



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

for

Sustainable and Innovative Recovery of Ukraine Programme

The Robert Schuman Institute (RSI), in cooperation with the Christian Democratic International Center, Sweden (KIC), is starting an initiative in the second half of 2026 to support Ukrainian local leaders in preparing for recovery and rebuilding their communities.

Ukraine faces the historic task of rebuilding its economy, communities, and institutions even before the war ends. Local leaders must already prepare for recovery: rebuilding towns and villages, restoring public trust, and strengthening cooperation with international partners.

Reconstruction requires trust. International partners, investors, and donors need to see transparency, rule of law, and effective anti-corruption mechanisms. These topics are not included because donors expect them—they are included because every community deserves safe, honest, and accountable governance, and because trust is the foundation of successful cooperation.

At the same time, the best reconstruction is data-driven. Communities must be rebuilt based on real needs, real evidence, and real opportunities—not simply restoring the past, but building something back better. Ukraine has a unique chance to rebuild at a level that can even surpass current EU standards, and it has already proved this in many fields – public administration included. This is not only a question of money—it is a question of knowledge, experience, and strategic planning.

To support this, the programme brings participants to Hungary, providing a calm environment for learning. Throughout the programme, participants will work on real challenges from their own municipalities or organisations, developing practical solutions and project ideas. Trainers will help refine these ideas, and RSI will support further development and implementation after the programme.

Croatia is selected for the study visit because it is one of the few European countries that has gone through a full post war reconstruction cycle in recent decades and successfully transformed its institutions and economy. After rebuilding its communities, Croatia joined the European Union, NATO, the Schengen Area, and the Eurozone, demonstrating how a war affected country can achieve stability, trust, long-term development and international recognition and inclusion within the broader European community.



Participants are also asked to share what they learn—through active social media presence and communication—so that knowledge spreads across Ukraine.

Programme Goals

- Support Ukrainian local leaders in starting to rebuild their communities before the war ends
- Strengthen trust and cooperation with international partners
- Provide practical examples from EU countries and Ukrainian regions
- Help participants identify their own local problems and design solutions
- Promote transparency, rule of law, and anti-corruption mechanisms as foundations of trust
- Encourage data-driven policymaking and strategic planning
- Share smart, sustainable development practices, including circular economy approaches

Programme Structure

The programme consists of one online session, three training modules, and a study visit:

- **19 August, 2026** – Module 1: Online Preparatory Session (Online)
- **7–8 September, 2026** – Module 2: Transparency, Inclusivity and International Collaboration
- **12–13 October, 2026** – Module 3: Policymaking, Economic Development and Sustainability
- **14–15 October, 2026** – Module 4: Project Development and Stakeholder Engagement
- **26–31 October, 2026** – Module 5: Study Visit in Croatia

Who Can Apply?

Up to 24 participants born between 1991 and 2006 who:

- Are active in local or regional politics, public life, or community work
- Are members of or affiliated with an EPP sister party in Ukraine (European Solidarity, Batkivschyna, Samopomich Union, Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reforms, or active NGO members



- Can communicate in English
- Can participate in the entire programme (August–October 2026)
- Submit a complete application package by the deadline

What the Programme Offers

- Easy-to-follow training combining theory and practical exercises
- Workshops led by experienced European and Ukrainian trainers
- Training in leadership, communication, advocacy, and public participation
- Development of your own project idea with expert guidance
- Learning from peers across Ukraine
- Examples of good practices from Europe and EPP values
- Practical tasks to strengthen leadership and project planning
- A certificate upon successful completion
- A study Visit to Croatia for up to 10 participants

Financial Arrangements

The organisers cover programme costs, including training, materials, accommodation, and meals. Participants will stay in shared double rooms.

A limited contribution to international travel costs may be available. To request support, the participant's organisation must include a request in the reference letter or send an official email.

If approved, travel support will be provided as a fixed lump sum based on distance, following the organisers' rules.

Application

Click here for the online application form Deadline: 17 August, 2026, 23:59 CET

Click here for the [online application form](#) Deadline for applications 17 August, 2026, 23:59 CET



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