

CALL FOR APPLICATION

Workshop

Active Youth in the Electoral Process

1-5 December, 2020, Durrës, Albania

This call is directed to young people in Albania who like to learn more and get active about their elections in European comparison. Albanian stakeholders are currently undertaking an electoral reform process while also looking at future European integration. At the same time, civic space has been shrinking in Albania. Young voters are not sufficiently aware of the ongoing debates and of their opportunities to contribute to these processes. These factors combined indicate a need for enhanced civic education and young voter motivation ahead of the next parliamentary elections in 2021.

Workshop Outline

The workshop will familiarise young men and women from across Albania who usually do not get such opportunities with possibilities of citizen participation in the electoral process. The workshop will raise their awareness and knowledge of European electoral standards, the process of European integration, international obligations and regional commitments for democratic elections; electoral cycle and electoral stakeholders; experiences with citizen election observation; youth electoral participation in the Western Balkans; the electoral campaign and social media monitoring; an election day simulation; the ongoing national electoral reform process; and how young citizens can contribute to such developments.

The workshop will make a young generation better aware of their potential role as active citizens and strengthen their identity as European citizens with the goal of contributing to the processes of electoral reforms and European integration in the longer term. To achieve its aim, during five consecutive days, the workshop will make use of innovative methods of non-formal training including group work and role plays. The participants will not only learn about theoretical concepts, but will develop ideas and approaches for their practical application. Furthermore, the participants will have the opportunity to exchange with guest speakers from national and international stakeholders in Albania, such as the OSCE, the Council of Europe, or the European Union.

The participants will have the opportunity to develop ideas for follow-up activities, which will be supported with micro-grants, under the supervision of YPN ahead of the next parliamentary elections scheduled for 25 April 2021.

The **objectives** of this workshop are:

- To sensitize young men and women from across Albania who usually do not get such opportunities to European integration and citizen participation in the electoral process;
- To address the participants' attitudes regarding electoral participation and point to the development of skills as citizen election observers, in particular with a view to social media;
- To develop a baseline and grounds for follow-up activities ahead of the next parliamentary elections scheduled for 25 April 2021; and
- To inspire co-operation among young people, professionals and organizations in order to enhance their potential role as active citizens.

Profile of participants (selection criteria):

1. Young people between 18 and 25 years old
2. Good knowledge of English language
3. Have not participated in a similar training before and are
 - Interested in active citizenship and elections
 - Motivated to develop follow-up activities
 - Motivated to develop skills as citizen election observers
4. Coming from all 12 counties of Albania
5. Persons with disabilities and national minorities are encouraged to apply
6. Gender balance among the participants
7. Maximum number of participants: 24

Technical details

- **Dates and place**
 - The workshop will take place from 1st till 5th of December 2020 in Durrës, Albania. Participants are expected to arrive in the morning of 1st December and depart after lunch on 5th December.
- **Costs**
 - Full board and accommodation in double-rooms will be covered by the organisers.
- **Travel**
 - Travel expenses from the departure destination to Tirana will be reimbursed and the travel from Tirana to the venue will be organised by the convenors.
 - Reimbursement to participants is made at the end of the seminar. Participants need to be present at least 80 per cent of the workshop in order to receive reimbursement.
- **Insurance**
 - Wahlbeobachtung.org (Election-Watch.EU) and the Albanian Young Professionals Network (YPN) do not take responsibility for any risk that can occur to participants during their journey, or during their stay at the venue, Albania.
- **Daily programme**
 - Participants will receive a detailed programme and other relevant documents prior to the workshop.
- **Language**
 - The language used during the entire workshop will be English.
- **Application deadline**
 - Candidates should complete the online application and submit it no later than 30/10/2020.
- **Link to the application form**
 - <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1fhF3fSBnHm1nh2nvKwzcjLg1njysmbVDF8RYmq6wo-l/edit?usp=sharing>

The organisation of the workshop, travel and accommodation will take applicable rules regarding Covid-19 into account.

Workshop Organisers

This workshop is jointly developed by the Austrian civil society group wahlbeobachtung.org (Election-Watch.EU) and the Albanian Young Professionals Network (YPN) with support of the Robert Bosch Stiftung. The workshop will be facilitated by international and national

resource persons and will be externally evaluated in partnership with the University of Roehampton (UK) to measure its impact on citizenship education.