



PRESIDENT IVANOV'S SCHOOL  
FOR YOUNG LEADERS

# The Project: School for Young Leaders of President Ivanov

since 2010





# About The Project

The International Training for Young Leaders which is held for 16 years under the auspices of Prof. Dr. Gjorge Ivanov, President of the Republic of Macedonia 2009- 2019, has grown into a recognizable and established brand, School for Young Leaders of President Ivanov.



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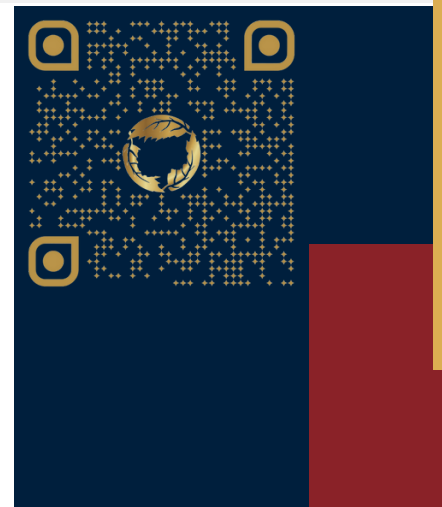
Learn more about the inspiring experts and professionals who share their knowledge and experiences to guide the next generation of leaders.

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# School for Young Leaders

OF PRESIDENT IVANOV

*“Leadership means influence because a leader without influence is a person without authority.*

*I will give you a personal example...*

*I became President thanks to my students who became politicians and decision-makers.*

*And what does a professor do when he becomes President?*

*The answer is simple. He opens his own school.”*



**DR. GJORGE IVANOV**

President of the Republic of Macedonia 2009-2019  
Founder of the School for Young Leaders

*receiving the 2018 Grand Award for the Best World Leader Investing in a New Generation by the World Business Angels Investment Forum*

# The Project

## INTERNATIONAL TRAINING FOR YOUNG LEADERS

A Legacy Program Under the Auspices of Prof. Dr. Gjorge Ivanov  
President of the Republic of Macedonia (2009–2019)

### 🏠 A Recognizable and Established Brand

For **16 consecutive years**, the International Training for Young Leaders, held under the auspices of President Ivanov, has grown into a distinguished and widely respected leadership program.

Today, it is known by its established short name: **the School for Young Leaders of President Ivanov.**

**The School for Young Leaders is a visionary project initiated by President Ivanov in his 2009 electoral program.** It was created to support young, talented, and ambitious individuals from Macedonia and from abroad by enabling them to:

- 🌟 Upgrade and refine their skills
- 🌟 Develop creativity and innovation
- 🌟 Strengthen managerial and leadership capacities
- 🌟 Grow into responsible citizens ready to contribute to society

2010

### 🏛️ A Tradition Since 2010

Since its establishment in 2010, the School has been organized annually, maintaining excellence in content, structure, and mentorship.

### 👉 Supported by the Private Sector

The School is made possible primarily through the generous support of the private sector, whose commitment confirms the importance of investing in education, leadership, and the future of Macedonia.



16

SCHOOLS /  
PROGRAMS

625

PARTICIPANTS

447

LECTURERS

### 👤 Who We Have Trained

Across 16 editions, the program has brought together:

- 625 young people from Macedonia and abroad
- Participants with diverse academic and professional backgrounds
- United by shared values, ambitions, and leadership potential

### 🌐 World-Class Lecturers

Over the years, the School has cooperated with:

- 447 international and domestic lecturers
- Distinguished professors, diplomats, policymakers, CEOs, innovators, and experts who shape global discourse
- Their insights elevate the learning experience and provide unparalleled exposure to world-class knowledge.

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# The Project

## INTERNATIONAL TRAINING FOR YOUNG LEADERS

A Legacy Program Under the Auspices of Prof. Dr. Gjorge Ivanov  
President of the Republic of Macedonia (2009–2019)

### MISSION



The mission of the School is to stimulate positive values among young leaders and future political, cultural, and economic leaders of our country and develop their capacity to meet the challenges of global technology, international competition, and cultural and religious diversification.

### VISION



The vision of the School for Young Leaders, as a training center with high standards and responsibility for the integration of the modern political, scientific and technological knowledge and skills, is to establish a new model in the leaders' education and advancement of their personal and leadership skills in their living and working environments.



### TARGET GROUP

The program is intended for young people with higher education, under the age of 35, graduates, and young professionals.



### PROGRAM CONTENT

Through lectures, simulations, real examples, illustrations, practical exercises and training, the students are given the opportunity to become familiar with the practices of true leadership.



### ORGANIZERS

The Cabinet of former President Ivanov is organizing the School for Young Leaders together with the Ivanov School for Leaders - Alumni Association (ISLAA) and the International Center Alliance of Civilizations (ICAC).

# School for Young Leaders

OF PRESIDENT IVANOV



In 2018, the School for Young Leaders of President Ivanov was recognized as

**“The Best Socially Responsible Project in Europe for 2017”**

by the World Business Angels Investment Forum.



In 2018, **President Gjorge Ivanov** for his project - the **School for Young Leaders of President Ivanov** - received the prestigious recognition:

**“The Best Leader of the World Investing in the New Generations”**

awarded by the World Business Angels Investment Forum.

