



2018-19

IMPACT REPORT

Engaging Citizens, Empowering Communities



EURASIA FOUNDATION

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Letter from Eurasia Foundation President and Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Dear Friends,

2018 was a significant year for Eurasia Foundation. After over 25 years of service, including a dozen as CEO, Horton Beebe-Center retired. During his tenure, he oversaw the institution's shift from a grant-maker to an implementer. Horton guided the staff through geographic expansion into China and the Middle East. And he oversaw the transformation of the organization's field offices in Eurasia into locally-led and locally-governed organizations. Horton's impact on Eurasia Foundation will be felt for years to come.

2019 brought a number of powerful and positive developments. Eurasia Foundation closed the year with more wins by value than ever, while sustaining high program performance. The organization won and launched its largest-ever single award, the Civil Society Support Program in Central Asia. This \$18 million initiative supports youth and community leaders as they work to build more responsive civil societies.

Over the last two years, Eurasia Foundation has continued to implement its largest governance program, Transparency and Accountability in Public Administration and Services (TAPAS), in Ukraine. The program promotes good governance and reduces corruption in partnership with a number of Ukrainian organizations and a London-based partner. TAPAS assists the Government of Ukraine to leverage information technology to boost integrity in public procurement, expand eServices to citizens, and increase citizen access to government data. TAPAS has seen remarkable success thanks to the generous support of USAID and UK aid.

Our partner foundations throughout Eurasia are thriving. We have found opportunities to collaborate with them, including with Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia and the East Europe Foundation in Ukraine on the two initiatives mentioned above. These organizations, along with similar ones in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Moldova, have become leaders in their communities. Their outstanding work contributes to Eurasia Foundation's three-decade legacy of improving governance and broadening civic engagement. The success of these partners is Eurasia Foundation's proudest achievement.

Looking ahead, Eurasia Foundation remains focused on Eurasia but is also expanding the geographic scope of its work and deepening partnerships. We have reopened offices in Almaty and Dushanbe and plan to explore potential opportunities in the Middle East and the Balkans that draw on our core regional and functional skills.

None of these efforts is possible without the continued generous support of donors and partners. We thank you for joining Eurasia Foundation on this journey and helping us equip citizens to build resilient communities and make governments more accountable.

Warm wishes,




Lisa Coll
President




William Courtney
Chairman



Promoting Good Governance

Advancing transparency and accountability in government to reform public administration and services, combat corruption, and build citizen trust.

Eurasia Foundation increases government accountability and responsiveness, and promotes more inclusive and effective approaches to service delivery. Programs work with civil society organizations, activists, and government partners to foster participatory and transparent governance, combat corruption, and ensure equitable access to resources and citizen services.

Eurasia Foundation is supporting Ukrainian citizens and the Government of Ukraine to implement eGovernance reforms, including eProcurement, open data, and eServices. By shifting public service delivery away from paper-based transactions and face-to-face meetings, these reforms eliminate opportunities for corruption, improve the efficiency and effectiveness of public service delivery, and foster trust between citizens and government. One way Eurasia Foundation is doing this is through support for DOZORRO, an independent civil society watchdog network and public procurement monitoring portal.

DOZORRO is a network of twenty-five civil society organizations and over 1,000 volunteers across Ukraine, who hold public buyers to account by monitoring and flagging high-risk, potentially corrupt tenders. Facilitated by Eurasia Foundation's partner, Transparency International Ukraine, DOZORRO allows each member of the procurement monitoring network to leave feedback about a buyer or supplier, discuss and assess the conditions of a specific procurement, and analyze past procurements made by the public buyer. The platform also allows users to prepare and submit official requests to public buyers and oversight authorities to review high-risk tenders. In doing so, DOZORRO ensures that the rules of public procurement are being implemented transparently and objectively by all stakeholders in the process.

Between October 1, 2017 and December 30, 2019, DOZORRO analyzed nearly 26,000 high-risk tenders, 24,000 of which were brought to the attention of public buyers and oversight authorities through formal complaints. Of these, just over 3,500 tenders—with a total value of over \$436 million—were cancelled or substantially amended by public buyers, or saw illegal decisions reversed.



Amplifying the Voices of Women and Marginalized Groups

Overcoming barriers to women's civic participation and championing the rights of the vulnerable and disenfranchised.

