

# Call for Applications

## Working Europe Seminar on EU Energy, Environment and Climate Policy

### Brussels, 27-31 March 2017

In the framework of the *Professional Training on EU Affairs – PONT* project, co-funded by the ERASMUS+/Jean Monnet Programme, the Trans European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA) is organising its second ‘Working Europe seminar’, a 5-day seminar at the heart of EU politics, in Brussels. The seminar will offer 20 Master’s students from different national and disciplinary backgrounds an opportunity to gain first-hand insights from researchers, EU practitioners, policymakers and officials on the current top priorities and trends of EU policy and politics in the fields of energy, the environment and climate.

#### Objective and impact of the seminar

The main objective of the 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 EU institutions in view of the priorities of the EU’s strategic agenda including the Energy Union and actions against climate change.

By attending this seminar, participants will be able to:

- Acquire and deepen their knowledge on EU politics in the field of energy, environment and climate policy, gaining valuable insights into the practicalities of Brussels policy-making.
- Meet high level professionals from EU institutions, academia, NGOs and business associations, and learn from their experience.
- Meet and exchange views with students from different disciplinary and national backgrounds from all over the EU and beyond.
- Improve their analytical and argumentative skills.
- 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 27 March to Friday 31 March**. 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 energy, environment and climate policy. Experts from the field will be invited to give introductory talks to the students, complementing the readings assigned to the students prior to the start of the course. Consequently, students will get an overview of the different actors and interests involved in energy, environment and climate policy 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 energy, environment and climate policy, in which students will perform the role of national representatives. They will each prepare the position of the country assigned to them and



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will try to develop strategies for pursuing their interest in the discussion. The simulation game will be assessed by experts and 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.

The training seminar is organised by TEPESA and will be led and coordinated by Prof Jaap W. de Zwaan, Emeritus Professor of European Union Law at Erasmus University Rotterdam and Lector in European Integration at the Hague University of Applied Sciences. During the sessions with Prof 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 energy, environment and climate Policy is designed as an interdisciplinary seminar and is open for twenty outstanding Master students in law, social sciences (e.g. European Studies, Politics, Geography, Economics) and natural sciences (e.g. Engineering, Environmental Sciences).

Participants will be selected by a review committee. To apply please send 1) your CV; 2) a 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 [pont@tepsa.eu](mailto:pont@tepsa.eu). Non-EU citizens are also encouraged to apply. The deadline for applications is **20 February 2017**. Applicants will be informed about the decision of the review committee on **25 February 2017**.

The participation fee for the total 5-day seminar amounts to € 200. 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, which is not reimbursable. 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 at building a bridge connecting postgraduate students and young academics with EU practitioners, in order to improve their employability. The project takes place over three years.*

*PONT enhances teaching and training activities in selected policy fields, with the objective to give postgraduate students and young academics the opportunity to develop their professional skills and prepare them for taking up a job in public administration, the EU institutions, NGOs, academic institutions or think tanks across Europe. The two main branches of the project are the Working Europe seminars for students and the 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 TEPESA**

*The Trans European Policy Studies Association - TEPESA - was established in 1974 as the first trans-national research network in the field of EU affairs. It comprises leading research institutes 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. TEPESA is active on a wide range of research topics. Its main focus is on the issues of 'deepening' integration, 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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