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**Call for the selection of 15 diplomats/officials to participate in the European  
Union Diplomatic Programme for the Enlargement Region  
(1 February 2026 – 2 July 2026 - tbc)**



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## 1. Background, objectives and scope

The Directorate-General for Enlargement and the Eastern Neighbourhood (DG ENEST) has set up a European Union Diplomatic Programme for the Enlargement Region (**Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia<sup>1</sup>, Kosovo\*, the Republic of Moldova<sup>2</sup>, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Ukraine and Türkiye**).

The Ministries of Foreign Affairs and other State Ministries and State Institutions of the above-mentioned beneficiaries are the primary target group of this programme. For each of the successive cohorts of the action between **1 and 3 diplomats/officials** of the respective Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and/or other State Ministries and State Institutions will be selected to participate in the programme.<sup>3</sup>

The overall objective of the European Union Diplomatic Programme for the Enlargement Region is to foster regional cooperation among diplomats and officials of the enlargement region and with their EU peers by creating a unified '*esprit de corps*' and strengthening their knowledge in EU affairs. The Programme is especially tailored towards diplomats/officials working in the field of foreign policy (EU Common Foreign and Security Policy - CFSP) and EU accession. Priority is given to Junior diplomats willing to join the programme.

This **call aims to select up to 15 participants** from the enlargement region to participate to the third edition of the programme due to **start on 1 February 2026 and to end on 2 July 2026 (tbc)**.

The European Union Diplomatic Programme for the Enlargement Region is **a full-time residential programme of five months** that will be delivered by the College of Europe, Bruges Campus (Belgium), a world leading post-graduate institute specialised on EU affairs. As such, the programme **requires a physical presence of five months in Bruges**.

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<sup>1</sup> Subject to the evolution of the political situation in the country

<sup>2</sup> Hereinafter referred to as "Moldova"

<sup>3</sup> Participation is open primarily to junior diplomats. Whereas relevant, participation can also be extended to staff from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (and/or other State Ministries and State Institutions), even if they do not have the status of diplomats, provided they work on foreign affairs and EU accession.

\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

Given the full-time nature of the programme, **Ministries of Foreign Affairs and/or other relevant State Ministries and Institutions are expected to support their staff's candidatures throughout the selection process and, if selected, ensure that participants are granted leave from their duties for the full five-month duration of the programme.** The backing of the relevant administrations is essential — not only to encourage applications and enable participation, but also to ensure that the knowledge and experience gained by participants through the programme is shared with their peers for the benefit of the sending institutions.

**The costs for participation in the programme are covered by the College of Europe through funding from DG ENEST** (see Annex 1 for detailed information on costs covered by the programme).

The programme builds upon the successful experience of the European Union Diplomatic Academy (EUDA), implemented by the College of Europe for diplomats of the EU Member States and officials of the EU Institutions. This flagship programme launched by the European External Action Service (EEAS) in 2022 fosters a shared European diplomatic culture and strengthens the expertise on EU external action. The European Union Diplomatic Programme for the Enlargement Region will include joint modules with the EUDA, establishing a framework of exchange between European diplomats from the enlargement region and current EU Member States.

*Annexes 1 and 2* provide comprehensive information on the European Union Diplomatic Programme for the Enlargement Region.

## 2. Eligibility criteria

The European Union Diplomatic Programme for the Enlargement Region is open to diplomats/officials of EU candidate countries and potential candidate countries (**Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia<sup>4</sup>, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Ukraine and Türkiye**) that meet the following criteria:

- a. Enjoy full rights as a citizen of the above-mentioned 10 beneficiaries.
- b. Hold the status of either
  - i. diplomat of one of the beneficiaries who joined the national diplomatic service within the past eight years or

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<sup>4</sup> Subject to the evolution of the political situation in the country

- ii. official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or another State Ministry or State Institution specialised in EU affairs and/or EU accession, who joined the public service within the past eight years

Priority will be given to the application of officials with the status of diplomats.

