

KEY DATES

APPLICATION AND SELECTION PHASE

PRE-NOTICE AND APPLICATION PHASE:

25 September – 10 October 2017

LONG SHORT-LISTING ANNOUNCED

12 October 2017

ENGLISH LANGUAGE TESTS

16-17 October 2017

FINAL SHORT-LIST ANNOUNCED

19 October 2017

INTERVIEW STAGE:

- Prishtina: 23 and 24 October 2017
- Tirana: 25 and 26 October 2017
- Podgorica: 31 October and 1 November 2017
- Belgrade: 2 and 3 November 2017
- Sarajevo: 6 and 7 November 2017
- Skopje: 9 and 10 November 2017

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINAL RESULTS

11 November 2017

Training Phase

- 3 – 16 December 2017 – Sciences Po, France
- 28 January – 10 February 2018 – College of Europe, Belgium

Other Exchanges and Events in 2017

- March/April 2018 – 2 weeks exchange within the Western Balkans
- May 2018 – Regional Conference and Lessons Learnt Event, Montenegro

Are you ready
to be part of
the next generation
of public administrators
and policy makers?

APPLY NOW

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**EU SCHEME FOR
YOUNG PROFESSIONALS
IN THE WESTERN BALKANS**



An EU funded project managed
by the European Commission



Project implemented by
the British Council

This Action aims at facilitating and improving two cornerstones of the EU accession process in the Western Balkans: Public Administration Reform and regional cooperation. Based on the encouraging results of the pilot project presented in the context of the Trieste Summit held in July 2017, the European Commission, following a positive opinion of the IPA Committee (Member States), decided to continue the **EU Scheme for Young Professionals in the Western Balkans (YPS)** for a further two years.

The present two-year Action is therefore a continuation of the pilot action. It draws on the pilot action's overall and specific objectives as well as encouraging results.

Overall objective

The overall objective of this follow up Action is " to contribute to progress in the accession process and deepen regional cooperation in the Western Balkans ".

Specific objective(s)

The Action's **specific objectives** are as follows:

- **Specific objective 1:** To build professional capacity and prepare the next generation of public administrators and policy makers in the six Western Balkan countries who will be in charge of the accession process and drive and lead future change in their societies, in particular those required under the Stabilisation and Association Agreement implementation and accession negotiation process;
- **Specific objective 2:** To promote the regional cooperation element of the European Union integration process at the level of civil service by making cross-border connections between these leaders and agents of change and facilitating peer learning and the sharing of best practices.

THE APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

This Action will contribute to the attainment of the overall and specific objectives by means of increasing the number of early career civil servants (chosen on the basis of their profiles and needs of the national administration in the WB6 countries) who complete tailor-made executive training programmes in the European Union and exchange programmes in the Western Balkans and are subsequently employed for at least 2 more years in their national administrations following completion of Action programmes.

The pre-notice:

a pre-notice of the call for applications

The application phase:

a final notice of the call of applications will be published.

The application process will be only online and only applications received by email will be considered as valid. Each applicant will be asked to send by email the full application including 1) filled and signed application form; 2) his/her Europass CV; 3) signed and scanned letter of motivation including a draft proposal for the common assignment topic to be agreed during the executive training period.

TRAINING COMPONENTS

This Action will strengthen the public administration (PA) of the WB6 countries by means of enhancing, inter alia, the management and public policy formulation and analysis capacities of 60 in total early career civil servants through a **4 week-long** tailor-made training programme split between two training institutions: **Sciences Po in France** (Dec 2017) and **College of Europe in Belgium** (Jan/Feb 2018). Participants, upon completion of the training programmes will participate in a **regional exchange** component which will involve each of them spending **2 weeks** (March/April 2018) in the public administration of a neighbouring WB6/IPA II beneficiary country.

This regional cooperation component of the Action will facilitate peer review and learning and the sharing of good practices and help participants to understand better the neighbouring "other" thus contributing also to reconciliation efforts in the region.

One those civil servants who complete the full cycle of trainings and exchange will be presented with certificates at the Regional Event planned for May 2018. Those who fail to complete any of the components will not be eligible to receive the certificates.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS ARE:

- **Civil Servants** with between **2 and 5 years of working experience** in Public Administration in one of the six countries of the Western Balkans
- Civil Servants involved in policy formulation and strategic planning within the **Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Finance, strategic units of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of European Integration/Governmental Directorates/Bodies of European Integration** as well as civil servants from **other line Ministries involved in European Integration process**.
- Citizens with a **valid passport** issued by the National Authority in their country of residence. Passports of another country than the one where the applicant works as a civil servant are **not acceptable**.
- **Fluent in English** with at least an upper-intermediate level (**B2**). Those candidates who already have a valid **IELTS/TOEFL** language certificate will not be asked to sit the English Language test. Proof of valid English test certificate should be provided as part of the application
- Available to travel to all training components between end of October 2017 and end of May 2018.

Note: We will not consider applicants who are politically appointed

