

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

### Echoes of Democracy - School for Young Professionals

Are you a young professional from the Western Balkans passionate about democracy, civic activism, and the future of our region? Do you want to explore how political rhetoric shapes our societies and build a regional network of like-minded leaders?

The **Presidential Center Stevo Pendarovski** is proud to announce the open call for the first cohort of the **"Echoes of Democracy"** political school. This 3-month program is designed to empower the next generation of leaders from the Western Balkans with the tools, knowledge, and networks needed to navigate and influence our region's evolving democratic landscape.

#### About the Project

The **"Echoes of Democracy: Western Balkan Political Messages and the Path Forward - A School for Young Professionals"** is an innovative 12-month project designed to foster democratic resilience and regional cooperation among young professionals from the Western Balkans. This project is funded by the Open Society Foundations - Western Balkans and supported by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (Skopje) in association with the Zoran Djindjic Foundation.

#### About the Program

"Echoes of Democracy" offers a unique educational journey through three intensive modules. Participants will explore themes such as EU integration, civic activism, and cultural politics, and use them to analyze how historical and contemporary discourse shapes democratic trajectories. By bridging the gap between academic theory and practical advocacy, the initiative empowers emerging leaders to navigate complex political landscapes.

A central and innovative feature of the school is the **"Digital Museum of Political Messages and Rhetoric"**—a living archive of slogans, banners, and public rhetoric from Western Balkan elections and protests. Participants will use this platform to analyze the progress and regress of democratic development in the region.

## Curriculum Highlights

- **Module 1:** Foundations of Democracy and Civic Engagement in the Western Balkans. (April 08-10)
- **Module 2:** Navigating the European Path: Opportunities and Dilemmas (EU Integration). (May)
- **Module 3:** Geopolitics, Identity, and Cultural Policy in the Western Balkans. (June)
- **Advocacy & Networking:** In-module workshops on advocacy skills and two public round tables to engage with experts and civil society.

## Who Should Apply?

We are looking for up to **25 highly motivated young professionals** (aged 22-40) from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia. Ideal candidates include:

- Professionals in CSOs, think tanks, or academia focusing on democracy and human rights.
- Emerging leaders in political parties, local government, or public administration.
- Journalists, media professionals, and communicators interested in political discourse.
- Youth activists and community organizers are committed to democratic change.

## Key Information

- **Program Duration:** April - October 2026.
- **Application Deadline:** 16 March 2026.
- **Location:** The Modules will be held in person. Module 1 will be held in Skopje on April 8-10, 2026.
- **Costs:** Travel and accommodation support will be provided to selected participants to ensure accessibility.

## How to Apply

Please send a short CV (2 pages max) and a motivation letter (600 words) to:  
[contact@pendarovskicenter.mk](mailto:contact@pendarovskicenter.mk)



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WESTERN BALKANS

The "Echoes of Democracy" school is more than just a training program; it is a platform for regional solidarity and a catalyst for pro-democratic momentum in the Western Balkans.

For more information, visit our social media channels:

- Web: [www.pendarovskicenter.mk](http://www.pendarovskicenter.mk)
- Facebook: [Presidential Center Stevo Pendarovski](#)
- LinkedIn: [Presidential Center Stevo Pendarovski](#)
- Contact: [toshe.zafirov@pendarovskicenter.mk](mailto:toshe.zafirov@pendarovskicenter.mk)



Echoes of the Past, Voices for the Future



**Zoran Djindjic  
Foundation**