



SEVENTH EASTERN EUROPEAN ACADEMY FOR SOCIAL DEMOCRACY

Dialogue and qualification program for young leaders of progressive parties or social democratic youth organizations, young members of Parliaments or city councils, junior government officials, city planners, civic and urban activists from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Germany, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine

- CALL FOR APPLICATIONS -

The Regional Office “Dialogue Eastern Europe” of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung invites young progressive leaders aged 25-35 to apply for the 7th edition of the Eastern European Academy for Social Democracy, which will take place from **19th** until **24th of May 2019** in **Russia** (St. Petersburg and surroundings).

The 7th Academy will focus on sustainable urban development in Russia and the Eastern Partnership Region by considering different social, political and economic perspectives in the area of housing policy, mobility and urban innovations.

After the collapse of the USSR, all countries of the EaP and Russia have inherited a unique and at the same time very peculiar type of urban structures, so called socialist cities. What changes were introduced in urban development during their independence? What were the impacts of the privatization of property as well as housing development? Are post-socialist cities well prepared for global challenges caused by climate change, mass migration and resource shortages? How are they going to compete for better quality of life, shrinking resources and intellectual capital? Which strategies and measures should be adopted to provide an eco-friendly and socially just modernization of the cities? How can sustainable mobility improve the quality of urban life and the environment? How can we create new opportunities for more democracy and civil engagement in the area of city development? These and many other questions will be discussed during the 7th Academy.

During an intensive 6-day-program, participants will go through a carefully balanced program of discussions with top experts, politicians and activists of issues on modern housing policies and infrastructure in Eastern Partnership countries, Germany and Russia. Under professional guidance, the participants will have the opportunity to develop their soft skills, to practice group-to-group negotiations and to learn how to reach consensus in a politically diverse environment.

Goals of the program:

- The Academy is primarily aimed at applicants who are committed to social democratic values and who are interested in strengthening the political dialogue between their nations and other countries of the region as well as the European Union.
- Besides promoting peaceful dialogue, mutual understanding, and the exchange of social democratic policies, the Academy offers participatory workshops on practical key competences and soft skills.
- The program will give deep insights into the political situation in the region by looking at the example of Russia and will provide an opportunity for high level discussions with politicians and civil society activists.
- The Academy is based on a growing, sustainable network of Eastern European future leaders who are willing to facilitate dialogue among young, committed, and progressive participants who are open to new ideas and approaches.

Program overview:

- The Academy takes place several times a year in different countries of the region with changing topics and workshops.
- During the past Academies, participants have mastered their soft skills in trainings such as: strategic planning, conflict-management and training of trainers (ToT) or participated in interactive formats such as simulations and scenario workshops.
- The working language of the program is English.
- All costs related to the program will be covered by the organizers.

Candidates' requirements:

- Citizenship of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Germany, Moldova, Russia or Ukraine.
- Between 25 and 35 years old.
- Fluency in English.
- Young leaders from progressive political parties or social democratic youth organizations; young members of Parliaments or city councils, junior government officials, city planners, civic and urban activists.
- Willingness to actively take part in Alumni activities, to constantly support a growing sustainable progressive network of like-minded people and to be involved in the organization of political programs in the respective home countries.
- Participants of the previous Academies are also welcome to apply.

Application process:

- To apply, please fill in the **application form** and submit your **CV** to the following address: andrii.makarenko@fes-dee.org (the application is completed only if both documents are submitted on time).
- The application deadline is **April 14th at 6 pm (Kyiv time)**. **Later applications will not be accepted or evaluated.**
- The results will be announced on **April 17th**. Shortlisted candidates may be invited for a skype interview.
- The organization team aims to ensure gender balance of participants in the program.