

“A changed Europe?” - TEPESA Conference in Copenhagen



Cross section of the conference, TEPESA in Copenhagen, 9 December 2011

Several EXACT fellows participated in the TEPESA Pre-Presidency Conference held from 8-9 December 2011 at the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS) in Copenhagen. With its regular conferences at the beginning of each new EU Council Presidency, the TEPESA network feeds the proposals of European think tanks into the presidencies' policy agenda.

Nanna Hvidt, the Director of DIIS, opened the conference. In her introductory remarks, she gave an overview of the goals that the Danish Presidency should pursue. This was followed by a keynote address by Per Fabricius Andersen, Deputy Head of Department at the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In his speech, he highlighted the challenges the Danish Presidency is likely to face given the difficult socio-economic and political environment within and outside the EU and how the Presidency could handle them.

The conference afterwards discussed six recommendations

for the Danish Council Presidency elaborated by the TEPESA network of European think tanks. These recommendations cover improvements to the governance of the euro zone, considerations on multi-speed Europe and the financial perspectives, on the EU's external policy, enlargement and the Eastern Partnership and on the environmental and climate negotiations.

Two workshops considered the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy and differentiated membership of the EU, while three plenary sessions focused on the EU budget as a driver for growth towards achieving the Europe 2020 goals, the future of the Euro and the EU and the “Arab Spring”, respectively.

The PPC conference also featured an interview session with Niels Helveg Petersen, former Danish Minister of Economic Affairs and former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Richard Youngs, Director General at FRIDE. This interview session considered Europe's Crisis and the

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Leonhard den Hertog, Miguel Haubrich Seco, Frederic Spohr, Aline Bartenstein, Wulf Reiners

Happy Birthday, EXACT!

With the recent turn of the year our Marie Curie network could celebrate its second birthday and the consortium is more than glad how the project developed since January 2010. After some preparatory months to find the feet and to fledge, a group



of fantastic Marie Curie Fellows, a set of inspiring Visiting Scientists and a countless number of joint training activities made EXACT grow and prosper enormously. There might be hardly any other being having travelled the world that extensively at such an early age! A positive proof that EXACT – an abbreviation for External Action – lives up to its name. Naturally, the team in Cologne is following EXACT on its way to come of age with mixed feelings. Proud of what has been achieved (and relieved that the sleepless nights are over), but also conscious of the teenage phase ahead! Seriously, we are very much looking forward to the next phases of the joint EXACT endeavour and we are confident that they will be as successful and joyful as the past two years.

Wulf Reiners
EXACT Project Director

prospects for renewal in 2012.

The Copenhagen conference ended with concluding remarks by Wolfgang Wessels, Jean Monnet

Chairholder at the University of Cologne and Chairman of the TEPSA Board and Nanna Hvidt who recounted the various discussions and main issues elaborated during

the conference.

James Nyomakwa-Obimpeh

EXACT Fellows participate in FIIA panel on the EU and its Neighbourhood

Leonhard den Hertog

In September 2011, four EXACT fellows visited the Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA) to participate in a workshop on 'The EU and its Neighbourhood – Current Challenges and Conflicts'. The initiative was taken by the EXACT fellow Marlene Gottwald, who was at that time working in Helsinki. Together with her colleagues from FIIA she organised a very interesting programme, also giving the opportunity to meet local researchers and visit the Finnish Parliament.

The workshop was divided in two sessions: the Eastern and Southern dimension. In the former session EXACT fellow Marco Siddi spoke about protracted conflicts in the post-Soviet space and EXACT fellow Vanessa Boas discussed EU-Belarusian relations. They received helpful comments from Mrs Kristi Raik, a FIIA expert on the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood. The discussions showed the difficulties

the EU has in creating leverage to respond to the challenges in the East.

In the second session, the EXACT fellows Leonhard den Hertog and Niklas Helwig presented some of their research on respectively the EU's reaction to the migration movements from North Africa following the 'Arab Spring' and the response of High Representative Lady Ashton to the revolution and unrest. Both presentations indicated that Europe's response had been divided and dominated by different, and sometimes opposing, forces in Brussels and the European capitals. They received excellent comments by Mrs Eija Rotinen, also FIIA researcher and former ambassador.

Additionally, the EXACT fellows had the possibility to attend Prof. Andrew Moravcsik's lecture, who was invited to give a speech at the European Studies Day at the University of Helsinki.

Andreas Raspotnik

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The Arctic region is not the most "sexy" topic for policy considerations and scientific research. Yet it is an area of increasing political, economic and social relevance. My PhD project will analyse the EU's approach to Arctic issues aiming to find an answer to the EU's impact on that remote area beyond the Union's border.



By now my academic career has brought me from Vienna (BA in History, MA in Political Science), via Tromsø (LL.M in Law of the Sea and the Arctic) to Cologne.

Privileged to be a new EXACT Marie Curie Fellow, the programme offers me the opportunity to do extensive research on my topic of interest and gain valuable work experience in an inspiring environment of a European think-tank. But most importantly, EXACT is about networking and working with colleagues and friends with visions and ideas. In that regard I will be part of the TEPSA team from April until September 2012 and afterwards join other EXACT fellows in Cologne and Edinburgh.

