

Open Call for Summer Youth Bootcamp Participants

About the Summer Youth Bootcamps

Fully funded by France's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Shared Horizons project aims to work towards reconciling memories and the narratives that tell them within the wider Balkans, through innovative activities focusing on young people and drawing on the debate of ideas, the media and heritage.

To achieve the above, PLAY International will be hosting four youth summer bootcamps, one each in Albania (Tirana), Kosovo (Pristina), Montenegro (Podgorica), and North Macedonia (Skopje) that will foster social cohesion and reconciliation in the Western Balkans by empowering youth and promoting European, Olympic, and Paralympic values.

Each bootcamp will bring together 32 youth participants, with five to six participants from each country in the region, for five dynamic days of engaging activities, collaborative discussions, and cultural exchanges. Throughout the bootcamp, participants will:

- Strengthen essential skills such as leadership, teamwork, communication, and problem-solving
- Develop a deeper understanding of diverse viewpoints, while gaining practical skills in dialogue, empathy, and intercultural collaboration
- Connect with inspiring peers who share the same passion for building a more inclusive and harmonious society

Participating in one of the bootcamps offers a unique opportunity to build lasting friendships and expand participants' regional network of changemakers and professionals. Through interactive activities and leadership exercises, participants will enhance their personal and professional skills and gain practical tools to make a meaningful impact in their communities. The program will challenge youth to think critically, engage in thought-provoking discussions, and participate in hands-on activities that deepen their understanding of social inclusion and peacebuilding.

By the end of the bootcamp, participants will be equipped with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to advocate for peace and social inclusion, inspiring others to join them in creating a more cohesive and resilient Western Balkans.

Important Information

Bootcamp Dates

Kosovo (Pristina): 30 June – 4 July
North Macedonia (Skopje): 14 July – 18 July
Albania (Tirana): 28 July – 1 August
Montenegro (Podgorica): 11 August – 15 August

Participant Criteria

Essential:

- **Age:** 18-24 years old (at the time of the summer bootcamp).
- **Country of citizenship:** Must be a citizen and resident of either Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, or Serbia.
- **English Proficiency:** Must speak and understand English well.
- **Travel Documents:** Must hold valid travel documents for international travel.
- **Commitment to Full Participation:** Able and willing to travel across the Balkans as required. Participants must be free and fully committed to attending the five-day bootcamp.

Desirable:

- **Interest in Social Cohesion and Peacebuilding:** Passionate about fostering social inclusion, diversity, reconciliation, and addressing social and political issues in their communities. Open to interacting and collaborating across ethnic and national lines, focused on peacebuilding.
- **Commitment to Learning, Advocacy, and Ethical Standards:** Ready to adopt and promote European, Olympic, and Paralympic values, such as respect, teamwork, and inclusivity. Participants should adhere to ethical standards, including fairness, respect, and integrity – in line with the project's values.
- **Diversity:** Ethnic minorities are highly encouraged to apply.
- **Potential for Long-Term Impact:** Interested in joining and actively participating in a sustainable network of youth leaders resulting from the project.
- **Flexibility and Adaptability:** Adaptable to new environments and situations, and willing to embrace diverse perspectives and experiences.

Travel and Reimbursement

Selected participants are responsible for arranging their travel to their allocated bootcamp location using public transportation. Travel expenses will be reimbursed after the successful completion of the bootcamp.

To qualify for reimbursement, participants must provide physical receipts for all travel related to both arriving at and departing from the bootcamp. It is strongly recommended that participants purchase return tickets to ensure full reimbursement of their travel costs.

Accommodation, Food, and Beverages

PLAY International will provide full accommodation for all participants, with single beds in shared rooms. Rooms will be single-gender, and no participants of the opposite gender will be placed in the same room.

Participants will receive three meals a day, along with coffee and beverage breaks.

Application Process

To apply, applicants should fill out an application by [clicking here](#).

Please fill out the entire application and don't forget to submit a short motivational letter (1 page max.) that explains why you want to participate in the summer bootcamp and how you plan to use this experience to make a positive impact on your community. Be sure to highlight the experiences, qualities, and skills you will bring to the summer bootcamp.

When applying, indicate your preferred summer bootcamp location. While PLAY International will do its best to accommodate your preference, placement at your chosen location is not guaranteed. Applicants must be willing to attend a different summer bootcamp location if necessary.

IMPORTANT: If your application is successful, you will be selected to participate in only one of the four bootcamps.

Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed and evaluated by PLAY International's selection committee based on the criteria outlined and the submitted motivational letter.

All applicants will be notified of their application status via email no later than June 16, 2025. Selected participants will also be invited to an online information session, with further details shared after notifications are sent.

A waiting list will be created in case of cancellations. Applicants placed on the waiting list will be contacted if a spot becomes available.

Application Deadline

The deadline to apply for this Open Call is **May 30, 2025**. However, if the number of applicants is reached, the call may close before that date.

Questions and Clarifications

If you have any questions, please contact our Shared Horizons Project Coordinator, Zana Zllanoga, via email at: zana.zllanoga@play-international.org

For more information about PLAY International and the Shared Horizons project, please visit our website: [PLAY International | Homepage](https://www.play-international.org/)

About PLAY International

Since 1999, PLAY International has been dedicated to fostering a more inclusive, equitable, and cohesive society in Kosovo and the wider Western Balkans region. With over two decades of experience, we have built trusted relationships across the region, developing impactful programs that resonate with the communities they serve. Our mission focuses on inclusive education, gender equality, inter-ethnic dialogue, and empowering children and youth regardless of gender, ethnic background, or socio-economic status. Using the power of sport and games, PLAY International creates collaborative solutions that enhance education, inclusion, and overall well-being, reinforcing the belief that sport is a fundamental right and a powerful tool for addressing complex social challenges.

Join us in shaping a brighter future for the Western Balkans!