

OSCE DIALOGUE ACADEMY FOR YOUNG WOMEN 2024

12-21 October 2024, Gorizia/Nova Gorica

Organized by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The OSCE invites you to apply for the 10th OSCE Dialogue Academy for Young Women, which will take place from 12 to 21 October 2024, Gorizia/Nova Gorica (Italy/Slovenia).

About the OSCE Dialogue Academy

Since 2015, the OSCE Mission in Kosovo and the OSCE Mission to Serbia have actively supported the OSCE Dialogue Academy for Young Women (DA) gathering participants from their two respective areas of responsibility. Every year, 24 young women from Prishtinë/Priština and Belgrade are selected to convene for an intensive ten-day programme to learn and discuss on the topics of women in politics, dialogue and peacebuilding. Participants will have the opportunity to engage with distinguished speakers and internationally recognized experts, who motivate and foster participants' personal and professional development through thought-provoking discussions and experience-sharing sessions. To date, nine editions of DA have been successfully implemented, with more than 200 young women participated.

The DA builds upon the values and the ideas enshrined in the process known as the "Follow Us" Initiative, which was established in 2012 by the OSCE Mission in Kosovo and the OSCE Mission to Serbia. The initiative brought together prominent women from Prishtinë/Priština and Belgrade, to foster contact and dialogue between the two societies focusing on joint issues of concern, such as women in politics, dialogue and mediation, gender equality and women's empowerment.

Upon completion of the DA, participants become part of the DA Network of Alumnae (DANA). This network is actively engaged in organizing a range of activities across both societies with the objective to promote peace, confidence-building, solidarity, women's empowerment and dialogue. Since 2015, Alumnae have successfully implemented more than 20 small-scale projects, participated in Alumnae exchange meetings, and contributed to different events in close co-operation with the OSCE.

Qualifications

We invite women between 20 and 27 years of age from the areas covered by the OSCE Mission in Kosovo and the OSCE Mission to Serbia to apply. Applicants should be students or young professionals in the fields of politics, law, international relations, social sciences, government, and media. Candidates should demonstrate genuine interest and/or engagement in civic activity (politics, voluntarism, community work, advocacy, and/or policy-making). Considering that lectures, discussions and all working materials will be in English, excellent English skills are essential for participation in the DA.

The OSCE highly value and proactively promote inclusivity, hence young women with disabilities as well as young women belonging to minority groups are highly encouraged to apply.

Selection process

The selection process will consist of the following steps:

- In the first phase of the selection process, applicants will be required to submit a CV, a video and short written statement outlining their motivation for applying at the DA as well their personal interpretation of the DA's core identity and values.
- As a second step, applicants will be invited for an online interview.

In total 24 successful applicants who meet the qualification criteria will be selected to participate in the 2024 DA.

Structure and Themes

The 2024 DA will entail 10 days of intensive programme in Gorizia/Nova Gorica (Italy/Slovenia).

Participants will gather new knowledge and skills, and explore opportunities for collaborating on areas such as dialogue, mediation, conflict resolution and women's empowerment. This will be achieved through an intensive learning module on "Dialogue, Mediation and Confidence-building", a series of panel discussions, multiple and diverse networking and cultural activities. The 2024 DA also aims to offer participants a rich cultural programme connected to the key programmatic themes, such as:

- Leadership for societal change;
- Inter-community dialogue;
- Women in the contemporary political landscape;
- Women and youth in peace-building;
- Comprehensive approach to security for building inclusive societies and lasting peace.

Participants are expected to be present and actively engaged in all aspects of the programme. Discussions and sharing of opinions will be encouraged and highly valued, with respect of each other's differences in thought and background. Significant attention in the programme will be dedicated to networking activities and relationship-building between participants, for which participants are expected to be fully engaged.

Arrangements

All expenses related to participation in the 2024 DA will be covered by the OSCE, including:

- Travel to and from Gorizia/Nova Gorica (Italy/Slovenia). Importantly, the travel will entail overnights in Belgrade for the young women from the OSCE Mission in Kosovo area of responsibility on 11 and 21 October 2024).
- Health insurance;
- Accommodation;
- Course module costs;
- Meals and refreshments;
- Cultural/study visits.

Only the participants who will attend for the entire duration of the DA will obtain a Certificate of Completion to become DANA member.

Application

If you would like to apply for the 2024 DA, please send your CV, a short video via wetransfer link and the written statement to: dialogueacademy@osce.org

The CV¹ should include all of the listed elements:

1. Date of birth, city of birth and city of current residence;
2. Updated information on your employment and education;
3. Educational and professional courses relevant to the DA programme;
4. Languages spoken;
5. Contact details (i.e. personal phone and email address);
6. Contact email of two academic or professional references;
7. Should not exceed the length of three pages;
8. A statement whether you or any of your relatives are/are not employed within the OSCE.

The short video should not exceed 1 min and address the following guiding questions:

- How the DA programme would help you in further promoting dialogue and mutual understanding in their day-to-day life and in their community?
- How the DA programme could further your current understanding of the power and challenges of dialogue in peace-building and conflict resolution?

The written statement should not exceed 400 words and focus on the following:

- Share a personal story or experience where dialogue (or the lack of it) significantly impacted you and/or your community.
- Reflect on how this experience shaped your current understanding of the power and challenges of dialogue in peace-building and conflict resolution.

PLEASE NOTE THAT APPLICATIONS THAT DO NOT FOLLOW ALL LISTED INSTRUCTIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

Please send your application by midnight CET, 11th July 2024.

1. Please note that by providing this information you agree to processing of your personal data. Processing of your personal data will be done for the purpose of this activity only, and not for any other purpose.