

About the Youth Initiative for Human Rights (YIHR):

Youth Initiative for Human Rights (YIHR) is a regional network of non-governmental organisation with programmes in the territories of Serbia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia. YIHR was formed by young people from these countries in order to enhance youth participation in democratisation of the society and empowerment of the rule of law by driving processes of facing the past and establishing new progressive connections in the post-conflict region of the former Yugoslavia. YIHR was established in 2003. More than 30 people work on it's various projects on a daily basis, while several hundred volunteers participate in the organisation's activities.

YIHR's mission is to provide protection for the victims of violations of human rights, establish new connections between the post-war generations and enhance the participation of youth in the processes of transitional justice by promoting the truth about the wars in the former Yugoslavia. The Youth Initiative for Human Rights promotes the truth, justice, peace and equality as its core values.

Basic information about the New Policy School (NPS):

NPS is intended for students of humanities, young lawyers, journalists, young people from political parties, as well as for civil society activists. Lecturers are eminent professors from Serbia and the region, human rights activists, ambassadors with background experience in the Balkans, as well as experts in the fields of transitional justice and European Integration. NPS attendees are required to attend all lectures and seminars delivered in the course of two semesters (six months total).

The six-month school is divided into three thematic units:

1) Human Rights - This module will help students to acquire basic knowledge on the concept of human rights, system for human rights protection at national and international level, domestic and international institutions for protection of human rights. In addition, in this segment of education, students will learn about the key issues in human rights protection domain in Serbia, existing legislation, anti-discrimination mechanisms and the position of minorities in Serbia from representatives of domestic organizations and state institutions.

2) Transitional Justice - This module will acquaint students with the history of conflicts in the former Yugoslavia, help them understand the principles of transitional justice and formulate new approaches within the transitional justice processes in the region. Students will learn about the work of truth commissions, war crimes trials at domestic and international level and existing initiatives in the region. Students will have the opportunity to learn about the experiences of other countries in the transitional justice domain through case studies.

3) European Integration - Through this module, students will be introduced with the development of the idea about united Europe after the Second World War, the values behind this idea, European Union institutions and current issues of EU enlargement, with special focus on the process of association of the Western Balkans.

The third generation of NPS is being implemented in Belgrade, Niš and Novi Sad. In each of these cities twenty (20) selected candidates are attending three-hour lectures. NPS also incorporates seminars based on

strategy pertaining to public advocacy, human rights and academic writing skills. Once a week, candidates from Vojvodina are attending lectures in Novi Sad, candidates from the south of Serbia in Niš, whereas candidates from Belgrade are attending lectures in Belgrade.