- c. Be fluent in spoken and written English (C1 level of the [Common European Framework of Reference](#))
- d. Have a level of education that corresponds to completed university studies
- e. Have professional experience in or knowledge of the EU affairs and EU accession
- f. Provide an official letter from their employer (MFA or other State Ministries or State Institutions) authorising to participate in the 5-month European Union Diplomatic Programme for the Enlargement Region from 31 August 2025 to 31 January 2026.

*Other Criteria*

- g. Knowledge of French is considered an asset.

In line with the EU goal to promote Gender Balance and foster women's participation, **this call encourages female diplomats and officials to apply.**

### 3. How to apply

Candidates who meet the criteria listed above will need to send the following documents by **15 November 2025 at 18:00 (CET):**

- CV redacted in English of max. 2 pages highlighting relevant professional experience in the field of EU affairs and/or EU accession
- Motivation letter (max. 1 page)
- Written statement signed by their Head of Department stating that the candidature is endorsed
- Supporting documents (university diploma and language certificate)

Applications must be submitted to the following email address: [info.eudp@coleurope.eu](mailto:info.eudp@coleurope.eu). Please mention in the subject title in the following format "Application\_CallEUDP\_Name\_Country".

The applications need to be submitted in English or be accompanied by an English translation – documents or information provided in any other language will not be considered.

Failure to provide supporting document(s) by the date mentioned above may result in 1) a candidate being considered ineligible or 2) in their specific qualifications or experience not being considered.

#### 4. Selection process

A committee composed of three members from the College of Europe, implementing the programme on behalf of DG ENEST, will review the candidatures and draft a preliminary list of selected candidates.

The committee will pay particular attention to maximising chances in composing cohorts that are gender balanced.

Should candidatures present any unclear elements, the selection committee reserves the right to ask clarifications to the competent Ministry in the beneficiary.

The European Commission - DG ENEST will approve the final list of participants.

Once the final list of candidates is approved, the selection committee will contact successful candidates, indicating the date for an online info session where all information, including administrative, logistical information as well as visa requirements will be provided. Candidates will need to confirm via email the participation and acknowledge the conditions of participation.

#### 5. Timetable and deadlines

|                                                                                                                                                                  |  |                               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| <b>Deadline for applications</b>                                                                                                                                 |  | <b>15/11/2025 18h00 (CET)</b> |
| <b>Confirmation of selection to the successful candidates</b>                                                                                                    |  | <b>30/11/2025</b>             |
| <b>Organisation of an info session on the programme, including administrative and logistics information for candidates to prepare their departure to Belgium</b> |  | <b>By 07/12/2025</b>          |
| <b>Arrival of the participants on campus</b>                                                                                                                     |  | <b>1/02/2026</b>              |
| <b>Kick-off of the European Union Diplomatic Programme for the Enlargement Region</b>                                                                            |  | <b>02/02/2026</b>             |



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## **6. Questions and clarifications**

Candidates can send any request for clarifications on the application and selection process to the functional e-mail box: [info.eudp@coleurope.eu](mailto:info.eudp@coleurope.eu).

## **7. Data protection**

By submitting the application, candidates consent to have their personal data being processed for the purpose of the selection process. Candidates acknowledge that their data, including data provided by referees and employers/Ministries can be contacted for verification purposes, will be processed by the College of Europe.

All information will be treated with the utmost confidentiality and in line with the current data process regulations.

For more information on how the College of Europe handles information of applicants and how candidates can exercise their rights, please see our privacy notice here: <https://www.coleurope.eu/privacy>.

## Annex 1 – Info Sheet on the European Union Diplomatic Programme for the Enlargement Region

### 1. The European Union Diplomatic Programme for the Enlargement Region

The Directorate-General for Enlargement and the Eastern Neighbourhood (DG ENEST) has set up a European Union Diplomatic Programme (hereafter the Programme) for the enlargement region (**Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia<sup>5</sup>, Kosovo<sup>\*</sup>, the Republic of Moldova<sup>6</sup>, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Ukraine and Türkiye**).

Diplomats and/or officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and/or other State Ministries and State Institutions of the 10 beneficiaries are the target group of the Programme. The selection criteria are listed in the *call for the selection of 15 diplomats/ officials to participate in the European Union Diplomatic Programme for the Enlargement Region*.

