



UKRAINIAN
LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

**EDUCATIONAL EXPEDITION OF THE
UKRAINIAN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY
TO THE EUROPEAN UNION 2019**

REPORT

I AM UKRAINE I LOVE FREEDOM

Every year in the spring, the Ukrainian Leadership Academy holds an Educational Expedition to the countries of the European Union to study the instruments of democracy and the history of development of European states. Students deepen their knowledge in the fields of state-building, national security and defense, entrepreneurship, and education. Moreover, they develop their abilities and aspirations to make their community and Ukraine better.

Studying best foreign practices and their further implementation is crucial for the effective development of the state. The European Union is a strategic partner and the main vector of Ukraine's foreign policy. The countries of the European Union make great examples of overcoming historical contradictions, creating effective state institutions on the basis of the fundamental values of the rule of law, dignity and human rights.

GOALS OF THE EXPEDITION:

In order to further introduce positive changes in Ukraine, it is necessary to study the best practices of the European Union countries in the areas of:

- state-building;
- national security and defense;
- entrepreneurship;
- education;
- To deepen bilateral relations between Ukraine and the European Union by sharing best experiences and practices, establishing contacts with European entrepreneurs, representatives of state institutions, public figures and youth leaders.
- To attract the attention of European partners and citizens of EU countries to new Ukrainian youth, to create a positive image of Ukraine on the international arena by means of public diplomacy. To become agents of strengthening the cooperation between Ukraine and the European Union.
- Learn to dream big and bold about Ukraine's great future in the long run through studying EU experience.

EXPEDITION IN NUMBERS

The Ukrainian Leadership Academy spent **10 DAYS** in the Expedition to the EU
297 PARTICIPANTS took part in the Expedition, among them:



231 ULA students



13 ULA teachers and partners



4 high school students who have won the contest for participation in the Expedition



36 members of the ULA team on the regional level

13 members of the ULA team on the national level

DURING 10 DAYS PARTICIPANTS OF THE EXPEDITION:

visited **7 COUNTRIES** - Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Poland, Slovakia, Czech Republic, and France;

visited **20 CITIES**, including Berlin, Bratislava, Brussels, The Hague, Paris, and Prague;



had **81 MEETINGS** with officials, diplomats, entrepreneurs, educators, scientists, representatives of NGOs;



travelled **28,144 KM**;

organized and held **6 EVENTS** in support of Ukrainian political prisoners;



held **17 FLASH MOBS** to share knowledge about Ukraine.



SCHEDULE OF THE EXPEDITION

April 5 - departure from Ukraine.

April 6 - visiting the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial Complex.

April 7 - travelling to Belgium.

April 8-9 - program for all the branches of ULA in Brussels.

April 10-13 - studying EU countries: Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Slovakia, Czech Republic, and France.

April 14 - travelling back to Ukraine.

RESULTS OF THE EXPEDITION

“**RULES EXIST, BUT THEY CAN BE CHANGED. NOT FOR SOMEONE’S PROFIT BUT FOR EVERYONE,**”
- BART SOMERS, THE MAYOR OF MECHELEN (BELGIUM)

Participants of the Expedition explored history of state-building and experience of creating modern democracies directly from senior officials of the European Union and member states. There were meetings with the President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, Head of the Support Group for Ukraine at the European Commission, Peter Wagner, Member of the European Parliament, Mark Demesmaeker, representatives of the Johannes Hahn (European Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy) team, Mayor of the town of Mechelen, Bart Somers, Mayor of Bratislava, Matúš Vallo; Members of the Parliament of Germany, France, Czech Republic, representatives of UNESCO; visited the European Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committees, the EU External Service, the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, the Belgian Representation to the EU, the Office of the Capital Region of Brussels, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs in Germany, the Czech Republic, and France.



“ YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO ASK YOURSELF: IF I AM DOING THE RIGHT THINGS? AND IF THE ANSWER IS YES, THAN ASK YOURSELF: IF YOU I AM DOING THE RIGHT THINGS IN THE RIGHT WAY?”
- COMMANDER S.G. KAI BRAND, SO CSDP MISSIONS AND OPERATIONS

National security and defense sphere was explored. A lot of attention has been paid to discussing the topic of the Euro-Atlantic vector of Ukraine's development. Held meetings at NATO Headquarters with the Head of the Mission of Ukraine to NATO, Vadym Prystaiko and Dr. Petr Lunak, Deputy Head of Engagements Section at Public Diplomacy Division, representatives of the European Defense Agency. Visited the Ministry of Defense of Germany, the Committee on Security and Defense in the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic.

“ POLITICS IS THE MIRROR OF SOCIETY”,
- BARTŁOMIEJ OSTROWSKI, ALDA AMBASSADOR IN POLAND

In order to learn about the instruments of democracy and the role of civil society in promoting sustainable development, meetings were held with representatives of European institutions, public and human rights organizations, media, think tanks and environmental initiatives: Center for European Policy Studies, the German Marshall Fund, Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, European Endowment for Democracy, Institute for European Politics, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Center for International Legal Cooperation, TimeVoorAction, PAX, Friends of Earth, Justice and Peace.

“ YOU WILL NEVER LEARN SOMETHING NEW, IF YOU NEVER HAVE FAILS ON YOUR WAY”,
- LUCIA ŠICKOVÁ, PIXEL FEDERATION

The sphere of entrepreneurship, in particular, the role of socially responsible and innovative business, was explored. Held meetings with Angelo Vermuelen, an innovator in the field of non-waste garbage and a participant in the NASA Mars Life Experiment Program, representatives of the mining and processing industry, visited the Suez FR refueling plant, Station F IT-incubator, the Hub Hub Innovation Space, the Pixel Federation, Ecocapsule, Edocu, and ESET.

“ UNIVERSITIES ARE THE SYMBOLS OF THE CIVILIZATION. THEY EXISTED LONG BEFORE ANY NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL UNITIES”
- PROFESSOR LUKAS GRAAF, HERTIE SCHOOL OF GOVERNANCE

The sphere of education was explored and the main features of European educational approaches were analyzed. We held meetings with the Hertie School of Governance, University of Humboldt in Berlin, LEAF Academy in Bratislava, Charles University in Prague and Tilburg University in the Netherlands. Youth cultural exchange was held between ULA students and representatives of youth organization CISV Paris.

“ ONLY THE YOUNG GENERATION CAN CONSOLIDATE ACHIEVEMENTS OF RECENT YEARS, SO WE HAVE GREAT HOPES IN YOU,”
- MYKOLA TOCHYTSKYI, AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF UKRAINE TO THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM.

Participants of the Expedition got acquainted and experienced the work of the Ukrainian organizations abroad. Held meetings with the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassadors of Ukraine: in the Kingdom of Belgium Mykola Tochytskyi; in the Czech Republic Yevhen Perebyinis; in the Slovak Republic Yuriy Mushko; in the Kingdom of the Netherlands Vsevolod Chentsov; the Chairman of the Ukrainian Society in Belgium Ihor Hoholiak, representatives of the World Congress of Ukrainians in Brussels, representatives of Plast in Paris, organization 'Promote Ukraine' in Belgium. Held meetings with representatives of the Ukrainian diaspora in Germany, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, visited Anne de Kyiv Cultural Center in Senlis, and the Information and Cultural Center at the Embassy of Ukraine in France.



