

Welcome to EXACT

Marie Curie Partner Project of MERCURY



Dear readers,
Welcome to the first newsletter of EXACT, the partner training network of MERCURY.

EXACT is a Marie Curie Initial Training Network providing an EU wide Ph.D. and professional training programme for twelve young researchers and professionals in the field of EU External Action. In the period from October 2010 to September 2013 nine European network partners will implement a training approach that intends to bridge the gap between Ph.D. training within academia on the one hand and concrete practical demands from potential employers in consulting and advisory circles on the other.

This newsletter will inform you about the work of the consortium as well as the activities of the EXACT fellows. You will find out that EXACT has recruited a group of twelve highly talented university graduates from all over the world with different academic backgrounds relevant to EU foreign policy such as political science, law and economics. These EXACT fellows will benefit from a 36 month integrated curriculum, provided in three phases:

Three phases of training

Phase I (October 2010 - February 2011) concentrates on academic training at the University of Cologne that aims at imparting basic knowledge

about EU External Action and its institutional architecture in an interdisciplinary context.

Phase II (March 2011 - March 2012) allows the fellows to spend two stages at partner think tanks. This phase concentrates on professional skills and serves as an opportunity to gain work experience.

Phase III (April 2012 - September 2013) focuses on local Ph.D. training at one University involved and shall provide the framework for finalising the individual research projects leading to a joint Ph.D. degree ('co-tutelle') of two universities.



Being partner projects, EXACT and MERCURY share not only key partner institutions such as the Universities of Cologne, Edinburgh, and Prague and the support by the European Commission, they also share a complementary research focus on various aspects of the EU's foreign policy in the contemporary global order. By integrating students at an early stage of their career into well established research structures, MERCURY and EXACT provide an innovative alliance of excellent research and high class training.

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Editorial Staff:
Leonhard den Hertog,
Miguel Haubrich Seco,
Markus Krischer, Wulf Reiners

From today on, the EXACT newsletter will be published twice a year. With contributions mostly drafted by the EXACT fellows themselves, it will report on the EXACT training events and introduce you to the participants of the programme as well as the involved partner institutions. In order to reflect the cultural and social experiences resulting from the international composition of the group and its mobility, the newsletter will also dedicate some space to personal impressions of the fellows.

This first issue highlights our work during the first three months of training, ranging from the EXACT kickoff event, the Initial Conference, to the intensive Ph.D. course programme and the EXACT study visits and conference participations. We hope you will enjoy keeping track of our achievements and following the group of EXACT fellows on their path through Europe.

Wulf Reiners
(EXACT Programme Director)

Wolfgang Wessels
(EXACT Co-ordinator)

EXACT at the TEPSA pre-presidency Conference in Budapest

On 2 and 3 December 2010 the EXACT fellows attended the TEPSA Pre-Presidency conference, organised by the Hungarian Institute for World Economics (IWE) in collaboration with TEPSA and THESEUS at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Budapest.

The conference focused on the new challenges and priorities for the EU during the upcoming Hungarian Council presidency.

EU presidency of Hungary

In the opening session the welcome remarks of hosting organizer András Inotai (IWE Director, Hungary) and TEPSA Secretary-General Jean-Paul Jacqué were followed by the TEPSA recommendations to the Hungarian EU Council presidency. These focused on nine policy areas: the European economic governance; competitiveness and the EU 2020 strategy; the area of freedom, security and justice; immigration issues; the solidarity clause (article 222 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU); the European External Action Service; the Danube strategy; enlargement and neighbourhood policy.

Seven workshops

The conference was structured into seven workshops focusing on the institutional innovations of the Lisbon

treaty, the European economic governance and future financial perspectives for the EU, future enlargement and the Eastern Partnership, the EU 2020 Strategy, the Danube Strategy and recent developments in the area of freedom, security and justice. The EXACT fellows actively participated in all workshops and compiled the final TEPSA conference report, which is now available on the TEPSA website.

