



# EAST EUROPEAN LEADERSHIP FORUM

Leaders together for a new evangelization



## Forum report 2015





On November 11 – 14 the 5th East European Leadership Forum (EELF) was held. About 500 evangelical leaders from different denominations all over Ukraine and Belarus gathered together, as well as guests from Czech Republic, Romania, Macedonia, the Netherlands and the United States, including 80 speakers and 65 volunteers. They gathered in Kyiv to reveal the body of Christ, to listen to what the Spirit says to the Church today, share experiences of many ministries in various spheres of Church and society life.

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

***The Forum's goal is to build up a Biblical Church and evangelize Eastern European nations.***

The Forum was held through 11 Networks: “Church Leadership”, “Evangelization”, “Apologetics”, “Missionaries and New Churches Planting”, “Church and Civil Society”, “University”, “Youth Ministry”, “Volunteering and Chaplain Ministry”, “Family Ministry”, “Christianity and Culture”, “Christianity and Business”. During the Forum there have been more than 100 different seminars, lectures, round tables and master-classes on various topics relevant to Church. The important element of EELF was the informal atmosphere when leaders could discuss questions they are interested in and invite other Forum participants to joint projects.

This year three new networks were launched at the Forum: “University”, “Volunteering and Chaplain Ministry”, “Christianity and Business”.







**Business Network** participants talked about mission in business, the responsibility of managing a business talent and money as God's resources. According to Igor Garmazonov, pastor, businessman and co-founder of the Christian comprehensive school «Vineyard», we all are entrepreneurs while doing any kind of activity, but the heavy Soviet heritage has brought about changes in people's consciousness. Therefore, personal relationship with the Lord is so necessary to understand our nature as those created in His image as well as our mission in this world.



*Being a leader means uniting people, rather than using them to implement your own ambitions*

, said Jesse James, a businessman and consultant in the field of business education and personal growth, during one of the workshops, «The principles of effective leadership». According to him, effective management is based on several principles: responsibility, loyalty, perseverance and immunity to destructive critics.







«Responding to a problem is the best way to find your calling», said Petro Dudnik, pastor of the «Good News» Church in Slavyansk (eastern Ukraine). He was also one of the speakers at **Missionaries and New Churches Planting Network**. He shared that in one of Donbass cities about 350 people became members of the local church after ministers of that community had helped people to survive and recover during the war.

To continue the work in frontline areas Petro Dudnik together with Sergey Kosyak and Alexey Fedchenko, speakers of **Volunteering and Chaplain Ministry Network**, founded a missionary school where students also get practical skills: how to provide first aid and avoid mined areas.







“Christian values dissemination played an important role in science and education”, admitted Daryl McCarthy, Vice-President of Academic Programs and Strategy for the Forum of Christian Leaders at the **University Network**. He drew attention of the audience to the fact that European and American universities were initially founded as Christian educational institutions.

About the importance of Christians' active participation in the educational processes (from Victor Shevchuk, PhD in Science and Theology):



*We are working with homeless and addicted, but few of us evangelize the intellectuals which directly affect the society*

At the **Church leadership Network** Anatoliy Kozachok, pastor of Philadelphia Church (where the current EELF took place), shared the principles of vision forming and the effective structure of a local church.







“Evangelization and theological education are interrelated. Whoever preaches the Word constantly delves into it, getting deeper and studying it. But all of this will be fruitless if you do not embrace values and principles yourself”, said Phil Roberts, director of the International Theological Education in the Global Missionary Society at **Evangelization Network**.

Sergey Golovin at **Apologetics Network** addressed the theme of the Church and society's attitude towards homosexuality. Henk Reitsema raised an issue of the law on euthanasia that is not well enough covered in Ukrainian society and adopted in the Netherlands in particular.

Within the **Youth Ministry Network** during Dave Petty's talk there was time for testimonies and sharing experience.

At one of the plenary sessions Dave Petty analyzed what moved Caleb and the desert generation, the way of their thinking; draw analogies with the Christian way of thinking.







Henk Reitsema`s seminar

Forum exists as a platform of uniting, equipping and providing resources to evangelical leaders.



EELF press center at work: interview with Sergey Kosyak





On Saturday's plenary session Mykhailo Mokienko, PhD in History, vice-rector of Lviv Theological Seminary, gave the characteristics of the influential minority summing up the Forum. Willingness to pay the price, passion, faithfulness to God are the premises for the Church influence on modern world.

During the EELF Sergey Demidovich, pastor and host of TV show "Access Point", held a talk show with the Forum speakers on the Church role in transfiguration the society in Eastern Europe. There is an agreement on further cooperation of the East European Leadership Forum with this media program.

«Svitle Radio» (Light Radio) made a live broadcast with speakers who answered the host's questions.

One of the largest Christian news web-sites «RISU» posted materials of their correspondent that have evolved over the three days of the Forum.  
<http://risu.org.ua/ru/index/exclusive/reportage/61764/>







Before the EELF Dr. Daryl McCarthy gave a series of lectures in the Ukrainian universities. His activities and work were described more in the exclusive interviews about the universities role in the formation of the society elite which causes the country development for several generations. Forum speakers Bruce Anderson and Jim Davids with the assistance of the Emmanuel Association gave lectures at universities in Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ostrog and Kyiv. Christian media have published interviews and aired TV program with the EELF speakers.

During the event various joint projects and initiatives appeared.

Next Forum will focus on preparations for the 500th Reformation anniversary celebration. We sincerely hope that EELF 2016 on November 9-12 will be a bright event in the Church life, contributing to the fulfillment of Christ's Great Commission in Eastern Europe.

We are sincerely grateful to all brothers and sisters who have served in the preparations of the event and mentored, as well as provided financial support.

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