

Foreword

The EDCs were presented with a clear mission: to facilitate access (for researchers, academics, students and librarians) to documentation, in particular European legal documents, that would otherwise be too expensive or difficult to retrieve. The target group was primarily focused on communication policy at this time.

In 2001, following the reorganisation of what was then the Directorate-General for Information, Communication, Culture and Audiovisual (DG X), the EDC network was assigned to the DG COMM portfolio. In 2004, EDCs were incorporated within the Europe Direct information network, together with the EDICs and Team Europe. Their mission was broadened to include participation in broad debates about the EU. Their target group was also enlarged: other audiences, including the general public.

The 2005 agreement between the EDCs and the Commission distinguishes between two types of centres: general EDCs that receive the complete list of documentation provided by the Community institutions, and specialized EDCs that receive a selection of this documentation.

The process of finding EU documents and information is a highly skilled task, owing to the ever-expanding profusion of information and the complexity of EU policymaking and publishing regulations. This is why it is necessary for EDCs to serve as mediators between researchers and this information. New equipment, new technologies and new methods are now needed in order for EDCs to adapt to the new digital era.

Italian EDCs (and our additional value)

- **Italian EDC Network strongly cooperate** with European Commission Representation and all EDCs thanks to our capacity of coordinate EDCs at national level, we have a coordination group other than a National and Deputy Coordinator. In this way, every year , we could have realized a National project on European subject (2017 - 60 years of the Rome Treaties - 2018 European cultural heritage).
- **Discussion List** created in 1999 - cde-it@list.cineca.it - and managed by CINECA, a national consortium.
- **National website** - www.cdeita.it - created in 2012 and managed by a group of EDCs (EDC University of Sassari, EDC University of Milan, EDC University of Verona, EDC University Bocconi, EDC of Province of Trento, EDC of University of Catania, EDC of IUSE Torino, EDC of Public Administration School of Caserta). In the next future we have a new restyling web site, edited by EDC of "Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche - Biblioteca Centrale "G. Marconi, Roma".
- **Italian EDCs want to forge stronger links with Jean Monnet Chairs** (awarded to university professors teaching European studies). European studies courses would benefit EDCs by increasing their visibility, but also students, who will have access to a unique source of information.
- **Cooperation** with the host institutions other than partners :synergies with different actors such as other DGs, agencies and networks. Several areas of cooperation have already been identified with DG Research and Innovation (RTD), DG EAC (EC Library and e-Resources Centre) and the Historical Archives of the European Union (HAEU). The EDC network is also constantly looking to broaden these partnerships and to form new ones. Such partnerships could be bidirectional, since EDCs can contribute their high level of expertise in searching for and finding sources of information on the EU and related topics. With this knowledge, EDCs could have an advisory role in establishing EU information sources.
- **FACEBOOK PAGE** called "Rete dei CDE in Italia" and **Account twitter of many EDCs.**

- **Participation to National Education High School project** “ALTERNANZA SCUOLA LAVORO” training with high school students who learn how EDCs work and use of UE tools.
- **Support research** in the realization of European projects, in particular those connected to the Horizon 2020 program, and contribute to the diffusion of these research data.
- **Organization of workshops, seminar activities and studying days** for students, about European policies and the overriding topics of the Institutions.
- **Supply of advanced reference service** to find European paper or electronic documentation, **courses on the use of data bases and online resources**, as well as **information literacy routes** for the diffusion of digital skills and competences (EDC National Project 2016 on Digital Single Market).
- **Arrangement of training visits for groups** of university students in the European institutions
- **Involvement in scientific disclosure initiatives**, centrally promoted (Researchers’ night, Kids University...), that are included in the university third mission, as well as the support offered for the “**10 Commission priorities for 2015-19**” and for the **European cultural heritage year 2018**.
- **Achievement of workshops** and guides for secondary schools as a support to teaching.
- **Supply of publications, leaflets etc.** for the events organized by hosting institutions and research centres (launch of European announcements, Europe Day, Erasmus Welcome Day, conferences and seminars...)
- **Production of e-books, newsletters, papers - online on EDC website:**
 - Koreuropa, European law papers, The European notebooks
 - Thematic dossiers
 - The guides of the EDC Italian network: abCDEuropa, UE diritti e cittadinanza (EU rights and citizenship)
 - Newsletter of the EDC of the University of Ferrara (that soon will have national distribution)
- **Cooperation and partnership** with EDICs and other local institutions.
- **EDC manager are tutor for Erasmus+ HE-Learning Student mobility for Traineeships** (2016 -Students from University of Budapest, 2017 - from University of Tallin and Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)

A cura di Magda Sanna e Francesco Garza – Luglio 2017

Con la collaborazione della rete dei CDE italiani