

CALL FOR APPLICATION

“YOUNG LEADERS XXXI” 2024/2025

We are pleased to inform you that the Robert Schuman Institute (RSI), with the support of the Eduardo Frei Foundation (EFF) and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), is opening the call for application for its upcoming flagship series of courses entitled “Young Leaders XXXI”. The courses, articulated in three modules, will take place between **25 - 30 November 2024 in Budapest, Hungary; 20 - 25 January 2025 in Budapest, Hungary and 24 - 28 February 2025 in Vienna, Austria**. The series is open to young politicians from Eastern and South-Eastern European countries (EE, SEE) such as *Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Ukraine* as well as *Lebanon and Morocco*, committed to Christian Democratic / centre-right values and pluralist democracy, as represented by the European People’s Party (EPP) and aiming to become future leaders. 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:

20 public career-oriented progressive young politicians between 22 – 32 years of age who are actively involved in EPP sister parties’ activities in the above-listed countries. They will be selected based on 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*** (25 - 30 November 2024), on site, in Budapest, Hungary
2. ***Economic and Social Challenges in Europe*** (20 - 25 January 2025), on site, in Budapest, Hungary
3. ***International Relations and Global Issues*** (24 - 28 February 2025), on site, in Vienna, Austria

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

Proposed topics (to be finalised also based on selected participants' expectations):

European Values and Democratic Principles

1. Basic elements of democracy: consolidation vs weakening
2. Rule of law
3. Main political ideologies in Europe, key values of Christian Democracy
4. Introduction to the EPP family, its values, principles, and current challenges
5. Value-based decision-making, Christian Democratic values in concrete policymaking
6. Corruption-free ethics of a political figure
7. The role of civil society, cooperation between parties and NGOs
8. International norms for human rights and minority protection
9. A moderate approach to climate change, sustainability and "green" policies
10. Politico-media complex, free press, and politicians' expectations
11. Social media and freedom of speech

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 policymaking (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, labour 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 labour market needs

International Relations and Global Issues

1. Fortifying democracy worldwide
2. Introduction to the post-Cold War Institutional order
3. Multilateral solutions to current international challenges
4. International crisis management
5. Global and regional institutional frameworks (United Nations, OSCE)
6. Current state of transatlantic alliances
7. EU institutions: Structures, policies, decision-making
8. Cooperation with the EU, current agenda and key challenges
9. Global challenges in a multipolar world
10. Energy impact on the state of global affairs and international security
11. Demography and migration as security factors

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

[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 help my country on its path to development: What I can do about it 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)

IV. Conditions of admission

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

We will consider complete application packages only.

**Deadline for
applications:**

October 21 (Monday) 2024, EOD

**Organiser
contacts:**

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HUNGARY
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Contact person: *All communication should be addressed to the Robert Schuman Institute. **Alessandro D’Onofrio**, Project Manager alessandro.donofrio@schuman-institute.eu; **Imre Rimóczi**, Project Coordinator imre.rimoczi@schuman-institute.eu*

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 contribute to partially cover for travel costs ONLY following an official request from the delegating organisation (included in the reference letter and attached to the application form). If RSI gives any international travel cost contribution or reimbursement, it must 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. Participants arriving from Lebanon and Morocco will get a refund (after arrival) of their visa fee and flight ticket. Participants in need of visa are invited to submit their applications as soon as possible, preferably by the 15 October.

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 teamwork and to accomplish the aims of the series.

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

Gábor Berczeli
Director

on behalf of **Doris Pack MEPai, RSI President**