

EXACT Final Conference

Miguel Haubrich Seco and Simon Stroß

All good things come to an end, and so does EXACT. Although the official end is in December and most training activities end in September, most of the EXACT partners met already on 10-12 July for the EXACT final conference in Brussels. It gathered representatives of the institutions participating in the EXACT consortium as well as the 14 EXACT PhD researchers. Their main attention was, not surprisingly, on

Learning the lessons from EXACT and spreading its positive experiences for the benefit of future transnational PhD programmes in EU studies stood at the forefront of the second part of the final conference: a roundtable on "The Future of EU PhD studies". It drew together the expertise of the EXACT and INCOOP consortiums as well as that of the PEGASUS project. Panelists agreed on the added-value of a truly



Group of EXACT Fellows, Final Conference, Brussels, 10 - 12 July

finishing their dissertations.

Therefore, most of the time was devoted to the four roundtables organised by EXACT Visiting Scientist Prof. Brigid Laffan from University College Dublin and coming Director of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies (RSCAS) at the European University Institute (EUI). In these roundtables, the EXACT researchers presented their research progress to their supervisors, to representatives of the EXACT partners and to interested external guests. Most of the EXACT fellows grasped the opportunity to present empirical chapters of their work. Therefore many questions related to finding the delicate balance between a succinct and still convincing presentation of the often extensive empirical material they collected throughout three years of research. They gathered feedback from all participants and had the opportunity to receive valuable comments from their two respective co-supervisors.

transnational PhD education, while keeping in mind the challenges posed by increased mobility and short funding periods. Other public speeches by Prof. Jolyon Howorth from Yale University and David O'Sullivan, the EEAS Chief Operating Officer, demonstrated the links between the work of the 14 EXACT researchers and on-going academic discussions and current practice. A poster exhibition accompanied the conference and provided all the participants with the opportunity to learn about the projects of all 14 researchers.

Towards the end of the conference, an ambiguous feeling reigned among many of the EXACT fellows. Despite being a final conference, no one felt the need to say farewell, realising that not only had the EXACT experience – much like the EU – not yet found its *finalité*, but also that it had created a lasting network of academic and professional relationships for the future.

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Editors: Leonhard den Hertog, Miguel Haubrich Seco, Aline Bartenstein, Wulf Reiners



As an EXACT Visiting Scientist I have had the pleasure to participate in supervisory sessions in Dublin and Edinburgh where I got to know the fellows and their research projects. And in the beginning of July we met for the EXACT Final Conference where I commented on all of their work. The variety of their work is remarkable, touching on almost all aspects of EU External Relations. Although EXACT involves three universities, the fellows have created a community of scholars and they have all learnt from engagement with each other.

Moreover, they are doing their PhD in an innovative setting. Their placements in think tanks brings them into contact with the world of practice in a mutually beneficial manner. EXACT should be considered as one of the frontrunners of future PhDs in European Studies. During the closing panel of the Final Conference we discussed this future and I think that international, interdisciplinary and multi-partner projects like EXACT hold great promise.

There are of course also challenges such as too much mobility, pressures on thinking and writing time and external funding constraints on independent research agendas. However, with an academic mindset and a group of committed researchers these challenges can be confronted. Although the project will come to an end, I am sure that the wider academic and policy community will continue to hear from the EXACT fellows!

Brigid Laffan, University College Dublin

EXACT final stage: past, present, and future

Nicole Koenig

Unfortunately, EXACT is coming to an end. We are looking back to 33 exciting months of learning, teaching, writing, presenting, moving, and traveling. A brief review of the EXACT website shows that, so far during these months, we have moved 49 times, lived in eight different European cities, and attended 62 international conferences, workshops, and seminars. Altogether, we published 41 policy briefs and papers, eleven journal articles, as well as innumerable reports, newspaper articles, and book reviews.

After the EXACT final conference, we returned to our home universities – ‘confused at a higher level’ – but with fresh motivation and new input from our supervisors. Now, we are facing the daunting task of finishing our dissertations. In these final months, we’ll keep in mind John Peterson’s recommendations of the last EXACT newsletter: (1) just keep writing; (2) it doesn’t have to be perfect; and (3) talk through difficulties with the other fellows. One of the final challenges ‘à la EXACT’ will be to comply with the academic rules, regulations, and formalities of two universities in order to receive our double degree.