## WBAF WORLD CONGRESS 2018

19 FEB 2018

WORLD EXCELLENCE AWARDS

BEST LEADER

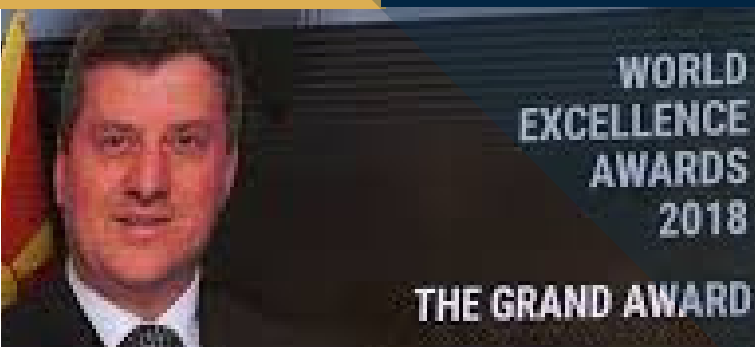
**His Excellency Dr Gjorgje Ivanov**

*President of the Republic of Macedonia*

THE BEST LEADER OF THE WORLD INVESTING IN THE NEW GENERATION

This recognition holds **exceptional value** for the School for Young Leaders, as **it affirms the impact and integrity of its mission.**

It serves as a **strong encouragement to continue investing in new generations** and **shaping future leaders with vision, responsibility, and purpose.**



# School for Young Leaders

OF PRESIDENT IVANOV

*” The School aims to shape individuals who rise to their full height – who meet the highest standards and excel in their chosen fields.*

*We do not need leaders only in politics; we need people who can lead in business, education, sports, culture, and every sphere of everyday life.*

*We need young people with self-confidence, who understand **how** to make decisions, and who know **when** to decide, **where** to decide, and **with whom** to decide. “*



**DR. GJORGE IVANOV**

President of the Republic of Macedonia 2009-2019  
Founder of the School for Young Leaders

# The Co-organizers

The **Cabinet of former President Ivanov** is organizing the School for Young Leaders together with the **Ivanov School for Leaders - Alumni Association (ISLAA)** and the **International Center Alliance of Civilizations (ICAC)**.



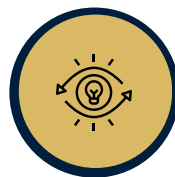
## IVANOV SCHOOL OF LEADERS – ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (ISLAA)

ISLAA is a long-standing partner of the School for Young Leaders, connecting alumni across generations and empowering leadership rooted in values.



### MISSION

Promote leadership values, support alumni engagement, and foster community impact through action, education, and cooperation.



### VISION

To become a strongly interconnected Alumni Association and an influential leadership entity.



### WHAT DOES ISLAA DO?

- Maintains long-term relationships among alumni
- Promotes leadership values and community spirit
- Supports School initiatives with innovative programs
- Organizes trainings, seminars, and conferences
- Collaborates with state institutions for national development



### CORE PRINCIPLES

- SOLIDARITY • EQUALITY •
- MUTUAL RESPECT •

Alumni members share a moral and collective responsibility to uphold these principles while advancing ISLAA's goals.

**ISLAA plays a key role in generating solutions for today's challenges.**

Its commitment to leadership in all sectors aligns with the broader vision of the School for Young Leaders — to stimulate progress through collaboration and interdisciplinary action.

# The Co-organizers

The **Cabinet of former President Ivanov** is organizing the School for Young Leaders together with the **Ivanov School for Leaders - Alumni Association (ISLAA)** and the **International Center Alliance of Civilizations (ICAC)**.

## IVANOV SCHOOL OF LEADERS – ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (ISLAA)

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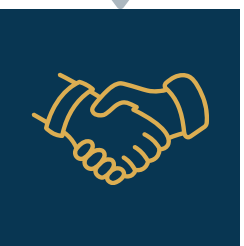
### A Values-Driven Alumni Network

ISLAA is fully devoted to fulfilling its vision, mission, and statute by implementing innovative initiatives. Alumni members bear a moral and collective responsibility to support ISLAA's activities and uphold the universal principles of solidarity, equality, and mutual respect.



### Alumni Involvement in Real Solutions

ISLAA members are actively involved in processes that aim to generate solutions to current societal challenges and improve infrastructure across sectors. Their engagement reflects a strong commitment to interdisciplinary action and progress.



### Cooperation with State Institutions

ISLAA organizes a wide range of trainings, seminars, and conferences in collaboration with state bodies and institutions. These efforts aim to create impact through mutual cooperation and to address national development priorities.

# The Co-organizers

The **Cabinet of former President Ivanov** is organizing the School for Young Leaders together with the **Ivanov School for Leaders - Alumni Association (ISLAA)** and the **International Center Alliance of Civilizations (ICAC)**.



## INTERNATIONAL CENTER ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS (ICAC)

ICAC is a foundation committed to fostering respect, tolerance, and inclusive dialogue across societies.



## MISSION



### Countering Division and Promoting Unity

The ICAC works to combat harmful divisions, polarization, and extremism within and among societies by embracing diversity of beliefs, personalities, and languages.

The ICAC pursues its objectives through a three-fold approach:



#### Inclusive Dialogue & Joint Action

ICAC brings together diverse stakeholders in open, respectful dialogue. This fosters collaboration to advance peace and progress across communities.



#### Conflict Management & Reconciliation Tools

The organization develops tools and platforms for sustainable conflict resolution and reconciliation, helping societies manage differences constructively.



#### Global Engagement & Collaboration

ICAC actively contributes to global missions like the UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and other international institutions, amplifying its work on a worldwide scale.

# The Co-organizers

The **Cabinet of former President Ivanov** is organizing the School for Young Leaders together with the **Ivanov School for Leaders - Alumni Association (ISLAA)** and the **International Center Alliance of Civilizations (ICAC)**.

## INTERNATIONAL CENTER ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS (ICAC)

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### A "Do-Tank" in Action

Unlike traditional "think-tanks," the ICAC is a "do-tank" – engaging in practical, on-the-ground action. It hosts and mobilizes real-world initiatives, not just theoretical dialogue.



### A Platform for Global Voices

The ICAC serves as a crucial meeting point for state leaders, religious figures, politicians, civil society representatives, academics, and media professionals on both regional and global scales.



### Focus on the Balkans (With Comparative Lens)

While international in scope, the ICAC's core geographic focus is the Balkans. It draws upon comparative insights from the Middle East and Caucasus, regions marked by overlapping interests of global and regional powers.

