



EDARA
European Development And Research Academy

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

EUROPEAN
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AND RESEARCH
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ANNUAL REPORT 2025

INTRODUCTION: EDARA IS HONoured TO ANNOUNCE THE PUBLICATION OF ITS ANNUAL REPORT 2025

As an independent and internationally engaged research institution, EDARA has, over the past year, further strengthened its analytical capacity, broadened its fields of inquiry, and consolidated its methodological rigour. Through comprehensive qualitative research and multidisciplinary analysis, the centre has continued to produce substantive insights across diverse thematic areas, particularly in relation to public policymaking, geopolitical transformations, the global energy crisis, and the enduring threat of terrorism. These complex and interrelated challenges remain central to the quest for global security and stability.

Throughout 2025, EDARA has placed renewed emphasis on the importance of evidence-based research and informed policy development, with particular attention to the evolution of extremist movements, the impact of digitalisation and new media, and the crucial role of education, training, and human development in societal resilience. The organisation's initiatives have consistently reflected its commitment to the promotion of democracy, dialogue, governance, and peacebuilding. Through a variety of training programmes, conferences, and scholarly publications, EDARA has contributed to advancing knowledge in areas such as leadership, conflict prevention, and strategies for countering violent extremism. Special focus has been devoted to the empowerment of youth and women, fostering their active engagement in peace processes and encouraging increased governmental investment in human capital and education systems.

BRAHIM LAYTOUSS
DIRECTOR EDARA



EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT
AND RESEARCH ACADEMY

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

INTRODUCTION

EDARA's international cooperation has remained robust and far-reaching, extending across the European Union, Africa, Central Asia, the Caucasus, and Latin America. The centre has organised, co-sponsored, and participated in a wide range of international events including conferences, expert workshops, and high-level consultations and has produced analytical reports addressing key aspects of global security, encompassing intellectual, energy, and social dimensions, as well as climate change and the proliferation of extremist narratives. In 2025, special attention was dedicated to analysing the repercussions of ongoing global conflicts, notably the Russia–Ukraine war and the protracted confrontations in Gaza and Lebanon, both of which have resulted in severe humanitarian crises, profound regional instability, and an alarming acceleration of global polarisation.

This year, EDARA has made substantial scholarly contributions through the publication of multiple reports and peer-reviewed articles addressing key issues of terrorism, violent extremism, and governance in both national and international contexts. In addition, EDARA has produced specialised analytical studies on climate change, energy security, and contemporary Islamism, and has actively participated in a range of European Union and international events of strategic significance. These activities, spanning Europe, the MENA region, Africa, Central Asia, and the Caucasus, have reinforced EDARA's identity as a strategic European research institution positioned at the intersection of academic inquiry and policy engagement. Looking ahead, EDARA aims to further consolidate its institutional standing by strengthening its programmes, partnerships, and research collaborations. The centre's principal objective remains twofold: to advance a global culture of peace as both an analytical framework and a concrete practice, and to operationalise this vision through continuous field engagement and scholarly cooperation. EDARA will also continue its multilingual publication strategy in English, French, Dutch, and Arabic thereby broadening its intellectual scope and reaching diverse audiences throughout Europe and beyond.

EDARA reaffirms its commitment to providing independent, policy-relevant research and analysis, contributing meaningfully to the promotion of peace, development, and security worldwide. The Board of Directors and the entire EDARA team extend their sincere gratitude to all institutional partners, experts, and supporters whose collaboration and trust have been essential to the achievements of the past year.

DIRECTOR EDARA



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INTRODUCTION

The year 2026 will mark the fourteenth anniversary of EDARA's foundation – a milestone that offers an occasion to reflect on the centre's evolution, assess the geopolitical and social transformations of recent years, and define new strategic directions for the future.

A defining highlight of 2025 was the landmark initiative **"2025 – The Year of the Islamic World in Belgium and Europe."** Conceived as an innovative platform for intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding, this initiative sought to strengthen the relations between Europe and the Islamic world in a period marked by deep geopolitical uncertainty and intensifying global polarisation.

Organised in partnership with ICESCO, the Baku International Multiculturalism Centre (BIMC), and the Caucasus Muslim Board (CMB), the initiative included a series of high-level events held on 6–7 March 2025 in Brussels. These events comprised:

A High-Level Roundtable at the European Parliament

A European Conference on Models of Multiculturalism

The Celebration of International Women's Day at the UN Women House in Brussels, entitled "Women's Empowerment: Challenges and Opportunities"

A Gala Iftar Dinner, attended by more than one hundred distinguished guests, including fifteen ambassadors, representatives of the European Parliament and the European External Action Service (EEAS), as well as prominent academics from various European and international institutions.

