



Schools of Political Studies



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



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What are Schools of Political Studies for?

— We live in an increasingly turbulent and polarized world. Inspiring young leaders who help bridge divides and create real change are needed now more than ever. To address the constant demands of the internal and external challenges faced by European democracies today, from health crises and climate change to political and social turmoil, Europe and its societies need creative thinkers to break new ground, to find innovative solutions based on the core values of the Council of Europe: human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

— The Schools of Political Studies (SPS) of the Council of Europe play a key role in encouraging young leaders to reflect on how democracy should respond to these fast-changing, new realities.

What do Schools of Political Studies do?

— The Schools of Political Studies train future generations of young political and civic leaders to contribute to political, economic, social, and cultural life in their countries. The Schools carry out annual series of activities and events on various topics.

Activities and events supported by the Council of Europe:

- Training courses focusing on human rights, democracy and the rule of law, as well as on current national and international affairs
- Workshops on specific topics
- Research activities, policy papers and publications
- Alumni events and gatherings
- Other activities, including innovative projects, mentorships, study visits, e-learning platforms

The Schools

- ▶ Academy for Political Development, Zagreb
- ▶ Academy of Political Studies, Tirana
- ▶ Boğaziçi Avrupa Siyaset Okulu (European School of Politics)
- ▶ Bulgarian School of Politics «Dimitry Panitza»
- ▶ Center for Research and Policy Making, Skopje
- ▶ East-European School of Political Studies
- ▶ École Citoyenne des Études Politiques du Maroc
- ▶ École Politique de Tunis
- ▶ Foundation BFPE for a Responsible Society
- ▶ Pristina Institute for Political Studies
- ▶ School of Civic Education

- ▶ School of Political Studies (NGO Civic Alliance), Podgorica
- ▶ School of Political Studies in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- ▶ Symbiosis – School of Political Studies in Greece
- ▶ Tbilisi School of Political Studies
- ▶ Ukrainian School of Political Studies (Agency for Legislative Initiatives)
- ▶ Visegrád School of Political Studies (European Academy of Diplomacy), Warsaw
- ▶ Yerevan School of Political Studies

2023-2025 – Schools of Political Studies at a glance

The Schools are funded by the Council of Europe through a 3-year grant scheme to strengthen the democratic leadership potential of young political and social leaders and to develop their competences for democratic culture. A new cycle began in 2023 with:

- ▶ 16 Schools across Europe conducting over 100 activities
- ▶ activities focusing on and promoting competences for democratic culture
- ▶ development of the Schools' Alumni network
- ▶ participation in the World Forum for Democracy of the Council of Europe
- ▶ 2 Schools in the Southern Mediterranean (Morocco & Tunisia) supported through a different funding scheme.

Examples of national training courses:

- Good governance, the role of free and fair elections
- Political parties in a democratic system: functions, role and organisation
- Social cohesion, gender equality and minority rights
- Regional development and local self-government
- Territorial integrity preservation and post-war rebuilding
- Environmental agenda: sustainable development risks and problems

Examples of skills-based training courses and workshops:

- Political communication
- Art of negotiation and rhetoric
- Conflict prevention skills
- Leadership, organisation, communication
- My political Self and my attitude towards the multiculturalist policy design



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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 46 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

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