17th SCHOOL FOR YOUNG LEADERS
OF PRESIDENT IVANOV

Evaluation

2026

"New World. New Leadership. New Pragmatism."

Online: 26–29 October · Ohrid: 31 October – 6 November 2026

EVALUATION · HOW IT WORKED

The structure of the evaluation

The evaluation was an online form, completed on the last day of the School during the impressions session. It walks through the whole experience, from the overall program to the final thoughts, and every participant answered.

50	9	15–20	100%
QUESTIONS	SECTIONS	MINUTES TO FINISH	RESPONSE RATE

THE SECTIONS AND THEIR QUESTIONS



HOW PARTICIPANTS ANSWERED

Five-point scales · Multiple choice · Select all that apply · Yes / No / Maybe · Short answers · Open comments · One word

GOOD TO KNOW

Most questions used a five-point scale, where 5 is the highest, and most open comments were optional. The full form took about 15 to 20 minutes to complete.

> *"Comments in this report are quoted anonymously, and only with the participants' permission.*

SECTION 1 · ABOUT THE EVALUATION

Every voice counted

All 40 participants completed the evaluation, so every group, country and background is represented in the results that follow.



response rate

ALL 40 PARTICIPANTS

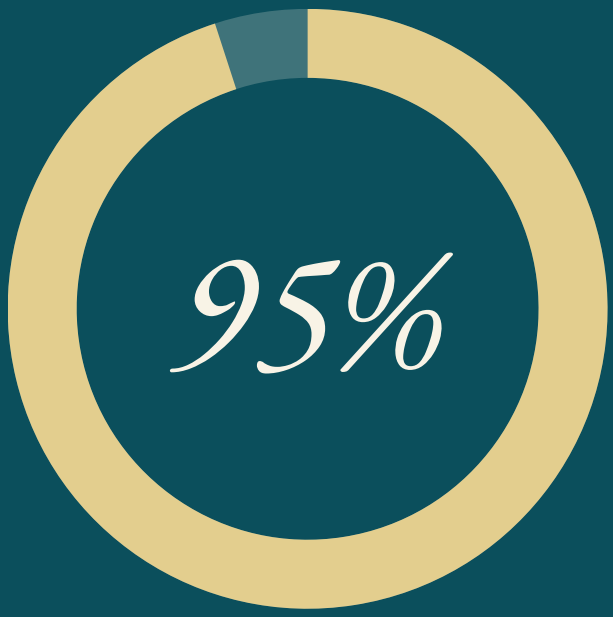
WHAT THIS TELLS US

Most questions used a five-point scale, where 5 is the highest. Two participants first marked "much worse than expected" and told us they clicked the wrong option while rushing, so their answers were corrected to "much better than expected". One participant marked both "Yes" and "No" on staying in the alumni network, counted as "Yes".

> *"Every answer, whether a number or a sentence, helped us see the School through your eyes.*

SECTION 2 · OVERALL PROGRAM

Overall satisfaction



rated the School 5 out of 5

38 OF 40 PARTICIPANTS

HOW PARTICIPANTS RATED THE SCHOOL

5 · extremely satisfied	38
4	2
3	0
2	0
1 · extremely dissatisfied	0

WHAT THIS TELLS US

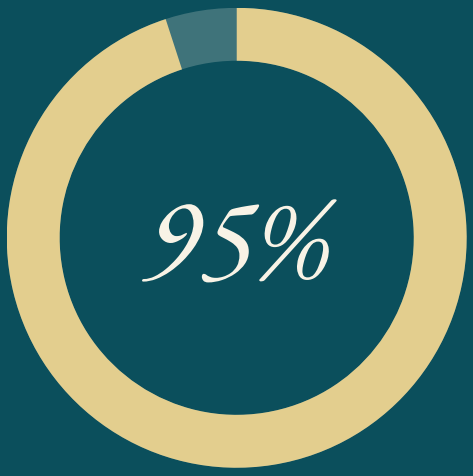
Satisfaction was close to unanimous. The School delivered across a very varied program, from online lectures to in-person workshops, without losing the group. The other 2 participants rated it 4. Nobody gave a lower score.

