



# EASTERN EUROPEAN LEADERSHIP FORUM

**19 – 22 October, 2011  
Kyiv, Ukraine**

The Eastern European Leadership Forum (EELF) took place in Kiev, Ukraine the 19th - 22nd of October, 2011. It was organized by evangelical churches and various ministries of Ukraine and Belarus. EELF is a subsidiary event of the European Leadership Forum, which has a solid tradition in Western European Christianity. About 200 ministers from the Eastern Europe (representing countries such as Ukraine, Belarus, and Armenia) gathered at the Forum. The program also included speakers from the USA, Holland, and Sweden.



The idea of the Forum is to promote the fulfillment of the Great Commission throughout the Eastern Europe in the 21st century. It should be a platform where leaders (who represent the diversity of Christian ministries in the region) meet. The Forum involves communication, sharing ideas, and resources. The Forum aims to achieve three goals:

- 1) Building bridges between the various ministers and ministries
- 2) Increasing professionalism in the ministry through education, training, and discipleship
- 3) Promoting programs aimed at evangelizing Eastern European nations and their cultures





The Forum was held on the twentieth anniversary of the collapse of the Soviet Union, an anti-Christian empire, which opened the doors for the Gospel to hundreds of millions of people.

During these days, ministers from different countries shared their vision and studied the experience of the past two decades. The ministers responded to the question of how to strengthen the influence of the church in society.



Today the Church is like a salt shaker, which has a good salt in it, but, unfortunately, it remains collected inside and makes very little impact on society. There is a great need for Christian projects to open the potential in the Church. Christians should spread the biblical worldview in various spheres of social life, culture, science, education, politics, media, and social services.

Besides the morning and evening plenary sessions, and keeping in-line with the vision of the Forum, six networks were organized:

1. Apologetics
2. Art
3. Education
4. Church leadership
5. Church and the social work
6. Church and the civil society







In addition to the plenary and network sessions, 24 seminars on various topics were conducted. These seminars discussed topics like: apologetics, evangelism, social projects, worldview, politics, and others.

The following people attended the Forum: Greg Pritchard, Director of the European Leadership Forum; Stefan Gustavsson, General Secretary of the Swedish Evangelical Alliance; and Richard Carhart, Ph.D. in theoretical particle physics.



Songwriter and member of the «New Jerusalem» music band, Vadim Kalatsey, and songwriter of the Christian music band «Salvation», Alexander Borisyuk, shared their experience at the Art Network. Wim Rietkerk, the Chairman of the L'Abri Fellowship, gave an analysis of trends in contemporary culture. The main speaker of the Education Network was the professor at the Ostrog Academy, Vasiliy Zhukovskyy.

Sergey Golovin, president of the Christian Center for Science and Apologetics, presented effective ways of evangelism using apologetics. Well-known pastors and missionaries taught about leadership in the local church. Jerry Twombly, the Senior Partner of the BGW|Development Group (Building God's Way), spoke about the management of churches and Christian organizations.

Workshops on prayer life were held by the leader of «Seekers of God Movement», Sergei Shidlovsky. Well-known lawyers and Christian politicians in Ukraine and Belarus talked about how the Church can influence the formation of civil society in the Eastern Europe. Antony Bokun, the author of, *The Golden Age of Belarus*, discussed the influence of the Reformation on the modern world.



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Nickolay Kuleba (who is the head of the Kiev state service for children) and other leaders of rehabilitation centers taught about social work in the church. Elena Lipeykina, who is the director of a TV video school at CNL (a popular Christian channel), shared how to effectively use the PSAs.



Overall, the first EELF was successful. The organizers base their assessment on questionnaires filled out by the participants and their personal responses. Every day at the Forum had an atmosphere of enthusiasm and inspiration. People listened with interest to the testimonies of successful projects, shared contacts, and invited each other to cooperate together. In God's heart, there is a big dream of synergy. It's when Christians, as various members of the same body, complement each other with the potential that God has placed in each of them.

The gradual increase of participants at the annual Forum is predicted. This year, organizers invited only 200 leaders from the Eastern Europe. Next year, they plan to launch new networks like media, evangelism, youth work, and to invite more leaders.

Throughout the year, the organizers will facilitate cooperation between the Forum participants. Regular newsletters will inform participants about projects carried-out by the speakers of the EELF.

A special thanks belongs to the team of the European Leadership Forum and its director Greg Pritchard. Without them, the Eastern European Leadership Forum would not have taken place. Thank you for all your support, mentoring, prayer, and love.

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\* Photos of the Eastern European Leadership Forum 2011 can be found here:  
<http://www.east.euroleadership.org/?q=node/54>