

## Organise SI Academy for Young Professionals

Does your university, public agency or organisation want to implement training programmes for young professionals with a focus on strengthened capacity in Eastern Europe or in the Western Balkans? Apply for a grant to organize and implement SAYP 2024 and get the opportunity to expand your knowledge and network in the EU's neighborhood regions.

### Overview

SAYP is the Swedish Institute's training programme to strengthen actors in the public sector, civil society and business to meet complex societal challenges such as gender equality, inclusive societies, and the ongoing environmental and climate crisis. The target group is young professionals in Eastern Europe and in the Western Balkans. The programme strengthens the participants' ability to drive and implement change work within their organisations.

### What is the Swedish Institute Academy for Young Professionals?

SAYP gives young professionals the opportunity to contribute to development and change in their regions. The programme aims to strengthen the participant's ability to face complex societal challenges in a rapidly changing world. Furthermore, the programme equips participants to work with democratic processes to contribute to a society that considers the needs of both current and future generations.

Programme content is characterized by high quality, and is designed on the basis of current challenges in the programme regions and where the participants' change work in their own organisations are important building blocks for joint learning. Training time/coaching time in the programme corresponds to approx. 2-3 weeks (excl. own work) where both physical and digital modules can be completed.

The programme has been designed to enable mutual learning between EU countries and neighboring regions. Through SAYP, participants are offered a platform for exchange of experience and network building.

### Target group

The programme is aimed at young (25-40), key professionals in politics, administration, civil society and business with the mandate, ambition and potential to drive change within their organisations. The participants have the opportunity to influence the organisation's principal decisions, policy processes and working methods. The target group is active on a daily basis with, and involved in various ways, in the issues that the programme's themes deal with.

Participating countries included for SAYP Western Balkans are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

The participating countries\* included for SAYP Eastern Europe are Armenia, Belarus\*, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Georgia, Moldova, Poland, Sweden, and Ukraine.

*\* Recruitment from EU countries is voluntary. Read more under programme design.*

*\* As a consequence of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and Belarus' active participation, it is not possible for public sector employees in Belarus to participate in SAYP activities, either physically or online. Any updates to this decision will be communicated to the (institutions) hosting the programme.*

### **Who can apply for support to organise SAYP?**

Swedish actors, primarily universities, now have the opportunity to apply for financial support from SI to arrange a training programme within SAYP 2024. The application can be made individually or in collaboration with other actors in Sweden and/or another country in the respective region. SI sees great added value in the training programme being designed and implemented in collaboration with other Swedish or international actors who can bring special skills or access to networks that benefit the programme's goals.

An organisation can appear as the main applicant in more than one application, provided that different working groups, units or departments are responsible for the practical implementation of the training programme.

### **What can you apply for support for?**

#### *Programme design*

The programme structure must support participants in their change work, where the goal is to have an impact on the participant organisation's decision-making and evaluation processes, guidelines and working methods. The arrangement should be designed in such a way that participants are seen as experts in the programme with content focusing on current challenges in the region.

A training programme can be completed with preparatory modules, a main module and follow-up modules. Preparatory and follow-up modules are optional. Training time/coaching time in the programme corresponds to approx. 2-3 weeks (excl. own work) where both physical and digital modules can be completed.

Programme activities abroad should be arranged together with one or more local partners with their own expertise in the chosen field.

SAYP Eastern Europe 2024 opens up to participation from except for the Baltic countries and Sweden in Baltic Sea region - also Poland. However, including EU countries as participating countries is voluntary. The programme should in other ways promote the exchange between EU countries and Eastern Partnership countries.

#### *Thematic priorities*

The thematic focus of the training programme should have a clear connection to the programme's overall purpose. Applicants must formulate an underlying thematic focus for the proposed training programme, as well as which target group(s) should be involved.

SAYP Eastern Europe, examples of themes within which the programme can be implemented:

Digitalization

Green transition

Environmental management

Business development and entrepreneurship

Inclusive societies and human rights

Gender equality

SAYP Western Balkans, strategy areas under which the themes should fall:

Anti-corruption, rule of law and transparency

Inclusive societies and human rights

Gender equality

*Grants can be applied for*

Food and lodging

Travel costs (economy class or equivalent) for participants to the place of the training programme, from their home countries or places of residence in Sweden, including visa costs.

Venue(s)

Transport

Project management, administration

Teaching hours

External guest lecturers

Study visit Social and cultural activities

Travel costs for SAYP alumni from other countries, given that they have a key role in the activity to be carried out

Follow-up activities, e.g. follow-up module and/or continued supervision of projects\* initiated under the programme

Audit costs

*\*The purpose of follow-up project activities must be to provide continued support for the participants' change work in connection with the programme goals. A committee should be involved in the selection process before awarding support to a project group.*

Maximum financial support is SEK 2,000,000 per granted application. If applicants have received support for the same training programme from other financiers, this must be reported in the application.

### **Call for applications for participation in SI Academy for Young Professionals**

Participants for SAYP are recruited through a call for participants, which is carried out once a year in the spring. SI is responsible for the call for applications on [www.si.se](http://www.si.se) and the programme organisers for recruiting participants. At least 25 people should be offered a place in the programme. Final selection of participants and reserves is made by the programme organiser and in some cases with Swedish foreign authorities in the SAYP countries. SI screens the proposal for participants so that no candidate is admitted to more modules, as well as identifying alumni.

The profile of SAYP participants is as follows:

- professionals in politics, administration, business and/or civil society.
- have a mandate to drive change in their organisation
- are subject specialists or otherwise connected to the chosen thematic focus
- 25 – 40 years old, born 1984 – 1999

In the application, the choice of target group must be motivated and its connection to the programme objective described.

### **How is the responsibility shared between the Swedish Institute and the programme organiser?**

SAYP is structured around a principle of co-creation where responsibility for the programme is shared between SI and the programme organiser. See division of responsibilities below:

#### Responsibility of the programme organisers

- Planning and implementation of training programmes (preparatory and follow-up activities for the training programme are optional).
- Marketing of the programmes on websites and via social media
- Recruitment of participants (application procedure, assessment, selection, sending of admission notice and insurance)
- Information about the degree programme in English online, aimed at potential applicants
- Booking the participants' trips (round trip in economy class or equivalent) from their home countries or places of residence in Sweden, to the place of implementation.
- Support in visa processes (contact with embassies/consulates regarding participant lists for visa processes)
- Evaluation of completed activities including follow-up of modules according to SI's templates and final reporting to SI

#### The Swedish Institute's responsibility

- Call for grants, application procedure, assessment, selection of programme organisers
- Call for application for participation in SAYP at [www.si.se](http://www.si.se)
- Screening of alumni in attendee lists
- Contacts and synergies with other SI initiatives, projects & alumni activities as well as embassies in the countries concerned
- The promotion of exchange of experience between the programme organisers

#### **Timeline**

- Call for applications to organise SAYP: 5 October – 14 November 2023
- Evaluation of applications and decision: 16 November 2023 – 31 January 2024
- Call for applications to participate in SAYP: 27 February – 2 April 2024
- Admission notification to participants: no later than 7 May 2024
- Implementation period: 20 May 2024 – 31 October 2025
- Interim reporting: November 2024
- Final reporting: October 2025