By addressing complex regional dynamics and fostering cooperation, ICAC contributes to peace, understanding, and unity in a world often fragmented by history and division.



# School for Young Leaders

**A Legacy of Leadership Education - A transformative leadership program established in 2010 to empower future leaders through education, dialogue, and international collaboration.**



## **A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP**

Founded in 2010 in Ohrid, the School for Young Leaders was initiated by President Dr. Gjorge Ivanov during his first term in office.



## **2010–2019: 10 YEARS UNDER PRESIDENTIAL MANDATE**

During President Ivanov's two terms (2009–2019), the School was organized annually, resulting in 10 successful editions focused on developing future leaders.



## **2020–2025: CONTINUING THE MISSION**

Following the end of his presidency, the School continued under his auspices. From 2020 to 2025, an additional 6 Schools for Young Leaders have been held, continuing the mission of empowering new generations.



## **EVOLVING STRUCTURE WITH CONSISTENT VISION**

Since its founding in 2010, the School for Young Leaders has continuously adapted to the needs of participants and the global environment—while preserving its core commitment to leadership education.

- The first nine editions (2010–2018) were held in August during the summer season in Ohrid.
- The 10th School took place in winter 2019, marking a shift in format and timing.
- In 2020, the 11th edition was held entirely online due to global circumstances.
- Since 2021, the School has adopted a hybrid format, combining online sessions with in-person activities in Ohrid, maximizing flexibility and participation.

The School typically spans 10 full days, offering an immersive, full-time program designed to foster engaged, reflective, and practical leadership development.



## **2026: PREPARING FOR THE 17TH SCHOOL**

Building on 16 successful editions, preparations are underway for the 17th School for Young Leaders. The next edition will continue to evolve the program, integrating fresh perspectives, new partnerships, and broader international engagement, carrying the legacy forward into a new decade of leadership development.



## **EXPLORING LEADERSHIP THROUGH DIVERSE APPROACHES**

The School's curriculum is built around a multidisciplinary model that combines academic depth with practical relevance.

Participants explore leadership through a wide variety of learning formats, including:

- ◆ Lectures and expert panels
- ◆ Simulations and case studies
- ◆ Interactive workshops and training sessions
- ◆ Practical group projects and peer collaboration
- ◆ Field visits and real-world illustrations

The content spans the fields of business, political, social, and military leadership, equipping participants with a well-rounded foundation.

Speakers and trainers include a distinguished roster of professors, diplomats, ministers, ambassadors, parliamentarians, and business leaders from Macedonia and across Europe.

# School for Young Leaders

A Legacy of Leadership Education - A transformative leadership program established in 2010 to empower future leaders through education, dialogue, and international collaboration.



## The School's Method

From Insight to Action:  
Cultivating Future Leaders for a Better World

1

### Analysis

The School identifies challenges through expert consultations, ensuring programs are relevant and timely.

2

### Identifying the Problem

Many young individuals lack access to interdisciplinary leadership education, creating a critical gap in skill development.

3

### The Proposal

Each year, programs unite emerging leaders and mentors to explore solutions rooted in values and responsibility.

4

### Program Design

The curriculum focuses on themes like diplomacy and innovation for a diverse learning experience.

5

### Development

Participants enhance leadership skills through lectures, workshops, and collaborative projects across cultures.

6

### Final Delivery

Graduates of the School join a strong international alumni network, using their experience to create positive change in their communities and lead with integrity wherever they go.

# School for Young Leaders

A Legacy of Leadership Education - A transformative leadership program established in 2010 to empower future leaders through education, dialogue, and international collaboration.

## The School's Program Flow

Where Knowledge Meets Practice and Leadership Begins

### Preparatory Phase (Warm Up)

Prior to arrival, selected participants receive detailed preparatory materials, including the program overview, reading lists, travel and logistics information, and a guide to the School's expectations. This phase ensures all participants arrive well-informed and aligned with the School's mission. It may also include introductory webinars or online lectures, welcome messages from organizers or alumni to build early engagement.

01



### Program Launch & Welcome

The School begins with an official Opening Ceremony, marking the formal start of the program. Participants are welcomed by President Dr. Gjorge Ivanov, whose vision and leadership have shaped the School since its inception. The ceremony typically features guest speakers, including dignitaries, high-ranking officials, and academics from Macedonia and abroad. This moment sets the tone for the week ahead, emphasizing leadership, responsibility, and global awareness.

02



### Orientation & Code of Conduct

Following the launch, participants attend an Orientation Session led by the Moderator. This session outlines the structure of the program, logistical details, and expectations for participant conduct. A Code of Conduct is presented to ensure a respectful and professional environment. Participants receive an overview of daily schedules, venues, and support services, helping them to settle in and begin building connections with peers and mentors.

03



### Lectures & Core Content

At the heart of the School is a rigorous 8–9 day program of lectures and presentations delivered by a distinguished group of speakers: professors, diplomats, business leaders, ministers, and other experts from Europe and beyond. The curriculum explores leadership through multiple lenses—political, military, social, and business—offering both theoretical foundations and real-world perspectives. Sessions often include case studies, discussions, and simulations, encouraging participant interaction and applied learning.

04



### Workshops & Practical Training

In addition to lectures, the School offers hands-on workshops and training modules designed to develop core leadership competencies. Participants engage in activities that strengthen skills such as strategic thinking, negotiation, communication, public speaking, and team collaboration. These sessions are led by professional trainers and are designed to reflect current global leadership challenges and opportunities.

05



# School for Young Leaders

A transformative leadership program established in 2010 to empower future leaders through education, dialogue, and international collaboration.

## The School's Program Flow

Where Knowledge Meets Practice and Leadership Begins

### Group Project Work

To foster collaboration and practical application, participants are divided into working groups to develop a project on a topic aligned with the School's annual theme. This assignment encourages teamwork, critical thinking, and creativity. Projects are presented at the end of the program and often explore real-world problems in leadership, governance, innovation, or diplomacy. The group work strengthens bonds between participants and simulates real leadership environments.