> *"...feeling like a slightly different person – more open-minded, inspired, and motivated.*

SECTION 2 · OVERALL PROGRAM

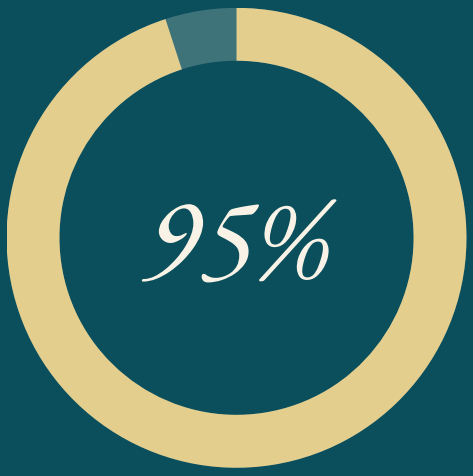
Useful, and relevant

Participants rated how useful the leadership concepts were, and how relevant the program was to their own professional development.



leadership concepts

RATED 5 · 38 OF 40



relevance to my work

RATED 4 OR 5 · 38 OF 40

RELEVANCE TO CURRENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Rated 5	29
Rated 4	9
Rated 3	2

WHAT THIS TELLS US

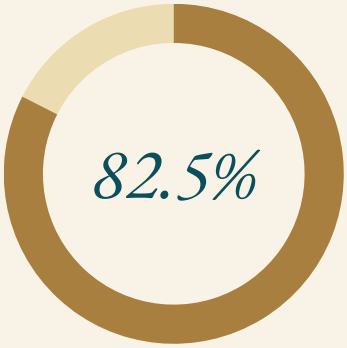
Leadership concepts were almost universally useful. Relevance to current professional development was also rated 4 or 5 by 38 of 40 participants, and the most common wish was more practical application.

> *"Leadership is not just about leading others, but also about listening, learning, and growing together.*

SECTION 2 · OVERALL PROGRAM

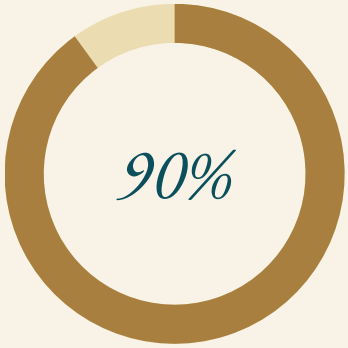
A group from everywhere

The School brought together young people from different countries and careers. Here is how participants rated the group, the level and the format.



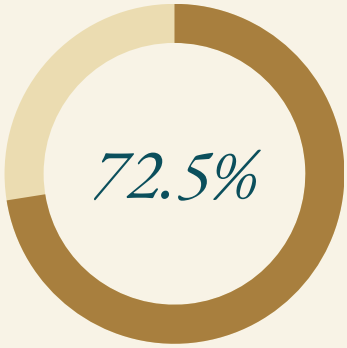
meeting an international group

RATED 5 · 33 OF 40



difficulty about right

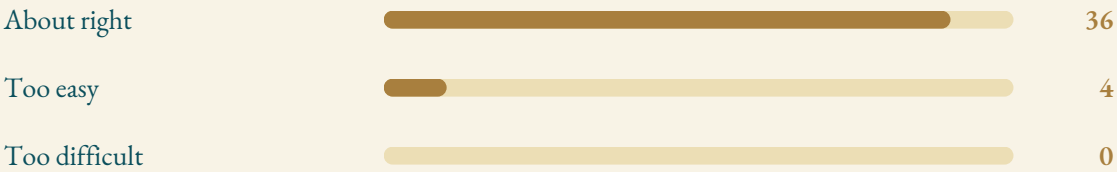
36 OF 40



online + in-person mix about right

29 OF 40 · 25% LESS ONLINE

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY



WHAT THIS TELLS US

Meeting participants from other countries was one of the strongest parts of the School. 10 participants would have preferred less online time, especially international participants who joined late-night sessions. 4 found the level too easy, and nobody found it too difficult.

