

October 2026 – December 2026

DCAF Young Faces 2026

**Learning together about Cybersecurity Governance
in the Western Balkans: October 2026 – December
2026**

Are you passionate about cybersecurity and policymaking? Are you eager to deepen your understanding through real-world case studies, best practices, and applied theory? Do you want to engage with leading experts and researchers in the field?

If so, join us for the Young Faces 2026 educational programme! This unique opportunity will allow you to explore the link between cybersecurity governance and cyber diplomacy, focusing on practical examples, international relations in information security and how cyber diplomacy is shaped in the international settings today.

The programme includes a series of interactive webinars, mentored project/policy paper writing, and a live event. You can choose to participate in the webinars only, or you can enroll in the full programme.

Applications are open until 8 October 2026. Don't miss your chance to be part of this exciting initiative organised in the context of the DCAF project, ' Good Governance in Cybersecurity in the Western Balkans (2026)', sponsored by the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and the Federal Foreign Office of Germany.

Programme and timeline

Webinars:

12-14 October 2026 - Cybersecurity Governance in the Age of AI: From Principles to Practice

19 – 21 October 2026 - AI and the Changing Cyber Threat Landscape: Emerging Risks and Real-World Challenges

2 – 4 November 2026 - What are countries doing about it? AI and Cybersecurity in the Western Balkans: A Comparative View

November – December 2026 – Project/Policy Paper Development by participants

In-person event – Live training seminars with renowned experts on cybersecurity governance (early December 2026)

Further details

October 2026 – Online Webinars

A webinar will consist of three interactive sessions of 90 minutes each. Each session will be held by a different expert and facilitator. This will also include a cyber incident response simulation exercise.

Participants who choose to work on projects/policy papers will have an additional session on research methodologies.

Beginning of October 2026 – Choosing a topic and starting to write policy papers (limited number of participants)

November - December 2026 – First draft and a Capstone in-person event with renowned experts

The Capstone in-person event will also aim to increase networking and advocacy activities of the participants. It will take place in an attractive location with renowned experts from the field providing trainings and mentorship.

End of December 2026 – Project/policy paper submissions
Sending final drafts and finalizing projects/policy papers.

FAQ

Who should apply? Young leaders and interested scholars from the Western Balkans, preferably with some experience working in or researching security, cybersecurity, rights and governance.

How do I apply? Please apply via email: cybersecurityeca@dcaf.ch by **8 October 2026**.

You can apply for webinars only or for the full programme. To apply for webinars, you need to send only your CV and email with subject "Application to the Young Faces online webinars".

Should you wish to participate in the entire programme, we look forward to receiving your CV and a short motivation letter (350-450 words) in an email with a subject "Application to the Young Faces programme".

- **Document naming instructions:** Please name your documents using the following required file-naming pattern:

[First name][Last name]_[Document category]

For example, if your name is John Smith, your CV should be named **JohnSmith_CV**.

Please do not use spaces, accents, or special characters in file names.

All documents must be submitted in PDF format.

Which parts of the programme and how many webinars may I attend? You are welcome to participate just in webinars or in the entire programme. **If you wish to participate and are selected for the entire programme, please note that we will expect you to attend all webinars.** Due to the limited number of places available for the live event, participants' engagement and active participation during the online webinars will also be considered as part of the selection process.

How much time will I need to invest? Webinars - Participants are expected to read the webinar reading materials prior to each webinar (reading time: approx. 6h in total across all nine webinars) and take part in all three sessions of each webinar (3 x 90 minutes), for all three series of webinars.

Projects/Policy paper and live event – projects/policy paper writing will take part over the course of two months, with one consultation process. The Capstone live event will last for 1,5 days, travel excluded.

How will the Webinars be held? The webinars will take place online via Zoom. All sessions will be held in English.

What are the fees? Both the Webinar series and entire programme are free of charge to participants. It is sponsored by DCAF - Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance and the United Kingdom's Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office and the Federal Foreign Office of Germany

Can I receive a certificate of participation? A certificate will be sent to you upon request, after successful completion of the full programme (three webinar sessions, project/policy paper and live event).