



Geneva Centre for the
Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)

Young Faces Network 2007 - 2008

Call for Participants

The Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) and the Centre for Civil Military Relations – Belgrade (CCMR) will join forces in 2007 - 2008 to gather young and prospective opinion leaders from South Eastern Europe.

Two training workshops, the first one in Geneva in October 2007 and the second one in Belgrade in the beginning of 2008, will be primarily focused on the importance of improving security sector governance and on ways to foster regional security cooperation. The workshops will build foundations for a future security community in South Eastern Europe by identifying, networking and training young and upcoming opinion leaders from the region.

To be considered for the network, applicants must:

1. Be 35 years old or younger at the time of the workshops;
2. Be young scholars, NGO activists, journalists or government officials from South Eastern Europe¹;
3. Hold a graduate degree or possess equivalent experience in a relevant discipline;
4. Speak and write fluently in English;
5. Submit the following **by 31 August**, through e-mail to h.ziherl@dcaf.ch:
 - a detailed curriculum vitae (CV);
 - a written short essay (approx. 2000 words) in English, A4 size paper, Times New Roman, 12 point (footnotes 10 point), 1½ spacing, justified, with 2cm margins;
6. The submissions must be formatted using Microsoft Word. Citations should be formatted according to the guidelines set out in the '*Chicago Manual of Style*'. (<http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org>)

Paper Topics:

More than six years after the ousting of the last dictator, sustainable security and stability of the Western Balkan region is not yet guaranteed. Many unresolved

¹ Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, and Serbia including Kosovo

problems and frozen conflicts still remain, while new threats, affecting the broader region of South Eastern Europe, arise. There is no armed conflict in the region and the danger of renewed hostilities is, at this moment, minimal. That being said, appreciation for co-operative approaches in the broad field of security among local political elites of the region is dearly lacking, preventing them from comprehending the full spectrum of common security threats and devising effective responses to these threats. The negative perception of the regional security environment by elements of local political elites is detrimental to the formation of national security agendas. Reform of the security sector throughout the region is often not seen as a key domestic priority, but must instead be forced from the outside, mainly through the EU and NATO membership conditionality. Security cooperation is largely externally driven and disowned by local elites, instead of being seen as an opportunity for a systematic response to common security threats.

With this situation in mind, essays should discuss the security situation and cooperation in South Eastern Europe, for example concentrating on The Main Security Threat in SEE or Ranges of Security Cooperation initiatives in SEE, etc.

Logistics:

Following a review of submitted essays, at least 15 candidates will be selected to participate in the first training workshop, the “8th Young Faces Conference” which has been scheduled in Geneva during the week of 15 – 19 October 2007 (exact date to be decided). The organisers will pay for all meals, accommodation and a round-trip economy class flight ticket to Geneva for all selected candidates.

For more information about DCAF please visit www.dcaf.ch

For more information about CCMR please visit www.ccmr-bg.org

For more information, please contact: h.ziherl@dcaf.ch or office@ccmr-bg.org