06



### ISLAA Alumni Session

Each year, the Ivanov School of Leaders - Alumni Association (ISLAA) hosts a dedicated session for participants. ISLAA introduces its mission, structure, ongoing projects, and alumni engagement opportunities. This is a chance for participants to learn from former graduates and see how the experience of the School continues to influence careers and initiatives across sectors. Participants are warmly invited to become active members of the Alumni Association.

08



### Closing Ceremony & Certificates

The School concludes with a formal Closing Ceremony, a celebration of the journey the participants have undertaken. This final event includes remarks from President Ivanov, reflections from selected participants and organizers, and guest speeches from diplomats or prominent figures. Participants who have fulfilled the program's expectations are awarded a Certificate of Completion, symbolizing their entry into the network of Young Leaders alumni. The ceremony marks a powerful transition—from a shared experience of growth to a commitment to leadership in action. It is often an emotional and inspiring moment that reflects on the transformation, friendships, and shared vision developed during the program.

10



### Impression & Evaluation Session

Near the end of the program, participants take part in an Impression Session—a structured space to share reflections, feedback, and personal experiences. This is followed by a formal evaluation, where participants complete a survey that helps the organizers continuously improve the quality and impact of the School. The session highlights the diversity of experiences and perspectives gained during the program and often sparks meaningful final discussions.

07



### Cultural Program & Networking Activities

In addition to its academic rigor, the School integrates a vibrant cultural and social program to enrich the participant experience. Activities include a guided walking tour of Ohrid, visits to UNESCO heritage sites, cultural performances, and informal networking events with alumni, speakers, and mentors. These moments of cultural immersion and social interaction help participants build meaningful connections, foster intercultural understanding, and experience the rich heritage of Macedonia. The relaxed, scenic setting of Lake Ohrid creates a natural environment for dialogue and exchange beyond formal sessions.

09



# School for Young Leaders

A Legacy of Leadership Education

## TIMELINE 2010–2025



# School for Young Leaders

A Legacy of Leadership Education

## TIMELINE 2010–2025



# School for Young Leaders

## Program Highlights: Beyond the Classroom

While lectures and training are central to the School for Young Leaders, almost each generation also participates in carefully curated field visits, international forums, special addresses, and events that enrich the educational experience and connect participants with global institutions, leaders, and ideas.

### Field Visits & Leadership Encounters



#### INDUSTRY TOUR IN PRILEP

Participants visited the companies **Comfy Angel, Mikrosam, and Vitaminka**, learning from successful Macedonian enterprises.

2018



#### VISIT TO THE MUNICIPALITY OF OHRID

The 13th generation was officially welcomed by the Mayor of Ohrid, offering a local governance perspective.

2022



#### VISIT TO THE MUNICIPALITY OF PUSTEC, ALBANIA

A meaningful cultural exchange with Macedonians living in Albania, including meetings with local leaders and residents.

2015



#### VISIT TO NEW ISTANBUL AIRPORT

The 10th generation explored one of Europe's largest infrastructure projects, gaining insight into global aviation and logistics.

2019

### Global Engagement & Diplomatic Moments



To His Excellency Gjorge Ivanov  
Former President of the Republic of North Macedonia

they will be receptive to that wisdom spoken of by Saint Paul in his First Letter to the Corinthians: "If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing" (13:1-2).

#### MESSAGE FROM POPE FRANCIS

A special letter from His Holiness Pope Francis on the theme of "Moral Leadership" opened the 13th School's program.

2022



#### OPENING OF THE 15TH JUBILEE SCHOOL

The 15th School for Young Leaders was officially opened by President Dr. Gjorge Ivanov and former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon.

2024



#### UN SECRETARY-GENERAL BAN KI-MOON

The 3rd generation received a personal address from H.E. Ban Ki-Moon, followed by a reception at Villa Biljana, the presidential summer residence.

2012



#### AUDIENCE WITH POPE FRANCIS

President Ivanov and School representatives attended the General Audience at the Vatican, where he presented the "Moral Leader of Today" recognition to Pope Francis.

2023

# School for Young Leaders

## Program Highlights: Beyond the Classroom

While lectures and training are central to the School for Young Leaders, almost each generation also participates in carefully curated field visits, international forums, special addresses, and events that enrich the educational experience and connect participants with global institutions, leaders, and ideas.

### Cultural Diplomacy in Action & Late-night Masterclasses



#### NIGHT OWL INSPIRATION: THE STORY BEHIND SILJAN Late-Night Masterclass in Creativity

In one of the most memorable sessions of the year, participants were treated to a Night Owl Session with celebrated Macedonian director Tamara Kotevska (Oscar-nominated for Honeyland) and independent producer Jordanco Petkovski.

They shared the story and behind-the-scenes journey of their new film, *Siljan*, which received international recognition and awards in 2024.

Through intimate storytelling, discussion, and exclusive video material, the session brought creative leadership to life—reminding all participants that vision, courage, and culture are essential tools of transformative leadership.

2024

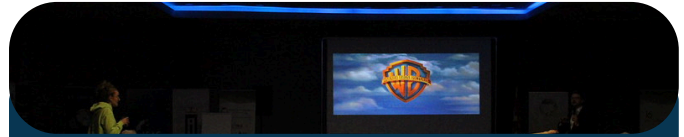


#### 2ND FORUM ON CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

2024

As part of the 15th School for Young Leaders, the 2nd Forum on Cultural Diplomacy was held in Ohrid, October 12–13, 2024. Co-organized by the Cabinet of former President Ivanov, the International Center for the Alliance of Civilizations (ICAC), and the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy (ICD) in Berlin, the forum focused on: “Young Leaders for International Cooperation, Sustainable Development, and Global Peace”

Young participants from the 15th generation actively engaged in meaningful dialogue, asking questions, and contributing to a shared vision for peaceful international collaboration.



