



Soroptimist
Balkan
Leadership
Academy

under the patronage of



Dear Candidate,

We are delighted to invite you to apply for the **ST-ART Leadership Academy** which will take place from September 6 to 12, 2026 in Măgurele, a town situated in the southern part of Romania (16 km from Bucharest, the capital of Romania).

ST-ART Leadership Academy, organized by the Soroptimist International Unions of Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, and Türkiye with the important support of [Soroptimist International of Europe](#), is the second edition of the **Soroptimist Balkan Leadership Academy (SBLA)**, following the successful inaugural edition held in Tipchenitza (Bulgaria) in 2025.

The name of the Academy, ST-ART is inspired by the concept of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) combined with the ARTs, and it reflects our core vision: to bridge scientific and humanistic disciplines as foundations for effective and inspiring leadership. Through its programme, the Academy highlights how science, technology, and the arts contribute meaningfully to leadership development and career success.

You do not need to be a specialist in science or technology, or the arts to participate in the Academy. What matters most is curiosity and openness to exploring how these fields can strengthen your own leadership journey. The Academy is designed primarily for young women—preferably young professionals—who aspire to grow personally, learn from experienced women leaders, and further develop their leadership potential.

The theme of the 2026 Academy is: "**ST-ART for successful leadership**"

Participation in the ST-ART Academy may mark the beginning - the START point - of your transformative leadership path.

The programme will include training activities hosted by CIFRA (Centre International de Formation et de Recherche Avancées en Physique) and other partner institutions such as the Romanian Commission for UNESCO, "I. L. Caragiale" National University of Theatre and Film Bucharest. Apart from that, there will be visits to ELI-NP (one of the most powerful laser systems in the world) and cultural institutions, a sightseeing tour of Bucharest with a visit to the People's House, the current headquarters of the Romanian Parliament, entertainment and networking activities every evening ("One Hour About My Country"), a half-day trip to Târgoviște, a

historical town nearby.

This dynamic and diverse programme is designed not only to strengthen your leadership skills, but also to encourage self-reflection, help you identify your strengths and areas for growth, and empower you to take an active role in your professional and community life.

A total of **26 participants** will be selected, based on recommendations by Soroptimist Unions and Single Clubs across Europe.

In order to promote Soroptimist International goals in South-Eastern Europe, we plan to select:

- **20 candidates** from **Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Türkiye** and **Republic of Moldova**
- **6 candidates** from the rest of Europe, with **one participant per country**.

• **Participation Criteria:**

The applicants must:

- Be recommended by a Union or a Single Club
- Be either Soroptimist or non-Soroptimist
- Be fluent in English
- Be between 20 and 35 years of age
- Attend the preparatory online meeting
- Commit to full participation throughout the Academy
- Participate in the nine-month mentoring programme as agreed with the mentor
- Provide evaluations and testimonials to the SBLA Organising Committee upon

completion

of the programme.

• **Costs covered by the participant:**

(Your Soroptimist recommending Union or Club may choose to support you partially or fully.)

- Travel expenses to and from Romania
- Travel insurance (including medical coverage)
- A contribution of **100 Euros**, payable upon acceptance

The organizers will cover accommodation, meals, and all official on-site activities during the Academy.

• **Application Procedure:**

Candidates must be nominated by a Soroptimist Union or Single Club.

a) The candidate must complete the [SBLA 2026-Participant Application Form](#) and the [SBLA 2026-Terms and Conditions](#) form and submit them to the Union/Single Club that recommends her to attend SBLA 2026.

b) The Union/Single Club will forward the recommended application to the email address office.usir@gmail.com

Application Deadline from Unions/Single Clubs: April 30th 2026.

Early applications are warmly encouraged.

Shortlisted candidates will be contacted within three weeks of submission to schedule a video interview. Following the interview, both the candidate and the recommending Union or Club will be informed of the final decision.

More information about the ST-ART Leadership Academy can be found at <https://www.soroptimisteurope.org/event/st-art-soroptimist-balkan-leadership-academy/> .

Visit our [project page](#) for updates on the program, lecturers, and activities.

For any questions, contact us at: office.usir@gmail.com

We look forward to receiving your application and welcoming you to this inspiring and transformative leadership journey!

With kind regards,

Dana Constantinescu

President, Soroptimist International Union Romania

Committee Chair of ST-ART Leadership Academy