



Our Future European Union (OFEU) is a challenging and exciting exchange program established in 2003. Every year it brings together young people from Serbia, Kosovo and the Netherlands. It offers them a unique opportunity to explore different political and social issues faced by people and communities in Serbia, Kosovo and the Netherlands, and how they are related to the EU. The program promotes and supports active youth participation in establishing international and inter-cultural connections and understanding.

Apply for OFEU 2012

In 2012, OFEU invites 18 young people (age 19 – 25) from the Netherlands, Kosovo and Serbia (6 per country) to take part in an on-line collaborative research journalism projects, and investigate three thematic areas: (1) The Future of Multiculturalism: Identity Quest; (2) Youth Political Participation: Youth as Consumers or Producers of Politics; and (3) Gender in European Perspective: Prospects and Thoughts¹. Through these international, collaborative ventures the participants will shed light on current societal issues from different national perspectives, experiences and solutions, and generate recommendations for policy and decision makers.

Participants

A group of 18 skilled and motivated young people (age 19 – 25) from the Netherlands, Kosovo and Serbia will be selected to participate in the collaborative research journalism projects. Students who have previous experiences and/or a particular academic interest in the EU and the Balkan region are invited to apply. Members of Our Future Network are highly encouraged to apply. Selection will be based on qualities such as: team work, open-mindedness, youth activism and motivation. Reaching gender and a geographical balance will be considered during the selection of participants. Further requirements for participants include:

- regular Internet connection and access;
- fluency in English;
- being able to commit an average of 5-7 hours per week to the research;
- having good writing skills, ability to summarize and publish information on-line;
- being able to attend all face-to-face activities envisaged by the program;
- having knowledge and experience in a specific field and area of the research;
- having the motivation to successfully participate and complete the program.

¹ The themes are broadly formulated research areas. They will be narrowed down according to participants' own interests and experiences during the first training week in Pristina.

The program model

Training in Pristina, Kosovo, in March 2012, will gather selected participants (6 from Kosovo, 6 from the Netherlands, 6 from Serbia) and trainers. Participants will form three research groups (each comprised of 2 participants from Kosovo, 2 from Serbia and 2 from the Netherlands) and work together to establish a research agenda for their research journalism projects. The training will furthermore integrate skills in citizen journalism and multimedia, research, and on-line collaboration.

During the 24-weeks (April – October 2012) participants will work on their **research journalism project**. Participants will work in their respective countries to collect information and feed the research process with relevant data (e.g. organize informative meetings and interviews with relevant stakeholders, run questionnaire-based surveys, etc). Parallel to country-based efforts, coordination and communication among participants will take place online using dynamic on-line tools. The research groups will be supported and tutored throughout their research journalism projects. The research groups will have their research related communication and local travel expenses covered.

Following the 6 months of work, the participants will come together for a **closing conference in Belgrade**, Serbia, to share and discuss the findings and results of their research work and on-line collaboration. Additionally, a press conference will be organized for the participants to present their results and achievements to media, civil society and other stakeholders.

Timeline

- 10 January 2012: Call for applications
- 05 February 2012: Call for applications ends
- 13 February 2012: Selection results available
- 26 March – 30 March 2012: Training in Pristina
- 01 April – 01 October 2012: Collaborative research journalism projects
- October 2012: Conference in Belgrade
- October/November 2012: Final publication with project results

Deadline

The deadline for applications is February 5th, 2012.

How to apply

To apply, please fill in the attached application form and send it before February 5th, 2012 to:

Kushtrim Koliqi: info@ngo-integra.org (in Kosovo)

Marijn Speth: applications.OFN.2012@gmail.com (in the Netherlands)

Ana Rankovic: office@ngofractal.org (in Serbia)

The project "Our Future, European Union – Research Program 2012" is implemented by Integra (Kosovo), Fractal (Serbia), and Our Future Network (The Netherlands) and supported by The Embassy of the Netherlands in Belgrade and Open Society Foundation – East East Program.