

PGA launches the call for ambassadors to enlarge its global presence and communication

PGA has launched call for ambassadors. Anyone with foreign degree, who is currently living abroad and is passionate about Ukrainian cause, may apply by sending CV to poliakova.law@gmail.com with an indication of the country you are applying from. The deadline is 11:59 p.m. March 24, 2017.

When we communicate with foreign state authorities or politicians, we strive to give them a real view of what is going on in Ukraine so far. We also monitor foreign policies pertaining to their agenda, react to those policies through the dissemination of supplementary information. However, we are facing some constraints on our ability to communicate and influence remotely. Thus, we decided to create a network of ambassadors so the PGA could communicate, monitor and react faster. Apart from that, we would like to liaise with the Ukrainian community abroad, so to spread our ideas and values.

This initiative is a good opportunity to represent PGA within different countries and spread a word on our activities worldwide.

Jaroslawa Johnson: “We aim to support agents of change in Ukraine”



Jaroslawa Johnson is the President and CEO of Western NIS Enterprise Fund, 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.

1. *“Agents of change” is used very often in Ukrainians vocabulary these last 3 years. What makes a person a real changers?*

First of all, agents of change are responsible people who are not indifferent to what is happening in their country and ready to get involved to change the situation for better. The after-Maidan period was unique in encouraging an expansion in volunteerism, not only in Eastern Ukraine, but also within Government institutions. Committed people quit their well-paid jobs and joined Ukrainian ministries to move reforms from inside and, thus, change the system. Undertaking this challenging task required courage, the right principles and values and building teams of dedicated partners.

2. *Why global education matters? What are the benefits Ukrainian students can get abroad, but not here?*

“To emigrate or not to emigrate?” PGA changes the perspective of the discussion and suggests a way to help Ukraine while doing either

Given the long and contentious dialogue on Facebook in early February, about emigration, PGA members, decided to express their views.

The video was shared via social media and was viewed by nearly 13 thousand viewers. Here is the [link](#).

PGA Christmas/New Year's Eve Party

The newly elected Professional Government Association's board organised on 22 December 2017 the PGA Christmas/New Year's Eve Party. Around 70 PGA members joined us for delicious cocktails, tasty food and a lovely networking atmosphere.

Although the admission was free 20% of what was spent during the social event was donated to the PGA development budget.



We have several educational projects in Ukraine, including hub schools, alternative education like Ukrainian Leadership Academy and CANactions School of Urban Studies, programs for mayors and training for new heads of state owned enterprises. These programs were launched in response to current needs of Ukrainian society which were not currently fulfilled by Ukraine's traditional Ukrainian education system. Global education gives young people more opportunities to grow as leaders, not only followers, to ask themselves the right questions, to be courageous and be critical in their thinking. They learn to achieve by working hard, not through corruption. And they discover the importance of competition at the global level in this era of increasing globalization.

3. Why does Western NIS Enterprise Fund invest in people?

Our Fund has limited resources and receives huge number of requests for support. But to ensure sustainability of all change-making initiatives and reforms, we can only invest in people, those who are committed to continue their work after our funding is gone.. We were lucky to identify a number of such patriots among Government and civil society representatives. The Export promotion office was set up with WNISEF's funding and it shows great results in a short period of time. Some reforms offices as well as initiatives at local level were also supported. We have rigorous criteria for our programs that allow people to grow. We focus on building the capacity and synergies of local leaders who are passionate about Ukraine, who will stay and build a new nation using best global practices.

PGA visits German partners



PGA continues its cooperation with German partners. Since last year PGA participates in German “political and social exchange” trip. This year the trip was fully supported by the

How the government is not looking for talent

PGA in collaboration with initiative Derzhava i Ya (DiYA) has conducted an analysis of how effectively the government is searching for talent as part of trying to solve the professional managers shortage in the government. The result were published in Ukrainian Pravda on February 15th

Brief summary of conclusions

- Vacancies are not being disseminated through popular channels of communication, which are typically used by qualified candidates. Instead, the government agencies publish their vacancies in inconspicuous and disperse sources.
- Information on vacancies is very inconvenient for users. It usually has no filtering options and one cannot read it without downloading all the related files to the personal computer
- Vacancy descriptions contain nonspecific language, leaving room for interpretation. Often the documents important for express determination of candidate's qualifications, such as one's CV and motivation letter, are not even required. Instead, the long list of copies of one's documents is required right away, such as submissions, applications, different forms and other bureaucratic papers that do not necessarily help to assess the candidate's qualifications.

