

ecpr

Activities Report

For the membership and financial year 2017–18



Membership

The ECPR is first and foremost a membership organisation; at its heart are the institutions whose staff and students benefit from discounts, funding, training and access to a network of some 30,000 colleagues across the globe

Although the membership year 2017–18 had not ended at the time of going to press, we expect the final figure to be 338, which constitutes a further small drop. While the period 2012–16 saw a steady increase in membership each year, we have experienced a gradual fall away over the past two membership years. However, 47 of the top 50 institutions, as ranked by the 'QS World University Rankings by Subject 2018: Politics & International Studies', continue to be ECPR members.

Associate (OECD) membership overall had been steadily declining since a peak of 53 members in 2013–14, but remained stable at 45 in 2017–18. The greatest reduction has been in Canada, where we have lost five members since 2014–15; in the US we saw a peak of 24 members in 2014–15, followed

by a fall and then a small recovery to 21 this year.

Non-OECD Associate Membership remains relatively stable, with two members in Singapore and one in Taiwan who have renewed every year, plus institutions in Brazil, Columbia and Mauritius who come in and out of membership.

Membership in Central and Eastern Europe peaked in 2015–16 at 47, but has now levelled at 42. The biggest drop has been in Turkey, where membership has fallen from 11 in 2014–15 to 7 this year and last. We did, however, gain new members in Poland and Lithuania. Membership defined as Commonwealth of Independent States has halved since 2014–15.

Five universities which were previously Associate Members have now upgraded to full membership, with one new

upgrade from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in 2017–18, taking our Israeli full members to two.

The number of full members fell by two overall in 2017–18, with the largest decline seen in UK membership. We have also lost three members over the past two years from Italy, after a period of stability each year. Some growth was seen, however, in Cyprus, Germany, Portugal and Switzerland.

Over the last five years there has been a core of 274 institutions which have maintained consistent membership year on year. An additional 106 institutions have had inconsistent membership during that time, meaning that there has been a total of 380 institutions who have been ECPR members over the last five years. Of these, there are 43 who are not members in the 2017–18 year.

Workshop at our 2017 Joint Sessions, University of Nicosia





Welcoming participants
to our Summer
Methods School at CEU
Budapest, July 2017

Membership type by year	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Associate Member – Non-OECD	3	5	5	5	4
Associate Member – Non-OECD (Year 1)	4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Associate Member – Non-OECD (Year 2)	3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Associate Member – OECD Member	53	52	49	45	45
Full Member – Central and Eastern Europe	38	43	47	44	44
Full Member – Commonwealth of Independent States	5	6	4	4	3
Full Member – Upgraded Associate Member	3	4	4	4	5
Full member – Western Europe	236	238	241	238	236
Grand Total	345	348	350	340	337

Membership type – core members	No.
Associate Member – Non-OECD	3
Associate Member – OECD Member	32
Full Member – Central and Eastern Europe	27
Full Member – Commonwealth of Independent States	3
Full Member – United Kingdom	48
Full Member – Upgraded Associate Member	5
Full member – Western Europe	156
Grand Total	274

Membership type – non-core members	No.
Associate Member – Non-OECD	4
Associate Member – Non-OECD (Year 1)	2
Associate Member – Non-OECD (Year 2)	2
Associate Member – OECD Member	22
Full Member – Central and Eastern Europe	23
Full Member – Commonwealth of Independent States	1
Full Member – United Kingdom	8
Full member – Western Europe	44
Grand Total	106

Membership type by country	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
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Brazil	1	2	2	1	1
Colombia	1	0	0	0	0
Mauritius	0	0	0	1	0
Singapore	0	2	2	2	2
Taiwan	1	1	1	1	1
Associate Member – Non-OECD Member	3	5	5	5	4

Argentina	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Brazil	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Iraq	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Philippines	–	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Singapore	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Associate Member – Non-OECD Member (Year 1)	4	0	0	0	0

Brazil	3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Colombia	–	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Japan	–	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Associate Member – Non-OECD Member (Year 2)	3	0	0	0	0

