

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS



Academy for  
Political Leadership

The International Centre for Democratic Transition (ICDT) supported by the International Visegrad Fund invites applicants from Ukraine for the **Visegrad Academy for Political Leadership** to be held in:

**Kyiv, Budapest and Warsaw**

The program is elaborated by the ICDT in cooperation with Partners for Democratic Change Slovakia from Bratislava, Diplomatic Academy Prague, European Academy of Diplomacy from Warsaw and the International Centre for Policy Studies from Kyiv. It is designed to provide a unique opportunity for Ukrainian aspiring politicians to acquire and improve all the skills needed to become successful democratic political leaders. Its uniqueness comes from the fact that it is designed in a tailor-made way, addressing the needs of the participants, while providing a complete skills development toolkit. Its main aim is to support the democratic transition of Ukraine by sharing the experience of the Visegrad Group countries. The Visegrad Academy for Political Leadership seeks to educate, connect and inspire Ukraine's future leaders to pursue and promote civic engagement and to use the thus acquired skills to bring about positive change in Ukraine.

The ICDT invites applicants with strong democratic principles from various backgrounds, such as the civil society sector, media, independent activists, or graduate students from relevant academic disciplines, to apply for our multi-country studies program. The studies modules (leadership skills development training in Kyiv, study trip in Budapest and second study trip in Warsaw) will be held in Kyiv, Budapest and Warsaw, all of them having **English as working language**. Each of the modules are focusing on key distinct training activities, complementing each-other for establishing a complete skills development program. The participants will be expected to attend all three modules. Upon completion, each of the participants will receive certificates of attendance and fulfillment of all required assignments.

The **dates of the program** are as follows: in **Kyiv from the 12 to 15th of May**, in **Budapest from the 14 to 16th of September** and in **Warsaw from the 12 to 14th of October**.

**All costs (travel, board, accommodation) incurring during the activities will be covered by the organizers**, through the generous funding provided by the International Visegrad Fund. There is no participation fee incurred.

### Who can apply?

Interested applicants of **22-35 years old** must be **B.A or M.A graduate** students in relevant academic disciplines, such as political science, social science, communication and P.R, media, journalism, human rights, international relations, and political economy. The program is particularly targeting participants from the following groups: **young leaders of CSOs, activists, media representatives, students**. Eligibility is given only to **Ukrainian citizens** with valid passports for more than 6 months from start of the study trips.

Applicants must have already been engaged in activities related to **civic activism** or any form of **civic engagement** (volunteering activities, internships, advocacy activities, etc), and must have a good **knowledge of Ukraine's internal political situation, and its history**.

Granted that the study modules will be held in English, the participants must have **English language proficiency**.

**Priority will be given to applicants with the following skills:**

- Public speaking
- Social and Communication skills
- Conflict management skills or attitude
- Leadership (confidence, persuasiveness, charisma, the capacity to manage people, to delegate tasks, etc)

**And with the following principles:**

- Honesty
- Commitment
- Positive attitude
- Strong commitment to democratic principles (citizen participation, equality, political tolerance towards the minorities, accountability, transparency, regular, free and fair elections; economic freedom; control of the abuse of power; human rights, multi-party system; rule of law; neutrality of state institutions)

### How to apply?

In order to apply, please send us the following documents:

**Curriculum Vitae (CV)** including previous civic activism or civic engagement experience and contact details of two referees;

**Short Essay** about what you consider to be the most appropriate political platform for Ukraine to pursue by 2020 (tackling both internal and external policy). The essay should answer the questions about: What results should be achieved? What should be the priorities? The essays should not be longer than 2 pages (Times New Roman font 12, 1,5 spacing);

**Letter of Recommendation** from a Ukrainian organization or institution (NGO, media, higher level education, etc) where you have been involved in civic activism or civic engagement related activities.

The application package should be sent to [v4academy.applications@icdt.hu](mailto:v4academy.applications@icdt.hu), no later than the **1st of April, 2015**. For any inquiry or clarifications, please use the same e-mail referring to Mr. Bence Kapcsos, Project Manager. For more information about the project, please visit our website at: <http://www.icdt.hu/projects/all-projects/v4-academy-for-political-leadership>

### Selection Procedure

The selection process involves two phases. In the first phase, a panel composed of representatives of the ICDT and its partner organizations will read all applications and select a pool of finalists for the interview. The second phase will constitute in interviews with all the shortlisted candidates.

By the 5<sup>th</sup> of April the shortlisted candidates will be contacted for scheduling the online interviews. The final selected candidates will be announced by the 18<sup>th</sup> of April by personal e-mail. After the announcement, the candidates will be expected to answer needs assessment questionnaire, which will be the basis for elaborating tailor-made training activities.

The V4 Academy for Political Leadership does not discriminate on the basis of race or ethnicity, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical or financial ability.

## Program Overview

The V4 Academy for Political Leadership brings a pool of renowned Ukrainian and Visegrad countries' experts in the fields of democracy and leadership training, from the ICDT, Partners for Democratic Change Slovakia, Diplomatic Academy Prague, European Academy of Diplomacy, and the International Centre for Policy Studies.

The academy is designed to provide a comprehensive skill-development component, in addition to two study trips envisioned so as to educate, connect and inspire Ukraine's future political leaders. The Academy will provide the participants with the necessary skills and knowledge of democratic practices. It will encourage the creation of a real dialogue between politicians, the civil society, media and students.

The timetable of events is as follows:

### **1. Leadership Skills Development Training (Kyiv, Ukraine): 12-15<sup>th</sup> of May**

Every training day will consist of both lectures and training activities which will be designed in a tailor-made way, and will combine thus theoretical and practical activities elaborated according to the needs of the participants.

The selected applicants will be engaged in simulations, and round-table discussions, in order to develop and strengthen their skills such as public speaking, negotiation, persuasion, and critical thinking, only to name a few. In addition, the participants will be engaged in site visits, to governmental and international institutions, landmarks of democracy. Participants will benefit from diplomatic training including problem solving and conflict avoiding procedures, valuable in negotiations, regional cooperation and prevention of international dispute.

### **2. The Budapest Study Trip (Budapest, Hungary): 14-16<sup>th</sup> of September**

The first study trip will share experiences of CSO leaders who became successful politicians. The study will involve meetings with renowned politicians who have come up the ladder from the civil society sector promoting core democratic principles. In addition, site visits will be organized to governmental and international institutions, landmarks of democracy.

### 3. The Warsaw Study Trip (Warsaw, Poland): 12-14<sup>th</sup> of October

The second study trip will be composed of training activities focused on helping participants clarify their political messages, teaching them how to successfully advocate for their aims and getting political and citizenry support and to combat corruption.

The project is being implemented by the **International Centre for Democratic Transition** as lead organization, along with its partners:

**Diplomatic Academy Prague**, Prague, Czech Republic

**European Academy of Diplomacy**, Warsaw, Poland

**International Centre for Policy Studies**, Kyiv, Ukraine

**Partners for Democratic Change Slovakia**, Bratislava, Slovakia



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