

Call for partners

“Bringing change through policy-oriented writing”

Dear friends and colleagues,

On behalf of [Politheor, European Policy Network](#), an NGO from Serbia, I am pleased to announce the **Call for partners** for the ERASMUS+ project: “**Bringing change through policy-oriented writing**”.

Project type: Erasmus+ KA2 Capacity building in the field of Youth (Western Balkans Youth Window)

Project duration: 1st of August 2016 – 30th of July 2017.

Main ideas

Project objective: We aim at providing quality training in writing policy briefs and op-ed articles to participants through theoretical and practical insights into the world of policy analysis and policy oriented writing. This will follow in multiple stages in which different teaching methods will be utilized.

Short description: Young policy analysts need to learn how to utilize policy writing skills in order to provide high quality inputs and recommendations, thus creating a well-informed discussion around policy issues. A policy brief is one of the most common public policy forms used to present results of a policy analysis or to argue an opinion. On the other hand, op-eds are short pieces with which the author intends to build support from a wider audience for a certain policy change. Both forms of policy-oriented training are important for young policy analysts to understand and utilize; therefore this project’s goal is to teach both. Without sufficient training and writing experience, high quality transposition of policy knowledge or opinion into precise policy recommendations is very unlikely. Hence, this project serves as a platform for enhancing young practitioners' policy skills with the purpose of fostering evidence based dialogue in public policy debates.

Type of activities: Two training courses – the first on op-ed writing (Belgrade) and the second on policy brief writing (Budapest); guidance in writing op-eds and policy briefs, one conference (Brussels) on which policy briefs would be presented.

Products: Every participant (1) will write two op-eds (around 700 words each) during the course of the project; (2) will be part of one of five teams, depending on the policy focus of the participant, working on a policy brief which would be presented at a conference to different potential stakeholders.

Outcomes: The project will contribute to the professional development of the participants, raise their capacities and enhance their skills with the sole purpose of becoming good policy analysts able to successfully influence the policy making agenda, advocate for a policy change and mobilize the public. The organizers strongly believe that expert insights, academic guidance, team-work, and real world simulations will help participants lay the groundwork for inspired and evidence-based policy-making in the future.

Description of activities

Activity 1: Training course on op-ed writing

5 days in September 2016

Location: Belgrade, Serbia

Description: An “op-ed” or an “opinion article” is a short piece of around 700 words that advocate for a certain policy change, provides arguments in order to build support for it. Op-ed articles are published by almost all major media outlets and both think tank professionals and politicians or bureaucrats themselves use this format to advocate for their interests. This training will provide the participants the necessary skills and knowledge in op-ed writing by (1) lectures from editors of media outlets, policy practitioners as well as academics, (2) workshops in op-ed writing.

Activity 2: Op-ed writing, reviewing and publishing

September – December 2016

Location: Online

Description: During the previous training every participant will be assigned an op-ed writing mentor. During the course of 4 months, every participant will write and publish two op-eds on our web platform: <http://www.politheor.net>, on the topics they select. Their mentors will review their articles and provide them with guidelines.

Activity 3: Training course on policy brief writing

5 days in March 2016

Location: Budapest, Hungary

Description: Policy briefs are documents used to advocate for a particular policy solution and influence the decision makers, usually published by think tanks. This training will provide the participants with expert knowledge in writing policy briefs. How to develop an argument in a policy brief? How to use qualitative and quantitative methods in policy briefs? How to define criteria for choosing between different policies and to define policy options for the decision maker? How to write policy recommendations? The participants can expect answers to these and other related questions, from policy practitioners and academics. These lectures will serve as a basis for a workshop in which participants will be divided into policy brief writing teams, depending on their policy of interest. Every team will also be guided by a mentor.

Activity 4: Policy brief writing

April – May 2016

Location: Online

Description: During a two month period, the teams as defined in previous activity will engage in writing policy briefs, together with their mentors.

Activity 5: Conference – Presentation of policy briefs

3 days in June 2016

Location: Brussels

Description: Final meeting of the participants will be in Brussels where the policy briefs would be presented to potential stakeholders who would evaluate their quality and provide the participants with further guidelines. This activity will also include a study visit to EU institutions and offices of influential think tanks in Brussels which is supposed to give participants an insider's view into EU policy advocacy and policy making.

Activity 6: Evaluation

July 2017

Location: Online

About Politheor: European Policy Network

Politheor is an international network-NGO of young political analysts and public policy scholars. Main goals of our organization are: (1) promoting informed, evidence-based policy making in Europe through publishing and exchanging op-eds and policy analyses; (2) empowering young people to participate actively in debates on public policy issues by providing training in policy oriented writing for young graduates

Find out more about us at <http://politheor.net>!

Target group

Target group of our action are young people aged 20 to 35 actively involved in research and/or public policy analysis in the field of economic and social policy, human rights, international relations, environmental policy and other fields wishing to improve their policy analysis skills, op-ed writing skills and skills for wider community mobilization.

Number of participants: 20-25

Profile of partner organizations

We are looking for youth organizations which work in the field of public policy research, analysis or advocacy. Partner organizations should be from Erasmus+ Programme Countries or Western Balkan Window Countries.

If your organization is interested to be a partner at this project, please send us a short description of its activities and its [PIC](#) (Participant Identification Code) at office@politheor.net.