

Robert Schuman

Institute

RSI
15 years

*for
Developing Democracy
in
Central and Eastern Europe*

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in
Central and Eastern Europe

Robert Schuman Institute, Budapest 2006

PUBLISHED BY

the Robert Schuman Institute
for Developing Democracy
in Central and Eastern Europe
Budapest
www.rschuman.hu

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ISBN 963 06 0158 3

Typography and cover design by Kármán Stúdió, *www.karman.hu*
Printed at the OOK Press Printing House, *www.ookpress.hu*

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Preface

Since 1995 the Robert Schuman Institute has been working for one and a half decades on the development of democracy and civil society in Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe together with its predecessor, the Christian Democratic Academy (1991–1995) by giving education and training to mostly young politicians of the parties belonging to the family of the European People's Party, as well as by organizing conferences on actual problems of the region. The early nineties were the time of the great changes after the breakdown of socialism and the Soviet Union. Afterwards the young democracies in Central Europe became more and more stabile, started to develop civil societies, while this process also started in the South Eastern and Eastern European countries with a certain time lag.



The Christian Democratic Academy/Robert Schuman Institute was not just a simple participant in this process of *development* but always tried to be an active contributor to it. In this booklet you will find an overview of the *development* of the Institute itself as well as of its program, successes and influence on parties and personalities/political actors. The authors give you their very personal impressions – as President of the Robert Schuman Institute, as member of the Board, as sponsor, as course leader and speaker, as participant and party official delegating members to the seminars and conferences about the direct and indirect effect, the success of the work of the Institute. The booklet finally contains a list of the activities during the past years and some additional statistics.

We hope that you will find some interesting information and – maybe – your old friends. This is the aim of this booklet.

Dr. Erhard von der Bank
Director of Robert Schuman Institute

Introduction

Christian Democratic Academy – Robert Schuman Institute – EPP-ED Centre for Political Parliamentary Education and Training

An Example for the Solidarity between Christian Democrats in Europe

Wim van Velzen MEPai

President of the Union of the Robert Schuman Institute

After the fall of the Berlin wall, the crash of the Soviet Union and the whole socialistic-communistic system in Central and Eastern Europe, the former “Peoples’ and Soviet Republics” regained their state sovereignty and their national identity, people in these countries their political and human rights. To work up the new democracies there was a great need throughout the region for a well educated political elite with a stable set of humanistic and Christian values as well as of an European outlook and concept, broad enough to think about global connections.



Very soon, politicians belonging to the European People’s Party (EPP) and to the European Union of Christian Democrats (EUCD) realised that after more than 40 years of totalitarianism it was a question of solidarity to support people (and political parties) in reconstructing democracy and civil society in these countries. There were still some elderly people in the Central Eastern and South Eastern European countries, who had lived in democracy before and – as members of Christian democratic parties – worked for it. But they always reflected on the Christian Democratic ideas from the past. The younger generation in these countries and people in the Eastern European countries had no experience of democracy, civil society and Christian Democracy.

In a lot of discussion with friends from Central Eastern and Western European countries, mainly László Surján, president of the Hungarian Christian Democratic People’s Party (KDNP) and the born Hungarian Dutch CDA politician Gábor Dzsingisz the idea was born to found an institution for political education as an act of solidarity. We were convinced of the necessity, that the new politicians, mainly the young politicians of our like minded parties must be

teach about modern European Christian democracy, about the Christian democratic approach to different fields of taught politics, but also that their personal skills as organisers, leaders of political and civil organisations have had to be developed, to make them able to act successful as Christian democratic politicians in their countries. This idea was strongly supported by Wilfried Martens, President of the EPP and Prime Minister of Belgium, by Emilio Colombo, President of the EUCD, by Thomas Jansen, Secretary General of the EPP and the EUCD and many others.

Thus the EUCD and the EPP decided on 12 July, 1991 in Strasbourg to establish the “Christian Democratic Academy for Central and Eastern Europe” in Budapest as a foundation, in accordance with Hungarian law.

Christian democratic minded people had no possibility during the communist dictatorship to act in politics. They hardly knew each other inside the countries. They had no chance to organize themselves in their own countries even less on international level. Cross border contacts between Christian democrats existed, if at all, only between elderly people. Therefore it seemed to be necessary to bring together Christian democratic politicians from the whole region to build up a network, not only between themselves but also with the EUCD and EPP politicians from Western Europe. Since the change of system a lot of contacts developed between West and East on a bilateral basis. The German “Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung” and the “Hanns Seidel Stiftung” opened representation offices in many of the countries. Later other Foundations and organizations became active in CEE, e.g. the Dutch “Eduardo Frei Foundation”, the French “Robert Schuman Foundation”, the Swedish “Council for Democracy and Development”, but the multinational aspect was not in the first line.

In the first years it was important to give the new politicians – who had no experiences in politics – not only basic information about modern Christian democracy and how to build up Christian democratic parties, but also information about the institutions of a democracy, what their roles are and how they work together, about different fields of politics, how to organize a party, how to finance it, what their role in a democracy as governing or opposition party is, how to deal with media etc. Participants were often members of parliaments, members of party presidencies on state, regional and local level, high-ranking members of public administration on all levels, or young people who just started a political career. A lot of these young people very soon took over the responsibility as members of parliament, faction leaders, ministers, secretaries of state, mayors or other leading functions in state and society.

From the beginning the Academy aimed to bring together politicians from former socialist countries and introduce them the system of values of Christian democracy, give them an idea of Europe as a community of values and enable

them to take leading positions in politics and in society in their countries. They developed their politics on the same system of values. They learned to know one another well and trust each other. By continuing the international seminars and using English as common language, a network of politicians evolved throughout the region – but also with the Western European sister parties.

The Academy was financed by donations. Financial sources were given by the CDA/Eduardo Frei Foundation (the Netherlands), Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation (Germany), Hanns Seidel Foundation (Germany/Bavaria), DC (Italy), the Politische Akademie Vienna (Austria), Kristelig Folkeparti (Norway), Nea Demokratia (Greece), the EPP and the Group of the EPP in the European Parliament. The KDNP (Hungary) gave office space including heating, electricity and cleaning in its headquarters in Budapest.

The success of the Academy was summarised by László Surján: *“Christian Democracy is a great possibility of development for Central Europe after the time of communism. To achieve it we get acquainted with the ideas of Christian Democracy in details but at the same time we have to avoid the great danger of future building: the extremist nationalism that turns nations against one another. The Christian Democratic Academy for Central and Eastern Europe served both these goals as the Central and Eastern European politicians could be more qualified Christian Democrats as well as friends while learning together at the Academy.”*

After a lot of changes in the Hungarian law for foundations it became difficult to handle the Academy in this legal form any longer. On the other hand we wished to make a bigger evidence of our commitments to Europe and the European Christian Democrats represented by the European People’s Party and its Group in the European Parliament. Therefore we chose the name of Robert Schuman, the most famous Christian democratic “father of Europe”. There was no change in the aims when on 31 October, 1995 the foundation was transformed into the “Union of the Robert Schuman Institute for Developing Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe”. This development was strongly supported by Wilfried Martens, in between not only president of the EPP but also of the EPP Group in the European Parliament, by Ria Oomen-Ruijten, vice president of the EPP Group, and Horst Langes, president of the Robert Schuman Foundation, Luxembourg.

Members of the Union are political parties and foundations from Western and Eastern, from Northern, Southern and Central Europe. They pay a very moderate membership fee, but they are kindly asked to support the work of the Institute by donations in money or in kind.

The Robert Schuman Institute was able to continue the successful work of the Academy. The educational programmes were extended and developed year by year. The intensive evaluation of each lesson, each course and series of

courses opened the possibility to reach and hold a high quality on an always actual level. Participants' feed back gave the necessary information on needed trainings, which were then developed in due time.

During the years the Robert Schuman gained a lot of knowledge on the similarity but also on the differences of problems in the countries of the region, on the acting persons and about what is going on there. This knowledge gives the Institute the possibility to be flexible and to react on developments. So the change from the Christian Democratic Academy to the Robert Schuman Institute was not only a change of name, but it was also a sign, that we widened our focus to a larger target group.

Another act of solidarity was in 2002 the founding of the "Centre for Political Parliamentary Education and Training" (CET) by the EPP-ED Group in the European Parliament to support the member parties and their factions in the national parliaments in preparing the accession to the EU; mainly the observers, candidates, members to the EP and their assistants, but also the officials in the EPP-ED Group and in the EP to start their work in the Group and the Parliament successfully. The CET works as an external part of the general secretariat of the EPP-ED in Budapest in close cooperation with the Robert Schuman Institute. Using the experiences and contacts of the RSI it was successful from the very beginning. On the other hand it opened new contacts and experiences for the RSI as well and helped in this way to develop it further.

The personal success of our participants – but also the success of parties which used the knowledge and personal development their members gained in the Academy and in the Institute and, since 2002, also in the CET – shows that the institutions were and are highly successful. I would like to take the occasion to say many thanks to all participants and speakers of the courses and conferences and the sponsors of the Academy and the Robert Schuman Institute for their efforts that contributed to this success.

Europe without God?

On the Life and Work of Robert Schuman

Horst Langes MEPai

Honorary President of the Robert Schuman Foundation, Luxembourg

Who was the Robert Schuman who was elected President of the first European Parliament in 1958 and proclaimed as “the Father of Europe”?

Who was the Robert Schuman about whom the British historian Gordon A. Craig had said the following: “He changed the world. After the war he gave Western politics a new spiritual-ethical foundation: through the reconciliation of the peoples and then through the construction of a Community that replaced the earlier absolute nation states with their rivalries and excesses, with a co-existence introducing freedom, solidarity and peace.”



Who was the Robert Schuman who had decreed by will that on the day of his funeral there should be: “ni fleurs, ni couronnes, ni discours!” (no flowers, no wreaths, no speeches!)?

Fact File and a Little More

This text provides an overview of situations in the life of Robert Schuman. I shall come back to these later when I shall be revealing what had conditioned his actions, as far as it is at all possible. As Henry Beyer, a longstanding colleague of Robert Schuman, says in retrospect: “What kind of person he really was remains a secret. There is no doubt about the fact that he had never really confided in anyone completely.”

He was born on 29 June 1886 in Luxembourg. He attends the Athenäum in Luxembourg and just turns 14 when his father dies. From this time onwards he becomes very close with his mother. As he wants to study law in Germany he goes to the Wilhelm-Gymnasium in Metz, where he takes a baccalaureate that is also recognised in Germany. He then studies law in Bonn, Berlin and Munich and obtains his doctoral degree in Strasbourg in 1910.

After the tragic death of his mother a year later he is thinking about becoming a priest. Friends advise him against it. In 1912 Schuman opens a lawyer's office in Metz. He is very dedicated to the Church from his early student days onwards. In 1912 he plays an essential role in organising the German Catholic Conference in Metz.

Then follows World War I, he does not become a soldier because of the early death of his father. He does community service in the German army administration. After the war he goes into politics in France as Lorraine is French again and becomes an MP for his Mosel Region in the National Assembly at the first go. He remains an MP until a very short time before his death, that is for 43 years. He takes care of the legal concerns of his compatriots from Lorraine after Alsace-Lorraine is re-integrated into France. He is the lawyer of the ordinary people in his region and the advocate of his home region in the National Assembly in Paris.

The Second World War breaks out. The Germans march into France. The Nazis want to use Schuman for their own purposes, for as the "man of the frontier" he knows the local situation and speaks both languages fluently. Schuman, however, turns them down. He is detained in Metz for almost a year and then placed under house arrest in Neustadt an der Weinstrasse by the wine route. After a year he flees, goes underground in the non-occupied territory of France and spends two years there, two years during which he is preparing for the time after the war.

As early as 1944 Schuman returns to Metz and goes into politics as an MP of the Mouvement Républicain Populaire. In 1946 he becomes minister of finance in the first post-war government of France. When a year later the country faces total chaos and social life is paralysed by strikes he is appointed as prime minister. A year later (1948) he becomes the foreign minister. The period when Schuman is about to write world history begins. But because the new element of his politics, his political way of thinking is considered by many French as a possible impairment of the "Grande Nation", he has to step down as foreign minister four years later, that is in the beginning of 1953.

In 1955 he is once more temporarily appointed as minister of justice and thus becomes a member of the government. But the forum of his political commitment is now primarily made up of the lecture halls in many European, primarily German towns. He is on the road as an untiring "Pilgrim for Europe". In 1958 he becomes a member of the Council of Europe and in the very same year the president of the first European Parliament. In 1960 he suffers increasingly from cerebral circulatory disturbances and dies extremely lonely on 4 September in his house in Scy-Chazelle.

This then is the time frame in which Robert Schuman perceives of, interprets and reacts to the signs of the times in his own way. To be able to appreciate his

life story and lifework accordingly one would have to recapitulate the whole history of the 20th century, the first half as the period of his political intervention, the second half as the period of the effects of his political action, with the Treaties of Rome (1957), Maastricht (1992) and Amsterdam (1999). As this, however, is not possible we will be concentrating on the event with which Schuman introduced a new era not only in Europe but I believe worldwide as well.

The Schuman Declaration of 9 May 1950 and its History

This declaration is about the proclamation of a “European Community of Coal and Steel”, later referred to as the “Montanunion”. It is about the joint production and marketing of coal and steel, which is put in charge of a high authority i.e. a *supranational institution*, and the states concerned give up part of their national sovereignty at the same time. An ingenious idea that goes back to Jean Monnet which is, however, implemented by Robert Schuman. We have to trace back the intellectual foundations of these actions if we want to be able to face up to the challenges of the Europe of tomorrow, now, as the EU has been enlarged to embrace 25 members and soon will consist of 27 or even more states.

The Schuman Declaration from 1950 has of course a history of its own. In the 1920s Schuman already establishes and maintains contacts to other Christian Democrats in Europe, who agree (as the Italian Don Sturzo and the French Sagnier 1930), “that no economic European Federation can be established without the parallel and necessary political and moral union. As the free economy is the most appropriate form for representing the interests of different states it is likewise democracy that is the best way of overcoming national egoisms. “Christian morals”, it is stated, “are the most appropriate form of the brotherhood of peoples. It will though, be an utopia to test any form of ‘United States of Europe’ without a broad economic foundation, without pursuing a homogeneous democratic policy, without a moral basis upon which to found our brotherhood.”

Also the “Geneva Dialogues” starting in October 1947 with Christian Democrats from Switzerland, Italy, France, the Benelux states, Austria and Germany underline the fact that the problems of Germany and Europe have to be solved in a Christian spirit. Christianity and its values should lay the foundations for European politics. Robert Schuman announces a few months later that France has learned from the war that brotherhood must also embrace the enemies from yesterday.

But the situation Europe deteriorates, the Iron Curtain divides Europe yet again. War seems imminent. The blockade of Berlin and the fact that the Soviet Union possesses nuclear weapons increases the need for action. In a Mem-

orandum in March 1950 Jean Monnet writes that there is a need for change in the mentality of people, in the creative efforts and for a creative new start: “the justified interests of our neighbour have to be considered as important as our own. For once and all one must part from yesterday’s logic of victory as treaties of humiliation can never become peace treaties; instead the following rule must apply: if you want to win others as a partner then you have to make them big, not small.” Robert Schuman adopts this Memorandum as a foreign minister.

And this is how the Schuman Declaration of 9 May 1950 begins: “Peace in the world cannot be maintained without creative efforts that comply with the magnitude of the threat. The contribution that an organised and live Europe can make to civilisation is essential for the maintenance of peaceful conditions ... The unity of good intentions is not enough though.” And it goes on: “Europe cannot be established in one go and also not with a simple union. It will be created through specific facts that will first of all establish a solidarity of facts.” Schuman knows from his own several-decade-long-commitment to Europe, that a long road lies ahead and that one will have to go step by step. He also knows that a unification process in Europe has to consider the historical and cultural identities of the individual states.

Three years later (1953) he says: “There will be no synthetic European culture. We would not want it even if it did come like that from somewhere. Uniqueness, speech, language and justice, art and education will remain the result of a free and original development process and these are inalienable values for Europeans. Europe would not be Europe without this European diversity.” The establishment of supranational institutions, the partial transfer of national sovereignty cannot lead to restricting cultural diversity in Europe. Schuman himself experienced it during his studies in Germany. Bonn in Rhineland with its dialect and way of life could not be compared to Munich, and Munich was different from Berlin, and Berlin was not the same as Strasbourg. Cultural identity – he knew from his own experience – meant having roots, coming from somewhere and relationships, understanding and being understood. Respect for individuality of man also urgently requires respect for religious and cultural identity. This is a current issue not only regarding ethnic and cultural minorities in Europe.

What else is hidden behind the so called “creative efforts”? In the Schuman Declaration you can read the following: “The French government proposes that the whole French–German coal and steel production be put in charge of a high authority, in an organisation which will be open to the other European countries.” Why is this considered new, creative? The inhibition threshold for the first step to be made towards each other is held so low after two world wars that it can in fact be made. It means that the competences for coal and steel are

surrendered and that in exchange one is supplied with coal and steel with fair conditions being applied. And as coal and steel were the basis for the defence industry it would factually become impossible for countries to pursue an arms race against each other again. So this is how it has all remained more than half a century after the Schuman Declaration.

In March 1953 Schuman said the following about this balance of interests in front of students in Mainz: “Independence, that is national independence is increasingly becoming a conceptual fiction that is replaced by the law of solidarity. This law is being enforced on a daily basis in the relations between states after it has been enforced between individuals.” And he continues: “We do not serve national interests with scared or selfish isolation anymore, but with benevolent communication and an ever increasing scope of co-operation. And thus based on our experience and reflection we reach almost unnoticed yet forced by necessity a new level of development: the supranational level which goes beyond the international one.” Schuman had envisaged a confederation of states *sui generis*, not a confederation of states analogous to the USA. He then states: “The supranational community should not only protect its members from excesses but should also take over specific tasks as far as they can be solved better or perhaps even exclusively by means of united, planned measures. This goal should be achieved by setting up permanent community institutions, that is by establishing a new vertical hierarchy of powers and authorities, such a commitment must be irrevocable.”

Sources and Orientations

In what horizon did Robert Schuman believe, what was the scope of his hope and to what extent did he set the political course? What sources inspired him? René Lejeune, his longstanding secretary sums this up as follows: “Robert Schuman was a Christian who thrived on the word of God.” Already as a young pupil he would read the Holy Script in the morning before going to school. As a student in Bonn (1904) he learns about the Maria Laach Abbey near Koblenz, which becomes a regular retreat for him even in later years and where he meets the future German Reichschancellor Heinrich Brüning and Romano Guardini. The Benedictine “*ora et labora*” rule becomes part of his flesh and blood.

What does this specifically mean that Robert Schuman was inspired by faith, by the word of God in his thinking, in his foresight, in his visionary powers? Of course nobody had peered over his shoulder to see which biblical texts he had become absorbed in and what he had adopted. The discussion about the reference to God in the preamble to the European Constitution shows that the sig-

nificance of faith has been reduced to ethos, to the Christian–Judaic tradition and to the values deriving from it. It has to be stated, however, that: the ethos of the Bible speaks the language of reason, that is it is basically an autonomous ethos. According to this something can be regarded as good if it complies with the situation, if it suits the people who are going along the same path, who depend upon one another, who are responsible for each other.

If you search for God in history it means that you are raising questions with a view to tomorrow and the day after tomorrow concerning whether the hope horizon of the Biblical tradition is still valid today so that a moving, liberating and innovative power emanates from it.

Schuman was no preacher and moralist, he simply implemented politically what he had realised in the light of faith. In Schuman's case it is all basically about the dynamism of a history in which God appears, as far as man discovers himself and his best potentials in this history and in which beings become fellow beings characterised by sympathy, solidarity and reliability.

This will inspire believers anchored in faith in the multifaceted Europe of the future to make God appear as a God who “accompanies” the co-existence of people and peoples. Schuman counts on the word of God, on his pledges, on obligations and attachment. This is the only way that leads to sustainable peace. This is why Gaetano Martino, former president of the European Parliament can state that “Robert Schuman was a man of faith, he filled his work with a deep, future-oriented faith that was his main driving force. This explains why so much perseverance, so much steadfastness, so much inner warmth was hidden in this man who to the outside world seemed almost timorous and modest.”

Heritage and Mandate

Let Schuman himself have a say now in the form of a few quotations from a lecture he held in 1953 in Rome for participants of the Europe College of Bruges:

“A great idea is no guarantee for the unity of Europe. It is only the specific efforts that sharpen one's consciousness.”

“An awareness of the inner unity is not so much based on the satisfaction of economic needs but rather on the perception of the common spiritual values.”

“Real Christian faith is the basis and the support of the civilisation and culture of all peoples.”

“Christianity has significantly shaped the soul of the peoples and the freedom of personality. The peoples are responsible in front of God, for themselves and their community.”

If we were then to ask how the heritage of Robert Schuman can be built into the ongoing European process then I think the following words of his seem remarkable: “No one requires that new morals be found. For Christians the morals of Christianity are enough. ... What, however, is necessary and new is a school where one learns practical interpersonal behaviour based on reciprocity, a school where Christian principles are applied and proved true in interpersonal relations. These principles only achieve their goal after prejudices and animosities that divide classes, races and nations have been overcome. One has to start creating a moral climate conducive to brotherly unification that goes beyond all conflicts.”

In his book “Pour l’Europe” he writes: “Democracy was born when man was called upon to implement the dignity of persons by respecting individual freedom, respect for others before the law and charity. It was Christianity that first granted the natural equality of human beings irrespective of class or race and conveyed the work ethos of ‘ora et labora’ of St. Benedict together with the commitment to serve the creation of God.”

The idea of faith filled with life appears again and again that is “the specific facts ... that create a solidarity of facts.”

Europe with God is a Europe of lived solidarity.

Europe with God means keeping the promises of the Amsterdam Treaty of 1999 and at the same time those of the Human Rights Convention of 1958 and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of 2000:

- Raising a new awareness of the requests and justified rights of the citizens of Europe against all forms of abuse of and trade in human beings.
- Raising a new awareness of mass unemployment and of creative steps to be taken to overcome this problem across Europe.
- Definitive political support for the weak.
- Specific measures to actually implement gender equality.

Europe with God even if not explicitly mentioned in the preamble to the European Constitution is a Europe in which dynamism will be experienced again that derives from the interpretation of history and the hope horizon of the Judaic-Christian tradition. This is a challenge and a mission for us all.

From Training to being Trained

Observations in Founding, Training, Sponsoring and Governing the Robert Schuman Institute

Dr. Jan P.R.M. van Laarhoven

President Eduardo Frei Foundation,
Member of the International Board of the Robert Schuman Institute

The Foundation

In the beginning of 1991 there was a proposal from the president of my party to support the foundation of an institute for the development of Christian Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe the Christian Democratic Academy. The amount of money that should be contributed was quite substantial for a party that at that time was totally depending on voluntary contributions of its members. On the other hand the events in Berlin in November 1989 and in the other countries in the months after that, were still freshly in our minds. We were full of admiration for the people movements that forced the totalitarian regimes out and tried to establish democracy. We had the idea that history was indeed made and that we were on the verge of the real Europe. Though we didn't have a real idea how, we wanted to contribute to this cause. Therefore, with some hesitation, the party board approved the proposal of our president and decided that a considerable yearly amount of NLG 100.000 (EUR 45.000) was made available for this institute for the years to come. Just for the records, my party is the Christian Democratic Appeal (CDA) from the Netherlands and its president at that time was Mr. Wim van Velzen, the first and current president of the institute who will step down this May.



It was our strong conviction that the best way to stimulate democracy is to stimulate people. Active and engaged people are the basis that must carry every democratic society. They are the necessary asset without which no vivid democratic society is possible.

People can be stimulated in several ways. In the context of the work of the Robert Schuman Institute it is obvious that continuous attention for good education is one of the main roads we chose to go. Education not only being a passive carry over of intellectual knowledge from trainers to trainees or from

lecturers to an audience, but also being an active interaction between democrats from the old European democracies and democrats from the new European democracies. They have different experiences and very different histories, but share the conviction that democracy at present is the best known and most humanitarian form of ruling a nation.

Education should be demand driven and trainers and participants should be aware of the notion, that everyone is a pupil, a trainee. During the courses of the Robert Schuman Institute, trainers and politicians are mostly seen as the ones that can best carry over active political knowledge, experiences and different techniques. To a certain extent this might be correct. However in my experience, and I share this with others, we can also learn a lot from the fresh look of participants to the courses, and not only on political issues. The knowledge people from Central and Eastern Europe can share with us from their own experience from before and after 1989 is valuable to us and should make us pupils sometimes. Trainees in the Robert Schuman Institute often hold a mirror in front of Western European politicians that we are not used to look into so very often.

As a Trainer

The start of the Christian Democratic Academy from the Dutch perspective might have been a bit hesitating, the institute itself developed at high speed into a significant educational institute that had and still has the full support of the CDA and the Eduardo Frei Foundation. When we supported the Christian Democratic Academy in 1991, I was absolutely convinced that it was going to be a necessary instrument in building democracy and political parties in countries that were formerly behind the Iron Curtain. What I didn't realize fully at that time was that the programmes that would be delivered in the course of time were going to affect so many lives of young people that would attend the courses. Of course in their education as a politician, but also and even more in their education as independently thinking individuals that were able to express his or her own opinion, based on free reasoning.

My first experience as a trainer with the institute (in between the Robert Schuman Institute) was with the group that entered the course for young leaders in 1996 and finished it in 1997. It was the second course of this type, conducted in the institute. The group was not alike youngsters that I knew from Western Europe at that time. They were relatively shy, not used to open communication, not used to express their opinions, not used to being respected by their trainers and other peers. They had an obedient attitude, certainly respecting the trainers, but not expecting them to treat the participants seriously as

independent people that were entitled to their own opinion. At that time your capacities as a trainer were very challenged in getting students to speak out, to ask questions and to bring forward their own ideas.

There was one week, and I believe it still is a permanent part of the course for young leaders, that was entirely led by Prof. Dr. Gerard van Wissen who has also contributed to this book. Van Wissen's biggest achievement in training the students in Budapest was the fact that he managed to get a real genuine interest with these young people for a subject that was far from most of them when they entered the course. Van Wissen was and is capable of making the theme of norms and values in Christian Democracy into an interesting one for the youngsters and was able to translate it into aspects of life that made the topic attractive to nearly all students. The students after a while gave him a nick-name "Il Professore". A name that was meant to express respect and friendship at the same time.

Representatives from Rumania, Hungary, Estonia, Bulgaria, Ukraine and Poland were participating in this course. There was one representative from Russia. An extremely modest lady that was seen by the others as a representative of the former oppressor, the USSR. The students were asked on several occasions to present themselves and/or their ideas in front of the entire group. For them a completely new experience. The venue chosen was hotel Manréza in Dobogókő, about one hour drive from the airport of Budapest, a remote resort along the Danube, formerly being a hotel in which the nomenclature could recover from the "hardships" of governing. The place was so remote that the only option for the students outside of course hours was to be in the lobby of this hotel and to speak about what had happened to them that day and about their personal life and future. There was no money for going to the city and having drinks. The consequence of this more or less confinement in the hotel was that the group gradually knew each other better, not only from the educational point of view but even more from the personal point of view. A certain connection by destiny became clearly noticeable. At the end of the course these people were friends, the lady from Russia being loved by everyone was elected as "student of the course". She was definitely another person. Later I found out that she had founded a Christian teachers association in the place where she lives, in Izhevsk, close to the Ural, where an organization based on our principles was still absolutely unheard of. The best reward any course leader or institute could have and that could be noted at the end of the course was the following quote. "The training in Christian Democratic Values that I have received in the Robert Schuman Institute in Budapest has given another better meaning to my live. Now I know much better what I have to work for." Regardless of the fact that this quotation has to be placed in that time and event, it illustrates that the course made a difference for all the participants.

I still know a number of students from that course and am in a more or less regular contact with them. These, but beyond doubt also some of the people that I don't have contact with anymore, are all in positions in society and/or politics. A participant from Ukraine I know now as a member of the municipal council in Kiev and as an engaged director of the Institute for political Education in Kiev. In his institute he successfully tried and tries to bring together the many parties that played a role in the Orange Revolution that was successfully concluded at Christmas 2004. The Russian lady I wrote about above was a teacher until very recently and an active member of her society whose life will never be the same anymore because of what she experienced in Budapest. She is a lonely missionary in the still quite totalitarian systems in her region and city. The two Hungarians from this group that I know work for the Hungarian government in the area of cultural heritage and as a chief of cabinet of the minister of Defense in Hungary. In Bulgaria I am in regular contact with a couple that both attended the young leaders course and are both involved in never ending organization of seminars and trainings in order to educate politicians and youngsters in Bulgaria. One of the two is international secretary of a political party.

