

A brief history of the CST-CEE Initiative

CST-CEE Initiative is a capacity-building project, with an innovative approach, aimed at sustaining and improving collaboration and activities in a transnational network among institutions and experts from Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) Countries, to spread, reinforce and improve the teaching of Catholic Social Teaching (CST). The Initiative, created and managed by the Faculty of Social Sciences (FASS) at the Pontifical University St Thomas Aquinas – Angelicum in Rome, started in 2017.

CST-CEE baseline (February-June 2017). The project has provided the baseline for CST education in CEE. It designed an original course content classification method with the objective of comparing and evaluating courses from different education systems, and created the first integrated knowledge base of the Catholic and Ecclesiastical Higher Education Institutions (CHEI) in the CEE region providing CST courses.

CST-CEE 2020 (December 2017-ongoing). This project aims to create a transnational group of young CST scholars from the CEE region, based in Rome (close to the central institutions of the Church, close to the Papacy, close to new developments in CST), guided by, but also supporting, an Expert Council made up of key leaders from CHEI in CEE. Together they are working towards the development of a wider CST-CEE network in the upcoming years. Key outputs:

- The first CST-CEE Summer School has been organized in Rome from June 24 to 29, 2018, with 8 CHEI students selected from: Croatia, Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia and Ukraine.
- The first 7 members of CST-CEE Expert Council (EC) joined the Initiative. They come from Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia and Ukraine. The first EC meeting has been organized in Rome from June 28 to 30, 2018 with 6 members participating.
- The first 3 members of CST-CEE Task Force (TF) have been selected in the academic year 2018-2019: the first one is a young Orthodox Priest coming from Romania, who attended the Summer School. He started his Licentiate program at FASS in October 2018. Other two members come from Czech Republic and Hungary; they are two lay students (a man and a woman) who are starting their Licentiate program at FASS in February 2019.
- Selected papers on CST, from some of the Summer School participants, published in a special issue of [*Oikonomia, Journal of Ethics and Social Sciences*](#), year 18, n.1, February 2019.

1

The CST-CEE Model

VM: The Value Model - The CST-CEE Initiative relies on two main value dimensions: Creating Public Intellectuals and Regional Solidarity. This model aims to respond to specific needs identified from the previous stages of the Initiative. Some of these needs are interreligious dialogue; (re)building of common good and social trust; civic engagement and active citizenship; life-long-learning and training of trainers; mutual East-West cultural contributions; Global Compact on Migration; Church and society cooperation. All of the CST-CEE Actions are aimed towards this value model.

AM: The Action Model - CST-CEE Initiative is composed by 4 lines of action:

- A. CST-CEE Summer School [SS]
Objective: dissemination of CST and of its applications among CEE CHEI Students.
Target: CEE CHEI students, currently involved in CST and Social Ethics applications, interested to share their experiences and learn new research topics.
Tasks: Organize a special school every year in the summer, lasting a whole week; topics: FASS current research issues on CST and its applications; Expert Council current research initiatives in the local regions of the CEE.
- B. CST-CEE Expert Council [EC]
Objective: exchange of good practices; interactions between, and mutual recognition among, different educational systems, potential to set-up a network through which bids for funding for transnational research projects could be made to the European Commission; guidance to the CST-CEE Task Force.
Target: Professors and Researchers coming from different CHEI in CEE Countries.
Tasks: promote and strengthen the group; a high-level seminar and strategic meeting held in Rome every year in summer to exchange current research topics in a mutual Life-Long-Learning process; publication of relevant original papers.
- C. CST-CEE Task Force [TF]
Objective: collaboration, integration, exchange, knowledge development, common research; licentiate and doctoral theses aimed at improving CST in CEE region; support to the Expert Council in setting up a transnational network.
Target: CEE CHEI students currently involved in CST and Social Ethics applications, available to study 2 years in Rome at FASS and to participate in the development of the CST-CEE Initiative.
Tasks: develop licentiate and doctoral theses on CST applications; participate in CST-CEE research programs; collaborate in the setup of the Summer School; support and improvement of the group (6 members from different Countries).
- D. CST-CEE Research and Development [RD]
Objective: production and dissemination of documents, research reports, analyses and projects on CST in the CEE Countries.
Target: Professors, Researchers, Students from CHEI in the CEE region.
Tasks: a) Each year a special research topic is developed during the academic year in the FASS, with its professors and students: the results will be presented at the annual Summer School and at the Expert Council high-level seminar. b) Each of the EC members will share their current research and will present original papers on the subject during the EC annual event. c) Each of the Summer School students will present their current projects on related topics; d) EC papers will be published by the *Angelicum Press* and/or in other academic journals; the best projects from the SS students may be included. e) An annual CST-CEE Research project will be developed: in 2019, it is the production of an annotated bibliography of the most important texts on CST produced in CEE Countries. f) The TF members will make additional contributions, for example, the updating and augmenting of the knowledge base of the Catholic and Ecclesiastical Higher Education Institutions (CHEI) in the CEE region providing CST courses, first developed in 2017.

