



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL OPEN WORLD PROGRAM



Ukraine Civic Hosting Themes

The 2009 **Ukraine Hosting Program** will focus 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 2009 Ukraine Hosting Program will offer four main themes: **accountable governance, NGO development, rule of law, and education.** The Ukraine program will also have a cross-cutting theme on child protection, foster care, and the legal framework for international adoptions.

The cross-cutting thematic programs that focus on child protection, foster care, and the legal framework for international adoptions are intended to give delegates a thorough understanding of the social services and legal institutions charged with ensuring the safety and well-being of both American-born children in need and foreign adoptees. Additionally, the programs will seek to promote partnerships between the delegates and others involved in child welfare in their home countries, and individuals and institutions in the United States who work in these areas, for the purpose of fostering future ongoing collaboration and the exchange of ideas and information.

The host-community visit should give delegates firsthand experience with their professional counterparts' daily work routines and offer a view of American life through community and cultural activities and home-stays.

The Ukrainian delegates will prepare for their host-community activities by attending a pre-departure program in Kyiv, respectively, and an orientation program conducted in Washington, D.C. If feasible, grantees will meet with their delegates and make brief presentations on their organizations during the domestic orientation. The domestic orientation program will provide an overview of the delegations' focus theme(s); federal, state, and local governments and their interrelationships; the balance of powers; current issues in U.S. governance and politics; the rights of individual citizens; and American culture. Delegates will be introduced to the Center's initiatives to foster ongoing professional and community networks, including Open World's [Digital Directory](http://dd.openworld.gov) (dd.openworld.gov). The delegates will also learn about American home life and practices to prepare them for their home-stays.

Hosting themes: their rationales, target groups, and suggested activities

Accountable Governance

Rationale: The years 2007–2008 have been a time of political unrest in Ukraine. The new political reform amendments to the 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. Following the parliamentary election in September 2007 and protracted negotiations between parties, Ukraine's political course has somewhat stabilized, but has not provided effective governance. Ukraine's central

government must now make difficult decisions on the pace of decentralization and on measures to increase transparency and accountability.

Regional and local governments are still highly dependent on the central government's budget allocations. Local authorities need to be better prepared to take on and handle the responsibilities of governing that are usually found at the local level in successful democracies. They 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.

Target Group: Mayors, municipal administrators, regional and local legislators, policy experts, public services providers, media representatives, 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 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. Possible topics include local government budgeting, accounting, and auditing; government-employee training; government record keeping; revitalization planning; 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.

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; and holding Q and A with city-desk editors, reporters, and political party representatives. Possible settings for delegate presentations include city council meetings, university seminars, 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 improving credentialing, teacher training (pre-service and in-service), school performance monitoring, and educational materials distribution.

Also, the public and academic library systems in Ukraine are in great need of improvement, especially if libraries are to be used to complement the educational system, to provide adult and continuing education materials, and to enhance access to information.

Finally, Ukraine has recently indicated its intention to improve the transparency of the higher education (college and university level) system by standardizing the qualifications needed for entry into state-supported institutions of higher education. It is Open World's intent to support this effort by hosting up to two groups of professionals involved in implementing this reform.

Target Group: Regional and local government officials involved in education policy and reform, school administrators, teachers in leadership roles, NGO leaders, and journalists.

There will be up to four delegations of Ukrainian librarians (information specialists). These delegations will be made up of highly motivated public and academic librarians and the heads or top staff members of Window on America Centers opened in regional libraries in Ukraine under the U.S. Government's Window on America (American Corners) Program.

Higher education delegations will be made up of education professionals active in promoting standardization and transparency in higher education.

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; 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. For the higher education participants, very specific programming on standardized testing/admissions will have to be planned.

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

Librarian delegations should focus on learning how U.S. public libraries serve their communities. These programs should highlight: 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. Academic librarians in addition will benefit from studying the experience of U.S. university libraries in supporting information literacy and promoting professor-librarian-student interaction. Professional tours of public, university, and school libraries, and presentations by and group discussions with library directors and specialists, will help Ukrainian librarians to better understand the U.S. model of library services.

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. 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. Government officials who work with members of the NGO community or have budget or oversight responsibilities for government-funded activities carried out by NGOs.

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 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. Possible settings for delegate presentations include NGO roundtables, university seminars, or 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 2009. 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 2009 program, as it will be doing in late 2008.

Target Group: Most delegates for Open World's specialized rule of law program 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 2009 also offer "civic" rule of law programming to lawyers, independent legal experts, legal scholars, and judicial administrators. The civic rule of law delegations will

not be assigned U.S. host judges and will travel on a different travel date than that assigned for the specialized rule of law programming.

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, and law enforcement and corrections practices. In-depth discussions and meetings with U.S. judges and other leading legal professionals 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, consultations, etc., by delegates include bench and bar association meetings, law-school colloquia, and panel discussions.

Cross-Cutting Theme: Child-Protection, Foster-Care, and International Adoption Focus

Open World will also be conducting programs focused on child protection, foster care, and the legal framework for international adoptions. The goal of these programs will be to give delegates a thorough understanding of the social services and legal institutions charged with ensuring the safety and well-being of both foreign adoptees and American children in need. Additionally, the programs will seek to promote partnerships between the delegates and others involved in child welfare in Ukraine, and individuals and institutions in the United States who work in this area, for the purpose of fostering future ongoing collaboration and the exchange of ideas and information. See p. 13 under the Russia Civic theme descriptions for the Rationale, Target Group, and Possible Grantee Activities. (Note: Ukraine is not a party to the *Hague Convention of 29 May 1993 on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption*, and temporarily shut down international adoptions in 2006. However, such adoptions have since resumed.)