

# European College of Cluny

## European College of local self-government and territorial innovation

### *Project description – summary (September 2016)*

A more detailed version (12 pages) and a complete one (30 pages) of the project description are available on demand: [ccic.cluny@ensam.eu](mailto:ccic.cluny@ensam.eu)

Europe is a **mosaic composed of very different territories** whose diversity and multiplicity constitute a fabulous **reservoir of dynamism, energy and innovation**, a **valuable resource** for Europeans for overcoming their occasional and institutional crisis.

The European integration process provides Member States with the necessary critical mass to carry weight in the world. However this process can inevitably provoke arduousness and excessive distance from citizens, or uniformity. The vitality of local democracies provides the best counterbalance to these risks: territorial diversity stands for the best antidote against uniformity.

For all these reasons, **the local level is legitimate and particularly favourable to innovation in collective public goods and services**. To manage their territories in an innovative way, elected representatives, and other actors of local life, are well advised to **seek solutions beyond their local or national references** to realise that elsewhere in Europe other practices may exist.

There is no place in Europe where the following can be systematically and thoroughly dealt with:

- education, research and innovation through action on issues related to local policies from a European perspective, with an emphasis on interactions between local levels and the European level;
- exchanges of experiences and good practices in local public policies within the European Union;
- development of European professional networks among the some 91,000 local authorities of the European Union.

**This document presents a project which hopes to fill this gap with the creation of the « European College of Cluny » («European College of local self-government and territorial innovation »)** developed by the association « Centre de Conférence Internationales de Cluny » (CCIC), organiser of the «Young European Citizens' Convention» for 15 years, and a project team composed of 19 members representing eight different nationalities led by Jean-Luc Delpuech, president of the Communauté de communes du Clunisois (Burgundy, France).

### *What is the European College of Cluny?*

*A higher education and research institution of excellence, strongly European in its spirit, oriented towards the training of future decision-makers who will work within or collaborate with local authorities. It is built on multidisciplinary and comparative studies of local public action issues across Europe and on analysis of interactions between the local level and European integration. It is oriented towards concrete and practical solutions, emphasising exchange of good practices, vocational training and the network effect.*



**Collège  
Européen  
de Cluny**  
démocraties locales  
& innovation

## Educational Concept

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### Academic Programmes Provided by the College

a) **Initial education (Master's degree)** lasting two semesters for students who already have a Master's degree and seek a complementary, professionally oriented training. These two semesters, close to realities on the ground, intellectually stimulating thanks to the diversity of national origins and academic backgrounds, and the consequent membership of a European professional network will be key assets for finding a first job.

b) **Lifelong learning programmes for professionals** who may join the Master's programme for one or several thematic modules. These professionals, exercising responsibilities within their local community, will stimulate debates and share best practices with the Master's students, one of the College's fundamental concepts. The College will also offer customised executive education sessions for partnering local authorities or companies.

### Student Recruitment

#### **Required Profiles:**

**Students** with a Master's degree, **elected officials and public servants** exercising at the local, national and European level, **professionals** working with local authorities, or aiming to, **social economy and NGO actors, private sector managers**, especially from companies interacting with local governments, **wishing to acquire or develop skills in innovative public management applied to local government addressed from a European perspective**, either through the initial (Master's) or lifelong education programme.

#### **Recruitment Objectives:**

Diversity (of profiles, nationalities, etc.), presence of students from the largest possible number of EU Member States and from non-EU countries, especially EU candidate countries or countries under the EU's Neighbourhood Policy, applicants' academic excellence, dynamism, motivation, ...

#### **Programme Size:**

Year 1: 30-40 students; at cruising speed: 80-100 students (in the Master's programme)

### Academic Programme

The European College of Cluny Degree will meet criteria of academic excellence applied in France and the European Union. The Master's degree will certify the acquisition of a high level of knowledge and skills, both academic and practical (20 teaching weeks, an internship of 4-6 months, defence of a professional thesis).

The College's working languages will be English and French and the Master's programme will contain:

**A) Preparatory research work (part of the application)**

**B) "Welcome programme"**

**C) The academic semester**

➤ **2-3 fundamental courses**

➤ **Six 2-week specialisation seminars focusing on various thematic fields, based on a very concrete and practical approach:**

Environment & sustainable development (energy, water, waste, natural areas, etc.), transparency, good governance, local democracy, e-administration, change management, territorial design, councillor-civil servant relationships, management of EU funds, social and economic policies (taxation, social benefits, housing, etc.), urban/rural areas, economic development and regional planning (transport, urban planning, "e-economy", etc.), economic specialisation, culture, heritage, tourism, decentralised cooperation, etc.

Within these six modules, 5-10 places will be reserved for executive education trainees.

➤ **A collaborative project**

➤ **"Soft skills" development workshops**

**D) Internship and professional thesis**

**E) Final "feedback seminar"**

Closing debate on students' internship experiences and defence of their professional theses.