The initiative pursued several interrelated objectives:

To establish a secure and inclusive platform for exchange between the Islamic world, Belgium, and the European Union, thereby fostering mutual understanding and lasting bonds of cooperation.

To engage in substantive dialogue with European policymakers and institutions on issues of shared global concern.

To promote models of peaceful coexistence and intercultural dialogue, moving beyond frameworks centred exclusively on securitisation.

To strengthen cooperation in research, education, peacebuilding, and socio-economic development in collaboration with BIMC, CMB, and ICESCO.

To explore new and sustainable avenues for international collaboration between institutions in the Muslim world and their European counterparts.

The initiative, "2025 – The Year of the Islamic World in Belgium and Europe," represents a landmark achievement in EDARA's enduring commitment to fostering dialogue among civilisations, advancing intercultural understanding, and building durable pathways to peace and cooperation through knowledge, diplomacy, and collaborative engagement.

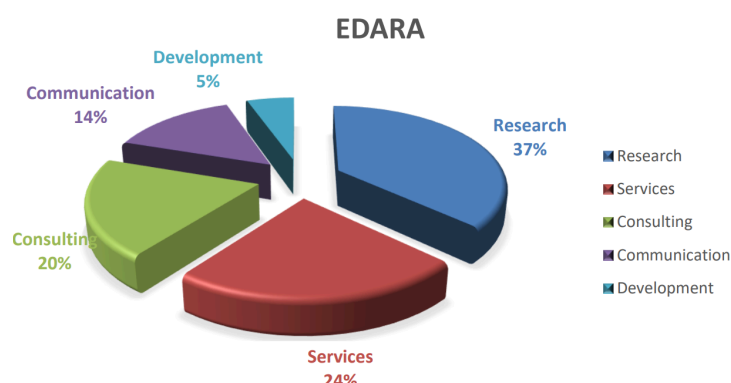
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EDARA Brief Overview:

1. The organisation analyses and (co)produces periodical articles and publications.
2. It identifies new potential threats and develops solutions and innovative frameworks to global challenges.
3. It also advises governmental and non-governmental organisations, as well as international institutions.
4. It evaluates ongoing policies on Security issues and threats .
5. It organises debates with experts and annual conferences, both in Brussels and elsewhere.



Reports & New publications 2025:

1. The Arbitration of Empire: Colonial-Era Disputes and Emerging Risks to European Courts.
2. Reading the US National Security Strategy with Strategic Maturity
3. The Belgian Muslim council activities
4. Education and training
5. Consulting and advises
6. Academic and international conferences

RESEARCH PROJECTS AND MASTER CLASSES :

1. Changing the Playing Field - Leadership 4.0
2. Security governance , management and climate change
3. New insights to tackle Extremism & Terrorism
4. Digital transformation and innovation
5. The role of youth and women in peacebuilding and conflict resolution
6. The implementation of SDG's in 2030 and global challenges
7. Human rights and justice

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THE INITIATIVE, “2025 - THE YEAR OF THE ISLAMIC WORLD IN BELGIUM AND EUROPE

The “Year of the Islamic World in Belgium and Europe” was conceived as an ambitious framework for dialogue, cooperation, and intercultural engagement. Its core objective was to create a secure and inclusive platform for exchange between the Islamic world, Belgium, and the European Union, fostering mutual understanding and durable bonds of partnership. The initiative aimed to promote substantive dialogue with European policymakers and institutions on issues of shared global concern, while advancing models of peaceful coexistence and intercultural dialogue that move beyond narratives centred solely on securitisation. It also sought to strengthen collaboration in research, education, peacebuilding, and socio-economic development through close partnerships with BIMC, CMB, and ICESCO. Furthermore, it aspired to open new and sustainable avenues for international cooperation between institutions in the Muslim world and their European counterparts, reinforcing a shared commitment to peace, development, and mutual respect.