> *"Meeting like-minded people, the content of the lectures, the hotel, the organization and administration.*

SECTION 2 · OVERALL PROGRAM

What participants want more of

Participants' most frequent answers when asked which topics to cover in greater depth or add.

1. Practical sessions, workshops, simulations and real case studies
2. AI in depth, with a simple primer for non-technical participants
3. Psychology of leadership, emotional intelligence and soft skills
4. Politics, geopolitics, history and youth in decision-making
5. Decision-making, negotiation and turning ideas into projects
6. Networking skills, wellbeing and economy topics

> *"I appreciated that the programme was timely, relevant and closely connected to current developments and challenges.*

SECTION 3 · LECTURERS & SPEAKERS

A line-up that earned its scores

Participants rated the overall quality of the lecturers and speakers, and the relevance, depth and new ideas in the lectures.



quality of lecturers rated 4 or 5

40 OF 40 · 28 RATED 5



lecture content rated 4 or 5

40 OF 40 · RELEVANCE, DEPTH, IDEAS

WHAT PARTICIPANTS VALUED

- Practical advice
- Real-life stories
- Honesty and openness
- Interactive
- Approachable
- Well prepared

WHAT THIS TELLS US

Nobody rated the speakers or the content below 4. Participants valued speakers who shared personal experience and kept sessions interactive, and asked for less theory and more practice.

> *"I really appreciated how well-prepared all the speakers were and how effectively they managed to keep our attention throughout the sessions.*

SECTION 3 · LECTURERS & SPEAKERS

The top three

Each participant chose the three lecturers or speakers who contributed most to the quality of the School.

20
VOTES

Anastasija Ilievska

TV Host, Public Speaking Specialist, ISLAA President

Speak to Lead · Lead Beyond Words

1

17
VOTES

Rashela Mizrahi

Member of Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia

A Bold Vision for the Future – Straight Out of the Past

2

16
VOTES

Stefan Andonovski

Minister of Digital Transformation of the Republic of Macedonia

Leading in a World That Won't Wait

3

NEXT IN LINE

Filip Nelkovski	11
Emanuel Stadler	11
Vojdan Karapetkovski	9

Each participant chose three.

FINAL THOUGHTS

What was great

Asked what was great about the School, many participants simply answered "everything". The rest named these things most often.

The people | The atmosphere | The lecturers | The venue | The organization | Workshops | Connections | The team

> *The organisation, the atmosphere, the people, and the opportunity to meet, connect, and learn from inspiring individuals.*

> *The speakers are approachable and knowledgeable.*

> *Getting to meet everyone, coffee breaks to form connections both professional and personal, workshops like the AI lab that gave us tangible tools to take back into our lives.*

WHAT THIS TELLS US

Participants named the people and the atmosphere again and again, followed by the lecturers, the venue and the team. Many simply said "everything".

> *Every second here was great.*

Participants' answers to "What was great?"

WORKSHOPS

The workshops, ranked

Participants who rated each workshop 5, very satisfied (out of 40).



WHAT THIS TELLS US

Three experiences stood out: Art of Oratory – Inspiring Voices, Lead Beyond Words: The Power of Body Language, and The New Superpower: Turning Ideas into Solutions with AI. Hands-on formats where participants speak, practise and build scored highest.

> *"Interactive workshops, and tangible tools to take back into our lives.*

SPECIAL SESSIONS

Talks to remember

38/40

extremely satisfied with the Talk with President Ivanov

THE OTHER SPECIAL SESSIONS · PARTICIPANTS WHO RATED 5 / 4 / 3

Talk with Dr. Jeffrey Sachs



ISLAA Talks (alumni)



Panel: 250 Years of the American Experiment



Nobody rated any special session below 3.

WHAT THIS TELLS US

The talk with President Ivanov was the highest-rated special session. Participants asked for more time with him and with ministers, and for more historical and philosophical discussion.

