

10 March, 2017

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

### HOW EUROPE WORKS: A FIRST-HAND PERSPECTIVE ON EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS 2017

We are pleased to inform you that the Robert Schuman Institute (RSI), with the support of the Political Academy of the Austrian People's Party (PolAk) and the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies (WMCES) organises an introductory seminar (08 - 11 May, Vienna) and a study visit (26 - 29 June, Brussels) under the title "**How Europe Works: A First-Hand Perspective on EU Institutions**". The series of two events will be provided for the same group of 15 people with relevant duties / functions in EPP sister parties in the following South Eastern European (SEE) countries: **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYROMacedonia, Kosovo\*, and Serbia.**

#### Aims of the project:

- To support the EU-oriented work of EPP sister parties in (potential) accession countries by capacity building
- To familiarize participants with the basic values of the EPP as expressed in the new party platform, including their consequences and implications for particular policies
- To present the specific perspective of the EPP family, including the work at EPP Headquarters, WMCES and a member party - ÖVP
- To provide practical and ready-to-use knowledge on the development, structure and functions of the European Union and related institutions via interactive presentations, as well as practical and realistic information on EU membership criteria
- To give participants first-hand information and good insight into the everyday life of the EU when visiting the institutions on site during a Brussels field trip (e.g. European Parliament, Commission, Council, Committee of the Regions)
- To establish a cross-border professional network of pro-European young people from the South Eastern European region

**Target group:** 15 public career-oriented people between 22 – 35 years of age, actively involved in EU-related work in EPP sister parties, will be selected from the above mentioned countries on the basis of individual applications recommended by relevant parties.

#### Working days:

**08 - 11 May** (Monday-Thursday) in Vienna  
*arrival: 07 May, departure 11 May after 15-16h afternoon*  
**26 - 29 June** (Monday-Thursday) in Brussels  
*arrival: 25 June, departure 30 June*

full attendance is necessary.

**Working language:** English (no translation will be provided)

#### Speakers:

- PolAk experts, ÖVP politicians, advisors and officials
- WMCES staff and experts
- high-ranking EPP and EPP Group politicians, advisors and officials from the EU institutions
- representatives of EPP associations
- representatives of partner institutes and foundations
- officials and experts of other Brussels institutions

\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSC 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

### Proposed agenda for the Vienna seminar, hosted by PolAk:

- The idea of Europe, the Christian Democratic value basis of European integration
- Analysis of the institutional development of the EU
- Achievements and current challenges of integration
- Structure, functions and powers of the EU institutions
- Decision-making mechanisms in the EU
- The foreign and security policy architecture in Europe
- EU accession criteria
- (Accession) experiences of latest Member States
- International activities of an EPP party: ÖVP
- The role of national parliaments
- Information research regarding European cooperation
- Networking

### Proposed agenda for the Brussels visit, hosted by WMCES:

- **EPP:** introduction to organisation, functions, current agenda and coordinating positions inside the political family, EPP values and their implementation to policy
- **WMCES:** work of a political think tank, contribution to policy making
- Introducing official EPP **associations**
- **Parliament:** organisation, working procedures, decision making process, the EPP Group, frameworks and current issues in relations with SEE countries
- **Commission:** preparing and working with common policies
- **Council:** decision making, SEE enlargement procedure
- **Committee of the Regions:** EPP Group, subsidiarity in practice, municipal cooperation
- Accession country experience of working with EU institutions
- Working with EU information, media relations in Brussels
- Lobbying in the environment of EU institutions

### Pre-requisites of participation:

- Demonstrated connection with the international / EU oriented activities of a party
- High level written and oral proficiency in English
- Applicants born between 1982-1995
- University/college degree (or at least four successfully completed semesters at university)
- Complete application package including form, official party reference letter, motivation of participation

**Application Process**      The following documents should be sent to the RSI online and by e-mail:

- a completed **online application form:** <https://goo.gl/forms/Qhvl5y66emAuhitZ2>
- copy of diploma or a certificate issued by the university/college verifying that by the start of the course the applicant will be in 5<sup>th</sup> or higher semester of studies (in English)
- a letter of reference (signed, on official letterhead)  
from the delegating party signed by a member of the national board / presidency (not the youth organization) or international secretary

Successful applicants must bring their original recommendation letter to the first course.

**Deadline for applications:**

**10 AM, 31 March (FRIDAY) 2017**, arriving at RSI

**Organiser contacts:**

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**Contact person:**

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***Financial arrangements***

*The costs of the introductory course and study visit – including lectures as well as costs of full-board and accommodation during the program – will be covered by the organisers. (Participants will be accommodated in double rooms.)*

*International travel to Brussels will be covered by the organizers.*

*Participants (or delegating parties) are expected to cover international travel to Vienna, insurance, local travel (including to/from any airport) and any additional personal expenses.*

Should you require any further information about the series, please do not hesitate to contact us.