



DUBROVNIK
YOUTH FORUM
— 2026 —

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
Ministry of Foreign
and European Affairs



Government
of the Republic
of Croatia



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
Ministry of Science,
Education and Youth

BRIDGING SEAS, BUILDING FUTURE

The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs is proud to present this year's novelty as our flagship project Dubrovnik Forum opens its doors to the **first cohort of 30 young professionals** eager to learn from and network with our distinguished guests. This program represents a fully funded opportunity for young people.

The Dubrovnik Youth Forum (DYF) will take place in Dubrovnik **from 24 to 28 June 2026**, within the framework of the 19th Dubrovnik Forum 2026 (DUFO, held 26–27 June). It has been envisaged as an international platform that brings together a selected group of young professionals and emerging leaders to exchange ideas and foster the professional growth needed to thrive in a rapidly-changing international environment.

The programme, held under the motto "**Bridging Seas, Building Futures**", features substantive, argument-based discussions on contemporary global challenges, alongside other aspects designed to support students, recent graduates and young professionals pursuing careers in international relations and geopolitics.

The first edition of Dubrovnik Youth Forum will take place in the context of Three Seas Initiative as well as EU MED9 Croatian Presidency in 2026.

This event aims to gather young leaders from countries that are part of the European Union, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, Three Seas Initiative as well as the participants from the six Western Balkans countries.

A particular value of DYF lies in the opportunity for participants to actively take part in the **Dubrovnik Forum 2026**, titled "The Age of Multipolarity: Many Directions, One Future", held on 26 and 27 June 2026.

Participants will be able to follow high-level discussions and engage directly in dialogue with officials, representatives of international organisations, experts and business leaders from around the world.

This provides first-hand insight into current international processes and offers meaningful professional networking opportunities in a diplomatic and expert setting.



CONTENT

These **Guidelines for Applicants** provide a detailed overview of the program, eligibility criteria, application procedures, and the selection process.

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DUBROVNIK

The City of Dubrovnik is a natural and strategically justified choice for hosting this programme, not only due to its advanced logistical and organizational capacities but also because of its deeply rooted historical, diplomatic, and symbolic role in international relations.

As the host of the **Dubrovnik Forum**, the city has for decades reaffirmed its status as a relevant platform for gathering world leaders, experts, and decision-makers.

Consequently, the City of Dubrovnik has established itself as a place where ideas are not only exchanged but where concrete responses to global challenges are shaped, making it a natural environment for involving young people in such processes.

The **historical legacy** of the Republic of Ragusa laid the foundations for Dubrovnik as a space of diplomacy, trade, and openness to the world, shaping it for centuries as a meeting point for diverse perspectives and international cooperation.

Building upon this tradition is the city's **contemporary identity**, which has undergone a transformation in a relatively short period - from a victim of the Homeland War to a symbol of reconstruction, dialogue, and progress.





A HUB FOR GLOBAL DIALOGUE

Today, it stands as one of the world's most **recognizable destinations** - a blend of cultural heritage, tourism, and a globally renowned cinematic backdrop.

This continuity is further confirmed by its inclusion on the **UNESCO** World Heritage List, through which Dubrovnik solidified its international recognition and position as a vibrant, dynamic space that successfully bridges heritage with current global trends, providing a powerful framework for contemporary dialogue and future-oriented initiatives.

The values that Dubrovnik embodies - **freedom, dialogue, and openness** to the world, encapsulated in the powerful and internationally recognized concept of Libertas - are fully aligned with the goals of the Dubrovnik Youth Forum.

In this context, the Dubrovnik Youth Forum gains not just a location, but a strong identity and value-based framework that further strengthens its visibility, relevance, and long-term impact.

OBJECTIVES

- **Foster informed dialogue** among emerging leaders on key challenges in the international affairs;
- **Strengthen the professional development** of young professionals by providing direct exposure to high-level discussions, expert insights and career prospects in global governance and diplomacy;
- **Facilitate meaningful networking** between participants and senior representatives from governments and international organisations, as well as other relevant stakeholders.



