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Transforming Europe: Law, Governance and Institutions

Europe has always been, to a large extent, and sometimes with some excesses, a project of rules and institutions. Today, however, this structure is called upon to evolve in order to respond to the rapid systemic transitions of our century. From **digital and financial market regulation** to **environmental sustainability and the protection of fundamental rights**, the **European Union is having to rethink its role** in increasingly strategic and complex sectors. Understanding the evolution of its legal and institutional architecture is therefore not merely an academic exercise, but a public necessity.

A significant example comes from Europe's growing **trend towards a more uniform and simplified regulatory environment**. The prospect of a so-called "**28th regime**" is moving precisely in this direction: complementing national legal systems with a common European legal framework could provide a path towards reducing fragmentation and streamlining the formal and administrative requirements that burden the Single Market. In this sense, European integration does not entail **adding further layers of regulation** but **rather simplifying the borders** to be crossed and **sharing common operating rules**.

From this perspective, this issue of the Newsbook, ***Transforming Europe: Law, Governance and Institutions***, aims to highlight the ability of research to **generate social impact** by informing **policy-making** processes, a key dimension in the relationship between universities and society. The studies brought together in this issue examine the processes that are transforming Europe: from cooperation between Member States to the evolution of European law in relation to international law, and the ability of institutions to respond to environmental, technological and social challenges.

The Third Mission: Research, Society and Impact

This **transformation of the rules also directly concerns research**. The development of common European frameworks and principles fosters collaboration among scientific communities, the circulation of knowledge and international dialogue. As can be seen from the section dedicated to **Open Science**, openness and cooperation not only strengthen European research, but also enhance its capacity to produce shared knowledge.

However, producing knowledge also means making it capable of generating value beyond the confines of the University. This is the **role of the Third Mission**, a pillar that has been part of Luiss's vision since its foundation.

The **transfer of knowledge and innovation, Public Engagement, Open Science** and the **ongoing dialogue with institutions, businesses and citizens** help to translate research and education into **economic, social and cultural impact**. This commitment was recently confirmed by the VQR 2020–2024 results, in which **Luiss ranked second in Italy for Third Mission quality**.

Transforming Europe ultimately means forging ongoing links between research, institutions and society, creating the conditions for **knowledge to circulate, guiding public decisions and generating value for the community**.

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