We know that this list could be extended to tens of examples, pointing back at the successful education of students throughout all courses that were delivered in the institute. This first acquaintance with the institute as a trainer and the events thereafter gave me the conviction that the courses and trainings given there make a difference to the people that were, are and will be educated there and therefore make a difference to the political systems in their countries and to the societies where they are from.

There is a clear difference though in the students that came to Budapest in the nineties and the people that come to Budapest nowadays. The demands for being admitted didn't change too much. Recommendation by the party, a completed or nearly completed university education and being more or less fluent in English, being the most important of them. The environment in which the courses are given changed during time. The courses are not given anymore in hotel Manréza, but in hotels usually in the outer areas from the city. Students go more often to the city in the evening hours for activities that are the same for people of this age group in all Europe. What didn't change is the motivation of the participants. Where else could you get together groups of students around 20–25 years of age, every time for a week away in a foreign country, students that are conscientiously present at all sessions of the courses, students that fulfil their assignments at their best? What also changed, and for the better, is the education that they have received at home and the attitude with which they arrive. In the nineties students that were, at least in the beginning, totally dependent on their teachers and were only reactive. In 1996 it happened to me

that after class hours a student asked to the course leader if she thought it would be possible that the student could ask a question to the trainer. I still know this student and now he is inclined to tell me what my opinion should be and what I should do. Nowadays students speak English much better; their education at home is much more directed towards independent thinking and to discussions. They know the framework from which the trainers speak and think. They are actively participating in the courses from the beginning. It is still very much fun to read and train in Budapest, but it puts other and higher demands to the trainers that work in the Robert Schuman Institute. I can recommend it to any active politician and other political activists. You will receive back a lot from the people that you train. The students will also educate you to a certain extent.

As a Sponsor

As stated above, the Christian Democratic Appeal always has been supportive to the Christian Democratic Academy/Robert Schuman Institute. This support was always delivered through the Eduardo Frei Foundation (EFF), the foundation for International Solidarity of the CDA of which I am allowed to be the president since 2001. The Eduardo Frei Foundation works on a demand driven basis. The counterparts in Central and Eastern Europe can file a request for a grant from the EFF by filling out a questionnaire. This will be judged by the board of the EFF and when the request is within the demands of the foundation, usually after some discussions with the applicants, the request is granted. In this way the Robert Schuman Institute usually applies for two or three courses per year. The discussions on grants for the Robert Schuman Institute are usually short in the board of the EFF. Through experience and through the evaluations we receive from the trainers we send out to Budapest, we know that the quality of the courses is high and the motivation of the students and the staff of the Institute is very good. We are aware that the Institute is run on a professional basis, but with relatively limited means. The circumstances in which the trainings are conducted are simple but good. A lot of the trainers work on a voluntary basis, without having any form of material benefits. So all in all the money that the Institute has at its disposal, is spent well. The institute now tries to measure the results of its work in numbers by following up the present and former students and registering the data collected. From what I have mentioned above in the paragraph “as a trainer” I am convinced that a lot of our students ultimately find a position in politics and/or in other parts of society. It is good to make these expected results more objective by putting them in concrete terms.

As a Board Member

Both experiences, as well as a trainer and as a sponsor proved to be valuable capacities in acting as a member of the International Board that I was allowed to join in 1995. The development from scratch from the Robert Schuman Institute was not an easy going one. Though for many people the goals and objectives from the institute were evident, this was not always translated in material support or a more or less active membership of parties and involvement of politicians. The institute went through legal difficulties when it had to adjust its statutes according to Hungarian laws in 1995. Unless the continuous and strong support by the Robert Schuman Foundation from Luxembourg and others there was always a struggle to achieve the appropriate finances. In 1997 the institute had to move from its quarters at that time. Through the visionary contributions of the Robert Schuman Foundation from Luxembourg and our president Mr. Wim van Velzen it was decided to buy a property in which the institute could have a permanent office. In this way we were out of the hands of continuous raises of rents and from then on the institute knew a stable financial position. The two directors of the institute Dr. Márta Szalai and Dr. Erhard von der Bank deserve huge credits for running the institute through sometime stormy water.

As in every self-respecting and long-term directed enterprise the products of the Robert Schuman Institute have to be renewed continuously. I consider the conferences that were organised in and outside of Budapest in the second half of the existence of the institute one of these renewals. After the first years of having courses for young leaders for all of the countries in Central and Eastern Europe, two new courses were developed because people from different countries needed different programmes. There was a course for the students from Central Europe; one could say the students that came from the countries that would access the European Union in 2004. Another course was designed for the people from South/East and East Europe. This worked and works very well. The duration, the program and all other aspects of the courses are under constant evaluation of the staff of the institute. The foundation of the Centre for Education and Training, that was founded to support the people that came to work in the European Parliament and the European Commission on the occasion of the enlargement in 2004, was a major achievement.

On an occasion like this jubilee, one is inclined to ask about the future of the institute. The need for training and education of youngsters from Central and East Europe will change, but will still remain to exist for a number of years. However the first goal and objective of the institute is to promote the idea of a United Europe. True, the focus has rightfully been on the East side of the Union and its neighbouring countries. However, shouldn't we look in the mirror that is being held to us by the people that we have trained now for a decade

and a half? The countries that entered the union on 1 May 2004 saw an ideal come true, 15 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall. Countries like Bulgaria, Rumania, Croatia and others eagerly want the membership of the Union.

What happens in the countries, the 15 of the “old union”? The constitutional treaty was rejected by the people in France and in the Netherlands, two of the founding fathers of the Union. Our European dream that existed from the beginning of the fifties has gradually faded in some countries. The historical reasons for having the European ideal have faded and are unknown to a lot of political activists that started their political lives in the last decade. The so-called maintaining of the domestic culture is blinding us for the richness of the incredibly rich cultures in the East-part of our continent. The fear that we have to share a tiny part of our wealth with the peoples from the East is stronger then the long tradition of solidarity that always has existed in the Netherlands without saying. Our eyes are blurred for the enormous economic profit that has come from the Union by emotional reasoning, not based on knowledge of what the Union is and can be. It is difficult to find visionary political leaders in Western-Europe that lead public opinion in explaining the European ideal. They mostly follow the public opinion in its fears, anxieties and phobias. We all agree that the knowledge about history, prospects, fact and figures of the European countries and of the European Union urgently needs to be refreshed and updated. The Robert Schuman Institute has an excellent record of successfully educating youngsters of Central and Eastern-Europe. It has a large network as well in East and in West of high-level academic trainers. I propose that the institute expands its educational activities to Western Europe. Parties should send their leaders of the future to Budapest to be trained also on an international and European level. There is a great need for academic training and education of our youngsters now, as there was and to a certain extent still is for training people from the East 15 years ago. Programs should be developed on an equally high level as we have trained the young leaders, for training young political executives in the history, achievements and chances of Europe. The question what is going to happen if Europe will not become a fully developed and stable entity should be faced. I see a goal and an assignment, according to its statutes, in this for the Robert Schuman Institute in the next 15 years of its existence. Thus trainers become again, trainees as it should be.

A Family of Values

Roumen Iontchev

International Secretary of BANU-People's Union, Bulgaria
former participant of the Christian Democratic Academy
former participant and speaker in courses of the Robert Schuman Institute

When the Christian Democratic Academy for Central and Eastern Europe started on its mission 15 years ago it hardly had a solidified target in the region of Central and Eastern Europe. Parties were being born and reborn and it all seemed like a very far-fetched attempt to develop a Christian Democratic movement in this part of Europe.

Nowadays, from the distance of time we can say that it was the right thing to do and the right time to do it as the new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe lacked the most essential element of democratic life – that is well established political parties. Democracy was a vague thing, an ideal for many generations and it had only been tasted by the freedom to vote and elect new governments. What was needed, however, was much more than free elections. Political life was twisted by the lack of a well organized and ideologically oriented center-right movement that could balance and compete the socialist and populist ideas which were deeply rooted in society.

While the new-born socialists were firmly based on the existing communist parties and managed quickly to change their face to social-democrats, the center-right movements started from scratch. They tried to find their roots in the ruins of the anti communist resistance and in the intellectual circles which had little knowledge and experience of party building and campaigning. Moreover, these new politicians did not have a clear ideological framework in mind and democracy and free market were the only ideology they preached to their troubled people. Very soon these same parties had to face the responsibilities of power and government and they badly needed to go beyond words, they needed a coherent set of values and ideas about society that would constitute a framework of government and at the same time keep parties together.

Christian Democracy was reborn in Central and Eastern Europe but it needed to start walking on its own feet and that is where the Christian Democratic Academy came in very helpful. The Institute in Budapest provided that essen-



tial source of knowledge which helped create and solidify the body and the soul of Christian Democracy in the region. That first generation of democratic political activists got access to the knowledge and experience of their European friends and this proved to be invaluable in the following years.

But the Robert Schuman Institute did more than that. When throughout these 15 years enthusiastic people were sitting in the pleasant Budapest evenings and enjoying a nice friendly conversation, no one realized that these people would be the future presidents, prime ministers, members of national and European parliaments. The Institute provided much more than training and knowledge. When you put together people who share the same values and ideas they inevitably become close friends. That is how the Robert Schuman Institute created a family of values in Central and Eastern Europe, a circle of friendship which goes beyond politics and lasts longer than the few days of a seminar. Nowadays most of the active center-right politicians in Central and Eastern Europe have some form of connection and relationship to the Institute and that in itself is an achievement that will have impact on politics in the region for many years to come.

All this said and done, is the mission complete? Do we need to talk about the Robert Schuman Institute as a thing of the past? The answer is no, as the Institute has managed to reinvent its role and tasks in the new circumstances of an enlarged European Union and a more active and more integrated European People's Party. The training and preparation of staff for service in the European Parliament has proven to be a good idea and should continue until enlargement is completed. There is, however, an even more challenging task which goes in line with the missionary role of the Institute. The borders of the European Union may be clear and will become more defined in the future, but Christian Democracy has a far wider appeal than that. Freedom and democracy have come to new frontiers and there are many more countries in transition to a pluralistic political system where the experience gained by the Robert Schuman Institute can be used to provide political knowledge, training and help the consolidation of new democratic movements. The Institute itself is a unique database of people, contacts and knowledge about transition and that experience should not be wasted.

The family of the Robert Schuman Institute should grow and gain new members, the experience and knowledge of European Christian Democrats should be spread wider to assist peace and democracy in its creation and development. After all, this was the idea behind the Institute when it was founded and this process is far from over.

Christian Democratic Academy
for Central and Eastern Europe

Christian Democratic Academy for Central and Eastern Europe

The Christian Democratic Academy for Central and Eastern Europe was founded in 1991 on the initiative of Dr. László Surján, President of the Hungarian Christian Democratic People's Party with the powerful help of Wim van Velzen MEPai, former president of the Dutch CDA and the EUCD.

The Academy was founded by the EUCD and the EPP, and it was directed by Ferenc Rabár.

From the beginning the Academy aimed to bring together politicians from former socialist countries and to introduce them to the system of values of Christian democracy, to give them an idea of Europe as a community of values and to enable them to take on leading positions in politics and in society in their countries.

The aim of the Academy was to support the education of well-trained young politicians living in the new democratic countries in Central and Eastern Europe, which was fulfilled by organising international courses.

The courses organised by the Academy

During four years of activity the Academy organised 45 courses and 995 persons participated in the courses from about 14 countries.

The Academy invited the participants to the courses through the Christian minded parties of the countries of the region.

Each year the Academy prepared an annual programme of about 10–12 courses, in topics that are the most important for people active in public life in the countries of the region.

Theoretical topics such as Christian Democratic Policy, Image of a Christian Democratic Politician, Political Culture, Ideologies and Lines in Political Thinking, The Role of the Churches, Constitution, gave basic knowledge to the participants, who educate the members of their own institutions.

Through courses about current political topics like Party Building, Election, Nationality Question, Minorities, Security Policy, The Role of Trade Unions and

NGO's, the Academy could help the parties of the region directly first of all by transferring concrete knowledge important for party activists.

The topics about different aspects of transition such as Privatisation, Economic Stabilisation, Transition to Market Economy, Agricultural Stabilisation, Environment Protection, Social Welfare, Communal Policy, were of great interest to the experts of these fields.

You find the complete list of the activities of the Academy in the Annex.

The international character of the courses was unique, because the participants came from different countries, and had outstanding opportunities to learn from each other and to make contacts in this way.

The average age of the participants was 35 and about 95 per cent had a degree. Most of them were members of parties, about 50 per cent were voluntary workers and 20 per cent were paid workers of their parties.

At the beginning of its activity, the Academy had no influence on the composition of the participants of the courses and because of the lack of information the Academy could not always ensure harmony between the level of the participants and the lecturers. Later the Academy had the possibility to invite some of the most successful participants to other courses as well. Specific courses were organised for experts and a series for a target group of young politicians where the same group of participants had the opportunity to work together in five courses in different topics.

All this led to the fact that the education activity of the Academy became more and more effective.

In the first year of the Academy in 1991 participants came from 7 countries and 16 parties.

At the beginning the Academy invited lecturers mostly from Western Europe, who gave the participants a lot of important information. Later the Academy invited also experts from Central and Eastern Europe who represented the special aspects and knowledge of the region.

The discussions and working groups of the courses were of great importance because the representatives of the different countries got a lot of information from the similar and different problems of the region's countries.

There were some topics of the courses that became extraordinarily important, and which became popular with the participants.

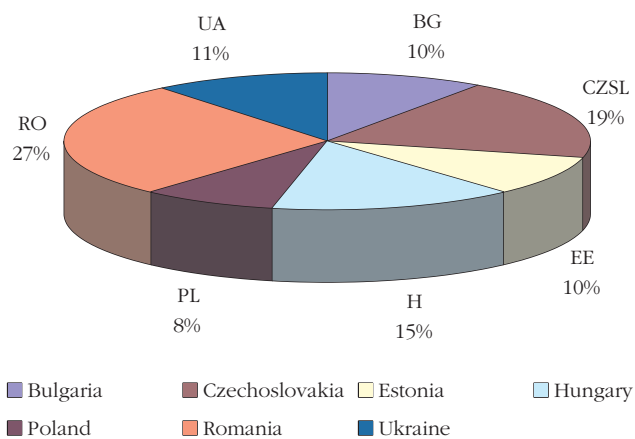
Therefore the Academy organised courses several times in topics such as skills and techniques necessary for people working in public life, nationality rights and minority problems and the role of civil society in the new democracies of the region.

During the four years the number of participating countries and parties increased. In the last year of the Academy participants came from 15 different countries and 31 parties.

1991 – 16 parties

Country	Party	Percentage
Bulgaria	BANU	9.59 %
Czechoslovakia	KDH	5.48 %
	KDS	2.74 %
	KDU–ČSL	10.96 %
Estonia	CDU of EE	9.59 %
Hungary	KDNP	8.22 %
	MDF	6.85 %
Poland	CDP	2.74 %
	Centrum Alliance	4.11 %
	CDCP of PL	1.37 %
Romania	RMDSZ	20.55 %
	PNTCD	2.74 %
	IKE	2.74 %
	UHYO	1.36 %
Ukraine	UCDP	5.48 %
	UCDP of Lviv	5.48 %
TOTAL		100.00 %

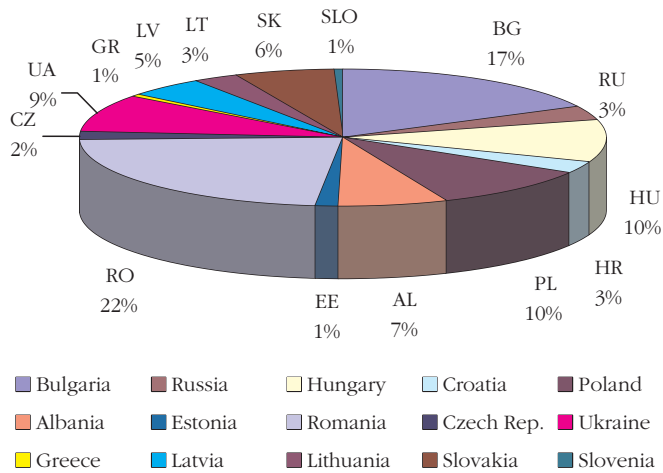
Country proportion in the seminars in 1991
7 countries



1995 – 31 parties

Country	Party	Percentage
Albania	DPA	6.71 %
Bulgaria	DP	2.68 %
	BANU	11.41 %
	DCU	3.36 %
Croatia	HKDU	2.68 %
Czech Republic	Czech People's Party	2.01 %
Estonia	Pro Patria Union	1.34 %
Greece	Nea Demokratia	0.67 %
Hungary	Fidesz–MPP	3.35 %
	KDNP	6.71 %
Latvia	CDU of LV	2.68 %
	CDP	2.01 %
Lithuania	LCDP	2.68 %
Poland	CDP	2.68 %
	Party of Christian Democrats	4.70 %
	CNU	1.34 %
	DFK	0.67 %
	Bund der Jugend der deutschen Minderheit	0.67 %
Romania	RMDSZ	11.41 %
	RMKDP	4.03 %
	PNTCD	6.04 %
	DFDR	0.67 %
	DFDH	0.67 %
Russia	CDP of RU	3.35 %
Slovakia	KDH	3.35 %
	MKDM	2.68 %
Slovenia	SCDP	0.67 %
Ukraine	CDU	6.71 %
	MÉKK	2.01 %
TOTAL		100.00 %

Country proportion in the seminars in 1995
15 countries



The Christian Democratic Academy for Central and Eastern Europe finished its activity in October 1995 when the Robert Schuman Institute was established. There was no change in aims and methods when the foundation was transformed into the *“Union of the Robert Schuman Institute for Developing Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe”* as a successor organisation.

Robert Schuman Institute
for Developing Democracy
in Central and Eastern Europe

STRUCTURE

The Robert Schuman Institute is functioning as a union with headquarters in Budapest. The supreme operative body of the Institute is the International Board, comprising up to eight members who are delegated by organizations, supporting and sponsoring the Institute to the greatest extent. The International Board is convened whenever it is considered necessary, but at a minimum twice per calendar year. The ex officio member of the International Board is the President of the Union, acting as Chairman of the International Board. The Director of the Robert Schuman Institute is present at the meetings with voice but no vote.

Members of the Board

Wim van Velzen MEPai – President of the Union of the Robert Schuman Institute

- 3 members delegated by the *Robert Schuman Foundation, Luxembourg*

Dr. Jaques Santer MEPai – President of RSFL

Prof. Dr. Hans-Gert Pöttering MEP – President of the EPP-ED Group,
Vice President of the RSFL

Othmar Karas MEP – Vice President of the EPP-ED Group,
member of the board of RSFL

- 1 member from the *European Peoples Party*

Luc Vandeputte – Deputy Secretary General of the EPP

- 1 member from the *Eduardo Frei Foundation, the Netherlands*

Dr. Jan van Laarhoven – President of the EFF

- 1 member delegated by the *Christian Democratic International Centre, Sweden*

Henrik G. Ehrenberg – President of the KIC

- 1 member delegated by the *Fondation Robert Schuman, Paris*

Pascale Joannin – Director of the FRSP

Staff

The Robert Schuman Institute has a staff of seven people, including the Director, Education and Training Manager, Project Manager, two Training Co-ordinators, Assistant to the Director, and Secretary. Occasionally, the Institute is using freelance contributors (speakers, trainers, translators, book keepers, etc.).

FINANCES

The Institute's operation and activities are financed by membership fees, donations and financial support by main partner organizations.

Sponsors of the Institute 1995–20005

Robert Schuman Foundation, Luxembourg	1995–2005
European People's Party (EPP) / EUCD	1996–2005
Eduardo Frei Foundation / CDA, The Netherlands	1996–2005
Kristdemokraterna, Sweden / KIC	1997
	1999–2005
Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Germany	1996–1997
	1999–2005
ÖVP / Politische Akademie, Austria	2000–2005
Foundation Robert Schuman, Paris	1996–2002
Centre International de Formation Européenne (CIFE), European Commission	2000–2005
Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung	1996–1999
European Commission PHARE	1996–1999
Kristelig Folkeparti, Norway	1997–1998
Partido Nacionalista Vasco, Spain	1996–1997
Chrestlech Sozial Vollekspartei (CSV), Luxembourg	2000–2001
Christian Democratic Movement, Slovakia	1999
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hungary	1999
Ministry of Flanders	1999



MEMBERS OF THE UNION

EUROPE

European People's Party (EPP)	www.epp-eu.org
Fondation d'Etudes Européens (FEE)	
Robert Schuman Foundation, Luxembourg	www.epp-ed.org
European Union of Christian Democratic Workers (E.U.C.D.W.)	www.eucdw.org
European Democrat Students (EDS)	www.edsnet.org

AUSTRIA

Politische Akademie (ÖVP)	www.modernpolitics.at
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BELGIUM

Centre for Political, Economical and Social Studies (CEDER)	www.psc.be
Christen-Demokratisch & Vlaams (CD&V)	www.cdenv.be

BULGARIA

Bulgarian Agrarian National Union (BANU)	
Union of Democratic Forces (UDF)	www.sds.bg

CROATIA

Demokratski Centar (DC)	www.demokratski-centar.hr
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CZECH REPUBLIC

Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party (KDU–ČSL)	www.kdu.cz
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ESTONIA

Isamaaliit, Pro Patria Union	www.isamaaliit.ee
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FRANCE

Fondation Robert Schuman (FRS)	www.robert-schuman.org
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GERMANY

Europäisches Zentrum für Arbeitnehmerfragen (EZA)	www.eza.org
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GREECE

Nea Dimokratia (ND)	www.neadimokratia.gr
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HUNGARY

Hungarian Democratic Forum (MDF)

www.mdf.hu

ITALY

Movimento Cristiano Lavoratori – M.C.L.

www.mcl.it

MOLDOVA

Christian Democratic People's Party (CDPP)

Foundation for Christian Democracy of
the Republic of Moldova

www.ppcd.dnt.md

THE NETHERLANDS

Christen Democratisch Appèl (CDA)

www.cda.nl

NORWAY

Kristelig Folkeparti (KrF)

www.krf.no

ROMANIA

Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ)

www.rmdsz.ro

National Peasant Christian Democratic Party (PNTCD)

www.ppcd.ro

SAN MARINO

Partito Democratico Cristiano Sammarinese (PDCS)

www.inthenet.sm/pdcs

SLOVAKIA

Centre for European Policy (CEP)

www.cpep.sk

Christian Democratic Movement (KDH)

www.kdh.sk

Hungarian Coalition Party (MKP)

www.mkp.sk

SLOVENIA

Nova Slovenija (N.Si)

www.nsi.si

Slovenian Democratic Party (SDS)

www.sds.si

Slovenian People's Party (SLS+SKD)

www.sks.si

SPAIN

Partido Popular (PP)

www.pp.es

SWEDEN

Kristdemokraterna

www.kristdemokrat.se

ACTIVITIES OF THE ROBERT SCHUMAN INSTITUTE

Training and Education

The key activities of the Robert Schuman Institute for Developing Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe are educational and training programmes. These programmes are delivered for specific groups of international participants by well-known experts and speakers from the EU countries and the target region.

- The Institute is organising international courses for potential young leaders, party members and officials of the EPP sister and co-operating parties of the developing democracies in the region who receive both theoretical education and practical training.
- The Institute is organising international conferences for high-ranking politicians, government officials, public persons and the representatives of the scientific area and NGOs on timely issues, such as the new challenges in the enlarged EU and different EU requirements of accession regarding the candidate countries of the Balkans, or the most burning questions of the SEE countries.

The topics and issues of the courses vary according to the given target groups. Some of the courses are aimed at providing general knowledge on subjects of constitutional and political sciences (e.g. democratic and representative governments, legislation, separation of power blocks, etc.), others concentrate directly on the political sphere (e.g. election systems, minority policy, European integration, foreign and security policy, etc.) or cover special fields (e.g. the operation of local governments, privatization, environment protection, social and health care systems). Some courses also offer assistance in learning how to assume political and other public roles (media, PR, diplomatic protocol, rhetoric, etc.).

In all courses participants evaluate the content and speakers in written form. A Brainstorming about expected topics shows us the necessary changes in the programme for the particular courses and also in the program development of the Institute. The Institute is always open for ideas or request upon new courses/seminars.

SEMINARS AND SERIES OF COURSES

The education provided by the Institute is rather workshop- and training-oriented. Participation in all courses of a series is obligatory, for they are coherent. In the framework of different workshops, participants will have the opportunity to discuss their papers and other related issues with high-ranking

politicians and field experts, academics, representatives of partner training institutes and foundations as well as independent experts and trainers who provide first-hand experiences.

Participants are selected on the basis of individual applications as well as on recommendations by relevant parties/organizations. Each participant is expected to have a university/college degree (or minimum 4 completed semesters at a university/college) and must be fluent in English.

Young Leaders

The series for “young leaders” is aimed at providing opportunity for public career-oriented Christian Democratic/conservative-minded and progressive young people between 22–30 years, who are involved in political or civil activities of centre-right parties and organisations to prepare them for leadership in political and social life in a democracy, therefore, the Institute offers for current or potential young leaders a good opportunity

- for obtaining theoretical and practical knowledge on new political, social, cultural, economic and civil requirements and developments in Europe subsequent to the political system change in the relevant countries of CEE, EE and SEE,
- for learning and transmitting the traditional values of Christian Democracy, creating and maintaining closed relationship as well as better communication among the participants from the different countries. (This is expected to have a positive effect on their future national and international involvement in politics and/or the sphere of civil activities.)

The first series was organised in 1994/95 for participants from Bulgaria, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and the Ukraine.

At the beginning there were five one-week courses. The courses of the first series were

1. ‘The Politician as a Personality’
2. ‘The Moral Basis of Modern States’
3. ‘The Construction of a Social and Ecological Market Economy’
4. ‘Party Building’
5. ‘Democratic Challenges’

The Dutch CDA and especially Prof. Dr. Gerard van Wissen, Professor at the University of Amsterdam supported the organisers, directed and led the series of five courses. Professor van Wissen is since 1994 a very important personality in all series for young leaders. The Robert Schuman Institute invites him frequently to the first course of the series. His experiences on the field of political education, group development and training young politicians are basic elements of the first courses in each series.

In 2006 the Institute starts the 13th series for young political leaders. During the 10 years the series was permanently developed on the basis of the evaluations after each course and series.

In the years 1998/99 the organisers realised that the interests of the participants from CEE countries on the way to the European Union is very different to the participants from Eastern and South Eastern European countries.

In 2000, the Robert Schuman Institute – while proceeding with the standard training courses for the CEE countries at an advanced level – extended its activities over the countries of Eastern and South Eastern Europe (EE/SEE) with a curriculum specifically tailored to the present situation and the state of democratic development of these countries.

Since the countries of the EE/SEE still had to go a long way to achieve democracy and a civil society, there were a lot to do in the area of creating and strengthening civil organizations and activities. For this purpose, the Institute started two new series for young leaders in order to provide the required historical knowledge and background information on the role of civil organizations and their relation to Christian democracy.

Series 2000–2002: Leader in a Civil Society

This series comprised five six-day courses (including a study tour in Brussels) over one year and is aimed at to provide comprehensive knowledge on the role and functions of civil organizations in building up democracy, the ways of strengthening their influence and the international relations with the European Union.

Curriculum of the courses is expected to offer substantial knowledge regarding

- *The Role of Politics within Civil Society* (basic elements of civil society, civil society in real life, importance of the media in the society, public opinion, elections and the media, media and the public, ideology in politics, politics and values, self-discipline, ethics and ideology)
- *Education and Culture* (Culture in Europe – European culture?, political culture in a democracy, educational questions, democracy in the educational system, minorities in CEE)
- *Economic and Social Challenges in the Process of Building Democracy and Civil Society* (social market economy and unemployment, taxation, environmental challenges, the role of civil organizations, networking, trade unions, corruption and organised crime)
- *Foreign and Security Policy in Europe*: security policy and security systems, the idea of a United Europe, the enlargement process, NATO, terrorism, legal structure of the EU

- *Study trip “European Union”*. Programs with the European Parliament, European Commission, European Council, Western European Union, NATO, Regions in Europe, Communities in Europe

Each course shall include special trainings on skills development: presentation and debating – how to be a successful lecturer, planning – implementation – control, team building, conflict management and time management.

Main target countries: Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia.

In order to learn more about the participating countries the courses were organised in different countries. The first course was in Latvia (Jurmala, 2000) / in Estonia (Tallinn, 2001), the second course in Poland (Krakow), the third course in Hungary (Budapest), the fourth in Austria (Vienna) in co-operation with the Political Academy (ÖVP) and the fifth course was in Brussels and Paris.

Leader in Democracy

This series comprised four six-day courses on the basic values and institutions of democracy and civil society, including the possible ways of promoting civil societies and a social market economy.