Dinner on the Danube

The fellows had the opportunity to mingle and network with academics and professionals working in all TEPSA networks of institutions and think tanks across Europe. On a more exciting note, EXACT fellows together with the other participants had a memorable dinner on a cruise on the river Danu-

be, which offered a holistic view of the Hungarian capital, naturally divided by the Danube and interconnected by beautifully decorated bridges. Overall, fellows were impressed with Pre-presidency conference and the opportunity it offered for networking.

Marco Siddi &
James Nyomakwah-Obimpeh



Dana Depo contributed on the Danube Strategy.



Jean-Paul Jacqué, Secretary General of TEPSA gave his welcoming words to the audience.



The historic Congress Hall in the castle district served as the venue. The seven workshops covered a wide range of topics, from economic governance to the Danube Strategy.

Inside EXACT: Trans European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA)



In each issue the newsletter presents one of the nine EXACT partner institutions. The first institution featured is TEPSA, one of the two Brussels-based think tanks of the network. TEPSA is not only the host of three EXACT fellows from March to October 2011, and another three from November 2011 to March 2012, TEPSA is also the home for some of the EXACT Visiting Scientists. Furthermore, TEPSA is the lead partner for the network seminar on professional skills in October 2011.

TEPSA is a multinational network comprising 32 members. It aims at accomplishing its goals of analysis, assessment and advice, which have been the major guidelines for the activities of the TEPSA network in the past years.

Following this approach, TEPSA provides high quality research on European integration in order to stimulate discussions on policies and political options for Europe. TEPSA has been established in 1974 with the goal to "study or organize research on problems relating to the development of European integration, based on human rights and democracy, to propose solutions, and to promote their taking into consideration by institutions, both private and public, at national or Community level, and to diffuse the results of its work." The main channel for transferring ideas and results of research from the national to the European level and vice versa is TEPSA's member institutes which operate independently but in line with TEPSA's goals on the national and transnational level. The Trans European Policy Studies Association exemplifies

the „bottom-up approach to European governance, contributes to the EU's dialogue with citizens and reaches out to an informed debate in member states and applicant countries. The activity of the TEPSA network has been accompanied over the past decades by a broad and target-group oriented communication and dissemination strategy. This includes a regular newsletter, publications and the TEPSA website. TEPSA especially benefits from the "Europe for Citizens" Programme and therefore puts emphasis on the creation of stronger links between the European Union, its citizens, and the contribution of research and think tanks to this process by stimulating debate.

EXACT & MERCURY in Edinburgh

The University of Edinburgh is one of the three partner universities of EXACT and will host seven of the PhD-students during the course of the program.

This was one of the reasons for the fellows to visit Edinburgh in the beginning of December 2010. The trip offered the students the possibility to get to know their future university environment as well as to obtain an insight on the current research carried out in Edinburgh.

Warm welcome

The group was welcomed by Charlie Jeffrey and John Peterson as well as by other high-ranking members of the School of Social and Political Science. They all pronounced the high international ranking of the research being made in Edinburgh and the strong interdisciplinary approach, linking for instance research in EU law and politics. EXACT fellows studying in Edinburgh will have the opportunity to take part in the research training of the graduate school and to gain teaching experience in the undergraduate program.

MERCURY Morning

The University of Edinburgh is engaged in a number of international research projects on the European Union. John Peterson presented one of the largest surveys on Commission officials so far, offering an original dataset which will provide primary source material for detailed analysis of the Commission. Furthermore, the EXACT partner project MERCURY is being coordinated in Edinburgh: Mark Aspinwall, Chad Damro and Nur Abdelkhalik presented

recent deliverables of the project which aims at examining critically the European Union's contribution to multilateralism.

The EXACT fellows enjoyed the beautiful city of Edinburgh and took part in a guided tour through the ancient castle. While the majority of them will spend some time in Edinburgh for their studies, the other fellows already announced to visit them in this beautiful city.

