

Институт за икономическа политика
Economic Policy Institute

INVITATION
to recommend for participation at SS2019
prospective applicants from your institution

We have the pleasure to inform you that the **Economic Policy Institute (EPI) – Sofia** is now accepting applications for the **20th anniversary edition** of its flagship regional initiative: the traditional **Summer Seminar for Young Public Policy Professionals from South Eastern Europe and the Black Sea region**.

SS2019, entitled **"Public Policy Challenges – European and Regional Dimensions"**, will be held in the period **3 – 7 June 2019** at Albena resort on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast (close to the city of Varna).

After a competitive selection process the regional seminar will bring together a diverse group of **40 outstanding young public policy professionals from state institutions and policy-oriented think-tanks/research centers from South Eastern Europe (SEE) and the Black Sea region**.
During the five-day international forum they will meet distinguished international experts and practitioners, discuss specific issues concerning:

- ***good governance and digital transformation in the public sector;***
- ***current policy challenges on the European and global agenda;***
- ***EU Enlargement and Neighborhood policy;***
- ***regional cooperation in SEE & Black Sea area.***

Beside the key-notes and lectures, the event, which serves also as a platform for exchange of expertise and ideas, will feature intensive discussions in a working-group format and tailor-made interactive modules.

SS2019 **Program Overview** is available **here.**

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In this regard, we kindly invite you to disseminate the SS2019 Call for Participants among suitable candidates from your institution. **There is no need to send us a special recommendation letter for the candidates you wish to endorse.** All they have to do is indicate you as nominator in the designated area of the online application form.
The final application deadline is 21 April 2019.

Please, note that in order to ensure diversity within the group of participants, it is possible to approve for participation **no more than three representatives from one institution.**

Further details on eligibility criteria, application process, participation costs and available financial assistance are elaborated in the **Appendix 1: SS2019 Call for Participants** attached to this invitation letter.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact directly the EPI team at tel.: +359 2 952 29 47 or e-mail: summer_seminars@epi-bg.org.

Thank you in advance for your kind cooperation in nurturing the region's future leaders.

Yours sincerely,



Yasen Georgiev
Executive Director
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APPENDIX 1: SS2019 CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

SS History

The forum was launched back in 2000 in order to contribute to the capacity-building and regional cooperation among young state officials from Bulgaria and Romania working in the field of EU integration. Throughout the years, this regional initiative broadened significantly its scope and geographical coverage (to **15 countries**), thus, building a **unique professional network of 600+ alumni** so far who make it **a well-known and highly recognized regional initiative.**

Browse the SS website for further information about previous editions, speakers, participants and follow-up publications with seminar proceedings: http://summer-seminars.epi-bg.org/

Eligibility Criteria

SS2019 welcomes applications from young professionals from SEE and Black Sea countries who meet the following eligibility criteria:

1) to be aged 25 – 35 years;
2) to possess proven expert background;
3) to have excellent written and spoken command of English (above B2).

Eligible Nationalities: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine

Geographic designation	Countries
Domestic	Bulgaria
SEE	Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia
Black Sea	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine

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Timeline of the Application Process

Selection schedule	Description	Deadline
Regular applications	Open to both self-support applicants who could cover their participation costs in full as well as candidates requesting full/partial scholarships and travel subsidies (if applicable)	**21 April 2019**
Selection results	All applicants receive responses. Admission offers will be sent to successful candidates.	on a rolling basis but **no later than 25 April 2019**
Attendance confirmation	Successful candidates accept/reject the participation offer	**no later than 7 May 2019**
Filling up vacancies (optional)	If vacancies remain, additional admission offers will be sent to waiting list candidates	**8 May 2019**
Public announcement of SS2019 participants' list		**10 May 2019**

Selection Process

SS2019 participants will be selected through three independent application processes in an effort to ensure the optimal mix of professionals and favorable group dynamics.

Prospective candidates should click on and submit the online application form that best describes them (Type A, B, C):

Type A: Public servants from state administrations of 14 SEE & Black Sea countries

Type B: Domestic public servants from state administration of Bulgaria

Type C: NGO/Think tank & Academia representatives from all 15 countries

Participation Costs & Financial Assistance

Each year **a limited number of full and partial scholarships as well as travel subsidies** are available for specific groups of candidates. Detailed information on participation costs, financial assistance and eligibility criteria is provided in the **table on page 6.**

- *Candidates planning to apply for **full scholarship** support are strongly advised to submit their applications as early as possible.*
- *EPI encourages applicants to **seek other alternatives before requesting a travel subsidy** (only for eligible candidates).*

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- *At present **no travel subsidies** are available for applicants from **Bulgaria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Russia and Turkey.***

- *Please, kindly take note that **Type C candidates (NGO/think-tank, academia representatives) from all 15 countries are exempt from paying the participation fee.** They could still apply for scholarships covering accommodation and/or meals as well as travel subsidies (for eligible nationalities).*

Contact with organizers:

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Participation Cost Item	Description	Price (subsidized seminar rates)
Accommodation for 5 nights *(price per person per night incl. breakfast)*	**Single Room** **Double Room** *(shared with another participant)*	**50 EUR per night** **40 EUR per night**
Meals for 5 days	*Includes 4 buffet lunches, 3 buffet dinners, all coffee breaks and 2 official dinners (set menu)*	**25 EUR per day (averaged)**
Participation fee	*Participation fees contribute to making the Summer Seminar series a sustainable annual effort.*	**90 EUR**
Please, note that arrival and departure travel costs are not included. EPI provides free group transport for all participants at SS2019 during the field trip and sightseeing visit.		
Scholarship Option	**Coverage**	**Eligibility**
Partial Scholarship	**A single cost item or a combination of any two cost items**	**All countries**
Full scholarship	**Accommodation** *(shared double room)*, **Meals and 100% Participation Fee Waiver**	**All countries**
Please, note that only a very limited number of full and partial scholarships is available each year. Due to budget limitations, in the selection process priority will be given to candidates who could financially contribute by covering fully or partially their participation costs.		
Travel Subsidy	**Coverage**	**Eligibility**
Air fare	**Full or partial**	**Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, Ukraine**
Ground transportation (only by bus/train/car)	**Full or partial**	**North Macedonia, Moldova, Romania**
Travel subsidies are a subject of limited availability. EPI reserves the right to decide whether full or partial coverage will be provided. Eligible candidates are strongly encouraged to seek alternative funding options before applying for a travel subsidy.		

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