Eurasia Foundation equips civil society organizations and civic leaders to build more inclusive and equitable societies, and to combat discrimination or disempowerment of individuals on the basis of gender, disability, ethnicity, or geography. By sharing expertise, building organizational capacity, and supporting and connecting communities on the ground, Eurasia Foundation empowers socially and economically marginalized populations. This allows marginalized peoples to gain greater visibility and influence and rise as leaders of positive social change.

To support persons with disabilities (PWD) in hard-to-reach communities, Eurasia Foundation provides interactive online courses on social entrepreneurship, advocacy, and coalition building. Courses equip PWD advocates with skills to advance PWD rights to inclusion, social integration, economic empowerment, and equal access, and generate supportive networks for nurturing the growth of PWD-focused campaigns and social enterprises.

One such advocate is Zara, a thirty-five-year-old visually impaired woman who has dedicated her professional life to advocating for the rights of PWD. Zara is the first woman in her region to advise local government on issues of accessibility. Determined to better serve fellow PWD in her community, Zara enrolled in Eurasia Foundation's online advocacy course. With the continued support of Eurasia Foundation instructors, Zara met with local PWD to learn more about their accessibility challenges, particularly in public spaces. She convinced the mayor to meet with residents to discuss their needs; as a result, the mayor pledged to make accessible sidewalks a priority issue in their district. In a trailblazing effort to ensure beneficiaries' continued involvement in the campaign, Zara then created a mobile network that allows PWD to communicate directly with local government to voice concerns and advocate for change. Participants share photos and addresses of locations that need to be made accessible, and the mayor tasks municipal authorities with investigating ways to address the issue. This direct interaction between residents and the office of the mayor has produced a surge in civic engagement by the local PWD community, who at last feel their voices are being heard.



"Thanks to the guidance and knowledge I received from Eurasia Foundation, this project has been a tremendous success. I have a sense of belonging and purpose again. I have become a well-respected advocate for the disabled community, and I am now working to expand this project to other districts."

– Zara

Mobilizing Citizen Participation through Technology

Harnessing online platforms to organize and support advocacy, outreach, and civic education, even in the most restrictive environments.

Eurasia Foundation utilizes technology as an essential tool to support civic inclusion and dialogue. For over a decade, Eurasia Foundation has created and maintained digital platforms to serve as e-learning hubs, knowledge repositories, and networking and community-building portals. Digital platforms provide critical channels for citizens to gather based on shared interests, exchange best practices, and learn how to engage with their governments and each other, to drive real and lasting change.

Eurasia Foundation online trainings help educators guide students in advocacy and civic engagement projects. With support from Eurasia Foundation, educators work with students to think critically about the social issues facing their communities and develop action plans to implement youth-led initiatives. Projects take on a diverse array of socioeconomic problems, including educational inequity, gender equality, youth mental health, accessibility for persons with disabilities, and environmental degradation.

One such advocacy project, delivered by a group of eighteen female high school students, focused on preventing sexual abuse of young children. As part of Eurasia Foundation's community engagement course, their teacher, Sara, guided classroom discussions to identify priority issues for her students. The young girls identified sexual abuse as a critical concern in their deeply conservative community. With continued support from Eurasia Foundation, Sara helped her students design an awareness-raising campaign to highlight ways to combat sexual violence, particularly targeting minors. The students then persuaded local leaders to allow them to host a training at a nearby elementary school to help other children identify risks and prevent sexual abuse. For young women to broach, much less advocate against, a taboo topic such as sexual violence in their ultraconservative community was unprecedented. Moreover, without any systemic efforts by local or regional bodies to combat or even acknowledge sexual violence, especially against minors, the student-led project filled a crucial gap.

Empowering youth to speak out against violence that affects them is one way Eurasia Foundation participants change lives through active citizenship.



Cultivating Next-Gen Leaders

Engaging young professionals and social entrepreneurs in a meaningful exchange of ideas and best practices to strengthen capacity and produce lasting change.

Eurasia Foundation forges robust partnerships between established and early-career professionals to develop innovative solutions to pressing social challenges. Through technical and subject matter expertise exchanges, networking opportunities, and professional partnerships, Eurasia Foundation programs equip the next generation of leaders to better communicate, engage with public and private sector partners, and organize around issues meaningful to their communities.