#### FILM SCREENING & THEMATIC DIALOGUE

2025

As part of the 16th School for Young Leaders, participants attended a screening of a film that reflected the School's general theme. The screening was followed by a moderated group discussion, where participants explored key leadership lessons, ethical dilemmas, and societal implications highlighted in the film.

### Leading by Doing: Lessons in Practice and Purpose



#### EMPOWERING LEADERS, SUSTAINING THE FUTURE

2025

As part of the 16th School for Young Leaders, this year's ecological action carried a powerful message: true leadership extends beyond words and decisions—it's rooted in action, care, and legacy. Under the joint motto “Empowering Leaders, Sustaining the Future,” young participants joined forces with Eko Fluid in a meaningful initiative to restore the olive grove at Gorica Hill, Ohrid. This symbolic act reaffirmed the School's commitment to building not only strong leaders but also a more sustainable and peaceful world. Every tree planted was a pledge to the future, a reminder that leadership begins with responsibility—to the environment, to future generations, and to the shared values of peace, resilience, and long-term vision.

# School for Young Leaders

OF PRESIDENT IVANOV

*“The goal is not to create people who will compete, but to create people who will collaborate. The goal is not to teach people how to memorise, but how to use data and information? The social capital created through networking, closeness, and the exchange of experiences has much more value.”*

## DR. GJORGE IVANOV

President of the Republic of Macedonia 2009-2019  
Founder of the School for Young Leaders



# PARTICIPANTS: The Heart of the School

Young Leaders from Across Borders and Backgrounds

## WHO ARE THE PARTICIPANTS?

Since its establishment, the School for Young Leaders has welcomed **over 625 participants**.

They come **from Macedonia and more than 40 countries worldwide**.

Participants come from **a wide range of academic disciplines and professional sectors—from social sciences and technical sciences, to natural sciences and the humanities**.

They include:

- **Diplomats and public administration professionals**
- **Entrepreneurs and business leaders**
- **Civil society actors and nonprofit organizers**
- **Media professionals, artists, educators, and researchers**
- **Sociologists, engineers, medical doctors, historians, and more**

**Despite their diverse fields,  
the participants are united  
by a shared purpose:**

**TO GROW AS ETHICAL, VISIONARY,  
AND RESPONSIBLE LEADERS  
COMMITTED TO SHAPING A BETTER  
FUTURE.**



# PARTICIPANTS: The Heart of the School

## Young Leaders from Across Borders and Backgrounds

### Joining a Network of Future Leaders

The School for Young Leaders is open to outstanding young individuals from the Republic of Macedonia and abroad who are passionate about leadership and committed to making a positive impact in their communities and professions.



### 5 Five key requirements ensure candidates are well-prepared for leadership roles and challenges.

- **English proficiency** – Excellent written and spoken command of English
- **Education** – Applicants must have completed higher education
- **Academic performance** – A GPA of 8.5 or higher (or international equivalent) is an advantage
- **Professional experience** – Previous work experience and/or a master’s degree in a relevant field will be considered a plus
- **Age limit** – Open to individuals under 35 years of age

#### English Proficiency

All participants must demonstrate excellent written and spoken command of English.

Strong communication skills in English are essential, as the entire program—including lectures, discussions, and group work—is conducted exclusively in English.

#### Relevant experience

Prior work or master’s degree preferred

Previous work experience or a master’s degree strengthens an applicant’s profile significantly.

#### Education

Applicants must have completed higher education

Applicants must have at minimum a bachelor’s degree (BA or equivalent diploma).

#### Under 35

Age limit for applicants

Candidates must be under 35 years to ensure fresh perspectives.

#### 8.5+

Minimum GPA requirement for applicants

A GPA of 8.5 or higher demonstrates academic excellence.



Meeting these criteria is essential for candidates aspiring to join the School for Young Leaders, ensuring that applicants possess the necessary qualifications, dedication, and vision to thrive in a leadership role.



# PARTICIPANTS: The Heart of the School

## Young Leaders from Across Borders and Backgrounds



### Becoming a Young Leader

Participants are selected not only for their academic and professional achievements, but also for their motivation to lead with purpose, contribute to their communities, and engage in lifelong learning. Becoming part of the School means joining a vibrant, international network of visionary changemakers, united by the shared goal of shaping a better, more sustainable future.

#### Short Biography (CV)

Outlining education, experience, and achievements

#### Transcript or Diploma

As proof of completed higher education

4

Applicants must submit the following materials as part of their application package:

- **A short biography (CV)** outlining education, experience, and achievements
- **A transcript of records or diploma** as proof of completed higher education
- **Two references** from a university, organization, or employer who can attest to the applicant's qualifications
- **A motivational letter or essay** (up to 800 words, in English) reflecting on the School's annual theme and the applicant's interpretation of it

**All documents must be submitted in English.**

#### 2 References

From a university, organization, or employer who can attest to the applicant's qualifications

#### 800 words Motivational Letter or Essay

Reflecting on the School's annual theme and the applicant's interpretation of it (up to 800 words, in English)

The School for Young Leaders emphasizes diversity in education, gender, and professional backgrounds to create well-rounded future leaders who can address global challenges effectively.



# LECTURERS: The Spirit of the School

Voices of Experience, Wisdom, and Vision



## DISTINGUISHED LECTURERS & GLOBAL LEADERS

### Enriching Perspectives from the World's Leading Voices

Over the course of sixteen generations, participants of the School for Young Leaders have benefited from a diverse and high-level speaker lineup.

Through lectures, workshops, simulations, case studies, projects, and trainings, young leaders are exposed to a rich blend of academic theory and practical experience.

The School takes pride in hosting lecturers from a wide range of fields, including:

- **Academia and education**
- **Politics and international diplomacy**
- **Security and defense**
- **Social sciences and psychology**
- **IT, media, and communication**
- **Humanities and public policy**



## VOICES OF GLOBAL IMPACT Catalysts of Leadership Growth

The success and transformative power of the School for Young Leaders lies in its exceptional program—and at the heart of that program are the lecturers and speakers who generously share their time, experience, and vision.

