

# FACT SHEET ON TEPSA THE TRANS EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES ASSOCIATION

### WHAT IS TEPSA

The Trans European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA) is the first transeuropean research network. The network was established in 1974 as an international non-profit association under Belgian law. It consists of leading research institutes in the field of European affairs throughout Europe, with an office in Brussels. TEPSA's aim is to provide a high quality research on European integration based on a triple "A" approach: Analysis, Assessment and Advice in order to stimulate discussion on policies and political options for Europe. TEPSA and its member institutes have engaged in a two-fold approach providing expertise on EU policies and politics combined with a vast experience in organising and conducting EU wide research, training and networks.

### **TEPSA STRUCTURE**

TEPSA currently consists of 36 member institutes and associate members located in 32 countries, both EU member states and candidate countries. TEPSA continues to expand its membership via a careful selection procedure. The TEPSA Board is the main organ in charge of the selection process, while it is the TEPSA General Assembly that holds the final decision-making powers. The association is governed by its members via a general management organ (TEPSA General Assembly), which elects the administration organ (TEPSA Board) for a period of three years. The chairperson of the TEPSA Board is Professor Wolfgang Wessels, chair holder of the Jean Monnet Chair for Political Science at the University of Cologne. The Secretary General, responsible for the daily management of the association, is Professor Jaap de Zwaan, Lector European Integration at the The Hague University for Applied Sciences and an emeritus Professor of European Union Law at the Erasmus University Rotterdam. The Brussels office of TEPSA employs two to three staff members. More information on TEPSA's membership can be found in the annex of this document.

# **TEPSA'S OBJECTIVES**

The statutes define TEPSA's goal as "to study or to organise research on problems relating to the development of European integration, based on human rights and democracy, to propose solutions, and to promote their taking into consideration by institutions, both private and public, at national or Community level, and to diffuse the results of its work." TEPSA has encouraged democratic participation of citizens at EU level since the 1970's, focusing on developing their understanding of EU policy-making. With its decentralized approach, TEPSA combines the strengths of its members and enriches the results of their work. TEPSA exemplifies the 'bottom-up' approach to European governance. TEPSA and its member institutes are a link between the EU and national level governments and the citizens. TEPSA aims at stimulating discussion on policies and political options by organising research projects, conferences and facilitating interaction between the research and policy-making communities and between citizens from different member states. TEPSA's activities are undertaken in close cooperation with partners ranging from TEPSA member institutes from all over Europe to EU institutions, national governments, universities and civil society.

# **TEPSA's FUNDING**

TEPSA has received financial support by the European Commission throughout the past years, cofinanced by TEPSA membership fees and contributions from other foundations. Besides, TEPSA has been financial contributions linked to other EU-projects such as the PADEMIA and PONT projects and the briefings and studies for the European Parliament. In the past years TEPSA's annual budget was between  $\[ \in \]$  400.000 and  $\[ \in \]$  500.000. The TEPSA accounts are rigorously accounted and audited by an external accountant and auditor under the supervision of TEPSA Treasurer.

#### **TEPSA'S ACTIVITIES**

TEPSA organises a wide range of activities including conferences, roundtables, workshops, study visits, trainings, summer school, guest lectures etc in order to provide a stable framework for high quality research on European integration. Below can be found the different activities' categories TEPSA organises.

**TEPSA Pre-Presidency Conferences**: The TEPSA Pre-Presidency Conference is TEPSA's flagship event. The conference gathers the TEPSA network and takes place in the country that will take up the Council Presidency, one or several months before the respective semester will start. The event is a key opportunity for leading politicians, academics, civil society and media representatives to come together and discuss the priorities of the upcoming presidency.

**Thematic conferences:** A wide range of thematic conferences have been organised by TEPSA in cooperation with TEPSA member institutes and other partners. These conferences bring together experts from academic circles, think tanks, civil servants and policy-makers to discuss, topics on the EU agenda, mainly focusing on four pillars: citizenship and democracy; institutional challenges and the future of the EU; enlargement, neighbourhood policy and Europe in the world.

### **TEPSA'S PROJECTS**

TEPSA is involved in several projects, either as project leader or member of a consortium. Below is an overview of TEPSA's current projects.

THESEUS project: The project "THESEUS - establishing a European society" was founded in 2007. It is a joint project of Sciences Po Paris, the Brussels-based think-tank Trans European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA), the Jean Monnet Chair of the University of Cologne and the Fritz Thyssen Foundation in Cologne. THESEUS is a European network of thinkers and actors. It aims at fostering an open and constructive dialogue about challenges of European integration between academia and politics as well as between generations. Its purpose is to establish a European interdisciplinary and cross-generational network and to enhance the mutual understanding of societies in Europe through various activities: seminars for young leaders, THESEUS conferences, visiting professorships and the remittal of two research awards for outstanding and promising research on European integration.

**PADEMIA project:** PADEMIA is an EU funded project to establish a Europe-wide and sustainable network of 56 academics from 31 countries to promote research and teaching in reaction to growing European demands to study parliamentary democracy in Europe. PADEMIA seeks to enhance discussion among students, junior and senior researchers, also in exchange with stakeholders, on how to deal with the new challenges parliaments and citizens across Europe are facing today. TEPSA is responsible for the organisation of the PADEMIA Annual Conference. The final PADEMIA conference will take place on 19 and 20 May 2016 in Brussels.