Curriculum of the courses covered the following subjects:

- *Basic Values and Institutions of a Democracy* (basic elements of democracy, Christian democratic values, civil society and its functions, leadership in democracy, ethics and ideology, public opinion and media, judgement of civil organizations by the citizen, political culture)

- *Managing Diversity in Cultural and Social Life* (changes in social life and culture, minorities, history, education systems and minorities, development of tolerance, multicultural societies)

- *Economic and Social Challenges in the Process of Building Democracy* (unemployment, health care, retirement, international economic organisations, foreign investments, privatisation, taxation, corruption and organised crime)

- *Foreign and Security Policy in Europe* (the idea and realization of a United Europe, the network of international organizations, the EPP and its network, security policy and systems)

Special trainings on skill development: presentation and debating skills, negotiating, assertive communication skills were held in the framework of the courses.

Main target countries: Albania, Bulgaria, Belarus, Bosnia–Herzegovina, Croatia, FYROM (Macedonia), Moldavia, Romania, Russia, Ukraine, FR Yugoslavia.

In 2002 the EPP-ED Center for Political parliamentary Education and Training (CET) started preparatory courses for the 10 countries which joined the EU in 2004. The CET organised trainings in order to prepare the future work of the EPP sister parties in the EPP-ED Group in the European Parliament. The 10 countries had to focus on the challenges in connection with the membership in the EU therefore the Robert Schuman Institute finished the series Leader in a Civil Society in summer 2002.

Since autumn 2002 the Robert Schuman Institute is organising the Young Leaders courses for Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, FYROM (Macedonia), Moldova, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro and Ukraine.

Actual form of the series for Young Leaders

Similar to the previous courses each course provides theoretic information as well as practical approach to develop skills and personality for managing leadership roles – developed from course to course.

The series includes practical trainings: presentation techniques, time and conflict management, assertive communication, negotiation skills, protocol. The series is composed of three six day courses:

1. *Basic Values and Institutions of a Democracy* – The first course introduces the basic concepts of democracy, the role of ideologies in public life – ethics and values of Christian Democracy and the EPP, the question of human rights and solidarity, the role of education and minority issues.

2. *International and Security Policy* – Topics such as international organizations and their role (EU institutions and their function, the work of OSCE, EU–NATO relations), foreign security policy in Europe (including the transatlantic security architecture, the future perspective of NATO, the EU's new role in international security) and finally the new threats of democracies (corruption and organised crime, terrorism, migration) are discussed.

3. *Economic and Social Challenges in the Process of Democracy Building* – This course deals with economic and social issues: economics as policy tool, international economic institutions, welfare system reform, labour relations, privatisation, taxation and fighting corruption.

FINISHED SEMINAR PROJECTS OF THE RSI

STUDIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS FOR YOUNG EXPERTS FROM CENTRAL EUROPE

Postgraduate Training

23 February – 25 July 1998

The experimental training for young experts of international relations was a great success of the RSI. It brought a very positive professional and political feedback on both national and international level.

The large-scale project lasting almost six months was a full-time postgraduate education on university level for young Christian Democrats active in foreign affairs or foreign relations. It was organised in co-operation with the Péter Pázmány Catholic University. The training ended with a three weeks study visit in Brugge, at the College of Europe.

GOOD POLICY – BADLY SOLD

The Robert Schuman Institute has introduced a new project in 2001, a seminar cycle on the difficulties of political marketing. The new program was realised in co-operation with and financed by the EPP-ED group in the European Parliament. The 2- or 3-module, 3-day training series was designed specifically for political spokesmen and officials engaged in media relations of the EPP member parties and their parliamentary factions in the EU candidate countries and Bulgaria and Macedonia. Participants were given basic and comprehensive knowledge about political and social PR and the basis of political marketing through theoretical input and practical exercise. Target group of the seminar includes spokesmen and/or other officials engaged in media relations and political PR in the parties, parliamentary factions or the government.

GOOD POLICY – BADLY SOLD

July and September 2001, Semmering, Austria
for EU Candidate countries

GOOD POLICY – BADLY SOLD

October 2001, January and April 2002, Bulgaria (Borovec, Ihtiman, Veliko Trnovo)
for Bulgaria and Macedonia



RSI Staff (1997) from left to right: Zs. Rudán, M. Kuslits-Zlinszky, Dr. M. Szalai, E. Deme, A. Káplár



RSI Staff (2006) from left to right: Sz. Lohr, Dr. E. v. d. Bank, Sz. Lezama, N. Czeglédi, K. Szabó, G. Berczeli



Dr. László Surján, at one of the courses of the Christian Democratic Academy(1994)



Dr. Jan van Laarhoven



Prof. Dr. G.J.M. van Wissen



Dr. Erhard von der Bank, director and Prof.Dr. G.J.M. van Wissen, lecturer (2005)



Prof.Dr. Gerard van Wissen lecturing (2005)



Participants of the Christian Dem. Academy



Dr. Márta Szalai and Klaus Welle, Greece 1992



Participants of the Christian Dem. Academy



Ferenc Rabár as lecturer



Civil Society and Freedom of the Media, Krakow 1996



Dr. Annamária Váry during training



Iván Gyurácz Németh, former participant as lecturer



Young Leaders (1996/1997) in Dobogókő



Young Leaders (1996/1997) with Dr. Márta Szalai and Zsuzsanna Rudán



Young Leaders (1999/2000) in Dobogókő



Young Leaders in a Democracy (2000/2001), in Budapest



Young Leaders in a Civil Society (2001/2002), in Tallinn



Young Leaders in a Civil Society (2001/2002), in Krakow



Young Leaders in a Civil Society (2001/2002), in Vienna



Young Leaders in a Democracy (2000/2001), visiting the Hungarian "Puszta"



Political Management (2004), visit in the Hungarian Parliament



Political Management (2004), Budapest sightseeing



Political Management (2005), visit in the Hungarian Parliament



Media and Politics (2005), at the Political Academy, Vienna



Young Leaders (2005) with Prof. Péter Ákos Bod, lecturer



Young Leaders (2005) with Prof. van Wissen



Campaign Management (2005), Budapest sightseeing



E. von der Bank and I. Sanader, Prime Minister of Croatia “Minority Conference”, Zagreb (2004)



Team Building exercise in Political Management (2005)



Brainstorming at the end of the course



Many nationalities working in one group



Presentation of group work

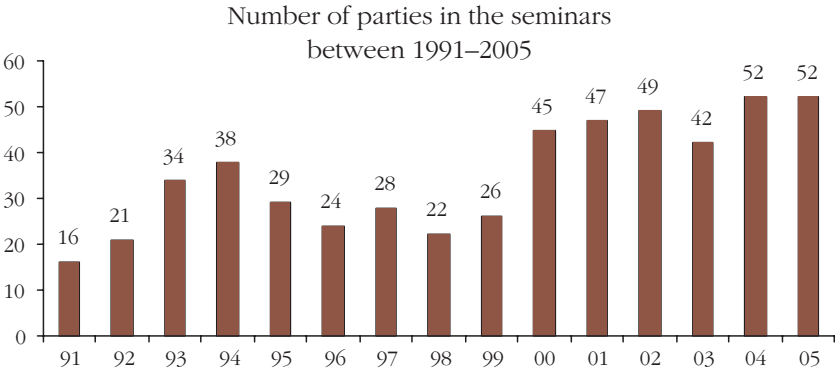
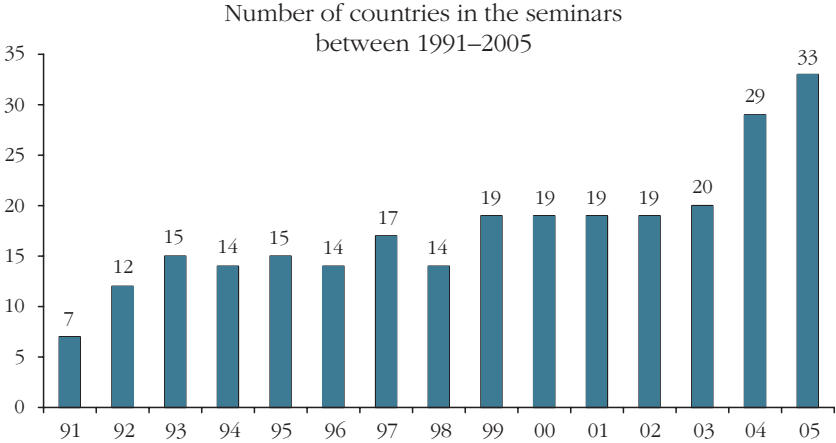
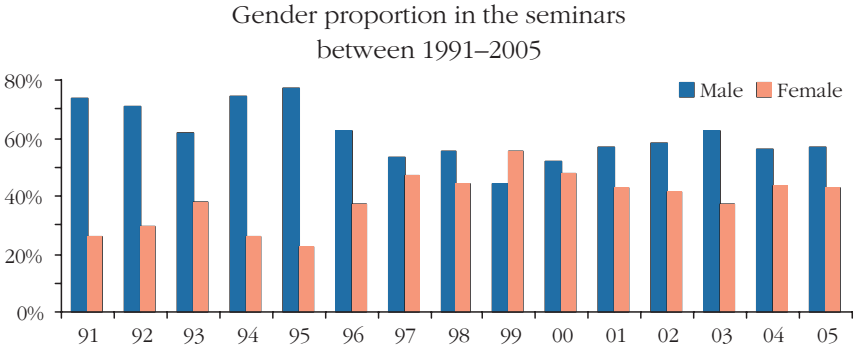


Young Leaders in a Civil Society (2001/2002), country presentation: Hungary



Young Leaders in a Civil Society (2001/2002), country presentation: Czech Republic

General diagrams, 1991–2005



SERIES OF THE ROBERT SCHUMAN INSTITUTE IN 2006

Young Leaders

Please see the description on page 49.

Political Organisation Management

The series is planned for participants involved in party activities, party or civil organizations management of the EPP sister and co-operating parties. The aim is to familiarise participants with party and organization management, financing, fundraising and political PR by theoretical input and practical exercises.

The series is composed of two five-day-courses:

1. *Introduction to Building up a Political Organization* – Important issues such as organization management, party hierarchy and structure, party/organization financing, fundraising, internal and external relations of a party, lobbying and preparing political meetings are handled. The course includes practical trainings: team building, protocol.

2. *Party/Organization Management* – Party image and programme development, party member and volunteer recruitment for political elections, role of the youth organizations and their relations to the mother party, importance of the programme are covered. The course includes practical trainings: assertive communication, negotiation skills.

Political Campaign Management

The target group of the series are politicians working on media and PR field within the relevant parties/organizations. The overall aim is to prepare party functionaries to be member of a campaign staff.

The series is composed of two five-day-courses:

1. *Introduction to Building up Political Campaigns* – The course is based on discussing the following topics: party and organization management, assertive communication, internal co-operation in the party, financing and the role of the youth organization in the campaign.

2. *Managing Political Campaigns* – The second course is dedicated to sharing rather practical knowledge on campaign management such as party image development, message building, issue management, communication and media training in order to bring the party message closer to people.

Media and Politics

The series is planned for participants involved strictly in media relations of the EPP sister or co-operating parties. The overall aim is to familiarise participants with media relations, public opinion, media strategy and media events of a party by theoretical input and many practical exercises.

The series is composed of two five-day-courses:

1. *Media-Public-Politician* – The first course is dedicated to the correlation of media-public-politician. When we look at this “triangle”, we discuss the importance of media in today’s democracies, media ethics, the relation between public opinion and the media. We also emphasize the importance of good connections between media and political parties/politicians, not forgetting about addressing the values of a Christian Democratic/Centre-right Party. The course includes practical trainings: team building, press conference organisation.

2. *Campaign and Crisis Communication* – The second course focuses less on everyday media relations of the parties but more on special media events (campaigns and crisis situations) based on case studies. Discussions are held on targeting, branding and addressing of main messages. The course includes practical trainings: developing media strategy, master plan, crisis communication, conflict management, negative campaigning.



European Institutions

It is a new series of courses for activists from the EPP sister and co-operating parties in EE and SEE who are interested in the European Union and aim to be active on the EU related activities of the own parties.

The series is composed of two one-week-courses.

1. European Institutions – Introduction – The first course provides theoretical knowledge on the history, structure and functions of the EU and its institutions. Especially the responsibilities, interactions and procedures of the European Parliament, Council and the Commission are introduced via interactive presentations and workshops. The first course is the obligatory preparation for the field trip.

2. European Institutions – Field Trip – The second course is a field trip to the European Institutions in Brussels in order to get first-hand information and good insight into the everyday life of the European Parliament, Council, and the Commission. Meetings and discussions with politicians and officials of the institutions complete the theoretical knowledge from the first course.

Rhetoric Seminar

A new three-day-seminar is planned for party activists working in their organisations' media/PR departments and who are also involved in political campaigns, especially in speech writing or debates. By analyzing given speeches, preparing and presenting their own speeches participants learn about more effective argumentation and better performance.



Memories of a Lecturer

Prof. Dr. G.J.M. van Wissen

The Netherlands

Lecturer and course leader of the Christian Democratic Academy
and the Robert Schuman Institute since 1991

From the very beginning I have been involved in the teaching activities of the *Robert Schuman Institute* (and the preceding academy). Therefore I am very pleased with the invitation to write a contribution to the jubilee book.

The very beginning of my involvement in the *Robert Schuman Institute* was an invitation of my political party, the *Christian Democratic Appeal*, to give some lectures in Budapest at a conference for politicians from Central and Eastern Europe with a christian democratic/conservative background. It was – I guess – 1990 and thus even before the *Robert Schuman Institute* was founded.



It was a great pleasure to give these lectures. The conference was held in a well known building in Budapest, *Kulturinov*, in the center of Buda near the Matthias Church. Obviously my lectures were appreciated, because another invitation by the organizers followed a year later.

In the meantime the *Christian Democratic Academy for Central and Eastern Europe* was founded with its seat in Budapest. The Academy became the organizer from then on of these conferences and courses for the politicians from Central and Eastern Europe with a Christian democratic and/or conservative background.

I believe the conferences held in these years were very useful. Probably for the first time in their lives the participants could attend lectures about themes as democracy, fundamental rights and Christian democratic principles and values.

Nevertheless I was not satisfied with the structure of the conferences. In the first place the conferences were stuffed with lectures. The idea is widespread that the number of lectures is decisive for the level and success of a conference! The truth is that with an overflow of lectures most of the words are going in one ear and out the other. Only little sinks in.

Another problem was that the attitude of the participants was very passive. After every lecture there was a short opportunity to ask some questions. Most of the time that opportunity was not used because the participants were tired and stuffy after so many words. The third problem was that the group of participants was a mixed one, consisting of old and young, experienced politicians and politicians who were just starting a political career.

With Márta Szalai, the director of the Academy at that moment, we discussed the possibility to organize a special course for young politicians. The idea behind this course was that the new emerging democracies in Central and Eastern Europe desperately needed young leaders in politics and more in general in many other places in society. The former communists had their elite, the “right wing” in politics and society could educate its elite by institutions financed by Soros and others. For the groups, movements and political parties in the center of society there was less opportunity to educate their elite.

The example for this course was the course for young politicians of the party academy of the *Christian Democratic Appeal* in the Netherlands, where I have been a lecturer for many years. The structure of the course was the following. A group of about 25 participants of different parties and organizations of several countries would get a course of five weeks. Every week was devoted to a certain topic, i.e. cultural, economic, minority questions etc. The first course was an introductory one. This first course dealt with themes as constitutional state, democracy, but also Christian democratic values and how to make politics based on norms and values.

These courses were held in a period of two years, also with an interval of several months. It was obligatory for students to speak English fluently, to attend all the courses and to participate actively. For every course they had to write a paper about the situation in their country with respect to the theme of that particular course. If they did not send in a paper several weeks before the beginning of the course, participants were not admitted to the remaining courses.

For the admitted students (and their political parties or organizations as well) no costs were involved in attending these courses. Everything was free: traveling to and from Budapest, housing and meals. In the beginning the participants were also granted a scholarship they could use to cover the small costs during their stay (presents, drinks in the evening etc.). It is clear that participating in these courses was extremely appealing. From the beginning it was therefore absolutely necessary to prevent the coming of “tourists” who used the opportunity to come to Budapest and made a holiday there. So I remember some Russian girls and boys who attended only the first day and disappeared the next day into the city. Immediately we gave them the choice between attending all the courses and to participate actively or to go back to

Russia without any delay. As far as I can remember they chose to attend the courses, but showed such a disinterest in what was going on that they were not invited for the rest of the courses. The courses were organised by the *Robert Schuman Institute* and sponsored by Christian Democratic (and conservative) parties, foundations from – mostly – Western Europe. I am proud that my party, the *Christian Democratic Appeal* through its *Eduardo Frei Foundation* have sponsored many of these courses.

The aim of the courses was not only providing information, but training skills as well. For a politician and leader in society it is necessary to be able to deliver a vivid and convincing speech. He or she has to be a good debater as well. This means having the ability and the mentality to debate in a convincing and honest way. In the end only trustworthy politicians and leaders survive. Several times we used a video camera. Nothing is so informing and confronting (!) as seeing yourself on a video!

The lectures formed the main structure of the courses. They were given by lecturers from Western Europe, mostly connected with the sponsoring party and by lecturers from the new democracies in Central and Eastern Europe. After each lecture there was a good opportunity to discuss the topic. Sometimes we started with a workshop. In some groups the participants discussed some questions about the topic that were put by the lecturer. After reporting the results of the discussion in a plenary session the lecturer started his lecture involving the opinions of the participants in his lecture. It is a good way to arouse the interest of a group in the topic of the lecture.

Workshops were not only used as starting point for a lecture but also to discuss certain topics more deeply. Sometimes we used the workshop for a play. I can remember three examples. The first play was the following. “Discuss and answer this question in small groups: The EU grant your country an extra gift of EUR 50 million. How would you spend this money?” There was always a very vivid discussion comparing the choices of the different groups. Its was an important play because the ability and the readiness to make choices and to formulate priorities is necessary for every politician.

We used also another play: “Imagine your group are the local authorities of a village near the border. On the other site of the border a group of nearly five thousand refugees (men, women and children) want to cross the border and to come to your village. The population of your village is strongly opposed against more refugees. What will you do?” We filmed the discussion in the local authorities and afterwards we discussed the way in which the problem was solved by the local authorities and the role of all the participants in that process. It was an interesting play because it showed that being a politician also means being a moral leader. As a politician you have to show leadership and you must take sometimes painful decisions, sometimes even against the opinion of the majority.

The last example is an interview. One of the participants interviewed another participant about the question why he is active in politics in his country. Which are his motives against the background of a very miserable and corrupt political life in his country. We asked the other participants about the way of interviewing by the interviewer. Was he asking the right questions? Was he going on asking questions? Were the answers of the interviewed participant convincing enough?

During the courses there were always special meetings about skills given by well known specialists. So for many years now a whole day in the first course was devoted to Team Building given in a very stimulating way by dr. Anna-mária Váry.

These are only examples of what we have done during these courses and what we are still doing.

The *Robert Schuman Institute* has been offering these courses for more than ten years. During this period there have been some changes. The number of courses of a series was reduced to be able to organize more series and to give the opportunity to more participants to attend the courses. The first three years – as far as I can remember – I was the course leader of all the courses of a series. One course leader is important because he makes a connection between the different courses in a series. A series is also a learning process. Every course enabled the participants to put the next step in gathering new knowledge and skills. One course leader facilitated that process.

After some years it became clear that being the course leader of all the courses of a series was no longer possible to combine with my job at the university, so a different approach was chosen. Since that time I take care of the first course of every series. My task is to make a real group out of the individuals. It really is a fascinating activity!

I have spoken so far about the structure and the content of the courses, but what about the participants? Have they changed during these years? Without any doubt!

In the first years, shortly after the fall of communism, the students were shy and passive. If I tried to involve them in my lectures by asking questions their reaction was one of embarrassment. I will never forget the reaction of a participant who said: "That is not the way a professor has to behave! You must not ask us questions. You are the professor. You have to tell us how it is!" My relaxed and interactive way of teaching was very strange for these students. After some years the situation at the universities in their countries changed and a vivid debate was possible.

Another point was that in the beginning many participants were very pessimistic. They exuded resignation. Every time they emphasized that the situation in their countries was hopeless and desperate. What could they do? It was very

sad to see such bright young people in such a mood. We tried to give them confidence in the future. We underlined that they were the hope of their countries and the future of their countries also lied in their hands.

After some years the pessimistic attitude faded away and the post communist generation consists of open, pleasant and cheerful young people, not very different from my students in Amsterdam!

Therefore I fully agree with the decision of the *Robert Schuman Institute* several years ago to open the courses for participants of the eastern countries of Eastern Europe. Students from the former communist countries which are now members of the EU do not need these courses more than my students in Amsterdam. Let us concentrate our energy and money on the countries in which the situation is still not very well.

I must finish my short contribution to the jubilee book. I am honoured and grateful having had the opportunity to participate in these courses. It was always a privilege to give lectures and have discussions with these young people.

The courses are a clear example of the very good work the *Robert Schuman Institute* has done during these fifteen years!

I am grateful as well for having had the opportunity to meet such a number of good and interesting people as lecturers from many countries, but especially of the staff of the *Robert Schuman Institute*. Among them I like to mention Márta Szalai, Erzsébet Zöldi, Zsuzsanna Rudán, Kinga Szabó and Szonja Lohr. It has always been a great pleasure to cooperate with them!

I will end my contribution expressing my gratitude to the director of the *Robert Schuman Institute*, Dr. Erhard von der Bank. Many years we have been working together in friendship and mutual respect!

I congratulate the Robert Schuman Institute, its board, its director and its staff with this jubilee and I hope that the Institute will continue its beneficial work for the emerging democracies for many years to come!

Impressions of a Politician as Lecturer at RSI Courses

Michael Gabler MEP

EPP-ED Group in the European Parliament
Lecturer in courses of the RSI

For quite some years I took part as a lecturer in the seminars and conferences of the Robert Schuman Institute in Budapest. Already before I became a member of the European Parliament I was invited there, because I had longstanding party and professional activities in many Central European countries. Moreover I come from Germany, a country that had partially also suffered communist dictatorship from soon after the war till 1989. During many visits there I was not only aware what people had gone through, but after the fall of the wall I experienced how much especially interested young people longed for information, how to organise an open society in general, transparent public administration and democratic parties in particular.



In Central Europe, where no country had a full scale western “godfather” to finance the bulk of the necessary transformation, the situation was more complex. Single countries or parties were overcharged in realising the necessary help for their new regained friends. And therefore I supported from the outset this approach of the EPP-ED Group to do something and offer our new partners courses, seminars and conferences on how to organise a democratic society. I found many parallels in discussions with what I had experienced in the Eastern part of Germany. One difference that sometimes seemed to exist was that there was less tendency from Central Europeans than in former East Germany to romanticize certain aspects of every day life or specific “socialist achievements” of the old days.

While in a first phase we were focussing more on how to rearrange life and politics in the new democracies themselves, soon the focus turned towards the preparation of these countries for EU-accession. Consequently some courses were split for those who were to enter the EU by 2004 or 2007 and others for whom it would take longer.

My impression was that contrary to what we are used to in western countries, where we are often educated towards a “culture of discussion”, my state-

ments were too often taken for granted, so that in discussions I myself sometimes had to hint at where my own positions could be challenged.

Another interesting issue and real challenge for me as a lecturer has always been to bridge the gap of socialisation with our common European project. We Westerners had grown up naturally with this project, also of course because of the outside pressure from the Soviet block that united us even over certain minor differences. But now such outside communist pressure was gone, the new democracies established, some states regained independence or were even newly founded. So why proceed again towards a structure that takes away some of the newly gained sovereignty?

To sum up my message: The EU has been a success-story ever-since it was founded, eventually for all – the founding members, the later members, the rich, the poor, the big and the small member states. However, the young participants were of course sometimes doubting, whether there countries would be welcome or not – quite some realism as a consequence of following with great interest ongoing discussions in the old member states. For the future I had to underline the challenges ahead that could only be addressed together: globalisation, climate change, underdevelopment in large parts of the world and later the phenomenon of terrorism.

To sum up: I am convinced that this new generation, not corrupted by dictatorship and having the chances that no previous generation in their countries ever had before, is a real asset not only for their countries but also for the EU as a whole. As they have seen such a lot of transformation and capacity for reform in their own countries, they do not accept arguments of the old member states that reform is going too quick or too far. As their countries have made their way successfully, from a lower point of departure as far as living standard is concerned, there is no reason for others to pretend not to be able to address the necessary reform steps. This new generation from Central Europe will become the driving force for a modernised Europe that can stand the challenges that lie ahead of us.

And if we from the EPP have contributed a bit to this we can be proud thereof.

Some Thoughts about Roles in a Training Group and the Birth Order Theory

Dr. Annamária Váry

Trainer and Psychologist

The question “who am I in relation to the others” is raised already during the first meeting in all groups. At the RSI training programs the group includes members from more than ten countries and this question becomes even more important from the point of view of the individual. The fantasies and expectations before joining the group may include historical stereotypes as well. What the others from e.g. country X which reined over us or vice versa will be like? If we take into consideration the fact that Serbs, Croatians, Ukrainians, Moldavians, Albanians, Romanians, Macedonians and others get acquainted, it is not so surprising that the question of the relationship to authority appears both at conscious and unconscious personality levels.



In the first minutes of the seminar the group meets formally and members are looking at each other with curiosity. However soon they reach an important moment, a compulsory introduction. It seems that the first impression is very important, in a few minutes they are faced with reactions showing how much of attention, interest, sympathy they were able to evoke from their peers. There are some who make great efforts to solve this apparently simple task, others make fun of it and there are those who seem not to understand that it is a task which should be taken seriously because life brings many occasions where they have to introduce themselves quickly and effectively.

It is a challenge for every formal group leader, right at the beginning and in the possession of the least information, to find out who is going to apply for the informal leadership in the group and how the others will relate to him or her. There are always clues which show that a person wants the others to accept and follow him in these very first moments. This is an ambitious goal, so much the more because almost each member of the group has already played with this idea and has a leading role in his daily life.

Those who find introduction important surely develop an entry which will not be forgotten by the others. Of course it can be done in several ways, with emotion, with substance and creativity or superficially with cheap humour. It is not easy but possible to find out after the first contact which role is going to take the individual in the given group.

There are clear and easily recognisable signs of striving for leadership, the most important being that such a person speaks a lot without being aware of it. He or she seizes the opportunity – if not the power itself – to speak very often and passes the word reluctantly. During small group exercises he or she takes spontaneously the leadership and the others, who feel safe when somebody gives orders, do not mind it. Other signs of the fight for power are: competing with the formal leaders of the group, showing dissatisfaction and initiating changes very often without a reason.

From the point of view of group dynamics these are natural phenomena, which occur every time and everywhere and which fade as much as the members find their proper role in the group. The question is who are those people who take up this role quickly and without worrying about failure?

In one of the RSI groups it was one of youngest members who made it clear from her first word that she wants to play a leading role. As an introduction she made funny associations to the letters of her name and spoke a lot whatever the topic was. Her sentences usually started with “But I do not believe you” or “It is not true for me”, “I know the solution”. Later during one of the exercises it could not stay unnoticed that she gave orders outrageously to the others ignoring their resistance.

What makes one to strive for power? There are many answers to this question but let's discuss only one of them now. It is an interesting question how the order of birth influences our personality. Alfred Adler (1870–1937) Austrian psychologist was the first to study the question and since then it has arisen again and again whether the order of birth has anything to do with personality development and the relationship to leadership. Some surveys seems to prove that in responsible positions the percentage of first born is very high.

The subject was ‘reinvented’ by a contemporary United Methodist Minister doing psychotherapy, Cliff Isaacson, who made a psychological typology based on it. According to him there are five clearly distinguishable types, as follows: the only child, the first born, the second, third and fourth born. There are many exceptions to chronological birth order so your psychological birth order may not match your placement in the family. For example when the difference in age between the first born and the second one is more than 5 year they both might develop as only children.

In the international groups I met at RSI there were mainly first born or only children and a few second born ones. In some of the groups half of the partici-

pants were first born. Probably there are less and less large families and therefore third or fourth born participants occurred only once in a blue moon.

During the team-building day we made an exercise in which the participants were working in small groups according to their order of birth. Each group collected childhood experiences which could be connected with the preference for a leadership role. Usually small groups of first born concluded that they has got used to being the biggest, the smartest and having the responsibility for others. Rarely they mentioned their bad feelings related to younger siblings because this feeling has fallen deep in the unconscious.

According to the theories the first born comes to feel unloved through the perceived loss of mother's love to the new baby. This child mentally trades love for attention in the forms of respect, admiration and approval, seeking these in the place of unconditional love. One of the most obvious ways to get respected is to take a leadership position. Therefore it is not a surprise that many leaders seem to be first born children.

Whatever is the motivation for becoming a leader it is important to know our drivers. To take responsibility for others and to accept the risk of a leadership role are valuable traits. Groups need leaders and the members are ready to project and see on them their own qualities and desires.

