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| <p>Institution: London School of Economics and Political Science</p> <p>Unit of Assessment: 27: Area Studies</p> <p>a. Context: The objectives of the European Institute (EI) are: first, to act as a hub for research on Europe within the LSE, organising its research and engagement along four multidisciplinary themes: Governance and Democracy in the European Union (EU), European Society, Political Economy in Europe, and Europe beyond the EU; second, to present a visible and identifiable point for the dissemination of that research to both academic and non-academic communities outside LSE; and third, to establish close links with policy communities, including acting as a forum for public debate about Europe. To this end, the EI has prioritised three groups of non-academic beneficiaries of its research: first, policy-makers both in UK and internationally; second, NGOs and third-sector organisations engaged in the political, economic and cultural aspects of European integration and finally, the media and the general public. Engagement with these groups has promoted significant impact across the EI's research themes. As illustrated by our Impact Case Studies, the research of EI academics has shaped policy practice and debate on vital European issues, such as monetary policy, executive governance, and education financing. Our public events programme on Europe is unrivalled, with over 100 public lectures and seminars annually, attracting large audiences and media attention. As a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, the EI has been held up by the European Commission "as an example of best practice".</p> <p>b. Approach to impact: The EI has close interaction with practitioners and policy-makers, facilitated through institutional collaboration with key individuals and organisations as well as the involvement of EI staff in policy-shaping debates. Our approach to ensuring our research has impact has been three-fold: alliances with key policy-making communities; a strategy to support staff to achieve impact; and a programme of public dissemination of research and debate.</p> <p><i>Interaction with policy-makers, NGOs and the third sector</i></p> <p>The EI has forged strong partnerships with a wide range of individuals and organisations closely involved with the debate on and practice of decision making in Europe, including European embassies, EU institutions, media outlets, and think-tanks such as the Centre for European Reform, Policy Network and the Franco-British Council. With the French Embassy, the EI organised the UK launch of the French EU presidency in 2008 and, jointly with the Financial Times, a series of five conferences to mark France's presidency of the G8 and G20 in 2010. Other examples include: 1) a joint project with the European Council on Foreign Relations to organise public events on the future of the Eurozone and the European External Action Service; 2) a collaboration between Policy Network and EI professors Chalmers and Hobolt to organise a public lecture series on the euro crisis and workshops on 'Political Union in Europe', which involved participants both from academia and outside; 3) an on-going partnership between De Grauwe and the Centre for European Policy Studies in Brussels to provide advice and organise regular meetings with officials from the European Commission and the European Parliament; and 4) a long-term collaboration between the EI's specialist unit LSEE (Research on South Eastern Europe) and the Regional Cooperation Council for South East Europe. The EI also has a close alliance with the Forum for European Philosophy, directed by Glendinning, which organises an events programme to enrich public discourse on European ideas and philosophy.</p> <p>To foster stronger links with individuals in stakeholder organisations, the EI hosts Visiting Fellows. Examples of Fellows include Anthony Teasdale, Director in the Directorate-General (DG) for EU Internal Policies of the European Parliament; Hugo Brady, Senior Research Fellow for the Centre for European Reform; Olaf Cramme, Director of Policy Network; and Martin Westlake, Secretary-General of the European Economic and Social Committee. Through its 'EU in Practice' series of seminars the EI also brings together experienced policy practitioners from the EU institutions, government and the media with EI academics, research students, civil servants and parliamentarians. EI staff are regularly asked to provide expert advice to governments and NGOs in the UK and internationally. Examples of advice given in the UK include Barr called as a witness to the Postgraduate Education Inquiry (2012); Fraser acting as expert adviser for HMG Review of the Balance of EU Competences (2012-14) and chair of the FCO-sponsored British-German</p> |
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Dialogue; and Glendinning as a Member of the Home Office Animal Procedures Committee (since 2006). Examples at the European level include Monastiriotis acting as Academic Expert for the Commission's DG Regional Policy, and De Grauwe providing regular advice to the Commission's DG ECFIN. EI staff also give advice to national governments across Europe: Examples include Featherstone's membership of the Greek National Council for Research and Technology and Hagemann's role as academic adviser to the Danish 2012 EU Presidency.

Supporting staff impact activities

The EI is strongly committed to supporting such interactions between EI staff and stakeholders to maximise the likelihood of impact. Specifically, the EI has provided sabbatical leave to researchers engaged in impact activities (see section d). Moreover, the EI grants seed funding for specific impact-facilitating initiatives, such as the LSE Migration Studies Unit, a network for migration scholars and policy-makers, and VoteWatch Europe (www.votewatch.eu), co-founded by Hagemann, which aims to promote better debates and greater transparency in EU decision-making by providing easy online access to data from EU institutions. As a recognition of the importance attached to strengthening the synergies between academia and the policy community, the LSE has created the new post of Professor of Practice in European Politics, to which Fraser was appointed in January, with a view, *inter alia*, to providing individual academic colleagues with expert guidance on sharpening the 'impact' dimension of their research, notably in the area of public policy.

