



# School of young professionals

UNIVERSITY OF  
LATVIA, FACULTY OF  
SOCIAL SCIENCES



STUDENTS



In our project fifteen of the most talented students, future experts in state administration, from different regions in the Ukraine study European studies in Latvia – one of European countries with one of the most rapid development rates.

This project is a challenge not only for the Ukrainian students, but also for the student community and teaching staff of the University of Latvia, this promotes the cooperation and interaction of both student communities. Students from the Ukraine get to know Latvian culture, traditions and values, and the Latvian student community has the unique opportunity to explore the culture of another country from the primary source and try to understand how a strong, independent and unified country is being developed right next door, in the east of Europe.

The School of young professionals is a project in which students have the opportunity to connect gaining theoretical knowledge with practice. During the project, students have six study courses, which range from Latvian history and our experience on our way to the European Union to current issues with the europeanisation process, innovations in administration, core principles of leadership and the role of public diplomacy.

The project supplements theoretical knowledge with study trips and discussions in the Saeima, Cabinet of Ministers, Chancellery of the President and embassies of different countries as well as high rank international conferences. Meetings with the former

“ **The project significantly improves the practical experience of young people on questions about how the European Union functions. In this context the experience of Latvia is very important for the academic community of the Ukraine, because Latvia has gone through major structural reforms, to be able to become a full-fledged member state of the European Union and NATO.**

— Vice-rector of the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv  
**MARIJA ZUBRICKA**



During a meeting with the president of the Ukraine V. Zelensky, during his visit in Riga, Kronvalda park October 16, 2019.



Students during a study trip to the Saeima. The meeting hall of the Saeima, October 7, 2019.

president of the Ukraine P. Poroshenko, president of the Ukraine V. Zelensky, presidents of the Latvian Republic A. Bērziņš, R. Vējonis, E. Levits and other Latvian and other European level officials have been valuable. These meetings allow the students to inquire about the everyday life of the officials, what skills are necessary to hold high ranking positions in politics.

During the five years that this project has been implemented, 60 students have graduated from the School of young professionals and all continue their professional career in the Ukraine working in state administration, local governments, ministries and research centres.

A conclusion can be drawn that the project promotes internationalization, promotes exchange of culture and traditions between the two countries and strengthens the cooperation of educational establishments for Latvia and the Ukraine, which further develops into other formats – taking part in scientific conferences, publishing papers and experience exchanges.

“ **The School of young professionals is a project that is more than just an exchange of students. It is a possibility and a challenge for Ukrainian students not only in studying the subjects, but also in learning the skill of intercultural communication. The main benefit of this project is connected not only to the possibilities of exchanging opinions but also a fresh view on why it is important to fight for the right of self-determination of your country and the values provided by a democratic state in the 21st century.**

— student of The Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University A. KOZHUHOVA

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