

# SUMMER SCHOOL FOR FEMALE LEADERSHIP IN THE DIGITAL AGE

FINLAND, 12-18 JULY, 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are excited to share with you that this year's Summer School for Female Leadership in the Digital Age will be taking place in **Finland from the 12th to 18th of July**.

As part of our broader **educational initiative "Seeds for the Future"**, the School offers a world-class leadership programme and represents Huawei's commitment to advancing digital inclusion by giving young women the skills they need to take a lead in our digital future. It is a vision of equality and inclusion that aligns with the European Commission's commitment to achieving a gender-equal Europe.

Five editions of the School for Female Leadership in the Digital Age have been held to date: the inaugural Summer School in Lisbon in August 2021, followed by the first Winter School in Nice in February 2022, the Summer School in Prague in July 2022, the Summer School in Valencia in June 2023 and a further Summer School in Warsaw last July.

The programme offers an unforgettable week which enables participants to explore **the intersection between technology, politics and economics**. It includes a strong equality component and covers everything from coding and cybersecurity to sustainability and personal wellness, with participants taught and mentored by **world-class leaders** from across the EU and beyond.

The impressive list of **+300 global shapers** who have inspired students at past editions includes: José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, **Prime Minister** of Spain (2004-2011); Maria da Graça Carvalho, **Minister of Environment and Energy** of Portugal; Evangelia Chalioti, Senior Lecturer and Associate Chair at the Department of Economics of **Yale University**; Aleksandra Przegalińska, Senior Research Associate at **Harvard University**; Ana Paula Nishio, Chief of Digital Transformation and AI Strategies at **UNIDO**; Soledad Patiño, **UNESCO's** Global Skills Academy Coordinator; Ana Barjasic, Board Member at **the European Innovation Council** (EIC); CTOs of major European telecom operators, including Suzanne Tracy from **SIRO** and Danijela Bistrički-Morović from **Telemach Hrvatska**; Paloma Aba, Director of the **European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency**; Sara Carrer, Chief Political Officer at the **UN's World Food Programme**; various Members of the **European Parliament**, including Iratxe García, Karlo Ressler, Tsvetelina Penkova, Marc Angel, Katarina Roth or Alessandra Moretti; former **EU Commissioners** Violeta Bulc and Androulla Vassiliou; former **Deputy Prime Minister** of Ireland Mary Coughlan; **New York Times columnist** David Jiménez; and some of Europe's most sought-after entrepreneurs in tech for good, including Dora Palfi or Cornel Amariei, CEOs of **imagiLabs** and **.lumen**, respectively.

The teaching style departs from the usual classroom-based learning to offer **panel discussions, roundtables, workshops, keynote speeches** and **teamwork**. Our #NextGenChangeMakers are inspired by global thought leaders, policymakers and CEOs in what former alumnae have described as "An unforgettable and educational experience", "A week that I will never forget", "An experience that has taught me that nothing is impossible", and "An event in my life that will impact my future forever".

Over the past four years, ELA has transformed the lives of **more than 170 women**, empowering them to reach their full potential. Today, alumnae are shaping the tech industry, diplomacy and academia. For example, 2023 alumna Hanah Lahe is Estonia's youngest Member of the Parliament. Dalia Alic (2021) went on to become the youngest recipient of Croatia's Women of Influence Award, and now works at the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Preslava Kuzova (2022) is now a software engineer at a major tech company.

This July the fifth Summer School will offer a place to 25 young women – selected from across the 27 EU member states, the 'Western Balkans Six', Ukraine, Iceland, Switzerland, Türkiye, Norway and Moldova. They will be selected by a **distinguished jury** composed of business executives, policymakers, professors and equality advocates and each successful participant will receive a full bursary covering all travel and expenses associated with the School.

Over the course of six days in Finland they will:

- explore the meaning and value of **sustainable leadership** with world-class leaders
- learn from internationally **renowned mentors** who will inspire them to embrace new challenges
- understand the **importance of technology** in an increasingly interconnected world
- develop **teamwork skills** during collaborative projects
- practice **confidence-boosting public speaking** techniques
- enjoy time **exploring Finland**: its culture, cuisine, nature and technology scene.

This is a **unique opportunity that aims to empower the next generation of female leaders** to shape the digital age. We hope that you are inspired by the programme and will share and promote it among your network and encourage possible candidates to submit their application by March 12th.

More information can be found in the attached presentation and at:  
[www.europeanleadershipacademy.eu](http://www.europeanleadershipacademy.eu).

Best regards,  
The European Leadership Academy