



## ROTARY INTERNATIONAL OPEN WORLD PROGRAM



### Civic Hosting Themes

The 2010 **Ukraine Hosting Program** will focus, as it did in 2009, on emerging Ukrainian political and community leaders from the national, regional, and local levels, with a strong emphasis on developing new, or furthering existing, networks between delegates and their U.S. counterparts. The 2010 Ukraine Hosting Program will offer four main themes: **accountable governance, NGO development, rule of law, and education**. For all these themes, the impact of the legislative process will be a key focus.

### UKRAINE CIVIC HOSTING THEMES, THEIR RATIONALES, TARGET GROUPS, AND SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES.

#### Accountable Governance

**Rationale:** Ukraine has gone through several years of political unrest. The political reform amendments to the Ukrainian Constitution that came into effect on January 1, 2006, did not clearly define the relationship between the executive branch and Parliament, although they did increase Parliament's power relative to that of the president. After the September 2007 parliamentary election and the ensuing negotiations between political parties, Ukraine's political course seemed to stabilize somewhat. However, the struggle for political power between the president, the prime minister, and the parliament, and reliance on ineffective coalition governments, have hindered the development of good governance. After the presidential election scheduled for January 2010, Ukraine's leadership will have to make difficult decisions on the pace of decentralization and on measures to increase transparency and accountability for Ukraine to become a more stable democracy.

Regional and local governments are still highly dependent on the central government's budget allocations. District, municipal, and village authorities need to be better prepared to take on and handle those government functions that are usually carried out at the local level in successful democracies. These authorities need to improve staff hiring and training procedures; learn new budgeting, planning, and service-delivery practices; and promote economic development effectively—and they need to become more proactive, responsive, and accountable. The same is true for regional and local legislative bodies.

Government officials could also benefit from expanded interaction with their country's NGO sector, which is vibrant and free, and both government and NGO officials could benefit from seeing U.S. models of public/NGO cooperation on the Open World Program.

**Target Group:** Regional and local legislators, mayors, municipal administrators, policy experts, public services providers, media representatives, managers of government cultural institutions, and election officials. Delegations may be composed of people holding similar positions in different cities or regions, or of people from the same community or region (to support sister-city partnerships, specific projects, or cross-sectoral programming). This year's programming will also feature groups that include government and NGO leaders, so delegates can interact with

each other while observing examples of how public-private (or public/quasi-private) cooperation can better serve the community, and then collaborate with each other when they return to Ukraine.

This theme may also include delegations of national- or regional-level leaders and policy experts involved with policies affecting local self-governance.

***Possible Grantee Activities:*** Local programs on accountable governance might focus on administrative capacity-building, service delivery, community economic development, and local-government finance, including the role of the legislative process in these areas. Possible topics include local government budgeting, accounting, and auditing; government-employee training; government record keeping; revitalization planning; improvement of cultural sites and promotion of cultural tourism; state-local relations; constituent services; public-private economic development partnerships; and citizen participation in government. Programs should emphasize the particular types of local governance activities being undertaken by delegation members. Programs with mixed governance and NGO personnel would focus on how the public, private, and NGO sectors work in the United States to improve the community. Specific programming would also be based on the stated responsibilities of the delegates.

Appropriate activities for accountable governance delegations include meeting with state and local legislators and election officials; job-shadowing county executives, mayors, and city managers; having workshops with independent government auditors, city planning and zoning officials, state municipal-league officials, and neighborhood association representatives; observing campaign activities and voting procedures; touring wastewater plants and volunteer fire departments; attending budget hearings; visiting cultural landmarks and discussing their funding and maintenance issues; and holding Q and A with city-desk editors, reporters, and political party representatives. Such programming as described above would also be suitable for delegations with representation from the public and NGO sectors. Possible settings for delegate presentations include city council meetings, university seminars, and press club and civic-association meetings.

## **Education**

***Rationale:*** Ukraine is a highly literate society with a strong and proud history of education at the elementary and secondary levels, although the level of education in metropolitan areas is generally higher than that in rural areas. The country has made priorities of ensuring equal access to a quality education for rural and low-income students and enhancing the professionalism of educators. Specific objectives include promoting transparent and standardized testing, and improving credentialing, teacher training (pre-service and in-service), school performance monitoring, and educational materials and their distribution.

Also, public libraries in Ukraine are increasingly providing citizens with greater digital access to information, including government documents. Open World will allow for a very limited number of delegations aimed at furthering this activity.

**Target Group:** Regional and local government officials and legislators involved in education policy and reform, school administrators, educators in leadership roles, NGO leaders, and journalists. Higher education delegations will be made up of education professionals active in promoting standardization and transparency in higher education. The very limited number of Ukrainian librarian delegation(s) will be made up of highly motivated public and academic librarians and the heads or top staff members of Window on America Centers located in regional libraries in Ukraine under the U.S. Government's Window on America (American Corners) Program.