As they say, when one door closes, another opens. Some of us already know where this door will lead them. Others are still screening different opportunities in the academic, think tank, or policy worlds. But, this is certainly not the end of ‘generation EXACT’. Our paths will cross again – be it at academic conferences, at international airports, or simply over a cup of coffee or a Jupiler at place du Luxembourg.

EXACT Intervision Seminar at the University of Cagliari

Marco Siddi

On 14-15 June six EXACT fellows - Vanessa Boas, Andrew Byrne, Niklas Helwig, Nicole Koenig, Marco Siddi and Simon Stross – participated in the EXACT Intervision Seminar at the University of Cagliari, Sardinia. EXACT Visiting Scientist Dr. Geoffrey Edwards (Cambridge University) commented on the work presented by the fellows. The event was hosted by Dr. Christian Rossi and Dr. Gianluca Borzoni of the University of Cagliari.



The seminar provided an excellent opportunity for the EXACT fellows to discuss draft chapters of their PhD dissertation and analyse theoretical, methodological and empirical issues. The Faculty of Political Science at Cagliari University offered a stimulating and pleasant work environment. Other members of Cagliari University’s academic staff and local PhD students also participated in the seminar

proceedings.

After completing their academic tasks, participating fellows had the chance to taste Sardinian food and enjoy a brief spell of Mediterranean weather – an invaluable opportunity, especially for those of us based in northern Europe! The programme ended with a pleasant tour of the old city of Cagliari, including a visit to the Spanish-Piedmontese royal palace and the Saint Remy fortifications, looking into the gulf of southern Sardinia.



This is the last official newsletter of the EXACT Fellows. However, during the last Supervisory Board Meeting in Brussels it was decided, that also in the future information on the academic and professional careers of the EXACT Fellows shall be provided. The Trans European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA) will further include news of and about the Fellows in their newsletter, which can be found on: <http://www.tepsa.eu/category/newsletter/>.

Additionally, the EXACT Fellows will remain in contact with the Think Tanks and Universities via a common email account - exact-fellows@googlegroups.com - to make use of the established network for professional and academic exchange. In December, another small newsletter will be published by EXACT on the latest developments regarding the theses, publications and conference participations.

Peter Valant

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Peter Valant holds a master degree in law (Mag.iuris) from the Karl-Franzens-University of Graz, Austria. In 2011 he obtained his second master’s degree in Euro-

pean Political and Administrative Studies from the College of Europe in Bruges.

During his law studies he started his career first as student assistant and later as university assistant at the European Law Department of the afore-mentioned University Graz.

After this professional experience, Peter was active as private lecturer in the field of European Law as well as a Jury Member at the Balkan Case Challenge European Council Model (2008 and 2009) in Vienna.

His research interests include EU human rights, LGBT rights, UN human security, EU crisis-management, EU enlargement (especially to the Western Balkans), the European Neighbourhood Policy, EU development policy, EU-BRIC relations as well as the strategic set-up of the European External Action Service towards a „European Diplomacy“.

Since 2012 he works in the framework of EXACT and contributes to the programme through numerous lectures, his participation at conferences as well as networking with the Brussels environment.

EXACT Fellows attend CLEER Summer School

James Nyomakwa-Obimpeh & Leonhard Den Hertog

From 24-28 June 2013 EXACT Fellows James Nyomakwa-Obimpeh and Leonhard den Hertog participated in the first ever summer school co-organised by the Centre for the Law of EU External Relations (CLEER), The Hague and Maastricht University (Brussels Campus) on "The Law of EU External Relations" in Brussels.

The Summer School attracted renowned academics and practitioners from across Europe, both as lecturers and as participants. The programme covered several topics including external competences and mixed agreements, the EU legal order and international law, the EU and other international organizations, the

external dimension of EU Energy Policy, the European Parliament's role in field of external policies in the post-Lisbon framework, the Common Commercial Policy, the external dimension of the Area of freedom, security and justice and EU Common Foreign and Security Policy. The lectures on these topics were of a very high standard, also covering a great amount of Court of Justice case law. It also involved a case study on Human rights practice in CSDP as well as study visits and lectures at the European Commission's DG Trade, the European Parliament and the EEAS. This allowed the participants to speak with policy-makers on how they felt the legal framework influenced their daily work.

