



Call for Applications

for Young Policy Advisers Course for Western Balkans

Open to: Young policy advisers from the Western Balkans:

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. Applicants from Kosovo¹ are also encouraged to apply.



Deadline: 13 August 2018

¹ All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244.

Dates: 12 – 16 November 2018

Venue: Central and Eastern European Law Initiative (CEELI) Institute, Prague, Czech Republic

Description

The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the School of Public Policy (SPP) at Central European University are organizing a five-day intensive training course for young policy advisers from the Western Balkan region.

Through a series of participatory exercises combined with lectures and small group work, the course will strengthen participants' knowledge of democratic institutions and policy-making, as well as of OSCE commitments in the area of democratic governance, thereby helping to ensure that junior policy advisers of today are prepared to play a leading role in defining the future trajectory of their nation.

The course will focus on developing practical skills in a number of areas such as

- **the role of the political adviser:** core functions and giving good advice;
- **shaping complex political environments:** devising and implementing strategies; analyzing and understanding the internal and external political context; making decisions with limited information; policy and ethics; forecasting and scenario-planning; upholding democratic values;
- **conducting inclusive policy analysis,** engaging internal & external stakeholders, building and sustaining relationships and networks, negotiating effectively;

- **mastering communication and advocacy**; policy writing, speech writing, devising communication strategies, public diplomacy, working with media, communicating effectively.

The course will be built on the training methodology tested in the successful 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2018 editions of the course conducted in Sandö, Warsaw, Budapest, Chisinau, Tunis and Bishkek. Taught by exceptional trainers with extensive professional experience in public policy, the course requires active participation and engagement and will include writing speeches, talking points and briefing materials. Participants will be challenged to take part in negotiation simulations and an on-camera press corps briefing, which are common tasks for policy advisors.

“The course has certainly helped me master the spectrum of skills required for optimal job performance as a policy advisor. What makes this training most appealing, in my opinion, is the fact that it is organized in a workshop format which allows participants to stay actively involved for the entire duration of the program and test their capabilities in co-operation with like-minded professionals from neighboring countries. Moreover, the opportunity to receive first-hand feedback from trainers with extensive professional experience in foreign affairs is an invaluable and rare bonus.” **Artur Sirbu, Chief of Staff to the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration**

Eligibility

Course participants will be 25 - 30 young policy advisers under the age of 35. The eligibility requirements for the training are:

1. First-level university degree;
2. Minimum of four years of professional experience in ministries or other executive agencies, presidential administrations or in parliaments;
3. Born on or after 1 January 1983;
4. Professional fluency in English;

5. National of one of the following OSCE participating state: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. Residents of Kosovo are also encouraged to apply.

Costs

The course fee, including tuition, course materials, full board accommodation as well as the cost for airfare will be covered by the organizer.

"I feel very privileged that I had the opportunity to participate in this program which was full of practical and challenging exercises. I am convinced that the knowledge and skills acquired here will contribute to the future endeavors of all the participants." **Narine Avagyan, National Assembly of Armenia**

Application

You can access the application form on the following link

<https://bit.ly/2tOqGtj> . In addition to completing the application form, participants should record a video of themselves recorded on a cell phone that is up to (maximum) three minutes long and upload it on the application page. The video will be used for application purposes only and be deleted following the completion of the recruitment process. In the video, please respond to following questions:



- Please introduce yourself briefly.
- How does your professional experience match the requirements of this call?
- Which obstacle/s do young policy advisers face in delivering their tasks in your country?
- What are your expectations of the training?

Applications will be screened on the basis of the eligibility criteria in the call for applications.

ODIHR encourages all candidates, irrespective of gender, disability, religious and ethnic backgrounds to apply to participate in the training. Please let us know should you require assistance due to disability in the application process.

For further information and queries, please contact us at: youth@odihr.pl