Interested in the question of the EU's role in the Arctic? Read my considerations on www.thearcticinstitute.org

See you in Cologne, Brussels or Edinburgh!!

Selected Publications

Koenig, Nicole (2011), 'The EU and the Libyan Crisis - In Quest of Coherence', *The International Spectator*, vol. 46 no. 4, pp. 11-30.

Siddi, Marco, „The Russian ‚other‘. The impact of national identity construction on EU-Russia relations“, in: Ratka, Edmund/ Spaiser, Olga (Eds): *The European Union and Its Neighbourhoods: Concepts, Constructions and Strategies of European Foreign Policy*, *Münchener Beiträge zur europäischen Einigung*, Volume 22, NOMOS Publishers, forthcoming 2012.

R.A. Wessel and A.P.L. den Hertog, 'EU Foreign, Security and Defence Policy: a Competence-Responsibility Gap?' in: M. Evans and P. Koutrakos (ed.) *International Responsibility: EU and International Perspectives* (Oxford, Hart Publishing), forthcoming 2012.

Alcaro, Riccardo and Haubrich Seco, Miguel (eds.), 'Re-thinking Western Policies in Light of the Arab Uprising', Rome (Edizioni Nuova Cultura), forthcoming 2012.

Exact Fellows attend Graduate Conference in Jerusalem

In December, five EXACT fellows participated in the 7th Annual Graduate Conference at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The conference gathered PhD students from all around the world, who discussed and exchanged their research results. Vanessa Boas and Dana Depo participated in a workshop on the Political Economy of Transition in the Middle East and North Africa, while Niklas Helwig, Leonhard den Hertog and Miguel Haubrich Seco contributed to a panel on the European Union as a Global Actor.

The intensive workshop created a space for fruitful discussion and exchange of ideas as the group was small and the participants very advanced in

their research. The workshop was led by Prof. Etel Solingen from the University of California, Irvine, and Prof. Alfred Tovias from the Hebrew University (and EXACT Visiting Scientist). Both provided us with a number of individual practical advices and academic encouragement. As a result, the one day workshop has brought us intensive feedback on our work, academic friends, and inspiration to continue.

While shorter in length than the workshop, also the panel on the EU as a Global Actor was characterised by the high level of the feedback and comments provided by the two commentators, Dr. Galia Press-Barnathan and Dr. Sharon Pardo. It is certainly

this level of commitment and informed assessment that makes the graduate conference at the Hebrew University a worthwhile and rewarding visit for any PhD student.

The conference was further enriched by a cultural component, as the organisers offered the participants an excursion around the old city of Jerusalem, the Masada Mountain, the Dead Sea, and Qumran. Apart from the conference, the visit to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories allowed us to get to know better one of the regions with most influence on EU foreign policy.

**Dana Depo and
Miguel Haubrich Seco**

Mail from Budapest

Kafkaesque bureaucracy and a picturesque city

In early November, I arrived in Budapest together with another EXACT researcher, Leonhard den Hertog. The two of us are the only fellows that are spending part of the EXACT professional phase in one of the “new” Central-Eastern European EU member states. After eight months in Brussels, we both thought that the stay in Budapest would help us get out of our routine and make new exciting experiences.

Our routine was indeed broken, but not really the way we had expected. Instead of going to our research institute, we had to tour immigration, tax, municipal and social security offices, where we kept hearing that we needed additional documents, as well as witnesses confirming that

the documents were authentic. We felt a little bit like K. in Franz Kafka's *The Castle*.



Thanks to the precious help of our colleagues at the institute, we managed to overcome the multiple bureaucratic hurdles by early December and start a quasi-normal life - I say “quasi” because the local bureaucracy still looms over our heads.

Luckily, Budapest's beautiful cafés and ruin pubs, its magnificent castle district and the excellent transportation network sweetened our breaks between one office and the next. We now look full of optimism at the rest of our stay here - amidst anti-Orbán demonstrations and Hungary's

economic crisis, we can't afford to be pessimistic!

Marco Siddi

Upcoming Events

1st - 4th April 2012

ISA Annual Convention, San Diego. With Marlene Gottwald.

3rd - 5th May 2012

The European Union in International Affairs III, Brussels. With Simon Stroß.

20th - 22nd June 2012

2012 International BISA-ISA conference, Edinburgh. With Simon Stroß and Miguel Haubrich Seco.

THESEUS Conference - Revive or Divide Europe?

Marlene Gottwald

The EXACT fellows currently working at TEPSA – Nicole Koenig, James Nyomakwa-Obimpeh and Marlene Gottwald – provided background papers for a conference that assessed the current state of the EU and how to leave the murky waters of the crisis. The conference took place on 24-25 November as part of the THESEUS project and was organised by the Jean Monnet Chair of Prof. Wessels under the responsibility of Mirja Schroeder.

