

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910258745803321
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Titolo	European Union - The Second Founding : : The Changing Rationale of European Integration // Ludger Kuhnhardt
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft mbH & Co. KG, 2008 Baden-Baden : , : Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft mbH & Co.- KG, , 2008
ISBN	3-8452-1028-1
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (671 p.)
Collana	Schriften des Zentrum für Europäische Integrationsforschung (ZEI)
Disciplina	341.242/2
Soggetti	International relations Europe Economic integration Political aspects History 20th century European Union countries Economic integration European Union countries Politics and government
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di contenuto	The second founding. From national identities to European constitutionalism ; Europe's constitution -- Challenge and response. 1957-1979, institutions consolidated ; 1979-1993, economies integrated ; 1993-2009, politics Europeanized -- Global setting. Transatlantic relations : the bonds that hold ; Globalization and the changing rationale for European integration ; The global proliferation of region-building -- Ideas, norms, theories. Searching in vain : why European integration did not work earlier ; "For the sake of Europe" : prevailing normative disputes ; Academic evaluation : theorizing European integration -- Prospects. Toward European patriotism? ; Defining Europe's global interests.
Sommario/riassunto	The author is presenting a broadly structured study about the first fifty years of European integration, its geopolitical context and academic reflection. His study is based on the two-fold thesis that since a few years, the European Union is going through a process of its Second Founding while simultaneously changing its rationale.