



In the framework of the *Professional Training on EU Affairs* – PONT project, co-funded by the ERASMUS+/Jean Monnet Programme, TEPSA is organising a 5-day seminar at the heart of EU politics, in Brussels. The seminar offers an opportunity to 20 Master students from different national and disciplinary backgrounds to gain first-hand insights into the political dynamics shaping EU asylum and migration policies and the EU's response to the recent migratory crisis.

Objective and impact of the seminar

The main objective of the Working Europe Seminar is to deepen the knowledge of Master students on EU political processes by providing them first-hand knowledge on the roles and functions of the EU institutions in view of the on-going migratory crisis.

By attending this seminar, participants will be able to:

- Acquire and deepen their knowledge on EU politics in the field of asylum and migration policies, gaining valuable insights into the practicalities of Brussels policy-making
- Meet high level professionals from the EU institutions and learn from their experience
- Improve their analytical and argumentative skills
- Meet and exchange views with students from different disciplinary and national backgrounds from all over the EU and beyond
- Enhance their employability

Dates, location and format of the seminar

The seminar is a 5-day event. It will be held in Brussels from **Monday 4 April 14h00 to Friday 8 April 15h00**. Prior to the start of the programme, participants will be asked to read relevant literature and draft a written assignment that will be integrated in the training programme. Full participation to all elements of the programme is compulsory. Participants will receive a certificate of attendance on the final day of the programme.

The five seminar days in Brussels will largely be devoted to visiting practitioners from several EU institutions, think tanks and NGOs involved in the field of asylum and migration policies. Experts from the field will be invited to give introductory talks to the students, complementing the readings students will do prior to the start of the course. Consequently, students will get an overview of the different actors and interests involved in the asylum and migration policies and the complexity of negotiating satisfactory solutions.

On the last day of the seminar, students will be asked to combine the theoretical and practical insights they gained during the week in a simulation game. The exercise will simulate EU Council negotiations on EU asylum and migration policy, in which students will perform the role of national representatives. They will each prepare the position of the country assigned to them and will try to develop strategies for pursuing their interest in the discussion. The simulation game will be assessed by experts and afterwards each student will receive individual feedback on her/his performance. Students will thus be able to comprehend the complex character of EU negotiations and improve their argumentative skills.



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The training seminar is organised by TEPSA and will be lead and coordinated by Prof Jaap W. de Zwaan, Emeritus Professor of European Union Law at Erasmus University Rotterdam and Lector European Integration at the Hague University of Applied Sciences, who has expertise and experience in the field of asylum and migration policy both as diplomat and as academic. During the sessions with Prof Dr de Zwaan, the meetings with practitioners will be discussed and evaluated in light of the topic of the seminar and contrasted with the academic literature.

Target group and application procedure

The PONT Seminar on EU Asylum and Migration Policies is designed as an interdisciplinary seminar and is open for twenty outstanding Master students in European Studies, Law, Economics, Politics, Regional Studies, Sociology, Development Studies and related fields.

Participants will be selected by a review committee. To apply please send 1) your CV; 2) motivation letter explaining your research focus and interest in the seminar; 3) university transcripts (official record of course results); and if possible one letter of reference to mariam.khotenashvili@tepsa.eu. Non-EU citizens are also encouraged to apply. The deadline for applications is **7 March 2016**. Applicants will be informed about the decision of the review committee on **14 March 2016**.

The participation fee for the total 5-day seminar amounts to € 100. This fee includes all training and documentation as indicated in the programme. Participants can receive a reimbursement for their travel costs up to € 250. All other expenses, like accommodation, are to be covered by other sources or by the participants themselves.

After the selection decision has been communicated, participants will have ten days to transfer the participation fee. Failure to do so in time will result in exclusion from the training.

About the PONT project

PONT (Professional Training on EU Affairs) is a project that aims to provide a bridge connecting young academics and EU practitioners, in order to improve the employability of young researchers. The project is planned to take place within three years, starting with two trainings in 2016.

PONT enhances teaching and training activities in selected policy fields, with the common objective to give young academics the opportunity to develop their professional skills and prepare themselves for taking up a job in political administration, the EU institutions, NGOs, academic institutions or think tanks across Europe. Two main branches of the project are the Working Europe seminars for students and the Three Career Skills Trainings for young professionals.

More information can be found at <http://www.tepsa.eu/new-tepsa-project-professional-training-on-eu-affairs-pont>

About TEPSA

The Trans European Policy Studies Association, TEPSA was established in 1974 as the first trans-European research network. It comprises leading research institutes in the field of European affairs throughout Europe, with an office in Brussels. Its aim is to provide high quality research on European integration in order to stimulate discussion on policies and political options for Europe. This is achieved by interaction between the European and national institutions as well as the academic and research community. TEPSA is active on a wide range of research topics. Its main focus is on the issues of 'deepening', with a special emphasis on the institutional architecture, and the 'widening' of the EU, particularly the past and future enlargement rounds and the European Neighbourhood Policy.

More information on our activities can be found at <http://www.tepsa.eu/>



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