

Helping Civil Society Engage with the World Through English

In October 2016, 25 members of eight Ukrainian NGOs started studying English as part of a new joint project by the British Council in Ukraine and the Western NIS Enterprise Fund. The *English for Civil Society* initiative aims to develop participants' language skills, fluency, and confidence in using English in their professional environment, including cooperating effectively with Ukraine's international partners.

The new project builds on the British Council's *English for Civil Servants* project which has trained 2,500 government officials since 2012, and which is now being extended to include representatives of civil society involved in Ukraine's democratic and social transformation since the Revolution of Dignity. Staff of eight NGOs (Anticorruption Centre, Free People Employment Centre, Reanimation Package of Reforms, Vostok SOS Civil Initiative, Gurt Resource Centre, School of Mayors, the All-Ukrainian Network of People living with HIV/AIDS and Transparency International Ukraine) have started learning English on the one-year programme.

"Since Maidan, civil society has become one of the driving forces for reform in Ukraine. We are therefore delighted to unite our efforts with Western NIS Enterprise Fund to raise the English language ability of key NGO representatives which is so essential for their further development and cooperation with Ukraine's international partners," commented **Simon Williams, Director of the British Council in Ukraine.**

The *English for Civil Society* initiative forms one part of a larger programme of collaboration between the British Council, Western NIS Enterprise Fund and the Embassy of Canada to support Ukrainian NGOs' engagement with the wider world. In December, this will include a study mission to Canada, in partnership with the Embassy of Canada and EDGE, to explore how the administrative system works there and the role civic society plays in implementing changes at both provincial and national levels.

Jaroslawa Z. Johnson, President and CEO of Western NIS Enterprise Fund, said: *"Under the variety of challenges we are seeing in Ukraine, empowering these highly motivated civic society organizations is crucial to our country's progress. This program should strengthen the communication and leadership skills of civic society leaders in Ukraine who play a key role in the development of their communities, so that advancing such skills will lead to more effective engagement with international partners and other stakeholders that will maximize their impact on social and economic development in Ukraine".*

For more information visit <http://www.britishcouncil.org.ua/en/year-of-english/projects/english-civil-servants> and contact **Anastasiya Romanyk, Year of English in Ukraine Project Manager:**



Email: anastasiya.romanyk@britishcouncil.org.ua

Tel .: +380 44 490 5600

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We create friendly knowledge and understanding between the people of the UK and other countries. Using the UK's cultural resources we make a positive contribution to the countries we work with – changing lives by creating opportunities, building connections and engendering trust.

We work with over 100 countries across the world in the fields of arts and culture, English language, education and civil society. Each year we reach over 20 million people face-to-face and more than 500 million people online, via broadcasts and publications.

Founded in 1934, we are a UK charity governed by Royal Charter and a UK public body. The majority of our income is raised delivering a range of projects and contracts in English teaching and examinations, education and development contracts and from partnerships with public and private organisations. Eighteen per cent of our funding is received from the UK government. For more information, please visit: www.britishcouncil.org.ua. You can also keep in touch with the British Council through <https://www.facebook.com/BritishCouncilUkraine> and <https://twitter.com/uaBritish>.

Western NIS Enterprise Fund (WNISEF) is a \$150 million regional fund, a pioneer in Ukraine and Moldova with more than two decades of successful experience in investing in small and medium-sized companies. WNISEF was funded by the U.S. government via the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Since its inception, WNISEF's cumulative investments total over \$168 million to 118 companies employing around 25 000 people and made it possible to unlock \$1.4 billion for companies in Ukraine and Moldova. In 2015 WNISEF has launched a \$35 million legacy program focused on export promotion, local economic development, impact investing and economic leadership. WNISEF is funding innovative, high-impact, reform focused programs and aims to support Ukraine and Moldova at this critical period by developing sound economic policy and leadership. Visit www.wnisef.org.