



Union of European Federalists
Union Europäischer Föderalisten
Union des Fédéralistes Européens



THE FEDERALIST ACADEMY *A UEF Training Event*

8-10 July 2016 | Brussels

Second Edition

REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The Federalist Academy is an annual training event aimed at members who are looking to develop their capabilities as activists and are committed to working to strengthen their national or local sections.

The 2016 Academy welcomed 23 participants, UEF and JEF members from across Europe. The programme covered three core elements: Political Activism, Political Advocacy and Presenting Federalism.

- The Political Activism session helped members develop their skills in the important areas of Actions, Communication and Recruitment.
- Political Advocacy presented a federalist perspective on advocacy and aimed to equip activists with some conceptual models for effective advocacy planning with specific attention on the local, national and European level.
- Presenting Federalism provided an introduction to federalist thinking and federalist proposals and explored how best to present them to a public audience.

During the Academy participants worked on practical projects in the fictional countries of Boergundy, Castiban, Credet and Flemonia. These projects offered the chance to apply the skills and knowledge adopted in a hands-on situation. Interaction and the exchange of ideas and experiences were encouraged – participants were thus able to learn from one another as well as from expert speakers and facilitators.

SUMMARY OF SESSIONS

FRIDAY 8 JULY

POLITICAL ACTIVISM: SKILLS DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

Actions: Hosting Public Debates

Anton LAZARUS, UEF Actions and Network Officer, presented a “menu for success” for hosting public debates and similar events. The group discussed the essential steps to be taken in the run up to, during and following a successful event.



Actions: Street Actions

Sebastiano PUTOTO, President of JEF Brussels and participant at the Federalist Academy 2015, introduced participants to the world of federalist street actions. He explained his personal story of becoming active and gave examples of campaigns he has taken part in including the #NoGrexit #YesFederation campaign and more recently the #Don'tTouchMtSchengen actions.

Actions: Networking

Elisa LIRONI, Digital Democracy Coordinator at the European Citizens' Advice Service, explained the importance of networking and the power of forming personal relationships. Elisa explained the potential to transform networks into alliances to campaign towards shared goals.

Communication: Twitter

Laura BRINGINA, UEF Communication Manager, provided an introduction to Twitter and outlined the importance of this particular social media platform and the potential of 140 little characters.



Communication: Facebook

Monica TIBERI, Member of the Communications team for the Socialists and Democrats (S&D) Group in the European Parliament, explained how to get the most from Facebook as a communication tool and shared some tips and tricks from her experience.

Communication: Social Media Tools

Laura BRINGINA and Monica TIBERI explored various online tools and apps and how they can be exploited to make the most of online communication opportunities.

Recruitment: Why? Who? How?

Paolo VACCA, UEF Secretary-General, spoke to participants about the importance of recruitment to ensure a strong movement. He looked at the three questions of: "Why?", "Who?" and "How?" to help activists to be more effective in this crucial area.

The first day of the Academy ended with a reception to welcome participants to Brussels at the UEF Offices.

SATURDAY 9 JULY

POLITICAL ADVOCACY

Political Advocacy: A Federalist Perspective

Paolo VACCA introduced participants to the topic of advocacy and briefly outlined what was meant by the term. He then spoke in depth about advocacy from a federalist position and what it means to be a *federalist* activist in particular. He drew the essential distinction between federalist advocacy, concerned with the structures of governance, and policy advocacy, that is at the core of party politics and traditional political preference.



Political Advocacy: A Business Perspective

Clara ALARICH-ORTEGA, Consultant at the Political Consultancy firm ERSTE LESUNG introduced the topic of advocacy from the perspective of the private sector. She explained the importance of having a structured plan to implement an advocacy strategy and the need to continuously return to assessing the objectives in, and effectiveness of, such a plan.

Political Advocacy: Practical Projects

Participants broke into four groups, each assigned to act as the board of a UEF section in the imaginary EU Member States of Boergundy, Castiban, Credet and Flemonia. The groups prepared advocacy strategies that identified their missions, goals, messages and potential future actions. Each group had five minutes to present their advocacy strategy and receive feedback from other participants.