However, one of the most famous sentences of Alfred Adler tells: "The striving for personal power is a disastrous delusion and poisons man's living together. Whoever desires the human community must renounce the striving for power over others" It is obvious that the effective and successful leadership is not looking for dominance but takes responsibility for the problems of a community.

The first step in recognising and respecting the needs of others and taking responsibility is to have a clear picture of our own needs, role preferences, strengths or weak points which makes us to enter conflicts, to compromise or to become vulnerable and give up.

You can start self assessment in many ways, for example by learning more about your role in the family of origin, your patterns you learned there, according to the birth order theories. Enjoy your travel to deeper self knowledge!

Benefits of the RSI Courses in my Political Career on the Way to the Ministry of Defence

Martin Fedor

Minister of Defence, Slovakia

Participant in the RSI series "Young Leaders" 2000/2001

I tremendously enjoyed the time that I spent in the frame of the Robert Schuman Institute's course for young leaders. Very rarely before – and, indeed, very rarely after – have I experienced such a useful mix of theoretical and practical knowledge delivered in a single course. The Institute demonstrated its golden hand in selecting excellent instructors, putting together an interesting agenda and wrapping everything into a convivial, inspiring atmosphere.



Omnipresent during the course was the figure of Robert Schuman, whether explicitly or implicitly. His ideas continue to shape the European discourse today. Since its accession to the European Union in 2004, Slovakia has sought to be a full-fledged member. Adapting to NATO and EU membership and anticipating changes in the security environment, the Ministry of Defence has taken a fresh look at its Strategic Defence Review. Our new Defence Strategy states the aim of shaping, fulfilling and strengthening the European Security and Defence Policy. Our planning is now based on NATO standards, which are common to both organizations, and will allow our Armed Forces to act in the full spectrum of NATO, EU, United Nations and coalition missions. In 2009 and 2010, two EU battle groups with Slovak participation will be on standby: one with the Czechs, the other with Poles, Germans, Lithuanians and Latvians. We are becoming a solid contributor of security – and a staunch promoter of the interests of Slovakia and its allies – in places far away from national territory.

The United States has been the European Union's closest ally from its inception; indeed, Washington's commitment to European security made European integration possible. Our greatest challenge now is to maintain dialogue and unity. We should use pragmatically and creatively the multiple fora that have evolved through decades of interaction. Usability should not be limited to forces; it must include our institutions as well. Sometimes, the political chal-

lenge is to put reason first. There is no room for duplication and waste, let alone the waste of political credibility. The European Union is going defence; it must learn from, and draw on, NATO. NATO is going civilian, and it must learn from, and draw on, the European Union.

Slovakia's defence will, as it has, pursue the twin tracks of reform and integration. We are committed to increasing the deploy ability of forces, double-hatting them for the use by both NATO and the EU and training them according to single standards. Robert Schuman would have recognized the driving tenets of Slovakia's approach to building institutions and capabilities: pragmatism, complementarity, transatlanticism.

Our future, individually and collectively, is Euro-Atlantic. My country aspires to a full-fledged membership in a full-fledged Community.

I am delighted to extend my congratulations to RSI on the 15th anniversary of the Institute's founding. It goes without saying that I recommend RSI courses and conferences to anyone interested in public life and service.



What do I Benefit from the RSI Courses in my Position as Deputy to the Vice-Prime Minister and Deputy Minister of Justice

Ivo Hartmann

Deputy to the Vice-Prime Minister
and Deputy Minister of Justice, Czech Republic
Participant in the RSI series “Young Leaders” 2001/2002

When the Robert Schuman Institute round of seminars, which I attended, finished, the Czech Republic had just a few weeks to go before the parliamentary elections. Four years before the elections in 2002, I took part in preparation for a programme in my capacity as chief advisor to the chairman of the opposition political party, which we wanted to implement in our country after the elections. I participated with the opposition on presentation of this programme for four years. It was in the last year before the elections that we were closing in on the finish line. And it was in just this critical year, that I also actively attended the series of seminars, held at intervals of several days in many beautiful cities around Europe – from Tallinn to Krakow, Budapest, Brussels, Vienna and Paris. I had an amazing opportunity thanks to these meetings to prove my own knowledge and skills. I remember the practical lesson on public performance and presentation to this very day, which I went on to use in the pre-election campaign. Discussion about European integration, economic policy, foreign and security policy and the values of civil society also enriched me with a wide range of information and useful arguments. I really did appreciate the fact that there was solid attendance by many young people with similar interests from what were at that time candidate countries for the European Union. This enriched all discussions with a range of specific and valuable points of view and experience from various countries, which we were able to jointly communicate in the end. I established very close personal ties with many people, which I am developing to this every day. We are still in contact after four years and are able to appreciate the advantage of knowledge, which flows from our mutual understanding.



After the elections in 2002, the government changed in the Czech Republic. I became the First Deputy Minister at the Ministry for regional development. I was especially responsible for investment policy, the European structural funds

and the Cohesion fund, regional policy, the tourism industry and public procurements. I frequently appreciated the week-long-internship at European institutions, which the Robert Schuman Institute organised for us in terms of the educational cycle. That, which we had talked about in terms of the programme in Brussels, I was soon able to use in a wide range of negotiations in the EU Commission and in the European Parliament – first of all as a representative of a EU candidate country and now already as a representative of a member country.

In 2004 personnel changes occurred in the Czech government. I received new tasks, too. I became the Deputy to the Vice-Prime Minister and Deputy Minister of Justice. I was entrusted with care for the governmental and parliamentary agenda department, reform to financing – launching projects of public private partnership in the administration of justice and the prison system as well as coordination of several governmental councils – especially the Government council for non-governmental, non-profit organisations, the Government council for human rights, the Governmental council for matters of the Romany community, the Government council for national minorities and certain other ones. I also began to participate in preparations for adoption of the Euro as the currency of the Czech Republic in terms of a national coordination group. Still today when I am preparing for an appearance in terms of the human rights or non-profit organisation agenda, I often look over notes from the courses organised by the Robert Schuman Institute. I am convinced that I will still be using the findings and know-how gained thanks to the Robert Schuman Institute for many years to come. I am also grateful to the Institute for the opportunity it provided me with of establishing many personal friendships, which continue to this very day. I would sincerely like to thank the RSI for all of this and to wish it much success in its praiseworthy operations in the future.

Benefits of the RSI Courses for my own Career – on the Way to the Latvian Parliament

Mihails Pietkevičs, MP

Deputy Chairman of the Parliamentary Group of the People's Party,
Saeima of the Republic of Latvia
Participant in the RSI series "Young Leaders" 2001/2002

Today, when I look at the certificate issued by the Robert Schuman Institute about my participation in the series of courses "Leader in a Civil Society", I remember all the staff, lecturers, participants and every single one place where the courses were held. Likewise, I remember the path that has been gone from the ordinary member of the People's Party of Latvia and the board member and Deputy Chairman of the youth organization to the Member of the Saeima (Parliament) of the Republic of Latvia and Deputy Chairman of the Conservative Parliamentary



group. I have to say that this path was long and interesting and the series of courses organized by the Robert Schuman Institute took a significant role in my career. I gained a better understanding about the conception of civil society, about the political parties and their role and sense in forming the civil society as well as a lot of innovative information about foreign and defence policy in the common European Union and a real know-how about the function of various European institutions. Considering the fact that the series of courses were held in the period of 2001–2002, and Latvia was not a member state of the European Union, all the knowledge I gained was very useful for both campaigning before referendum on Latvia's accession to the EU and my further activities in the Parliament.

It is for sure that I was looking forward to every upcoming lecture with a great impatience and altogether we had five series of lectures. Even more, I remember that I was sick when I went to the Vienna course.

The courses were extremely well considered; the themes for the lectures and lecturers were chosen skillfully. I think that a good thought was the idea that every participant had to write a short essay about the actual theme that was expected to be discussed in the upcoming course. I have kept in mind that a useful practice was that all the essays afterwards had to be presented for the other participants. Therefore, I was able to improve my knowledge in

public speech that is especially important for every politician. I also improved my English language skills.

The participants of the courses were successfully recruited taking into account the principle of proportionality from all the applicant countries of that period. Young, active, joyful, friendly and at the same time politically experienced – that's how I remember my colleagues from the courses with whom I spent an unforgettable five weeks together.

The contacts that each of us gained from the Robert Schuman Institute courses are invaluable. It means that today, I don't have a problem to call neither the Minister of Defense in Slovakia, neither the State Secretary of the Ministry of Justice of the Czech Republic and all the participants from my course are always welcome to visit me in the Parliament of the Republic of Latvia.

I believe that the Robert Schuman Institute is doing a great job. I wish you a lot of success in the future!

And once again, thank you for everything you did in my career!



The Robert Schuman Institute and my Political Career

Andriy Strannikov

Director of the Institute for Political Education Ukraine, Kyiv
Participant in the RSI series “Young Leaders” 1996/1997

My public and political life started with the inception of Ukrainian independence. I got involved in politics in 1992 by participating in a student protest rally supporting the dissolution of the acting Verkhovna Rada and the adoption of a new election law based on multi-party system. One of the benefits of Ukrainian independence was the change from a single-party system to multi-party one as different political parties began active development and growth after 1991. In 1994, I became a member of the Christian-Democratic Party of Ukraine and one of the founders of its youth organization – the Christian-Democratic Youth of Ukraine.



We realized then that young people in any country can become the driving force of democracy, that they can give adequate assessment of the existing political situation in their country and act effectively to uphold law and principles of civil society. What is most important is that there is a large number of publicly active young people in Ukraine, interested in participating in the country's political life and willing to stand up for their rights and interests. Our main impediment then was the lack of knowledge and experience in all fields of life of civil society. Ukraine at that time did not have a strong pool of its own public organizations, which could provide the necessary knowledge necessary for leaders and activists of public youth organizations to work effectively. There was only one way out – to learn from the leading European states.

The first building block of my political career was series of seminars “Leader in Democracy” organized by Robert Schuman Institute, which I attended in 1996–1997. Topics covered during five sessions of the seminar helped me to get a better understanding of the basic institutions of civil society, human rights, EU structure, cooperation between EU and other European states, main political movements in Europe, as well as improve my public speaking, debat-

ing, negotiating skills and much more. Furthermore, Robert Schuman Institute and Eduardo Frei Foundation helped to organize a study visit to The Netherlands in 1997. The visit provided an opportunity for participants, including me, to learn about the practical experience of the Dutch political parties, cooperation between government and self-government bodies. However, besides knowledge and skills, through courses organized by Robert Schuman Institute I learned how to pass on this knowledge to my colleagues: subject trainings for activists of public youth organizations and representatives of political parties with participation of European experts will, undoubtedly, help in the development of civil society in Ukraine.

Besides the necessary education, participating in programmes organized by Robert Schuman Institute helped me to develop a network of useful acquaintances and contacts. It was during the leadership seminar in 1996 when I met Jan van Laarhoven (The Netherlands) and learned about Robert Schuman Foundation (France, Paris). In 1997 I organized the first seminar for members of the Christian Democratic Youth of Ukraine; in 1999, we organized a series of seminars for activists of Christian People's Union political party. Each year, the number of events and partners who helped my colleagues and me pass on political knowledge to the growing number of young activists and party leaders increased. Thus, in 2000–2001, we organized a number of educational seminars for members of different right-centre parties under the heading “Working together!” and a number of training seminars for candidates to local councils in 2002 elections. It ought to be noted that close to 40 % of our participants were elected to local councils and became deputies on different levels. The result of the inter-party seminar “Working together!” was the founding of a public organization “Institute of Political Education” in 2001.

Looking back and analyzing the effects of participating in educational programmes organized by Robert Schuman Institute, I can say that my political career was influenced in two ways. The first was the victory on local elections in Kyiv (I became a deputy of Kyiv city council) in 2002. Currently, I head one of Kyiv's regional party election headquarters in elections to the Verkhovna Rada and local councils. The second was the understanding the importance of educating young activists of public organizations and political parties for the development of civil society in Ukraine. Having realized that, together with like-minded people we founded the Institute of Political Education, which focuses on:

- studying and promoting classical European political movements;
- helping young people to improve their political skills by teaching them the basics of party management, working with mass media, effective public speaking techniques, etc;
- analyzing current political situation in the country.

I consider establishing the Institute of Political Education one of the most successful ideas I have managed to implement thus far. Currently, our institute has five permanent employees and representatives in all Ukrainian regions. The institute cooperates with Eduardo Frei Foundation (the Netherlands), Konrad Adenauer Foundation Representative Office in Ukraine, Hanns Seidel Foundation Representative Office in Ukraine, Robert Schuman Foundation (France), Westminster Foundation for Democracy, Soros International Foundation, USAID (USA), and OSCE. In 2005, we carried out 48 different events, including leadership schools for youth, educational seminars for political party managers, and conferences. This all would have been impossible without experience got education from Robert Schuman Institute first.

We continue cooperation with Robert Schuman Institute. Practically all of our employees and members participated in training seminars in Budapest at various times. Every year we aim to find active young people to participate in educational programmes organized by Robert Schuman Institute.

Summing it all up, I would like to stress that the influence of Robert Schuman Institute is measured not only through individual achievements of participants of the Institute's various programmes, but also through the intensification of democratic processes in post-totalitarian countries. I had a good example of that during the Orange Revolution in Ukraine. I realized that, thanks to international non-government organizations, a whole generation of youth was brought up in Ukraine – young people who will do their utmost to live in a civilized democratic country. The contribution made by the Robert Schuman Institute into this process across Europe is essential.



My Memories of the RSI Courses and their Benefit to my Professional Career

Vajka Ciric

Party of Democratic Progress (PDP), Bosnia–Herzegovina
Vice-president of the State Youth Council
Participant in the RSI series “Young Leaders” 2001/2002

It is a real challenge to describe the extensive impact the RSI has had on my political career as well as on my further education so far. The courses of the series entitled “Leader in a Democracy” from 2001 till 2002, in which I took part as a representative of the Party of Democratic Progress from BH, shaped my political views on change in my country and my vision of its future. All four courses with intensive programs touched specific areas of importance for the understanding of democratic institutions, diversity, economy and foreign and security policies. The organisation of these courses did not only show a high level of professionalism, but also the solid reputation of the RSI as an institution dedicated to educating young politicians from all over the region. The lectures were of excellent organisation with an experienced interactive approach, which aimed to develop self-critical views and new perspectives. Their political and professional background enabled us to understand modern democratic processes as well as the diversity of political issues important to our concern. Furthermore, the basic goal of bringing young people involved in the political life of their countries together and encouraging them to learn from each other and work together, was not only successful but also, helpful for every participant. Upon completing our participation in the programme, we were aware that our opinions had changed and we had built a small but worthy network. I am really grateful for meeting such a group of young successful people from the region, with the ability of cooperating together and developing mutual respect. However, the biggest contribution could be seen in our further political involvement. For me, personally, this represented not only the challenge of educating others what I was taught, but also acting upon it. In that sense my cooperation with the RSI continued until today.



My first aim was to spread the knowledge among the local youth branches in my party and to influence the party policy on a national level through my

position as a member of the main board. As a result of my efforts I was invited to participate in an OSCE project in 2002/2003 called “The Successor Generation Initiative”, which aimed to contribute to the development of youth policies in the country. The published document has been used as a guideline for the next generation, NGO’s, municipal officials and governmental officials involved in youth policy action plans.

During this project my cooperation with different instances of the government became closer and as such it resulted in my appointment in the “*Select committee of experts for youth policy indicators*” at the CoE in 2003. At the same time I was also appointed as a member of *The Steering Committee for Youth* at the Secretariat for Sport and Youth in RS government. Finally, in 2004/2005 I was appointed in several commissions in the local government. During this time I extensively used my knowledge and accomplished education from the RSI courses, and became vice-president of The State Youth Council.

Most importantly, the greatest benefit of my studies at the RSI was the opportunity to gain huge experience in politics on various levels – learning how to become a policymaker and developing personal organisational skills as well as an interest in international relations. As a result I won a Chevening scholarship last year and at the moment I am doing my MA in International Relations at the University of Durham. I consider this as another stage in my professional career and the path to future political challenges.

Therefore, my thanks goes to Dr. von der Bank, Kinga Szabó and Szonja Lohr, the RSI team which partially helped me to become the person I am today, and will become in the future.



My Personal Benefits from the RSI Courses for my Political Career

Mato Zeljko, B.Sc.

Demokratski Centar, Croatia

International Secretary

Participant in the RSI series "Campaign Management"

I have only just recently got acquainted with the Robert Schuman Institute when I attended two classes in Budapest last year. I have learned very quickly that it represents investing in the future of politics and the future of politics is in young people for sure, and therefore they need to be taught how to be leaders and how to apply Christian democratic values in Europe today and tomorrow. Leaders are born, not made. Of course, they need to be taught exactly *how* to lead and how to succeed in their own parties. Although I am only 25 years of age, I rose quickly from a member of the youth organization, to the president of the youth organization, to the president of my party for my hometown Split and finally to the position of the International Secretary of my party today. I was extremely lucky to have attended two very good classes in Budapest held by the Robert Schuman Institute where I had a chance to hear about specific topics and participate in useful workshops. How did it help me?



I was surprised to see that long after the seminar was over, I still remembered very well what I learned from the lecturers about how to be a leader and how to make my own party stronger. The lecturers, who were picked very well, made an effort to pass on their knowledge and experience to me. I learned how to deal with my party members – how to make them happy and proud for being members of Demokratski Centar, how to attract new members each day, how to raise funds, and most of all how to – communicate. I've learned that communication is the basis of all success. It is only through means of communication that I am able to succeed and to be recognized as a good leader both by my members and my party leadership.

In countries who are struggling with transition today, we are witnessing that constitutions have changed, directions have changed, communism has been replaced by capitalism and countries have changed completely in terms of focusing towards the West. The problem remains – politicians are the same.

The Robert Schuman Institute focuses on young leaders, people who have not been contaminated by “old school”. Party leaders are fed up with the same people for years and decades, because the people do not want them anymore. In my party, Demokratski Centar, I was recognized as a young leader and was appointed International Secretary. I am today thankful that I have spent some time learning about how to be a politician with the terrific lecturers in the Robert Schuman Institute from all over Europe and it was their diversity above all that made them so great. It is amazing how a person attending those seminars looks at the lecturers. It makes you want to say, “I want to be just like that in ten years, I want to have that knowledge, I want to have that kind of experience, I want to be a politician like that. I want to have answers to questions just like these people do.”

Demokratski Centar is the only party in Croatia that recognizes the importance of pushing young people, putting them in charge, but first and foremost giving them the necessary knowledge. Robert Schuman Institute is a perfect example of how to educate young leaders and how to make them more interested in politics, as well as making them useful to their parties as people who can be counted on when the time comes. This is why I am certain I am and will be useful to my party, and although I am now the International Secretary I will be happy to attend other classes, events or other invitations I might get from the Robert Schuman Institute. I will certainly recommend other young leaders in Demokratski Centar to go and participate.

I will personally participate in many events, because the Robert Schuman Institute taught me that communication is everything – meeting new people, discussing various topics, learning about their parties and their roles and I had a chance to do just that aside from a day long seminar.

How do I Use the Experience I Gained during the RSI Courses in my Career?

Berit Teeäär

Estonian press officer in the EPP-ED Group 2003/2006
Participant in the RSI series "Young Leaders" 1999/2000

By the time I started the course for young leaders at the Robert Schuman Institute in 1999, I have already had a long experience in international cooperation, mainly in the field of arts. In party politics I had been active for a year, which meant also communicating with international organisations and political partners, juggling facts and figures, representing positions and visions. Literally – “re-presenting” the positions of my party or superior, not my own.



The RSI courses provided me with a different forum. In this small but active group I represented myself, I was free to discuss and argue on the basis of my own knowledge and perceptions, all of it without a burden of speaking on someone's behalf.

For me the most interesting part of learning has always been the process of conception of new ideas, which is firstly driven by programmed lectures and then vastly expanded by the discussions after. These discussions, which often involved both course mates and lecturers with a *Weltanschauung* similar to mine, I enjoyed the most. I also found very useful the training aimed at improving our personal skills and way of expression, increasing our self confidence as future politicians.

The RSI courses expanded my international network. It has increased significantly since then, and it still involves some of my co-learners and trainers from the Institute, two of whom I was happy to meet again and work with until now.

Most of all, the RSI course and the traineeship with the Group of the European People's Party and European Democrats that followed a year after, gave me an impression of where I would be heading to, when I was nominated to the EPP-ED Group in 2003. Somehow, however, this international experience proved to be completely different. The cosy multinational environment of RSI was replaced by an enormous forum of the European Parliament, where I was no longer a participant with a speaking right. Or perhaps not yet.

I am extremely pleased that the courses of the Robert Schuman Institute “set the snowball rolling”. It helped me proceed on my path inspired by curiosity i.e. to be in the centre of things, where everything is happening, and by a rather idealistic wish to make a difference. I have faced many interesting and useful experiences, where the benefits of the RSI courses have come more than handy.

Equipped with this knowledge and insight I am ready to face new challenges. The snowball is somewhere half-way.



My Experience with RSI

George Robakidze

Office of State Minister of Georgia
on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, Georgia
Participant in the RSI series “Young Leaders” 2001/2002

Dear friends, in this small essay I would like to express my gratitude towards Robert Schuman Institute. My name is George Robakidze and at the present time I work at the Office of State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration as a Deputy Head of European Integration Co-ordination Department.

My first contact with RSI was in 2001. As a member of one of the Georgian political student organization I had a fortune to be nominated for RSI 2001/2002 course “Leader in a Democracy”.

I will remember RSI courses for three main reasons, first it is a quality training, second networking and friends gained during the program and third the grate time which I had. It was a unique experience to live in Budapest with 20 other your coevals from different central and eastern European countries, share experience, ideas, undertake intensive training and of course have a great fun.

During the program together with the valuable theoretical knowledge gained through interactive training provided by highly professional experts, who were personally involved in transition processes of Central Europe, I would like to mention the importance of networking opportunity. For me to study and to discuss different issues with young people who share the same values, from the countries which face the same problems as mine was a once in a lifetime experience.

At the end I want to say that time spend in Budapest will always remain as a pleasant memory in my life. Sightseeing, cultural evenings, sport events and of course parties, parties and parties what could be better.



How the Courses of the Robert Schuman Institute have Influenced my Career?

Živilė Andrenaitė Didžgalvienė

Lithuanian press officer in the EPP-ED Group
Participant in the RSI series “Young Leaders” 1999/2000

In 1999 I was nominated by the Homeland Union and its youth branch – Young Conservative League to take part in the seminars and trainings organised by the Robert Schuman Institute (RSI). The topic was “Leader in a Democracy”. In autumn 1999 – summer 2000, I together with other young people from the Eastern and Central European countries had several seminars dedicated to the different political topics as foreign affairs, economy, social affairs, culture and education, etc, in RSI in Budapest, Hungary. The series of these seminars were concluded in Brussels, visiting the European Parliament, NATO headquarters, meeting the politicians and the representatives of the Robert Schuman Foundation.



Looking to the past several years after courses in the RSI, I admit my progress. Maybe it is just unavoidable as every year, every job and every experience gives some positive improvements of your skills, knowledge, and “know how” feeling. However, I would like to emphasise that the courses in the RSI made the huge impact on my development as personality and professional.

I came there as young politician and political scientist. After graduation of my university studies in comparative politics and being involved in the activities of my political organisation I already had the theoretical and practical knowledge what is the politics and how the powers interacts in national and global political scene. However these knowledge and skills required the precise system and further vision. After the courses in the RSI the knowledge and information, I had before, found the right places.

During the courses we had the lectures on particular topics, afterwards we were always encouraged to present our opinion and defend it. These discussions and exchanging the views with our lecturers and other young ambitious politicians from the Eastern and Central Europe were very interesting and valuable for me. I have learned more about the different countries as well as

improved my practical skills how better to argument my position, make an interesting presentation and communicate with the people of different social and cultural backgrounds.

The courses at RSI helped me to find very good friends all over Europe. With some of them I am still keeping contacts, and with my Estonian colleague I was happy to start working in the EPP-ED Group in the European Parliament in 2003.

The experience I got in the courses of the RSI helped me to create the vision of my future career, understand better who I am and what job I would like to have. It proved to me the importance of taking a part in the decision making process and being involved in politics. I improved my communication skills and deepened the knowledge in political science. For me, being a citizen of Lithuania, a country, which had become independent and free from the soviet totalitarian regime a decade ago, it was an excellent opportunity to learn more about the democratic transition as well. The experience I got in RSI I consider as very important for my future professional development.

I would like to thank the RSI for this excellent opportunity. I much appreciated all the organisational arrangements, kind help, and sincere care the staff of RSI headed by Dr. Erhard von der Bank, had provided for us.

The studies at RSI have proved the Lithuanian proverb: "The knowledge is not heavy; you do not need to carry it on your shoulders". In opposite, it pushes and drives you further on.



Impact of the RSI Courses on my Personal Career and Benefits for other G 17 PLUS Course Participants

Radomir Smiljanic

G17 Plus, Serbia and Montenegro

Vice President of local parliament

Participant in the RSI series "Young Leaders" 2004/2005
and Political Management 2005

When you find yourself living in a country where half of young people wishes to leave and other half has already left abroad, and you are stacked with a bunch of losers which all they say, think and do is in the past, where everything is so different, a certain nerve gets activated and puts in the motion your whole being. What you can do is to change yourself or change the system. I decided to do both.



By joining the G 17 PLUS, I have met a great number of people willing to shake the previous system, and to turn and open the whole community towards the future. Not by dealing with high level politics, endlessly discussing the matters they can not change or influence, but strike the local level politics, finding out the best solutions for everyday problems of our citizens.

And so we started campaigning, by using the directions of National Democracy Institute. Following the simple standardized instructions, my team made me a first elected representative in a local Parliament. At that point we realize the necessity of reaching a higher level of educating and training in order to have a better promotion of our projects.

A few months later our office got a copy of an Application form for Robert Schuman Institute course entitled "Leader in Democracy". I immediately sent my essay along with other necessary documents. As it says in the Introduction document, the course brought together likeminded young people from South-eastern Europe, and as I would like to add people on similar stage in their organizations back home, same problems and same goals. The training started with the Presentation Techniques, which has a great impact on my personal life, and both professional and political career. It was the first skill I successfully taught other members of our Municipality board and teams. Over fifty people attended! The training was very useful because the parliamentary elections were on the way. We won sixteen percent of the votes then. In professional

sense, the training resulted in my including in Team for presentation the skills of firefighting and using of the firefighting gear. None of my trainees had flunked their final examination.

The minority issues also had an influence on my involvement, specifically in area of lobbying and fundraising in order to publish their books, helping organize exhibitions, solving the problem of heating, plumbing and acclimatization of their clubs and offices, in one word helping our citizens to reach the quality of living that they deserve.

The skills and knowledge gained on RSI courses greatly helped in promoting the eco and country tourism, for which Uzice region has great potentials. As a president of the Municipality country tourism commission, I have managed to establish a team of experts qualified enough to issue a certificate for those who could offer a certain capacity in country tourism. Especially after a world famous movie director Emir Kusturica decided to invest in building an ethno village in Mokra Gora, making the Sargan Eight railroad more interested both for Trainspoters and other tourists from all around the world. The information that the railroad station Mokra Gora sold almost equal number of tickets as Belgrade railroad station speaks for itself.

During the last several months, the process of negotiating for support of G 17 PLUS to the local majority gave its results, and now we are in position to



have clear tasks which fulfillment will solve problems present more than thirty years. Our involvement came after fourteen months of unsuccessfulness of local politicians and has a great impact on our popularity. Firstly, we provided project and funding for reconstructing of National Theater here in Uzice, then we lobbied the Budget funding of a Covered swimming pool, reconstruction of a laboratory and technical sector of a Health Center. Our agricultural team is also conducting in the campaign of registration of farmers. The registration offers opportunities in getting the necessary investments for production, and is widely recommended, having in mind that represents the strategy of Ministry of Agriculture.

Last, but not the least the Project of Ponikve airport. Last month, our MP Ivan Zivadinovic organized the meeting in Uzice Chamber of Commerce. The aim was to find the best possible model to activate the potentials in low budget air traffic, air cargo traffic and custom free zone. Belgrade airport "Nikola Tesla" is also interested to invest, having in mind the fact that Ponikve airport has the longest runway in Balkans, very few days of fog and great capacity telecommunication links. The promo flight is scheduled for Wednesday, May 17th.

Those are a few main projects which are being conducted by people who resigned to give up, who saw the opportunities and used their talent, love, creativity and persistence to achieve goals which everybody talks about. In moment where raw will, talent and persistence ends, comes the good and effective education and training provided by Robert Schuman Institute in Budapest. Without that, the positive energy runs down easily, people get disappointed and there is no progress.

