



EAST EUROPEAN LEADERSHIP FORUM

Open the potential of the church to society

10 – 13th of October 2012

Kyiv, Ukraine



From October 10 – 13, the second East European Leadership Forum (EELF) was held. EELF is an initiative of different evangelical churches and Christian ministries from across Eastern Europe. Its goal is to spread biblical principles into all spheres of life in our nations: from evangelization to church planting, from family and marriage to civil life, from art to science. EELF is created for the unity, equipping and providing resources for evangelical leaders.

EELF is a subsidiary event of the European Leadership Forum, which has a solid history and influence in Western European Christianity.

EELF involves networking, idea sharing, and resource provision. It aims to achieve three main objectives:

1. Create bridges between different Christian leaders and ministries
2. Increase professionalism through education, training, and discipleship
3. Promote programs aimed at evangelizing Eastern European nations and their cultures



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The main idea of EELF is captured in this statement: "Unity in diversity". EELF brought together leaders from different areas of Christian ministry.

This year there were 10 networks, representing:

1. Apologetics
2. Arts
3. Church Leadership
4. Church and Civil Society
5. Education
6. Evangelization
7. Family ministry
8. Media and Communication
9. Missionaries and Church Planters
10. Students and Young Professionals



EELF focuses on the fulfillment of the Great Commission of Jesus Christ by the Church in the 21st century. Each network seeks to discover how to effectively accomplish this mission in our time and in our geographic region. The EELF's organizers understand the command "Go and make disciples" not only in terms of personal evangelization but also as the evangelization of the culture which affects the daily life of the individual. Therefore, along with networks like "Evangelization" and "Missionaries and Church Planters" there are networks like "Apologetics", "Arts", "Education", "Church and Civil Society", and "Media and Communication".



At this year's event there were about 70 speakers from Eastern Europe as well as from the UK and USA. The main speaker at the plenary sessions was John Lennox, a prominent apologist and professor at Oxford University. His message from the book of Daniel inspired the participants to pursue God's calling in the modern world. Also, the following speakers took part in the EELF:





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- Phill Butler, director of visionSynergy, taught about unity and partnership.
- Bruce Little, professor of Philosophy and apologist, spoke about the interaction of faith and culture.
- Steve Weber, the president of Association "Emmanuel", shared his many years of experience on the post-Soviet territory.
- Valeriy Reshetinsky, the bishop of the Ukrainian Missionary Church, was the coordinator of the Apologetics Network.
- Alexandr Borisyuk, a pastor and a song writer for the Christian band "Salvation", headed Evangelization Network.
- Benjamin Brukh, the founder of Jesus Christ Church in Minsk, coordinated the Church Leadership Network.
- Vasiliy Zhukovsky, the dean of the Humanities faculty in Ostrog Academy, presented the strategy of spreading the biblical worldview through the teaching of Christian ethics in schools.
- Elena Sitnik, director of the arts projects in Belarus, shared practical advice on how to influence the atmosphere in the city through arts in the Arts Network.
- Ruslan Maliuta, the president of Alliance "Ukraine without Orphans" coordinated The Family Ministry Network. In this Network, Vitaliy Shabunin and his wife Olena presented the project "Marriage Week".

Many other speakers shared their experience and ongoing projects.

In addition to network sessions there were 34 seminars on various relevant topics for Christian leaders such as evangelism, management, working with Muslims, evangelism in universities, Christian counseling, men's ministry, Christian bioethics, the use of information technology in spreading the Gospel in today's world, children service, and many others.





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This year's EELF was of great interest to the Christian media, who have provided informational support for several months. Hundreds of viewers from the former Soviet Union watched the live broadcasting of plenary sessions thanks to Christian television Bog.tv. Christian television, radio, and evangelical websites posted interviews with the EELF speakers as well as video recordings of the plenary sessions, networks, and workshops. By doing so, they contributed to the spreading of the vision and ideas of the EELF.

The East European Leadership Forum is not only an annual four-day event. It intends to be a catalyst for a variety of programs and activities throughout the year. In November, we plan to post the videos of sermons and teaching at the EELF 2012 in the media. Thus, the message, which was passed on by the speakers of the EELF, will be available to a wider audience.

Regular newsletters and media interaction will provide information regarding EELF speakers and will inform of planned projects and activities. Beginning in January 2013, weekly seminars with EELF speakers will be conducted in Kiev and will be recorded with the aim of further spreading the message. Also planned is continued cooperation with Ukrainian universities, who will host apologetic meetings featuring EELF speakers. A popular scientific conference, featuring historians from Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia on the topic "The providential view of the history of Eastern Europe," is planned for March.

We hope that next year the range of cooperation will expand and more new leaders from the various evangelical denominations and ministries in Eastern Europe will attend EELF.

We express our deep gratitude to the team of Communication Institute and especially its director Greg Pritchard for his mentoring and support over the last three years. Without it, the East European Leadership Forum would not have happened for Christian leaders in Eastern Europe. May God bless you and all who have contributed. Because of you, the East European Leadership Forum is able to serve and strengthen the Kingdom of God in all spheres of life of our nations.

Jaroslav Lukasik

Director of the East European Leadership Forum

