

CAS – Centre for Advanced Studies

Objective of the Florence CAS

The objective of the Florence CAS is to develop a **shared Florence perspective on the EUniWell CAS**) by bringing together both **academic and administrative staff**.

The initiative aims to create a **common ground at alliance level**, fostering academic mobility and contributing to the **harmonisation of different teaching and administrative systems** within the broader framework of the European Higher Education and Research Area.

The Florence CAS 2026 edition is also a strategic initiative designed to promote inter- and transdisciplinary research on environmental well-being through a decolonial perspective.

This initiative functions as a funding incubator, placing Early Career Researchers (ECRs) at the heart of building international consortia, with a particular emphasis on Europe-Africa collaboration and “beyond Europe” approach on Environmental humanities. Its primary objective is to transform the symposium into an operational laboratory capable of generating concrete research proposals while strengthening the integration of academic and administrative perspectives.

Through structured mentoring and networking activities, the initiative seeks to establish a model for a coordinated EUniWell-wide Project Office. Ultimately, the sources illustrate a vision in which ecological justice and institutional innovation converge to support the sustainable professional development of young scholars and ensure a generational renewal in research

Florence CAS seeks to:

- Promote dialogue and cooperation between academic and administrative stakeholders.
- Support academic mobility by identifying and addressing structural and procedural differences across institutions.
- Contribute to the development of a more integrated European space for teaching and research.
- Ensure continuity through structured follow-up activities after each CAS edition.

Follow-up Activities proposal

To ensure long-term impact, CAS **working groups** could be established:

- Each working group could focus on a **specific thematic area**. They will operate for a defined period. Their task will be to produce a **report** summarising findings, recommendations, and strategic proposals. The reports and position papers produced will serve as foundational material for:
 - Future follow-up activities
 - Subsequent CAS editions
 - Policy development at alliance level

PROGRAMME

3rd Symposium

Decolonizing Environment and Wellbeing-Oriented European Approaches

Biodiversity, Justice, and Emerging Perspectives Beyond Europe (with a Focus on Africa)

📍 Florence

📅 Online sessions: June 9 & June 23, 2026

📅 July 6–8, 2026 (on site) 👥 Expected participants: approx. 50 (PhDs, postdocs, senior scholars, external experts) with possibility to follow plenary session from remote

📅 PREPARATORY ONLINE SESSIONS

📅 Tuesday, June 9, 2026

Kick-off & Community Building - CAS Opening & Foresight Framing (Online – Zoom) –

▶ 14:00–14:30 | Institutional Welcome

- Presentation of EUniWell CAS 2026
- Scientific objectives and symposium structure

▶ 14:30–14:45 | Online Keynote

“Decolonizing Environmental Governance and EU Global Responsibility”

▶ 14:45–16:15 | Champions’ Lightning Talks (5 min each) and Unifi experts’ contribution + International experts presentation (EUI) + Breakout Rooms

- Environmental justice & antimicrobial resistance
- Media narratives & environmental perception
- Migration & socio-historical transitions
- Economic inequalities & environmental impact
- Social networks & health justice
- Multilingualism & environmental knowledge circulation
- Bioorganic chemistry & sustainable diagnostics
- Molecular health & environmental exposure

Unifi CAS Scientific Board topics presentation:

- Sustainable entrepreneurship and business ethics
- The environmental humanities and cognitive aesthetics

EUI Robert Schuman Centre for Advance Studies in Florence: international experts' brief presentation

▶ 16:15–16:30 | Closing Remarks and Information for Florence

Participants' introductions (ECRs, fellows, senior scholars)

- Interdisciplinary interest matching (Participants pre-select thematic clusters for in-person workshops/breakout rooms). Pre-working groups

📅 **Tuesday, June 23, 2026**

▶ 14:00–14:15

Meet&Greet participants of the Symposium online (Breakout rooms)

▶ 14:15–14:45

Guidelines for PhD Participation

▶ 14:45–15:00 | Q&A and Preparation for On-site Workshops

ON-SITE PROGRAMME

Florence | July 6–8, 2026



Monday, July 6, 2026

Welcome & Strategic Vision

▶ 12:00–13:00 | Registration & Light Lunch

▶ 13:00–13:30 | Institutional Greetings

- Representatives of the **University of Florence**
- CAS Scientific Board presentation

▶ 13:30–14:30 | Opening Keynote

“Centres for Advanced Studies and the Global Transformation of Academia”

▶ 14:45–17:30 | Parallel Sessions – Interdisciplinary Labs

- A) Transitioning Between Academic Systems
- B) Well-being and Sustainable Academic Careers
- C) Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education
- D) Multilingualism and Internationalisation

▶ 19:00 | Welcome dinner in the historic city centre

Tuesday, July 7, 2026

Interdisciplinarity & Networking

▶ 9:00–9:30 | Coffee & Networking

▶ 9:30–10:30 | Plenary Session

“Well-being, SDGs & Decolonial Environmental Thinking”

▶ 10:45–12:30 | International Round Table

Bridging Environmental Science, Law and Humanities

Contribution from EUI international experts

▶ 12:30–14:00 | Lunch & networking

▶ 14:00–16:30 | Identifying Environmental Drivers of Well-being Inequalities (Environmental, social, economic, legal factors) - Scientific Speed Dating

- Short meetings to develop joint project ideas
- Consortium building for European funding – Presentation of the European project’s office at the University of Florence

- EUI Workshop on wellbeing indicators on environmental humanities studies with a focus on environmental change

▶ 17:00–18:00 | Public Hybrid Keynote -
“The Future of Centres for Advanced Studies in Europe - Case Study Clinics”

Two small groups led by Champions to prepare project proposals.

Cluster A:

- Biodiversity directives revisited
- Food security & zoonotic transmission

Cluster B:

- Migration & environmental displacement
- Economic inequalities and climate policy

▶ 20:00 | Conference Dinner along the Arno River

Wednesday, July 8, 2026

Thematic Workshops & Closing (Final Plenary)

▶ 9:00–11:30 | Workshop Cluster A

- Presentation of collaborative project ideas

▶ 12:30–13:00 | Workshop Cluster B

- Presentation of collaborative project ideas

▶ 13:00 | Closing remarks

- Summary of workshop outcomes
- Best Project Proposal (Emerging Project Award)

▶ 13:30 | Farewell Light Lunch