These individuals are not only accomplished professionals—they are role models, thought leaders, and changemakers whose contributions shape the future of leadership education. By drawing from their personal journeys, policy decisions, academic research, and international experiences, they challenge participants to think critically, act responsibly, and lead with integrity.

Their insights offer more than just knowledge—they provide inspiration, perspective, and a powerful reminder of the real-world impact of ethical and visionary leadership.



LECTURERS

447



LECTURERS FROM  
MACEDONIA

169



INTERNATIONAL  
LECTURERS

278



COUNTRIES

50+

# LECTURERS: The Spirit of the School

Voices of Experience, Wisdom, and Vision



WORLD LEADERS WHO HAVE SHARED  
THEIR WISDOM



Past Schools have featured lectures by several Presidents and Prime Ministers—many of whom participated as lecturers or keynote speakers while still in office—demonstrating the School's relevance, credibility, and global reach. These leaders include:

- **Gordana Siljanovska Davkova**, President of the Republic of Macedonia
- **Aleksandar Vučić**, President of the Republic of Serbia
- **Václav Klaus**, Former President of the Czech Republic
- **Boris Tadić**, Former President of the Republic of Serbia
- **Petar Stoyanov**, Former President of the Republic of Bulgaria
- **Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga**, Former President of the Republic of Latvia
- **Valdis Zatlers**, Former President of the Republic of Latvia
- **Bamir Topi**, Former President of the Republic of Albania
- **Rexhep Qemal Meidani**, Former President of the Republic of Albania
- **Janez Janša**, Former Prime Minister of Slovenia
- **Zlatko Lagumdžija**, Former President of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Mladen Ivanić**, Former President of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Ban Ki-Moon**, Former Secretary-General of the United Nations
- **Katalin Novák**, Former President of Hungary
- **Alex Salmond**, Former First Minister of Scotland



LECTURERS

447

LECTURERS FROM  
MACEDONIA

38 %

INTERNATIONAL  
LECTURERS

72 %

COUNTRIES

50+

# LECTURERS: The Spirit of the School

Voices of Experience, Wisdom, and Vision



## SENIOR OFFICIALS & DIPLOMATS

The School also welcomes influential figures who shape global policy, including:

- **Felipe Paullier**, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs
- **Timco Mucunski**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Macedonia
- **Franko Frattini**, Former Foreign Minister of Italy
- **Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu**, Former Foreign Minister of Turkey
- **Péter Balázs**, Former Foreign Minister of Hungary
- **Jeffrey Sachs**, world-renowned economist, bestselling author, and one of the leading voices in sustainable development and global cooperation.
- Current and former ministers from Macedonia, across Europe and the whole world
- Senior advisors to global leaders, including the US Secretary of State, and of many Presidents and Prime Ministers



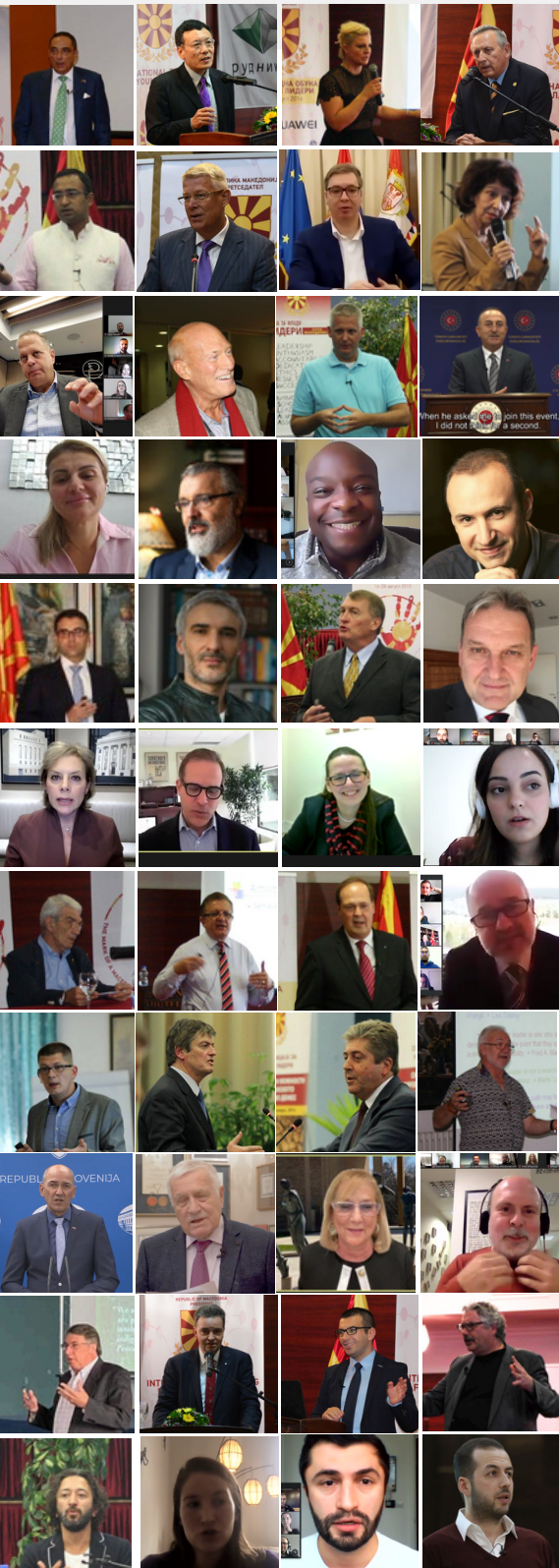
## POLITICAL & DIPLOMATIC VOICES

Prominent representatives from Europe's largest political parties and dozens of ambassadors from many countries, and both to and from Macedonia, have actively contributed to the School's educational legacy. Their presence offers participants a rare opportunity to engage directly with those shaping the world of diplomacy, governance, and international relations.



