



THE HISTORY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Prof. Marco Brunazzo

Department of Sociology and Social Research
University of Trento

Abstract

The creation of European supranational institutions after World War II formalised a European integration process that had been ongoing for centuries. In the post-war era, Western European countries were brought closer than ever by their search for prosperity and stability in a new international order where they did not dominate anymore. As times and politics remained uncertain, economic cooperation looked like a good first step towards a peaceful and prosperous Europe. This led to the creation of the ECSC, EEC and EURATOM, which were the institutional foundation stones upon which the current European Union was built. Starting with the diplomatic crisis over the CAP in 1965, the EU has been strained by the differing views and intentions of its Member States, giving birth to a supranational institution sui generis: it is not a Federal state, but it has reached more extended and exclusive powers than any other international organisation. The diversity of interests within the EU grew through an increasingly heterogeneous membership and through the exposure to unprecedented international crises, like the euro crisis and the migration crisis in recent years. Whilst having shown flexibility and reactivity through the regular renewal of treaties, the lack of consensus on key policies and on the role of national sovereignty makes the future of the EU uncertain and the road towards closer European integration more challenging than expected.

Schools beyond regions and borders (2021-2023)

Austria – Bosnia-Herzegovina – France – Germany – Ireland – Italy – Spain

web: www.sbrb.eu | email: sbrb.2023@gmail.com