



Union of European Federalists
Union Europäischer Föderalisten
Union des Fédéralistes Européens

(Message = Federal Europe)

European Integration

- Peace & Stability. only through united EU
- Economy only better

7-9 JULY 2017 | BRUSSELS

THE FEDERALIST ACADEMY on Political Communication

- European Political Communication
- Using Social Media effectively
- Building strong Media Relations
- Presenting Federalism
- Practical Workshops

Union of European Federalists
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THE FEDERALIST ACADEMY 2017

A UEF Training Event

Third Edition

Mundo-b, Rue d'Edimbourg / Edinburgstraat 26

7-9 July 2017 | Brussels

Get the word out with Social Media!

We welcome and encourage you to use social media during the Academy. Follow us on Twitter (**@federalists**) and Facebook (**European Federalists**). Use the hashtag **#FedAc17** for all Federalist Academy-related tweets and posts. Here are some guidelines that will help you to have a great social media presence:

- Tweet and create posts about the sessions (without sharing sensitive information) - discuss topics of interest and comment on political debate
- Engage with other Academy participants online
- Take pictures during sessions and breaks, tweet or post them on Facebook
- Retweet!
- Provide feedback to UEF staff
- Be respectful in tone and content -- remember, **your posts are public and live forever!**

Welcome to the third edition of *The Federalist Academy*.

The Academy is a training event aimed at members of the Union of European Federalists and its member organisations who are looking to develop their capabilities as activists and are committed to working to strengthen their national or local sections. This year, the programme focuses on one main topic: Political Communication.

The programme includes sessions presenting and discussing different views and experiences on European political communication (including some external communication experts as speakers), workshops on practical matters (on how to use social media, work with the traditional press, etc.), and practical sessions to share best practices among UEF sections and other organisations.

Attention will be given to how to develop and execute a "communication plan" for different types of activities.

During the Academy participants will be divided in groups and tasked to complete practical projects. Four fictional UEF Sections will be created and provided with political and organisational scenarios to respond to. These tasks will offer the chance to apply the skills and knowledge adopted in a hands-on situation.

Interaction and the exchange of ideas and experiences is encouraged – participants will learn from one another as well as from expert speakers and facilitators.

We trust this weekend will empower you to renew your effort as activist and enable you to apply newly developed knowledge and skills in an effective manner.

Engage with speakers, facilitators and other participants and make the best out of this week-end!

INTRODUCTION 3

CONTENTS 4

AGENDA..... 5

FRI 7 JULY 5

SAT 8 JULY 5

SUN 9 JULY 7

SPEAKERS..... 8

FACILITATORS 11

PRACTICAL PROJECTS 12

PRACTICAL INFORMATION 20

PARTICIPATION CONDITIONS 21

FRI 7 JULY

17:00

OPENING

- Welcome and outline of the program
- Introduction of participants
- Targets and desired outcomes

Led by **Tobias FLESENKEMPER**, UEF Federal Committee member, and **Adeline BRION**, Project Officer at the Union of European Federalists

17:30

PLENARY SESSION

CHALLENGES AND BEST PRACTICES IN EUROPEAN POLITICAL COMMUNICATION

Introduction by **Jon WORTH**, European blogger and communication consultant, followed by discussion with participants

18:45

PLANNING POLITICAL COMMUNICATION: OBJECTIVES, AUDIENCE, MESSAGES, TOOLS AND EXECUTION PLAN

Introduction by **David GARCIA**, Acting Director, Union of European Federalists, followed by discussion with participants

19.45

PRACTICAL PROJECTS – GROUP MEETINGS

Participants are divided into 4 groups and familiarise with their group and assigned projects. Each group is an imaginary UEF Section that will work on a communication plan for the recently relaunched UEF strategy.

