



PRESIDENT IVANOV'S SCHOOL
FOR YOUNG LEADERS

THE PROJECT: International Training for Young Leaders of President Ivanov

SINCE 2010

THE PROJECT: INTERNATIONAL TRAINING FOR YOUNG LEADERS OF PRESIDENT IVANOV

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The School for Young Leaders is a project of the President of the Republic of Macedonia 2009-2019, Dr. Gjorge Ivanov, primarily initiated in his first electoral program in 2009, following his idea and vision to enable the young, talented and ambitious people from Macedonia to upgrade and improve their skills, to develop their creativity and managerial capacities.

The School has been traditionally organized **since 2010**.

So far, in the 14 Schools, about **550** young people from Macedonia and abroad have participated, with a different academic and professional focus but similar achievements and ambitions.

The 14 generations of participants followed **lectures of about 350 renowned lecturers** from around the world.

The project is funded by the private sector.





THE PROJECT: INTERNATIONAL TRAINING FOR YOUNG LEADERS OF PRESIDENT IVANOV

SINCE 2010

The **MISSION** of the School is to stimulate positive values among young leaders and future political, cultural, and economic leaders of our country and develop their capacity to meet the challenges of global technology, international competition, and cultural and religious diversification.



The **PROGRAM** is intended for young people with higher education, those under the age of 35, graduates, and young professionals. Through lectures, simulations, real examples, illustrations and practical exercises and training, the students are given the opportunity to become familiar with the practices of true leadership.



THE PROJECT: INTERNATIONAL TRAINING FOR YOUNG LEADERS OF PRESIDENT IVANOV

SINCE 2010

The **VISION** of the School for Young Leaders, as a training center with high standards and responsibility for integration of the modern political, scientific and technological knowledge and skills, is to establish a new model in the leaders' education and advancement of their personal and leadership skills in their living and working environments.



In 2018, the School for Young Leaders of President Ivanov was recognized as

**THE BEST SOCIALLY
RESPONSIBLE PROJECT
IN EUROPE FOR 2017**

by the World Forum of Business Angels.

Project's Main Goal

ENABLE YOUNG PEOPLE
TO DEVELOP AND IMPROVE LEADERSHIP SKILLS

"Leadership means influence because a leader without influence is a person without authority. I will give you a personal example... I became President thanks to my students who became politicians and decision-makers. And what does a professor do when he becomes President? The answer is simple. He opens his own school."

DR. GJORGE IVANOV

President of the Republic of Macedonia 2009-2019

receiving the 2018 Grand Award for the Best World Leader Investing in a New Generation by the World Business Angels Investment Forum

CO-ORGANIZERS

The Cabinet of former President Ivanov is organizing the School for Young Leaders together with the Ivanov School for Leaders - Alumni Association (ISLAA) and the International Center Alliance of Civilizations.

IVANOV SCHOOL OF LEADERS - ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (ISLAA)

Ivanov School of Leaders - Alumni Association (ISLAA) is an organization that maintains long-term relations with existing and future members, provides support to its members, and is a dedicated partner of the School for Young Leaders organized under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Macedonia (2009-2019), Dr. Gjorge Ivanov.



ISLAA's vision is to establish itself as a strongly interconnected Alumni Association by creating an influential leadership entity.

Its main aims include maintaining long-term and productive relations among alumni members; promoting the fundamental values of leadership through its actions; and promoting the spirit of leadership in the communities where alumni members live and work.

ISLAA is fully devoted to fulfilling its vision, mission and statute, by implementing innovative initiatives, and alumni members bear a moral and collective responsibility to support ISLAA's activities and abide by the universal principles of solidarity, equality and mutual respect.

The members of the organization are constantly involved in a number of processes that aim to help and facilitate the process of generating solutions to overcome the current challenges in a number of areas and improve the overall infrastructure. This is reflected through the numerous trainings, seminars and conferences organized by ISLAA in cooperation with state bodies and institutions in order to improve the current situation in the country through mutual cooperation and mutual support.

ISLAA's activities are wide-ranging and in line with the School of Leaders' vision to promote and stimulate leadership in all segments of society and ensure progress through interdisciplinary action.



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INTERNATIONAL CENTER ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS (ICAC)

The INTERNATIONAL CENTER ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS – ICAC is a foundation dedicated to fostering respect and tolerance among people, embracing the diversity of their beliefs, personalities, and languages. Its core mission is to counteract harmful divisions, polarization, and extremism prevalent within societies and among them.