# LECTURERS: The Spirit of the School

Voices of Experience, Wisdom, and Vision



## LECTURERS AT THE SCHOOL: THOUGHT LEADERS & GLOBAL EXPERTS



The School for Young Leaders is distinguished by the exceptional quality and diversity of its lecturers—renowned voices from around the world who contribute to the program’s excellence. These speakers include:

### GLOBAL ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP

Lecturers include presidents of international academic institutions, such as:

- The World Academy of Art and Science
- The European Academy of Sciences and Arts

They also include professors from a broad range of prestigious global universities, such as: Columbia University (New York, USA), University of Cambridge (UK), Oxford University (UK), University of Vienna (Austria), University of Pennsylvania (USA), Norwich University (USA), University of Tennessee (USA), Temple University (USA), University of Texas at Tyler (USA), University of San Francisco (USA), University of Boston (USA), McMaster & Syracuse Universities (Canada), International University of Monaco (Monaco), Bahçeşehir University and TOBB ETU (Turkey), Bar-Ilan University (Israel), Tor Vergata University (Italy), Zurich University (Switzerland), Tsinghua University – Schwarzman College (Beijing, China), Panteion-Assas University (Paris, France) ...and many more.

### ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS FROM MACEDONIA

Professors have also come from every major university in Macedonia, including: Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, St. Paul the Apostle University in Ohrid, Goce Delchev University in Štip, St. Kliment Ohridski University in Bitola, South East European University in Tetovo, Military Academy “General Mihajlo Apostolski”, International Balkan University, University of Tourism and Management in Skopje, etc.

# LECTURERS: The Spirit of the School

Voices of Experience, Wisdom, and Vision



## RESEARCH INSTITUTES, THINK TANKS & GLOBAL PROGRAMS

Lecturers have represented leading institutions, including: Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program, Aspen Institute Socrates Program, Institute for Cultural Diplomacy, World Business Angels Investment Forum, Max Planck Institute, CRISP, Mandel Foundation (Israel), CIVIC - Institute for International Cooperation, Pacific Institute (UK), Cambridge Commonwealth Trust, Royal Institute of International Relations (EGMONT), ISECO (Islamic Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization), Trilateral Commission (Serbia), Alexandrian Library, ...and many more.



## BUSINESS LEADERS & CORPORATIONS

Industry professionals and executives from global corporations have contributed as lecturers, including: TAV Airports, Turkish Airlines, IBM, Huawei Technologies, ZTE, AAR Corp., DHM International Production, MiGROS Group, Cevahir Holding, Pacific Century Group, Virtual Exchange Platform Soliya, Niagara Bottling LLC, Torstar Corporation, Nordstar Corporation, Caldwell Securities Ltd., PricewaterhouseCoopers AG, Symphony Solutions, Ilitch Enterprises LLC, Motiva, FX3X, Alkaloid, Mikrosam, EVN Macedonia, Comfy Angel, ...and more.



## DIASPORA LEADERSHIP

The School has also hosted successful Macedonian professionals from the diaspora, running companies and institutions abroad, who generously share their global expertise and national pride with younger generations.



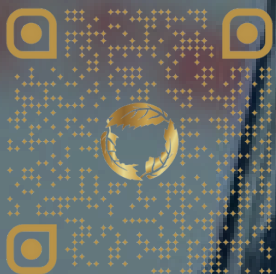
# School for Young Leaders

OF PRESIDENT IVANOV

*“The dangers are real,  
but so are the  
opportunities  
and they are in our  
hands.”*

*Let us redirect the  
collective compass  
toward resilience,  
compassion,  
and useful creativity.*

*Let us  
“win before conflict”  
with justice, wisdom,  
and calm courage.”*



**DR. GJORGE IVANOV**

President of the Republic of Macedonia 2009-2019  
Founder of the School for Young Leaders

# MENTORSHIP PROGRAM: Legacy Leaders

From Alumni to Allies. Alumni Leaders Guiding the Next Generation.



**Building on the School’s growing legacy, the new Mentorship Program brings past participants—now professionals, changemakers, and innovators—back to the School in a new role: as mentors.**

These alumni step up to support the next generation, offering personal guidance, career insights, and leadership advice drawn from their own experiences.

This peer-to-peer model of leadership bridges generations and creates a lasting cycle of support, solidarity, and growth—proving that leadership is not just taught, but also shared.

## 👉 Mentorship Program

The 16th School for Young Leaders included a structured Mentorship Program, pairing each participant with an experienced mentor to provide guidance on personal and professional development, regular consultations to discuss progress and challenges, expert insights on leadership and community engagement, and encouragement to apply their skills in practical contexts. The program aimed to strengthen learning outcomes, foster long-term growth, and build supportive professional relationships.

## 🕒 PERIOD of the FIRST MENTORSHIP PROGRAM: October-November 15, 2025

Beginning one month before the official opening of the 16th School, each participant was paired with a dedicated mentor, an alumnus/a from the earlier generations of the School.

This mentorship program was designed to offer guidance and orientation, prepare the participants for the School experience, and strengthen their connection with the School’s legacy of leadership. The mentorship sessions were scheduled in agreement between the participant and the assigned mentor.

## 👉 Legacy Leaders Mentorship Pilot – 2025

The 2025 pilot of the Legacy Leaders Training introduced a structured alumni mentorship model to the School for Young Leaders, connecting nine trained alumni mentors with 36 international participants to deepen learning, activate the alumni community, and strengthen long-term leadership impact.

## 🌟 KEY OUTCOMES

- Almost all of the mentees rated the mentorship as a highly positive experience, highlighting personal insight, clarity of purpose, confidence, and emotional safety.
- Mentorship provided continuity before, during, and after the program, helping participants integrate lessons into their leadership practice.
- Mentors completed a nine-module training covering coaching, reflective dialogue, communication, cultural sensitivity, decision-making, and session planning, with a practicum testing their skills.
- Strong mentor engagement led to high-quality support, while mentors themselves reported personal growth, self-awareness, improved communication, and stronger alumni connections.

