

**“Local Government Advocacy:  
Promoting Decentralization and Economic Growth”  
Testimonies from Western Ukraine Delegation: Ternopil and Rivne  
Oblasts (August 6 - August 27, 2012)**

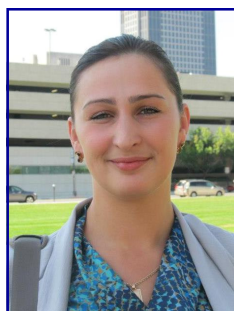


**Andrii Hreshchuk (Rivne City)**

Deputy of City Council of 5 convocations,  
Head of Rivne Employment Center



“I work in the City self-government as authority and as Secretary of the Board for 9 years. While in the U.S.A. I saw striking example of work in action of local councils and mayors, active dialogue with the community, cooperation with non-governmental organizations and independent experts. I noted the high level associations of mayors of municipalities in placing the own interests below common interest when they work with State or Federal government.”



**Iryna Pakhniuk (Rivne City)**

Consultant of Coordination and Cooperation with Local Governments  
Department, Rivne Regional Council



“Participation in the USAID Local Government Advocacy program was a great chance to get acquainted with local communities of the USA. Everyone from the delegation had the opportunity to study the structure of the municipalities, the main directions of the city councils and their departments, which will allow in the future implementing the positive aspects of their performance in Ukraine.”



**Mykola Orlov (Zdolbuniv, Rivne Oblast)**

Chairman, NGO “Analytical Center of City Development “ZEON”



“The American experience has convinced that advocacy and communications in search of a compromise between all levels of government, business and residents - a great power. It was initiated at the community level to make American cities such similar to each other. Such a useful practice for me is a source of inspiration for new projects including these related to other members of delegation. I am in great “Thank You” to the hosting organization side and the USAID for the opportunity to participate in a program”



**Serhiy Anoshchenko (Kuznecovsk, Rivne Oblast)**

City Mayor, the member of Kuznecovsk City Council



“I hold City Mayor position since 2010 when I was elected. A trip to the U.S.A. had shown a good model in building local government system of division of powers between the different branches of government. It is impressive infrastructure – roads, sidewalks, plumbing and sewage - in very large extent and good condition. Such communication system implemented in Ukraine is a vision for any Mayor.”



### **Vitaliy Undir (Ostroh, Rivne Oblast)**

First City Mayor Deputy and member of the Ostroh City Council.



“It was extremely informative, colorful, rich and interesting program. I newly discovered U.S.A, and the way of life of the regular Americans by staying at a host family. The best way to give thanks from my side for the opportunity to participate in the program will be representation of everything I learned and saw from the U.S. as I return to Ukraine.”



### **Volodymyr Torbich (Rivne City)**

Director and the Main Editor of Rivne NGO Agency for Investigative Journalism



“Participating in this program in the U.S.A. allowed me to increase my optimism about the strength of civil society. I saw how the community can manage their life and control local authorities. In my opinion more Ukrainian people should have a chance to participate in such programs, and see for themselves that there is a way to live better. My sincere “Thank You” to all Americans contributed to the realization of this program.”

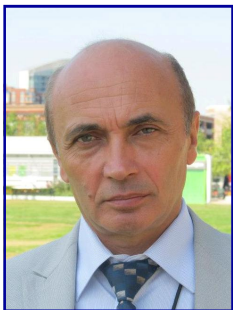


### **Ihor Hul, (Berezhany, Ternopil Oblast)**

City Mayor Deputy, member of the Berezhany City Council, Head of the production in private firm “FLYUK”



“I am extremely impressed with the openness and transparency of the tax system and the inventory of real estate in the U.S.A. As a Deputy Mayor in my city, in my subsequent work, I will use all my power to put into practice the principle "Every Citizen of the State are the Basis of Local Government" as it is done in local communities of the U.S.A.”



### **Ivan Bashnyak (Borschiv, Ternopil Oblast)**

City Mayor and the member of the Borschiv City Council



The program "Local Government Advocacy" changed my outlook on the U.S. system of government and the role of communities on the public life level, communities itself and individuals. The program on selected issues such as (1) Reserving land for business-parks and (2) Saving energy programs (AUZYM), make me realize, that I am on the right track in the case, which I started implementing in my community in Ukraine.”



### **Yulia Parfenchuk (Kremenets, Ternopil Oblast)**

Consultant of Coordination and Cooperation with Local Governments Department, Rivne Regional Council



“The program "Local Government Advocacy" has enabled me to see a model of the "ideal self-government system" in the small towns of Ohio, U.S.A, to deepen my knowledge, to develop creative thinking in generating new ideas, which are positive for the further development of local communities. Thank you to the organizers of the program, to the families who hosted us and who tried to provide as much as possible comfort for us, and those shared information on our interests.”



*Sponsored by USAID Community Connections Program.  
National hosting organization: Alliances for Quality Education, Inc.  
Local organizer: Great Lakes Consortium for International Training and Development*