The summer school offered another outstanding opportunity to deepen our knowledge and understanding on increasingly important topics of the external policies of the European Union from a legal perspective.



In each issue the newsletter presents one of the nine EXACT partner institutions. The institution presented, The Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI), is based in Rome and hosted four EXACT fellows. Vanessa Boas, Andrew Byrne, Miguel Haubrich Seco and Nicole Koenig joined the team between March 2011 and March 2012.

Inside EXACT: The Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)

Vanessa Boas

The Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) was founded by the European federalist Altiero Spinelli in 1965. It is based in Rome with its main premises being in the baroque Palazzo Rondinini which is situated in the centre of the capital. The IAI is a non-profit organization and receives financial support from a number of sources such as its individual and corporate members, public and private organizations, major international foundations and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Institute's main objective is to promote an understanding of the problems of international politics through studies, research, meetings and publications, with the aim of increasing the opportunities of all countries to move in the direction of supranational organization, democratic freedom and social justice (IAI Bylaws, Article 1).

It has approximately 30 researchers – both international and Italian – working in the following areas: institutions and policies of the European Union, the EU and its Neighbourhood, international economics, security and

defence, transatlantic relations, the Mediterranean and the Middle East and Italian foreign policy.

The Institute also actively participates in a number of international networks such as the Council of Councils, the CSDP Mission Analysis Partnership (CSDP MAP), EuroMeSCo, the European Policy Institutes Network (Epin), International Relations and Security Network (ISN), the Observatoire de l'Afrique and TEPSA. It furthermore coordinates the EU-funded Transworld project, which analyses the role of the transatlantic relationship in shaping global governance.

Its main publications are La Politica Estera dell'Italia, The International Spectator, AffariInternazionali, IAI Research Papers, Quaderni IAI, IAI Working Papers and Documenti IAI.

Four Exact fellows – Nicole Koenig, Miguel Haubrich Seco, Andrew Byrne and myself – had the opportunity to publish research papers, present at public seminars and to contribute to the International Spectator during their time at the IAI.

Niklas Helwig

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Three remarkable years of EXACT come to an end. Much has happened since we all gathered for the first time in October 2010.

ber 2010.

I was based at CEPS in Brussels and at FIIA in Helsinki. I was able to meet people in my field and exchange ideas. The affiliation to the institutes also significantly helped to carry out interviews with officials in the EU foreign-policy machinery and to publish first results.

At the same time I was able to make progress on my research on the EU High Representative. I am analysing the role of the revamped post and its relations with the member states and other foreign policy actors. The post-Lisbon policy architecture is a fascinating but also challenging research topic, as the new structures are still in a state of flux.

Now, I am based at the University of Edinburgh. Some curse the rain, but the weather conditions and the whisky will make it easier to sit at the desk and finish the PhD in the months to come.

Doing research across Europe and in an academic as well as policy-oriented setting was an important experience for me. The best reward, however, was the people I met.

EXACT PhD Intervision Workshop in Edinburgh, 18 – 19 April 2011

Nicole Koenig and Andreas Raspotnik

In the historic and imposing setting of the Old College of the University of Edinburgh, the third EXACT PhD Intervision workshop was held from 18 to 19 April 2013, organized by the fellows Nicole Koenig and Niklas Helwig. Under the competent and careful guidance of Prof. Brigid Laffan, EXACT visiting scientist from the University College Dublin, eight fellows presented parts of their individual research projects throughout the two-day workshop.

The first day started with presentations by James Nyomakwa-Obimpeh, Nicole and Niklas. All received constructive feedback from individually



appointed commentators as well as helpful comments from Brigid, providing the meeting with a stimulating atmosphere all from the very beginning. Fruitful discussions continued after the lunch break, when Andrew Byrne, Marco Siddi and Leonhard den Hertog showcased chosen draft PhD chapters. This first day was completed with a joint dinner at a traditional Scottish

Restaurant, which was also joined by Julie Kaarbo, Postgraduate Advisor at Edinburgh University (and virtually via today's modern technology by Prof. John Peterson).