Public engagement

The EI has invested significant resources in a high-profile external events programme. Our flagship public lecture programme is the *Perspectives on Europe* (previously *Future of Europe*) series, which has hosted a diversity of public and academic luminaries, ensuring a high public profile in European public policy. Examples of speakers include European Council President Herman van Rompuy, then European Parliament President Jerzy Buzek, European Commission President José Manuel Barroso and over 30 serving prime ministers and foreign ministers. On average, the EI is responsible for hosting and organising well over 100 public lectures, panel discussions and round tables a year, across eight seminar series, organised by the EI and its specialist centres (including the Hellenic Observatory, LSEE, and Contemporary Turkish Studies). These public events regularly attract large audiences (often of 300 to 400), not only of practitioners and scholars but also drawn from the wider, non-specialist public. The EI has also strengthened its online presence to reach a wider audience. The vast majority of our public lectures are podcast and can be found on the LSE and EI websites. The EI website also runs the LEQS Discussion Paper series, publishing high-quality research on Europe from scholars across LSE and beyond. In addition, the EI has co-founded the EUROPP (European Politics and Policy) blog whose central mission is to increase the public understanding of European governance and policy making, and EI academics frequently contribute to the blog (<http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/europpblog/>). Since it was launched in 2012, the blog has had over 410,000 visitors and an average daily readership of about 1,100.

Dissemination through mainstream and specialist media is also vital to reach the wider public and stakeholder communities. EI academics have a very strong presence in national and international media, such as BBC, CNN, Financial Times, Le Monde, The Times, The New York Times, Reuters, and Sky. Examples include De Grauwe, who regularly provides expert opinion on the euro and the EMU in British and international media and on specialist websites and social media, including VoxEU (where his entry on austerity in the Eurozone was downloaded over 90,000 times) and twitter (with over 23,000 followers); and Featherstone, who frequently appears in the media with specialist commentary on the EU and Greek politics, and who is a regular columnist for the authoritative Greek 'Kathimerini' newspaper.

To support these dissemination activities, we make use of the institutional resources made available centrally by the LSE, including the LSE's Conference and Events and the Press and Information offices, which ensure that all events are advertised to a very large audience, and that academics frequently comment on topical issues related to their expertise.

c. Strategy and plans: Building on our four research clusters, the EI has identified five key debates on Europe where we will seek to maximise our impact on public policy and public discourse over the next five years: 1) reforms of the governance of the Economic and Monetary

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Union (EMU), 2) UK membership of the EU, 3) labour market reforms in Europe, 4) crisis politics and economics of South East Europe (including Greece, Turkey and the Balkan states), and 5) democracy in the European Union. We seek to reinforce our efforts as follows:

Interaction with policy-makers, NGOs and the third sector

We have planned a series of initiatives to strengthen links with stakeholders involved in these five areas of debate and policy. First, we will develop our Visiting Fellowship programme to ensure a stronger connection with these specific research themes by identifying key individuals involved in relevant policy-shaping activities for closer interaction. Second, we will launch a Knowledge Exchange project, led by Hancké and funded by a HEIF5 award. This is a joint project with the European Trade Union Confederation that aims to build on the EI's vast political economy expertise to develop collaboration with European labour unions, focusing on issues of labour market reform. Third, De Grauwe will be advising several central banks in the Eurozone, including the European Central Bank, the Bank of Greece, and the Nederlandsche Bank.

Supporting staff impact activities

The EI aims to support staff engaged in impact-related activities in these focus areas. Examples include planned sabbatical leave for Featherstone to continue his work on Greek politics and as director of the Hellenic Observatory (HO), as well as teaching buy-out for De Grauwe and Hancké to allow time to develop closer links with key stakeholders. Finally, we aim to facilitate the impact potential of early-career researchers by organising a series of workshops on how to build impact-related ambitions into research planning and execution. This will involve both senior researchers with experience in generating impact as well as relevant stakeholders from think-tanks and policy-making institutions.

Public engagement

The EI will continue to fund a high-profile external events programme, focusing on the themes highlighted above: 1) we plan to organise a public lecture series on the future of the UK's membership of the EU, focusing on economic, legal and political aspects; 2) in the context of the 2014 European Parliament elections, we will organise a series of lectures and workshops in collaboration with VoteWatch; 3) HO and LSEE will focus their extensive public events programme on the crisis of politics and economics in the region to shape the debate on contemporary Greece and South Eastern Europe. All of these events will be disseminated widely online using our website (including podcasts), our twitter account and Facebook page, and the LSE EUROPP blog.

d. Relationship to case studies: The submitted case studies reflect our approach to impact in terms of our emphasis on public engagement, our close relationship with key stakeholders and policy-makers, and our efforts to support staff in their impact-related activities. Featherstone's influential work on Greece has benefited from the endowed Chair on Contemporary Greece located in the Hellenic Observatory, which is committed to policy debates and engagement. This is reflected in its HO Advisory Board, comprising heads of the leading Greek banks and other senior business and public figures, and the extensive outreach activities of the HO. These activities have greatly enhanced Featherstone's profile, access, and interaction with relevant political elites, as successive prime ministers, ministers, and senior public figures have given public lectures and seminars organised by the HO. His sabbatical leave in 2009 facilitated his research fieldwork and the funding of the HO has supported his repeated visits and engagements in Greece. Barr's policy-shaping work on the financing of higher education has also been supported by the EI. He was granted special sabbatical leaves in the Summer Terms of 2003, 2004 and 2005 to pursue his policy-related research and outreach, including his close engagement in the consideration of reform options on UK and international education financing, both via contributions to public-policy-makers and the media in the UK and by his advisory role on the Hungarian student loan scheme. Finally, De Grauwe's impact on ECB policy has been facilitated by the creation of the John Paulson Chair in European Political Economy. This has provided him with the resources (including extensive buy-out from teaching) and intellectual support to focus on policy issues and dissemination activities related to the euro crisis.