20.15

End of session

20:30

WELCOME DRINKS AND SNACKS:

[Union of European Federalists Office](#), Square de Meeûs 25

SAT 8 JULY

08:30

Opening

08:45

Introduction to the day

09:00

PLENARY SESSIONS

EUROPEAN POLITICAL COMMUNICATION – A FEDERALIST PERSPECTIVE

Introduction by **Paolo VACCA** (Secretary-General, Union of European Federalists) followed by discussion with participants

09:30	<p>EUROPEAN POLITICAL COMMUNICATION – TIPS & TRICKS FROM FEDERALIST PROFESSIONALS WORKING IN THE INSTITUTIONS</p> <p>Introductions by Monica TIBERI (New Media and Internet, S&D Group in the European Parliament) and Daniel FRITZ (#EUinsight founder, Digital Communications & Data Analytics Consultant, European Commission) followed by discussion with participants</p>
10:45	Coffee break
11:00	<p>EUROPEAN POLITICAL COMMUNICATION - LEARNING FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS</p> <p>Introductions by Benedikt E. KAU (Founder of Why Europe) and Alex GODSON (EUROCITIES Media Coordinator) followed by discussion with participants</p>
12:15	<p><u>WORKING LUNCH: PRACTICAL PROJECT – GROUP MEETINGS</u></p> <p>During a working lunch, participants work in groups to reflect on the learning of the morning and start developing a communication for their imaginary UEF section and their assigned project</p>
13:15	<p><u>WORKSHOPS</u></p> <p>Introduction to the session and the subjects of the Working groups</p> <p>Participants attend three workshops led by a UEF expert to explore some key aspects of political communication in more detail</p> <p>WORKSHOP 1: WORKING WITH THE (TRADITIONAL) PRESS</p> <p>Led by TBC</p> <p>WORKSHOP 2: USING SOCIAL MEDIA</p> <p>Led by Laura BRINGINA (UEF Communications Manager) and Monica TIBERI (New Media and Internet, S&D Group in the European Parliament)</p> <p>WORKSHOP 3: COMMUNICATION BEST PRACTISES FROM UEF/JEF SECTIONS</p> <p>Led by Valery-Xavier LENTZ (Communication Officer UEF France) and Sebastiano PUTOTO (JEF Belgium Secretary General)</p>
13:30	WORKSHOPS – 1st Round
14:30	WORKSHOPS – 2nd Round
15:30	WORKSHOPS – 3rd Round
16:30	Break
	<u>PLENARY SESSIONS</u>
17:00	<p>PUBLIC SPEAKING</p> <p>Introduction by Thomas TRAGUTH, Communication Consultant , followed by discussion with participants</p>
17:45	<p>PUBLIC SPEAKING EXERCISES</p> <p>Participants work in groups to develop a short speech on an assigned topic/question. One participant per group presents to the plenary and receives feedback.</p>

19:30 **PRACTICAL PROJECT – GROUP MEETINGS**
Participants work in their assigned groups to reflect on the learnings of the day and how to use them to develop the communication plan for their imaginary UEF section and their assigned project

20:00 End of the session
Group dinner: Enoteca Da Valentino

SUN 9 JULY

09:00 **PRACTICAL PROJECTS**
Participants break out again in project groups to finalise their communication plan for their imaginary section for their assigned task. Participants should try to use the newly acquired skills

10:15 Break

10:30 **PRESENTATION OF PROJECTS**
Group feedback based on: effectiveness, originality, imagination and professionalism

11:30 **MY DEVELOPMENT PLAN**
Identifying shortcomings in my section's communication activities and how to fix them

12:00 **EVALUATION & CLOSING**

12:30 End

Laura BRINGINA

Laura is the Communications Manager in the European Secretariat of the Union of European Federalists. She coordinates the organisation's internal and external communication processes and communication channels, manages the websites and the social media channels on a daily basis and takes care of the media relations for the organisation and its projects.

 [@LauraBringina](https://twitter.com/LauraBringina)



Daniel FRITZ

Daniel works as Data Analyst and Digital Communications Consultant for the European Commission. In parallel, he is also the CEO and founder of #Euinsight, and EU-Affairs monitoring company. He was previously Communications Advisor in the European Parliament.

 [@DanielFritzEU](https://twitter.com/DanielFritzEU)



David GARCIA

David is the Director of the Secretariat of the Union of European Federalists. In the field of communication, he develops the communication strategy of the organisation together with Laura and supervises its implementation. He also takes care of communication with the press.

 [@DvdMGrc](https://twitter.com/DvdMGrc)



Alex GODSON

Alex is Media Coordinator at EUROCITIES, the network of major European cities. Before that, he held the position of the Head of the Communications for the European Movement International for several years.

