

Proposal

Towards a Common Portal for the training institutes and schools for public administration in the EU of 25

(I) Introduction

The meeting of directors of schools and training institutes for public administration in the EU is semi annual event organized by the EU presidency.

Currently about 25 training institutes and schools are participating in the meetings. The representatives of the accession countries, SAP countries and various non-member states are attending as observers. Hitherto the schools are not formally organized, the event has no formal standing.

The participants share a common objective: improving capacity of the national civil servants ensuring enhanced capacity of their civil servants in the Brussels arena. Clearly the European training institutes also represent various traditions of governance, public administration and HRD systems. This results in different legal and financial structures of the institutes creating a great variety in their backgrounds, functions and tasks within their specific countries.

Various drivers create more momentum for the institutes. Changes within the EU structure due to enlargement, the continuation of the accession process the new constitution, and the discussion on the Commissions HR development and lifelong learning will have an impact on the school within their national and EU position. During the most recent presidencies these developments were discussed, resulting in some initiatives that would strengthen the institutes cooperation in a more structured form. In short these were:

- Under the Greek presidency a training needs analysis was carried out , providing a robust base line for the school in assessing their capacity in EU training (doc....).
- The Casserta programme as announced during the Italian presidency, it underlined the importance of face to face exchange between public leaders and civil servants, emphasizing the need to get a better understanding amongst the member states and the national administrations;

- Agenda of the Future: building upon and consolidated the previous experiences, particularly stressing the need to involve the EU HR work group as well as the need towards a more structured coordination amongst the institutes, during their county presidencies. This was materialized in the Agenda for the future . The Agenda of the Future provides a broad outline for the next presidencies. In line with this the Institutes of the upcoming presidencies agreed to coordinate (Ireland, The Netherlands; Luxembourg) and the subsequent UK presidency.

(II) Rationale of the proposal

In Ireland, one concrete idea has already been explored: the set up of a common website. ROI aims to put forward this initiative and will come up with a concrete proposal during the coming directors' Conference in October.

In preparation of the October Conference in The Hague, ROI furthermore has conducted a small survey amongst all institutes. The aim of the survey is twofold: first, to investigate what are the existing co-operation programmes the different national institutes and schools for public administration in the 25 European member countries are involved in; and, second, to get a first idea of what is the willingness of the different institutes to expand their co-operation with other European institutes.

The survey (response rate: 19 out of 25) shows that all of the 19 institutes, in new member countries as well as in the old member countries, are willing to increase their involvement in international and cross-national co-operation. Their expectations in this field concentrate upon: exchange of good practices, bench-marking, networking and exchange between experts and trainers, common curriculum development and development of innovative programmes.

Moreover, pursuant to the Agenda of the Future, and in line with the aims of the Netherlands presidency an other, larger survey was carried out. Whilst taking into account the results of the Greek training needs assessment the survey reviewed the specific competences needed for public leaders to operate successfully in the Brussels arena.

Thus based on the common agenda and the existing initiatives, in a more specific way the following question seems imminent 'What is the trans-national network of EU training schools and institutes willing and able to do in the next year?'.

(III) Proposal for joint initiatives

Overall Objectives

The overall objective of the project:

Successful public leaders of the EU member states in Brussels. Whilst developing the competencies of public leader better policies will be contributed by the member states, thus enhancing the overall quality of policies and its implementation

The specific objective:

‘To increase the effectiveness of national training institutes and schools for public administration in the European Union.’

The purposes are:

- (i) to increase the *visibility* of the network of national training institutes and schools for public administration.
- (ii) to increase the *effectiveness* of the national training institutes in meeting the training requirements for public officials who operate at a national level and deal with Brussels;
- (iii) to increase the *efficiency* and synergies of training programmes offered by the national institutes and schools for public administration.

Expected outputs

- (i) A common website (portal) of the national training institutes and schools for public administration;
- (ii) A common curriculum, developed to meet the training requirements for public leaders who operate at a national level and deal with Brussels, as identified based upon the ‘Common Competence Frame’;
- (iii) A common exchange and training programme (ERT+).

Activities

- (i.1.) To raise funds for the common website (by: ROI and the institutes);
- (i.2) To actively look for coalitions and links with other websites / initiatives, e.g. EIPA, EU-CIRCA, Open Universities, EPAN, etc. (by: ROI);
- (i.3) To launch the website (by: ROI);
- (i.4.) To put on a regular basis information on the website (by: institutes);
- (i.5) To keep the website up to date (by: ROI).

- (ii.1.) To identify training needs based on the Common Competence Frame (by: institutes);
- (ii.2) To establish a ‘project group on competences’ (by: institutes)
- (ii.2) To develop joint programmes for training of public officials who operate at a national level and deal with Brussels (by: project group of the institutes);

(ii.3.) To formulate training modules, based on e-learning / blended learning (by: project group of the institutes).

(iii.1.) To further develop the ERT-programme (ROI and ERT-project group);

(iii.2) To raise funds for the re-newed ERT-programme (ERT-project group);

(iii.3) To introduce the ERT-programme in the new member states (ERT-project group);

(iii.4) To link the objectives of the ERT-programme to those of the directors of the Schools and v.v..

Planning

October 2004: A dummy of the website to be presented at the directors' conference and, based upon an action plan, all institutes to be asked to commit themselves to the initiative and make funds available.

October 2004 In case of sufficient support amongst the institutes and schools, the 'Proposal for Joint Initiatives (portal)' and the 'Common Competence Frame' to be further developed by ROI, including a development strategy and a financial proposal

November 2004: The 'Common Competence Frame', the 'Proposal for Joint Initiatives (portal)' and the 'Proposal for the ERT+-programme' to be presented by ROI to the EU HR DG working group.