The ICAC pursues its objectives through a three-fold approach:

- Firstly, it strives to bring together a diverse group of actors in inclusive and respectful dialogues, fostering joint action to enhance peace and progress. By creating a space for open conversations and collaboration, the ICAC seeks to bridge the gaps that often separate different communities.
- Secondly, the ICAC is committed to developing a range of tools and platforms for sustainable conflict management and reconciliation. By addressing conflicts and promoting reconciliation, the organization aims to create a more harmonious world where differences are understood and resolved peacefully.
- Thirdly, the ICAC actively contributes to the broader global mission of organizations like the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and other institutions, promoting understanding and harmony among nations. By aligning its efforts with these global initiatives, the ICAC seeks to create a more cohesive and interconnected world.

The work of the ICAC extends beyond mere contemplation and theorizing; it operates as a “do-tank,” engaging in practical actions rather than being limited to a “think-tank” that only generates ideas. As a result, the ICAC serves as a crucial meeting point for state leaders, religious figures, politicians, civil society representatives, academics, and media professionals on both regional and global scales.

While the ICAC has a broad focus, its primary geographic attention centers on the Balkans, drawing upon comparative research with the Middle East and the Caucasus. These three regions have historically been subject to competing geopolitical interests of both major global powers and regional players.

By addressing and understanding the complexities of these regions, the ICAC aims to contribute meaningfully to promoting peace, understanding, and unity in a world often fragmented by historical conflicts and divisions.



14 Schools for Young Leaders

The School was organized for the first time in late August 2010 in Ohrid. During both terms of office of the President of the Republic of Macedonia, Dr. Gjorge Ivanov, in the period of 2009-2019, there were 10 Schools for Young Leaders, one per year. After the end of the second mandate of President Ivanov, the School for Young Leaders continued to be held under his auspices, and so far there have been four Schools in the period of 2020-2023.

2010 – 2023 14 SCHOOLS



PROGRAM

The School for Young Leaders usually lasts for about 10 days and is held in a hotel on the beautiful coastline of Ohrid Lake. Because of different circumstances, the period when the School was held has been changing.



Overview of the School Program and Schedule

The School's program and schedule over the past few years:

- The first nine Schools took place in August during the summer, while the 10th School happened in the winter of 2019.
- The 11th School was completely online in 2020 due to unforeseen circumstances.
- Starting in 2021, the Schools combined online and in-person sessions in Ohrid.
- The School program typically covers full-day activities for all participants.

Exploring Leadership Through a Variety of Approaches

Our program provides students with ample opportunities to study leadership through a range of activities, including lectures, simulations, case studies, illustrations, trainings, workshops, and practical exercises. We cover a broad spectrum of leadership practices, including business, social, political, and military leadership. Our program includes lectures and training from top professionals, including well-known lecturers, prominent politicians and parliamentarians from European countries, ambassadors, ministers, and successful business leaders.



PROGRAM

The program of the School starts with the **Official Opening** of the School on the first day. A welcoming speech by President Ivanov and speeches by guest speakers usually high dignitaries, high officials of foreign countries, prominent politicians, academics, special guests etc.

The second part is the **lectures** which take place for 8-9 days. An Orientation/Induction Session is a brief introduction to the program of the School by the Moderator, a Code of Conduct, and sharing of logistics and various important information with the participants.



The traditional way of conduct of the School has a **full-day program**, meaning morning and afternoon sessions. The online Schools have sessions during weekends (up to 4 hours per day), and during working days after 18:00 CET (up to 3 hours per day).

Since the second year of the School, in 2011, when the Alumni Association was formed, each year the **Ivanov School of Leaders - Alumni Association (ISLAA)** has a separate session with the participants so it could present its work, activities, and projects and to invite the current generation of leaders to become its members.

The participants have also a **group work assignment**, which is usually group work on a project on different topics mostly correlated with the general topic of the School.

After the last activity in the working part of the program, there is an **Impression Session** where the participants could share their experience with the program and their impressions. Also, the participants are given time to fill out a form with questions for evaluation of the whole program.

The School ends with a **Closing Ceremony** with a closing speech by President Ivanov and speeches by guest speakers, and a presentation of the **Certificates of Completion** to the participants that finished the program of the School successfully.



PROGRAM

In addition to lectures, the program includes a variety of activities that are officially organized as field visits for participants.

One of the most interesting field visits was the visit of the 10th generation of young leaders to the New Istanbul Airport in 2019.



In 2020, since all of the activities in that period were held online, the 11th generation attended an online event, a Presentation of the Nizami Ganjavi International Center Award 2020.

The 6th generation of young leaders, in 2015, visited the Municipality of Pustec in the Republic of Albania, where they met the Mayor, the administration and the citizens of the Municipality, a dominant Macedonian.