 [@Alex_godson](#)



Benedikt E. KAU

While still being a student at the University College Maastricht, Benedikt is the co-founder of WhyEurope, one of the most trending online projects at the moment. Thanks to their innovative approach of positive populism, they manage to reach between 1 - 2,4 million Europeans per month.

 [@Benedikt_E_Kau](#)



Valéry-Xavier LENTZ

Valéry-Xavier has 20 years of experience in managing web projects and print productions and organising events, for federalist organisations and in his professional life. He is actively involved in UEF-France, where he helps developing a strong communication for the organisation.

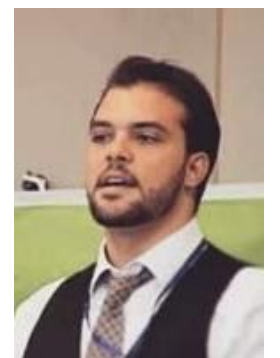
 [@vlentz](#)



Sebastiano PUTOTO

Sebastiano is the Secretary General of JEF Belgium, and was previously President of JEF Brussels. Born in Brussels in 1989 (but after the fall of the Wall) and an economist by training, his wandering brought him to Pavia, Toulouse, Tübingen. He eventually made his way back to Brussels to work in the European Parliament as an assistant to an MEP, where his work focuses on issues relating to economic and monetary affairs, youth policies, and the EU budget. Takes issues with both national borders and personal boundaries.

 [@agitpops](#)



Monica TIBERI

Monica is New Media and Internet manager for the Socialists & Democrats Group in the European Parliament. Formerly she was Communication Manager at Carnegie Europe, a Brussels think-tank specialised in foreign affairs. Monica is also a committed member of the Union of European Federalists.

 [@MonicaTiberi](https://twitter.com/MonicaTiberi)



Thomas TRAGUTH

Thomas is lecturer at the Jean Monnet Chair of the University of Cologne. Thomas' research focuses on theories and strategies of European integration among others. He has extensive experience in teaching postgraduate students and is currently working for the Centre International de Formation Européenne (CIFE).



Paolo VACCA

Paolo is the Secretary General of the Union of European Federalists and leads the European Secretariat team. He is a long standing federalist activist with experience at local, national and European level and has organised countless conferences, events and grass-root campaigns and actions across Europe. He is also a former President of JEF-Europe. Professionally Paolo is Director Legal Affairs Europe for a global chemical multinational.

 [@paolovaccaUEF](https://twitter.com/paolovaccaUEF)



Jon WORTH

Jon is one of the most respected European bloggers and expert in European political communication. He has been a Political Communications Consultant for many years, giving trainings for the public sector, political parties and NGOs and assisting them with social media strategies. He is also a former President of JEF-Europe.

 [@jonworth](https://twitter.com/jonworth)



Tobias FLESSENKEMPER

Tobias is a senior expert at CIFE. He is also a Programme Associate at the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM). In addition to many other projects, he is moderating debates and conferences on a regular basis. He is a former Secretary-General of JEF-Europe and JEF-Germany.

 [@tobifle](#)



Adeline BRION

As Project Officer for the European Secretariat of the UEF in Brussels, Adeline is working on events organized by UEF in Brussels and abroad. She ensures that both guests and participants enjoy their experience. She is also taking care of membership-related matters supporting sections and individual members.

 [@AdelineBrion](#)



Guidelines

We hope you will enjoy the discussions with our speakers and gain insight into the various aspects of political communication. To make this experience a truly interactive one, we ask you to carry out a practical project, for you to put in practice the learnings of the weekend.