PROVISIONAL PROGRAM

	WED 24.6.	THU 25.6.	FRI 26.6.	SAT 27.6.	SUN 28.6.
7:00 – 9:00	Participants arrival	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
9:00 – 13:00		Dubrovnik Youth Forum	Dubrovnik Forum	Dubrovnik Forum	Participants departure
13:00 – 14:00					
14:00 – 18:00					
19:00 – 22:00	Opening + Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Hold citizenship of a EU, OECD, NATO or Three Seas Initiative (3SI) Member State (including 3SI partner-participant countries Albania, Moldova, Montenegro and Ukraine) and Western Balkan countries;
- Be a final-year university student or hold a completed university degree;
- Excellent command of written and spoken English;
- Full availability for the entire duration of the programme (June 24 – 28, 2026);
- Strong motivation and well-developed communication skills;
- Applicants must be no older than 30 years of age on the starting date of the programme.

PARTICIPANT EXPECTATIONS

- Participants are expected to engage actively and responsibly in all program activities, including:
- Active participation in all discussions, panels, and workshops;
- Constructive contributions to the dialogue, supported by sound arguments and insights;
- Openness to international cooperation and a proactive exchange of experiences ;
- Professional conduct consistent with the standards of an international and diplomatic environment.



PARTICIPATION COSTS

There is **no participation fee** for the Dubrovnik Youth Forum.

The organizer will provide accommodation (4 nights), meals, travel costs and all necessary programme and working materials.

Accommodation

Single rooms have been reserved for participants at the Dubrovnik Student Dormitory.

- Address: Marka Marojice 2, 20000 Dubrovnik, Croatia
- Website: <https://www.unidu.hr/students/ki-dom-2/>

All rooms are fully equipped and tailored to meet the needs of our participants, providing optimal conditions for both rest and work throughout the duration of the Dubrovnik Youth Forum (DYF).

Travel Costs to Dubrovnik

Eligible costs for participants **travelling from outside of Croatia** are limited exclusively to bus transportation or economy-class flights.

For participants **travelling within Croatia**, eligible costs are limited exclusively to bus transportation or organised shuttle transport from Zagreb to Dubrovnik.

Further details regarding travel arrangements, eligible costs and documentation requirements will be provided in the Practical Information Note (PIN).

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applicants are required to complete the form:

limesurvey_srce.hr/DYF26



Required Documentation

- **Curriculum Vitae (CV):** To be submitted in English, not exceeding two (2) pages;
- **Personal Introduction Video:** A brief video in English (maximum duration: 1 minute). Accepted formats: MP4, MOV, or AVI;
- **Written Essay in English:** a response to one of the following questions (maximum 1,000 words), selected at your discretion:

What is the future of multilateralism – restart or re-charge?

Global race for critical raw materials and technological dominance – is there a win-win scenario?

How do regional initiatives, such as the Three Seas Initiative or MED 9, contribute to stability and development in Europe?

What role should international organisations play in addressing today's conflicts? Should their mandate and tools be strengthened, and if so, how?

SELECTION PROCESS

The selection of participants will be based on the following criteria:

