



ARISTOTLE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF THESSALONIKI



**PROSPER**  
Jean Monnet Network

PROSPER Network Event

**The EU as a Union of Solidarity**

23 - 24 April 2026

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

The Jean Monnet Network  
PROSPER is coordinated by:

The Jean Monnet Network  
PROSPER is funded by  
Erasmus+

**DCU**

Institiúid Bhaile Átha Cliath um an Dlí Eorpach  
Dublin European Law Institute



Funded by  
the European Union



Erasmus  
University  
Rotterdam



**PROSPER**

Project to Research Opportunities  
to Strengthen Prosperity and  
Economic Resilience in the EU

The conference titled “The EU as a Union of Solidarity” will take place on 23 and 24 April 2026 at the Faculty of Law of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTh), in Hall 319. Bringing together leading scholars and experts, the event is structured around thematic sessions that aim to explore the meaning and evolution of solidarity within the European Union from both legal and policy-oriented perspectives.

The first day is devoted to the social dimension of EU solidarity. It opens with discussions on EU social policies and their interaction with national administrations, focusing on recent developments such as the European Pillar of Social Rights and related financial instruments. A second session examines social and workers’ rights, addressing issues like subsidiarity, minimum wage regulation, and the legal enforceability of social rights. These topics highlight the growing importance of social considerations in the EU’s constitutional and regulatory framework.

The programme then turns to broader and more contemporary challenges, including digital constitutionalism, consular protection, and the political implications of solidarity in the face of rising illiberal and radical movements in Europe. On the second day, attention shifts to fiscal integration and migration. Discussions cover the role of solidarity in the EU’s budgetary system and the implications of deeper economic integration, before concluding with an analysis of solidarity in the EU asylum system, particularly in relation to burden-sharing and mutual trust among Member States.

Overall, the conference provides a concise yet comprehensive overview of solidarity as a central and evolving principle of EU integration.

**Prof. Lina Papadopoulou**, Professor of Constitutional Law at the Law School of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and holder of a Jean Monnet Chair for European Constitutional Law and Culture.



*The Conference is under the aegis of the Faculty of Law  
and with the support of the Research Committee*



## 12.00 - 12.30 Welcome and Introductory Remarks

**Professor Panayotis Glavinis**, Dean of the School of Law, AUTH

**Professor Lina Papadopoulou**, Leader of the AUTH PROSPER Team

**Dr. Ian Cooper**, Senior Research Fellow, Dublin City University, Research Coordinator of the PROSPER Network

## 12.30 - 14.00 Session 1: EU Social Policies and National Administration

Chair: **Constantinos Chryssogonos**, Professor, School of Law, AUTH, President of the Hellenic Branch of the Greek Association of Constitutionalists

Which directions in Social Policy? From the Social Pillar to the PNRR and recent directives - **Stefania Baroncelli**, Professor of Constitutional Law, Faculty of Economics and Management, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano

Solidarity in the EU after 2020; the role of cohesion policy and the Recovery and Resilience Facility - **George Andreou**, Associate Professor, School of Political Sciences, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

EU Social Policies as a Vector of Europeanization of National Administrations - **Giulio Rivellini**, Researcher, Faculty of Economics and Management, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano

## 14.00 - 15.00 Lunch break

## 15.00 - 17.00 Session 2: Social Rights in the EU

Chair: **Costas Stratilatis**, Assistant Professor, School of Law, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

The notion of social rights in the EU: desire or legal enforceability? - **Georgios Karavokyris**, Associate Professor, School of Law, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

From principles to practice: The legal status of disability rights under the European Pillar of Social Rights and the EU Disability Strategy 2021-2030 - **Angie Pantzartzidi**, PhD Candidate, School of Law, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Subsidiarity and Workers' Rights in the European Union - **Ian Cooper**, Senior Research Fellow, Dublin City University, Research Coordinator of the PROSPER Network

Promoting Social Europe through a procedural approach? The example of the Adequate Minimum Wages Directive - **Anastasia Poulou**, Dr. iur, Mst (Oxford), Administrative Judge

## 17.00 - 17.30 Coffee break

**17.30 - 19.00 Session 3: New Challenges in a Changing World**

Chair: **Stefania Baroncelli**, Professor of Constitutional Law, Faculty of Economics and Management, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano

Bolstering EU Digital Constitutionalism: Strategic Reorientation Amidst Simplification and Weaponisation - **Edoardo Celeste**, Associate Professor, School of Law and Government, Dublin City University

Solidarity and Consular Protection of Unrepresented EU Citizens in third countries - **Despoina Anagnostopoulou**, Professor, Department of International and European Studies, University of Macedonia

European Solidarity and the Rise of Illiberal Christian Democracy - **Renata Uitz**, Senior Research Fellow, CEU Democracy Institute, Professor of Law and Government, Royal Holloway, University of London

#### **10.00 - 11.30 Session 4: Fiscal Integration as a Dimension of EU Solidarity**

Chair: **Ian Cooper**, Senior Research Fellow, Dublin City University, Research Coordinator of the PROSPER Network

“A Corporate Resource for Europe”: Questions of Solidarity and Democracy in the Union’s Own Resources System - **Joseph Ktenidis**, Professor, School of Law, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

The Nature and Scope of Solidarity in the Union’s Budgetary System - **Fabian Amtenbrink**, Professor, Erasmus School of Law, Erasmus University Rotterdam

The end of cohesion and solidarity as we know it? Fiscal integration as motor to changed multilevel governance- **Eva Heidbreder**, Professor, Faculty of Humanities, Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg

#### **11.30 - 12.00 Coffee break**

#### **12.00 - 13.00 Session 5: The Dynamics of Solidarity in the EU Asylum System**

Chair: **Lina Papadopoulou**, Professor, School of Law, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, leader of the AUTH PROSPER team

Solidarity and mutual (mis)trust in the CEAS - **Lydia Papagiannopoulou**, PhD Candidate, School of Law, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Solidarity in the asylum procedures - the Solidarity Pool under the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum - **Ioannis Papageorgiou**, Professor, School of Political Sciences, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki,

#### **13.00 - 13.30 Concluding Remarks and Next Steps**

**Professor Lina Papadopoulou, with the participation of all the Members of the PROSPER team**