With support from Eurasia Foundation, Yulia Fatkhullina, a lawyer-turned-social entrepreneur based in Tyumen, Russia, and founder of the non-profit Nastavnik, traveled to the United States. Yulia wanted to gain international perspectives on best practices in mentorship and positive youth development and to build relationships with overseas partners. Nastavnik connects underprivileged and at-risk youth, many of whom lack parental figures, with responsible and compassionate adult mentors. Mentors provide guidance, support, opportunities—and most of all, a strong and stable emotional bond—to help youth build confidence, realize their goals, and make a positive impact on their communities. As part of her fellowship, Yulia traveled to Phoenix, Arizona, and Los Angeles, California, for three weeks to conduct site visits and interviews with local mentoring organizations. She also shared perspectives on topics ranging from soft and hard skills development to emotional healing through creative writing. Upon her return, Yulia wrote a handbook on best practices in mentorship and conducted a series of webinars to share lessons learned with mentoring professionals throughout Russia. She has since launched a visual storytelling project sharing experiences of mentorship, from the perspectives of both mentors and mentees.

"While in the U.S. I realized we do the same work in our countries and share a lot in common. I was happy to meet like-minded people to share my experience and to know theirs. It was an excellent opportunity to learn best mentoring practices in the U.S., expanding my horizons and acquiring new, innovative approaches."

– Yulia Fatkhullina



Enhancing Civil Society

Equipping citizens with the knowledge and skills to participate in local and national decision-making processes and shape their futures on their own terms.

Eurasia Foundation strengthens the capacity of civil society organizations to shape public policy and defend the rights and well-being of their constituencies. Programs equip civic leaders and activists, often in non-permissive environments, with the resources and skills to organize in-person and online. Participants identify the most pressing issues facing their communities and launch advocacy initiatives to resolve them.

Eurasia Foundation online courses enhance aspiring community leaders' ability to creatively promote civic engagement and human rights, even in the most restrictive environments. Trainings emphasize critical thinking, project management, and communication skills, and help participants organize and launch advocacy campaigns in their communities. As participants implement their projects, Eurasia Foundation continues to provide guidance and training, through both personalized coaching and online networking opportunities.

Arman is an entrepreneur and youth advocate living in a provincial town, who enrolled in a Eurasia Foundation civic leadership course to learn how to enact positive social change in his conservative community. As part of the course, participants ran social media campaigns about issues meaningful to them, in an effort to stimulate dialogue and promote community action on pressing social issues. In a society that discourages free expression, especially surrounding sensitive social topics, this was an especially challenging task. Arman first hosted a spirited discussion on the root causes and long-term repercussions of youth unemployment. As a result of this conversation, he recognized the disproportionate barriers youth with disabilities face to obtaining quality education and, in turn, stable employment. Arman then delivered a second information campaign focused on distance learning for persons with disabilities (PWD). Upon completion of the Eurasia Foundation course, Arman teamed up with classmate Aliya to launch an online school for youth with disabilities. The school will provide free IT courses and job placement assistance to PWD from across the country.



"The course taught me how to become a true leader and see opportunities where most people see problems. They encouraged me to use these opportunities to resolve not only my problems, but also challenges faced by hundreds of other people in my community."

– Eurasia Foundation civic leadership course participant

Advancing Youth Participation in the Media

Examining critical social issues from a cross-cultural perspective and developing leadership and digital storytelling skills.

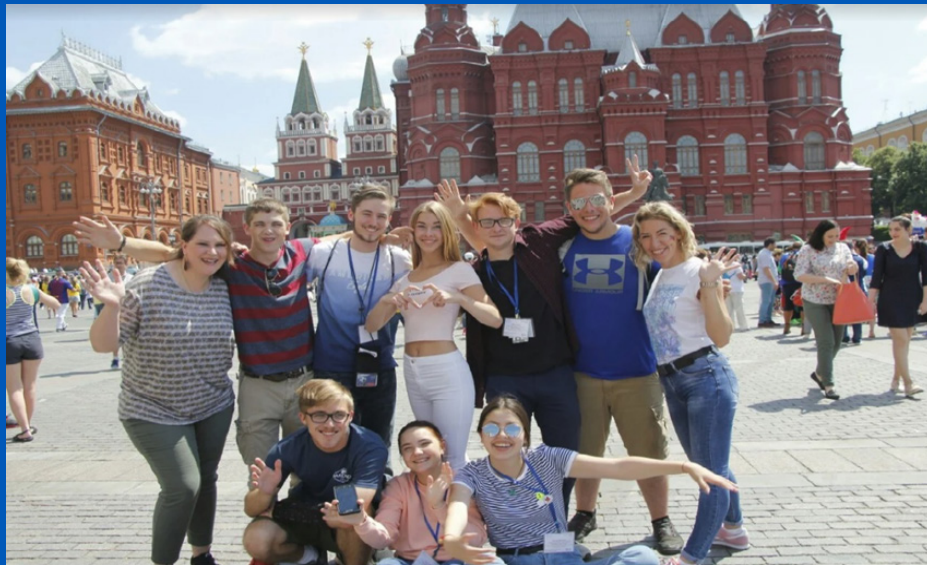
Eurasia Foundation supports internationally minded youth to channel their energy and creativity into high-impact digital storytelling and awareness campaigns, and share perspectives on social issues impacting their generation. Programs cultivate youth technical skills while encouraging self-awareness and helping them find their voice. Eurasia Foundation empowers youth to grow into proactive, informed, and engaged global citizens.