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A EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON MODELS OF MULTICULTURALISM

Promoting Dialogue and Mutual Understanding: Multiculturalism as Policy in a Polycultural World — Multiculturalism as a Necessity for Constructive Dialogue

Promoting dialogue and mutual understanding constitutes a pivotal imperative within contemporary polycultural societies, where cultural pluralism demands robust analytical frameworks. Multiculturalism emerges not as a mere normative aspiration but as an indispensable policy paradigm, enabling constructive intercultural exchange amid persistent tensions of identity, belonging, and social cohesion. This approach reorients diversity from a site of potential fragmentation toward a generative resource, cultivating inclusive civic practices and resilient models of coexistence grounded in reflexive recognition of difference and shared humanistic commitments.



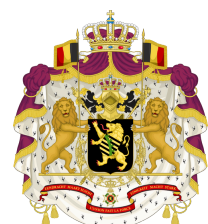


FORMAL LETTER

EDARA RECEIVED A FORMAL LETTER OF APPRECIATION FROM THE ROYAL COURT

EDARA received a formal letter of appreciation from His Majesty King Philippe, acknowledging the initiative “2025 – The Year of the Islamic World in Belgium and Europe.” Issued from Belvédère Palace in Brussels, the letter highlights the program's role in fostering dialogue, cooperation, and intercultural understanding between Belgium, the EU, and the Islamic world.

The correspondence praises Edara's efforts in creating secure exchange platforms, promoting peaceful coexistence beyond securitization, and partnering with BIMC, CMB, and ICESCO on research, education, and peacebuilding. This royal endorsement underscores institutional support for sustainable international collaboration rooted in mutual respect.



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OFFICIAL ACCREDITATION WITHIN THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

EDARA has received its official accreditation in the Transparency Register of the European Commission and the European Parliament, marking a significant step in consolidating its role as a credible and recognised research institution within the European policy landscape. This accreditation underscores EDARA's ongoing commitment to transparency, accountability, and ethical research practice, while reinforcing its position as a trusted partner in evidence-based policy dialogue. It also reflects the organisation's alignment with European standards of governance and public engagement, enhancing its capacity to contribute effectively to discussions on security, democracy, human development, and intercultural dialogue at both the regional and international levels.

DIRECTOR EDARA



EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH ACADEMY

REG Number

7647314100441-32

Status

ACTIVATED

Category of registration

Think tanks and research institutions

Location of head office

BELGIUM

Latest update

PUBLICATIONS

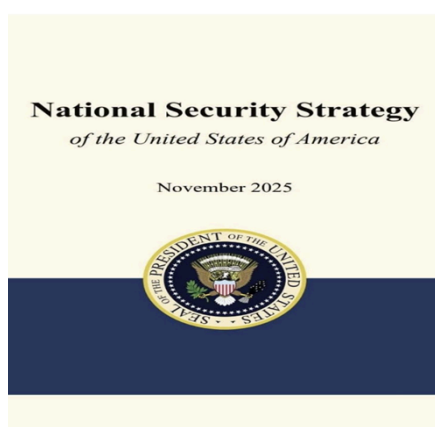


The Arbitration of Empire: Colonial-Era Disputes and Emerging Risks to European Courts.

The report addresses a significant gap in existing legal and policy literature. Although there is growing scrutiny of international arbitration and litigation finance in isolation, no study has yet traced how historical grievances risk converging with speculative enforcement strategies. This analysis is the first to frame that convergence as a post-imperial risk ecosystem one shaped not only by the reactivation of colonial-era instruments but by their interaction with litigation funders, fragmented enforcement regimes, and gaps in European regulatory frameworks.

European courts, the report argues, are central to this risk. Their openness to enforcement under the New York Convention, coupled with a lack of harmonised rules for evaluating legacy claims or scrutinising TPLF, makes them prime targets for funder-led litigation. The Malaysia-Sulu case has already demonstrated the potential for forum shopping and arbitrator overreach; future cases could replicate these tactics, even without a strong legal foundation, so long as the commercial incentives are aligned.

Reading the US National Security Strategy with Strategic Maturity



The report addresses the new United States National Security Strategy (NSS) has triggered strong reactions across Europe. It portrays Europe as demographically fragile, overregulated, weakened by migration and “civilisational” drift, and calls on Europeans to assume more responsibility for their own security while the US reprioritises its own hemisphere. This is abrasive, and in places inaccurate. But for serious European policymakers, the NSS should be read first of all as a clarified US baseline: a condensed selfportrait of how Washington currently understands its interests, priorities and limits.

EDARA participated in different conferences and debates in 2025

RC25 was held on 10 – 12 November 2025 and was hosted by Hedayah, the International Center of Excellence for Countering Extremism and Violent Extremism, with generous support from the European Union, and in partnership with the EU Knowledge Hub on Prevention of Radicalisation.



