



ROMANIA



Soroptimist
Balkan
Leadership
Academy

under the patronage of



unesco
National Commission
of Romania for UNESCO

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

ST-ART Leadership Academy is the second edition of a Leadership Academy for the Balkan region, following the successful Soroptimist Balkan Leadership Academy (SBLA) held in Tipchenitza, Bulgaria, in 2025.

The acronym ST-ART combines STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) with ART, reflecting our core mission of bringing together the scientific and humanistic cultures as the foundation of successful leadership. The Academy's activities will highlight the essential role that the synergy of science, technology, arts and culture plays in shaping visionary leaders capable of creating meaningful and lasting impact.

Date and Venue

The ST-ART Leadership Academy 2026 will take place from 6 to 12 September 2026 in [Măgurele](#), a town located in southern Romania, just 16 km from Bucharest. Often referred to as the "City of Science," Măgurele is home to nine major Romanian research and development institutes.

The Academy will be hosted by the International [Centre for Advanced Training and Research in Physics \(CIFRA\)](#), the only UNESCO Category 2 Centre in Romania and the Balkan region dedicated to the fundamental sciences.

Organizers

The Soroptimist International Union of Romania, as the main organizer of the Soroptimist Balkan Leadership Academy 2026 (SBLA 2026), is working in partnership with the Soroptimist International Unions of Bulgaria, Greece and Türkiye.

The ST-ART Leadership Academy is organised with the financial support of the [Soroptimist International of Europe Federation \(SIE\)](#).

The Academy is held under the patronage of the [Romanian National Commission for UNESCO \(CNR UNESCO\)](#) and is included in Romania's national programme marking the 70th anniversary of Romania's accession to UNESCO.

Participants

The Academy will bring together 26 young women from the organizing countries—Romania, Bulgaria, Greece and Türkiye—as well as participants from Armenia, Austria, France, Georgia, Italy, the Netherlands and the Republic of Moldova.

Partners

The ST-ART Leadership Academy benefits from the valuable support of numerous partners, each contributing in different but equally important ways to the successful delivery of the programme.

Our partners are acknowledged on the [SBLA 2026 Poster](#), and we extend our sincere gratitude to all of them. Throughout the Academy, we will introduce partners and acknowledge their contribution to the programme.

SBLA 2026 Programme

The detailed programme, conducted entirely in English, is available [HERE](#).

The programme includes:

- Academic sessions hosted by [CIFRA](#) and partner institutions, including the [Romanian National Commission for UNESCO](#), the ["I. L. Caragiale" National University of Theatre and Film, Bucharest](#), and the [Extreme Light Infrastructure – Nuclear Physics \(ELI-NP\) Research Centre](#).
- A guided visit to Bucharest, including the Palace of the Parliament, one of the world's largest administrative buildings.
- Evening cultural and networking activities, including the "One Hour About My Country" presentations, where participants will share the culture and traditions of their home countries.
- A half-day excursion to Târgoviște, one of Romania's historic cities.

The programme also features distinguished guest speakers who will provide the the Academy's intellectual framework. Short biographical notes will be published soon.

The ST-ART Leadership Academy extends well beyond the seven-day residential programme. While the Academy itself offers an intensive experience of dialogue, collaboration, intercultural

exchange and authentic learning, participants will also have the opportunity to continue their personal and professional development through a nine-month mentoring programme.

Further details about the mentoring programme will be announced in due course of time.

For further information, please contact us at office.usir@gmail.com