Australia	5	6	5	7	6
Canada	15	15	12	10	10
Chile	1	1	1	1	1
Israel	4	2	3	3	3
Japan	3	2	4	3	3
Mexico	1	1	1	1	0
New Zealand	1	1	1	1	1
United States	23	24	22	19	21
Associate Member – OECD Member	53	52	49	45	45

Bosnia and Herzegovina	–	–	1	2	0
Bulgaria	2	1	1	0	0
Croatia	1	1	1	1	1
Cyprus	1	1	1	1	1
Czech Republic	6	7	7	7	7
Estonia	3	3	3	3	3
Hungary	5	5	6	6	6
Latvia	1	1	1	1	1
Lithuania	1	2	2	1	2

Montenegro	–	–	1	1	1
Poland	4	5	6	6	7
Romania	3	3	4	3	3
Serbia	–	1	1	2	2
Slovakia (Slovak Republic)	1	1	1	2	2
Slovenia	1	1	1	1	1
Turkey	9	11	10	7	7
Full Member – Central and Eastern Europe	38	43	47	44	44

Kazakhstan	1	1	1	1	0
Russian Federation	4	5	3	3	3
Full Member – Commonwealth of Independent States	5	6	4	4	3

Australia	1	1	1	1	1
Canada	1	1	1	1	1
Israel	–	1	1	1	2
United States	1	1	1	1	1
Full Member – Upgraded Associate Member	3	4	4	4	5

Austria	5	5	5	7	6
Belgium	8	7	7	7	7
Cyprus	2	2	2	2	4
Denmark	7	7	7	7	7
Finland	5	6	6	7	6
France	11	10	11	10	10
Germany	50	50	51	51	53
Greece	3	4	3	2	2
Iceland	1	1	1	1	1
Ireland	6	6	6	6	6
Italy	19	19	19	17	16
Luxembourg	1	1	1	1	1
Malta	–	1	1	1	1
Netherlands	11	11	11	12	12
Norway	12	12	12	11	11
Portugal	4	4	5	4	6
Spain	12	11	11	12	11
Sweden	14	15	15	14	14
Switzerland	9	9	9	8	9
United Kingdom	56	57	58	58	53
Full Member – Western Europe	236	238	241	238	236

Grand Total	345	348	350	340	337
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Publications

Publishing is a key part of the ECPR's mission to advance the development of political science; we produce hundreds of journal articles and tens of books each year, disseminating new, cutting-edge research across the discipline

The year 2017–18 proved a particularly busy one for the ECPR's publishing programme, as a new journal was shaped and prepared for launch, the partnership of the ECPR Press taken forward, and a new contract negotiated for the *EPS* journal. The hard work of the editorial teams behind all ECPR publications was reflected in the growing readerships, citations, subscriptions and sales the articles, journals and books received during the year.

Political Research Exchange – PRX

The ECPR will launch its flagship OA journal in late 2018. Nearly three years in planning, *Political Research Exchange* – or *PRX* as it will be known – will be one of the first fully OA society journals in the discipline, and a brand-new membership benefit for the ECPR.

The past year has seen the appointment of two Editors in Chief (Alexandra Segerberg and Simona Guerra) and nine Associate Editors drawn from, and reflecting, the breadth and diversity of the ECPR's Standing Groups. An Editorial Board of leading scholars has been appointed, the journal platform built and preparations for launch events in Hamburg are underway as this report goes to press.

PRX will be built on the four pillars of:

- quality (through the integration

of our Standing Groups and triple-blind peer review);

- depth (by harnessing the latest technology to bring richness and transparency to its scholarship);
- accessibility (through ECPR subsidies for article processing charges and a commitment to encouraging diversity of submissions); and
- exchange (combining rapid online publication and a blog to support synergy and exchange across and beyond the study of politics).

While standard APCs (article processing charges) will be kept at less than half industry standards, scholars from ECPR member institutions will pay only a token APC (£50 from 2020). Our research into access to OA publishing across our members told us that cost was a significant barrier, so we hope *PRX* will be warmly welcomed by the membership and wider community.

ECPR Press – a year into the partnership with RLI

The ECPR's partnership with Rowman & Littlefield International (RLI) to operate the ECPR Press began on 1 June 2017. The second half of 2017 saw production slow significantly, as we worked closely with the RLI team to marry our systems and processes.

