

# Call for applications

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## Countering Hate Speech & Far-right Radicalism Training Series

In recent years, the increase of hate speech throughout Europe has contributed to electoral victories of nationalist parties and the radicalisation of far-right movements, fueling hate crimes and violence towards marginalised groups. From forcible evictions of Roma people to stigmatisation and attacks of LGBTQI+ and minority faith communities, the hate narrative gradually weakened the social cohesion between communities. Besides, it challenged democracy, equality and the rule of law across the continent.

The current political framing, shaped by hate speech and far-right proponents, led national governments to make policy choices that often restrain fundamental rights of people in Europe. As illiberal democracies seem to be on the rise, we are once again moving into a period of strengthening domestic positions through demonising minority groups, undermining the conditions for transnational, open and democratic societies to thrive.

To counteract those trends, [European Alternatives](#) is looking for activists and citizens from Central and Eastern Europe willing to stand against those trends and to organise for open societies.

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organised by



supported by



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We offer a training series comprised of two 4-day modules:

- The first training, taking place **on 14-18 March 2018** at the Schloss Bröllin, 1,5 hour away from Berlin (Germany), will focus on understanding political frames as well as developing the storytelling skills and alternative narratives to hate and far-right discourses;
- The second training, taking place at the **end of May 2018** (final dates to be communicated in the course of January) in Bratislava (Slovakia), will focus on developing the community organising and campaigning skills to mobilise communities for open and democratic societies.

Following the trainings, you will be provided with the opportunity to join the Campus of European Alternatives, taking place on **19-22 July 2018** in Florence to present your strategies, reflect on the trainings' learnings and develop a plan to take further actions from the local to the transnational.

trainings

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You will be provided with theoretical and practical knowledge from experts to develop your skills and work together as peers, with the aim to:

- Gain an understanding and exchange on the political framing of far-right radicalism and nationalism and the construction of hate narratives in the region;
- Craft compelling narratives grounded in human and social rights, that take account of the history and memory of the communities and enable people to act;
- Develop community responses and mobilisation strategies to counter hate speech and far-right radicalism;
- Build up a value-based community of knowledge and practice, capable of providing support to existing and emerging initiatives in the region and beyond.

objectives

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The concrete **foreseen outputs** of the trainings are:

- Articles alerting on the far-right radicalism or hate speech in CEE and presenting grassroots initiatives that counter those trends that would be published on European Alternatives and Krytyka Polityczna transnational online magazine Political Critique;
- Action plans for concrete projects or campaigns to be started upon completion of the series and for building a resources platform which can be used by a wider community of activists in the region and throughout Europe.

outputs

# Sounds interesting?

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## How to participate

## requirements

We are looking for 20 creative, enthusiastic people involved as individuals or as part of organisations in initiatives countering hate speech and far-right radicalism, who can commit to come to all the trainings.

Still interested? We have a few requirements:

- Reside in one of the following Central and Eastern European country: Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia and the Ukraine;
- Be proficient in English;
- Having some knowledge of the issues of hate speech and far-right radicalism and some experience with campaigning or community organising would be useful;
- Commit to participate to both trainings on March 14-18th and at the end of May (final dates to be communicated in the course of January) and to take action beyond the training series.

We are looking to represent the diversity of people living in the region. We are particularly committed to enable the participation of people from racial and ethnic minorities, people from LGBTQI+ communities, people with disabilities and people who identify with disadvantaged economic classes. If you do not identify as being in one of these groups, we still want you to apply! If you know of awesome persons being part of these groups, encourage them to apply!

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## How to apply

## application

Apply for the training [by filling out our online form](#) before **Wednesday, 31 January 2018**. All applicants will be notified of the selection results **the second week of February at the latest**.

### Data privacy

Please note that **all the personal information and data collected** will only be used for the purpose of the application process to the training series and will be deleted at the end of the training series.

### Practicalities

All travel expenses to and from the training venues as well as accommodation and food costs **will be managed and reimbursed according to the rules of European Alternatives**. Visa costs will be reimbursed by European Alternatives. An invitation letter can be issued to facilitate the delivery of visas.

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## Any questions?

## contact

If you have any questions regarding the training series and application process, please do not hesitate to contact **Martin Pairet**, Network and Capacity Building Manager, at [m.pairet@euroalter.com](mailto:m.pairet@euroalter.com)

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The training series is run **in collaboration with**

## collaboration and support



the [Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future \(EVZ\)](#), which takes responsibility for human rights and international understanding in memory of the victims of National Socialism.

and with the support of



the [Guerrilla Foundation](#), which helps activists and grassroots movements build pockets of resistance contributing to a deeply democratic society that prioritise social and ecological wellbeing.