

Shared Horizons' Project Call for young researchers SHS Western Balkans

As part of a project to strengthen public debate and research on contemporary issues in the Western Balkans (October 2024-October 2026), the Institut français (the cultural operator of the French Foreign Affairs Ministry) would like to bring together early career researchers from the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia) and French researchers, to reflect on the opportunities offered by collectively researching and writing history, as well as by new methods of dissemination and mediation. This group will be work in the following stages:

1. Participants will **meet virtually several times during 2025**. The frequency and dates of those meetings will be decided according to need and in consultation with the whole group;
2. **Twice during 2025**, the group of researchers will meet in two of the six countries in the region for private workshops. The two sessions will take place in **spring (end of April) and summer (June) 2025**. These two sessions will consider the methodological and epistemological issues involved in collective and global history in the Western Balkans (1), identify the main challenges and the possible limitations of such projects, before listing the subjects of study (2);
3. During a large public debate event to be held in Sarajevo **in the last quarter of 2025**, as part of the European Dialogues series, the group will propose a special program intended s an introduction to the work already undertaken. This program will take the form of a study day, open and/or closed to the public. The project manager and the group of researchers will design the program of this day;
4. **In 2026**, a similar work schedule will be set. Depending on the progress of the discussions and the dynamics emerging from the working group, a publication project could be pursued.

Selection of young researchers

The early career researchers must be doctoral students and/or PhDs (thesis defended less than five years ago) and must be English-speaking (level C1), taking care to ensure parity by country. French language is a plus.

In particular, these early career researchers may be:

- Specialists in the contemporary or modern history of their region (16th-20th centuries), country or the Balkans more generally;
- Specialists in the humanities and social sciences, with a focus in areas of study likely to shed light on the writing of a collective historical narrative from a European perspective;
- Involved in innovative approaches in the field of social sciences and humanities (research-creation approaches, alternative writing and production of knowledge).

Please send us your application by **Monday, February 10 2025**, including:

- A cover letter;
- A CV listing your most recent publications and current research work;

Applications are to be sent to:

Zara Fournier, Program Manager
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Baptiste Gaich, Project Officer
Baptiste.gaich@institutfrancais.com

Kindly cc in your email:
François-Ronan Dubois, Head of Team “Public Debate and Civil Society”
Francoisronan.dubois@institutfrancais.com

Successful applicants will be notified in the last two weeks of February 2025.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact zara.fournier@institutfrancais.com.