However, by the beginning of 2018, momentum had built and books with the freshly designed covers and co-branding were being published at an increasing rate.

To date, 13 new titles have been published under the partnership and a further 18 are under contract and due for publication in 2018/19.

The Press's editorial structure and team continued through into the RLI partnership, supported by a new Editorial Manager.

EPS – contract renewal

The professional journal of the ECPR, *European Political Science (EPS)* has carved out a niche for itself as a must-read for scholars working in the discipline. Its unique mix of articles on the profession, teaching and learning, has been enhanced over the past year with the addition of research datasets and continued innovations to the review article. As a journal with an unconventional content, its Impact Factor and ranking tends to be more volatile than our conventional journals, and in 2017, the IF declined to 0.806, with a ranking of 118 out of 169 journals.

In late 2017 the Publications Subcommittee undertook a review of the current agreement and began negotiations with the incumbent publishers Palgrave. It was subsequently agreed to renew the contract on fresh terms

and this process will be complete by the end of 2018.

EJPR – Impact Factor and SSCI rankings

EJPR is the ECPR's longest-established journal and it continues to thrive. 2017 saw the number of submissions grow yet again, so the decision was taken to search for a third editor to join the editorial team – the call will be issued over the summer. In this year the number of citations also increased, returning an Impact Factor of 3.576 (up from 2.891 in 2016), placing EJPR sixth in the Social Sciences Citation Index.

EPSR – ten years of publishing

In 2018 the EPSR celebrates its 10th year of publishing. This journal continues to grow year on year in terms of submissions and citations, and also enjoyed an improved Impact Factor in 2017, up from 1.722 to 1.755.

Comparative Politics book series

One of the ECPR's longest-running publications, the Comparative Politics series, published in partnership with Oxford University Press, continues to publish a number of high-profile works each year.

EJIR – new editorial team

The *European Journal of International Relations* (EJIR) is the journal of one of our largest Standing Groups, and we are delighted to include it in this report.

A new editorial team, led by Geoffrey Underhill at the University of Amsterdam, took over the journal in January 2018 and the EJIR continues to be a leader in its field, with an Impact Factor of 2.545 and ranking 12 out of 85 in the IR index.

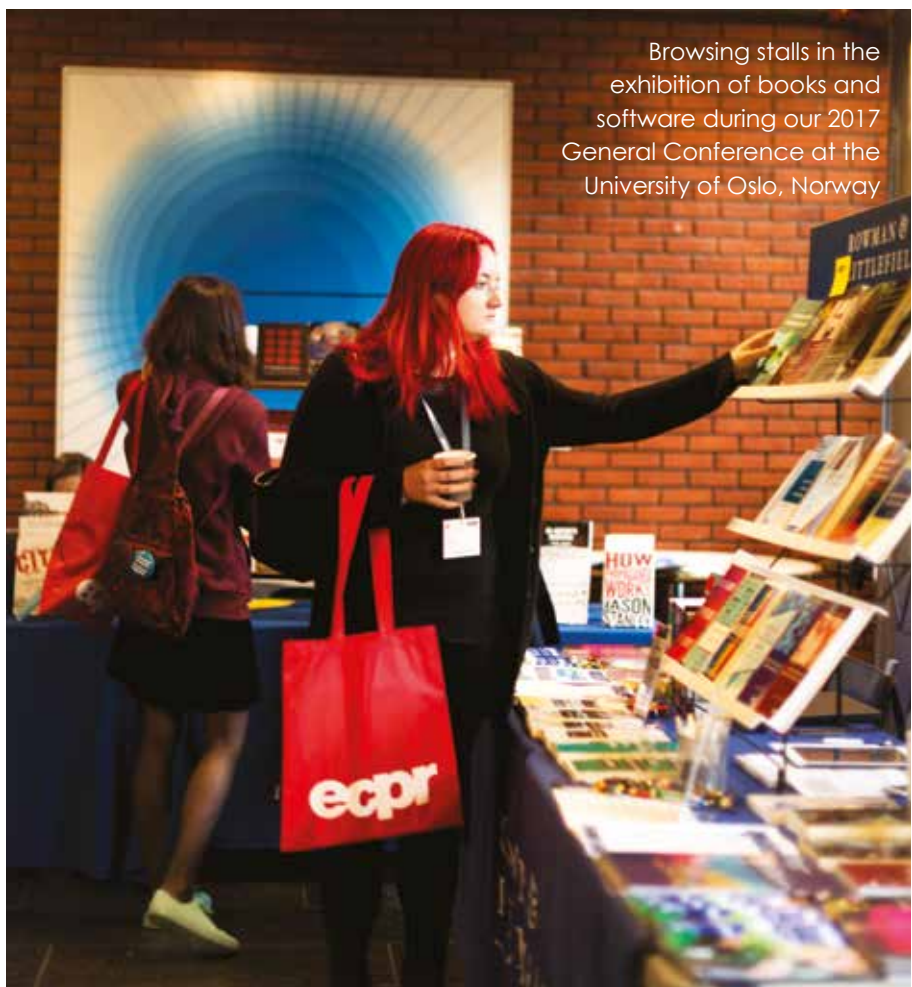
ECPR Press	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
New titles published across all series	23	11	16	20	9

