



Academic Consultant of Pillar European College

Pillar Foundation – March, 2008.

Pillar European College Society

We are young professionals who established the Pillar Foundation during our student years. Having graduated from different local and international universities we now feel the need to share our experience, knowledge and network with current students through developing programs that were simply not available during our academic years. **Logical thinking, skills education, policies** taught through the lenses of practitioners and participating in professional **internship schemes** were elements of our education that we **acquired outside of university**. We believe that all these ingredients should form the integrative part of higher education programs. Yet, while universities are still in the phase of transformation throughout most of Eastern Europe, **there is niche for a European College Society that fills in the gaps of higher education**. In 2007 we started developing a three year program that shall serve as a **pilot project** for universities in the region in the years to come.

The objective of the European College Society (College) is to help its members become effective and profound shapers of the various policy areas of the European Union. The College offers its members the opportunity to **gain practical experience in specific policy areas, while developing their personal skills** which are rarely taught at most universities across Eastern Europe. Developing it into a model program, we aim to **export the concept** of the College beyond the borders of the Union, **to other countries with an EU perspective**.

Through the courses offered at the College it is imperative that our students continuously develop their **analytical, logical and critical thinking, their writing, reading and debating skills**. It is also crucial that, besides the theoretical foundations, they also obtain easily **adaptable knowledge** that will make them competitive in an era of global competition. We are convinced that knowledge, personal skills, **awareness** towards the most challenging societal issues, combined with a sense of **responsibility, solidarity** and **vision** are the integrative elements of a capacity **to bring change**.

The College launched in October 2007 is dedicated to combine the successful European training models, i.e. the **continental** and **Anglo-Saxon** methodology and **formal** and **informal educational methods**.

The long-term aim of the College is **to develop into a supportive institution** that goes beyond the East European traditions of the academia. In the years ahead, we will create a **network of young professionals**, who can rely and build on each other. This community

will form the basis of a **think-to-do tank** that will not only address the most pressing issues, but whose **members will have the possibility to implement** the recommendations. One of the College's top priorities is to offer an attractive **model** that can be utilized beyond our borders, thus in time, developing a true international **community of like-minded people who are willing to act** when it is the most needed.

The College is **politically neutral** and guarantees complete freedom for intellectual development. It remains **independent from higher educational institutions** and has a primary aim of representing professional development at the highest level. The College which is self-managed by young volunteers within the framework of Pillar Foundation is supported by the academic counseling of the Hungarian Europe Society.

College Students

The classes of the college will comprise of **10-12 first and second year university students**, who are devoted to their professional development and willing to invest time and energy in enriching their academic and practical knowledge. The College is a society of students who desire to gain expertise which later on - combined with their skills and ambitions - will set their path to **become decision-makers**. All applicants must show a strong academic record (grade B average in the first or the first two years is required), and an excellent command of English.

The Program

The program of the College consists of **three years**. During the **first year** students concentrate on acquiring reading, writing and logical reasoning skills through the "**Skills Module**". In this year they also devote time to develop their **abstract and strategic thinking** through a practice oriented "International Relations and EU Integration Theory Module". The **second year** will put emphasis on a number of **selected EU policy areas** (e.g. European Neighborhood Policy, External Trade, Development Policy, Energy and Environment etc.). This will help students decide in which areas they would like to specialize in later on. In the **third year** students will be encouraged to build on their first two years as they gain **experience through internships** with NGOs, European institutions and government agencies. In this final year they will also chose a **topic for dissertation** (that may be aligned with the final thesis topic at university). Their research and work will be assisted by our tutors.

Classes at the College are held in **small groups** (max 10 people). Beyond applying peer pressure, this ensures the **exchange opinions and the clash of views** in the most interactive way. Each subject is taught for one semester, with a final exam or end term essay. Courses are organized **twice a week** (three classes normally) on the venue provided by the Pillar Foundation. The **semester** starts in the third week of the academic year and fully **complies with regular university class schedules** (no clashes with other classes). We expect **proactive** and **creative** work from our students combined with a strong sense of **self-discipline**. Courses are offered in **English** (primarily) and Hungarian and require extensive reading in English.

Important dates in the 2007-2008 academic year

28 th September, 2007 (Friday)	Semester opening party
2 nd October, 2007 (Tuesday)	First day of the first semester
11 th December, 2007 (Tuesday)	Last day of the first semester
12 th December, 2007 (Wednesday)	Evening of the patrons, semester closing party
26 th February 26, 2008 (Tuesday)	First day of the second semester
9 th May 9, 2008 (Friday)	Last day of the second semester
4 th July, 2008 Julius 4. (Friday)	Evening of the patrons, semester closing party
August, 2008	Summer camp for seniors and freshmen

Tuition fee

In the **opening year tuition is free of charge**, but **starting from the second year the students are obliged to contribute** to operational costs of the College with a certain monthly fee, the amount of which we define at negotiation with students' representatives. This contribution - which will be rather symbolic in terms of the real expenses - is crucial to develop a sense of ownership and mutual responsibility in the functioning of the College.

Long Term Perspectives

As we intend to **export the know-how** of the College to other regions and countries we will introduce **Distance Learning following the initial pilot period** of the College. Relying on our webpage it will be possible to share resources and best practices with other Eastern European academic and non-formal institutions. Most of the **course materials** are

developed solely for the College. **These and the works of students will become part of the Electronic Resource Base** open to our members and network.

