

# UKRAINIAN SCHOOL OF POLITICAL STUDIES



## A FEW WORDS *from the Director*

Ihor Kohut



Since the remarkable events of 2004 in Ukraine, popularly known in the historical context as the “Orange Revolution”, there has been a new and positive drive for the further development of civil society institutions, freedom of speech, human rights and political pluralism, which as a result exercise increasing influence on social processes.

**In these circumstances, the launch of the Ukrainian School of Political Studies was both timely and appropriate, since the core values of the Council of Europe and the need to form a modern European ideology had become a challenge for Ukraine’s young democracy.** With its School of Political Studies, Ukraine has acquired a unique forum for understanding and disseminating these values, as well as higher quality political and public dialogue within the new generation of Ukrainian politicians, civil servants and NGO activists.

### *School team*

**Ihor Kohut**  
Director

**Angela Yevgenyeva**  
Project Co-ordinator

**Olesya Kyrychenko (Pronyk)**  
Financial Manager

**Natalya Snyooka**  
Assistant to the Project Co-ordinator



## MISSIONS *and objectives*

The Ukrainian School of Political Studies is an independent, non-partisan project of the Agency for Legislative Initiatives (a Ukrainian “think-tank”) and the Council of Europe (Directorate General of Political Affairs).

**The school aims to provide maximum support to the emergence of a new generation of managers, politicians, NGO and trade union leaders, journalists and businessmen, capable of formulating and implementing European values and ideals in Ukraine.**

Another goal is to provide intellectual support and information to Ukraine’s network of leaders in the context of the setting of values, and to develop leaders’ self-awareness and their grasp of the mechanisms and principles of the democratic system.



## SELECTION *process*

The selection process is divided into two stages: a competitive round based on a questionnaire and a “virtual interview”.

Although it was the school’s first intake in 2005, **the level of competition for admission was one of the highest in Ukraine, with an applicants-to-places ratio of 12:1.**



## ACTIVITIES *and events*



Four 3-day seminars were planned for the school's first year: three in Ukraine and one in Strasbourg (France). The school selected 35 individuals representing different social groups, including some young politicians (members of parliament and local assemblies), government officials, business executives, civil society activists, trade union leaders, journalists, judges and lawyers. Sessions covered a broad range of issues, such as democratic principles and the national idea; local self-governance and regional policies; media in the democratic society; the market economy and democracy; key reforms in Ukraine and public policy analysis; international policies and European integration.

**The instructors and lecturers include some leading home and foreign, public and academic figures.** As well as acquiring knowledge, participants learn the skills they will need to develop a successful political career. They participate in the decision-making process at all levels of government, and find solutions to social problems.

### **Belarus programme:**

**As from 2007, the school will also set up a specific programme for Belarusian participants, with a view to train talented young people to become able to effectively influence and work for the building of Belarus as a genuinely democratic state.** This programme will be implemented on the model of all schools of political studies and address a group of 35 Belarusian participants in 2007. Two seminars will take place in Ukraine with experts and moderators from Belarus, Ukraine and Europe; the participants will also be invited to the Summer University for Democracy 2007.

### **The core of the school's curriculum will comprise topics such as:**

- Establishing closer links between government and civil society, developing good governance
- Democratic values in Belarus (principles of democracy, protection of human rights, the rule of law, public opinion and the role of media, fight against corruption)
- Foreign policy (information on European institutions, and Euro-Atlantic policies)



## EVALUATION

Participants have two opportunities to evaluate the school: (1) having been required, on their application forms, to give a summary of what they expected from participation in the school, they are asked, on completion of the course, to state whether their expectations were met; and (2) after every seminar participants also receive a questionnaire which they can use to share their impressions and proposals. Lecturers and instructors are also given questionnaires of their own to fill in. An analysis of the replies given enables the school to make adjustments and improvements to its programme.



## FUNDING

The Council of Europe  
The European Commission  
Embassy of Japan to Ukraine  
The Konrad Adenauer Foundation



## ALUMNI

The Ukrainian School of Political Studies was founded at the end of 2005 and its first group of students was awarded certificates in July 2006. An alumni association started operating at the end of 2006.



SCHOOL  
*contacts*

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