## Organisation

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### Location

Headquarters: **Cluny** (France); complementary site: in **Central Europe** (to be determined)

Easily reachable from Brussels, Paris, Strasbourg, Lyon and its international airport, Cluny benefits from a central position and the presence of other students (Arts et Métiers engineering school, European Summer universities). Located in Burgundy, **Cluny is highly symbolical with regards to Europe's history and culture.**

To highlight the project's European dimension, a second site in Central Europe should open rapidly: Prague could be a particularly complementary choice followed by other regions of the European Union.

### Form and Governance

The International Conference Centre of Cluny (CCIC), initiator of the project, is recipient of grants until the official association "European College of Cluny" exists. The CCIC signed an agreement with Sciences Po to run a feasibility study with funding from the Hippocrène Foundation.

The CCIC will designate a **preparatory committee** chaired by Jean-Luc DELPEUCH to recruit employees.

### Partnerships

#### *At the European and International level*

The European College of Cluny, with its co-founders, aims to be part of European academic partnerships of excellence and of a consortium of partner universities in Europe, and the world, to maximize recruitment and teaching staff, students and PhD candidates' mobility, outreach of symposia and other scientific events, development of joint executive education programmes, and to respond to European calls for proposals, etc.

#### *At the national and regional level*

In addition to academic partnerships with its co-founders, the European College of Cluny aims to be part of local (ENSAM Cluny), regional (Bourgogne – Franche-Comté University) and national (Sciences Po, héSam University, National Centre for Territorial Civil Services - CNFPT) dynamics in higher education and research.

## Economic Model

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### **General principles**

- This model assumes that the European College of Cluny will be **an independent institution**. (Its development as an autonomous programme within an existing institution is a possible alternative.)
- The College's **financial means must match its European ambition** in ensuring that every year students and teaching staff come from the largest number of the EU Member States.
- Public service is the College's core mission. To be **financially accessible to all**, suggested tuition fees will remain moderate (€6,000 for the whole programme) with exemptions and scholarships.
- The College, as an academic institution of excellence, must guarantee **a high level of service** to its various audiences. This requires an appropriate administration budget.

### **Provisional financial framework**

- Year 2017 – preparatory phase: operating expenditures: 130 k€; investment expenditures: 70 k€ - to be provided through a founding grant; grant proportion: 100%
- Year 2018 – 1<sup>st</sup> year of full operation: expenditure: 587 k€; grant proportion: 60%
- Year 2019 – maturation phase: expenditure: 1,085 k€; grant proportion: 30%
- Year 2023 – maturity phase: expenditure: 1,085 k€; grant proportion: 11,5%

On the revenue side, the suggested model is based on:

- a substantial increase in revenues from tuition fees (initial and executive education)
- initial voluntarist support from public authorities, to decline gradually, as tuition fees increase
- "patronage-internship partnerships": agreements with various partners (local authorities, national or European civil services, businesses) where College students will perform their internships and the latter will make financial contributions to the College.

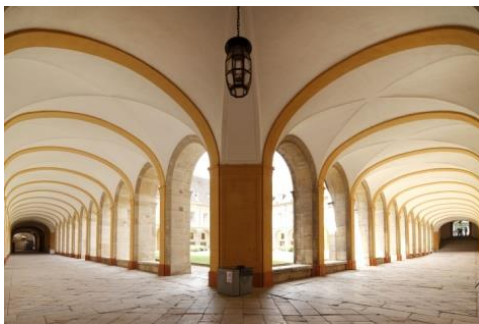
## Implementation of the Project - Provisional Timetable

Memorandum for the creation of the European College of Cluny endorsed by European personalities.	1 <sup>st</sup> semester 2016
Preparatory Committee is established by the CCIC to start the preparatory work	
Establishment of the association "European College of Cluny" to recruit administrative staff	Summer 2016
Conception of Executive Education offer for the calendar year 2017	September-December 2016
Negotiation of the first academic and institutional partnerships	
Decision on premises (agreement with ENSAM or another partner in Cluny)	
Reception of the 1st group of students in Master's programme (objective: 40 students)	1 February 2018
Search for internships for the first group of students	January-May 2018
Search for premises and logistic solution for a Prague (?) site	All year 2018
1 <sup>st</sup> final feedback seminar in Prague (?)	January 2019

## Discover the place: ENSAM Campus in Cluny (Cluny Abbey)

The European College of Cluny will be hosted in the very heart of the prestigious buildings of the former Abbey of Cluny. This will immediately immerse students in the atmosphere of one of the cradles of European culture, one of the first European "networks". Staying in Southern Burgundy will also provide participants with great opportunities for discovering France and its cultural heritage.

The campus is well equipped with accommodation and catering facilities and numerous meeting rooms.



## CONTACTS

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