At the beginning of the Academy, you will be assigned one of our four sections: Teutland, Polary, Gauldie or Palatinia. You will create, with other participants from your team, a coherent and efficient communication plan promoting federalist goals within your country. The country scenario you receive will be starting point for your communication plan and the recent UEF resolution on “completing European political union” will be your political framework and define the ultimate political goals for your communication. **Read carefully both the country scenarios and the resolution.**

In addition to the learnings from our speakers, follow these guidelines to carry out your task successfully:

- **Analyse your situation properly**
Situation analysis is the stepping-stone of your project. Make sure that you incorporated all the parameters listed in your section’s description before starting your work. You do not want to risk back-peddalling in the middle of your project. Make sure you are tackling a relevant topic, with the appropriate tools, check that you have the capacity to execute the plan. Consider a SWOT analysis.
- **Set out a clear and realistic goal**
With the help of your situation analysis, determine your objective. Take assumptions and constraints into account, think about the bigger project of your section and do not forget to establish an adequate scope.
- **Include the different elements of a classic communication plan**
As you will learn throughout the weekend, different communication elements could facilitate your work. Keep in mind that a communication plan details **why** you communicate, **who** to target, **what** are the key messages you want to convey, **when** is the best timing, **how** and **by whom** each message will be delivered. Without those elements, your plan will not be considered complete.
- **Go into details**
The more your plan will be detailed, the more concrete obstacles and opportunities will emerge. Define the tools you will use precisely, the timing of each steps you plan to undertake, the staff you will need, the budget you have to allocate to each activity, etc. This will allow you to create a plan that will be well-targeted, realistic and efficient.
- **Monitor and measure**
Make sure you can know whether the objective has been completed after the plan has been carried out. For this, you need to plan ahead how this assessment can be done. Again, different tools and techniques might be used to understand the impact of your work.

Framework:

Resolution on overcoming the crises and completing European political unity Adopted by the UEF Federal Committee, 18 June 2017, Madrid

The uniting of Europe is a success story. The signing of the Treaty of Rome on 25 March 1957 in the Italian capital was and still is a cornerstone in the European integration history. For 60 years the European Communities and then the European Union have been guaranteeing that European peoples live in peace and under the rule of law after centuries of wars. On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the signing the European Movement and the Union of European Federalists, together with thousands of citizens, demonstrated their support in powerful actions in Rome.

And there are other positive signs. The UEF welcomes the electoral success of the pro-European forces in Austria, the Netherlands and France. The populists and the Euro-sceptics have not prevailed. On the contrary, the election of Emmanuel Macron as President of France has shown that important elections can be won with a clear commitment to Europe.

On his first visit abroad, which led him to Chancellor Merkel in Berlin, the French President announced a new European initiative in close consultation with Berlin. The UEF supports these plans and calls on the EU-governments to accept this offer and start a new reform initiative. Europe needs urgent new impulses. The successful "March for Europe" in Rome and many demonstrations of "Pulse of Europe" in numerous European cities in the past months have shown that the citizens appreciate the advantages of Europe and that they want to continue the European path of integration

Uniting Europe was and still is the basic condition for peace, prosperity and progress of our continent. But the EU remains an inefficient and incomplete construction at risk of even collapsing if not completed without delay. It is still struggling against multiple difficulties that are threatening its existence and the political project of peace and integration that it embodies. The European Union has not recovered yet from the prolonged economic and financial crisis, nor have its Member States succeeded in successfully dealing with the refugees' emergency, and the problems of both domestic and external security. After the close result of the Brexit-referendum in the United Kingdom for the first time in history a Member State intends to leave the Union. Anti-European, populist and xenophobe parties have been gaining ground in nearly all Member States, until the positive outcomes of the Dutch and French elections in the spring 2017, in coincidence with the pro-European citizen's mobilisations and the Rome demonstration.

The immediate reform Europe needs

We therefore call on the EU institutions and the Heads of State and Government to approve a concrete and ambitious roadmap in order to relaunch and complete Europe's economic and political unity. The existing Treaties must be used in full to promote immediate progress in important political fields:

- As the European Union has a single currency, the Euro, and as the economic and financial crisis of the recent years has damaged European economy, so affecting citizens' trust, the Eurozone should be strengthened with a European economic, fiscal and social policy funded with a budget based on own resources, allowing to modernise and relaunch the economy, finance productive investments, foster competitiveness, promote sustainable development and employment, ensure social cohesion and guarantee the future of the European social model.
- As the European Union has a common external border and ensures the free circulation of persons within its single market, immigration and asylum policies should be managed at the European level, including European border and coast-guard forces taking responsibility for that common external border.
- The introduction of the *Spitzenkandidaten* in the 2014 European elections should be strengthened by the creation of transnational lists, each voter casting a second ballot for one of these lists. A proportional system would be appropriate.