The Programme is implemented in **six editions** over a period of **three years (2025 – 2028)**. The Second edition is currently ongoing (**29 August 2025- 31 January 2026**). **The third edition will take place from the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 2026 and end on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 2026** and will be open to up to **15 participants** from the enlargement region.

The European Union Diplomatic Programme for the Enlargement Region is **a full-time residential programme of five months** that will be delivered by the College of Europe in Bruges (Belgium), a world leading post-graduate institute specialised in EU affairs.

The Programme focuses on EU external action and EU accession and uses a variety of learning methods:

- Group work
- Simulation games and role plays, in particular to practice negotiation skills
- Case studies
- The drafting of individual and group papers, briefings, information notes and reports
- Oral presentations
- Debates on current affairs
- Classroom discussions
- Exposure activities: networking events and exchanges, study visits and meetings and talks with senior guests.

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<sup>5</sup> Subject to the evolution of the political situation in the country

<sup>6</sup> Hereafter referred as Moldova

<sup>\*</sup>This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence



The overall **objective** of the European Union Diplomatic Programme for the Enlargement Region is to foster regional cooperation among the selected junior diplomats – and with their EU peers – by creating a unified '*esprit de corps*' and strengthening their knowledge in EU affairs. The Programme is especially tailored towards junior diplomats/officials working in the field of foreign policy (EU Common Foreign and Security Policy - CFSP) and EU accession. In view of the full-time formula, Ministries of Foreign Affairs and/or other State Ministries and Agencies will need to support the candidature of their staff and ensure that, if selected, candidates will be authorized to leave their workplace for a period of five months.

The Programme builds upon the successful experience of the European Union Diplomatic Academy (EUDA), implemented by the College of Europe for junior diplomats of the EU Member States and EU Institutions. This flagship programme, launched by the European External Action Service in 2022, fosters a shared European diplomatic culture and strengthens the expertise on EU external action.

## 2. Costs covered by the European Union Diplomatic Programme for the Enlargement Region

The whole European Union Diplomatic Programme for the Enlargement Region will be held in a **residential format: each cohort will study and live together**. The College of Europe, through the funding of the European Commission - DG ENEST, will finance the **lodging of each participant** from the first day to the last day of the five-month training programme, and meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) except for weekends (Saturdays and Sundays) and Belgian bank holidays (*List of public holidays 2025-2026 is provided in Annex 2*). Accommodation will be foreseen in Bruges (Belgium) for the five months. The action will also cover the costs related to **transport** for the study visits as well as one-week module in Poland, implemented by the College of Europe in Natolin (Warsaw) during the last week of the programme (26 June – 2 July 2026 tbc).

The following table includes the list of costs that are covered by the European Union Diplomatic Programme and of those that will have to be covered by the National Authority (MFA or other State Ministry and Agency) of the beneficiary country or the participant directly.

### Costs covered by the European Union Diplomatic Programme for the Enlargement Region

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| Transport costs from the nearest international airports (Brussels Airport Zaventem or Brussels South-Charleroi Airport) or international train station (Brussels-Midi) to the Bruges Campus                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | ✓ |
| Full lodging/ accommodation for the 5 months programme at the College of Europe <b>Spanjaardstraat</b> residence                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | ✓ |
| Breakfast, lunch and dinner during the week (Monday to Friday)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | ✓ |
| Local transport costs for study visits to the EU Institutions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | ✓ |
| Travel costs, accommodation and meals for study visits outside Brussels (e.g. Luxembourg, Strasbourg, Wien, Natolin etc.)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | ✓ |
| Costs for the participation to social activities organised in the framework of the European Union Diplomatic Programme<br><i>(Each cohort will benefit from a guided tour of Bruges and will be welcomed by the Mayor during an evening reception at the City Hall. Other social activities will include a visit to the Groeninge museum, a tour of a local brewery and a boat trip on the canals of Bruges. At least one social activity and one official dinner per month will be also organized under the programme).</i> | ✓ |

| Costs NOT covered by the European Union Diplomatic Programme for the Enlargement Region                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| International transport from the home countries (or place of posting / residence) to the nearest international airports (Brussels Airport Zaventem or Brussels South Charleroi Airport) or international railway station (Brussels-Midi) for the start of the edition |    |
| Transport costs at the end of the programme to the home countries of participants (or their next place of posting)                                                                                                                                                    |    |
| Travel costs for holidays, weekends and for personal purposes (e.g. return to the home country for medical appointments, etc.)                                                                                                                                        |    |
| Meals on weekends (Saturdays and Sundays) and bank holidays                                                                                                                                                                                                           |   |
| Administrative fees for Schengen visa application                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  |