In the long run it is also crucial that within the framework of an alumni-network we keep in touch with **former students** who could be **considered as teachers for future generations**. We would very much like to encourage teaching as **part of a practitioner's carrier path**.

Finally, it is important to note that the program of **the College shall be gradually integrated into the regular university curriculums both in Hungary and beyond our borders**. After the successful initial pilot period the College will start exporting its know-how through active discussion with universities and exchange programs through which departments can learn about the program and its methodology.

Venue

In the first year the venue for the training is the head office of Pillar Foundation (1015 Budapest, Toldy Ferenc u. 14.).

The College's Budget

The general budget for an academic year is €40.000

In the phasing in period (first 3 years) the budget increases gradually as follows:

1. year €21.300 (1 class)
2. year €30.280 (2 classes together)
3. year €40.060 (3 classes together)

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Annex 1: Educational Program

First Year		
Skills development module	Writing and writing styles Reading skills Verbal communication and argumentation techniques, presentation skills	Dr. Eszter Tímár Central European University Gergely Tamási British Council, Argumentation and Persuasion Ltd.
International and EU Integration Theories Module	Fundamental theoretical schools for Foreign Relations – realism, liberalism, constructivism Theoretical schools for European Integration in Practice – functionalism, neofunctionalism, federalism, neofederalism, Inter-governmental theories	Dr. Erzsébet Strausz Hungarian Europe Society/ELTE Bibó College/CEU Dr. Romsics Gergely Hungarian Europe Society, ELTE
EU basic and community English modules	Institutional history, institutional structure, decision-making of the EU, information sources, most relevant EU hot-topics EU in English	Viktor Tajthy GJW Communications Consultancy/Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr. Judit Zerkowitz ELTE, Faculty of Humanities, English Language Program
Second Year		
Single market and four basic freedoms	Free movement of goods Free movement of people Freedom of services, Service directive Free movement of capital Single market and tax system	
Common Agricultural Policy	Establishing the Common Agricultural Policy Reform of CAP in 1992 Agenda 2000 Reform of CAP in 2003 Common Fisheries Policies CAP Review 2008	
Euro, Economic and Monetary Union	Steps of founding the economical and monetary union European Monetary System Delors plan Maastricht and GMU Euro Conditions for implementing Euro in HU, advantages/disadvantages	
Cooperation in Justice and Home Affairs	Maastricht treaty – 3rd pillar Schengen Agreement Amsterdam Treaty 3rd pillar community completion, Cooperation in Justice and Home Affairs present and in future	
Foreign relations, defense policies, development and trade policies	Common trade policy, EU development policies (Africa, Eastern Europe, Asia) Highlighted bilateral relations: USA, India, China, Russia (CSFP) Neighboring policies Eastern Europe, North Africa (CFSP)	

Regional policies and funding systems	The establishment of economic and social cohesion The establishment and development of Structural and Cohesion funds National Development Plan, New Hungary Development Plan – European funding systems	
Environmental Policies	The establishment and development of Common Environmental Policies Environmental Operational Programs European Environment Agency REACH	
Educational and Cultural Policies	Educational and training policies Diploma accreditation Youth 2000-2006, Youth in Action 2007-2013 Culture 2000, Media	
Employment and Social Affairs	Establishment of common employment and social policy The Lisbon Strategy European social security systems Employment policies in the EU	
Energy Policy	Common Energy Market: electricity market liberalization, gas market acquisition, competition policy Foreign relations, Energy security: Russia, North Africa, Caspian region Environment and energy: emission of CO ₂ , energy efficiency, alternative energy sources, energy effectiveness Action plan for energy efficiency 2006, EU Energy Package 2007	
Third year		
Self-organized modules 1-2	Under qualified coordination the students structure their own modules based on a number of selected topics. During the course of the year minimum 2 modules must be selected. The College coordinators and teachers assist in structuring these modules	
Consultation module for preparing the final thesis	The students develop skills for writing a thesis following the Anglo-Saxon academic traditions, methodology and research techniques. Besides the seminars the College also provides individual consultations	
Internship module	In the third year all students of the College complete professional practice. The place and duration is based on an agreement between the student and the College. Before, under and after the internship the College holds consultations with the student assisting the preparation, activities and gathering feedback	

Annex 2. Budget of first 3 years

Name	Occasional tax	All occasions	Sub-total	
Tuition Honorariums	€80/ hour (90 mins)	3 hours / week x 22 weeks (7 months)	€5.280 x 6	€31.680
Materials/Copying	€0,06/page	5.000 pages x 15 students/year	€4.500	€27.000
Communication expenses	€200/month	x 12 months	€2.400	€7.200
Material expenses – paper, stationary	€80/month	x 12 months	€960	€2.880
Webpage design	€1200 (lump sum)	€200 maintenance yearly	€1.400	€1.400
Promotion – posters, flyers	€400	Per year	€400	€1.200
Image and office devices	€200-400	Per year	€400	€1.200
Utilities	€80/month	x 12 months	€960	€2.880
Social programs	€600	Per year	€600	€1.800
Coordinators and secretary payroll	€400/month	x 12 months	€4.800	€14.400
TOTAL				€91.640
<i>Progressive budget spreadsheet</i>				
	Tuition and copying	Operations and Programs		TOTAL
1. year budget	€9.780	€11.520		€21.300
2. year budget	€19.560	€10.720		€30.280
3. year budget	€29.340	€19.560		€40.060
The total budget for 3 years				€91.640