Niklas Helwig



EXACT-Fellows in Edinburgh with Professor John Peterson and his team

Study trip to Brussels – A View from Within

In October 2010, the Marie Curie PhD fellows undertook a 5-day study trip to Brussels. In the beginning of the trip, the fellows had the opportunity to get to know the staff and premises of one of the EXACT partner Institutions Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS).

Piotr M. Kaczynski, Research Fellow in the Politics and Institutions Unit at CEPS, gave an introduction on the work of think tanks in general and of CEPS in particular. Thereafter, Marco Incerti, Research Fellow and Head of Communications, presented the think tank's communication and dissemination strategies.

EXACT Visiting Scientist

This was followed by a two-day seminar on „Professional Approaches to Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP)“ held by one of the four EXACT visiting scientists Dr. Elfriede Regelsberger. Dr. Regelsberger gave a brief overview of the current developments and trends in the area of CFSP. The main part of the seminar consisted of group interviews with EU policy officials and PSC ambassadors. The interviews focused on the post-Lisbon institutional set-up and the CFSP policy agenda and priorities. During the interviews, it became clear that the CFSP institutions are currently going through an important transition period. The interviewees reported on the developments and challenges in setting up the EU External Action Service, the work and tasks of the High Representative and the changing role of the rotating Presidency. The Strategic Partnerships, the European Neighbourhood Policy, and the further development of the Common Security and Defence Policy were mentioned as priority items on the CFSP agenda.

Wearing glasses of a scientist

The trip ended with the seminar by Dr. Anne Faber, also EXACT visiting scientist on „Questions and Theoretical Approaches to EU External Action“. The discussion focused on the conceptualization of the EU as a research object, inter-disciplinary approaches to EU studies, philosophy of science and key methodological principles. As part

of the seminar, early stage researchers participated in a conference presenting the findings of the FP7 Collaborative Project titled „Multi-Stakeholder Part-



Miguel Haubrich Seco

miguel.haubrich-seco@
exact-training.net



The unique combination of academic research and of the policy-oriented work in the think tanks has convinced me of embarking on the EXACT adventure.

My interests lie both in the efforts that the EU is putting into becoming a stronger global player as well as in the impact that EU foreign policy has on third states. This is also the goal of my PhD project, in which I study how the EU tries to export its model of regional integration. EXACT allows me to look at this both from the day-to-day view of practice as well as from the academic perspective.

But **the perspective** on the EU will not only be twofold. As I share work and offices with colleagues from all over Europe and beyond, all of them with diverging backgrounds, more views and enriching discussions (luckily not only on the EU!) come together almost by themselves. It is this enriching environment that I have enjoyed most so far.

I look forward to adding further perspectives in Rome, Brussels and Prague!

nerships in (post)Conflict Reconstruction: The Role of the European Union“ (Multipart).

During these five days in Brussels, the EXACT fellows thus had the opportunity to view the EU through different lenses. Starting with those advising the EU, continuing with a view from within the EU both from the administrative and national standpoint, and finally wearing the glasses of the social scientist.

Nicole Koenig

Dana Depo

dana.depo@
exact-training.net



Who am I? I am a motivated PhD student from Ukraine and I am privileged to be called EXACT Marie Curie Fellow. I have obtained 1 BA diploma and 2 MA diplomas, one from the College of Europe Natolin and one from Kyiv National University (Major International Law).

What I am working on? I am working on the Eastern Dimension of EU External Relations, namely the Eastern Partnership. This topic is of high interest for me as my future career will be about developing the cooperation between the Eastern Partnership region and the EU.

Why I am on the programme? I believe that every young person has to discover his/her high potential. Sometimes we need guidelines from professionals and an inspiring environment to explore the world and contribute to its improvement. EXACT offers this perfect combination. Within the programme high level experts are supporting me in my academic challenges. EXACT is also about training at leading European think-tanks where we put our knowledge in practice. Finally, it contributes to exploring other countries, peoples and cultures while learning about their understanding of the EU.