At the end, let me conclude with well known Chinese saying "If you present a man with a fish, you will feed him for a day, but if you teach him how to fish, you will feed him for entire life".

The Benefits of the RSI Young Leader Series for my Diplomatic Carrier

Róbert Ondrejcsák

Counsellor at the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Hungary
Participant in the RSI series “Young Leaders” 2000/2001

I was a participant of the Robert Schuman Institute’s “Young Leaders” program approximately 6 years ago. When I recall my experiences I can declare that the one-year-long RSI course was extremely useful for my professional progress and development.

First of all, it was an excellent opportunity to be a part of an international team of young and dynamic people – most of them students – from Central and Eastern Europe.

The international “education staff” also provided an excellent job. Their presentations and seminars helped to improve not only our professional knowledge but also our presentation skills. These are very helpful in my current position, but I used these experiences during my work in NGO-sphere, too.

The international environment was also ideal to get to know each other – which is perhaps more important in Central and Eastern Europe than in other regions in Europe. It was also an opportunity to get to know the way of thinking of our friends from other countries in the region, but also their cultural and historical viewpoints. We had space for very concrete discussions about political scenes in Central European countries, shared our experiences and discussed the existing problems.

The international atmosphere also helped to improve our language skills, including English and other languages. In some cases not only “bigger” languages like English or French but – for example in my case – Polish, too.

The whole project gave us opportunity to build new contacts or a whole system of contacts with friends and partners from Central and Eastern Europe. It has extremely positive potential for the future.

My colleagues from diplomacy and associated areas know very well how useful these contacts are. For example, I am using these opportunities currently in Hungary as a part of my day-by-day occupation. I have a lot of meetings



with my Hungarian friends here in Budapest. A huge part of these contacts were built during my participation in the Robert Schuman Institute's "Young Leaders" program.

So, I could only recommend the courses of the Robert Schuman Institute for active and ambitious people, also with plans to be a part of the diplomatic corps of their country.



How Robert Schuman Showed me the Way to Luxembourg

Martin Puc

Cabinet of the Slovenian judge at the Court
of First Instance of the European Communities
Participant in the RSI series “Young Leaders” 2001/2002

I had an opportunity to spend a year as a participant of one of the last training courses for young leaders from Central and Eastern Europe, organised by Robert Schuman Institute (RSI) from September 2001 until June 2002. We were the last generation of participants from the “soon-to-become” new members of the enlarged European Union. This type of course was aimed to educate young people, involved or interested in politics, on the themes of civil society, economics, public relations, EU policies and EU institutions. As future members of the enlarged Europe, we were at the same time discovering the similarities and connections between countries in Central and Eastern Europe. The motivation to learn and put into practice the gained knowledge about EU was very strong and we all had our own “international” and political aspirations where to be in the future. We have also grasped the ideas of Robert Schuman and other founders of the EU and many of us realized that the idea behind unified Europe was something more than just the common market.



I know that some of my colleagues became successful young politicians, even members of parliament. Some pursued international career, some became fathers and mothers, myself included. The development of my professional career has soon led me to the very birth place of Robert Schuman: the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. I came here in 2004 to start working for European Court of Justice, one of the EU institutions. I have always wanted to work in an international environment, to participate in the decision-making on the European level and to contribute to the building of newly enlarged European Union. The European institutions, at which I could only take a quick glimpse during the study visit of our Robert Schuman group back in June 2002, became a part of my life. I remember how I admired young professionals working for one of the political groups or members of Parliament, if only I could experience the same international life and be in the heart of

Europe... It seemed still so far when our country would be a full member of EU, when we would be able to fully participate in the decision-making on the European level. And then it suddenly happened, the dream of many decades has become a reality and I was looking at the Slovenian flag, waving in front of the European Court of Justice and being part of this historical moment for both Europe and Slovenia.

The European quarter in Luxembourg looks much nicer than that in Brussels. Although buildings are smaller, they are not hidden between new and old houses that surround the European institutions in the Belgian capital. Here they are all nicely grouped together on the hill of Kirchberg, around a kilometre from the centre, a green area where there were fields and sheep only some twenty years ago (actually you can still find some cattle chewing fresh grass just below the conference building called Hemicycle). European Court of Justice, European Court of Auditors, European Investment Bank, General Secretariat of the European Parliament, part of the Commission, it is all there. It is much quieter and less busy than in Brussels. Maybe that's why they put the judges here and not somewhere close to Paris, Berlin or some other major capital of Europe. Unfortunately I cannot use my political skills very often, which I learned during the RSI courses or my youth political career in Slovenia. Well, sometimes it does help to know how to speak up when you have to defend the decision of the Court or when you present the work of the judicial system to a group of visitors from Slovenia. But in general, after you master your French and some other languages to communicate with your "European" colleagues, job becomes as any other job. You see that EU has become a real "machine", thousands of people doing thousands of invisible things to make it go forward.

The dream of Europe is becoming a reality, at least for those that live and work in the EU institutions. Unfortunately we often forget why we came to work here and what the reason behind this "machine" is. The EU employees fighting to maintain their privileges; the administrators stamping and copying another pile of papers; legislators writing drafts of proposals which will be thrown in the recycling machines; politicians speaking and deciding on things that will never be implemented by their own countries. Robert Schuman, whose memorial stands across the hill of Kirchberg on the remains of an old fortress, would probably be disappointed. On the other hand, looking at the growth of this Community and the potentials it offers, he would probably add that European dream is far from over, it has only just begun. His legacy stands on our shoulders, whether we work for the EU institution or for the local government in our community. After all, it is us, people, who constitute this Union, isn't it?

Conferences

The Institute is organising international conferences on timely issues, such as the strengthening and development of democracy and EU accession-related issues for high-ranking politicians, public persons, members of parliament, representatives of relevant ministries, local governments, chambers and political NGOs, and the scientific area in the countries of the region.

Strengthening and Developing of Democracy in EE/SEE Countries

While the Robert Schuman Institute continues to make its strenuous efforts in the field of promoting the Idea of Europe, great importance have the burning issues of the countries of Eastern and South Eastern Europe. Accordingly, the Robert Schuman Institute has extended its activities over these countries and will organise seminars and conferences on different topics, such as:

- Economy and moral values of societies in transition – democracy, legal state and human rights
- Freedom of the media as a precondition for democratization
- Minorities and equal rights

in order to encourage the establishment and functioning of civil organizations, thus promoting the development of civil society and democracy.

EU Accession-related Conferences

It is very important for each of the candidate countries to clearly understand the specific requirements of EU accession and co-ordinate their preparatory activities with other countries concerned. The countries in CEE that joined the EU in the last round of EU expansion were facing a difficult time in order to meet these very strict requirements after decades of communist mismanage-

ment. The activity of Robert Schuman Institute in CEE countries contributed to the necessary assistance and helped enabling the new members to catch up and meet the tough challenges and prerequisites.

The conferences, organised by the Robert Schuman Institute proved to be a very effective tool in providing a platform for the representatives of the candidate countries to receive first-hand information from EU and other well-known experts about the relevant regulations of the ‘acquis communautaire’, including the standard EU terminology and to discuss the most crucial issues and tasks.

Conferences 1998–2006

THE STRUCTURE AND THE AIMS OF A TRAINING INSTITUTE

June 1998, Budapest

The meeting was organised for institutes dealing with political education in Central and Eastern Europe. The participants could hear lectures on the responsibility of education as well as on the structure and different possibilities of financing of an educational institute.

CIVIL ORGANISATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIETY

October 1998, Budapest

Seminar for the representatives of Civil Organisations in Central and Eastern Europe. The course was organised together with the National Association of Large Families, Hungary.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

November 1998, Budapest

The international conference for Central European countries examined how the different countries in the region tried to prepare the different layer of society for the EU membership by training and education. Workshops discussed the possible education-strategies and methods on three different fields as public and higher education, public administration, civil organisations and training institutes.

EU POLICY TOWARDS CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE IN THE NOTION OF AGENDA 2000 – SERIES OF 3 CONFERENCES

The Institute had completed the implementation of the PHARE Flex TAF Project HU9514 under title “Common Integration Efforts In Central and Eastern Europe” and submitted the *Final Report to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs* on November 30th, 1999 accordingly.

The European Union's Phare Program was the main channel for the EU's financial and technical co-operation with Central European and neighbouring countries. Phare's aim was to prepare these countries for accession to the EU and this was the primary objective of the conferences, organized by the Robert Schuman Institute, too.

The project proved to be a very effective tool in providing a neutral platform for the representatives of the candidate countries to receive first-hand information from EU and other reputed international experts about the relevant regulations of the 'acquis communautaire', including the standard EU terminology and discuss most crucial issues and tasks to be performed by them in the field of education, environmental protection, economy, finance and relevant legislation.

The conferences also served as special 'think tanks' of responsible and committed experts and politicians to learn about mutual concerns and expectations regarding accession and exchange views and already gained experiences of the candidate countries in the interim period.

The project was considered as a great success and it was also agreed that the conferences had significantly contributed to the proper realization and understanding of EU requirements vice versa local possibilities of the candidate countries and promoted their individual endeavours to meet the different EU requirements of accession. Participants and lecturers have attributed special importance to the *multiplier effect* of these events and highlighted the long-term benefits of a healthy communication between the CEE countries and Western Europe as well as within the region itself.

Target group: members of parliamentary committees, government representatives, political state secretaries and advisors, ministries, representatives of local governments, field experts, chambers of commerce and industry, delegates of civil organizations.

Target countries included the first candidate countries that applied for membership in the EU. We had a total of 111 participants from the following countries: Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia.

The series of 3 conferences were financed by the PHARE Flex TAF Project.

- SUCCESS OF PLURALISM IN ADULT EDUCATION

March 1999, Dobogókő, Hungary

The conference dealt with the issue of further education that has been highly affected by political changes in Eastern and Central Europe

- EU ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS

– INDUSTRIAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

April 1999, Dobogókő, Hungary

This conference dealt with the considerations and constraints of CEE governments, local authorities and the business sphere to comply with

the EU norms, industrial and regional development strategies to meet EU environmental standards. The conference was organised in co-operation with Regional Environmental Center for CEE, Szentendre.

- **EU REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BANKING AND FINANCIAL SYSTEMS OF THE CANDIDATE COUNTRIES**

June 1999, Dobogókő, Hungary

Primary objective of the conference was to determine required measures to be made by this sector in order to provide support and assistance to help the economy meet relevant EU regulations by means of regulative measures on the one hand and financial means and resources on the other.

ECONOMY AND VALUES

June 2000, Sarajevo

In accordance with a recent decision of the EPP-ED group in the EP regarding the extension of activities over the Balkan region, the Robert Schuman Institute, in co-operation with the Sarajevo Office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, organized a conference for young entrepreneurs, business people and politicians from Bosnia–Herzegovina, Croatia, RF Yugoslavia (Serbia, Montenegro) in Sarajevo between June 1–3, 2000. The main objective of the conference was to demonstrate the necessity and importance to be realized by the participants that mafia-controlled economies have no future and democracy and (social) market economy are two sides of the same medal, meaning there is no prospering economy without historical and universal moral values and a constitutional democratic state.

HUNGARIAN EU ACCESSION MEETING

June 2000, Budapest

The Robert Schuman Institute organised a seminar on the Hungarian EU Accession Process on June 20–21, 2000 in Budapest. The event was sponsored by the Robert Schuman Foundation Luxembourg and the Hanns Seidel Stiftung, Germany. The conference was chaired by the President of the Union of RSI and Vice President of the EPP, Wim van Velzen and attended by Prime Minister Dr. Viktor Orbán, Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. János Martonyi, Minister of Agriculture Dr. József Torgyán, Minister of Finance Mr. Zsigmond Járai, Minister of Justice Dr. Ibolya Dávid, Minister of Social Affairs Mr. Péter Harrach and deputies of the parliamentary factions, Vice President of CDI, Ambassador Prof. Dr. Alexandru Herlea, and experts of the Working Group Central and Eastern Europe (WGCEE) of EPP/CDI. Participants to the seminar discussed and surveyed the current situation of Hungary in respect of the accession in addition to the different aspects of compliance with the “acquis communautaire”.

WOMEN IN PROFESSIONAL LIFE: BETWEEN ASPIRATIONS AND REALITY

September 2001, Budapest

The international conference was organised in co-operation with the Women's Association of the European People's Party. This very special event dealt with the crucial issues of women's equality in Central, Eastern and South Eastern European countries and also in Western Europe. Prominent lecturers, including the Hungarian Minister of Justice and President of the Hungarian Democratic Forum Dr. Ibolya Dávid and President of the EPP Women Association Doris Pack MEP, outlined the situation and the greatest problems to be solved in this area, such as the history and function of families and the double role of women in society, equal opportunities for women, the gender pay gap, the discrimination of women with children and the successful conciliation of family life and professional life.

EU INTEGRATION CHALLENGES IN HEALTH CARE IN COUNTRIES OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

October 2001, Budapest

This international conference was organised jointly by the Robert Schuman Institute and the Hungarian Ministry of Health. The conference dealt with one of the most vital subjects of the accession countries, the situation of health care and social security. It is all the more crucial since there are no EU regulations regarding the health care and provision systems of the member countries. Prominent lecturers to the conference spoke about the health situation and the current problems in their countries, the impact of the internal market on health systems, the free movement of goods and health protection, and the co-ordination of social security. Subsequent to the individual lectures, representatives of the participating countries made their own contribution on the relevant subject.

SME-UNION

January 2002, Budapest

In January 2002 we have co-organised the conference of the SME-Union on the occasion of the Hungarian SME-Union (HASME) joining to the international organisation. Several high-ranking representatives of the European Parliament, government and business were present. Special attention was paid to the economy development plan "Széchenyi-terv" of the Hungarian government and its positive effects on small businesses. Foreign experts gave some insights into the internal market of the Union and its reforms and the use of venture capital. The new web-site www.eufit.hu of HASME was introduced to the public, in order to deliver useful information for the preparation of domestic SMEs.

HUNGARY IN 2014

February 2002, Budapest

In February 2002 Hungarian and Western European political leaders shared their vision about socio-political and economic perspectives. Hungarian speakers emphasized the enormous importance of education in knowledge-based social and economic development. Politicians were confident that Hungary would be able to reach the average performance of the EU member states by 2014, provided the economic growth rate of the country was maintained. However, there was still a lot to do to achieve an ideal harmony between families and the society and to completely eliminate the ideological damages of communism. Western European speakers outlined the current status and future trends of the education policy of the European Union and pointed out to the still prevailing difference between the United States and the European Union in this area. The main topics of the Barcelona summit, such as liberalization of the labour markets, reform of the pension, health care and education systems were also discussed in detail.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

March 2003, Budapest

In early 2003 the need emerged to collect information from the accession countries about the stage of preparation for the European Elections. The goal was not only to gain information from CEE sister parties, but also ask EPP-political advisers and other Western European experts about existing electoral laws, different allocation systems, thresholds and all their consequences to bigger and smaller parties, respectively.

Status reports from Estonia, the Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Slovenia were delivered by the delegations. As a summary of the reports, we can conclude that in most countries the same electoral formula and effective threshold will be applied. An EP election law had been passed by the Parliaments of Estonia, the Czech Republic, Lithuania and Slovenia, in others the stage of preparation varies. The number of delegates and the well-prepared lecturers made it possible, that in an open debate several questions could be discussed and hopefully bring the legislation in those participating countries forward.

MIGRATION AND BORDER CROSSING INTO THE UNION OF 25

April 2004, Budapest

The conference was planned mainly for politicians of EPP sister parties/parliamentary groups from the new EU member states and countries that became EU border countries. Lectures were held on the practical work to be carried out in order to become member of the Schengen area. Details about

the transitional period, European funds for strengthening border guards, new tasks for the customs officers were also in focus. The discussions were animated with leading field experts.

EXPERIENCES WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF MINORITIES IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS ON STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL

November 2004, Zagreb

The aim of the conference was to provide a platform for exchange of different views and experiences regarding the involvement of minorities in the political process on state and local level, based on reports given by representatives of the majorities and minorities of the participating countries. Experts were targeted from Bosnia–Herzegovina, Croatia, Hungary, Macedonia (FYROM), Romania, Slovakia, Serbia and also MEPs from the EPP-ED Group in the European Parliament.

SME CONFERENCES

Budapest

The Institute has co-organised several conferences of the *Small and Medium Entrepreneurs Union (SME-Union)*. The last conferences in 2005 and 2006 attracted over 150 local entrepreneurs each who discussed with Western and Central European experts as well as with leading politicians on the stage of acting in the EU economy.



SUBSIDIARITY AND SELF-GOVERNANCE WITHIN THE EU
– MINORITY-INHABITED REGIONS IN THE ENLARGED EUROPE
November 2005, Bucharest

The conference was organised on the initiative of Dr. Kinga Gál MEP, Vice-Chairwoman of the EU–Romania Joint Parliamentary Committee in the European Parliament. In the framework of the conference different models of minority self-governance were introduced from the governmental and minority perspectives. High representatives of governments and different minorities introduced their models for example Scotland, Wales, the Åland Islands, Catalonia, South-Tirol. In the last session of the conference the concepts of subsidiarity and self-governance in Romania were discussed with special focus on the currently debated law for national minorities living in Romania.

Planned Conference

THE EFFECTS OF ROBERT SCHUMAN'S IDEAS IN TODAY'S EUROPE
29–30 May 2006, Budapest

On the occasion of the 120th birthday of Robert Schuman and the 15th anniversary of the Robert Schuman Institute, Budapest

The Robert Schuman Institute invites high-ranking politicians from the EPP, the EPP-ED Group in the European Parliament, scientists, members, former speakers, participants and the partners of the CDA/RSI in order to think and discuss together about

- the draft European Constitution,
- the realisation of Schuman's basic ideas in current politics in the EPP and the EPP-ED Group,
- the influence of Robert Schuman on politicians,
- the presence of the ideas and philosophy of Robert Schuman in today's Europe and their effects on the latest enlargement of the EU.

Documentation and Publication

In the spirit of the European unity, the primary duty of the Robert Schuman Institute is to facilitate and contribute to the free flow of information and offer opportunities to make further contacts between East – East and East – West. Accordingly, the Institute has a regularly updated web site (www.rschuman.hu) with information about the Institute, its activities, publications and many useful links to members and other partner organizations, national and international political and civil organizations, educational and training institutes, foundations.

Newsletter

The Institute issues a brief summary of activities and other news on a monthly basis to provide information on the most important events and programmes, including future plans and the evaluation of training courses for member and partner organizations and other interested bodies. The newsletters are put on the Internet and are also forwarded to member and partner organizations and other interested contacts via e-mail.

Books

Publications on our conferences are documented and published in form of booklets and brochures. We are confident that these publications are of prime importance for communication and network building and spread specific information related to the topics of our conferences on a much larger scale. It is also expected to establish closer co-operation with our existing and potential partners, such as parliamentarians, government representatives, NGOs, professional institutions and scientists of Central, Eastern, South Eastern and Western Europe.

The booklets are forwarded to the participants and lecturers of the specific conferences as well as to member and partner organizations, other interested institutions, e.g. university libraries and government bodies engaged in the relevant fields of activity. The books which are still in print can be obtained upon request.

List of available publications

ETHICS AND POLITICS

International Conference, 1996

SERIES: EU Policy towards Central and Eastern Europe in the Notion of Agenda 2000

- SUCCESS OF PLURALISM IN ADULT EDUCATION
International Conference, March 1999, Dobogókő, Hungary
- EU ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS – INDUSTRIAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
International Conference, April 1999, Dobogókő, Hungary
- EU REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BANKING AND FINANCIAL SYSTEMS OF THE CANDIDATE COUNTRIES
International Conference, June 1999, Dobogókő, Hungary

SEMINAR ON THE HUNGARIAN EU ACCESSION PROCESS

International Seminar, June 2000, Budapest

EU INTEGRATION CHALLENGES IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH IN THE COUNTRIES OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

International Conference, October 2001, Budapest

EXPERIENCES WITH PARTICIPATION OF MINORITIES IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS ON STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL

International Conference, November 2004, Zagreb

SUBSIDIARITY AND SELF-GOVERNANCE WITHIN THE EU – MINORITY INHABITED REGIONS IN THE ENLARGED EUROPE

International Conference, November 2005, Bucharest

The Robert Schuman Institute in the International and Hungarian Press

Public Affairs Newsletter, September 2003

Robert Schuman Institute –
*the place – for centre right politicians from CEE and SEE
– to meet, learn and cooperate with each other*

Dr. Erhard von der Bank, Director of the Robert Schuman Institute (RSI) talks about the Institute and its important mission for the centre right parties in Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe

Q. Can you tell us a little bit about your own background and the history of the RSI?

Originally I was a teacher, a school director in vocational schools, later I worked at the Ministry of Education of Rheinland Pfalz, Germany, department of vocational education. I was engaged as representative of the German Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation in Hungary from January 1990 through December 1997. I have been the Director of the Robert Schuman Institute since January 1, 1998.

The *Robert Schuman Institute* was named after Robert Schuman, the well-known French Christian-Democratic politician, who after World War II as Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of France and later President of the European Parliament fought for the unity of Europe in peace and freedom. He is considered to be one of the “fathers” of European integration and the Schuman Plan has become part of our life by now.

The ‘Union of the Robert Schuman Institute for Developing Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe’ was founded in 1995 by the European Union of Christian Democrats and by the Robert Schuman Foundation Luxembourg, The Foundation for European Studies, The European People’s Party/Christian Democrats (EPP) and a number of national parties and other organizations – to replace the ‘Christian Democratic Academy for Central and Eastern Europe’. The

Institute is performing under the auspices of the European People's Party with an extended scope of activity.

Furthermore the Robert Schuman Institute supports with its long term experiences in the field of political education for politicians from CEE the external office of the EPP-ED Group in the European Parliament entitled "Centre for Political Parliamentary Education and Training (CET)". The CET was established on 1 July 2002 with the aim to prepare the sister parties of the EPP for their entry to the European Parliament. I am acting as Head of the CET as well.

Q. What are the main goals of the Institute?

The change of the political system at the end of the eighties was only the first stage of a long and complex process of social and economic transformation for young democracies in Central and Eastern Europe. Stabilization and the development of democratic political systems as well as the introduction of the market economy are enormous and difficult tasks. However, there is an even more difficult aspect of transformation and that is the change of people's mentality and the strengthening of civil societies in the countries of Central (CEE), Eastern (EE) and South Eastern Europe (SEE).

Political education has a very important role in this field and as mandated by its character, this is the kind of assistance the Robert Schuman Institute has been offering for these countries for the last years.

The basic objectives of the Robert Schuman Institute are as follows:

- promote the idea of a United Europe
- support and foster the process of democratic transformation in the CEE/EE/SEE countries on the basis of European Christian democratic values in the spirit of Robert Schuman
- promote the development of civil societies in the CEE/EE/SEE countries
- facilitate the information flow and contacts between the member states of the European Union, the acceding countries and non – EU member states
- contribute to the fundamental program of the EPP member parties in the EU and their partner parties in the CEE/EE/SEE countries
- assist in preparing the governing or opposition partner parties in the relevant CEE/EE/SEE countries for their political involvement

Q. Can you tell me about your concrete activities for the realisation of the aims you just mentioned before?

Primary activity of the Robert Schuman Institute for Developing Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe is embodied in education and training for international groups of participants and speakers coming from EU countries and the region:

- The Institute is organising international courses for young functionaries of the developing democracies in the region, who receive both theoretical and practical training
- The Institute is organizing international conferences for high-ranking politicians, government officials, public persons and the representatives of the scientific area and NGOs on timely issues, such as e.g. the different EU requirements of accession regarding the first candidate countries or the most burning questions of the South-East European countries.
- The Robert Schuman Institute introduced a project which comprises a seminar cycle on the difficulties of political marketing while setting up the CET office. The new program was carried out in co-operation with and financed by the EPP-ED group in the European Parliament
- Political Management for parties from SEE

I mentioned at the beginning of the interview that I am the Head of the EPP-ED Centre for Political Parliamentary Education and Training (CET) as well. The aim of the CET is to prepare the sister parties of the EPP from the 10 acceding countries for their entry into the European Parliament. The CET launched a series of courses for future Assistants to Members of the European Parliament, preparatory seminars for the EU Referenda, Training for Assistant Trainers and some events for the observers in the EPP-ED Group.

Q. How do you select the participants?

Participants are selected on the basis of individual applications (necessary application documents and essay on a given topic) from a target group of Christian democratic minded young politicians who are recommended by their relevant parties/organizations belonging to the EPP family. Each participant is expected to have a university/college degree (or minimum 2 successful years at a university) and must be fluent in English. Participation without any party recommendation is not possible. Information is available through the international secretaries of the parties and via Internet as well.

Q. Did you have any young students in the past decade who became successful politicians?

Yes, of course we did. As former participants we had Prime Ministers, Ministers, Secretary of States, Mayors and spokespersons.

Q. Who finances your work?

All activities of the Institute depend on available sponsorship.

Half of our overhead expenses are covered by the Robert Schuman Foundation in Luxembourg, we also get some support from the European People's Party, and the rest is financed by other sponsors.

Q. Would you share us your personal motivation/personal credo for this very important work?

I am convinced that young people can be taught good and true things. They are very receptive and sensitive to such issues, especially here, in Central Eastern Europe. We still have to do a lot for changing peoples' way of thinking. This work can be done most successfully while training and educating the youth.

Magyar Nemzet, 23 November 1995

A Bridge between Western and Eastern Europe

Christian Democratic Education and Training in Budapest

In the early 90s several political schools, courses and postgraduate education were brought into existence by the need of professional political education and training in Hungary. Such organisation is the Christian Democratic Academy for Central and Eastern Europe, which was established by the EUCD/EPP. When founding the international Academy the aim of the founders was to help post-communist countries of the Central and Eastern European region with educating a new generation of wide-ranging politicians in this way making democratic political culture and European civil values popular.

Having four permanent workers, the Academy organised an average of one course – mainly in English – with 20–22 participants coming from 14 countries of Central and Eastern Europe each month. The total costs of the Academy and the courses were covered by Western European Christian Democratic parties and foundations. In four years the largest number of participants came from Romania, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria and Ukraine to take part in the international courses, but the Baltic States and Russia have recently shown greater interest in the events.

Dr. Márta Szalai, Deputy Director, and Zsuzsa Seidl Rudan, Education and Training Referent, think that the most important results are shown by the fact that politicians and experts of public life, mainly young, from the countries of the region with different economic, social and cultural background not only got current political and social knowledge, but made valuable contacts through getting to know other's opinion and way of thinking. The organisers and the leaders of the courses emphasised the importance of the flow of information, of forming views and of learning skills and techniques necessary for public appearance, besides which courses were organised in basic theoretical subjects.

After a 4-year-long mandate the Academy continues its activity in a wider range under a new name. Since the beginning of November its new name has been Robert Schuman Institute and has been functioned as a union by the EPP Group of the European Parliament and the EUCD. These two organisations undertook to cover the total costs of the international institute in the forthcoming 5 years, besides which Western European parties and foundations sponsor certain courses.

Such great financial stability makes the Institute with its headquarters in Budapest possible to widen its activity. Besides continuing approved international courses, “flying courses” are planned to be held in mother tongues, partly with the aim to develop political skills to give practical and technical knowledge and to prepare people for elections, partly by theoretical courses, where Christian Democracy, significant European political tendencies and international organisations are surveyed.

The management of the Institute intends to fulfil the role of a bridge between the noble aims and general ideas of the Western European founder organisations and the definite needs of Christian Democratic orientated parties and social organisations. Possessing valuable experience accumulated so far they wish to place greater and greater emphasis on the so-called network activity, to which a documentation centre would belong, with the aim to connect themselves with the world-wide computer network, the Internet. In this way important and valuable information will be provided for Hungarian and international Christian Democratic and Conservative parties, for various social and cultural organisations, universities and for the participants of the courses, who are in connection with the Robert Schuman Institute.

Magyar Nemzet, Saturday, 14 December 2002, page 23

For Example Mart Laar

Erhard von der Bank about Political Career, Christian Democratic Values and Professionalism

The Jesuits' house in Dobogókő is swarming with young people. They are discussing the issues of the past days' lectures then trudge back to the lecture room to interchange ideas on the role of media and democracy. They arrived from Romania, Bulgaria, the Ukraine, Albania, Macedonia, Moldova and other South Eastern European countries. They are starting politicians or they want to become politicians. They all get political education at the Robert Schuman Institute in Budapest. The director of the Institute is the German Christian Democrat Erhard von der Bank.

Q. What is the difference between a Western and a South Eastern European politics student? Is there a difference in their conceptions, expectations, illusions and goals?

Of course, there are differences. In Western Europe, professional politicians do not have another job apart from politics. In Central Eastern Europe the picture is not quite the same, the professional politician circles are just about to be taking shape. This at the same time means that in Western Europe politicians are established since they once jumped into the political career and do not quit.