“ INFORMATION IS THE MAIN WEAPON OF OUR TIME. IF WE DO NOT TALK ABOUT UKRAINE, THEN WHO WILL?”
- MARTA BARANDIY, FOUNDER OF PROMOTE UKRAINE

The largest campaign of youth public diplomacy was held during the meetings with the officials, representatives of local communities, entrepreneurs, public figures, youth leaders and EU citizens. During meetings, as well as through events and flash mobs participants of the Expedition communicated that:

- Ukraine is changing here and now, Ukrainian youth is successful on its way to strengthening the state and integrating to the European Union. Ukraine is working on the historic challenges, educating the younger generation and creating practices that should be shared.
- Strong civil society in Ukraine is a key driver of Ukrainian reforms.
- Ukrainian entrepreneurship is among the drivers of change in the modern state.
- European support for Ukraine in the process of transformation is valuable and influential.

Numerous public pages, public figures and media have written about the Expedition. Participants of the Expedition have also shared their impressions, knowledge and inspiration through various social networks using the hashtag #ULAexploreEU. Thus, the general coverage of the events has reached the number of 300,000 people. Few of the main sources to learn about the Expedition were the social media of the Ukrainian Leadership Academy such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.



MISSING DIRECTOR: #SAVEOLEGSENTOV



The Ukrainian Leadership Academy, in collaboration with the Center for Civil Liberties, organized a public campaign called Missing Director: #SaveOlegSentsov in six European Union countries: Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, and France. The events took place on central squares of the big cities. The main purpose of these events was to encourage European politicians and people of good will to influence the process of releasing hostages of the Kremlin. By hostages of the Kremlin we are referring to more than 90 political prisoners in Russia and the occupied Crimea, as well as more than 100 prisoners (military and civilian) in the basements of the occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

The demonstrations brought together local and Ukrainian media, the Ukrainian diaspora, public activists, officials and members of the European Parliament. In particular, the issue was covered by Le Monde, Agence France-Presse, UA:Pershyi, 1 + 1, Inter, RBC-Ukraine, Ukrinform, UNIAN. The overall coverage of the campaign in electronic and printed media has exceeded 1,020,000 views.



PARTICIPANTS OF THE EXPEDITION: KNOWLEDGE AND COMPETENCES THEY HAVE ACQUIRED

The priority areas for research, studying best practices and acquiring leadership competencies were state-building, national security, entrepreneurship and education. Participants of the Expedition have evaluated their awareness in these areas after the Expedition on a scale from 1 (not at all aware) to 5 (very much aware). The level of awareness of the participants is high in each of the areas. The vast majority of participants consider themselves familiar with the four areas selected for research after the Expedition, as shown in Table 1.

Expedition participants also evaluated the overall change in their awareness in the four selected areas after the Expedition on a scale of 1 (not changed at all) to 5 (significantly improved). As a result, it can be noted that the participants significantly improved the level of awareness in the areas of state-building, national security, entrepreneurship and education - 95.8% of them gave a positive evaluation of these changes (options 3 - 5).

AREA	Those who considered themselves aware after the Expedition (answers 1-3)
State-building	98,1 %
National security	93,1%
Entrepreneurship	88,9%
Education	95,0%



PARTICIPANTS OF THE EXPEDITION: KNOWLEDGE AND COMPETENCES THEY HAVE ACQUIRED

It is necessary for young leaders not only to gain knowledge, but to be willing to spread it through open lectures, meetings, and implementation of social projects. Participants of the expedition evaluated their willingness to conduct open lectures, events and social projects after the expedition on a scale from 1 (not ready at all) to 5 (high level of readiness).

Those who are ready (selected options 3-5) to hold open lectures, meetings and other activities to spread knowledge gained during the expedition - 93.1%, and those who are ready to implement their own social projects - 98.5%. Such figures clearly indicate that: the vast majority of the expedition participants not only received a great deal of knowledge about the work of the institutions in the EU, but are ready to share their experience with others, which is definitely a reliable indication of the high level of their leadership competencies.

**“ THANK YOU FOR THE WORK THAT YOU ARE
DOING FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG UKRAI-
NIANS. THIS WORK GIVES GREAT OPTIMISM!”
- DONALD TUSK, THE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL.**

CREATING YOURSELF - CREATING UKRAINE! EVERY TOMORROW STARTS TODAY!