- As wars and instability afflict the regions around Europe, European defence forces should guarantee Europe's common security, help pacify our neighbourhood and contribute to the management of international crises and conflicts. To proceed towards this goal, willing Member States should start immediately a permanent structured cooperation within the European Union framework in line with the provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon.
- As threats of international terrorism and international crime increase, they should be prevented through European cooperation and strong European support, including mandatory exchange of information among national police corps and the establishment of an EU Prosecutor's office with a broad mandate.
- As millions of people flee from war and economic despair and try to land in Europe, the European Union should develop and apply a common, modern and effective migration and asylum policy on the bases of solidarity and fairness.
- As populism troubles European societies, the European Union should re-affirm and defend its common values and take measures to protect and effectively defend democracy, tolerance, justice, solidarity and the rule of law, within its territory and on the international stage.

A new phase of integration beyond the existing Treaties

Moreover it is necessary to launch, without any delay, a new phase of integration going beyond the existing Treaties in order to preserve and complete the Union's achievements, prevent any institutional instability that the prospect of the United Kingdom exiting the Union may create, and achieve full political unity on the basis of a federal constitution.

This new phase is needed to consolidate the economic and monetary union into a political union – so enabling the building of a truly European sovereignty, the creation of a federal system of effective and democratically legitimised levels of government while complying with the principle of subsidiarity. If not all Member States are prepared to support this new move and willing to proceed to closer economic and political integration, those Member States who indeed are should start without any delay and become the political core of a multi-tier European Union.

If the European Union is to thrive for the many years to come, it must pursue the paths of social cohesion, prosperity and political unity and solidarity, which can only be pursued by a democratic European government. As national democracies can't govern political and economic forces beyond national borders, only a strong European government accountable to citizens and a fully developed European democracy would allow Europeans to control their own destiny. A federal Europe with strong democratic and efficient institutions is the only way to meet this challenge. Europe will not be united if it is not democratic. And it will not be fully democratic if it is not a federation.

This is why we call for a concrete reform agenda including a structured dialogue of the Institutions with the pro-European civil society, a dialogue that should start immediately and come up with both a bold agenda and a clear mandate for Treaty changes leading to a European Constitution.

The necessary debate on the future of Europe

The debate on the future of Europe has begun. The European Parliament voted on several own-initiative reports indicating the right direction: Mercedes Bresso and Elmar Brok have proposed the possible progress under the existing Treaties and Guy Verhofstadt shows the need for further reform. The report by Pervenche Berès and Reimer Böge deals with the necessary further developments in the euro area. These three reports provide important foundations for the discussion on the future of the EU.

Until now the reactions of the other political leaders to the dramatic situation within the European Union are unsatisfactory. The Rome declaration of the Heads of State and Government is vague and does not include promising proposals on how to proceed. The White Paper of the Commission on the future of Europe presents a variety of scenarios instead of giving a clear vision of the necessary reforms. But the Commission's White Paper structures the debate which must be continued in the coming months.

The interest of those who stand for European progress is focused on the scenario “Progress in the circle of the willing”. The drawbacks of this model in the form of a “Europe à la carte” are obvious. There would be no balance of interests between all parties, and the readiness for solidarity would scarcely exist. Instead of such a dangerous venture, reform steps should be taken in a larger and more or less fixed group of integration-oriented Member States always open for the rest. This group can be formed by the Eurozone countries which are jointly involved in areas with urgent and concrete reform needs, such as stronger economic governance, joint taxes and an increased EU budget, with social policy objectives. The Monetary Union must urgently be transformed into a fully-fledged Economic Union in order to prevent a break-up of the Eurozone.

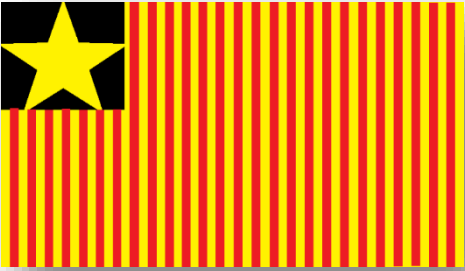
Now it is the time to stand up for Europe

The time has come for those who really care about Europe and the Europeans to make themselves heard, and to show that they still make up the majority in this continent. There is a need for a more political Europe, in terms of democratic institutions and the realisation of true federal continental policies. Faced with a struggling economy and fading influence in a globalised world dominated by continental powers, we Europeans cannot close ourselves within national borders hoping to fence problems off. European states will have no future if they remain divided and compete with each other instead of standing united. Nationalism will weaken us all. We can stand up to European and global challenges only together, by completing Europe’s political unity.

For those who believe in a strong, united and democratic Europe, it is time to stand up. Against nationalism and populism. For a Europe of unity against divisions and new walls. For a united Europe that delivers on its promises of peace, solidarity, freedom, equality, security, prosperity and shared responsibility. For a Europe that protects European interests and values in the world. For a Europe of democracy that empowers European citizens. For a Europe of hope, against a Europe of fear. For a plan to relaunch and complete European political unity.

Together we can stand for a Europe turned towards the future, able to answer to the big challenges of our times, and to preserve its values, the achievements of the European social model, and its way of life. The 70th anniversary of the Hague Congress in May 2018 provides the momentum to bring forward this agenda for a full Federal Union in Europe.

Scenario 1: UEF Teutland

	KINGDOM OF TEUTLAND
	CAPITAL CITY: Libern
	FEDERAL STATE: NO
	EUROZONE: YES
	NEXT ELECTIONS: June 2020
	MEMBERS: 8751

This section is based in a founding Member State of the European Union, the Kingdom of Teutland. UEF Teutland is a very strong section with presence in almost all the regions of the country. The country is nevertheless a centralised state, with all important political decisions happening in Libern, the capital city. The regional sections are traditionally dependent on the national section and are waiting for your plan for the year to come.

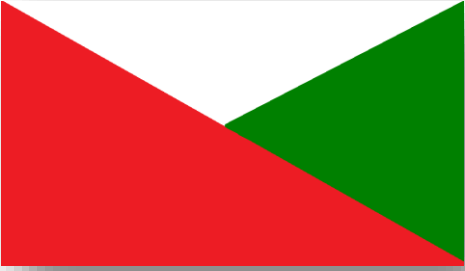
Most Teutlanders favour the idea of greater EU integration. Teutland is the the biggest creditor in the EU and has a leadership role in the Union, which makes that its population is less concerned by the economic situation, but rather by issues of peace and security.

Knowledge about the EU is high among Teutlanders and recent citizen movements supporting the EU project against rising nationalism and populism have become visible in the public sphere. These different pro-European associations are popping up with various new initiatives, showing that Teutlanders are responsive.

Meanwhile, a fairly new-born party, *Choice for Teutland*, opposing all "centralising" moves in the EU and anything that smacks of Euro-federalism, was also on the rise in the last regional elections. Next elections will arrive soon and confirm or infirm its popularity. Most of the UEF Teutland members are affiliated to the traditional *Party for democracy*, and therefore are very keen to work on countering this new party.

The media landscape in Teutland is quite various, but Teutlanders are quite attached to their traditional media, and more particularly to the print media.

Scenario 2: UEF Polary

	<p>REPUBLIC OF POLARY</p> <p>CAPITAL CITY: Warpest</p> <p>FEDERAL STATE: NO</p> <p>EUROZONE: YES</p> <p>NEXT ELECTIONS: December 2019</p> <p>MEMBERS: 749</p>
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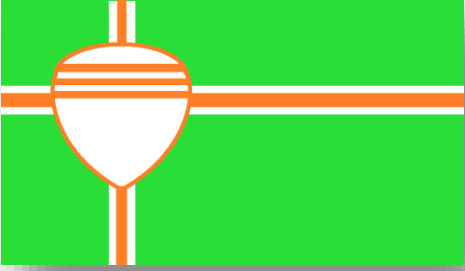
This group is based in the capital of Polary: Warpest. Polary, a former communist country, joined the EU less than 20 years ago and this accession increased economic growth and modernisation in the legal, institutional, economic, political and social sphere.

Support for EU is therefore rather high among Polarians and UEF Polary is a section that was created before the country's accession, 15 years ago. In spite of this, support for federalist ideas is low and so far, most of the members of UEF Polary have considered themselves as members of a pro-European/cultural club rather than being activists fighting for the common goal of a truly federal Europe.

The right-wing party, under the leadership of the popular Prime Minister Winnie Town, has been in power in Polary for a long time. In the last years, it gradually changed its political line towards very conservative and Polary-centered positions. The government refuses to apply EU decisions regarding migration, causing a crisis between the national and European level of governance. Additionally, many voices from the civil society argue that the government controls Polary's civil society organisations. This has awakened some Polarians, who are more likely to engage into activism to safeguard their fundamental rights. This situation has also made the relationship with traditional media more complicated, as it is allegedly controlled by groups close to Town.

A UEF Polary congress is planned next year.

Scenario 3: UEF Palatinia

	FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF PALATINIA
	CAPITAL CITY: Tiberia
	FEDERAL STATE: YES
	EUROZONE: YES
	NEXT ELECTIONS: February 2018
	MEMBERS: 4962

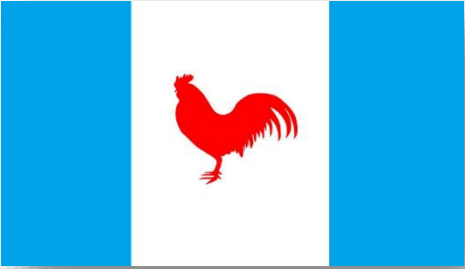
Palatinia is one of the biggest UEF Sections. However, it is composed of a myriad of small local sections that are used to act independently from each other, which makes coordination challenging. Knowledge of Federalism is very high among Palatinians, because Palatinia is a federalist country. Nevertheless, Palatinians tend to conceive a federal EU as a replicate of their own national model of federalism.

The country currently faces great political uncertainty after the failure of a political bet by the government in place. Unemployment is high, especially among young people, and while support for Europe remains high, it has dropped significantly in recent years. The younger generation is divided between the support of federalist and pro-European ideas and a new wave of populist and so-called anti-establishment political movements. The latter often targets UEF Palatinia and tries to tarnish its image in their communication, calling them dreamers and utopians.

The average age of members is rather high, with many sections' leaders living in rural areas and having limited access to and knowledge of internet and new technologies.

Next year will be a decisive year politically, with a referendum on the Euro, followed by general elections. UEF Palatinia needs to activate to make the most of the situation. This section has strong network in the political world and benefits from close ties with media, particularly in the television and radio broadcasting companies.

Scenario 4 : UEF Gaudie

	<p>UNITED STATES OF GAULDIE</p> <p>CAPITAL CITY: Pisarie</p> <p>FEDERAL STATE: YES</p> <p>EUROZONE: NO</p> <p>NEXT ELECTIONS: November 2023</p> <p>MEMBERS: 1786</p>
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Your group is a national section in a country that used to be one of the biggest sections in the UEF family. The economic crisis has brought a lot of concerns for Gaudians, who worry about the future of Gaudie, this former Empire, now a federal state, which has to redefine its place in the European Union.

The migration and security crisis has also put pressure on the state. Some leading politicians have criticised the lack of strong position of the government on these issues. The citizens of Gaudie are disillusioned with the politics and are gradually turning towards the nationalist far-right movements as their last solution to change this situation.

There is a distrust in traditional media, as Gaudians consider them to being biased towards one party or another.

Core membership of UEF Gaudie is concentrated in the capital and in one or two biggest regional cities, but is yet to emerge in other regions. The whole political spectrum is represented among members except from the far-right parties.

Last week the Gaudians elected their new president, they opted for an pro-European and former Secretary-General of UEF Gaudie, Carmen Molenaum. President Molenaum is in the first months of her mandate, and will introduce her first, probably federalist-friendly, policies very soon. For Gaudians, this might mean a possible accession to the Eurozone, of which they are not a member yet.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION



ACADEMY VENUE

[Mundo-b](#), Rue d'Edimbourg / Edinburgstraat 26



Metro: Porte de Namur/Naamsepoort



RECEPTION (FRI 7 JULY 20:30)