UNDERSTANDING AND PRESENTING FEDERALISM

On Saturday afternoon participants attended three working groups, each held three times to enable smaller groups to be formed for each session.

Federal Institutions

Carlo Maria PALERMO, Member of the UEF Federal Committee, spoke in his working group about federal institutions and explored the history of the development of the EU institutions and compared them to those in federal systems in federal states around the world.



Essentials of a Federal Europe

Pauline GESSANT, Member of the Board of UEF France and JEF President 2013-2015, spoke in her group about the essential elements required to create a federal Europe. Participants discussed the difference between the current set-up of the European Union and what would be required to achieve a truly federal Europe.

Economic and Fiscal Federalism

David GARCIA, UEF Policy and Advocacy Officer, introduced participants to the concept of fiscal federalism. His presentation outlined the crucial elements of fiscal policy and explained them with practical examples.

PRESENTING FEDERALISM: PUBLIC SPEAKING

Peter OOMSLS, Member of the UEF Federal Committee and JEF Vice President 2013-2015, presented the key ingredients for successful public speaking. He stressed the need for preparation and to ensure a structured argumentation that links evidence to claims effectively. Peter continued to provide feedback to participants as they presented their answers to the questions: “Why am I a Federalist?” and “Why a Federal Europe?” in just one minute.



SUNDAY 10 JULY

The last day of the Academy saw the imaginary UEF sections reform to develop an activity plan for concrete actions that they could implement in order to successfully spread federalist ideas and grow membership. The activity plans incorporated many of the practical skills and theoretical knowledge gained over the course of the weekend and enabled participants to practice their applications before returning to their (real) national and local sections!

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS AND SPEAKERS

Title	First Name	Surname	Residence	UEF/JEF membership
Mr	Christos	Avdellas	Belgium	UEF Secretariat
Ms	Laura	Bixhi	Spain	Participant
Mr	Thomas	Blyth	Belgium	Participant
Mr	Yorik	Bonsangue	Belgium	Participant
Ms	Laura	Bringina	Belgium	UEF Secretariat / Speaker
Ms	Adeline	Brion	Belgium	UEF Secretariat
Ms	Matilde	Ceron	Belgium	Participant
Mr	David	Crisostomo	Portugal	Participant
Mr	Philippe	Doucent	France	Participant
Mr	Robert	Eagleton	UK	Participant
Mr	Benjamin	Fievet	France	Participant
Mr	David	Garcia	Belgium	UEF Secretariat / Speaker
Ms	Pauline	Gessant	France	Speaker
Mr	Jaime	Gomez Matas	Spain	Participant
Ms	Benzar	Ionela	Belgium	Participant
Mr	Hadrien	Jaquet	France	Participant
Mr	Franklin	Kimbimbi	Belgium	Participant
Mr	Ioannis	Kyriazis	Belgium	Participant
Mr	Anton	Lazarus	Belgium	UEF Secretariat / Speaker
Ms	Celia	Liagoura	Greece	Participant
Mr	Federico	Licandro	Belgium	Participant
Ms	Elisa	Lironi	Belgium	Speaker
Mr	Daniel	Matteo	Germany	Participant
Mr	Peter	Oomsels	Belgium	Speaker
Mr	Carlo Maria	Palermo	Italy	Speaker
Mr	Sebastiano	Putoto	Belgium	Speaker
Mr	Antton	Rönnholm	Belgium	Participant
Ms	Maria Victoria	Sánchez García	Spain	Participant
Mr	Peter	Ščasný	Slovakia	Participant
Ms	Angelika	Schenk	Germany	Participant
Ms	Monica	Tiberi	Belgium	Speaker
Mr	Paolo	Vacca	Belgium	UEF Secretariat / Speaker
Ms	Teresa	Vallejo Molina	Belgium	Participant
Mr	Adam	Weiner	Belgium	Participant
Mr	Alessandro	Zunino	Belgium	Participant

UEF EUROPEAN SECRETARIAT



Paolo VACCA
Secretary-General



Laura BRINGINA
Communication Manager



David GARCIA
Policy & Advocacy Officer



Anton LAZARUS
Actions & Network Officer



Christos AVDELLAS
Actions & Advocacy Officer



Adeline BRION
Project Officer

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