**Possible Grantee Activities:** Appropriate activities include discussing education financing issues with municipal executives and legislators; reviewing teacher certification requirements, school assessment and accountability systems, and education standards with state and local education officials and legislators; attending school board and parent-teacher association meetings; viewing learning activities for special populations and teacher-training activities; and meeting with curriculum development specialists, education researchers, and accrediting agency officials. For education administrators and political leaders tasked with educational reform, broad exposure to the management of educational systems would be most useful, along with discussions of education policy issues with legislators and legislative staff. For the higher education participants, very specific programming on standardized testing/admissions will have to be planned. Librarian delegations should focus on learning how U.S. public libraries serve their communities, highlighting the following: the use of new information technology, including web-based services for users; library networks; library services for people with disabilities and other special needs; the role of professional library associations (national and local); and professional ethics and standards.

Possible settings for delegate presentations include faculty and parent-teacher association meetings, classroom lectures, and university seminars.

## **NGO Development**

**Rationale:** Ukraine has many dedicated NGO leaders who are being challenged to develop better-managed and more vibrant organizations. Further development of the NGO sector is vital to Ukraine's progress toward firmly establishing a democratic system with a strong advocacy and voluntary sector. Open World exchanges can improve NGO leaders' administrative, advocacy, and fundraising skills, and can help these leaders formulate strategies for providing leadership and service in the community. As described above in the rationale for the accountable governance theme for Ukraine, Open World programming can also demonstrate how government entities and NGOs can work closely together to effectively serve significant sectors of the public.

**Target Group:** Board members, directors, high-level staff, and key volunteers of NGOs involved in public health (especially HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis prevention and treatment), environmental protection and energy conservation and planning, and women's leadership; NGO leaders involved in legislative advocacy, governance, and the role of the voluntary sector in providing community services; and government officials and legislators who work with members of the NGO community or have budget or oversight responsibilities for government-funded activities carried out by NGOs. As described above in the rationale for the accountable

governance theme for Ukraine, it is expected that delegations will be formed consisting of government officials and/or legislators and NGO officials so that cooperation and collaboration can be enhanced through lessons learned together.

**Possible Grantee Activities:** Local programs should enable delegates to observe firsthand how the nongovernmental sector works in the United States and how NGOs cooperate with the government, the private sector, their local communities, and each other. Delegations should visit successful NGOs, including interest/advocacy groups, and examine NGO fundraising activities, member recruitment, public relations, legislative advocacy, and other outreach efforts, and overall program and financial management methods. Delegations also should visit with government agencies that fund or otherwise collaborate with NGOs, and should investigate all aspects of government/NGO relations, including the legislative process. Professional appointments should allow sufficient time for delegates to ask questions and share their own expertise. Possible settings for delegate presentations include NGO roundtables, university seminars, and press club and civic-association meetings.

## **Rule of Law**

**Rationale:** Rule of law is one of the foundations of a civil society. Although progress has been made in recent years toward establishing the legal basis for an independent judiciary in Ukraine, clear hurdles remain to separating the judicial branch from the executive branch and establishing a genuinely independent judiciary. Concepts like judicial independence, the adversarial process, equal protection, and equal access to justice are still nascent in Ukraine. In addition, information about judicial qualification processes, judicial training, and effective ways of fighting judicial corruption and white-collar crime would be timely and useful. Open World's previous Ukrainian rule of law exchanges allowed judges at all levels of the Ukrainian judiciary to examine judicial practices in the United States, and this programming will continue in 2010. Ukraine also seeks to further develop the administrative and support infrastructure for the courts, as well as the professionalism of lawyers and other legal professionals, so Open World will also include non-judge civic rule of law delegations in its 2010 program, as it has done in previous years.

**Target Group:** Most delegates for Open World's specialized rule of law program<sup>1</sup> will be judges from local courts and regional appellate courts, although some will come from national-level courts. These delegations are usually hosted by a federal or a state judge in a program that emphasizes judge-to-judge activities. Other specialized delegations may be made up of non-judges for exchanges focused on such issues as court management and media-judicial relations. Open World will in 2010 also offer civic rule of law programming to lawyers, independent legal experts, legal scholars, and judicial administrators. Most civic rule of law delegations will travel on a different travel date than that set aside for the specialized rule of law programming and will not be assigned U.S. host judges. If one or more compelling civic rule of law programs are proposed for the planned specialized rule of law date, the Center may allow these programs to coincide with the specialized rule of law programming.

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<sup>1</sup> See Footnote 6.

***Possible Grantee Activities:*** Local programs should allow delegates to learn about the U.S. judicial system and the role of the rule of law in American society through on-site observation, roundtables, and other hands-on or interactive activities. Topics to explore, as applicable, include U.S. approaches to court proceedings, the jury-trial process, the adversarial system, plea-bargaining, alternative dispute resolution, the settlement of financial disputes, juvenile justice practices, law enforcement and corrections practices, and the relationship between the judicial and legislative branches at the federal and state levels. In-depth discussions and meetings with U.S. judges, other leading legal professionals, and legislators on judicial independence and ethics, legislation and the law, and legal/judicial training should be featured on the agenda, as appropriate. Possible settings for presentations by delegates include bench and bar association meetings, law-school colloquia, and panel discussions