

**Terms of Reference (ToR)
Young Participants' Engagement
Shared Horizons Project
Component 2**

managed by:

ALDA

funded by:

Expertise France

1. About the project

The *Shared Horizons* Project aims to foster peace and reconciliation in the Western Balkans by preserving and promoting the region's cultural heritage, particularly manifested through 6 bridges situated in 6 different countries in the Western Balkan region. It will engage young people from diverse communities in activities that blend historical research, photography, and storytelling to deepen their understanding of the past while shaping the future in which divisive narratives are abandoned and sense of solidarity prevails.

The programme aims to educate and activate young people through workshops and projects, creating works that connect the past and present through visual storytelling, resulting in public exhibitions, digital archives, and augmented reality experiences. All these works will be saved in the appropriate archives and used for further promotional purposes, as well as educative materials.

The project activities will also promote intercultural dialogue through several cultural events, including youth exchanges and Open Days, in order to encourage mutual understanding among different ethnic and cultural groups. Through the engagement of local traders and artisans, communities, and educational institutions, the project will fortify social bonds and establish sustainable networks for future cooperation.

By encouraging solidarity, communication, and a sense of shared cultural pride throughout the Western Balkans, the project ultimately aims to enhance young participation in cultural preservation, enhance access to heritage places and resources, and support long-term peacebuilding.

2. Objective

The primary objective of this initiative is to engage young participants in cross-border collaboration and equip them with valuable skills in cultural heritage documentation. Through a range of interactive activities, participants will contribute to meaningful activities that promote historical awareness and reconciliation.

3. Scope of Work and Engagement

Young participants will be actively engaged in various aspects of the project, including but not limited to:

- Conducting **social and historical research** on selected heritage bridges in collaboration with historians and photographers in their own respective countries.
- Participating in **Research teams meeting and Peer Learning** event where participants will present the preliminary results of their research, discuss the challenges encountered, and exchange on the methodologies used. This event will also be an opportunity for young people to strengthen their skills by working together on common projects and discovering the similarities and differences in the research approaches adopted by their counterparts in other countries.
- Participating in **photography and storytelling workshops** led by professional mentors in their own respective countries.
- Contributing to a **regional storytelling competition**, combining photography with heritage narratives.
- Showcasing their work in **public exhibitions and a digital archive**, including an augmented reality experience in their own respective countries.
- Taking part in **intercultural exchanges**, including Open Days and youth networking events.

- Attending a **final event in Mostar**, where project results will be presented, and future initiatives discussed.

4. Expected Outcomes

The engagement of young participants is expected to result in the following outcomes:

- Strengthened cross-cultural collaboration and dialogue.
- Enhanced skills in research, storytelling, photography, and digital archiving.
- Increased awareness and appreciation of shared cultural heritage.
- Establishment of a digital archive preserving historical narratives.
- Development of professional networks within cultural heritage and media sectors.

5. Selection Criteria

The project will select **5 to 6 young participants per country** (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia) based on the following criteria:

- **Age Requirement:** 16–29 years old.
- **Country of Origin:** Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia.
- **Interest and Motivation:** Strong enthusiasm for cultural heritage, storytelling, photography, or social research.
- **Commitment:** Willingness to actively participate in project activities until **June 2026**.
- **Communication Skills:** Basic proficiency in **English and/or local languages** to facilitate collaboration.
- **Creativity and Innovation:** Preference for applicants with backgrounds or interests in cultural heritage, tourism, writing, filmmaking, digital media, or community engagement.

6. Roles and Responsibilities of the Project's Team

- **Project Organizers:** Facilitate workshops, mentorship, logistical support, and project oversight.
- **Mentors & Experts:** Provide training in historical research, photography, and storytelling.
- **Participants:** Commit to project activities, engage in research, and contribute to exhibitions and digital archives.
- **Partner Organizations:** Support outreach, recruitment, and event coordination.

7. Duration and Timeline

The engagement will span **from March 2025 until June 2026**, including research activities, workshops, competitions, public exhibitions, and the final event in Mostar. The timeline will be structured to ensure progressive skill development and active participation.

8. Application and Recruitment Process

Interested applicants can apply by sending short biography and motivation letter on aldabalkans@alda-europe.eu with a subject line: **Application as a young researcher for the Shared Horizons Project**. When applying please note the country from the WB6 where you would like to take participation in. **The deadline for application is 28.03.25**. The shortlisted candidates might be invited for interview.