Q. In this respect, does it mean that Central Eastern European regimes are nowadays more democratic ones than those of Western Europe? In our region there is no "concreted" politician class.

Concerning the above, democracy is surely livelier in the countries of Central Eastern Europe than in Western Europe.

Q. But then it also seems louder.

I experienced on the contrary that in the Parliaments of Western European countries there are intense, sometimes furious debates among politicians. In Italy they even throw around paper pellets. But after the debates they talk to each other peacefully in the corridor and drink beer together in the buffet.

Q. Is it at all possible to educate politicians, can the politicians' knowledge be taught or is it sufficient if the future politician sticks to an elder, more experienced professional and acquires the tricks stealthily?

Everything can be taught and learned to a certain extent but you also need a basic aptitude for it. The future politician should be very up-to-date in a special field, have firm knowledge and it is a plus if he or she presents a good appearance. In one of our courses we had a young man who announced definitely: I want to be head of state! I replied: Well, you can become one but you have to work hard for it! I was serious. Ambition is an important driving force. It is known that Helmut Kohl said it with 18 that he would become Bundeskanzler. And so he did. Apart from well-preparedness there are several other things necessary for the successful political career. I'll draw a parallel: everyone can play a bit piano if one learns it. But only a real talent can become a virtuoso. One that has the inborn skill. In other words: a politician has to have good mental faculties, in top of that only a talented person can become a genuine politician.

Q. What can be taught then?

One can be trained how to act in the limelight, how to metacommunicate, simply how you behave and what impression you make on your audience. The way you speak can also be improved which is of utmost importance. The point

is not only WHAT the politician says but HOW he says it. You should speak in short sentences and you should be clearly understood. You can practice the above. Then there is basic information a young politician must know: the work of the European Parliament, the media relations in a democracy. After the change of the regime in the Central Eastern European region the most problems derived from improper consideration of the media's role. The new politicians on power were amateurs, most of them had no idea how to work together and how you should work together – yes! co-operate! – with the mass media in order to develop democracy. They didn't know you mustn't go into war with the media! You should know how to handle the press, but on the other hand, good relations depend on both sides. I was extremely surprised by the role confusion of the Hungarian journalists after the change of the regime. A newspaper editor complained that he was unable to ask questions during press releases because he was used to be told what to write for decades.

Q. Since when and why has the Robert Schuman Institute been organising political education courses?

The Institute was founded in 1991 in Budapest by the parties of the European Union of Christian Democrats as Christian Democratic Academy for Central Eastern European countries. In 1995 it became the Union of the Robert Schuman Institute for Developing Democracy in Central Eastern Europe with the aim to promote the idea of a United Europe, support the process of democratic transformation on the bases of European Christian Democratic values, promote and strengthen the development of civil societies, assist in preparing the governing or opposition partner parties for their political involvement, establish a documentation centre and to facilitate the information flow and contacts between the EPP organisations. Bearing the above issues in mind we organise several courses and conferences. Some of our students have later become ministers, state secretaries or spokesmen. Often this is the case that politicians who were our course participants at the beginning of the change of the regime send their younger colleagues to us.

Q. Who finances your work?

Half of our expenses are covered by the Robert Schuman Foundation in Luxembourg, we also got some money from the European People's Party, and the rest is financed by our sponsors.

Q. Why is it worth for the European People's Party or the Western European Christian Democratic movement to operate an Institute here and educate young politicians on the basis of Christian Democratic values?

Robert Schuman, the one-time French Minister for Foreign Affairs is considered as one of the fathers of European integration. His name and spirit binds us. It is of

utmost importance for us that the Christian Democratic values followed by the Christian Democratic policy are re-domesticated in Central Eastern Europe. The Robert Schuman Foundation and the German Konrad Adenauer Foundation try to do their best to contribute to the process. Our aim is to work for the integrated Europe by connecting this region with the European circulation. Although, we do not exclusively invite Christian Democratic-minded lecturers for our courses, conferences and events but also lectures whose conceptions and ways of thinking are not close to that of ours. This way we want to bring young people to be able to confront with different opinions and see the differences.

Q. Why do you consider it important that the European Christian Democrats should help? Isn't it enough to say that in these countries certain parties will emerge with certain concepts? Why do you need to support it actively?

At the turn of the 80's and 90's in Hungary – and in other areas of the region – new parties were formed. The old ones were re-born, often with their former leaders on power. On one hand these parties did not have any experience of democracy, their leaders were amateurs. On the other hand old politicians appeared again, who used to be Christian Democrats and wanted to become those again, though their conception originated from the pre-war times and could just not meet the exigencies of our times' democracies. They are people with high moral standards, no doubt, but they are not real politicians. A person who lived his life in a particular regime for 40 years cannot change easily after radical twist. It is a commonplace but it is true that the most difficult thing to change is to change one's way of thinking. Our old reflexes are still there. But in Central Eastern Europe as well, there is a new generation beginning to take shape, the generation of the 40-year-olds, who have new concepts of the world – differing from the idea of their ancestors – and could be able to realise a really modern Christian Democratic policy.

Q. What is the core of this policy? How do you characterise and represent this modern Christian Democratic policy on your courses?

Christian Democracy underlines the importance of man's independent actions, his individual responsibility and his solidarity to his fellows. Christian Democracy emphasises the responsible individual, not the team. Do it for yourself, then the state will help you! – this is the guideline. At the same time, Christian Democrats are for social market economy, namely, for a market economy in which the weak also have their place, those who are unable to work successfully because of sickness or age. I would even call it attentive or regardful market economy.

Q. Social democrats announce the same.

They also have successful models in Europe but their central concept there is the team, the society, the state guiding the peoples' life, not the responsible individual.

While Christian Democrats confess that people should not wait with arms crossed for the help of the society and the state but lead their own life, social democrats tend to prefer supportive policy. In order to change this way of thinking in Central Eastern Europe our help might be needed, because in the former socialist countries people were looked after and were used to be told what and how to do.

Q. What do you suggest the young politicians who are educated here: should they – if at all possible – take over the Western European Christian Democratic models? Is there anyway a difference between young Christian Democrats of Romania, Poland or Moldova?

Of course there are differences. The Polish are very Catholic, while Romanians and Bulgarians are orthodox Christians. This religious-cultural difference is marked in the way of policy-making as well. Take Bulgaria, where it is absolutely normal that a Christian Democratic politician is present at Church events, on top of that it is a must for the politician if he or she wants to become successful and get many votes. On the contrary, for a young Catholic politician from Transylvania it is not natural at all. In Croatia the relations between state and Church also differ from Bulgarian attitudes. What we point out is that you may never copy the practices of another country, the experiences of another society automatically. Each and every country should find a model best fit for his problems and purposes. It is of course better to learn from someone else's mistakes.

Q. Did you have any young students in the past decade who became successful politicians?

Yes, of course we did. Just to mention one of them: we had Mart Laar, who was Prime Minister of Estonia.

Q. Why do you take part personally in this job?

I've always liked young people. Originally I was a teacher, a school director, later I worked for the German Ministry of Education and for CDU. I am convinced that young people can be taught good and true things. They are very receptive and sensitive to such issues, especially here, in Central Eastern Europe. We still have to do a lot for changing peoples' way of thinking.

The Robert Schuman Institute of Budapest was founded in 1995. It is supervised by a 7-member-international board, members are delegated by organisations supporting the Institute. The international board has meetings several times a year, its Chairman is Wim van Velzen MEP. Mr Velzen is at the same time Vice President of the European People's Party. The Director of the Institute is Dr. Erhard von der Bank, German Christian Democrat, previous Office Manager of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Budapest.

Centre for Political Parliamentary
Education and Training

Centre for Political Parliamentary Education and Training (CET)

25/07/2002: EPP-ED-Group opens new representative office in Hungary

Hans-Gert Poettering MEP

President of the EPP-ED Group

Vice President of the RSFL

The parliamentary group of the European People's Party and European Democrats (EPP-ED) in the European Parliament has opened up a new external office in Budapest, Hungary. The "EPP-ED Centre for Political Parliamentary Education and Training" is the sixth external office of the Group besides the offices in Berlin, London, Paris, Rome and Madrid. According to the Chairman of the EPP-ED in the European Parliament, Hans-Gert Poettering, the objective of this centre will be the transfer of information about the European Union



within the framework of the accession process as well as the preparation of candidate countries for their entry into the European Parliament, whether as Members, parliamentary assistants or staff. The personnel of the centre consists of its director, a training manager and a secretary.

Poettering said that with this decision the EPP-ED Group had taken into account the central geographical location of Budapest but also the fact that Hungary will definitely be in the first round of countries to join the European Union in its extension to the East. The representation in Budapest will be supported substantially by the Robert Schuman Institute founded in 1995. The principal activity of this Institute consists in giving assistance to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe in the development of democracy and in their future role as members of the European Union.

The EPP-ED Group in the European Parliament emphasizes with the establishment of this training center in Budapest its efforts to improve contact with the accession countries as early as possible and to create possibilities of exchange between Member States and accession candidates. Thus mutual trust and confidence in the European Union of the future shall be strengthened.

The "EPP-ED Centre for Political-Parliamentary Education and Training" is established at the following address: Alkotás u. 5, H-1123 Budapest, Hungary, telephone 0036-1-2240073, Fax: 0036-1-2253699, E-mail: cet@t-online.hu.

The CET trained for the Yes-vote

EU Referendum

This series of three 3-day-workshops was meant for politicians who were responsible for the campaigns in preparation of the EU referenda and of the communication strategy before the enlargement. The aim of the series was the preparation of the upcoming EU Referenda and information about how to communicate different political fields in the referendum campaigns. High ranking politicians of the EPP-ED Group ensured the necessary political input to the communication training.

The CET trained how to work in a MEP office

MEP Assistant Training I. and II.

Aim of the Project:

- to train assistants to the future members of the European Parliament
- to provide comprehensive knowledge about the European values, the values of the EPP and the political mainstream of the EPP-ED in the European Parliament
- to provide knowledge about the European Institutions and of the working procedures of the European Parliament and of the EPP-ED Group
- to show in practice and promote the importance of cooperation among the sister parties of the EPP

The participants were delegated by parties who sent their observers to the EPP-ED Group.

The project contained four one-week preparatory courses in Budapest and a practical training of three weeks in an office of a MEP.

The CET trained how to organise assistant trainings

MEP Assistant Trainer Training

The series “Training for Assistant Trainers” was provided for committed trainers from the TEN new member countries who are aimed to become trainers of assistants to future members of the European Parliament or the staff in the EPP-ED Group or the European Parliament in their countries.

The structures of Assistant Training and Trainer Training series are similar. During the Trainer Training professional Train the Trainer part was involved additionally, in the first and second courses 2 days, in the third and fourth courses 1 day each.

Participation in the internship had the precondition to develop an own Assistant Training plan which had to be consulted with and accepted by the delegating party.

The CET trained MEP candidates

“Policy making in the EPP and the EPP-ED Group in the European Parliament”

The CET offered an info-workshop for those who were not observers in the European Parliament. The policy of the EPP, its realization in the policy-making in the EPP-ED Group, the achievements of the Group in the last legislative period and the priorities for 2004–2009 were presented and discussed with the participants. The press and informatics services of the Group introduced the information materials offered by the Group for the campaign. The CET organized two info workshops before the elections 2004.

Through the two info workshops *60 MEP Candidates* could be reached.

The CET organized info workshops about values and policy of the EPP-ED

in Poland for the PSL in 2004 and in Romania for the PD in 2006

“Values and Policy of the EPP-ED Group in the European Parliament”

The project presented the political fundaments, streamlines and values of the EPP and the policy of the EPP-ED Group in the European Parliament and opened a forum for discussion with the participants.

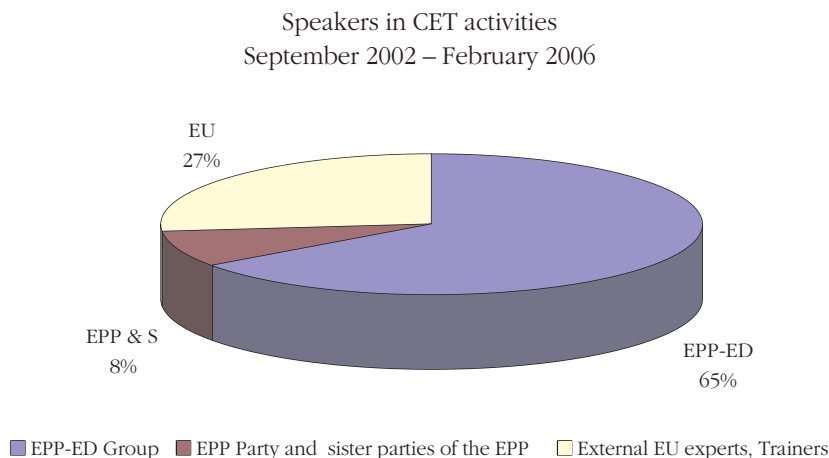
Participants were Deputies, Senators, members of the party presidency and high ranking party officials recommended by the parliamentary group and the party presidency.

Main themes:

- The European Idea today
- Values of the European People's Party and its realization in the policy of the EPP-ED Group in the European Parliament
- The EPP – the Majority in Europe
- Contribution of the EPP to the Unification of Europe
- Politics inside the EP, the strategy of the EPP-ED Group for 2004–2009
- Role of the EP in the decision making procedures in the European Union
- Politics and the public

Speakers in CET activities

- Members of the Presidency of the EPP-ED Group
- MEPs of the EPP-ED Group
- Staffers in the EPP-ED Group
- Members or officials of the EPP and the EPP sister parties
- EU Experts
- Professional trainers



The CET supports the preparations for the upcoming enlargement

"Being a Trainer for Political Communication on the EPP-ED Values and Political Mainstreams"

Series of three workshop-seminars for the EPP sister-parties in Bulgaria in 2004

Series of three workshop-seminars for the EPP sister-parties in Croatia in 2004/2005

Trainers for leaders/counselors/volunteers/employees are trained for effective communication with the media and the public, and furthermore for workshop activities about communication within a party from top down and bottom up.

The organization of effective parliamentary work in the constituency and the transmitting of the political mainstreams from the parliamentary to the local level is part of the training as well.

The participants have enlarged their knowledge of political communication and training theory by theoretical inputs and a lot of practical exercises.

“How to negotiate with the European Institutions”

Assertive Communication in the Environment of the European Institutions

The series of 2 three-day seminars helped to broaden the knowledge of the participants from Croatia about the European Institutions with special focus on the European Parliament, the EPP-ED Group and to develop the communication skills of the participants for successful negotiations during the accession process; furthermore the series contributes to the preparation of possible future observers in the EPP-ED Group.

Information about the European Institutions, their working methods and structures, negotiation skills, information about international protocol were the basic elements of the workshops. Information about the Structure and Political Priorities of the EPP-ED Group, effective communication ways in the Groups, communication between the party and the parliamentary group were introduced and discussed with the participants.

The CET supports the dialogue with new partners

Dialogue meeting between the Turkish Justice and Development Party (AK Party) and the Group of the EPP-ED in the European Parliament

On request of the Turkish Justice and Development Party (AK Party) the Group of the European People's Party–European Democrats organized a dialogue meeting between politicians of the EPP-ED Group and the AK Party.

The dialogue offered an opportunity to present and compare the political fundamentals, basic values and the rights and duties for policy making. Recognition and promotion of religious minorities in Turkey and in the European Union were outlined and discussed during the meeting.

Differentiated knowledge about each other is a necessary condition and basis for cooperation between the two parliamentary groups and parties. This dialogue meeting was an important step towards it.

The CET trains MEP assistants from all 25 member countries

MEP Assistant Training for new assistants in MEP offices belonging to the EPP-ED Group

It should be seen as additional training to the EP's Assistant Training with special information concentrated on the work in the EPP-ED Group.

The training transfers information about

- structure of the EPP-ED Group
- policy making procedures within the EPP-ED

- practical knowledge about committee work, tabling amendments, preparing a report, getting information
- press work
- handling interest groups, lobbyists

The training offers a basic knowledge for new assistants to be able to start a very effective and successful work within their MEP offices.

The training consists two 2-days-training in the EP in Brussels, the speakers are MEPs and staffers of the EPP-ED Group's Secretariat.

It is organized in each spring (April–May) and autumn (September–October).

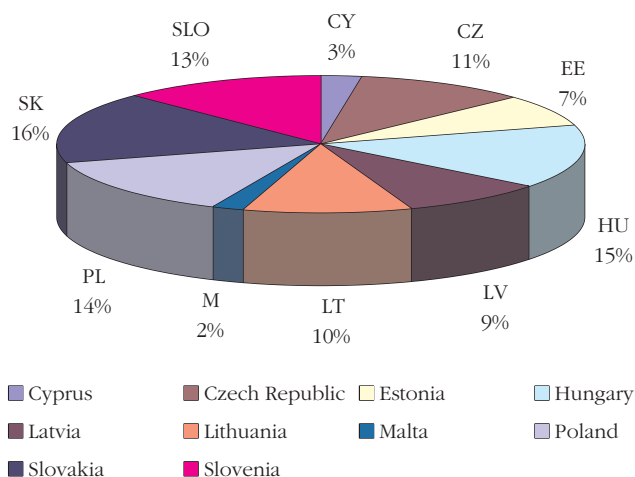
The CET makes fit for the EPP-ED Group

The goal of the CET is to contribute to the successful work of the EPP-ED Group by organizing educational activities such as workshops, trainings, conferences and special meetings for members, their assistants and staffers of the EPP-ED Group.

In the framework of the activities September 2002 – May 2004 the CET prepared the parties of the EPP-ED Group in the new member countries.

The activities reached all 10 new member countries.

Participation in the CET trainings according to countries
September 2002 – May 2004



Annexes

Statute of the Union of the “Robert Schuman Institute for Developing Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe”

§1 General Provisions

- (1) The name of the Union is:
„Robert Schuman Intézet a Közép-Kelet Európai
Demokráciák Fejlődéséért” Egyesület in Hungarian,
Union of the “Robert Schuman Institute for Devel-
oping Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe” in
English.
- (2) The abbreviated name of the Union is
„Robert Schuman Intézet” Egyesület in Hungarian,
Union of the “Robert Schuman Institute” in English.
- (3) The Union shall be a legal entity. It may undertake
rights and obligations on its own behalf.
- (4) The Union has its headquarters at 1123 Budapest,
XII. Alkotás u. 5.

§2 Means of carrying out the aims of the Union

- (1) The aim of the Union is to support and promote
the process of democratic transformation on the
basis of European values in the spirit of Robert
Schuman in Central and Eastern European coun-
tries; to help the flow of information and making
contacts between East–East and West–East, to fulfil
the idea of United Europe. To achieve these aims
the Union establishes and operates the Robert
Schuman Institute.
- (2) The Robert Schuman Institute shall achieve its aims
as follows. It shall
 - a) organise courses and conferences for politi-
cians, public figures and experts of the region,
 - b) promote a wide range of political education,
training and further education,
 - c) hold lectures and discussions,
 - d) issue its publication and other professional
publications,
 - e) co-operate with other organizations,
 - f) encourage international contact between politi-
cal and civil organizations,
 - g) establish a documentation centre to store and
use data and information in connection with the
activity of the Union,

- h) perform any other tasks that help achieve the
aims described under §2(1).

§3 Membership

- (1) The membership of the Union shall comprise orga-
nizations.
- (2) The organizations may be ordinary and honorary
members.
- (3) The Union shall be open. The legal entities that
declare the intent of joining and cooperation
through the body entitled to it according to their
own statute, and that are affiliated by the Interna-
tional Board can join the Union. An appeal may be
filed against the decision refusing affiliation to the
General Meeting of the Union.
- (4) The General Meeting of the Union may bestow the
title of Honorary Member on organizations that
render outstanding support for the Institute or
achieved outstanding results in developing democ-
racy in Central and Eastern Europe.
- (5) The membership shall cease to exist with
 - a) cancellation,
 - b) exclusion,
 - c) the cease of the organization,
 - d) withdrawal of the title of honorary membership.
- (6) The member may cancel its membership at any
time on request in written form.
- (7) The International Board of the Union may exclude
a member which has fallen behind with payment of
the fixed membership fee for more than two years
and does not settle it despite a written demand, or
that has violated its obligations determined under
§4(2), or that has not been present at two consecu-
tive General Meetings.
- (8) An appeal with delaying force may be filed to the
General Meeting of the Union against the decision
on exclusion within 15 days of coming to hand.
- (9) The General Meeting of the Union can withdraw
the honorary membership on the recommendation
of the International Board if the honorary member
has become unworthy of it. No appeal lies against
such a decision.

§4 Rights and obligations of the members

- (1) The members of the Union may
 - a) take part in the General Meeting with voting power,
 - b) set up candidates for any post of the Union,
 - c) make proposals, move resolutions, and turn with complaint, contribution or appeal to the bodies of the Union concerned.
 - d) be present at the activities of the Union.
- (2) The members of the Union are to co-operate in achieving the aims of the Union, complying with the regulations of the statute and in paying membership fees – except for honorary members – and making donations.
- (3) The members shall transfer the amount to the bank account of the Union not later than 15 March in each year. In case affiliation takes place within a year, the member shall transfer the membership fee within 30 days of affiliation.
- (4) In exceptional and reasonable cases the International Board may allow no payment of the membership fee or payment in kind.

§5 General Meeting

- (1) The General Meeting is the highest decision-making body of the Union, comprising the representatives delegated by each member organization.
- (2) The General Meeting shall meet once every two calendar years and be convened by the President. The President may convene the General Meeting any time if necessary and must convene it on the suggestion of the International Board. The General Meeting has also to be convened at the request of one-third of the members – indicating the reason and the aim.
- (3) The General Meeting shall have the sole right to
 - a) establish and amend the statute,
 - b) decide about transformation or dissolution,
 - c) vote by ballot for the President and decide on his withdrawal,
 - d) fix membership fees,
 - e) vote about the composition of the International Board, i.e. the proportion of the representation of the organizations.These decisions will be made by a three-fourths majority.
- (4) The General Meeting may decide on any question concerning the functioning of the Union.
- (5) The General Meeting shall be considered quorate provided that members received notice of the meet-

ing two weeks before the date for which it is convened. Every member organization exercises one vote. Voting power is cancelled if a member has fallen behind with payment of the fixed membership fee for more than two years.

§6 International Board

- (1) The International Board is the highest decision making body between General Meetings.
- (2) The International Board shall comprise not more than 8 members including the President. The proportion of the members shall be decided for 2 years by the General Meeting, if possible from the member organizations that contribute to the costs of the Union to the largest extent. Appointments may be renewed.
- (3) Members may transfer their vote for one meeting to another person who then takes part with all right. The International Board has a quorum provided that the members received notice of the meeting two weeks before the date on which it is to be convened and more than half of its members are present or represented.
- (4) The General Meeting may withdraw the International Board members when there are significant reasons for doing so. In case that members of the International Board will be withdrawn or resigning before the end of their term of office, the International Board may appoint substitute members for the remainder of the electoral period in accordance with the decision of the General Meeting (§ 5 (3) e).
- (5) The ex officio member of the International Board is the President as the Chairman of the International Board. The Director of the Robert Schuman Institute shall take part in the meetings of the International Board with voice but no vote.
- (6) The International Board shall
 - a) control and ensure the continuous activity of the Union,
 - b) ensure the implementation of the decisions of the General Meeting,
 - c) decide the questions of joining to or separation from other organizations,
 - d) manage and control the activity of the committees of the Union,
 - e) decide on affiliation,
 - f) accept the annual budget estimate and the closing accounts,
 - g) decide every question that does not belong to the sole right of the General Meeting,
 - h) appoint and release the Director of the Robert Schuman Institute,

- i) accept the reports of the Director of the Robert Schuman Institute.
- (7) The International Board may establish a Control Committee any time if necessary for financial controls, and/or may also entrust an external financial expert, whose report is accepted by the International Board.
- (8) The International Board may establish professional committees that promote the Union's aims, and may offer the membership in such committees to persons who are not members of the Union's member organizations.
- (9) The meetings of the International Board shall be convened by the President of the Union, whenever the need arises, but at least once in each half of the calendar year. The President shall chair the meeting. In his absence, he may transfer this right to another member of the board.

§7 President

- (1) The president of the Union is elected for four years. He holds office until a successor is elected. In event that the president resigns, dies or in other way is permanently not able to fulfill his duties during the four years' mandate, the International Board elects an interim president, which has to convene the General Meeting as soon as maybe in order to elect a new president for the remaining period of the four years' mandate. If this is less than six months, the next statutory General Meeting elects the new president with a new mandate for four years.
- (2) The President of the Union individually represents the Union. He convenes and chairs the General Meeting and the meetings of the International Board. He has the procuration by signing his name individually above the mandatory, stamped or printed firm name. Whenever the need arises, the President may temporarily transfer the authority to sign to the Director or another person.
- (3) The President performs the duties set by the General Meeting and the International Board.

§8 Director

- (1) The Director of the Institute shall achieve the aims of the Union according to the decisions and directives of the International Board. The Director
 - a) represents the Institute, exercising his duties and/or acting on behalf of the President he has the procuration for the signature of his name

above the mandatory, stamped or printed name of the Institute. Whenever the need arises, the Director may temporarily transfer the authority to sign with the agreement of the President to another person.

- b) is responsible for the management of the Institute and reports to the International Board,
- c) exercises the rights of employers on the Union's employees,
- d) leads and supervises the Secretariat of the Union which fulfils the Union's organizational, management and administrative tasks.
- (2) For bank transactions the signature of the Director or of two persons entitled to sign are needed in each case.
- (3) The International Board may transfer other powers to the Director in connection with performing his duties.

§9 Financial management of the Union

- (1) The Union shall function according to an annual budget estimate. Its income shall comprise membership fees and financial assets from other sources of funds, firstly of donations.
- (2) The Union may undertake enterprises to achieve its aims and to ensure economic conditions.

§10 Voting

The corporate decisions of the Union, those of the General Meeting included, shall be passed in an open vote and by simple majority except the Statute has stated the way of voting differently (cf. General Meeting). A vote by ballot may be ordered at the request of one-third of members present. In the event of a tied vote, the chairman of the body, or in his absence, the authorized person shall have a casting vote.

§11 Dissolution

- (1) On the dissolution of the Union of any reason, the relevant procedures shall be carried out by the International Board.
- (2) In case of dissolution of the Union without a legal successor the remaining net assets shall be transferred to the "Robert Schuman Foundation for Cooperation between Christian Democrats in Europe" Luxembourg.

§12 Closing provisions

- (1) In matters not settled in the present statute, the Hungarian Civil Code and the Union Law II. of 1989 has to be applied. The Statute was accepted at the General Meeting of the Union in Strasbourg, on 24 October 1995 and changed at its meeting in Brussels, on 03 February 1999 and in Estoril/Portugal, on 17 October 2002.
- (2) The members shall accept that the Hungarian Law has to be applied to the functioning of the Union and to contingent contests in connection with it.
- (3) The members establishing the Union shall accept that the Union shall start to exist on the day when the decision of registering the Union at the Court of Justice has entered into legal effect. The provisions of the Statute shall come into force on that day.

Declaration of Affiliation

The party/institute intends to join the *Union of the "Robert Schuman Institute for Developing Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe"* by signing this document.

We agree with the aim of the union to support and promote the process of democratic transformation on the basis of European values in the spirit of Robert Schuman in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern European countries; to help the flow of information and making contacts between East–East and West–East, to fulfil the idea of United Europe.

The union will function according to the Statute accepted at the General Meeting in Estoril/Portugal on the 17th October 2002. Hereby we accept the decisions made at the General Meeting, concerning the establishment of the Union, the Statute of the Union, the election of the President, the composition of the International Board and the membership fee. (at present *net EUR 150,-* per year)

Please transfer the actual membership fee to our EURO account
HUNGARIAN FOREIGN TRADE BANK
H-1056 Budapest, Váci utca 38.
IBAN: HU05-1030-0002-5010-0406-2100-4887
SWIFT CODE: MKKB HU HB

.....
(Place, date)

.....
Authorized Signature, Stamp

Please return this form in original to the:
Union of the Robert Schuman Institute
H-1123 Budapest, Alkotás u. 5.

Parties/Organisations, which delegated participants to the seminars between 1991–2005

Please note that some of the parties/organisations do not exist any more!