**PONT project:** In September 2015 TEPSA started with a new project focused on "Professional Training on EU Affairs", PONT. This EU funded Jean Monnet project enhances teaching and training activities on EU subjects by providing a bridge connecting young academics and EU practitioners (incl. policy-makers and think tankers). It does so by offering high-quality training on EU governance to improve the employability of a target audience of 120 Master and PhD students from various disciplines seeking a job in EU affairs. PONT fosters activities aimed at analysing EU subjects and their teaching by three key activities (Working Europe Seminars; Career Skills Trainings; and TE"SA Pre-Presidency Conferences), flanked by innovative educational tools such as webcasts with EU professionals.

**FEUTURE project:** TEPSA is part of a consortium that recently won a Horizon2020 research project entitled "The Future of EU-Turkey Relations. Mapping Dynamics and Testing Scenarios" (FEUTURE). The FEUTURE project undertaken by a consortium of 14 experienced universities and



think tanks from the EU, Turkey and the neighbourhood. It sets out to explore fully different options for further EU-Turkey cooperation in the next decade, including analysis of the challenges and opportunities connected with further integration of Turkey with the EU. TEPSA is co-leader of the Dissemination Work Package of the FEUTURE project.

### BRIEFINGS AND STUDIES FOR THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

TEPSA cooperates with the European Parliament in providing external expertise to several EP committees. In the period 2010-2013, TEPSA held two EP framework contracts and delivered 21 studies, briefings and workshops for the Security and Defense Subcommittee and 14 studies, briefings and workshops on multilateralism for the Foreign Affairs Committee. TEPSA also delivered studies for other EP committees including Human Rights and Constitutional Affairs. The latter was the result of cooperation between TEPSA, its members and Paris-based think tank Notre Europe for a study on the Democratic Control in the member states of the European Council and the Euro Zone Summits. TEPSA has recently won two new framework contracts with the European Parliament for providing external expertise for the EP's Human Rights Committee and the Development Committee. These framework contracts have entered into force in September 2014.

### **TEPSA** NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE

The TEPSA bi-monthly Newsletter and the TEPSA website provide with information of all events and publications of TEPSA and its members. The newsletter lists all activities organised by TEPSA and its 36 members, provides links to reports on their past activities, and highlights all publications of TEPSA and its members. The address of the TEPSA website is <a href="http://www.TEPSA.eu">http://www.TEPSA.eu</a>.

### COMPOSITION OF THE TEPSA BOARD

The TEPSA Board has been elected by the General Assembly in Athens in October 2013 for the period 1/1/2014 until 31/12/2016.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

SECRETARY GENERAL

Wolfgang WESSELS

Iaap de ZWAAN

TREASURER <u>Pierre Florent PETERKENNE</u>

MEMBER OF THE BOARD

MEMBER OF THE BOARDVisnja SAMARDZIJAMEMBER OF THE BOARDJacek SARYUSZ-WOLSKI



#### -ANNEX-

### **TEPSA MEMBERS**

The TEPSA network includes one member institute in each of the EU member states.

AUSTRIA <u>Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS)</u>

BELGIUM <u>EGE Network</u>

BULGARIA New University Bulgaria

CROATIA Institute for Development and International Relations (IRMO)

CYPRUS University of Nicosia, Department of European Studies and Int. Relations

CZECH REPUBLIC

Institute of International Relations (IIR)

DENMARK

Danish Institute of International Affairs (DIIS)

ESTONIA

Estonian Foreign Policy Institute (EVI)

FINLAND Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA)
FRANCE Centre of European Studies Sciences-Po Paris

GERMANY Institute for European Politics (IEP)

GREECE Greek Centre of European Studies and Research (EKEME)

HUNGARY Institute for World Economics, Research Centre for Economic and Regional

Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

IRELAND Institute of International and European Affairs (IIEA)

ITALY Institute of International Affairs (IAI)

LATVIA Latvian Institute of International Affairs (LIIA)

LUXEMBOURG Institute of International Relations and Political Science (IIRPS)

Robert Schuman Centre for European Studies and Research

MALTA <u>Institute for European Studies, University of Malta</u>

NETHERLANDS Netherlands Institute of International Relations 'Clingendael'

POLAND European Institute Łódź

PORTUGAL Portuguese Institute of International Relations, New University of Lisbon

ROMANIA Romanian Centre for European Policies (CRPE)

SLOVAKIA <u>Institute of European Studies and International Relations (IESIR)</u>

SLOVENIA Centre of International Relations, University of Liubliana

SPAIN Real Instituto Elcano de Estudios Internacionales y Estratégicos

SWEDEN Swedish Institute of International Affairs (UI)
UNITED KINGDOM The Federal Trust for Education and Research

# **TEPSA ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

TEPSA's associate members are not directly linked to an EU member state, either as a result of their transnational nature or because they are established in a EU candidate country.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER Turkey: Center for European Studies, Middle East Technical

**University (CES-METU)** 

ASSOCIATE MEMBER <u>Iceland: Institute of International Affairs and the Centre for Small State</u>

**Studies** 

ASSOCIATE MEMBER Montenegro: Faculty of Economics, University of Montenegro
ASSOCIATE MEMBER Norway: Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI)

ASSOCIATE MEMBER College of Europe, Bruges Campus
College of Europe, Natolin Campus

ASSOCIATE MEMBER
ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Centre International de Formation Européenne (CIFE)