> *"The spirit of the school is amazing and I liked how the president and his team mirrored how true leadership should look like.*

GROUP PROJECTS

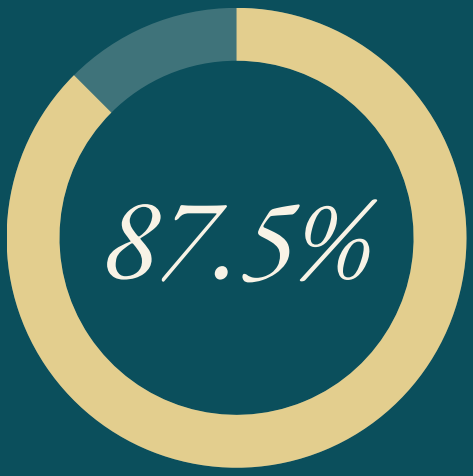
Building together

Participants rated the group project leaders and the collaboration within their teams.



project leaders effective

RATED 4 OR 5 · 36 OF 40



teamwork

RATED 4 OR 5 · 35 OF 40

IDEAS FOR NEXT TIME

- More preparation time
- Clearer instructions and roles
- Spread projects across the days
- Mixed teams
- Support for English speakers in group work
- Clear evaluation criteria

WHAT THIS TELLS US

Group work was where people connected most. It was also where the pace felt tightest, so more time and clearer briefs would help.

> *"More interactive workshops and projects, and more opportunities for the participants to talk.*

SESSIONS & INTERACTION

Well moderated, and lively

Participants rated the moderating, the quality of discussion and the time given to interaction.



FRIENDLY SUGGESTIONS FROM PARTICIPANTS

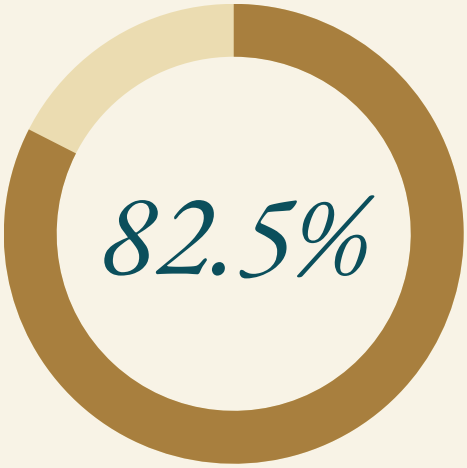
- More Q&A and polls
- Everyone in the conversation, not only those who raise hands
- Keeping to the time slots
- More hands-on workshops
- Clear sound in every room

> *"More interaction and more time for spontaneous conversations and connections.*

MATERIALS

Prepared, and ready to share

Participants rated the materials they received before and during the School.



materials before the School

RATED 5 · 33 OF 40



materials during the School

RATED 5 · 36 OF 40

FRIENDLY SUGGESTIONS FROM PARTICIPANTS

- Share lecture presentations and reading, before or after each session
- Send the info package a little earlier
- Add a QR code on name badges for LinkedIn

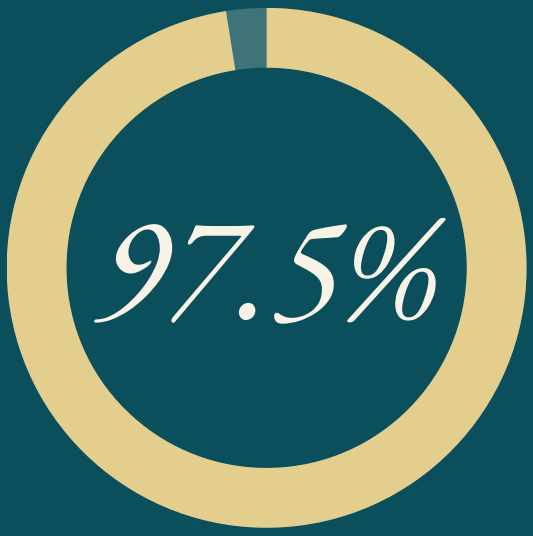
WHAT THIS TELLS US

Most participants found the materials useful. There is always a chance to do better, and your advice shows us exactly where to start.

