

Call for applications for the 4th Vilnius Young Leaders Meeting

The Eastern Europe Studies Centre (EESC), in cooperation with the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), is bringing back the Vilnius Young Leaders Meeting (VYLM) format and invites to apply for its 4th instalment, which is to be held on **April 17–18 in Vilnius, Lithuania**. The VYLM invites young professionals from across Eastern Europe to gather for two days of intensive seminars and workshops aimed at developing their professional skills, exchanging practices and experiences, as well as networking and developing ties to further their professional careers. Following the highly successful iterations of the event in prior years and the excellent development of our alumni, we are eager to once again contribute to the dissemination of verified and truthful information across our region and in its vicinity.

In the year 2022, we all bore witness to the eruption of all-out war by Russia against Ukraine after years of continued clashes and the annexation of Ukraine's regions; the fighting has captured the attention of the entire world, with the Ukrainian people fighting for their freedoms, rights, and statehood as a whole. The 4th VYLM will dive into journalism during wartime, be it inside a country at war or beyond it. This year, the VYLM will focus on sharing experiences, looking at how journalists and other practitioners continue their work in Ukraine during the war and also how those abroad can seek to help a beleaguered people, whether by spreading the word of their plight, fighting back against hostile efforts to distort the already cloudy realities of wartime, or building local support.

VYLM participants will participate in an intensive two-day programme based on seminars and workshops, meeting media and communication practitioners, as well as political analysts working at the top of their field in the region. The meeting's various interactions will offer opportunities to form partnerships with a wide range of organisations and institutions, including drawing upon the VYLM alumni community. As with prior editions of the VYLM, following their extremely positive results, the organisers are confident participants will be able to apply their new knowledge in practice and the tools and contacts they will acquire will further facilitate their professional activities.



Who can apply?

Motivated young professionals from the Baltic States and those from the Eastern Partnership States, who reside in the European Union, whose professional activities and personal goals are related to improving the media, research, and analytical environments in their respective countries and the broader region. Participants from the Associated Trio countries, and especially Ukraine, are particularly encouraged to join.

Candidates should ideally:

- Be between 24–35 years old;
- Hold at least a bachelor's degree;
- Have a minimum of 3 years of work experience in the fields of journalism, communication, political science, or civil society/NGOs;
- Able to actively take part in discussions and work in English.

Even if you do not meet all of the above-mentioned criteria, your application is still welcome. Participants will be selected not only based on their competence, there will also be emphasis on the participant's motivation and ability to contribute to the activities of the meeting. Innovative approaches and ideas are always welcomed.



What does the VYLM offer?

In addition to the opportunity to meet and learn from leading figures in journalism, communication, foreign affairs, and security – as well as from one another – travel and accommodation for participants will be arranged and paid for by the EESC.



How to apply?

Please fill in the application form at <https://www.eesc.lt/registration-vilnius-young-leaders-meeting-2023/>. The application must be completed in English. All applications must be received by the deadline of **February 27, 2023, at 23:55 Lithuanian time (GMT+2)**.

If you have any questions or require further information, you can reach out at jurgis.vedrickas@eesc.lt.