The second day was kicked off by presentations from Marlene Gottwald, Anita Şek and Andreas Raspotnik, who also received useful feedback and profited from the stimulating discussion. As the last point on the agenda, the group used the opportunity to discuss the last phase of the EXACT programme as well as the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Selected Publications

Byrne, Andrews: „Conflicting Visions: Liberal and Realist Conceptualisations of Transatlantic Alignment“, Transworld Working Papers No. 12, 25 March 2013.

Depo, Bogdana and Nasieniak, Magdalena: „Conditionality And Election Performance Within The Framework Of The European Neighbourhood Policy“, IEP Policy Papers on Eastern Europe and Central Asia, No.3, June 2013.

Helwig, Niklas: 'EU Foreign Policy and the High Representative's Capability-Expectations Gap: A question of Political Will'. European Foreign Affairs Review 18, no. 2 (2013): 235–254.

den Hertog, Leonhard and Stroß, Simon: „Coherence in EU External Relations: Concepts and Legal Rooting of an Ambiguous Term“, European Foreign Affairs Review, Volume 18, Issue 3 (forthcoming).

Raspotnik, Andreas (co-Author): „The Maritime Dimension of CSDP: Geo-strategic Maritime Challenges and their Implications for the European Union“, January 2013.

Sek, Anita: „The Role of the European External Action Service in Consular Protection and Services for EU Citizens“, Tepsa Publications, January 2013.

Valant, Peter: „The EU Special Representative for Human Rights - Manager or Mastermind?“, in Bendek W. et al (ed.), European Yearbook on Human Rights 2013., NWV Verlag, 2013.

Andrew Byrne

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Prior to joining EXACT, I worked as a campaign manager for Ireland's second referendum on the Lisbon Treaty and then went on to complete my MA in Inter-

national Relations at the University of Chicago. Studying international relations from an American perspective gave me a sense of the very different ways in which the EU's role was perceived outside Europe. This divergence of views inspired me to examine US elite discourse on the EU as a security actor – the focus of my Ph.D. thesis.

Since joining EXACT, I have had the opportunity to work as a researcher at the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) in Brussels and the Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) in Rome. During this time I published working papers on EU institutions and treaty reform as well as transatlantic relations and counter-terrorism measures.

With the programme concluding soon, my focus is now on completing and defending my thesis and exploring career opportunities in policy research and public administration. It has been a remarkably enriching three years; I have learned a great deal, met some inspiring colleagues and friends and visited wonderful cities around Europe. Thank you EXACT!

Upcoming Events

18th - 26th August: Summer School "Shipping in Arctic Water: The interaction of sea ice, ship technology, climate change, economy and other operational conditions", Longyearbyen. With Andreas Raspotnik.

18th - 21st September: 8th Pan-European Conference on International Relations, Warsaw. With Anita Sek.

27th - 28th September: "Constructing Authority through Custom and Tradition" Conference, AUCA-Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. With Vanessa Boas.

30th September: „Internal EXACT Meeting“, Cologne. With all EXACT Fellows.

10th - 11th October: TEPESA Pre-Presidency Conference in Athens. With Anita Sek.

The EXACT Poster Exhibition

In the framework of the EXACT Final Conference Prof. Jolyon Howorth (Yale University) opened the EXACT Poster Exhibition and Competition.

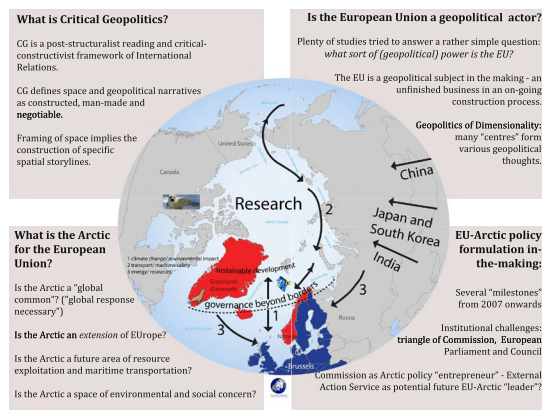


Prof. Jolyon Howorth, Yale University

The EXACT Poster Competition was decided by public ballot of the participants of the EXACT Final Conference. The winner of the EXACT Poster Award is Andreas Raspotnik with his research poster on the „European Union and its Arctic Endeavour“. Nicole Koenig was ranked second and Dana Depo won the third place.