EXACT Initial Conference

The Initial EXACT Conference took place at the University of Cologne on the 21 and 22 October 2010.

The event served to both officially launch the EXACT programme and to stimulate debate around the topic "New challenges for academic research in area of EU External Action". It was attended by the twelve EXACT fellows and representatives from participating universities and think tanks as well as visiting scientists.

During the round-table discussion par-

ticipants were given the opportunity to highlight the issues they considered most salient with regard to academic research Post-Lisbon. The discussion largely centred on EU strategic partnerships, the newly obtained legal personality of the EU in external relations, external perceptions of the EU and coherence after the Lisbon Treaty. The subsequent double PhD ceremony was opened by the Dean of the Faculty of Management and Professor Schulz-Nieswandt and included

Professor Lenka Rovna, Vice-dean of the Department of West European Studies of the Charles University, Professor Charlie Jeffrey from the Department of Politics and International Relations of the University of Edinburgh, and Professor Angelika Nussberger Vice-Rector for international affairs at the University of Cologne.

Polish Secretary of State

A private lecture by Mikolaj Dowgielewicz, Secretary of State for European Affairs at the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on "The European Union after the Lisbon Treaty" then followed. Finally, all participants were invited to attend a dinner in the historical centre of Cologne. The following day, a "meet and greet" session was organised during which the fellows received feedback on their PhD topics and discovered the ins-and-outs of their research placements.

Vanessa Boas



Polish Secretary of State, Mikolaj Dowgielewicz, and Prof. Wolfgang Wessels during Mr. Dowgielewicz' lecture.

Dear EXACT Fellows,

after five months of intensive, sometimes exhausting but hopefully inspiring training at the University of Cologne, the first phase of EXACT is coming to an end. There was too little time for the most of you to get to know the city and the university in every detail, but we're optimistic that you can take a lot of positive impressions with you. It was a great pleasure to work and discuss with you. The first months have shown that EXACT is a great offer, at the same time it demands a lot from you. Let us encourage you to continue with high investments both in academic and in professional terms, experience has shown that the programme will pay off! The privilege to have you with us at the Jean Monnet Chair – as a group and as individuals – was an exceptional joy, exciting and stimulating, and we wish you all the best for the next steps out there in Europe.

Wolfgang Wessels & Wulf Reiners

Mail from Cologne



From: leonhard.den-hertog@exact-training.net

Subject: Carnival in Cologne

One of the central elements in the life of every EXACT Fellow is the constant moving around Europe: mobility. This section highlights personal experiences of fellows in foreign lands...

All fellows were in Cologne for the first five months of the EXACT Programme. During this period the 'locals' amongst the fellows were of great help to introduce the others to the city's secrets. One of these is Carnival day in November.

Any oblivious visitor will be shocked: the usually quiet and well-behaving people of Cologne are given a carte blanche for one day in November to show a different side altogether. On this day it is not about blending in with the crowd but rather about standing out.

Hard working people with conservative haircuts turn into a party folk for which the extravagance of the costume is of prime importance. The locals amongst the fellows showed the way by dressing up as rabbit or with a Venetian mask. This example was soon followed by the other fellows whose appearances ranged from Santa Claus to a monk. Although the local water (Kölsch) was in strong demand that day, the people of Cologne showed their best side of friendliness, respect and (perhaps most of all) desire to enjoy life. The vivid and welcoming atmosphere on Heumarkt, the streets and in cafes was truly enjoyable. All of us gained an unforgettable and fuller understanding of the city and its people on that day.

EXACT is a Marie Curie Initial Training Network on EU External Action. It comprises of the following Partners:

University of Cologne, Charles University Prague, University of Edinburgh, Centre for European Policy Studies, Trans European Policy Studies Association, European Institute of Public Administration, Finnish Institute of International Affairs, Istituto Affari Internazionali, Institute for World Economics.

