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**Regular contribution fees:** 690 Euro. The participation fee covers all expenses of the programme. The accommodation and catering in the conference hotel at the GSI and in the hotels in Luxembourg and Brussels are included. The travel expenses to Luxembourg and Brussels are included as well. Special conditions are offered for students or sponsored participation.

You are invited to contact the team of the Summer School: [summerschool@gsi-bonn.de](mailto:summerschool@gsi-bonn.de).

**Closing date for applications you will find at**  
[www.gsi-bonn.de](http://www.gsi-bonn.de)



The European GSI Summer School is supported by a great number of national and international organisations and institutions.



... is an annual event, organised by the Gustav-Stresemann-Institute in Bonn. Partner-institutions such as the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) are involved and have been supporting the Summer School for many years.



... follows the ideas of Gustav Stresemann and Aristide Briand, both awarded with the Noble Peace Prize in 1926, to improve a pan-European understanding and to promote international cooperation. The GSI is an independent, non-profit institution for citizens' training and international exchange.



... The program of the Summer School covers a broad variety of methods and content. The European GSI Summer School blog is a digital co-working space. The participants produce a lively report of the debates and visits of different institutions.

Information may be subjects to modification, accurate as of: 2.3.2026. More details: [www.gsi-bonn.de](http://www.gsi-bonn.de)



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33<sup>rd</sup>  
European GSI  
Summer School

European  
independence:  
Opportunities and  
challenges

11<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> September 2026  
Bonn – Luxembourg –  
Brussels

“That geopolitical shocks can – and must – serve as an opportunity for Europe. In my view, the seismic change we are going through today is an opportunity, in fact, a necessity to build a new form of European independence.”

(Special Address by President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen at the World Economic Forum)

The program of the 33rd European GSI Summer School aims to analyse the idea of a new European independence. Europe is facing a growing number of challenges: the Russian war against Ukraine, climate change, the threats posed by the U.S. government against Europe, to name just a few. The Summer School will be an excellent opportunity to join the conversation about politics in a complicated state of affairs and to develop, together, elements of an international cooperation based on freedom, human rights and sustainability.

As an international meeting point for 30 years, the program has welcomed many European and non-European students and young professionals. Many of them now work as journalists, entrepreneurs, ambassadors, scientists, and even ministers.

**Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2026**  
> [Bonn](#)

**Arrival of the participants**  
Organisation, get together

**Opening of the European Summer School 2026**  
Introduction of the team, presentation of the program, facts and figures, introduction of participants and partners, Summer School Blog.

**Keynote speech: The importance of being independent**  
European opportunities and challenges

**Workshop: The political system of the EU**  
Institutions and policy fields: The Parliament, The Council, The Commission, The Court, The European Council and other institutions.

**Welcome-Evening**  
Getting to know, becoming colleagues, discover friends

**Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> September 2026**  
> [Bonn](#)

**Workshop: The task of Sustainability**  
The international community shall enhance the struggle against climate change. Can Europe play a leading role?

**Introduction: Giving Europe a home – A simulation game**  
Taking roles in representing different institutions in the EU, the participants initiate a common legal act in the field of culture.

**Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2026**  
> [Bonn](#)

**Presentation: Bonn – a European City mastering change**  
The development of the former German capital into “Germany’s United Nations city”

**Guided tour: Walking on the path of German democracy**  
Visiting the centre of Bonn

**Aspects of being independent:**

**How to end war in Europe**  
Lecture on the Locarno-Lessons

**Diversity and culture**  
The power of embracing different perspectives

**Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2026**  
> [Bonn](#) and [Luxembourg](#)

**Presentation and debate: The European Union – an area of freedom, security and justice**  
Visiting the law firm Redeker Sellner Dahs, Bonn  
Departure for Luxembourg

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**Feedback from participants:**

“The institutions are the key ones in the EU decision making, so I was fascinated to visit them and talk to people who directly deal with policymaking.” – “Well chosen topics and institutions and we also had the possibility making questions.” – “I loved everything... Very beneficial and useful!” – “great organisation” – “we had lectures from different areas (public, academia, EU institutions), this balance allow to go deep to the topics – “the speakers were open to questions and they were well-prepared with their presentations”...”

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**Visit: Schengen and the freedom of travel**  
Schengen as a historical place of European cooperation

**Introduction and overview of the visit of European institutions**  
Information about rules and issues

**Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> September 2026**  
> [Luxembourg](#)

**Lecture: Diplomacy in the most European of all EU member states**  
**The key role of diplomacy in the heart of Europe**  
Preparing decisions, foster dialogue, promote understanding

**Visit: European Investment Bank**  
Priorities, projects and the challenges of today

**Visit: The European Court of Auditors (ECA)**  
The guardian of financial interests of the citizens of the Union. The ECA’s role as the EU’s independent external auditor.

**The Luxemburg Story**  
History and development of a European capital

**Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> September 2026**  
> [Luxembourg](#) and [Brussels](#)

**Visit: The European Court of Justice**  
Presentation of the Court’s work.  
  
Departure for Brussels

**Guided Tour: Exploring Brussels**  
A European capital from the middle ages to today

**Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> September 2026**  
> [Brussels](#)

**Visit: The European Commission**  
The European Commission political executive of the EU, green deal/fit for 55, the new tasks of security policy, European careers: jobs and internships

**Visit: The European Parliament**  
The citizen’s voice in the EU

**Guided tour: Talking about influence**  
The position of NGO’s /Non-Government Organisations in EU politics

**Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> September 2026**  
> [Brussels](#) and [Bonn](#)

**Visit: Council of the European Union**  
The European Council’s role in Foreign Affairs and International Relations

**Visit: The House of European History**  
Interactive tour through the House of European History  
  
Departure for Bonn

**Visiting of the European Union**  
Evaluation of the experiences in Luxemburg and Brussels

**Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> September 2026**  
> [Bonn](#)

**Presentations and short lectures: The voice of civil society**  
How to organize influence?

**Shaping Europe: A scenario**  
Interactive Workshops in groups

**Closing ceremony with invited guests**  
Handing over of certificates

**Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2026**  
> [Bonn](#)

**Shaping Europe: A scenario**  
Presentations and discussion

**Evaluation of the Summer School**  
The view of the EU & its politics during the last 9 days, results and reflection of the program, the European Summer School Blog

**Good bye and take care**