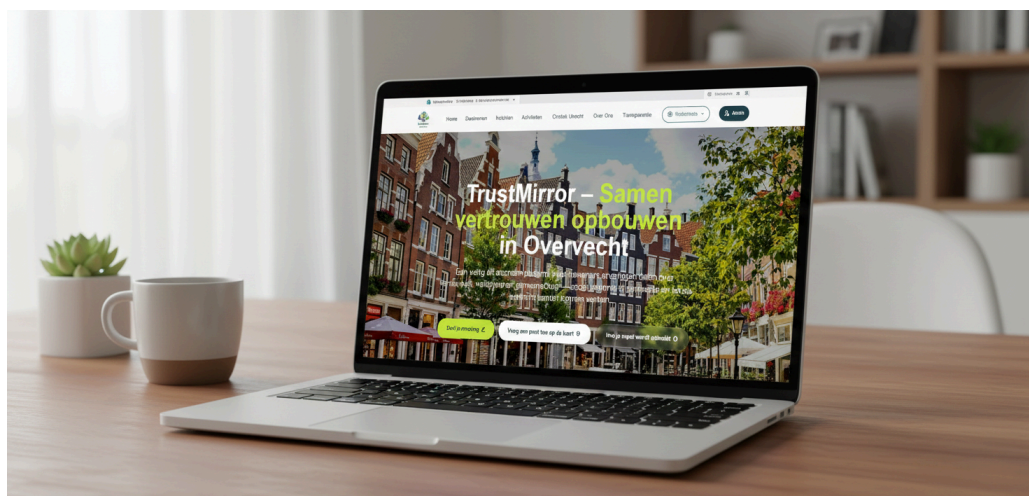
Fostering Confidence and Dialogue: The Utrecht (Overvecht) Trust Building Project 2026

EDARA and its partners are honoured to announce their official commissioning to implement the “Trust Building Project” for the Municipality of Overvecht in Utrecht, the Netherlands.

The initiative has received formal approval to commence in 2026, representing a significant step forward in our collective mission to promote social cohesion, civic participation, and constructive dialogue between public authorities and local communities. The project seeks to bridge the trust gap between institutional stakeholders and residents by fostering transparent communication, cooperative engagement, and mutual understanding. As part of this initiative, a dedicated multilingual digital platform — www.trustmirror.nl — has been launched to facilitate interactive exchange, consultation, and local dialogue on matters of shared concern.

Through this effort, EDARA and its partners aim to establish a policy of proximity and shared responsibility, encouraging community-driven solutions rooted in trust, inclusion, and collaborative governance. The multilingual nature of the platform — available in Dutch, Arabic, French, and English — underscores our commitment to accessibility, diversity, and equal participation for all residents of Utrecht, particularly within the district of Overvecht.

By building bridges of trust, this pioneering project aspires to strengthen the social fabric of Utrecht and serve as a European benchmark for inclusive governance, institutional transparency, and cooperative community partnership.



Day of remembrance for the victims of terrorist attacks on 22 March at the Federal Parliament in Brussels.

EDARA annually observes the Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Terrorist Attacks on 22 March at the Federal Parliament in Brussels.

This commemoration serves as a solemn reaffirmation of our enduring commitment to peace, human dignity, and solidarity with all victims of terrorism across the world.



PARTNERSHIPS SIGNED IN 2025:

North Africa

The Arab-European Forum for Combating Hatred



Europe

European Centre for Counterterrorism and Intelligence Studies ECCI



Memorandum Of Understanding (MoU)

Memorandum Of Understanding (MoU)
Between
European Development And Research Academy (EDARA)

European Centre for Counterterrorism and Intelligence Studies ECCI



Memorandum Of Understanding (MoU)
Entre
European Development And Research Academy (EDARA)

Et
The Arab-European Forum for Combating Hatred





EDARA

European Development And Research Academy

About EDARA

EDARA is an EU independent, non-profit, research centre (do & think tank), founded in 2012 and based in the capital of Europe. Our aim is to provide training and improve policy and decision-making at European and international level. Through analyses and reports, we develop strategic studies, organise conferences and workshops for governmental and non-governmental organisations and civil society to find inclusive solutions and address the main causes of insecurity, global challenges, conflicts and the world's complex mix of intertwined economic, geopolitical, social and environmental threats.

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