



!Special Edition!

This version is a special edition of the PADEMIA newsletter. On the next pages, you will find an overview of our first annual conference and the first PADEMIA PhD School in Bratislava. Enjoy!

First PADEMIA Annual Conference

On 12 and 13 June 2014, our first PADEMIA Annual Conference took place in the prestigious rooms of the Fondation Universitaire in Brussels. Hosted by our colleagues from TEPSA, we held a very fruitful two day conference and especially enjoyed getting to know our PADEMIA colleagues in person.

After the steering group had met in the morning, the conference took off with our first general assembly. This being the first time that all PADEMIA members came together, important decisions on the future of the network had to be taken, as for example on the persons who should steer and organise our project. We are very happy to announce that all steering group members have been approved by the assembly and will continue to lead the PADEMIA network. Congratulations to all members of the steering group!

Afterwards, the assembly was used to once again give an overview of the project's aims and objectives and to discuss in which directions our network should orient itself. One important aspects of our discussion has been

how to effectively involve PhD students in PADEMIA. The exact content of the assembly can be consulted in the meeting's minutes.

The General Assembly was followed by a sandwich lunch in the beautiful Salle Marnix, where all participants used the first chance to introduce themselves to their new colleagues and exchange some first ideas. After this refreshment we went over to our first set of thematic workshops. Some of our workpackage leaders had organized a panel in which other PADEMIA members were given the opportunity to present and receive feedback on their work. The first set consisted of:

- 1) Changing Parliamentary Institutions in Europe
- 2) The Role of Parliamentary Actors
- 3) The Financial Crisis and Challenges to Representation

After a short coffee break in between, the second set of panels followed:

- 4) Parliament and the European Public Sphere
- 5) Parliaments in Europe in Times of Crisis
- 6) Multi-Level Democracy
- 7) Parliament and Citizens in Europe

The panels can be regarded a great success. Each panel had a decent number of participants and the discussions were lively and fruitful. In total 25 PADEMIA members used the opportunity to present their work to their peers and receive feedback and further ideas. We want to thank all work package leaders for



organizing the panels and all participants for sharing their research and ideas!

The first day of our conference was rounded off with a walking dinner at the Stanhope Hotel, very close to the Fondation Universitaire. While enjoying the brilliant food, wine and soft drinks the participants could further get to know each other in a very enjoyable atmosphere. This dinner was perceived a very pleasant conclusion of the first conference day.

On the second morning, our colleagues from the OPAL project offered an insight into their project and especially the results of three years extensive research on parliaments after the Lisbon Treaty. In a panel for all conference attendants each of the OPAL members gave a short talk on their main research, followed by a discussion with two discussants and, lastly, the whole plenary. This has been a very fruitful insight for everybody and especially for those PADEMIA members, who had not yet come across the very prominent OPAL project.

The concluding session of our first annual conference was a round table discussion with all panel chairs. Under the lead of Prof. Wessels, all chairs summarized the main points of discussion of their panels and afterwards we elaborated how these single discussion could be linked in a common PADEMIA framework. We received very fruitful comments both from the panel chairs als well as from the audience as to how such a linkage would be possible.

All in all, we believe that this first annual conference has been a great success. Within the two days, multiple ideas have been brought

to our attention as to how the PADEMIA network could be used beyond the already planned workshops, PhD schools, guest lectures, etc. We want to thank all participants for coming. Special thanks of course go to our colleagues at TEPSA, Mirte van den Berge, Laura Ventura, and Camille Defard for their great job in organizing the conference. We hope to see all of you next year, at our second annual conference!



First PADEMIA PhD School in Bratislava

In the week following our first annual conference, the first of three PADEMIA PhD Schools took place at the Comenius University in Bratislava. Organized by our colleagues Zuzana Hozlárová and Jozef Bártora, the school lasted for four days and took place at the Institute of European Studies and International Relations. Under the title “Democracy in Europe: Institutions and Practices”, the school aimed at investigating the conditions for development of democratic governance in the EU under the current circumstances of financial crises and growing euroscepticism.

The four days were all structured along a similar pattern. In the morning, public lectures by prestigious scholars from the PADEMIA network and beyond gave fruitful insights into different theoretical and empirical aspects of European Integration to participants of the school as well as interested non-participants. In the afternoon, PhD students had the chance to present their work and discuss it with other participants, including those scholars who had given a lecture in the morning.

Lecturers included Jozef Bártora from Comenius University, Christoph Crombez from Stanfords University, John Gould from Colorado College, Olga Gyarfásová, Karen Henderson, and Silvia Miháliková from Comenius University, Johannes Pollak from IHS Vienna, Jarle Trondal from University of Oslo, and Milada Anna Vachudova from the University of North Carolina.

On Monday 16 June, Christoph Crombez started with his lecture, followed by Karen Henderson, who were occupied with the EU Budgetary process in the first and EP election manifestos in the second case. The following day, Johannes Pollak and Olga Gyarfásová presented their views on political representation and parties and their voters in the EU. On Wednesday, participants had the joy of three scholars being present and giving lectures. Firstly, John Gould talked on LGBTQ Rights and the fight for political space in the Balkans. This was followed by Silvia Miháliková, presenting on EU images in transition.



The lectures on Wednesday were closed by Milada Anna Vachudova, who gave a lecture on Enlargement policies and the Balkans. The last day was opened by Jarle Trondal, who investigated the multilevel character of the European administrative System and finally, the last lecture was given by Jozef Bártora, talking on the concept of interstitial Institutions. These scholars' input both, as lecturers and discussants of the students' presentation can surely be considered very fruitful and their participation has been a great



asset to this PhD School. We want to thank everybody for having been there!

As to the participating PhD students, we can well say that we are happy with the spread of PADEMIA member institutions that have been represented in Bratislava. We had in total 14 participants from 11 PADEMIA institutions, including the University of Glasgow, HIS Vienna, the University Colleges Dublin and London, Kozminsky University Warsaw, Science Po Paris, University of York and the University of Cyprus. The academic discussion of both, the morning lectures and the afternoon presentation have been really lively, again we want to thank all participants for their input.

Besides of its academic value, the PhD school has been a great pleasure outside of the lecture room. Every day, participants were served lunch at a very nice restaurant right next to the school venue. All participants were accommodated in the pleasant Art Hotel William, located in the very center of Bratislava's beautiful old town. In the evenings, participants met to have dinner and enjoy the good Slovak beer together at the river banks of the Danube. Special thanks to Matej Navratil for informing participants what Bratislava at night has to offer. A special event was offered for the last night, were all participants dined together in one of the oldest restaurant in Bratislava, which was preceded by a very informative and pleasant short city tour by Jozef Bártořa, including an overview of the city's history.

We want to thank everybody involved for making this first PADEMIA PhD School a great success. Special thanks of course to Jozef

Bártořa, Zuzana Hozlárová and all colleagues from Bratislava for organizing this event!



Next Newsletter

Our next newsletter will be published in the first weeks of September 2014. If you have any interesting news to share with your PADEMIA colleagues, please contact Alexander Hoppe!



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