



Soroptimist
Balkan
Leadership
Academy

under the patronage of



ST-ART LEADERSHIP ACADEMY
Soroptimist Balkan Leadership Academy (SBLA)
Edition 2026
September 6 to 12, Măgurele, Romania

The “ST-ART Leadership Academy” is the second edition of an Academy for Leadership in the Balkan region, after the successful SBLA meeting organized in 2025 in Tipchenitsa (Bulgaria). ST-ART, used as an abbreviation, comes from STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and ARTs, and conveys our main aim of approaching the two scientific and humanities cultures as bedrock for a successful leadership. The activities organized by the Academy will highlight how science, technology and arts contribute essentially to successful leadership.

ST-ART will run from September 6 to 12, 2026, in [Măgurele](#), a town situated in the southern part of Romania (16 km from Bucharest) and renowned as the „*City of Sciences*”, the place where nine important Romanian R&D Institutes have their headquarters.

The activities will be hosted by an important institution located in Magurele, the [**International Center for Advanced Training and Research in Physics \(CIFRA\)**](#), the only UNESCO category II center in Romania and the Balkan region, dedicated to fundamental sciences.

The SI Union from Romania, as main organizer of the SBLA, will cooperate with the SI Unions from Bulgaria, Greece and Türkiye.

The event will be held under the patronage of the **National Commission of Romania for UNESCO**.

The partners that will contribute to achieving ST-ART's objectives will be:

- the [**National Institute for Research and Development for Materials Physics**](#) (INFIM) that is also the holder of the **Romanian UNESCO chair on STEM**,
- Horia Hulubei National Institute for R&D in Physics and Nuclear Engineering with its structure [**Extreme Light Infrastructure–Nuclear Physics**](#) (ELI-NP), the most powerful laser system in the world
- the [**University of Bucharest**](#), with its Faculty of Physics located in Magurele

- the **Association of Women in Science, Engineering and Technology** (AFIST).
- the **National University of Theatre and Film "IL Caragiale"** in Bucharest (UNATC)
- invitees from **ARTEXIM** and **ArtSafari**.

The programme will include:

- Training activities, that will be held in English , hosted by CIFRA and partner institutions as the Romanian Commission for UNESCO, the National University of Theatre and Film „I. L. Caragiale”, Bucharest.
- Visits at ELI-NP and cultural institutions
- Sightseeing Bucharest with a visit at the People’s House, the Headquarters of the Romanian Parliament.
- Entertainment and interpersonal knowledge activities every evening (one hour about my country).
- A half-day trip to Targoviste.

A total of **26 participants** will be selected from the organizing Soroptimist Unions and Single Clubs from the Republic of Moldova (20 participants) and from other Unions and Clubs across Europe (6 participants, one participant/country).

The selected candidates will have the commitment to pay a fee of 100€.

The participants in the training must:

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

Costs

• Covered by Participants:

- Travel expenses to and from SBLA 2026
- Travel insurance (including medical coverage)
- A contribution of **100 Euros**, payable upon acceptance

(The recommended Union or Single Club may choose to support their candidate with travel expenses, the participation fee, or both.)

• Covered by Organisers:

- Accommodation, meals, and on-site activities (funded by SIE, SI Union Romania and partners)

Application procedure:

The applicants 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.

The Union/Single Club send the selected applications to the email address office.usir@gmail.com

Deadline for applications: April 30th, 2026

Early applications are encouraged,

For more details, please contact us at the email address office.usir@gmail.com