The full article is available via the [link](#).

Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS). The trip included meetings with the representatives from the German Foreign Office, the German Federal Chancellery, the German Bundestag, Deutsche Bahn AG, the German Ministry of Defense, etc. Overall there were 14 meetings in 3 days.

PGA team was represented by Kateryna Busol, Artem Shaipov, Dmytro Iarovy, Vladyslav Vlasyuk who were selected through PGA open call, and Members of the Ukrainian Parliament who were selected by KAS.

It was aimed to communicate the progress of Ukrainian reforms in Germany on behalf of the civil society and MPs. The overall conclusions from the meetings with the German state representatives are that Europeans will keep its support to Ukraine with the condition of having successful reforms in Ukraine; Ukraine can escalate process of joining the EU only with the strengthened and stabilized economic and political situation; Ukraine is not the only problem for Europe now so we need to position ourselves not only as a victim, but also suggest some help to the EU in order to improve our geopolitical situation. More details from the trip are [here](#).

PGI transforms into PGA

History - Professional Government Association of Ukraine, going from sprint to a marathon

- Feb 2014 Several leaders of international university alumni clubs come together to form Professional Government Initiative
- Mar 2014 PGI grows to 29 alumni clubs & writes an open letter to PM Yatsenyuk as well as meets with several key officials, offering help in filling government vacancies with qualified PGI members
- Apr 2014 First PGI members hired by Minister Pavlo Sheremeta, chief of staff & advisor on deregulation
- Oct 2014 PGI reaches a milestone of 50 people placed into government
- Mar 2015 Reform pace stalls & government interest in PGI dries up
- Jan 2016 PGI is registered as NGO, outlines a new mission & strategy aiming to broaden its scope and partner with other initiatives
- Jan 2017 PGI board decides to transform into PGA.

The main driver for the transformation is the changing situation in Ukraine. The pace of reforms has slowed down nearly to a halt, the mood in the reformer community is quite somber and the energy and enthusiasm have all but disappeared. It is clear now, that the process of Ukrainian rebirth is going to be slow and winding.

What at first seemed like a sprint, now clearly looks like a marathon. So in order to succeed, we need to build stamina and beef up our patience. Which means turning Professional Government Initiative into a permanent Association, with clear internal procedures, consolidated membership base, long-term strategic projects and active search for new members and partners. Therefore, the board has decided to focus on:

1. Improving the civil service working conditions
2. Uniting & growing PGA membership
3. Preparing specific & actionable reform plans & professional cadre
4. Building public support for solutions proposed by PGA

The board will organize a PGI to PGA transformation information session and Q&A in April 2017.

PGA meets decentralization expert Benedikt Herrmann



PGA organized a meeting with Benedikt Herrmann, a former Policy Officer at the European Commission and current Officer at U-LEAD with Europe Program, on March 01, 2017.

During the meeting, the participants discussed the ins and outs of the Decentralization Reform in Ukraine. Mr. Herrmann delivered an engaging lecture on the current state of Ukraine's Decentralization Reform and provided thorough comparison analysis with other countries.

“In 2014, Ukraine launched an impressive decentralization reform, re-formatting the fiscal and administrative structure of the country. Often (miss)-perceived as the “happy-villagers” reform, this reform might be Ukraine's real game-changer. With this reform, public administration, citizens and businesses are suddenly facing a new incentive structure. This change of incentives can trigger a virtuous circle of decrease in corruption, increase in tax compliance and economic growth”, Mr. Herrmann said. To explain the “hidden power” of this reform, Mr. Herrmann effectively used experimental economics to illustrate how the decentralization process can become the invisible game changer, which will quietly take place behind the craziness of the daily political spectacle in Ukraine.

PGA is a united association of professionals who will work on creating a capable and competent government in Ukraine.

Newsletter editor in chief: Inna Poliakova

To contact please e-mail at: i.poliakova@qmul.ac.uk

Copyright © 2017. All rights reserved.