The European Union and its Arctic endeavour EU-Arctic policy-making from a critical geopolitical perspective

why space and geography matters:
the construction of space determines foreign policy
behaviour and the development of a related policy toolkit



preliminary findings
Different types of Arctic perceptions and a related step-by-step institutional learning process define the development of the EU's Arctic policy toolkit. HOWEVER one essential political question remains:

"What does the Arctic actually mean for the European Union?"

An EXACT Marie Curie ITN Research Fellow

University of Cologne
October 2011 - March 2012

THEA - Trans European Policy Studies Association
April 2012 - November 2012

University of Cologne - University of Edinburgh
October 2012 - November 2012

Media Citations: The Economist, Printed Edition, September 1st, 2012; AJ Inquirer, May 15th, 2013 - publications of several articles and op-eds at The Arctic Institute

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MARIE CURIE ITN ON EU EXTERNAL ACTION

The EU's quest for coherence
A comparative analysis of EU crisis management in Africa
Nicole Koenig (n.koenig@ed.ac.uk)

1 What is it about?

Research question:
What factors and mechanisms influence the degree of coherence in EU crisis management?

Coherence is defined as...
absence of contradiction and existence of synergies between various crisis management policies, instruments, and activities geared towards a set of overarching objectives.

2 Why does it matter?

Practical relevance: incoherence leads to...
❖ duplication and inefficiency
❖ ineffectiveness
❖ loss of credibility as an international actor

Academic contribution:
❖ coherence, crisis management, and EU foreign policy literatures
❖ theoretical dialogue between constructivists and rationalists

3 Which are the causal factors?

Liberal inter-governmentalism:
❖ national economic interests and electoral horizons
❖ costs and benefits of collective EU action
❖ bureaucratic politics

Sociological institutionalism:
❖ clashing national norms
❖ political insulation of EU-level decision-making
❖ formal and informal coordination mechanisms

4 Who are the key actors?

Institutional coherence:
❖ EU level institutional actors

Vertical coherence:
❖ France
❖ UK
❖ Germany

5 How is it researched?

Cases: EU crisis response in...
❖ Libya (2011)
❖ Somalia (2011-2012)
❖ Mali (2012-2013)

Data:
❖ official documents and speeches
❖ parliamentary debates
❖ academic literature
❖ think tank and media reports
❖ expert interviews

Methods:
❖ single cases: process tracing¹ and thematic content analysis
❖ cross-case comparison: structured focused comparison²

6 ...and so what?

❖ better understanding of the challenges of European and multilateral crisis management
❖ implications for the EU's role as an international security actor in Africa...

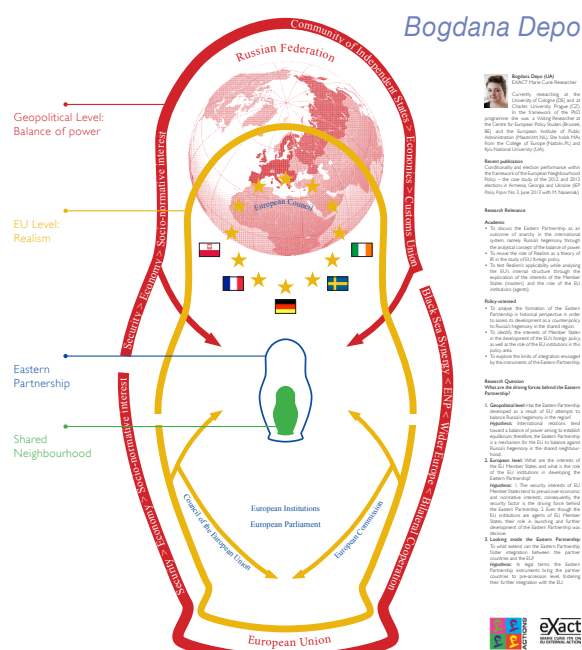
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Funding and supervision

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Matryoshka of EU Foreign Policy Eastern Partnership through the Realist Prism

Bogdana Depo



To see the full EXACT Poster exhibition please visit:
<http://www.exact.uni-koeln.de/index.php?id=11555&L=01.cz%252Fkalender%252F>

