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CONFERENCE REPORT**ECPR WINTER SCHOOL IN METHODS AND TECHNIQUES,
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Once again, the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) invited over 500 political scientists to Bamberg, Germany for the annual Winter School in Methods and Techniques. It took place at the Bamberg Graduate School of Social Sciences (BAGSS) and it was a great opportunity for student to not only learn new things that would help in future research, but to also meet other scholars and discuss interesting topics.

Participants enrolled in two types of courses, choosing from a list of 14 short courses (10,5 hours over two days) and 30 main courses (15 hours over 5 days). Moreover, there were seasoned scholar workshops and additional early-morning courses for the participants to attend. What is interesting is that courses could be followed individually, but the participants may also attend a sequence of related, advancing coursing over two or more Methods School events. There were 32 instructors and 27 teaching assistants that were willing to help with any problems or questions.

Training activities revolved around research design, data collection and data analysis (both for beginners as well as advanced scholars). Participants could focus on research techniques and learn how to use specific programs for their research, focus on methods and philosophy or combine them all together. It was also possible to earn European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) credits for completed courses. It must be noted that the workload was very time-consuming, and earning 4 ECTS credits was rather challenging.

However, what makes the ECPR Method School special is not their list of courses, but the networking opportunities they provide. These include, for example, “Hot Winter Debates” (e.g. “Cross-national surveys: some bridges too far?”, “Do methods have a gender? Enduring gender differentials in the profession, and seeking ways forward”) or “Methods Café tables” (e.g. “Ethnographic, conceptual analysis, qualitative interviewing”, “Regression”, “Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA)”, “Process tracing and comparative historical methods”).

In the evenings, participants could join social events such as meeting at the famous Schlenkerla Tavern, enjoying club night with a DJ, jazz night or walking tours. It is also worth noting that the ECPR pays attention to atmosphere during the event. They published the *ECPR Code of Conduct* that states what behavior is not acceptable and prevents

other participants from feeling safe. There were also two senior scholars appointed to whom it was possible to report any unacceptable behavior.

The next Method School event would be Summer School in Budapest (Central European University) and the next Winter School in 2020 will take place in Bamberg for the last time. The ECPR is currently looking for a new host institution for years 2021–2023.