[UEF Office](#), Square de Meeûs 25

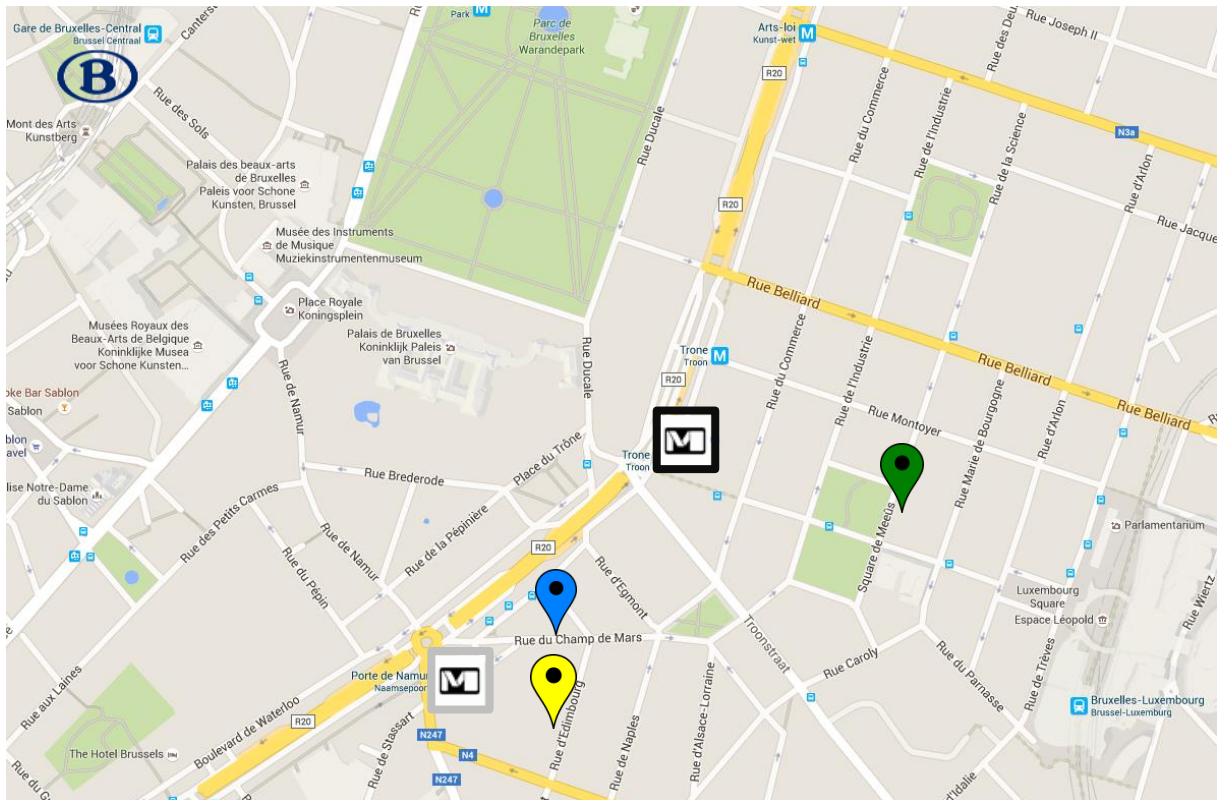


Metro: Tron/Trone

DINNER (SAT 8 JULY 20:00)



[Enoteca Da Valentino](#), Rue du Champ de Mars / Marsveldstraat 13



Contribution

Accepted participants are required to make a **contribution of €50** to help towards covering the costs of venue hire, catering (a welcome reception, one lunch, one dinner and coffee breaks), documents and other expenses.

Travel reimbursement

100% of the travel costs of up to €150 will be refunded (or €250 where no low-cost travel option is available from the region of departure).

Participants should arrange their own accommodation at their own cost (but are requested to provide invoices of their accommodation costs to support UEF to evidence the co-financing of the event).

For one participant nominated by the national section among activists regularly engaged in communication activities for the section, UEF will provide accommodation at UEF's costs.

Reimbursements will only be made in cash at the event on Sunday: Please bring all relevant documents to the academy and note that **original copies of all invoices, tickets and boarding cards are required.**

Further information

Should you have any further questions or comments, [please contact the UEF Secretariat](#)