## LESSONS LEARNED & FUTURE IMPACT

- **STRENGTHS:** psychological safety, personalized guidance, reflective inquiry, and strong mentor-mentee rapport.
- **AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT:** accountability, clearer expectations, better matching, and more pre-practicum practice.
- **INSTITUTIONAL IMPACT:** mentorship extends the School’s reach, enhances satisfaction, strengthens alumni as a leadership resource, and adds depth to the program.



# MENTORSHIP PROGRAM: Legacy Leaders

From Alumni to Allies. Alumni Leaders Guiding the Next Generation



## ★ MENTORS

A total of nine trainees—eight alumni from different generations of the School for Young Leaders and one lecturer—participated in the pilot.

They brought wide-ranging expertise from fields such as international relations, marketing, human resources, law, economics, engineering, social sciences, and creative industries.

Participants highlighted mentorship as:

- 👤 Highly individualized
- 💖 Emotionally supportive
- 🌟 Transformative
- 👂 A space to be seen and heard
- 🎯 Key for clarity, purpose, and goal-setting

One-on-one conversations helped mentees clarify goals, build confidence, manage challenges, and apply program lessons in practice, emphasizing the critical role of personalized support in leadership development.

## Impact on Mentees

- Almost all mentees rated the mentorship excellent
- Increased self-awareness and understanding of personal strengths
- Improved goal clarity, decision-making, and confidence
- Provided emotional support and a sense of belonging
- Described as “life-changing” and the most impactful component of the School for Young Leaders

## Impact on the School

- Extended leadership journey from a two-week program to a multi-week developmental cycle
- Strengthened alumni network and cross-cohort connections
- Delivered personalized learning beyond the main program
- Enhanced participant satisfaction and retention
- Aligned with global leadership development trends

## 🎓 MENTEES

The mentee group consisted of 37 young leaders who completed the 2025 School. They represented diverse nations and professional backgrounds across academia, civil society, public policy, business, technology, medicine, and creative sectors. The cohort included graduate students, early-career professionals, youth activists, researchers, entrepreneurs, and community organizers, creating a rich intercultural learning environment and a strong foundation for impactful mentorship.



## Impact on Mentors

- Gained clarity of leadership identity
- Improved communication, active listening, and feedback skills
- Increased cultural awareness and emotional intelligence
- Strengthened confidence and sense of purpose within the alumni community
- Experienced mindset shifts: guiding reflection over giving answers

## Broader Community & Ecosystem Impact

- Fostered intergenerational connection and alumni activation
- Strengthened leadership continuity and community culture
- Established lasting mentor-mentee relationships
- Reinforced School for Young Leaders’ sustainability and readiness to mentor future cohorts

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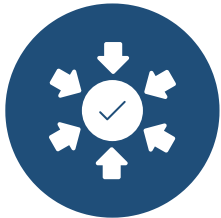
# SUPPORTERS: The Pillars of Possibility

## Partners & Donors Behind the Vision



The School for Young Leaders is made possible thanks to the generous support of domestic and foreign companies that provide the necessary funds through donations.

The implementation of the School is supported by the private sector, whose long-standing commitment has been essential to sustaining the program. Over the course of 16 editions, the School has been backed by numerous donors, with several companies reaffirming their support year after year. We gratefully acknowledge all partner companies whose contributions enable the continuation and growth of this initiative.



### ◆ **Free Participation for All Selected Participants**

Thanks to this support, participation in the program is entirely free of charge for all selected young participants. The organizers cover full board hotel accommodation, program materials, and all program-related expenses, ensuring equal access and a high-quality learning experience for every attendee. To date, the School has welcomed 625 participants.



### ✈ **Support for Lecturers**

Donor support also enables the organizers to cover travel expenses (airfare and local transport) and provide full-board accommodation for the lecturers.

Remarkably, none of the 447 lecturers who have contributed so far have received a speaking fee, reflecting their strong belief in the mission and values of the program.

### 📁 **Operations**

All donated resources are used to support educational activities, participant benefits, and the overall quality of the program. The organizers maintain a responsible and transparent approach to budgeting, ensuring that every donated amount is directed toward strengthening the development of future leaders.

### 👏 **Recognition of Donors**

The organizers express their deepest gratitude to all donors who made the 16th edition possible. The following companies supported the School, organized in categories according to the nature and level of their contribution.

# SUPPORTERS: The Pillars of Possibility

## Partners & Donors Behind the Vision

The success, continuity, and impact of the School for Young Leaders are made possible thanks to the generous support of our valued partners and sponsors. Their dedication to education, youth empowerment, and community development strengthens our mission and enables us to provide a high-quality and transformative experience for every participant.

Below is an overview of the organizations and companies whose support played a key role in the realization of the 16<sup>th</sup> School.



REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND TOURISM  
TURKISH COOPERATION AND COORDINATION AGENCY



a member of  
Groupe ADP



Ankara  
Chamber of Commerce



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# FOLLOW US ON

# *Social Media*

Our story continues beyond these pages.  
Follow us on social media to relive key moments,  
meet our alumni, and stay connected with a growing community  
of young leaders shaping the future.



**LinkedIn**

*@president-ivanov-  
s-school-for-young-  
leaders*



**Facebook**

*@IvanovSchoolFor  
YoungLeaders*



**Instagram**

*@ivanov\_school  
\_for\_leaders*

*Thanks for supporting us!*

School for Young Leaders

OF PRESIDENT IVANOV

Leadership is not  
a moment  
— it is a journey.



PRESIDENT IVANOV'S  
SCHOOL FOR YOUNG LEADERS



[www.youngleaders.com.mk](http://www.youngleaders.com.mk)