In 2012, the 3rd generation of young leaders had the opportunity to listen to a special address by the United Nations Secretary-General His Excellency Ban Ki-Moon and attend the official reception in the summer residence of the President of the Republic of Macedonia in Ohrid, Villa Biljana.

In 2018, the ninth generation of young leaders had a field visit to three Macedonian companies situated in the Municipality of Prilep: Comfy Angel, Mikrosam, and Vitaminka.

In 2022, the 13th generation of young leaders had the opportunity to visit the Municipality of Ohrid and were welcomed by the Mayor of Ohrid.

During the Opening Session in 2022, attendees received a letter from His Holiness Pope Francis regarding the theme of "Moral Leadership."



In 2023, President Ivanov, accompanied by his Cabinet, Bishop Kiro Stojanov from the Catholic Church in Macedonia, representatives of the ISLAA – Ivanov School's Alumni Association, as well as friends and supporters of the School for Young Leaders, attended the General Audience of Pope Francis. It was an exceptional opportunity for President Ivanov to personally present the recognition of "Moral Leader of Today" to Pope Francis.



PARTICIPANTS

The Program is intended for young people under 35 years of age who have completed higher education, including both graduates and professionals with work experience.

Participants are expected to demonstrate a willingness to develop and refine their leadership skills and to contribute to a positive development of the society and the environment they live and work in.

The number of participants is limited and to take part young people from the Republic of Macedonia and abroad should meet the following requirements:

- English proficiency (excellent knowledge and active use of the English language)
- Grade Point Average equal to or greater than 8.5 (or the equivalent for foreign degrees) will be considered an advantage
- Work experience, as well as a master's degree in the relevant field, will be considered an advantage.

The documents that are required for the application are:

- short biography,
- a transcript of the passed exams/diploma,
- 2 references/recommendations from an organisation, company, or university, and
- a motivational letter or essay on the general theme (interpretation and opinion of the participant on the general topic, up to 800 words, in English).



So far, in the 14 Schools for Young Leaders, around 550 young people from Macedonia and abroad have participated in the training.

The young leaders were with different academic and professional focuses, but with similar achievements and ambitions.



The vast number of participants are from Macedonia, but there were participants from different countries, as USA, China, UK, Serbia, Greece, Albania, Azerbaijan, Australia, Turkey, etc.

LECTURERS

The 14 generations of participants in the School for Young Leaders followed lectures of around 350 renowned lecturers from around the world.

Participants in the program, spanning over fourteen generations, had the chance to attend a variety of sessions including lectures, workshops, simulations, case studies, projects, and training. The School prides itself on its diverse lecturers, hailing from backgrounds such as academia, politics, international relations, social sciences, security, communications, psychology, IT, and humanities.

The previous schools boasted lectures from several Presidents or Prime Ministers of European countries, such as Vaclav Klaus of the Czech Republic, Aleksandar Vucic and Boris Tadic of the Republic of Serbia, Petar Stojanov of the Republic of Bulgaria, Vaira Vike-Freiberga and Valdis Zatlers of Latvia, Bamir Topi and Rexhep Qemal Meidani from Albania, Janez Jansa as Prime Minister of Slovenia, and Zlatko Lagumdjija and Mladen Ivanic from BiH, as well as the former Secretary General of the UN Ban Ki-Moon.

Additionally, high-ranking officials and politicians from different countries, such as Ministers of Foreign Affairs, were among the lecturers. These included Franko Fratini of Italy, Mevlut Cavusoglu of Turkey, Peter Balazs of Hungary, and ministers with other portfolios from Macedonia, Hungary, Germany, and many more. Foreign affairs advisors to heads of state or government, such as the Prime Minister of Italy, the US Secretary of State, and the Presidents of Serbia and Macedonia, also delivered lectures.

The School also welcomed politicians from the biggest political parties in Europe, as well as many ambassadors from Macedonia and other countries.



LECTURERS

Lecturers at the school were also the presidents of the **World Academy of Art and Science** and of the **European Academy of Sciences and Arts**, professors from many universities from all over the world, including professors from all state and private universities in Macedonia.

LECTURERS AT THE SCHOOL WERE PROFESSORS FROM THE FOLLOWING UNIVERSITIES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD:

Columbia University in NY, the University of Tennessee in NC, Norwich University, University of Vienna, University of Pennsylvania, State University in North Carolina, Oxford University, Catalonia University, the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen, University of Boston, Schwarzman College at Tsinghua University in Beijing, Temple University in Pennsylvania, State College Glassboro in New Jersey, University of Cambridge, McMaster-Syracuse and McMaster University in Canada, International University of Monaco, Panteion-Assas University in Paris, University of Zurich, Bar Ilan University in Israel, Cyprus Eastern Mediterranean University, Tor Vergata Rome University, University of San Francisco, the University of Texas at Tyler, TOBB ETU University in Ankara, Bahcesehir University in Istanbul and many, many more universities, colleges, and educational programs.

