

–CEEISA YOUNG SCHOLARS INITIATIVE Volume 2 –

2026

The CEEISA Young Scholars Initiative (CYSI) is a mentoring scheme of the CEEISA Doctoral Network, designed for self-identified early-career scholars in International Relations. Following its launch at the 2024 ISA-CEEISA Joint Conference, CYSI Volume 2 will take place at the 2026 CEEISA Conference in Sarajevo. CYSI Volume 2 is structured as a two-part initiative, consisting of a pre-conference workshop on academic publishing and a series of dedicated conference panels. The initiative aims to foster collaboration among early-career researchers from the region, encourage engagement with diverse theoretical and methodological perspectives, and facilitate interaction with established senior scholars serving as mentors. While applicants may apply to either component or both, CYSI is conceived as an integrated experience.

At the one-day pre-conference workshop, participants engage in collaborative, hands-on sessions designed to provide practical knowledge of the academic publishing process. Participants present research at various stages of preparation for submission or review in academic journals and receive targeted feedback on crafting cover letters, responding to reviewers, framing contributions, and presenting findings effectively. During the conference, participants present their papers or sections of their doctoral dissertations and receive feedback from selected mentors and peers through interactive, discussion-based sessions. The initiative aims to create a platform for early-career researchers from the region to generate original ideas, enhance their skills, and expand their professional networks. Beyond the traditional conference format, CYSI Volume 2 offers a focused, immersive experience in which participants take on multiple roles, collaboratively navigate the process of knowledge production, and do so with the guidance and support of senior scholars.

We welcome proposals in the following formats:

CEEISA YOUNG SCHOLARS PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP ON ACADEMIC PUBLISHING - CEEISAhub

CEEISAhub is a one-day pre-conference workshop on academic publishing. Its purpose is to create an engaging and supportive environment where young scholars can receive guidance on preparing and finalizing their research articles. Whether you are just beginning an article, revising one before submission, or responding to reviewers' reports for the first time, CEEISAhub provides a space for first-time authors to gain practical insights, tips, and strategies to make the publishing process smoother. From crafting effective cover letters to preparing point-by-point responses, our three mentors,

experienced senior scholars and editors, will address these topics and offer feedback on the specific issues raised by participants' own articles.

FORMAT

The workshop is designed to guide early-career researchers through the full cycle of preparing and publishing an article, from initial idea to final submission. The program is organized around three interactive stages:

1. *Developing and Structuring Your Research* – refining the central research question and conceptual framework and effectively organizing arguments and key sections.
2. *Presenting and Preparing Your Article* – ensuring clarity and consistency, adhering to journal standards, and writing strong cover letters.
3. *Revising and Finalizing for Publication* – navigating reviewer feedback and revising your manuscript strategically, as well as assessing readiness for submission or resubmission.

Each stage of the workshop combines brief presentations of participants' articles with guided discussions, alternating between focused discussion of individual papers and broader guidance on the publishing process. This structure allows participants to explore both concrete challenges in their own work and general strategies for navigating academic publishing, demystifying what can often be an intimidating process for first-time authors. The workshop draws on the expertise of selected mentors, all of whom have experience in editing International Relations journals. Participants are encouraged to share ideas, discuss challenges with peers, and engage directly with mentors, who provide practical advice, tips, and suggestions for next steps. In this way, CEEISAhub offers a unique opportunity to gain insight into scholarly publishing, build confidence, and strengthen research output in a supportive and interactive environment.

YOUNG SCHOLARS PANELS

The Young Scholars (YS) Panels will follow a distinctly different format from CEEISA's traditional panels. The YS panels are designed to provide participants with the opportunity to maximize networking and get feedback on projects from CEEISA's leading scholars. Each panel will comprise four participants and two mentors.

Pre Session (14 days)

Participants share their papers (max 10k words) or doctoral dissertation research plans with their mentors and participants of their dedicated panel at least 14 days before the conference. Participants are required to read all papers of their panel.

During Session (120 minutes)

Presentations (7 minutes per paper)

Feedback from the mentors (20 minutes per paper)

Concluding discussion (12 minutes)

Post Session

Participants are invited to share amongst themselves detailed comments and reflections on the papers and presentations.

APPLYING

CEEISAhub and YS panels are limited-attendance special programmes at the CEEISA Conference organized by CEEISA Doctoral network and sponsored by CEEISA, geared towards regional scholars near completion of their PhD projects or early in their faculty careers. Interested participants should apply for the CYSI Volume 2 by **2 March 2026** through the link [here](#)

- Topics are not limited to any field, but they roughly need to be related to dynamics in international relations. Participants will be separated into panels based on mentors' theoretical and methodological expertise and thematically, when possible.
- In the application, please select your interest in participating in the YS panel, CEEISAhub workshop or both.
- A limited amount of funding is available for participants through CEEISA's Travel Grant program.
- Selected participants need to submit their research articles (max 10k words) at least 14 days before the workshop/conference.

For enquiries regarding the initiative, please contact Doctoral network coordinators:

Melika Mahmutović (melika.mahmutovic@fdv.uni-lj.si) and Ajda Hedžet (ajda.hedzet@fdv.uni-lj.si)