## 2.1 Additional information on the lodging

**The Spanjaardstraat residence is fully accessible for persons with disabilities or with reduced mobility.** The residence features large corridors, and a lift is available from the ground floor. Three of the ground floor rooms are wheelchair accessible and have adapted toilet, sink and shower. One of the common toilets is also wheelchair accessible.

**Free high-speed Wi-Fi** is available throughout the building 24/7.

**Access to the building is restricted** to residents and staff who will get a dedicated badge (a magnetic C-Card). Each participant will also be given a key to their room. Every room has its own door phone. The premises are also protected via security cameras.

**A residence warden** is responsible for the coordination of the maintenance of the residence, takes care of the daily breakfasts and is available to provide support to participants. The residence warden and the housekeeping team are in charge of maintaining order and cleanliness in the residence.

**Bike sheds** are available at the Spanjaardstraat residence.

A video tour of the residence is available here: <https://youtu.be/MfeJD3MRLcM>.

### 3. The curriculum

The Programme of each edition will be structured as follows:

1. **Five months will be dedicated to classroom teaching and study visits** to the European Commission, including DG ENEST, and other EU Institutions related to European external action and EU enlargement policies.
2. **One week of study visits in Poland** (organised by the College of Europe in Natolin, Warsaw), including exposure activities to gain insights on EU external action from a Central European perspective, visits to the **Ukrainian border** (to witness first-hand the impact of Russia's war) as well as team building/team consolidation and reflection elements.
3. **One week of international study visits**, to the EU Institutions in Luxembourg and Strasbourg and to the diplomatic academies of the EU Member States (e.g. Wien)

The training programme will be delivered in **English**. The learning courses and materials will be produced in English. For this reason, a knowledge of English equivalent to the **C1 level** of the [Common European Framework of Reference](#) (CEFR) is compulsory for participating in the Programme.

Each edition will include the following activities:

- **30 hours of training activities per week during 20 full weeks** (approximately 100 full course days of 6 hours each, for a total of approximately 600 hours of training activities per edition).
  - Lectures including interactive elements and practical case studies
  - A weekly debriefing session with the team
  - Current affairs sessions with the Rector of the College of Europe
  - Workshops and role-plays focussing on skills (communication, negotiations, drafting skills, mediation, etc.)
  - Up to **20 days of study visits** (average of one study visit day per week), mostly in Brussels. These exposure activities will consist in visits to DG ENEST, the European External Action Service, to other EU Institutions, to international organisations, think tanks, media, civil society organisations, etc.
  - Two **simulation exercises** (of one week each) including on preparing an EU Foreign Affairs Council and on EU Accession
  - Optional evening **language classes**: each participant will be able to benefit from 20 hours of French classes (on average, two hours per week). The language classes are foreseen as an addition to the 600 hours of training activities.
- **Monthly social and cultural events.**
- **Monthly official dinners (or lunches)** with high-level guests and fireside chats.



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- An **opening ceremony** and a **closing ceremony** for each cohort.

The training modules (lectures, workshops, etc.) will be delivered by a pool of senior lecturers, most of them practitioners in diplomatic affairs based in Brussels and abroad.



## Annex 2 – List of Public Holidays – 2026

- 19/12/2025 – 04/01/2026 Winter break
- Monday, 06/04/2026 – Easter Monday
- Friday, 01/05/2026 – Labor Day
- Thursday, 14/05/2026 – Ascension Day
- Monday, 25/05/2026 – Whit Monday (Pentecost Monday)
- Tuesday, 21/07/2026 – National Day
- Saturday, 15/08/2026 – Assumption
- Sunday, 01/11/2026 – All Saints' Day
- Wednesday, 11/11/2026 – Armistice Day
- Friday, 25/12 – Christmas