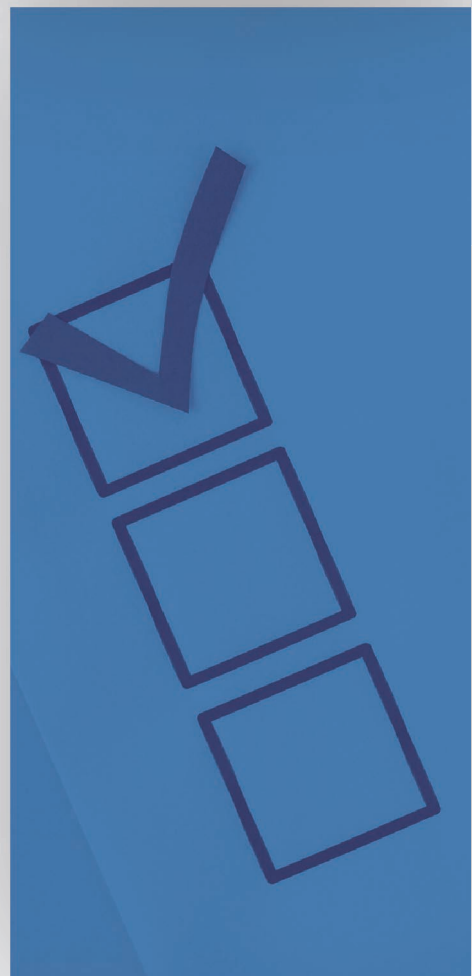
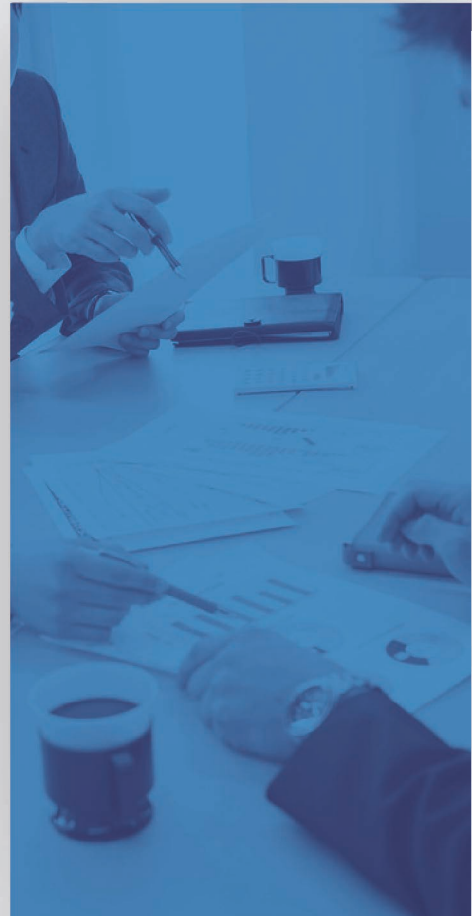
- Evaluation of the application as a whole;
- Clarity, persuasiveness, and the quality of the statement of interest;
- Relevant academic and/or professional background;
- Demonstrated analytical capacity through the written essay;
- Openness to dialogue and readiness for international cooperation.

The selection process is conducted by the Dubrovnik Youth Forum Organizing Working Group, composed of representatives from the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia, the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, and the Ministry of Science, Education, and Youth.

The Organizer reserves the right to verify the authenticity of all submitted documentation at any stage of the process to ensure candidate eligibility in accordance with the prescribed criteria.

In the event of identified irregularities, candidate withdrawal, or failure to meet the application requirements, the Organizer shall invite the next highest-ranked candidates from the reserve list to participate in the DYF.

Selection results will be published on the official website of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs within 5 days of the final decision. Selected participants will also be notified via email.



PROVISIONAL TIMELINE AND KEY DATES

The application process and programme implementation will proceed according to the following schedule:

May 12 – 31, 2026 Call for Participants

June 1 – 5, 2026 Notification of selection results and travel arrangements

June 24 – 28, 2026 Dubrovnik Youth Forum.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information regarding the programme, agenda, speakers and other event-related content, participants are invited to **regularly follow the official websites and communication channels** of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, where all relevant updates and detailed information will be published in due course.

For further inquiries, please contact the Organising team at: dyf@mvep.hr.

We look forward to receiving your applications to welcome you this June in Dubrovnik.

Sincerely,

Organising Team Dubrovnik Youth Forum 2026



SEE YOU IN CROATIA

DUBROVNIK YOUTH FORUM

JUNE 24-28, 2026



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