> *"We keep growing with every suggestion we receive.*

ADMINISTRATION

Seamless



rated the administration 5

39 OF 40 PARTICIPANTS

Pre-event administration (rated 5) — 95%

Information received in time — 97.5%

Usefulness of information (rated 5) — 87.5%

Technical support, online and in person (rated 5) — 90%

Quality of moderating (rated 5) — 97.5%

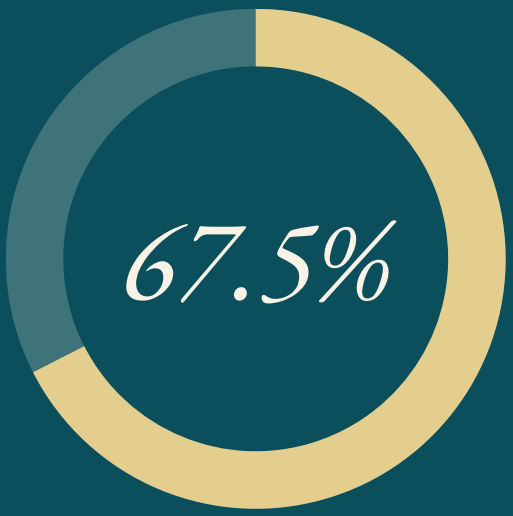
WHAT THIS TELLS US

The team received the highest scores of the whole evaluation. Technical support scored a little lower, with microphones named most often.

"The team is already very organized and professional."
"Best administration ever! Venue 10/10."

SCHEDULE & VENUE

Packed, but worth it



schedule about right

27 OF 40 · 32.5% TOO PACKED

MAIN ISSUES · 19 ANSWERED



FRIENDLY SUGGESTIONS FROM PARTICIPANTS

- A daily break of 30 to 60 minutes for rest and reflection
- A gentler start in the first days
- Keeping sessions close to the planned times
- A little more time to enjoy the city

WHAT THIS TELLS US

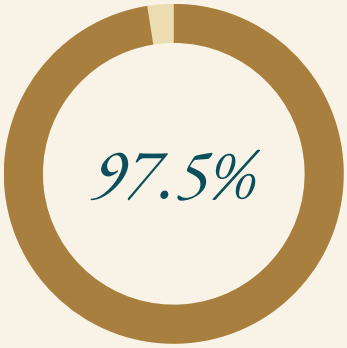
Most participants felt the schedule was about right. There is always room to improve, and your suggestions show us where.

> *"The venue is like a huge living room, safe space.*

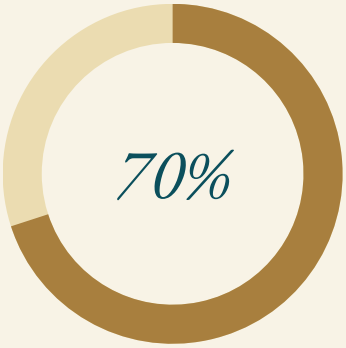
SOCIAL PROGRAM

Where friendships began

Karaoke Night, A Night Out, Night Owl Session – Movie, Eco Action – Tree Planting and Ohrid City Tour.

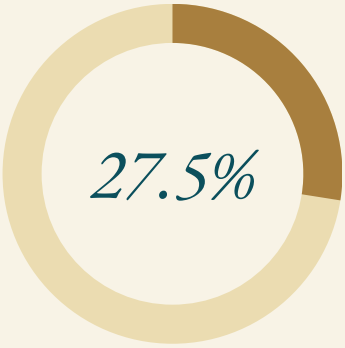


said the activities helped them connect



a great deal

28 OF 40



quite a lot

11 OF 40

IDEAS FOR NEXT TIME

- Boat trip on Lake Ohrid, weather permitting
- A visit to St. Naum
- More time in the city
- Game night
- Sports and light activity
- Cultural night
- One more karaoke night

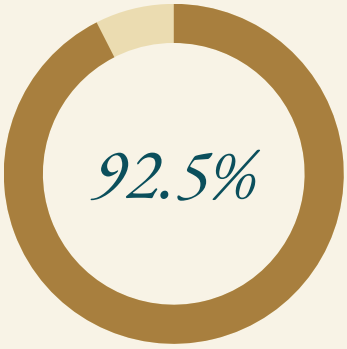
WHAT THIS TELLS US

The social program did what it was meant to do: nearly every participant said it helped them connect, and most said it did so a great deal.

