



## PONT Project successfully completed on 31 August 2018

After 3 years of activities, trainings and exchanges, the PONT project was successfully completed on 31 August 2018.

During its lifetime, PONT trained **109 young graduates and professionals** and gave rise to a number of outcomes– including the publication of a policy brief series to give visibility to the work of young researchers, the publication of a Handbook of best practices for conducting skills trainings, the creation of a sustainable **network of PONT alumni** and the interaction of young graduates with leading academics and policy makers, first and foremost through TEPSA's Pre-Presidency Conferences.

PONT aimed to enhance teaching and training activities on EU subjects by providing a **bridge connecting young academics and EU practitioners** (including policy-makers, academics and think tankers), thereby improving the employability of young graduates from various disciplines seeking a job in EU affairs. In order to reach these aims, PONT offered **high-quality training** on EU governance and on cross-cutting professional skills to MA students, PhD students and recent graduates.

PONT successfully implemented three core kinds of activities, flanked by innovative educational tools such as webcasts with EU professionals.

- **Three Working Europe Seminars** brought about a first-hand understanding of both academic analysis and everyday practice of EU decision-making by offering young post-graduates insights in the “real life” political processes of salient EU topics such as asylum and migration policies, climate and energy policies and trade policy.
- **Three Career Skills Trainings** enabled young academics to identify, acquire and improve their professional skills. The trainings offer a valuable complement to the education offered in universities by teaching skills required in a professional EU environment and thereby increasing participants' employability.
- PONT participants were actively involved in six TEPSA Pre-Presidency Conferences (held in The Hague, Bratislava, Valletta, Tallinn, Sofia and Vienna respectively), that brought together policy-makers, academics, civil society and citizens in order to discuss the agenda and challenges of the upcoming EU Council Presidency.

These face-to-face activities were complemented by an ongoing online presence that included webcasts with researchers, EU professionals, journalists and trainers; a dedicated webpage highlighting the project activities; dedicated groups on social media for each training activity; and the publication of papers produced during the seminars and trainings.

PONT training activities gathered participants from **36 different countries around the world**. These included EU member states (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal); Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom; the EU neighbourhood (Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine); EU candidate countries (Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Turkey); Central Asian countries (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan) and countries from other regions of the world (Brazil, Canada, Guatemala, USA, Venezuela).

The TEPSA Team would like to express its gratitude to **Prof Johannes Pollak** (Academic Coordinator of the PONT Project), **Prof Hanna Ojanen** (Academic Leader of the Career Skills Training) and **Prof Jaap de Zwaan** (Academic Leader of the Working Europe Seminars) for their invaluable contribution to the success of the PONT Project.