as well as the diminishing role of the European Union (EU) in fostering democracy within this official candidate country. Additionally, it emphasizes the resistance efforts of women's organizations against this democratic decline.

FIU Steven J. Green
School of International
& Public Affairs

European & Eurasian Studies Program Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence



Contact the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence/EESP

Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence

Florida International University
Modesto A. Maidique Campus
11200 SW 8th Street, SIPA II-520
Miami, FL 33199



Dr. Tatiana Kostadinova

Director, European & Eurasian Studies Program
(EESP)

Dr. Markus Thiel

Director, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet
Center of Excellence (MFJMCE)

Christine I. Caly-Sanchez

Associate Director / Program Manager
MFJMCE / EESP
Phone: (305) 348-5949
E-mail: calyc@fiu.edu



All of us at the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence and the European & Eurasian Studies Program extend our heartfelt thanks to our students, faculty, and friends for joining us at our events this semester. Your participation and support make our community vibrant and meaningful. We look forward to welcoming you back next semester! Happy Holidays!

Announcements: Spring 2026



- Jan. 22-30 FIU's 11th Annual Holocaust and Genocide Awareness Week
- Jan. 27 MFJMCE Lecture on Power and Promise: Mobilizing the European Green Energy Transition
- Feb. 6 DAAD presentation: German Academic Exchange & Funding: Pathways for Students and Faculty
- End of Feb. Schuman Challenge Competition
- March 5 EESP Roundtable on Democratic Backsliding and European Politics
- March 9-10 MFJMCE Conference: The Environment is for all of us: European and Global Politics of Climate Justice
- March 13 Local Florida Euro Challenge Competition
- April 10-12 Midwest Model EU
- May 8 Europe Day



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

For details please visit: miamieuc.fiu.edu - Events
or contact Christine I. Caly-Sanchez at calyc@fiu.edu

Follow us :

