



- CALL FOR APPLICATIONS -

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**Empowering through Advocacy:  
Advancing Youth and Women in Political Parties**

Hybrid series of courses – 4 stops: online via Zoom (June), Chisinau (July), Warsaw (September-October), Budapest (December)

 **Target countries: Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine**

 **29 June – 11 December, 2026\***

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We are excited to announce that the Robert Schuman Institute (RSI), in cooperation with the Christian Democratic International Center (KIC Sweden), is launching the 2026 edition of its flagship hybrid programme titled *“Empowering through Advocacy: Advancing Youth and Women in Political Parties.”*

Building on the results and lessons of previous editions, this advanced, action-oriented series is designed to move beyond advocacy planning toward **real implementation, policy influence, and institutional impact**. The programme aims to empower young political actors (particularly women and youth) by equipping them with practical tools to design, implement, and translate advocacy campaigns into concrete policy or organizational reform proposals within their political parties.

Through a structured combination of expert-led sessions, hands-on workshops, mentoring, and campaign implementation, participants will strengthen their ability to influence decision-making processes, contribute to inclusive governance, and drive democratic change from within their political environments.

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**Timeline of the series**

- **Module I: Online Introduction to Advocacy and Political Participation**

*Zoom, Monday, 29 June 2026*

**Focus:** Foundations of advocacy and democratic participation, inclusive decision-making in political parties, Christian democratic values, and advocacy campaign structures.

**Module II: Women’s Empowerment and Gender Inclusion in Political Party Processes**

*Chisinau, Moldova | 07-09 July 2026 (arrival 06 July, departure 10 July depending on travel arrangements)*

**Focus:** Women’s political participation, problem identification and root-cause analysis, institutional

and policy context analysis, stakeholder and power mapping, advocacy feasibility, coalition-building, political communication, and development of preliminary advocacy directions.

- **Module III: Youth Empowerment Workshop**

*Warsaw, Poland | 29 September–01 October 2026* (arrival 28th September, departure 02 October depending on travel arrangements)

**Focus:** Advocacy strategy development, campaign planning, participatory political mobilization, monitoring and evaluation, online and offline campaigning, debating skills, and practical advocacy campaign refinement.

- **Module IV: Campaign Review and Policy Impact**

*Budapest, Hungary | 09-11 December 2026* (arrival 08 December, departure 12 December depending on travel arrangements)

**Focus:** Public speaking and presentation skills, advocacy implementation review, risks and resistance in advocacy, regional lessons learned, and translating advocacy into institutional and policy impact.

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**Full attendance and active participation in all sessions of the series is COMPULSORY!**

**Working language:** English (no interpretation will be provided)

**Who is invited to apply:** up to 12 participants, born between 1991–2006, who are:

- Actively engaged in political, civic, or public life;
- Affiliated with EPP sister parties in: Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, or Ukraine;
- Ready to develop and implement an advocacy campaign linked to their party's internal goals;
- Fluent in English;
- Committed to the full duration of the program (June–December 2025)
- University/college graduates or by the start of the program have at least 4 completed semesters at a university;
- Committed to submit full application package including online form, official reference letter signed by the international secretary (of the party, not youth), motivation video of participation by the indicated deadline;
- Committed to implement own advocacy campaigns as described below.

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**What we offer:**

- Hands-on advocacy training tailored for political party contexts;
- Three international in-person workshops and one virtual session;
- Mentorship support with at least 3 online sessions;
- Practical tools for influencing internal decision-making and promoting youth/women participation;
- A regional network of like-minded peers and access to expert trainers;
- Opportunity to present your work at a high-level forum and contribute to policy recommendations.

**What you will do:**

- Develop a structured advocacy campaign throughout Modules II and III;

\*Module topics, as well as the dates, timing of the sessions, locations and speakers and other program arrangements might be subject to change by the organizers.

- Conduct institutional, stakeholder, and political context analysis related to your advocacy issue;
- Develop advocacy objectives, messaging, and implementation strategies;
- Implement your campaign partially or fully before the final module;
- Present your campaign implementation results, lessons learned, and policy recommendations during the final module in Budapest;
- Complete mentorship requirements and feedback reporting;
- Engage in internal dissemination or follow-up activities within your political organization after the program.

**We will be looking into some of the following topics:**

**Module I: Online Introduction to Advocacy and Political Participation (Online via Zoom)**

- Foundations of advocacy and democratic participation
- Advocacy concepts, campaign structures, and political participation
- Inclusive decision-making in political parties
- Diversity, representation, and internal party participation
- Christian democratic values and center-right foundations of advocacy
- Linking ideology and political values to advocacy practice
- Introduction to mentorship and peer collaboration

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**Module II: Women's Empowerment and Gender Inclusion in Political Party Processes (Chisinau, Moldova)**

- Women's political participation in Eastern Europe
- Structural and informal barriers in political parties and institutions
- Problem identification and root-cause analysis
- Institutional and policy context analysis
- Formal and informal decision-making structures
- Stakeholder and power mapping
- Advocacy feasibility, SWOT analysis, and risk awareness
- Coalition-building and community engagement
- Advocacy messaging and political communication
- Social media use for political messaging
- Development and peer review of advocacy directions

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**Module III: Youth Empowerment Workshop (Warsaw, Poland)**

- Youth engagement and participatory political mobilization
- Advocacy strategy development and campaign planning
- Theory of change and action planning
- Monitoring, evaluation, and learning in advocacy campaigns
- Online and offline advocacy campaigning
- Campaign refinement workshops and peer consultations
- Advocacy pitches and strategic feedback
- Debating skills for political advocacy
- Strategic argumentation and persuasive communication
- Responding to criticism and polarized narratives

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**Module IV: Campaign Review and Policy Impact (Budapest, Hungary)**

- Public speaking and presentation skills

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- Presentation of advocacy campaigns and implementation results
- Risks, resistance, and challenges in advocacy implementation
- Institutional and political barriers to reform
- Regional lessons and shared advocacy challenges
- Linking advocacy to policy implementation
- Policy-oriented recommendations and strategic positioning
- Translating advocacy into institutional and political impact
- Sustainability and long-term advocacy planning

### **IMPORTANT!**

During Modules II and III you will progressively develop your own advocacy campaign prototypes, beginning with problem identification, institutional and stakeholder analysis, and continuing through strategy development, communication planning, and implementation preparation.

The advocacy campaigns must be linked to real political, organizational, or policy-related challenges within your political environments and should be fully or partially implemented after Module III.

You will present the implementation progress, lessons learned, institutional reactions, and policy recommendations during Module IV in Budapest.

Those failing to commit to the implementation and presentation requirements may not be admitted to participate in the final module of the series.

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### **Financial arrangements**

The costs of the seminar – including lectures as well as costs of full-board and accommodation during the program – will be covered by the organisers (participants will be accommodated in double rooms). Participants may be eligible for contribution to their international travel costs provided they send an official email with the justification for contribution from their delegating organization, and only provided RSI issues an explicit agreement to contribute to travels.

Click here for the [online application form](#) (Deadline for applications **Friday May 29, 2026, 23:59 CET**)

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*Let's build the next generation of changemakers—through advocacy, strategy, and leadership.  
We look forward to receiving your application!*