The THESEUS event brought together academics and

practitioners from across Europe to discuss current and future challenges for Europe. Renowned speakers as A. Grosser, B. Kohler-Koch and H. Wallace analysed the Franco-German leadership, how to solve the sovereign debt crisis affecting the Eurozone, the new institutional balance within the EU and the EU's external action two years after the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty.

Significantly, most of the discussions were driven by the consequences of the crisis in the Eurozone which continues to be the greatest challenge for

the EU - affecting almost every field of EU policy-making in- and outside the Monetary Union. Closing two days of intensive and lively discussions, the concluding remarks by Prof. Jacqué and Prof. Wessels summed up the debates in one essential question on the future of European integration: "Revive or divide Europe?"

(A detailed report on the conference and the background papers will soon be made available at: www.theseus-europe.net).



THESEUS

Inside EXACT: 'EIPA'

Simon Stroß

The European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA) was established in Maastricht in 1981 and has centres in Luxembourg and Barcelona. It is one of Europe's leading centres of excellence on European integration and the new challenges for public management.

It is EIPA's mission to support the European Union and its Member States as well as the countries associated with the institute by providing relevant and high quality services to develop the capacities of public officials in dealing with EU affairs. EIPA offers its services to officials in the EU institutions and in related bodies, and to civil servants within the national and regional administrations of the Member States, applicant countries and other countries in the framework of their relationship with the EU. The European Commission supports EIPA through the European Union budget.

To fulfil its mission, EIPA works along three lines: Learning & Development, Consultancy and Research. The training activities are complemented and enriched with applied research and consultancy missions, and are of benefit to national and regional public administrations, as well as to the European institutions. EIPA's work contributes towards a better knowledge of the European integration process and European policies, whilst

In each issue the newsletter presents one of the nine EXACT partner institutions. The institution presented, EIPA, is based in Maastricht and hosted already two EXACT fellows between March and October 2011. EXACT fellow Simon Stroß joined the team in November 2011.

strengthening the capacity of public servants to perform effectively in this area.

EIPA's seminars and training courses address the latest developments and upcoming challenges in key areas of European affairs and public management, for example, the challenges posed by new European legislation, procedures or initiatives. They offer participants the possibility to share in practice-oriented discussions with leading experts and counterparts from other countries and institutions. The training courses are short and to the point; intensive and interactive. Most participants aim to update knowledge and deepen their understanding of the European environment in which they operate and the particular policy areas they need to master.



James Nyomakwa-Obimpeh

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James holds a double master's degree in Public Administration and Public Policy from the University of York (UK) and the Central European University (Hungary) respectively. He earned these degrees in the framework of the EU-funded Erasmus Mundus Programme (MUNDUS MAPP). Preceding his studies in Europe, he had graduated in Political Science from the University of Ghana where he also worked as Teaching and Research Assistant at the Department of Political Science, tutoring undergraduate courses in Foreign Policy Analysis and Ethnicity in Ghanaian Politics.

Currently, James is pursuing a joint PhD from University of Cologne (Germany) and University of Edinburgh (UK) within the EXACT Programme. His research interest borders on analysing the EU's relations with the African, Caribbean and the Pacific countries – with special interest in trade and development cooperation policies.

In November 2011, James started working with the Brussels-based think tank TEPSA. Previously he worked for the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA) in Maastricht, Netherlands.

EXACT Network Seminar on Professional Skills

Niklas Helwig

A researcher at an early stage of his or her career needs to develop a whole range of skills to be successful. While profound research remains essential, the requirements for the job market of young researchers have broadened. Ideally, they need to be able to communicate their research via various channels, to apply for funding and to manage large scale research projects. Boosting those and others skills was the purpose of a 14-day seminar in collaboration with the Trans European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA) held in Brussels last October. Eight additional participants from across Europe joined the twelve EXACT fellows for the intensive training.

The two weeks schedule was filled to the top with assignments and sessions on inter alia policy brief writing, project funding and organisation, job interview training and personal development.

“We wanted to give the participants the opportunity to learn directly from the practitioners that have been around in Brussels and in the research community for decades”, explains Hanna Ojanen from the Finnish Institute for International Affairs, Exact Visiting Scientist and Scientific Director of the seminar. “The feedback of the students and the reactions of the lecturers show that this was a fruitful exercise for everyone involved.”

Indeed, the discussions with the ‘old hands’ of the business, like Antonio Missiroli, Angela Liberatore, Graham



Avery (all European Commission), Rafal Trzaskowski (MEP), Peter Burgess (Peace Research Institute Oslo) or Hiski Haukkala (University of Tampere), gave valuable insights into future work environments.

A highlight for the participants was the two-day media training carried out by the former speaker of Javier Solana, Cristina Gallach, in collaboration with radio journalist Kurt Gerhard (WDR). The group could make use of the premises and TV studios of the Commission, European Parliament and the Council to simulate expert interviews and press conferences. The instant feedback as well as the experiences shared by the trainers helped to improve the communication skills of the participants.

This EXACT network seminar focused on professional skills. It will be followed by a seminar focusing on academic skills in fall 2012.

EXACT is a Marie Curie Initial Training Network on EU External Action. It consists 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 of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

