

CALL FOR APPLICATION

“YOUNG LEADERS” 2021/2022

We are pleased to inform you that the Robert Schuman Institute (RSI), with the support of the Eduardo Frei Foundation and Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, is opening the call for application for its upcoming flagship series of courses entitled “Young Leaders XXVIII”. The courses is planned to take place via in-person meetings, with modules to be held between **29 November - 4 December 2021 in Budapest, Hungary, 18 - 22 January 2022 in Vienna, Austria, and 23 - 27 February 2022 in Budapest, Hungary**, followed by a mentorship program via the Qooper platform. The series will be organised for young politicians aiming to become future leaders in the Eastern and South-Eastern European countries (EE, SEE) such as *Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo¹, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Ukraine* as well as *Lebanon* who are committed to Christian Democratic / centre-right values and pluralist democracy, as represented by the European People’s Party (EPP).

For an impression from a previous “Young Leaders” series you can find a **video summary** [here](#).

I. Project description

Aims of the project:

- To educate future political leaders by equipping them with theoretical and practical knowledge and skills to handle political, social, cultural, economic and civic challenges and developments in Europe;
- To reflect on the fundamental values of democracy, Christian Democracy, and the principles uniting the EPP family, emphasising their practical implementation in concrete policies and decision making;
- To promote the public roles and careers of young people belonging to parties / organisations of the EPP family in EE, SEE and Lebanon by means of education and training, information exchange and network-building.

Target group:

15 public career-oriented progressive young politicians between 22 – 30 years of age who are actively involved in EPP sister parties’ activities in the above listed countries. They will be selected on the basis of individual applications endorsed by the leading officials of their parties.

Working language: English

Pre-requisites:

- **Strong written and oral English proficiency**
- University/college degree (or at least four successfully completed semesters at university / college by the start of the first course)

II. Structure of the series

1. **European Values and Democratic Principles** (29 November – 04 December 2021), [on site](#), in Budapest, Hungary
2. **Foreign Policy and Security Issues** (18 - 22 January 2022), [on site](#), in Vienna, Austria
3. **Economic and Social Challenges in Europe** (23 - 27 February 2022), [on site](#), in Budapest, Hungary
4. **Participation in the Qooper Mentorship program**, [online](#) (dates and schedule TBC)

¹ (This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244(1999) and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.)

Note: The participants are required to arrive one day before and depart one day after the given course dates. The organizers reserve the right to change the locations, venue, content, and format of the series.

Proposed topics, to be finalized also based on selected participants' expectations:

European Values and Democratic Principles

1. Basic elements of democracy
2. Rule of law
3. Main political ideologies in Europe, key values of Christian Democracy
4. Value-based decision-making, Christian Democratic values in concrete policy-making
5. Corruption-free ethics of a political figure
6. The role of civil society, cooperation between parties and NGOs
7. Religious communities and public life
8. International norms for human rights and minority protection
9. Climate change, sustainability and the EPP approach towards the "green" challenges
10. Politico-media complex. Politicians' and journalists' mutual expectations
11. Social media and freedom of speech

Foreign Policy and Security Issues

1. Introduction to the post-Cold War Institutional order
2. Multilateral solutions to current international challenges
3. International crisis management
4. Global and regional institutional frameworks (United Nations, OSCE)
5. Current state of transatlantic alliances
6. EU institutions: Structures, policies, decision-making
7. Cooperation with the EU, current agenda and key challenges
8. International dimension of a party's activities: Introduction to the EPP family, its values, principles, and current challenges
9. Energy impact on the state of global affairs and international security
10. Demography and migration as security factors

Economic and Social Challenges in Europe

1. Economics for politicians – from the basics to economic policies (key sectors of national economies: definitions, functions, goals and tools)
2. Globalisation and its impact on everyday policy-making (Eastern and Western economic systems, monopoly and decentralisation, national ownership and FDI, future tendencies)
3. Nation-states and international financial organizations, banking and finance in transitional countries, EU funds
4. Regional and local economic policy, competitiveness issues
5. Social dialogue, labor relations, retirement systems and employment
6. Sustainable development in social and economic planning
7. Healthcare systems and their reforms in transition countries
8. Family and welfare policy
9. Higher education reform: adapting education to labor market needs

Skill training and personal development (all courses)

1. Team building
2. Communication and presentation skills
3. Decision-making
4. Debating and negotiation skills

5. Advocacy
6. Leadership and management

III. Application process

[The online application form](#) must be filled before the indicated deadline

The following documents need to be uploaded to the application form:

- **A 1-2 min video presentation on the topic:**
“Three crucial issues for the development of my country: What I can do about them as a young leader?”
- **2 letters of reference**, signed and with official letterhead (and translated to English when necessary):
 1. one from the delegating party (not a youth organisation!), signed by a responsible official such as a Secretary General, Presidency Member, International Secretary, Foundation Director
 2. one from a person who knows the applicant and his/her activity in public life well (local party branch official, women’s organisation functionary, youth organisation leader, municipal councillor, NGO you work with, local KAS office etc.)
- **Copy of diploma or a certificate issued by university/college** (with English translation that can be produced by the applicant too) verifying that by the start of the course the applicant successfully completed at least two semesters at university / college
- **Passport copy** (just the main page with relevant personal data)

We will consider complete application packages only.

Deadline for applications: 03 November (Wednesday) 2021

IV. Conditions of admission

- Preparation of all assignments before / during courses in compliance with the set deadlines
- **Active and full participation in all courses**

Financial arrangements:

The costs of the course, including lectures, trainings as well as costs of full-board and lodging in double rooms will be covered by the organisers.

Participants should have their travel costs be paid by their delegating party, or by themselves. The RSI may be able to make a contribution on the official request from the delegating organisation (included in the reference letter) if absolutely necessary. If RSI gives any international travel cost contribution or reimbursement, it has to be previously requested and agreed. Local transportation in Budapest and Vienna, and in the country of origin as well as health insurance is to be covered by participants.

Attendance at each course of the series is mandatory from the first to the last day of the event as this is essential to efficient team-work and to accomplish the aims of the series.

Should you require any further information about the series, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Gábor Berczeli
Director
on behalf of Doris Pack MEPai, RSI President