> *"Bonding with participants and making friends for life.*

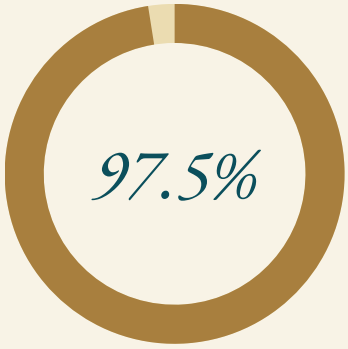
SECTION 6 · FINAL THOUGHTS

Better than expected



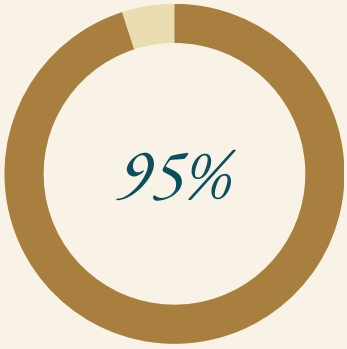
much better than expected

37 OF 40



extremely likely to recommend

39 OF 40, 1 LIKELY



want to join the alumni network

38 OF 40, 2 MAYBE

The rest said better than expected (2) or as expected (1).

THE SCHOOL IN ONE WORD, BY THE PARTICIPANTS

Transformative СОЗЕРЦАНИЕ

Family Opportunity *Inspiring*

Unique *Experience* Life-changing

Awesome Springboard *Visionary*

Empowering *Impactful* Pragmatic

Thought provoking Perfection *Exceptional*

IN THEIR WORDS

Voices and takeaways

VOICES

"I feel like I grew 7 years in 7 days."

> *"This place changes people for the better and asks for nothing in return."*

> *"Being out of the comfort zone is not always a bad thing."*

> *"I have been inspired and feel energized to lead, to innovate, to act upon ideas I wasn't ready to before."*

THE GREATEST TAKEAWAYS

"*Conversations and meaningful communication with people are incredibly valuable and can make a real difference.*

"*Best friends, research scholar, business partner, life long memories and mentors.*

"*Have a vision, give the best, be a leader with results!*

"*Love, kindness and new long life friends.*

"*How important culture is, and how we can all achieve things.*

"*Being surrounded by ambitious, open-minded people reminded me how much we can learn from one another.*

"*My greatest takeaway is that leadership is not just about leading others, but also about listening, learning, and growing together.*

Participants' answers to "What is your greatest takeaway from the overall event?"

NEXT STEPS

From feedback to action

Participants shared a few friendly ideas, and we are grateful for each one. Here is where we will look first.

01 *More free time*
A short daily break and a gentler start to the program.

02 *More hands-on learning*
More workshops, simulations and case studies.

03 *Smooth sessions*
Keeping close to the schedule, with clear sound in every room.

04 *Materials*
Presentations and the info package shared a little earlier.

05 *Social program*
More time in the city, and a boat trip on Lake Ohrid, weather permitting.

> *"There is always room to grow, and your suggestions show us exactly where to start.*

Our thanks go to everyone who took the time to share their thoughts.

FROM THE 17PISYL2026 TEAM

Thank you!

Your comments, criticism and suggestions are the most valuable part of this report. We read every one of them, and we follow and apply all of them as we shape the next School.

We read	*We apply*	*We keep listening*
EVERY WORD YOU WROTE	WHAT WE CAN IMPROVE	BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER

STAY CONNECTED

97.5%	*95%*
WOULD RECOMMEND THE SCHOOL	WANT TO JOIN THE ALUMNI NETWORK

Thank you!

NEW WORLD. NEW LEADERSHIP. NEW PRAGMATISM.