



July 20, 2025

## **Subject: Invitation to Nominate Candidates – R.I.S.E. Leadership Academy 2025**

Dear Soroptimist Friends,

We warmly invite your Union or Club to nominate candidates for the **R.I.S.E. Leadership Academy 2025**, a unique leadership development program co-hosted by **SI Club Zagreb Centar** and **SI Club Maribor**, taking place from **10 to 15 October 2025** in **Zagreb, Croatia**, and **Maribor, Slovenia**.

This Academy represents a truly **one-of-a-kind collaboration between two Soroptimist Clubs from two countries—Croatia and Slovenia—uniting our efforts** to build a shared platform for empowering young women across Europe. By hosting the Academy in both Zagreb and Maribor, we are not only crossing borders geographically, but also fostering international cooperation, cultural exchange, and regional solidarity.

**R.I.S.E.** stands for **Resilience, Influence, Strength, and Empowerment**—the pillars of a transformative leadership journey designed to equip young women to lead with courage and purpose. The Academy will offer:

- Skills in communication, negotiation, and project development
- Confidence-building through peer collaboration and expert mentoring
- Tools for impactful leadership in personal, professional, and civic life
- A unique intercultural Soroptimist experience
- A nine-month mentoring follow-up, with each participant matched with a dedicated mentor

We are seeking nominations of **non-Soroptimist women** who meet the following criteria:

- Aged between **22 and 35**
- **Fluent in English**, the working language of the Academy
- In their **final year of university**, or currently **employed** or **unemployed**
- Committed to attend a pre-Academy **online preparatory meeting**
- Fully committed to attending the **entire Academy program**
- Dedicated to participating in the **mentoring program after the event**

A total of 20 candidates will be selected:

- 7 from Croatia
- 7 from Slovenia
- 6 from other EU countries

**All participants will be selected based on their CV and motivation letter**, with attention given to leadership potential, engagement, and commitment to Soroptimist values.

**Participation and Costs:** Selected candidates will be asked to pay a **registration fee of €50**. Participants are responsible for covering their **own travel expenses to Zagreb (arrival) and from Maribor (departure)**. All other expenses—including accommodation, meals, local travel between program locations, and participation in the full Academy—will be fully covered. In addition, participants must arrange **valid travel insurance**, including **medical coverage**, for the full duration of the program.

Each Union or Club is welcome to **nominate up to two candidates**. Kindly ensure that complete applications, including CV and motivation letter, are submitted by **20 September 2025**.

**For applications and further information:**

Applications must be submitted via the link

 <https://form.jotform.com/251942577440057>.

For additional information, feel free to contact us at

✉ [leadershipacademiacroslo@gmail.com](mailto:leadershipacademiacroslo@gmail.com).

Thank you for supporting this inspiring opportunity to uplift the next generation of women leaders and unite our Soroptimist network across borders.

With appreciation and warm Soroptimist greetings,

**Nada Šabec**

*President SI Maribor and Co-Chair of the Organizing Committee*



**Carmen Majetić-Pavić**

*President SI Zagreb Centar and Co-Chair of Organizing Committee*

