The European Documentation Centre of the University of Milan
History, activities and future perspectives

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our EDC was founded in 1983 at the European Communities law Department of Political Science Faculty of Milan University

since 1996 the Centre has been part of the general services of the School of Political science and, since 1999, its scientific director has been Michele Tamburini, professor of European Union law
a bit of history…

the early years: the main task was to collect the EU official documentation with the help of graduate volunteers.

then the center was assigned its own space and a librarian who began to index the material and to allow the public access to the documents.

finally, the EDC was given a permanent seat at the Political science Library.
2001-2003: renovation of the building in Via Conservatorio, that houses the Centre

→ resumption of the activities

over the years there has been an increase and a specialization of the offered services
the EDC is located on the 3rd floor of Political science Library.

the office is open Monday to Friday, from 9 AM to 1 PM, for a total of twenty hours per week.

the reading room (open shelf) is open as the library: Monday to Friday from 9 AM to 7 PM, and on Saturday from 8.30 to 11.30 AM
the collections:

the EDC has over three thousand volumes and hundreds of periodicals. It primarily contains the EU official documentation, except for some legal handbooks and some editorial publications.
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Users</th>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>1511</td>
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<td>1514</td>
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**the users:**
the users:

Users 2006-2010

- Pol. Sc.: 82%
- Other Univ.: 3%
- Other Fac.: 2%
- Others: 13%

Users categories

- 1st lev. St.: 44%
- 2nd lev. St.: 35%
- Grad.: 1%
- Other St.: 4%
- Prof.: 4%
- Research.: 1%
- Professional persons: 1%
- Others: 10%
**EDC scientific director:** Prof. Michele Tamburini  
**EDC manager:** Dr. Mario Di Bono  
**EDC librarian:** Dr. Francesco Garza  
(who is also part of the national coordination group of the Italian EDCs)

The EDC can also rely on the help of five student co-workers, who support the librarian job.
the services

• free consultation of the EU official documentation
• loan service
• reference service (by mail or phone as well)
• interlibrary loan
• courses for students
• organization of events concerning European Union
for some years the European Commission has been asking the EDCs to assume a more dynamic role. Rather than just preservation and dissemination of the EU documentation (whose online availability is increasing) the centers should provide specialized reference services supporting teaching and research and organizing events and study sessions on European issues, in order to increase awareness about EU and reduce the gap between institutions and citizens.
the activities
in this context, the Milan University EDC has organized, in the last years, various activities. some of them are among the own tasks of the EDC:

• training for users
• Europe Day
• e-journal database
• specialized bibliographies
• brochures
• bulk orders
training for users:

**every year**: course for students on the EU databases

3 times a year, in collaboration with the Department of International Studies: courses for graduating students: introduction to the EDC, its services and to the EU databases
Europe Day: May 9th: set up of a stand at the School to promote the European documentation. Free distribution of documentary material and gadgets.

Specialized bibliographies: creation of specialized bibliographies, at university professors request (human rights, media and European citizenship).
brochures: on some occasions we have prepared for students some brochures on anniversaries or events: Europe Day, Schuman Declaration, The fifty years of the European Parliament, The European elections and The Berlin Wall 20 years after the fall.

bulk orders: as privileged users, we can order on-line, to EU bookshop, large quantities of some European publications, and we use this facility to offer our users a lot of free publications (books, posters, brochures).
e-journal database:
our EDC takes part in a national project: the EU e-journal database, together with other three EDCs, coordinated by the EDC of Sassari, that makes available to all, for free, the electronic journals of the European institutions. Every three months, the database is tested to verify the efficiency of the link.
http://www.cdeita.it/periodici/
other activities have been "invented" to meet the objective of the European Commission to improve knowledge on the EU:

- visits to the EC Representation
- meetings with European consuls and ambassadors
- conferences
- wiki
visits to the EU Representations:
in recent years, we have organized visits to the European Commission Representation in Milan and to the Italian Information Office of the European Parliament, for students of European Union Law.
so students were able to meet the directors of the two Representations and discuss the most topical EU issues
meetings with European diplomats: since 2008 we have organized meetings with diplomats from the countries that hold the Presidency of the European Union, to increase knowledge of the dynamics that bind the EU and its member States and to provide more information on European policies.
So we hosted:

the **Consul of France**

Jean-Michel Despax
the Deputy Ambassador of Sweden Jonas Loven
the Consul of Spain
Emilio Fernández-Castaño
the Consul of Belgium
Francois Cornet D'Elzius
the Ambassador of Hungary
Janos Balla
and the Consul of Poland
Krzysztof Strzalka
conferences: every year, the Italian EDCs network realizes a joint project to contribute to the study and research on European issues. In this context, our EDC has organized some conferences and seminars.

the study meeting: 1957-2007: 50th years after the Treaties of Rome: the perspectives of the European unification

the exhibition: 20 years of Erasmus
the Round Table: Towards the construction of a multicultural Europe: the contribution of law
Wiki:

2010: twelve EDCs collaborated on the realization of the WikiCDE, the online guide to the European Union, prepared for students and young researchers but also for a wider audience. The guide uses the Wikipedia format, and is proposed as a nimble tool, updated and user friendly, very appreciated by the younger generations.
http://www.wikicde.it/mediawiki/
other initiatives:
• EDCs national meeting
• lessons on Europe
• Speque
• Congress of Italian librarians
• European Court of Justice
• Festival of Europe
• Europe in Bicocca
Lesson on Europe: for two years, at the request of some teachers, Prof. Tamburini, EDC scientific director, has held to high school students a lesson on Europe.

EDCs national meeting: May 2010: Our EDC hosted, for the first time, the National Meeting of the Italian EDCs (that has required an intensive organizational work: locations booking, search for speakers, catering service, preparation of informative and documentary material, advertisement)
Specque:
we collaborated on the Specque project, the largest French-speaking EP simulation, organized by Canadian and European students interested in international and European issues. In addition to advertising the initiative, the EDC hosted the selections for UNIMI Specque delegation and provided documentary material.

Congress of Italian librarians:
we presented the Wiki project of the Italian EDCs Network, at Milan National Convention of Italian librarians, with the participation of four EDCs (including ours), the Director of the EC Representation in Milan and an official of the European Commission’s Central Library.
European Court of Justice: April 2011: seven EDCs (including ours) took part in the specialized training course on documentation and functioning of the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg. (visit to the Court, to the ECJ’s Library and to the EU Publications Office)
Festival of Europe: May 2011: our EDC took part in the Festival of Europe in Florence. For five days the city became a laboratory of the European Union's communication to the citizens and a showcase of the activities of the EU and its Member States.
Europe in Bicocca: May 2011: we took part in "Europe in Bicocca: what can Europe do for young people?", an initiative organized by the European Commission Representation in Milan, the Office of the European Parliament and the University of Milan-Bicocca, on the occasion of the Europe Day (discussions and meetings on the perspectives of growth and employment for young people in the context of the global economic crisis)
thanks for your attention