

## ABOUT RAD

The program is a new initiative of the Western Balkan part of the Network of Schools for Political Studies of the Council of Europe, with the aim to build a new political culture and a new political elite in the region.

The **Regional Academy for Democracy (RAD)** will gather next-generation political leadership from the entire Western Balkans in a comprehensive effort at facilitating their mutual understanding and cooperation. **RAD** is dedicated to already established political actors who will in the near future form the highest-level political leadership. It aspires to shape a human infrastructure that will help solidify current democratization processes, uphold the standards of human and minority rights above political or national interests, and embrace a spirit of regional cooperation and reconciliation with neighbours.

Envisaged as a learning and sharing experience, **RAD** offers a challenging curriculum that will help decision-makers in the region better address the most pressing issues confronting their societies. By linking regional and global leaders, **RAD** will also contribute to promoting the Western Balkans as a whole to its European and international partners.

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## LEAD ORGANIZATION



Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence  
(Belgrade)  
[www.bfpe.org](http://www.bfpe.org)

## PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS



Albanian School of Political Studies  
(Tirana)  
[www.shkollapolitike.org](http://www.shkollapolitike.org)



School of Political Studies of Bosnia and Herzegovina  
(Sarajevo)



Academy for Political Development  
(Zagreb)  
[www.politicka-akademija.org](http://www.politicka-akademija.org)



Pristina Institute for Political Studies  
(Pristina)  
[www.pips-ks.org](http://www.pips-ks.org)



Center for Research and Policy Making  
(Skopje)  
[www.crpm.org.mk](http://www.crpm.org.mk)



School of Democratic Leadership  
(Podgorica)  
[www.sdr.gamn.org](http://www.sdr.gamn.org)



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REGIONAL  
ACADEMY for  
DEMOCRACY

Shaping the European Future  
of the Western Balkans - Building a New  
Political Culture and Political Elite

## GOAL

Contributing to regional cooperation in the Western Balkans in the fields of democracy, human rights, justice, and institution building through building the capacities of next-generation political leadership

## MISSION

- Improving the knowledge of 150 regional political leaders on the rule of law, human and minority rights, justice and security system reform, combating crime and corruption, social inclusion and gender equality

Improving the political culture on the national and regional level

- Strengthening exchange between national decision-makers and their peers in the region, as well as with prominent international experts

Developing political consensus on regional cooperation in areas crucial for sustainable democracy and citizen rights protection

- Improving communication and trust between the political leadership and citizens in the region, as well as gaining popular support for reforms and the systemic implementation of human rights standards



## RAD program

⇒ *Three yearly program cycles*

### Year 1: Justice and Security Cooperation (2013)

Topics:

- combating corruption and organized crime
- international law and institutions
- role of the ICTY
- security sector reform
- justice reform

### Year 2: Human and Minority Rights (2014)

Topics:

- international institutions and national cooperation with ECHR
- minorities and marginalized groups
- gender equality
- non-discrimination
- 3<sup>rd</sup> generation rights and social inclusion

### Year 3: Building Democratic Institutions (2015)

Topics:

- developing good governance mechanisms
- role of independent regulatory bodies
- media freedom in the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- global civil society networks
- role of think tanks and evidence-based policy making

⇒ *Four capacity building seminars per year*

⇒ *One study visit per year:*

*Spain, Northern Ireland, North Italy*

⇒ *One final alumni conference*

RAD offers a highly structured curriculum based on a variety of innovative cutting-edge learning methods, including interactive workshops, case studies, and introductions to the most prominent global leaders in this area.

## participants

⇒ leading younger politicians who already hold significant posts on the state level or in their respective political parties

⇒ persons who can be expected as the next generation of the countries' leadership

⇒ *50 participants per year*

## FUTURE

RAD as a starting point for creating and institutionalizing a hub for political cooperation and exchange in the region

Structured approach to enhancing the confidence building, mutual understanding and cooperation of future political leaders of the Western Balkans

A political elite that will shape the European future of the Balkans through a new political culture developed from within the region