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CONTRIBUTION

The Graduate Student Network (GSN) should be student-friendly and low-cost, and not simply a junior version of ECPR and its traditional practices. For more effective academic exchange among us as well as for more opportunities for networking, we need more and longer GSN events. For this purpose, the GSN should find its own funding resources. Future GSN events should be financed by organisations and public authorities which wish to encourage the emergence of a European identity via exchange among young Europeans. Possible funding sources are EU institutions, the Council of Europe, European foundations, etc. I would like to organise a Graduate Student Conference in Strasbourg, where I live, on the French-German cross-border area. This one-week event could also be financed by French-German institutions, local authorities in France, Germany and Switzerland, etc.

EXPERIENCE

Before starting my PhD I worked as a production manager in an academy of visual theatre, organising cultural events and outdoor festivals. I worked closely with public authorities and foundations, receiving financial and technical support to organise these events. My skills and experience in fund-raising and management will be useful for the GSN committee in its efforts to develop the GSN during the next few years.

OTHER INFORMATION

I am writing a PhD dissertation on Europarties as multi-level organisations in the EU polity. I learned French in Paris, German in Berlin and Arabic in Jerusalem. When I participate in academic conferences across Europe I often use car-sharing for travelling and couch-surfing for accommodation. It's not only much cheaper, it's also fun, and that is also part of being a graduate student in Europe.