ALBANIA

New Democrat Party (PDR)
Christian Democratic Party of Albania (PDSH)
Democratic Party (DPSh)
Republican Party (PR)
LDGSH

AUSTRIA

Austrian People's Party (ÖVP)

BELARUS

United Civil Party (AGP/UCP)
Belarusian Popular Front (BPF/BNF)

BELGIUM

Christen-Democratisch & Vlaams

BOSNIA–HERZEGOVINA

Party of Democratic Action (SDA)
Party of Democratic Progress (PDP RS)
The Democratic Croat Community of
Bosnia–Herzegovina (HDZ BiH)
University of Sarajevo
Young Liberals

BULGARIA

Union of Democratic Forces (UDF/SDS)
Bulgarian Agrarian National Union (BANU)
Democratic Party (DP)
Democrats for Strong Bulgaria
Christian Democratic Union of Bulgaria
Executive Council of UCDC
Political Academy for Central and South–Eastern
Europe (PACE)
National Movement of Simeon II. (NDSV)

CROATIA

Demokratski Center (DC)
Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ)
Croatian Peasant Party (HSS)
Croatian Christian Democratic Union (CCDU)
Christian Democratic Party of Croatia
Istarski Demokratski Sabor
Verband der Selbständiger Gewerkschaftsbünden

CYPRUS

Democratic Rally Party (DISY)

CZECHOSLOVAKIA (1991–1992)

Czecho-Slovakian People's Party
KDS Czech Christian Democratic Party Pardubice
Christian Democratic Movement of Slovakia (KDH)

Hungarian Christian Democratic Movement in CzSL
CZECH REPUBLIC (1992–)

Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak
People's Party (KDU–ČSL)
Civic Democratic Party (ODS)
Freedom Union – Democratic Union (US–DEU)
Czech People's Party (CPP)
Amnesty International
Czech Christian Academy
CDP
KOK

DENMARK

Det Konservative Folkeparti

ESTONIA

Pro Patria Union (Isamaaliit)
Res Publica Party
Christian Democratic Union of Estonia (CDU of
Estonia)
NCP
ELDP
Chancellery of Parliament

FINLAND

Kansallinen Kokoomus (KOK)
Suomen Kristillisdemokraatit (KD)

FRANCE

Union pour un Mouvement Populaire (UMP)

GERMANY

Christian Democratic Union (CDU))
Christian Social Union (CSU)

GEORGIA

Georgian Christian Democratic Association (GCDA)
Georgian Youth Christian Democratic Party
(GYCDP)
People's Party
Young National Democrats

GREECE

Nea Demokratia (ND)
ONNED – Youth Organisation of New Democracy

HUNGARY

Fidesz Hungarian Civic Union (FIDESZ–MPSZ)
Hungarian Democratic Forum (MDF)
Party of Independent Small-holders (FKGP)
Christian Democratic People's Party (KDNP)
Jobbik

- Pázmány Péter Catholic University (PPKE)
 World Federation of Hungarians
 Hungarian Youth Atlantic Council
 Prime Ministers Office Press and Information
 Department
 Episcopate of Esztergom
 Union of Large Families (NOE)
- IRELAND
 Fine Gael Party (FG)
- ITALY
 Unione dei Democratici cristiani e dei Democratici
 di Centro
- LATVIA
 People's Party of Latvia (TP)
 New Era Party (JL)
 Latvia's First Party (LPP)
 Christian Democratic Union of Latvia (CDU of
 Latvia)
 Latvian Conservative Association
 Latvian Conservative Youth Union
 University Students Association
- LITHUANIA
 Homeland Union (TS (LK))
 Lithuanian Christian Democratic Party (LKDP)
 Modern Christian Democratic Union
 Lithuanian Conservative Party
 Young Christian Democrats
 Vytautas Magnus University
 CDPL
 LVB
 LFL
 CLTU
- MALTA
 Nationalist Party of Malta
- MACEDONIA
 Democratic Party of National Unity
 (VMRO–DPMNE)
 VMRO–People's Party (VMRO–PP)
- MOLDOVA
 Christian Democratic People's Party (CDPP/PPCD)
 Association for Civil and Political Culture
 National Association of Young Historians
 Social-Liberal Party
 International Association
- NETHERLANDS
 Christan Democratisch Appél (CDA)
- PORTUGAL
 Coligação Força Portugal PPD/PSD.CDS–PP
- POLAND
 Civic Platform (PO)
 Polish People's Party (PSL)
 Conservative People's Party (SKL)
 Christian Democratic Party (CDP)
 Christian Democratic Movement of Poland
- Christian National Union (CNU)
 Polish Christian Democratic Centrum Party
 Party of Christian Democrats
 Movement for the Republic
 Centre for Political Thought
 Freedom Union, Young Democrats
 School for Leaders
 Social Academy
 Idee Foundation
 Social Movement Party
 Deutscher Freundschafts Kreis (DFK)
 Bund der Jugend der deutschen Minderheit
 Youth Parliament of Wroclaw
 University of Wroclaw
 Academic Catholic Association 'Soli Deo'
 Prince of Wales Business Leaders Forum
 RS AWS, Independent Student's Association
 Warsaw School of Economics, Student Union
 PCHD
 FMK, ESM, IK, SKL
- ROMANIA
 Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania
 (RMDSZ/UDMR)
 National Peasant Christian Democratic Party
 (PNTCD)
 Democratic Party (PD)
 Hungarian Christian Democratic Party of Romania
 (RMKDP)
 Forum of Democrats in Romania
 Parti National
 Christian Students' Organisation (IKE)
 Union of Hungarian Youth Organisations
 Lórántffy Zsuzsanna Nőegylet
 IEES
 Petrom
 Association for Enterprises
 BNS
 Cartel Alfa
 DFDR
 DRDH
- RUSSIA
 Our Home is Russia' Party, Young Europeans for
 Security
 Christian Democratic Party of Russia (CDPR)
 Russian Christian Democratic Union (RCDU)
 YES–Russia, Association of European Studies
 Centre for Legal Culture and Political Advertising
 Democratic Russia
 Christian Youth Organisation in Izhevsk
 University, Faculty of International Relations
- SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO (2003–)
 G 17 Plus
 Democratic Party of Serbia (DSS)
 New Belgrade

SLOVAKIA (1992–)

Slovak Democratic and Christian Union (SDKU)
Hungarian Coalition Party (MKP/SMK)
Christian Democratic Movement (KDH)
Hungarian Christian Democratic Movement
(MKDM)
Civil Democratic Youth (ODM)
Youth Department of Political Movement
Coexistence in Slovakia
SOZ PT
UCGS
Kristlicher Gewerkschfiler

SLOVENIA

New Slovenia (NSi)
Slovenian People's Party (SLS)
Slovenian Democratic Party (SDS)
Slovenian Christian Democratic Party (SCDP)

SPAIN

Partido Popular (PP)

SWEDEN

Moderaterna (M)

TURKEY

Justice and Development Party (AK P)

UKRAINE

Our Ukraine
RUKH
Christian People's Union (CPU)
Reforms and Order
Christian Democratic Party of Ukraine (CDPU)
Christian Democratic Youth of Ukraine (CDYU)
Institute for Political Education
Ukrainian Youth Sobor
Ukrainian People's Party
Magyar Értelmiségiek Kárpátaljai Közössége
(MÉKK)
Lviv regional organisation of CDPU
NGO Student's Brotherhood of NAUKMA
VOST
PORA

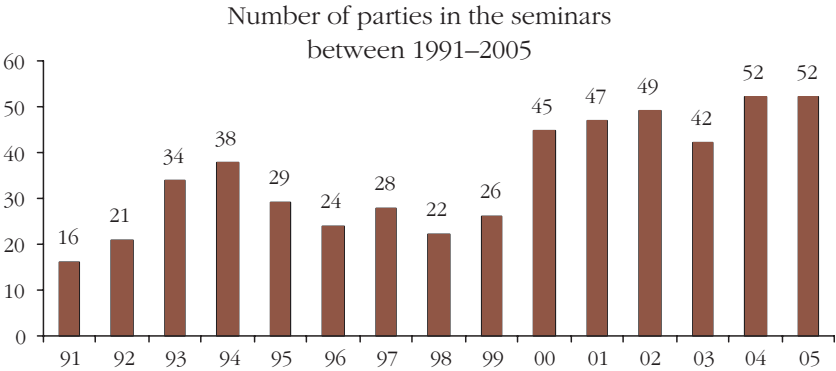
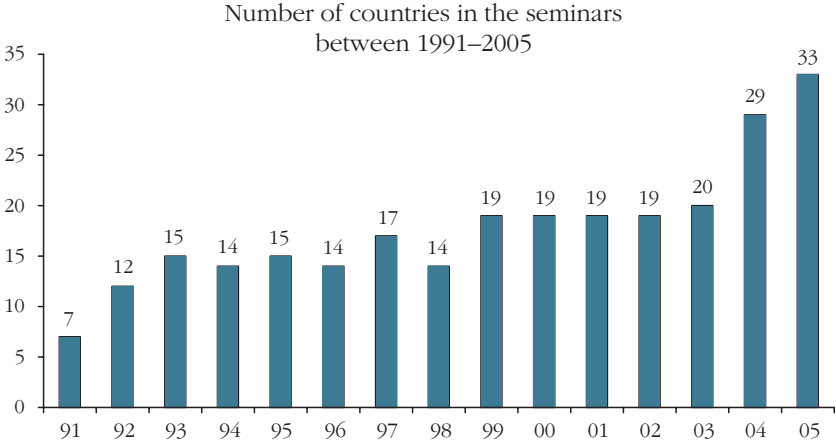
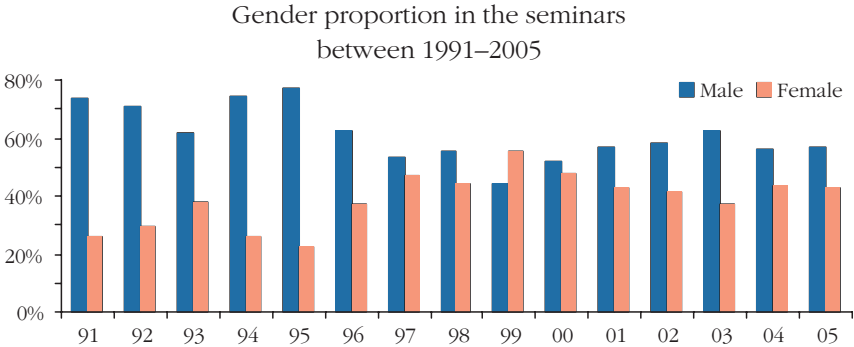
UNITED KINGDOM

Conservative and Unionist Party

YUGOSLAVIA (1991–2002)

VOX Humana
Democratic Party of Voivodina
Hungarians/Voivodina Alliance of Hungarians
Demochristian Party of Serbia

General Diagrams between 1991–2005

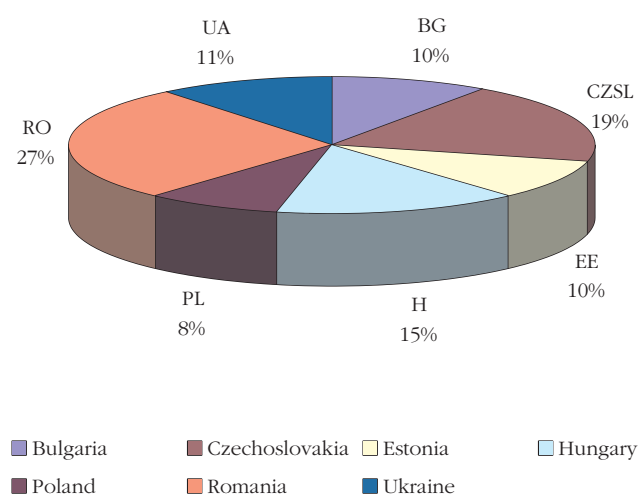


Christian Democratic Academy for Central and Eastern Europe, 1991

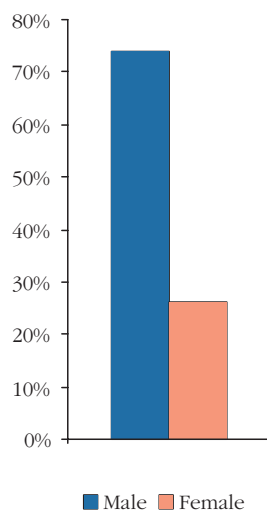
Country/Party	No. of pax
Bulgaria	
BANU	7
Czechoslovakia	
KDH	4
KDS	2
Czecho-Slovakian People's Party	8
Estonia	
Christian Democratic Union of Estonia	7
Hungary	
KDNP	6
MDF	5

Country/Party	No. of pax
Poland	
Party of Christian Democrats	2
Centrum Alliance	3
Polish Christian Democratic Centrum Party	1
Romania	
RMDSZ	15
PNTCD	2
IKE	2
Union of Hungarian Youth Organisations	1
Ukraine	
CDPU	4
Lviv regional organisation of CDPU	4
TOTAL	73

Country proportion in the seminars in 1991
7 countries



Gender proportion in the seminars in 1991

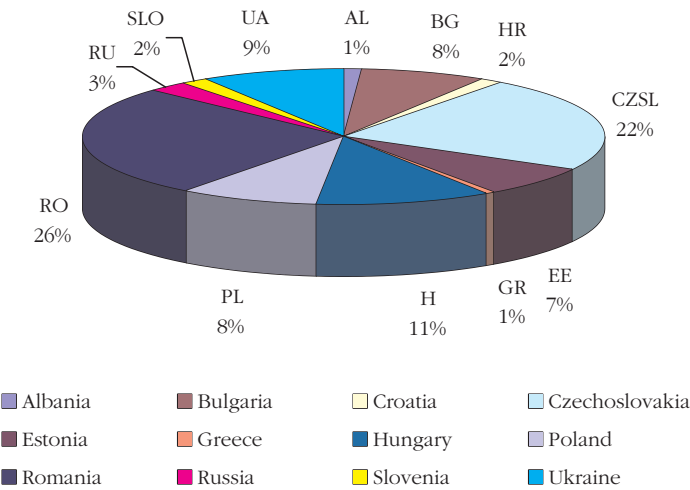


Christian Democratic Academy for Central and Eastern Europe, 1992

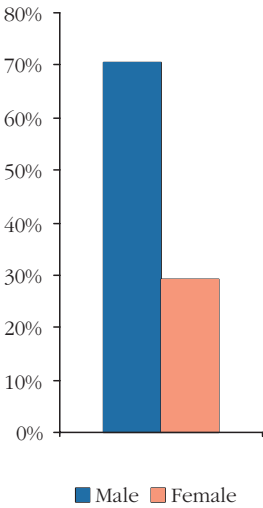
Country/Party	No. of pax
Albania	
PDSH	2
Bulgaria	
BANU	14
DP	1
Croatia	
Christian Democratic Party of Croatia	3
Czechoslovakia	
Hungarian Christian Democratic Movement in CzSl	8
KDS	9
Czecho-Slovakian People's Party	11
KDH	15
Estonia	
CDU of Estonia	14
Greece	
ONNED	1

Country/Party	No. of pax
Hungary	
KDNP	16
MDF	5
Poland	
Centrum Alliance	15
Christian Democratic Movement of Poland	1
Romania	
RMDSZ	18
PNTCD	32
Forum of Democrats in Romania	1
Russia	
CDPR	5
Slovenia	
SCDP	3
Ukraine	
CDPU	12
CSU	5
TOTAL	191

Country proportion in the seminars in 1992
12 countries



Gender proportion in the seminars in 1992

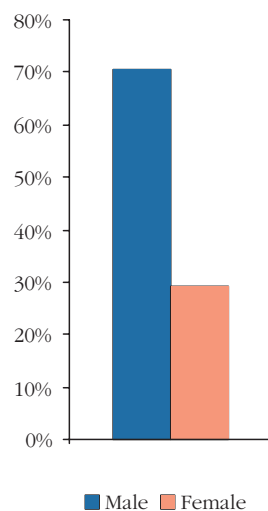
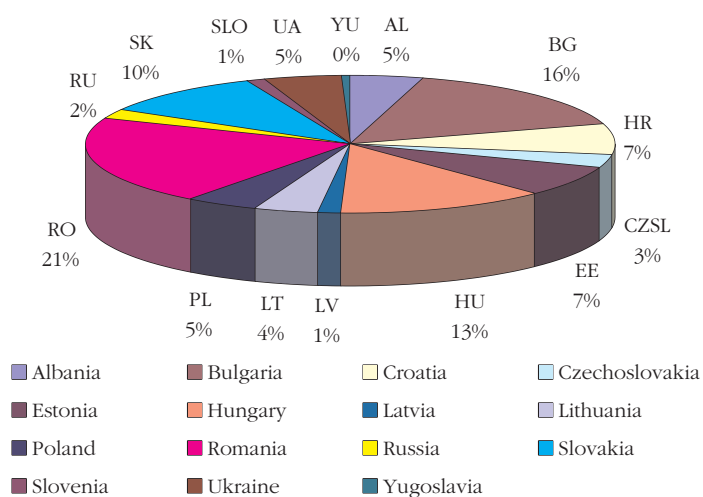


Christian Democratic Academy for Central and Eastern Europe, 1993

Country/Party	No. of pax	Country/Party	No. of pax
Albania		Poland	
PDSH	9	Centrum Alliance	8
LDGSH	1	Social Academy	1
Bulgaria		Movement for the Republic	1
BANU	31	Romania	
DP	4	RMDSZ	15
Croatia		PNTCD	27
Christian Democratic Party of Croatia	14	Parti National	2
Verband Der Selbstandiger Gewerkschaftbunden	2	Lórántffy Zsuzsanna Nőegylet	1
Czechoslovakia		Petrom	1
KDS	5	Russia	
Czecho-Slovakian People's Party	2	CDPR	5
Estonia		Slovakia	
Res Publica	4	MKDM	8
Isamaaliit	7	KDH	11
NCP	2	Kristlicher Gewerkschfiler	3
Christian Democratic Union of Estonia	2	Youth Department of Political Movement Coexistence in Slovakia	1
ELDP	1	Slovenia	
Hungary		SCDP	2
KDNP	18	Ukraine	
MDF	10	CDPU	8
Latvia		CSU	3
CDU of Latvia	3	Yugoslavia	
Lithuania		VOX Humana	1
LKDP	9	TOTAL	222

Country proportion in the seminars in 1993
15 countries

Gender proportion in the seminars in 1993

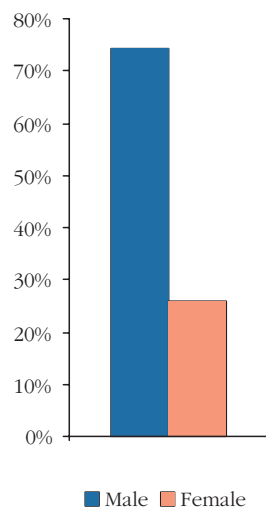
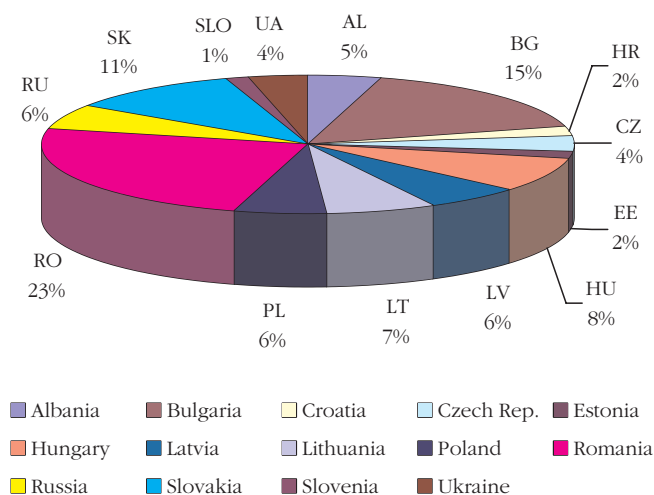


Christian Democratic Academy for Central and Eastern Europe, 1994

Country/Party	No. of pax	Country/Party	No. of pax
Albania		Poland	
PDSH	11	CDP	8
Bulgaria		Movement for the Republic	3
Christian Democratic Union of Bulgaria	10	PCHD	3
BANU	28	Romania	
DP	1	RMDSZ	16
Executive Council of UCDC	1	RMKDP	7
Croatia		CDNPP	31
CCDU	5	IEES	1
Czech Republic		DAHR	1
CPP	4	Association for Enterprises	1
CDP	4	BNS	1
KOK	1	Cartel Alfa	1
Estonia		Russia	
Isamaaliit	2	RCDU	7
Res Publica	2	CDPR	7
Hungary		Slovakia	
KDNP	18	KDH	13
KESZOSZ	2	MKDM	9
Latvia		SOZ PT	3
CDU of Latvia	14	UCGS	1
Lithuania		Slovenia	
CDPL	13	Slovenian Christian Democratic Party	3
LVB	1	Ukraine	
LFL	1	UCDP	8
CLTU	1	VOST	1
		TOTAL	244

Country proportion in the seminars in 1994
14 countries

Gender proportion in the seminars in 1994

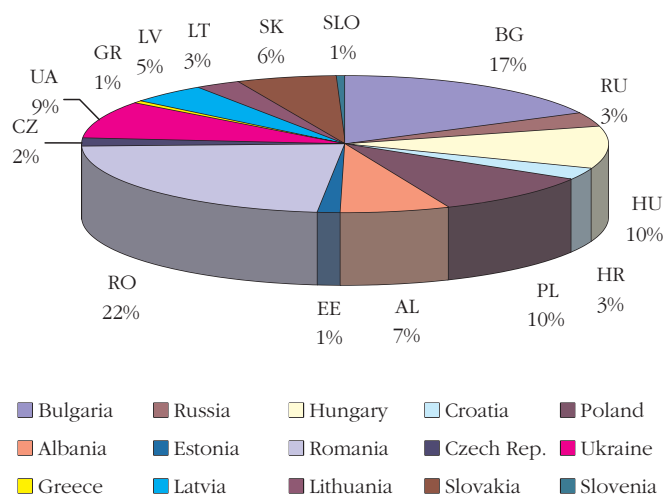


Christian Democratic Academy for Central and Eastern Europe, 1995

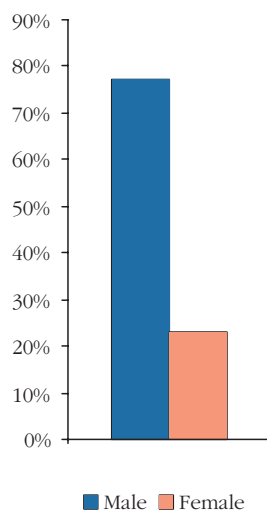
Country/Party	No. of pax
Albania	
PDSH	10
Bulgaria	
DP	4
BANU	17
Christian Democratic Union of Bulgaria	5
Croatia	
CCDU	4
Czech Republic	
CPP	3
Estonia	
Isamaaliit	2
Greece	
ND	1
Hungary	
Fidesz	6
KDNP	9
Latvia	
CDU of Latvia	4
Lithuania	
CDPL	3
LKDP	4

Country/Party	No. of pax
Poland	
CDP	4
Party of Christian Democrats	7
CNU	2
DKF	1
Bund der Jugend der deutschen Minderheit	1
Romania	
RMDSZ	17
RMKDP	6
PNTCD	9
DFDR	1
DFDH	1
Russia	
CDPR	5
Slovakia	
KDH	5
MKDM	4
Slovenia	
SCDP	1
Ukraine	
CDPU	10
MÉKK	3
TOTAL	149

Country proportion in the seminars in 1995
15 countries



Gender proportion in the seminars in 1995

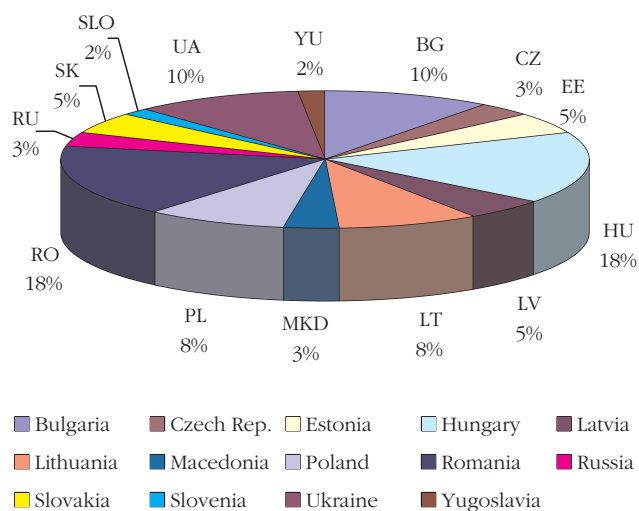


Robert Schuman Institute, 1996

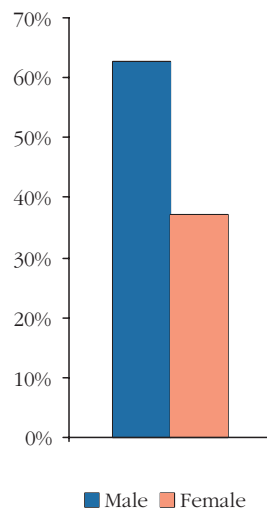
Country/Party	No. of pax
Bulgaria	
DP	2
BANU	4
Czech Republic	
Czech Christian Academy	1
Estonia	
Isamaaliit	3
Hungary	
Fidesz	1
MDF	1
World Federation of Hungarians	1
Youth Democratic Union	1
NOE	1
Episcopate of Esztergom	1
Latvia	
CDU of Latvia	2
Lithuania	
LKDP	1

Country/Party	No. of pax
Poland	
CDP	2
CNU	1
Youth Parliament of Wroclaw	1
Peasant Party of Poland	1
Romania	
RMDSZ	3
RMKDP	2
PNTCD	2
Russia	
CDPR	1
RCDU	1
Slovakia	
KDH	1
MKDM	1
Ukraine	
CDPU	3
TOTAL	38

Country proportion in the seminars in 1996
14 countries



Gender proportion in the seminars in 1996

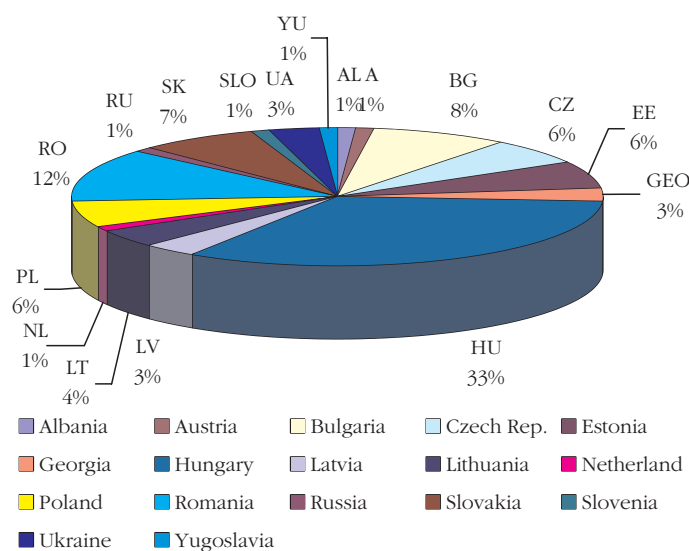


Robert Schuman Institute, 1997

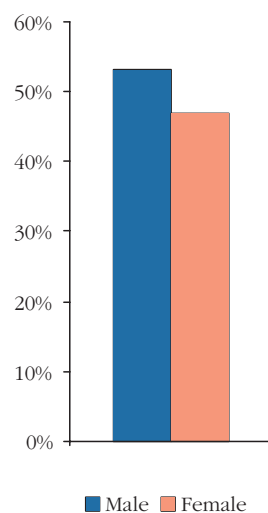
Country/Party	No. of pax
Albania	
PDSH	1
Bulgaria	
DP	2
BANU	4
Czech Republic	
KDU-ČSL	2
Estonia	
Isamaaliit	4
Georgia	
People's Party	2
Hungary	
Fidesz	2
KDNP	1
PPKE	2
MDF	2
Hungarian Youth Atlantic Council	1
World Federation of Hungarians	1
Youth Democratic Union	1
Latvia	
CDU of Latvia	1

Country/Party	No. of pax
Lithuania	
LKDP	2
Poland	
Freedom Union	2
Soli Deo	1
CNU	1
Centre for Political Thought	1
Romania	
RMDSZ	1
RMKDP	2
PNTCD	3
Russia	
CDPR	1
Slovakia	
KDH	2
MKDM	3
Youth Department of Political Movement Coexistence in Slovakia	1
Slovenia	
SCDP	1
Ukraine	
CPU	2
TOTAL	49

