

Call for Application

Apply for SPARKUP's international CBRNE-related training programs

The University of Criminal Investigation and Police Studies (UCPS) participates as a consortium partner in the **SPARKUP EU Project**, conducted under the Horizon Europe program, which aims to strengthen the capacities of the Central and Southeastern European (CEE) region to respond to threats related to **C**hemical, **B**iological, **R**adiological, Nuclear, and **E**xplosive (CBRNE) materials.

One of the project's objectives is to enhance the practical and theoretical knowledge of future experts, while promoting knowledge transfer and networking at the European level. Through targeted training programs, personalized career support, and real-world professional practice, the project contributes to the development of a new generation of CBRNE experts and the creation of a more integrated and resilient European Research Area.

Among the members of the SPARKUP consortium are numerous European academic and professional organizations, which will offer four to six different one-week international trainings during the project implementation period from 2026 to 2028.

Implement a comprehensive training program that diversifies scientific and technological expertise, strengthens practical field experience, and develops soft skills as well as societal awareness aligned with industry needs.

Deadline for application: 13 March

Link for submitting your application:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeOUv4L2PRB-1DB2OzoRg-PV0c3h4E1sjl5iu40Gfsp8roZg/viewform>

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Further information:

<https://www.sparkup-project.eu/>

Who is encouraged to apply?

- **Students (Master and PhD):** Enrolled in programs related to forensic sciences, criminal investigation, security, or other CBRNE-relevant fields.
- **Young and Senior Researchers:** Engaged in scientific or technological innovation, experimentation, and applied research.
- **Early-stage PhD Holders:** Researchers who have obtained their PhD within the last 5 years (as of the application date).

Advantages:

- **Personal Career Development Plan (PCDP) Lifecycle:** Selected candidates enter a formal development process that begins with a competency gap analysis and continues through a tracked lifecycle of training and evaluation.
- **European Talent Pipeline Integration:** Participation places researchers within a high-quality, future-oriented CBRNE talent pipeline aligned with European research, innovation, and preparedness priorities.
- **Targeted Competency Building:** The framework identifies and addresses specific gaps in core and special competencies.
- **International Networking:** Participants engage with a consortium of experts from institutions across Europe, fostering cross-sector innovation and research–practice linkages.
- **Professional Recognition (ESCO Alignment):** Training and skills are aligned with the European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations (ESCO) framework, enhancing professional visibility across the EU.
- **Strategic Role Differentiation:** The process offers tailored benefits depending on your role, such as innovation implementation for R+D+I staff or research leadership for early-stage PhD holders.
- **Auditable Selection Standards:** Participants benefit from a transparent, defensible, and harmonized selection process that ensures fairness and institutional endorsement.
- **Courses that will be provided cover areas such as:** CBRNE Technical & Operational Protection; Medical & Public Health Preparedness for CBRNE Accidents; Disaster Risk Management & Resilience; Chemical Legislation, Safety & Sustainability; EU Project Management & Professional Excellence.

Application process

1. Filling an English-language motivation letter (available on the application form linked above) and submitting your CV electronically via the provided Google Form.
2. Applications will be reviewed by a designated committee at UCPS, which will prepare a list of potential candidates.
3. The final decision will be made by an international selection committee based on the candidate list created by sending partners.
4. Timeline:

- o Deadline for applications: **13 March**
- o Selection process will be concluded **by 21 March**
- o Finalization of the Personal Development Plans **by 10 April**

Important information

- A total of **up to 12 candidates from UCPS** will be selected to participate in the trainings organized by various European partners. This includes:
 - o **12 students and researchers** who will have the opportunity to attend trainings across Europe (both in widening and non-widening countries), as defined in the project's secondment plan.
- It is recommended to attend multiple one-week trainings to ensure measurable individual career development.
- After attending each training, participants are required to submit a report to the project's professional leadership at UCPS.
- Participants will be continuously evaluated during the trainings, and the results will be included in their personal career development plan.
- All costs (travel, accommodation, meals) are covered by the project.
- The selection of trainings and destinations is determined by the project's international management and is not decided by the applicants.

Main competency requirements and criteria:

- *Functional/practical skills such as:*
 - o Communication skill – ability to communicate
 - o Teamwork and collaborative skill
 - o Sense of responsibility
 - o Ability to follow rules
- Language knowledge – *minimum B1/B2 level*
- Status at the academy – *Student (Master/PhD), Researcher, PhD holder*
- Learning ability and learning skills
- Physical and mental suitability
- Innovative skills, experience
- Technical skill (IT/Teams/Microsoft)