Fellows at Crossroads: Contemplating the post-EXACT life

Andrew Byrne, Leonhard den Hertog, Niklas Helwig, James Nyomakwa-Obimpeh and Marco Siddi

The Final Conference left many fellows with mixed feelings. On the one hand we are almost finalizing EXACT with its formal end in September. However, on the other hand it did not feel as if we could truly begin to think about the end and beyond. So much work remains to be done: so many hours left to write, edit and organize. So, for none of the EXACT fellows does September mark the end of their PhD research. After three years of training in the EXACT programme, 14 'Early Stage Researchers' face the challenge to progress their professional careers. The post-doctoral life is demanding, as young researchers are confronted with a competitive job market. Nevertheless, the two-track approach of EXACT, that allows developing academic skills at universities as well as professional skills at two European think tanks, might prove beneficial in the future. Four examples of post-EXACT life:

For the first 10 months that will follow the end of the EXACT programme, Marco Siddi was awarded a scholarship of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). During this period, Marco will complete his PhD dissertation, focus on publications and simultaneously extend his policy-oriented experience through a stay at the Institut für Europäische Politik in Berlin.

Starting from the first of January 2014, Niklas Helwig will work for the Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA) in Helsinki. Niklas will continue his research on the EU foreign policy architecture and additionally focus on Germany's role in the EU and other issues concerning the future of European Integration.

James Nyomakwa-Obimpeh from Ghana obtained expertise on the European political system, which opens

up many opportunities in his future professional life both in Europe and in Africa. In the immediate post-EXACT period, James is hoping to obtain the necessary visa to live and complete his dissertation in Europe while exploring new career options.

Andrew Byrne has been awarded the Nico Colchester Fellowship by the Financial Times. The prize, which supports young writers, will see him spend several months in early 2014 working at the Brussels Bureau of the Financial Times. In the meantime he remains focussed on completing his Ph.D. to a high standard.

The overall themes in post-EXACT conversations among fellows are the career choice between universities, think tanks or governmental institutions as well as the challenging job market. The first refers to our big ambitions whereas the second imposes external limitations. Due to rising youth unemployment in Europe, the competition for jobs in our sector has greatly intensified. The challenges of finding decent work are daunting and sometimes discouraging. And for several of us, finding a job is not 'just' a matter of financial or professional concern.

Like the sword of Damocles, the end of EXACT hangs over their possibility to remain in the EU. But, as the EXACT programme included thorough training on academic and professional skills and combined stays at universities and think tanks we are comparatively better placed to face the diverse job market of today. In several years, at our first EXACT reunion, we will surely find that all fellows found their way to make a contribution to scholarship, society and policy-making.

Mail from Brussels: Welcome to the Euro-bubble!

Anita Sek

It was 12.09.2011 when my adventure in the bubble began.

Oh yes. I was determined then, under the spell of the fairy tale that was Bruges and its College.

Only upon my arrival to BXL with the aim to conquer the world of the Cabinet of Commissioner Füle, I began to comprehend the power of networking at, depending on the day, Place du Châtelain or 'Plux'. Don't dare to forget your card – networking is power!



The full awareness of this 'power' comes after starting a real job. It's hard to count all the conferences and parties I attended, all the policy makers I met, all the kilometres I

travelled and all the great events organised at TEPSA.

And I enjoy living and working in Brussels for its diverse and sometimes almost paradoxical nature. Here you can find African, Arab, Polish, Spanish and Turkish (etc.) shops in their respective districts, situated just next to Belgian chocolate and beer houses. Fancy boutiques contrast with the Schuman area under eternal renovation, 'Bruxelles-Sud' airport is in far-away Charleroi from where planes take you to every corner of 'wider Europe' for next to nothing.

Finally, there are my truest friends, for whom I would go into the fire (as we romantic Poles say) that make Brussels so exceptional.



EXACT is a Marie Curie Initial Training Network on EU External Action. It runs from 2010 to 2013. It consists of the following partners: University of Cologne, Charles University Prague, University of Edinburgh, Centre for European Policy Studies, Trans European Policy Studies Association, European Institute of Public Administration, Finnish Institute of International Affairs, Istituto Affari Internazionali, Institute for World Economics, Research Centre for Economic and Regional Studies, Hungarian Academy of Sciences.