Comparative Politics Series	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
New titles published	6	3	1	3	3

European Journal of Political Research – EJPR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Submissions	267	271	329	361	406
Rejection rate %	94.2	93	93.4	91.4	91.9
Impact Factor	2.152	2.508	2.525	2.891	3.576
SSCI ranking	8/156	7/161	9/163	13/165	6/169

European Political Science Review – EPSR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Submissions	134	142	133	152	199
Rejection rate %	58	56	75	68	73
Impact Factor	0.816	1.154	1.188	1.722	1.755
SSCI ranking	67/156	45/161	54/163	47/165	52/169

European Political Science – EPS	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Submissions	78	68	74	86	77
Rejection rate %	52.56	39.7	32.43	41.86	60
Impact Factor	0.794	0.705	0.553	1.292	0.806
SSCI ranking	69/156	84/161	113/163	68/165	118/169



Browsing stalls in the exhibition of books and software during our 2017 General Conference at the University of Oslo, Norway

Prizes

From distinguished scholars whose careers have been dedicated to the advancement of the discipline, to exceptional PhD students just beginning to make their mark in the field, the ECPR recognises achievement across the profession

The ECPR awards a number of prizes annually and biennially. Those awarded during the reporting period are listed below.

Stein Rokkan Prize for Comparative Social Science Research

Awarded annually by the International Social Science Council upon recommendation by the ECPR.

2018 – Rafaela Dancygier

Hedley Bull Prize in International Relations

New prize for a book which makes a substantial and original contribution in any field of International Relations.

2018 – Simon Curtis

Jean Blondel PhD Prize

Annual prize for the best PhD thesis in politics, awarded to an individual from a full member institution.

2017 – Verena Wisthaler

Rudolf Wildenmann Prize

Annual prize for the best Paper at the ECPR Joint Sessions of Workshops.

2017 – Dorothee Riese

EPS Prize

Awarded annually for the best article appearing in the professional journal, *European Political Science (EPS)*.

ECPR Chair Kris Deschouwer presents 2017 Rudolf Wildenmann prizewinner Dorothee Riese with her certificate during our 2018 Joint Sessions of Workshops at the University of Nicosia



2017 – Christopher Pallas and Charity Butcher

Cora Maas Award

Given annually for the best-evaluated course at our Summer Methods School.

2017 – Alenka Jelen-Sanchez

Dirk Berg-Schlosser Award

Awarded annually for outstanding pedagogy as a Teaching Assistant at the ECPR Method Schools.

2018 – Ioana-Elena Oana

Biennial awards not presented in 2018

ECPR Lifetime Achievement Award

For a scholar who has made an outstanding contribution to European political science.

Mattei Dogan Foundation Prize

Recognising contribution to political sociology.

Joni Lovenduski PhD Prize in Gender and Politics

Awarded by our Standing Group on Gender & Politics, for an outstanding PhD in the field.

Hans Daalder Prize

For the best Paper presented at the ECPR Graduate Student Conference. This prize is on hold while the Graduate Student event is being re-shaped.