LECTURERS AT THE SCHOOL WERE REPRESENTATIVES FROM:

Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program, Institute of Applied Research at Norwich University, World Business Angels Investment Forum, Aspen Institute Socrates Program, Gerhard Rainer Consulting, World Youth Peace Summit, Pacific Institute in United Kingdom, Cambridge Commonwealth Trust & Cambridge Overseas Trust, CIVIC - Institute for International Cooperation, Max Planck Institute for Research in Multi-Confessional and Multi-ethnic Societies, EU Enlargement Studies at Central European University, CRISP, Klingendel European Study Program (CESP), Royal Institute of International Relations - EGMONT, Adizes Institute, Islamic Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization "ISECO", Mandel Foundation-Israel, European Institute of the American Studies Fund, Trilateral Commission in Serbia, Alexandrian Library, Goldsmith Organization, MOTIVA management consulting, educational and training center, Global AI Ethics Institute, GD Global Ankara, etc.

LECTURERS AT THE SCHOOL WERE PROFESSORS FROM THE FOLLOWING UNIVERSITIES FROM MACEDONIA:

Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, St. Paul the Apostle University in Ohrid, University Goce Delchev in Stip, St. Kliment Ohridski University in Bitola, South East European University in Tetovo, General Mihajlo Apostolski Military Academy, International Balkan University in Skopje, University of Tourism and Management in Skopje etc.

Many lecturers at the School were from various **institutes, think tanks, programs, and associations, from around the globe, and from many renowned companies, and corporations, as their CEOs, directors, or at the highest executive and managerial positions, businessmen, etc.**

LECTURERS AT THE SCHOOL WERE PROFESSORS FROM THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES:

TAV Airports, Turkish Airlines, IBM, AAR Corp., DHM International Production, Holz-Gross GmbH Germany, Asseco SEE Group, Huawei Technologies, ZTE, China Civil Engineering Construction Corp, Comfy Angel, Multimode Group, YY Goshti, MiGROS Group, TAG-Org, PricewaterhouseCoopers AG, Cevahir Holding, Symphony Solutions, Pacific Century Group, Virtual Exchange Platform Soliya, Niagara Bottling LLC, Torstar Corporation, Nordstar Corporation, Caldwell Securities Ltd., Taskforce, Lincoln Island Company LLC, Niagara Bottling LLC, Ilitch Enterprises LLC, etc. and many companies from Macedonia, as Alkaloid, FX3X, Motiva, Mikrosam, EVN Macedonia, etc.

Lecturers at the School were also representatives of the Macedonian diaspora with Macedonian heritage that run successful businesses around the world.

During the 13 training programs, among the lecturers were as well,

- **Kurt Volker** former US Ambassador to NATO and leading expert in U.S. foreign and national security policy,
- **David Goldsmith** Co-founder and President of the Goldsmith Organization and one of the world's leading business forecasters and experts in leadership,
- **Patrick Jephson** former Princess Diana's private secretary (chief of staff) and best-selling author according to the New York Times,
- **Ismail Serageldin** Founding Director of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and Emeritus Librarian,
- **Abdulaziz Otman Altvairi** General Director of the Islamic Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization "ISECO",
- **Yannis Boutaris** Mayor of Thessaloniki,
- **Frank Brenner** General Manager of Eurocontrol,
- **Mary Joe Jacobi** consultant on business strategy and communications, former Commissioner of the British Civil Service, former Assistant Secretary for Trade of the US and former special assistant to President Ronald Reagan,
- **David Becket** creator of the Best3Minutes Pitch Methodology, a TEDx speech coach and author of Pitch To Win,
- **Donald Steel**, Director of Johnson Associates (British Leading Public Relations Company in aviation) and former BBCMedia Spokesman, etc.

DR. GJORGE IVANOV

President of the Republic of Macedonia 2009-2019

Opening Ceremony, 5th School for Young Leaders, 2014

"The School aims to create people who will grow in height, who will reach the highest criteria, who will be the best in their fields.

We do not need leaders only in politics, we also need people who know how to lead in business, education, sports and culture, in every sphere of everyday life.

We need young people who will have self-confidence and will know how to make decisions.

Who will know when to make decisions, where to make decisions and with whom to make decisions."