Eurasia Foundation youth media exchanges link U.S. and Russian high school teams to collaboratively produce broadcast-style videos exploring social topics common to both countries. Episodes take on a range of issues, including sports, education, social inclusion, and the environment. Students learn important technical skills including in video production, fact checking, and critical thinking, while building lasting cross-cultural bridges.

Disability Partnership TV kicked off its second season by uniting a team of eight students from Texarkana, Texas, and Novotroisk, Russia, to document the perspectives and experiences of persons with disabilities living in each country. Students first met in Moscow, where they visited a boarding school for students with disabilities and interviewed professional sled hockey athletes. Upon their return home, they set to work communicating across languages and continents to virtually record, edit, produce, and host five video episodes. Each episode offered a fresh look on disability by incorporating stories about individuals living with disabilities and organizations dedicated to increasing accessibility in different cultural contexts. The series fostered mutual understanding and goodwill between citizens, while also promoting inclusivity and visibility of persons with disabilities. It ultimately reached over 10,000 viewers across the United States and Russia.

“How can a team from Texarkana be similar to a team from Novotroitsk? Everything we saw and experienced was new to us, and these emotions united us. We had the same perspective on the world.”

– Karina Baitkova, Disability Partnership TV anchor, Russia, Season Two



Partner and Legacy Organizations

The Eurasia Foundation Network consists of Eurasia Foundation and seven locally rooted, independent organizations that collaborate to advance a shared mission. Eurasia Foundation also played a key role in establishing five legacy organizations and continues to support their initiatives and institutional growth.

Partner Foundations



New Eurasia
Foundation



East Europe
Foundation of
Moldova



East Europe
Foundation of
Ukraine



Eurasia
Foundation of
Central Asia



Europe
Foundation



EURASIA
PARTNERSHIP
FOUNDATION

Eurasia
Partnership
Foundation
Armenia



EURASIA
PARTNERSHIP
FOUNDATION

Eurasia
Partnership
Foundation
Azerbaijan

Other Legacy Organizations



Caucasus
Research
Resources Center
Georgia



Caucasus
Research
Resources Center
Armenia



Gazelle Finance



European
Humanities
University



Kyiv School of
Economics

2018-2019 Partners and Funders

Partners

APCO Worldwide
Council on International Education Exchange
Data Journalism Agency TEXTY
East Europe Foundation
Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia – Kazakhstan
Jordanian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
Kyiv School of Economics
Media Diversity Initiative
Ministry of Economic Development, Trade, and Agriculture of Ukraine

Ministry of Health of Ukraine
Mobility International USA
Navanti Group
New Eurasia Foundation
Open Data Institute
Samir Kassir Foundation
Skyless Game Studios
Social Boost
Prozorro
Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine
Student Television Network

Funders

Government Agencies

U.S. Agency for International Development
U.S. Department of State
U.S. Embassy in Jordan
U.S. Embassy in Moscow
U.K. Department for International Development
U.K. Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Organizations

APCO Worldwide
Carnegie Corporation of New York
OSI Assistance Foundation
Chevron
The Hand Foundation
International Tax & Investment Center
Rock Creek Advisors, LLC

Individuals

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Joshua Bartlett
Horton Beebe-Center
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Eric Boyle
Randy Bregman
Angel Dean Collins
The Honorable William Courtney
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Thomas Dine
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ABOUT EURASIA FOUNDATION

Eurasia Foundation is an international nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering citizens to take responsibility for their own civic and economic prosperity. Since 1992, we have partnered with the U.S. government and other public and private funders to support the development of vibrant civil societies, open and effective governments, and international partnerships throughout Eurasia, the Middle East, and China. For more information, visit www.eurasia.org.



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