

November 15, 2012

VERKHOVNA RADA DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL VOLODYMYR YALOVYI AND U.S. AMBASSADOR JOHN TEFFT WELCOMED NEWLY SELECTED INTERNS TO PARLIAMENT AND MINISTRIES



Verkhovna Rada Deputy Secretary General Volodymyr Yalovyi and U.S. Ambassador John Tefft today greeted 115 newly selected interns in USAID supported 2012-2013 [Parliamentary and Executive Internship Program](#)

. This is the eighteenth year of the Parliamentary Internship Program's operation and the fifth year of the Executive Internship Program's operation in Ukraine.

Ambassador Tefft and Mr. Yalovyi in their remarks to the interns stressed both the contributions that talented youth bring to these institutions during their internships and the responsibility and accountability required as they contribute to important law-making and policy development and implementation activities.

Director of the program's alumni association the ["Interns' League"](#), Program Alumna Valeriia Sobakar greeted the interns selected to the program this year through a rigorous competition and expressed her thanks to the Parliament, ministries and the USAID for providing support for the program through its first 18 years.

During the next eight months, students and recent graduates from almost all regions of Ukraine

will work in 28 parliamentary committees and departments as well as in 6 ministries of Ukraine. During the internship, interns will take part in drafting laws, organize public hearings, committee meetings and round-table discussions; they will study subjects like public policy analysis, gender policy, theory of law, legislative mechanisms and law drafting, rules of procedure. Interns also will meet with prominent local politicians and decision-makers and foreign experts on a weekly basis. Each year, about one third of Program graduates continue their careers in government institutions, while many join the staff pool of the Verkhovna Rada.

A History of Success: The Parliamentary Internship Program was founded by the United States Association of Former Members of Congress and the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine in 1995 with funding through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). In 2000, the program administration was transferred to Indiana University through the Parliamentary Development Project for Ukraine, and since September 2008 it has been implemented by The Ohio State University through the Parliamentary Development Project II under contract with Indiana University and funded by USAID.

During 17 years of the Parliamentary Internship Program's operation, 1,199 young specialists have completed their internship with committees and departments of the Verkhovna Rada, and in executive branch offices. Nearly one third of those completing the program continue working for the Verkhovna Rada, other government institutions or local authorities; another 25 percent are employed by commercial and international organizations, 17 percent are engaged in organizations of civil society (NGOs, think tanks, media and academia), and 16 percent continue their education. The program allows for an injection of fresh personnel to the parliament and opens doors to public administration for young specialists.

To ensure sustainability for the future, in 2009 [the Interns League NGO](#) was formed to promote the program and to work with the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and executive branch offices. The Interns League has secured Ukrainian sponsorship for up to 21 internships for 2012-2013.

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