Country proportion in the seminars in 1997
17 countries



Gender proportion in the seminars in 1997

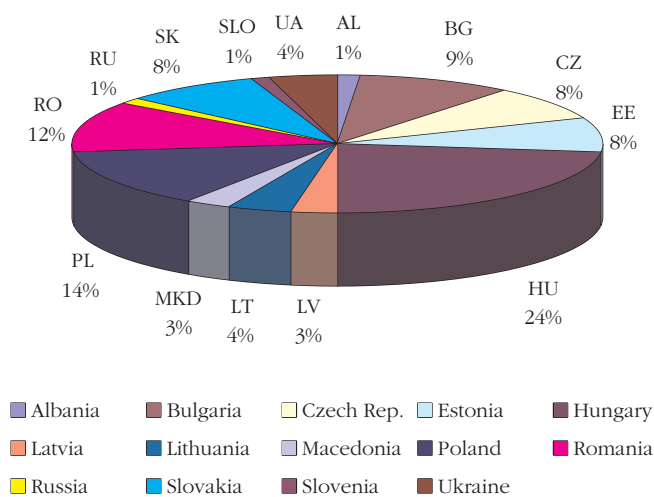


Robert Schuman Institute, 1998

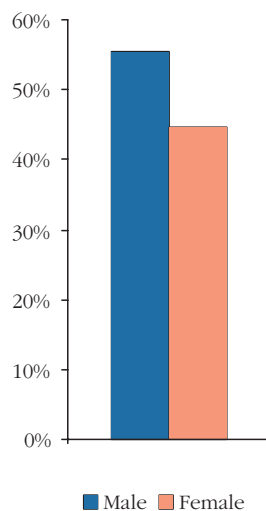
Country/Party	No. of pax	No. of days
Albania		
PDSH	1	5
Bulgaria		
DP	2	25
BANU	3	40
Czech Republic		
KDU-ČSL	3	40
Estonia		
Isamaaliit	4	50
Hungary		
Fidesz	2	25
KDNP	1	5
PPKE	2	10
Latvia		
CDU of Latvia	2	10
Lithuania		
TS (LK)	1	5
LKDP	2	10

Country/Party	No. of pax	No. of days
Macedonia		
VMRO-DPME	2	10
Poland		
Freedom Union	6	30
Soli Deo	2	10
Warsaw School of Economics		
Student Union	1	5
Romania		
RMKDP	1	5
PNTCD	2	10
Russia		
'Our Home is Russia'	1	5
Slovakia		
KDH	2	10
MKDM	2	10
Slovenia		
SCDP	1	5
Ukraine		
CPU	3	15
TOTAL	46	340

Country proportion in the seminars in 1998
14 countries



Gender proportion in the seminars in 1998

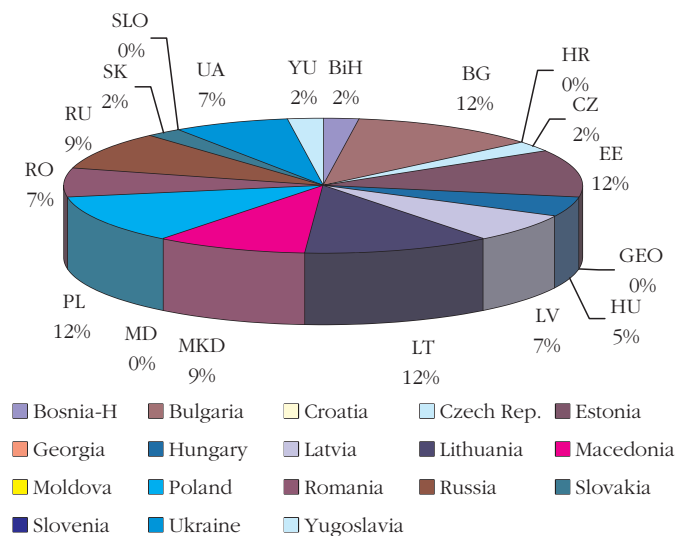


Robert Schuman Institute, 1999

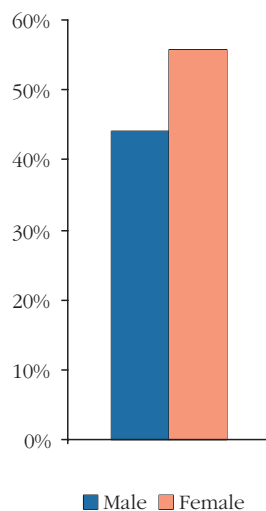
Country/Party	No. of pax	No. of days
Bosnia–Herzegovina		
University of Sarajevo	1	5
Bulgaria		
DP	1	16
BANU	4	42
Czech Republic		
KDU–ČSL	1	27
Estonia		
Isamaaliit	3	48
Res Publica	1	11
Chancellery of Parliament	1	6
Hungary		
Fidesz	2	16
Latvia		
Latvian Conservative Association	1	6
University Students Association	1	11
CDU of Latvia	1	10
Lithuania		
Vytautas Magnus University	1	6
TS (LK)	3	32
LKDP	1	16

Country/Party	No. of pax	No. of days
Macedonia		
VMRO–DPME	4	42
Poland		
Freedom Union	4	49
University of Wroclaw	1	11
Romania		
RMDSZ	1	11
PNTCD	2	27
Russia		
Christian Youth Organisation in Izhevsk	1	11
YES–Russia	1	11
Our Home is Russia	1	11
University, Faculty of International Relations	1	5
Slovakia		
KDH	1	16
Ukraine		
CPU	3	43
Yugoslavia		
DSS	1	11
TOTAL	43	500

Country proportion in the seminars in 1999
19 countries



Gender proportion in the seminars in 1999

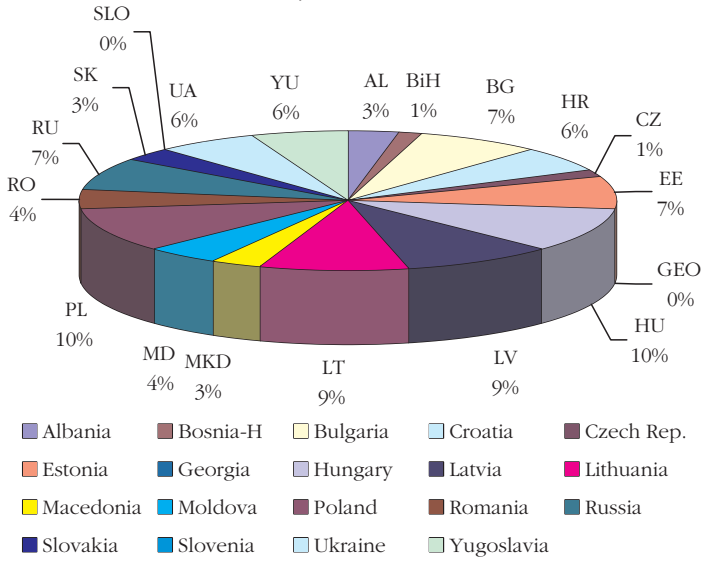


Robert Schuman Institute, 2000

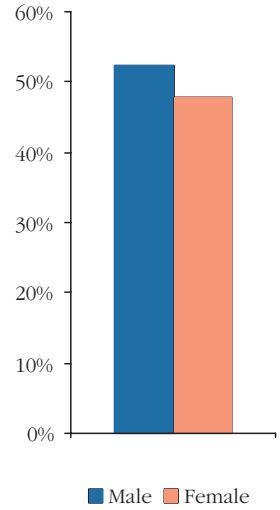
Country/Party	No. of pax	No. of days
Albania		
Republican Party	2	15
Bosnia–Herzegovina		
University of Sarajevo	1	15
Bulgaria		
UDF	1	10
BANU	4	30
Croatia		
DC	1	20
Istarski Dem. Sabor	3	20
Czech Republic		
KDU–ČL	1	5
Estonia		
Isamaaliit	3	50
Res Publica	1	10
Chancellery of Parliament	1	5
Hungary		
Fidesz	4	45
MDF	1	10
FKGP	2	20
Latvia		
Latvian Conservative Association	1	5
University Students Association	1	5
TP	2	45
Latvian Conservative Youth Union	1	5
CDU of Latvia	1	5
Lithuania		
Vytautas Magnus University	1	5
Lithuanian Conservative Party	2	5
Young Christian Democrats	1	45
Modern Christian Democratic Union	1	5
TS (LK)	1	10
Macedonia		
VMRO–DPME	2	20

Country/Party	No. of pax	No. of days
Moldova		
CDPP	1	15
Ass. for Civil and Pol. Culture	1	5
National Association of Young Historians	1	5
Poland		
Freedom Union	2	20
Conservative People's Party	1	10
School for Leaders	2	20
University of Wrocław	1	15
Idee Foundation	1	10
Romania		
RMDSZ	2	25
PNTCD	1	15
Russia		
Christian Youth Organisation in Izhevsk	1	3
YES–Russia	1	3
Centre for Legal Culture and Political Advertising	1	3
Democratic Russia	1	3
University, Faculty of International Relations	1	3
Slovakia		
MKP	1	10
Christian Democratic Youth	1	5
Ukraine		
CPU	4	35
Yugoslavia		
DSS	2	10
Democratic Party of Voivodina Hungarians	1	5
Demochristian Party of Serbia	1	5
TOTAL	67	635

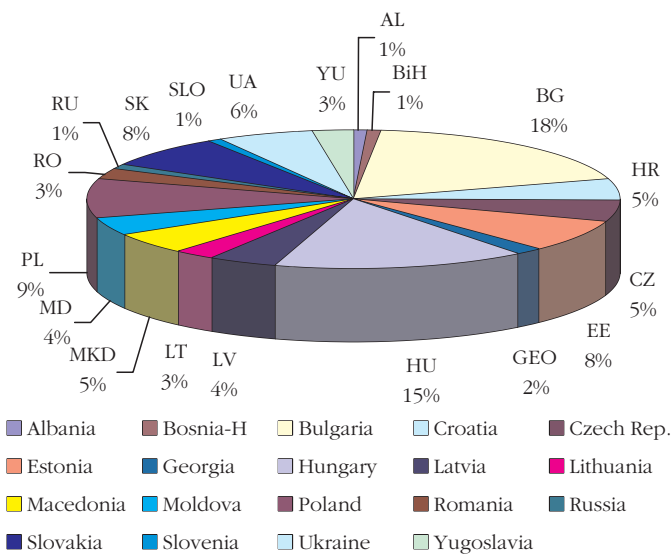
Country proportion in the seminars in 2000
19 countries



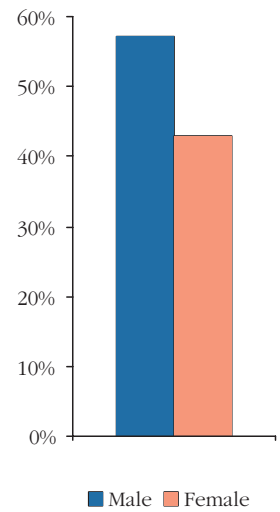
Gender proportion in the seminars in 2000



Country proportion in the seminars in 2001
19 countries



Gender proportion in the seminars in 2001



Robert Schuman Institute, 2001

Country/Party	No. of pax	No. of days
Albania		
Republican Party	1	5
Bosnia–Herzegovina		
PDP	1	10
Bulgaria		
UDF	15	53
BANU	7	42
Croatia		
DC	3	40
Istarski Dem. Sabor	3	20
Czech Republic		
KDU–ČSL	3	36
Freedom Union	1	11
Union of Liberal Party	1	5
Amnesty International	1	5
Estonia		
Isamaaliit	8	62
Res Publica	1	5
Georgia		
Young National Democrats	2	20
Hungary		
Fidesz	10	99
MDF	2	30
FKGP	2	25
Jobbik	2	10
PPKE	1	5
Prime Ministers Office Press and Information Department	1	5
Latvia		
TP	4	55
CDU of Latvia	1	5
Lithuania		
Modern Christian Democratic Union	1	40
TS (LK)	1	10
Lithuanian Conservative Party	1	5

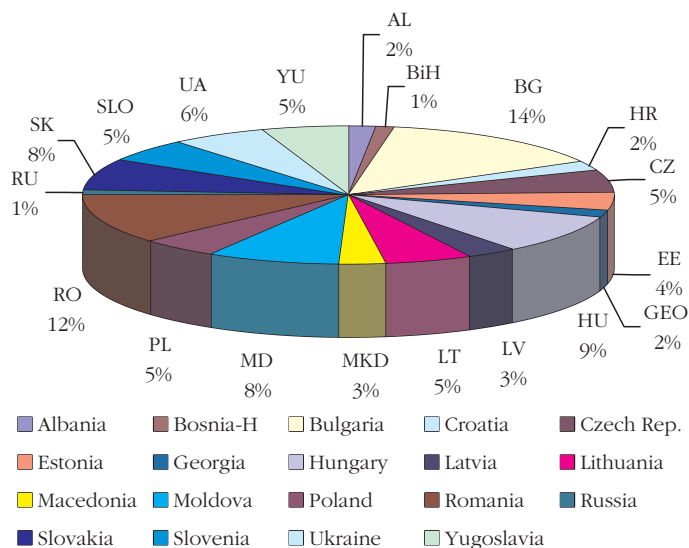
Country/Party	No. of pax	No. of days
Macedonia		
VMRO–DPME	6	34
Moldova		
CDPP	4	45
National Association of Young Historians	1	5
Poland		
Freedom Union	2	15
Idee Foundation	2	4
School for Leaders	1	41
Conservative People's Party	2	21
RS AWS Independent Student's Association	2	20
FMK, ESM, IK, SKL	1	5
Prince of Wales Business Leaders Forum	1	5
Romania		
RMDSZ	2	20
PNTCD	1	10
Russia		
Youth Parliament Duma, Novgorod	1	15
Slovakia		
MKP	3	31
SDKU	3	10
KDH	2	5
Civil Democratic Youth (ODM)	1	5
Slovenia		
SLS–SKD	1	10
Ukraine		
CPU	2	20
RUKH	3	25
Reform and Order	2	20
Yugoslavia		
DSS	2	20
Democratic Party of Voivodina Hungarians	1	10
TOTAL	119	999

Robert Schuman Institute and the EPP-ED Centre for Political Parliamentary Education and Training (CET), 2002

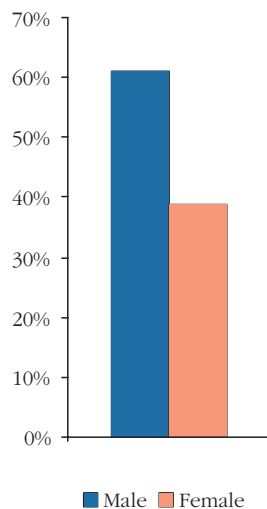
Country/Party	No. of pax	No of days
Albania		
DP	3	24
Bosnia		
PDP	1	13
Young Liberals	1	5
Bulgaria		
UDF	14	74
BANU	7	18
PACE	1	6
National Movement of Simeon II.	2	14
Croatia		
DC	4	30
Czech Republic		
Union of Liberty Party	1	18
KDU–ČSL	7	54
Amnesty International	1	18
Estonia		
Pro Patria Union	4	33
Res Publica	3	30
Georgia		
Young National Democrats	3	18
Hungary		
Fidesz–MPSZ	7	88
MDF	6	74
Jobbik	2	18
PPKE	1	5
Latvia		
TP	5	58
Lithuania		
Lithuanian Conservative Party	1	18
LKDP	1	3
Homeland Union	7	49
Macedonia		
VMRO–DPME	5	24

Country/Party	No. of pax	No of days
Moldova		
CDPP	11	90
Social-Liberal Party	2	6
International Association	1	3
Poland		
Conservative People's Party	1	36
PO	2	14
Social Movement Party	1	6
RS AWS	2	36
School for Leaders	2	18
Romania		
RMDSZ	7	63
PNTCD	13	100
Russia		
Youth Parliament Duma, Novgorod	1	5
RCDU	1	5
Slovakia		
MKP	5	62
SDKU	4	49
KDH	3	16
ODM	1	18
Slovenia		
SLS–SKD	1	18
Nsi	4	29
SDP–SDS	4	29
Ukraine		
RUKH	4	48
Reform and Order	4	42
Union of Christian Democrats	1	20
NGO Student's Brotherhood of NAUKMA	1	5
Yugoslavia		
DSS	2	18
Democratic Party of Voivodina Hungarians	3	30
G 17 Plus	4	30
TOTAL	172	1488

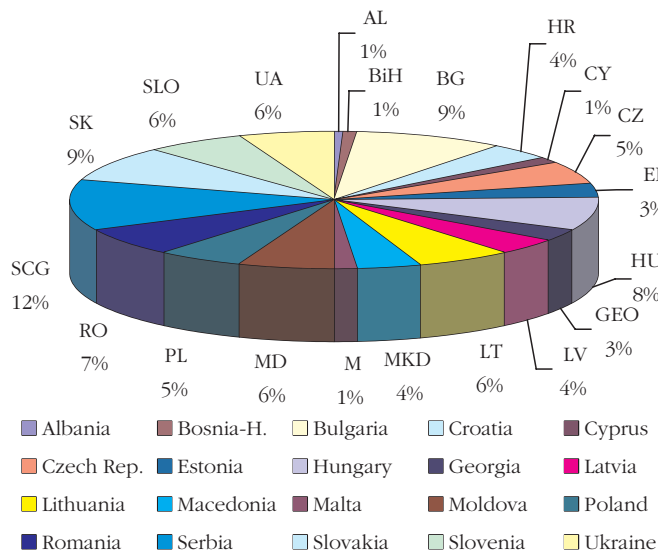
Country proportion in the seminars in 2002
19 countries



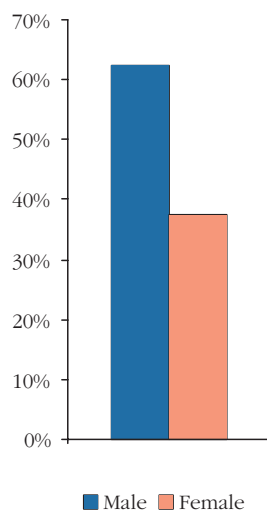
Gender proportion in the seminars in 2002



Country proportion in the seminars in 2003
20 countries



Gender proportion in the seminars in 2003



Robert Schuman Institute and the EPP-ED Centre for Political Parliamentary Education and Training (CET), 2003

Country/Party	No. of pax	No. of days
Albania		
PDR	1	12
Bosnia		
Young Liberals	1	6
Bulgaria		
UDF	10	112
BANU	3	18
PACE	1	6
Croatia		
DC	2	6
HDZ	4	50
Cyprus		
DISY	2	40
Czech Republic		
KDU-ČSL	8	122
Estonia		
Pro Patria	4	109
Res Publica	1	18
Hungary		
Fidesz	7	126
MDF	5	35
Georgia		
GYCDA	4	45
Latvia		
TP	4	86
JL	1	20
LPP	1	20
Lithuania		
TS (LK)	8	117
LKDP	1	3
Macedonia		
VMRO-DPME	6	64

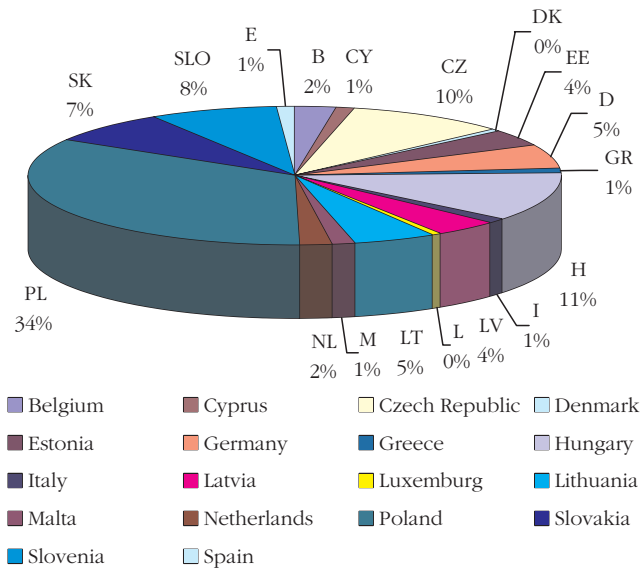
Country/Party	No. of pax	No. of days
Malta		
Nationalist Party	2	30
Moldova		
CDPP	9	106
Poland		
PO	6	128
Social Movement Party	1	27
SKL	1	20
Romania		
RMDSZ	3	36
PNTCD	7	54
Serbia		
Voivodina Alliance of Hungarians	3	6
G 17 Plus	11	120
DSS	3	30
New Belgrade	1	5
Slovakia		
MKP	4	93
SDKU	5	108
KDH	4	66
Slovenia		
SDP-SDS	4	56
Nsi	4	62
SLS-SKD	1	20
Ukraine		
RUKH	3	32
Reforms and Order	3	12
CDYU	1	30
School for Policy Analyses	1	14
CPU	1	14
TOTAL	152	2084

Robert Schuman Institute and the EPP-ED Centre for Political Parliamentary Education and Training (CET), 2004

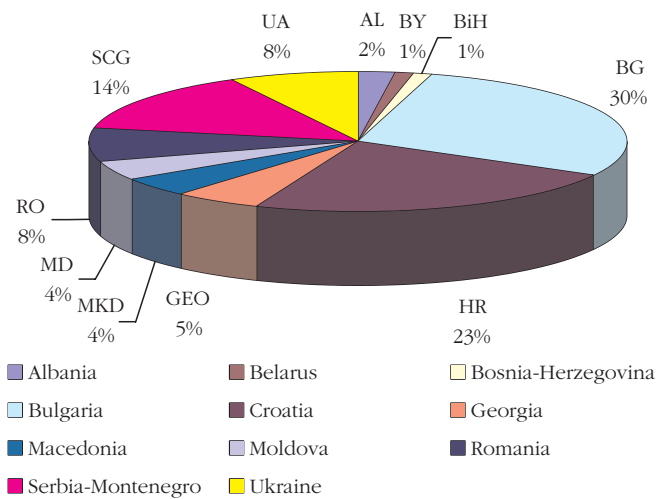
Country/Party	No. of pax	No. of days
Albania		
PDSH	2	20
Belarus		
BPFP	1	10
Belgium		
Cristen-Democratisch and Vlams	5	12
Bosnia–Herzegovina		
PDP	1	5
Bulgaria		
UDF	12	86
BANU	11	102
DP	3	15
Croatia		
HDZ	17	84
DC	4	26
Czech Republic		
KDU–ČSL	17	92
ODS	3	20
Cyprus		
DISY	2	30
Denmark		
Det Konservative Folkeparti	1	4
Estonia		
Isamaaliit	6	58
Res Publica	2	6
Germany		
CDU/CSU	11	44
Greece		
ND	2	8
Georgia		
GYCDP	5	37
Hungary		
Fidesz	16	127
MDF	7	50
Italy		
Unione dei Dem. Cristini e Dem. Centro	2	8
Latvia		
LPP	3	6
TP	1	26
JL	4	20

Country/Party	No. of pax	No. of days
Lithuania		
TS (LK)	8	78
LKDP	2	30
Luxemburg		
Parti Crétien Social	1	4
Macedonia		
VMRO–DPME	4	12
Malta		
Nationalist Party	3	19
Moldova		
CDPP	4	22
Netherlands		
CDA	4	16
Poland		
PO	16	102
PSL	51	184
SLK	1	15
Romania		
RMDSZ	5	41
PNTCD	2	16
Serbia-Montenegro		
DSS	9	11
G 17 Plus	3	64
New Belgrade	1	6
Slovakia		
MKP	4	59
KDH	8	50
SDKU	3	46
Slovenia		
SDP–SDS	5	46
Nsi	7	56
SLS–SKD	4	22
Spain		
PP	2	8
Ukraine		
Our Ukraine	1	10
CDU	1	10
Reforms and Order	1	6
CDYU	2	16
KAS	1	10
Institute for Political Education	1	10
TOTAL	292	1865

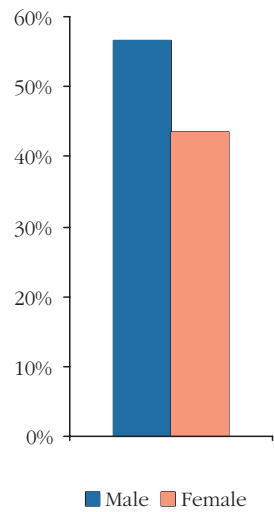
Proportion of EU countries in the seminars in 2004
18 countries



Proportion of Non-EU countries in the seminars in 2004
11 countries



Gender proportion in the seminars in 2004

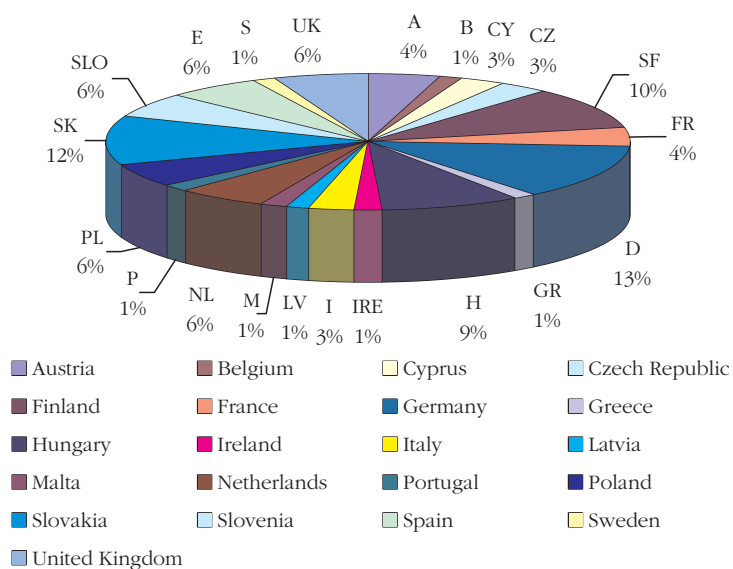


Robert Schuman Institute and the EPP-ED Centre for Political Parliamentary Education and Training (CET), 2005

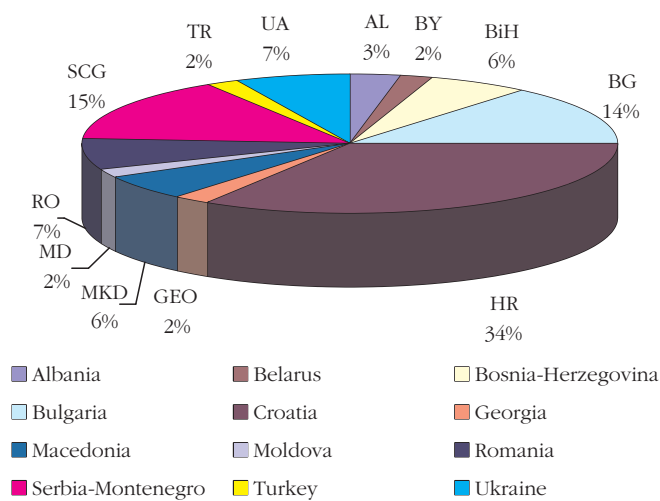
Country/Party	No. of pax	No. of days
Albania		
PDR	3	21
Austria		
ÖVP	3	12
Belarus		
UCP	1	6
BPF	1	6
Belgium		
Cristen-Democratisch & Vlaams	1	4
Bosnia		
SDA	4	44
HDZ BiH	1	6
PDP	1	6
Bulgaria		
UDF	6	64
BANU	1	10
Democrats for Strong Bulgaria	4	44
DP	3	34
Croatia		
DC	1	10
HDZ	32	135
HSS	1	10
Cyprus		
DISY	2	18
Czech Republic		
KDU-ČSL	2	8
Finland		
KOK	3	8
KD	4	4
France		
UMP	3	8
Germany		
CDU/CSU	9	44
Georgia		
GYCDP	2	18
Greece		
ND	1	8
Hungary		
Fidesz-MPSZ	6	20
Ireland		
FG	1	4
Italy		
Unione dei Democratici cristiani e dei Democratici di Centro	2	2

Country/Party	No. of pax	No. of days
Latvia		
TP	1	4
Malta		
Nationalist Party of Malta	1	4
Macedonia		
VMRO-DPME	1	10
VMRO-PP	4	46
KAS	1	12
Moldova		
CDPP	2	22
Netherlands		
CDA	4	16
Portugal		
PPD/PSD.CDS-PP	1	4
Poland		
PO	4	44
Romania		
RMDSZ	3	32
PNTCD	4	44
Serbia		
G 17 Plus	9	86
DSS	6	64
Slovakia		
SDKU	4	4
MKP	2	12
KDH	2	16
Slovenia		
Nsi	4	16
Spain		
PP	4	16
Sweden		
M	1	4
Turkey		
AKP	3	24
Ukraine		
CDYU	3	34
PORA	1	6
Ukrainian People's Party	1	12
Ukrainian Youth Sobor	1	10
Institute for Political Education	1	10
United Kingdom		
Conservative Party	4	28
TOTAL	170	1134

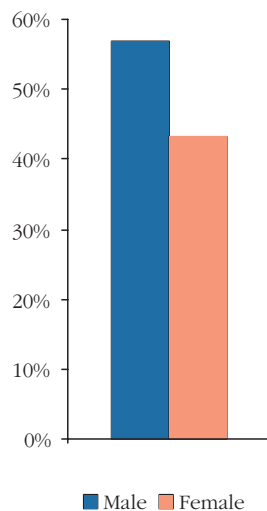
Proportion of EU countries in the seminars in 2005
21 countries



Proportion of Non-EU countries in the seminars in 2005
12 countries



Gender proportion in the seminars in 2005



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