

EU Affairs Summer Programme for Junior Professionals

9-11 September 2026

Venue:
TBC
Belgrade, Serbia

Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA)

Programme

The Programme is designed to support capacity building among junior professionals or professionals joining the coordination structures for EU accession and/ or EU fund management. It addresses the key aspects of the accession process, focusing on the current state of EU enlargement, the differences between the pre- and post-accession periods, a comprehensive overview of the internal structures, decision-making by EU institutions, and EU law in the context of legislative alignment. In addition, the participants will engage in interactive work and training focused on skill development to turn the theoretical part of the training into practical skills.

The main objective of the training is to support the institutions leading and coordinating the EU accession and integration processes in securing an efficient understanding of the main fields of action toward EU membership, an enhanced knowledge of the key stakeholders and legal frameworks and acquire skills needed to assume more responsibility in their roles as civil servants.

The training will be developed in cooperation with an EU-based institute, school, college, or higher education institution that offers an advanced academic-quality program, and participants who complete the training will be awarded a certificate.

The Programme is designed for civil servants from institutions involved in EU accession/integration in the Western Balkans, Armenia, Moldova, and Ukraine, mostly junior professionals or individuals who have recently joined the EU coordination structures.

WED, September 9, 2026 – Understanding EU Enlargement and Accession

08:45 – 09:00	Arrival & Coffee
09:00 – 09:30	Welcome Addresses Representative of the Ministry of European Integration of Serbia Representative of the Delegation of the EU in Serbia Representative of ReSPa
09:30 – 11:00	Current State of EU Enlargement and the Future of European Integration
11:00 – 11:15	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:15 – 12:45	Architecture of the EU Accession Process
12:45 – 13:30	<i>Lunch Break</i>
13:30 – 15:00	Pre-Accession and Post-Accession: Lessons from Previous Enlargement Rounds

15:00 – 15:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
15:15 – 16:45	Case Study Workshop: Managing the Accession Journey

THU, September 10, 2026 – Understanding How the European Union Works

08:45 – 09:00	Arrival & Coffee
09:00 – 10:30	How the EU Makes Decisions: Institutions and Processes
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Coffee Break</i>
10:45 – 12:15	European Commission: Structure, Processes and Policy Development
12:15 – 13:15	<i>Lunch Break</i>
13:15 – 14:45	EU Law: Sources, Principles and Legal Effects
14:45 – 15:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
15:00 – 17:30	Transposition, Alignment and Compliance in Practice

FRI, September 11, 2026 – Negotiating and Communicating European Integration

08:45 – 09:00	Arrival & Coffee
09:00 – 10:30	Political Communication in the Context of EU Accession
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Coffee Break</i>
10:45 – 12:15	Negotiation and Stakeholder Management in EU Reform Processes
12:15 – 13:15	<i>Lunch Break</i>
13:15 – 14:45	Workshop: Designing Communication Strategies for EU Reform Milestones
14:45 – 15:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
15:00 – 16:30	Simulation Exercise: Negotiating and Communicating a Reform Package
16:30 – 17:00	Closing & Awarding of Certificates – including group photo