The Summer School: June 30 – July 7, 2019

Each student will carry forward a project aimed at the development of CST in CEE. Their contribution will support the work of the Expert Council, building capacity in the network. During the Summer School, the students will:

- ✓ work together on key social issues and problems facing the CEE, starting from the perspective of CST, sharing and integrating personal projects and experiences with the Task Force members;
- ✓ meet key experts in the Faculty of Social Sciences and in international organisations in Rome, such as the EU Ambassador to the Holy See, the Secretariat of State of the Holy See, top officials of Caritas Internationalis (depending on their availability);
- ✓ meet the Expert Council's professors and participate in the presentation of their research topics;
- ✓ make the most of being in Rome – visit to the Vatican Palace and other pilgrimage and archaeological sites in Rome...

Student Profile for Summer School

- a) First cycle degree (180 credits) in one of the following areas (if more than one area is covered, it is an advantage): Ethics/CST, Sociology, Psychology, Anthropology, Economics, Business, Social Communications, Political Science, History, Law, International Relations. It is possible to consider someone with a first degree in theology or philosophy, but we would expect the optional courses taken by such a student to demonstrate an interest in social questions and the student should be prepared to do extra credits in the first year so as to make up gaps in their prior formation;
- b) Demonstrated interest in practical social action: politics, economics, social problems, church action. We are especially interested in students who have shown interest in the issues of prime concern to Pope Francis: connecting with, and outreach to, the socially excluded; addressing homelessness; care of migrants; an integral ecology and care for our common home.
- c) English at B1 level; ideally, B1 competence in at least one other language of the CEE; some capacity in Italian is an advantage, but not necessary;
- d) We do not set an age limit on applicants, but, other things being equal, we will favour younger candidates;
- e) We will select 8 candidates for the summer school from among the following countries: Albania, Belarus, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine.

What costs are covered?

- ✓ travel to and from Rome;
- ✓ accommodation for 7 nights (arrival June 30, departure July 7);
- ✓ 3 meals a day during the summer school.

All other expenses to be covered by the students

Application Procedure and deadlines

Each candidate should produce the following documentation:

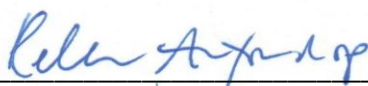
- a) Motivation letter;
- b) Curriculum Vitae (if possible, in the standard European or Europass format); the CV must be dated and signed;
- c) Copy of the first cycle degree (and eventually any other additional degrees) with transcript of the courses;
- d) Presentation Letter from a University Professor;
- e) Paper (at least 2 pages) presenting a current project and/or a topic of interest about CST/Social Ethics and its applications.

Contacts: Candidates may address any additional request, as well their final documentation, to fass@pust.it Information on the Faculty of Social Sciences can be found [here](#).

Deadline: April 28, 2019

4

Date: March 19, 2019



Prof. Helen Alford, O.P.
Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences