The general aims of the Summer School were:

- promoting the Europeanisation of political science teaching and research skills at the level of advanced MA [honours] level and beginning PhD-students;
- disseminating best practice in these areas, i.e. European party politics & governmental policy-making in a democratic environment with a focus on the EU;
- enhancing future European opinion-formers’ understanding of the complex, but immensely important processes of European political development;
- helping to shape the awareness of EUropean issues amongst participating student cohorts that will no doubt include future European university academics.

To this end, the Summer School:

- offered appropriately qualified students from European partner universities insights into a wider range of theoretical and methodological approaches than is normally available at a single institution and
- provided a forum for advanced/research students with a common research interest in the field of party politics [including party government] re. European governance, public policy formation and democratic legitimacy to discuss empirical developments and other academic matters with students and specialist staff drawn from a range of European (and American) universities.

In our view, the Summer School has fully met the aims and objectives envisaged. This is corroborated by the positive evaluation of the participating students and also in the informal contacts between staff and students during the Summer School. All students were provided with an evaluation form. All students returned a completed form.

On a scale from 1 to 5, students rated the overall academic content of the Summer School at 4.7. The overall academic level of the discussions during the Summer School was rated at 4.6. The usefulness and (academic) level of the contacts with fellow PhD students was rated at 4.9, while the contacts with the teaching staff were rated at 4.6. The overall level of student presentations, the clarity of the presentations, the relevance of the papers, their academic content and the possibility to receive feedback on their research was rated 4.1.

With regard to the organizational aspects of the Summer School, students were also positive. The information presented in the Summer School brochure regarding the academic programme, the application procedures, student's contributions like papers, abstracts and required reading, and fees was rated at 4.7. The arrangements upon arrival were rated at 4.8. Finally, satisfaction with accommodation and catering was rated at 4.7. This evaluation report can be supplied if desired.

With respect to the existing teaching programmes of the home institutions, the Summer School was literally an intensive course on the effects of Europeanisation on domestic party politics and transnational relations in Europe as well the interactions in view of an enlarging EU. An intensive course of this size and content is not feasible within present university curricula in comparative political science and international relations. Compared to these teaching programmes, the Summer School offered:

- a more comprehensive and overarching analysis of political processes in the New Europe than at any individual partner universities;
- research student participants the opportunity to widen and deepen the knowledge they have received at their home universities through contact with fellow students;
- them with a wider range of (international) teaching staff and approaches than is available to them at their home institution.

Finally, this Summer School was driven by the idea that political processes in Europe and about the EU should be analysed and thus taught from the perspectives of both comparative politics and international relations. Too often the study of the "New Europe" is still characterised by an emphasis on one of these approaches to the study of politics.

With respect to the organisational approach and structure, the Summer School consisted of an intensive teaching program for advanced MA & PhD-students doing research on European Parties and Party Systems in the broadest sense. Each teaching day focused on a topical research question and consisted of two main teaching elements.

The first element was a presentation by a staff member of his/her ongoing research project, or forthcoming publication. The aim of this element is to illustrate how theoretical and methodological issues covered in the students’ preparatory reading are currently being applied by an academic with an established research reputation in that specific area. This was followed by a question-and-answer session designed to enable the students to gain better understanding of how theoretical, methodological and empirical aspects are being utilised at the cutting edge of the discipline.

In the second teaching element, two or more students each presented a paper on the design, or empirical findings of their research. This was in the form of an oral summary of a 7,500 words paper that was circulated to all participants (including the relevant member of the teaching staff) well in advance.

The aim of this second element of teaching included:
- to afford students an early opportunity to present their research in front of an international audience of persons working on the same broad area of the discipline;
- to provide them with an opportunity to receive detailed feedback from their student peers and from the member of the Summer School teaching staff whose specialism is closest to their own;
- to permit participating students to assess the nature of their own potential contribution to the development of the discipline;
- to provide them with insights that will enable them to produce the piece of written work that will form the basis of the grading and accreditation of their participation;
- to encourage contacts between them and their peers, which will hopefully result in long-term mutual support;
- ultimately, to help them produce a better dissertation or thesis at their home institution, amongst others with the indirect help of the teaching staff.

Finally – we gratefully acknowledge the prize for the best paper presented during the Summer School supplied by “Party Politics” – this prize will be announced before Xmas and consists of Euro 500,. At the same time all participating students will have received a letter certifying their presence and performance [in ECTS and by means of grading the results].