

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

### HOW EUROPE WORKS:

#### A FIRST-HAND PERSPECTIVE ON EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS 2022

for EaP countries

We are pleased to inform you that the Robert Schuman Institute (RSI), supported by the Political Academy of the Austrian People's Party (PolAk) and the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies (WMCES) organises an introductory seminar (12-14 September 2022, Budapest) and a study visit (December 2022, Brussels – dates TBC) under the title of ***“How Europe Works: A First-Hand Perspective on European Institutions”***. The series of two modules will be provided for the same group of 15 young professionals with relevant duties / functions in EPP sister parties in the following Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries: ***Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.***

#### Aims of the project:

- To support the EU-oriented work of EPP sister parties in EU partner countries by capacity building;
- To familiarise participants with the fundamental values of the EPP as expressed in the party platform, including their consequences and implications for particular policies;
- To introduce trainees to the EPP family and WMCES;
- To provide practical and ready-to-use knowledge on the development, structure and functions of the European Union and its institutions via interactive presentations, as well as practical and up-to-date information on the EU partnership criteria;
- To give participants first-hand information and good insight into the everyday life of the EU institutions via on-site visits within the framework of the field trip to Brussels (e.g. European Parliament, EU Commission, EU Council, Committee of the Regions);
- To strengthen ties and further develop a cross-border professional network of pro-European young democratic leaders from the Eastern European region.

**Target group:** 15 public career-oriented young professionals between 22 – 35 years of age, actively involved in EU-related projects in EPP sister parties, selected from the abovementioned countries based on individual applications and delegated by relevant parties.

**Dates:** **12-14 September 2022** (Monday-Wednesday) in Budapest  
*arrival: 11 September, departure 15 September morning*  
**December/January 2022** in Brussels  
*Dates TBC*

**IMPORTANT! Full attendance of both modules is a must!**

**Working language:** English (no interpretation 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

#### Proposed agenda for the Budapest seminar:

- The Institutional Structure of the EU: (Parliament, Council, Commission)
- General Framework and Principles of the EU
- Decision making processes of the EU
- Introduction to the European People's Party family and EPP values
- Eastern Partnership – status quo, ongoing challenges and prospects. Relations with the EU
- Theory and practice on drafting resolutions on EaP current affairs
- The foreign and security policy architecture in Europe
- Influencing the EU policy making process: the role of think tanks and lobbies
- Role of embassies in building EU partnerships in member states
- The role of national parliaments
- EPP party principles, fundamental values and international activities
- Collaboration within the EPP network
- Relationship of the European Union and member states
- Accession experiences of Hungary and the newest Member States

#### Proposed agenda for the Brussels visit, hosted by WMCES (feasibility and dates TBC)

- **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 EE countries
- **Commission:** preparing and working with common policies, communicating Europe
- **Council:** decision making, EE neighbourhood policy
- **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 EPP sister parties
- High level written and oral English language proficiency
- Applicants born between 1984-1997
- University/college degree (or at least four successfully completed semesters at a university)
- Complete application package including the application form, official party reference letter, motivation letter

#### Application Process

- [completed application form](#)

For completing the form applicants should attach a **letter of reference** from the delegating party signed by a member of the national board / presidency (not the youth organization) or international secretary or signed by the party foundation /academy director

**Deadline for applications:**

***August 22 (Monday) 2022, EOB***

**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 organisers.*

*Participants (or delegating parties) are expected to cover international travel to Budapest, 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.

On behalf of

**Doris PACK MEPai**, RSI President

**Gábor BERCZELI**

Director