Events

ECPR events provide opportunities to develop and share new research, to train in cutting-edge methodological techniques, and to hone key career skills. For members, reduced fees and funding opportunities make them all the more accessible

General Conference

The Hamburg General Conference looks set to be the largest ever, surpassing even the numbers seen in Reykjavik in 2011. Provisional numbers at the time of going to press put total registrations at over 2,500 across 78 Sections and 520 Panels. The table opposite shows a steady growth in demand for the Conference in terms of numbers of Sections and Papers, with the event becoming increasingly competitive to have a paper accepted; acceptance rates have fallen from 61% in Montreal to 52% in Oslo and 56% in Hamburg.

Joint Sessions of Workshops

The 2017 Joint Sessions in Nottingham saw a steep fall in the number of Workshops being proposed, compared to the very

popular Pisa JS in 2016. The 2018 event in Nicosia saw numbers recover slightly, with 78 Workshops proposed for the 30 places available. Paper proposals were close to Pisa figures, but Warsaw continues to be the most popular event in that respect during this reporting period. Overall, acceptance rates for papers have increased slightly, from 51% in Warsaw to 55% in Nicosia.

Methods School

Looking at the Methods School as a whole, set across the two locations, the total number of courses run had grown between 2015 and 2017, but fell in 2018. While the number of courses increased at the Winter School, they reduced by nine at the 2018 Summer School. These overall trends are not reflected in final participation at both schools, where attendance numbers have fluctuated over the period;

provisional figures for the Summer School predict similar participant numbers to 2017.

Graduate Student Event

The last Graduate Student Conference was held in 2016, after which the Executive Committee agreed to impose a hiatus while it reviewed the format of the event alongside other ECPR activities and its wider strategy for nurturing the 'new generation'. To inform its review, the EC invited a group of young scholars to Harbour House for a day of brainstorming and then issued a survey to past participants of the GSC. Bringing this research together, the EC is now working on a proposal for a brand-new event in 2020 which will focus more on the professional needs of young political scientists completing their PhDs and starting out on their careers in an international environment.

Welcome reception in Oslo's spectacular modern Opera House, during our 2017 General Conference



Participants attend the Welcome Address and Plenary Lecture in the historic University of Oslo Aula, during our 2017 General Conference



General Conference	Montreal 2015	Prague 2016	Oslo 2017	Hamburg 2018
Sections proposed	68	71	76	82
Sections accepted	61	67	72	78
Panels accepted	362	463	444	520
Papers proposed	2,200	3,171	3,511	4,144
Papers accepted	1,351	1,902	1,833	2,310
Participants registered online	1,344	2,011	2,024	2,538
Paid participants	1,336	2,004	2,005	2,446 at 28 June 2018
Signed in at event	1,214	1,880	1,885	tbc

Joint Sessions	Warsaw 2015	Pisa 2016	Nottingham 2017	Nicosia 2018
Workshops proposed	100	144	70	78
Workshops accepted	25	24	22	30
Papers proposed	824	766	674	730
Papers accepted	425	402	362	407
Total participants	472	482	393	462

Winter Methods School	Bamberg 2015	Bamberg 2016	Bamberg 2017	Bamberg 2018
Short courses	11	11	11	13
Main courses	27	27	26	28
Total courses run	38	38	39	43
Total Participants	402	381	390	13/165

Summer Methods School	Ljubljana 2015	Budapest 2016	Budapest 2017	Budapest 2018
Refresher courses	7	11	10	5
One-week courses	22	25	32	30
Two-week courses	7	6	5	5
Total courses run	36	42	48	39
Total participants	336	296	333	tbc
Seasoned Scholar participants	–	–	4	2

Total courses Summer & Winter Methods Schools	74	80	87	82
Total participants Summer & Winter Methods Schools	738	677	723	tbc

Standing Groups and Research Networks

Creating a network of political scientists throughout the world is an original and enduring aim of the ECPR. This is achieved most effectively through Standing Groups and Research Networks

As intrinsic parts of the organisation, the ECPR's Standing Groups and Research Networks represent the size, breadth and diversity of the ECPR, and play a vital role in achieving its mission.

