

## EU SCHEME FOR YOUNG CIVIL SERVANTS IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

### *Content*

The European Commission will launch a pilot scheme for Young Civil Servants at the Western Balkan Summit in Paris in July.

It involves an executive programme at Sciences Po in Paris (in English) as well as a short exchange programme in the region. It will be implemented by the British Council.

The pilot phase involves 30 civil servants (5 from each country) with between 2 and 5 years of experience. Initially, it will comprise civil servants involved in policy formulation in the Prime Minister's office, planning and strategy units or the Ministry of European Integration. This would ensure that the overall group is as coherent as possible. Participants would need to pass a strict English language test.

The programme at Sciences Po involves two separate study periods of 10 days each. This minimises the time away from work, and provides time for preparation and follow-up.

The exchange is also limited to 2 weeks, and will be organised simultaneously for all 30 civil servants. Each country will receive 1 candidate from each of the other 5 countries, in order to strengthen the regional reconciliation element.

### *Selection*

It is important to select the best possible candidates for the pilot scheme. The selection panel will comprise the European Commission, the British Council, Sciences Po and the NIPAC offices. There will be 3 separate stages:

- 1) Long list based on eligibility criteria (years of experience, area of work, work status), motivation letter and CV. This will be done through an online application platform.
- 2) Short list based on English IELTS test (Academic level). Each candidate need to have an overall score of 7 (out of 9) and with no sub-score below 6.
- 3) Final selection based on interview (motivation).

### *Time schedule*

In an ideal world, the time table would be as follows:

- Formal launch on 4 July (Paris summit)
- Contract signature August.
- Invitation/Call for proposals (24/8 – 9/9)
- Selection panels September (one week)
- Sciences Po round one October (10 days)
- Sciences Po round two December (10 days)
- Western Balkan Exchange February (2 weeks)

### *Conclusions*

The pilot scheme has been discussed and agreed with Sciences Po and the British Council, and countries have been fully consulted.

It is proposed to organise a lessons-learned/wrap-up session for all 30 civil servants in April/May 2017. This could be combined with a visibility event with high-level involvement from Commissioner Hahn and political leaders from the region.