Membership of SGs and RNs renews every two years, with the next renewal due this December. Overall, membership to SGs and RNs has grown by 3,220 between June 2017 and June 2018, with the largest growth in an established group in the Standing Group on the European Union, which gained 122 new members.

Since 2013, four new Standing Groups have been formed, bringing the total to 50.

The option to create Research Networks, which can have a different remit to Standing Groups, was established through

the 2014 Standing Group Framework and, to date, five new Networks have been formed. A list of new SGs and RNs formed since 2013–14 is in the table below.

Since the 2016–17 Activities Report, the Standing Groups on 'Political Economy and Welfare Politics' and 'Social Policy' have merged to form 'Political Economy and Welfare State Politics'; and 'Immigration and Ethnicity' has been renamed

as 'Migration and Ethnicity'.

2019 will mark five years since the Framework for governing the Groups and Networks was enacted. As required by the Framework, it is currently undergoing a formal review by the Executive Committee in consultation with the Standing Group Convenors. A revised Framework will be published in spring 2019.

	Standing Groups formed	Research Networks formed
2013–14	Elites and Political Leadership	
2014–15	Political Concepts	Voting Advice Applications
	Presidential Politics	Knowledge and Governance Food Policy and Governance
2015–16	Politics of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation	
2016–17		Political Communication
2017–18		Political Culture



Workshop at our 2017 Joint Sessions, University of Nicosia

American University's Robert Adcock teaches on the 'Historical Methods for Social Scientists' course during our 2018 Winter Methods School at Bamberg Graduate School of Social Sciences



SG / RN	Standing Group / Research Network name	Member count	
		2017	2018
SG	European Union	453	575
SG	Gender and Politics	447	521
SG	Political Parties	395	471
SG	International Relations	360	466
SG	Political Sociology	322	413
SG	Participation and Mobilisation	306	399
SG	Parliaments	297	366
SG	Political Methodology	264	353
SG	Comparative Political Institutions	254	352
SG	Political Theory	276	351
SG	Democratic Innovations	272	346
SG	Southern European Politics	306	345
SG	Extremism and Democracy	240	339
SG	Public Opinion and Voting Behaviour in a Comparative Perspective	248	322
SG	Environmental Politics	221	291
SG	Political Representation	242	290
SG	Elites and Political Leadership	239	281
SG	Central and East European Politics	212	270
SG	Local Government and Politics	211	268
SG	Regulatory Governance	225	267
SG	Citizenship	199	265
SG	Migration and Ethnicity	166	264
SG	Political Violence	180	248
SG	Teaching and Learning Politics	194	231
SG	Politics of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation	178	223
SG	Political Concepts	160	221
SG	International Political Theory	180	220

SG	Identity	161	219
RN	Knowledge and Governance	162	218
SG	Religion and Politics	179	218
SG	Political Economy	171	213
SG	Internet and Politics	161	211
SG	Federalism and Regionalism	167	210
SG	Political Psychology	147	207
SG	Interest Groups	163	203
SG	Human Rights and Transitional Justice	139	196
SG	Political Networks	125	181
SG	Critical Peace and Conflict Studies	112	178
SG	Theoretical Perspectives in Policy Analysis	103	168
RN	Political Communication	0	157
SG	Law and Courts	116	153
SG	Political Economy and Welfare State Politics	0	136
SG	Welfare Politics and Social Policy	110	135
SG	Kantian Political Thought	118	134
RN	Food Policy and Governance	82	127
SG	Presidential Politics	101	124
SG	Latin American Politics	96	121
SG	Organised Crime	94	114
SG	Young ECPR Network on Europeanisation (YEN)	78	106
RN	Voting Advice Applications	73	103
SG	South East Europe	80	98
SG	Analytical Politics and Public Choice	70	97
SG	Politics and Technology	66	87
SG	Politics and the Arts	62	81
RN	Political Culture	0	50

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Encouraging the training,
research, and cross-national
co-operation of political scientists

www.ecpr.eu

Principal Office

Harbour House
6–8 Hythe Quay
Colchester CO2 8JF
United Kingdom

Registered Charity Number 1167403
Charitable Incorporated Organisation