

# UKRAINIAN DELEGATION

**Partnership for Community Resilience  
& Local Development**

NGO “National Interests Advocacy  
Network ANTS”

## **Delegation Coordinator**

### **Lyusyena SHUM**

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# ABOUT THE DELEGATION

NGO “National Interests Advocacy Network ANTS” is a Ukrainian civil society network that connects communities, experts, institutions, and international partners to strengthen resilience, democratic development, and sustainable recovery.

## **ANTS works at the intersection of:**

- community development
- public policy
- international cooperation

## **The delegation represents a cross-sector partnership of:**

- local governments
- civil society organisations
- cultural institutions
- youth and expert communities

Formed through a national partnership program “Acting Together: Building Partnerships – Driving Change” implemented by ANTS with the support of ISAR Ednannia, the initiative engaged over 100 participants from across Ukraine in practical work on community development and cooperation.

As a result, a delegation was formed for a working visit to Berlin on 27–28 April 2026.

## **PURPOSE OF THE VISIT**

- establish partnerships with Berlin-based organisations
- exchange practical solutions and experience
- develop joint initiatives between Ukraine and Germany

## **KEY MESSAGE**

We represent Ukrainian communities and institutions open for cooperation.

## **WHAT WE BRING**

- practical experience of working in wartime conditions
- direct engagement with communities across Ukraine



- tested models of resilience, recovery, and cooperation
- readiness for joint implementation

## **OUR PARTNERSHIP THEMES & COOPERATION AREAS**

Ukraine today is not only rebuilding – it is actively developing new models of resilience, governance, and social cohesion under extreme conditions.

We bring practical experience and are open to co-developing solutions together with Berlin-based partners.

### **1. Inclusive Communities & Accessibility**

Building barrier-free environments as a foundation for equal participation

We work on inclusive community development – from accessible infrastructure and services to participation of people with disabilities and vulnerable groups in decision-making.

#### **Why this matters for cooperation:**

- aligns with EU human rights and accessibility policies
- supports inclusive recovery and social cohesion
- provides scalable local solutions

#### **Opportunities for partnership:**

- exchange of inclusive practices and standards
- joint pilot initiatives in communities
- co-development of accessibility solutions for urban and rural areas

### **2. Youth Leadership, Participation & Local Resilience**

Engaging young people as active participants in decision-making and future leaders of resilient communities

We work on empowering youth not only economically, but as key actors in shaping communities, policies, and democratic processes. Our approach combines civic education, leadership development, and practical engagement in local decision-making.

#### **Why this matters for cooperation:**

- strengthens democratic participation and local governance
- supports development of future leaders and responsible citizenship



- contributes to long-term stability and resilience of communities
- reduces social disengagement and migration risks

**Opportunities for partnership:**

- joint youth leadership and civic education programs
- exchange and mobility initiatives for young leaders
- involvement of youth in local governance and policy dialogue
- co-creation of platforms for youth participation and innovation

### **3. Rehabilitation, Social Integration & Human-Centered Recovery**

Developing sustainable approaches to rehabilitation and reintegration

Ukraine is building new systems for rehabilitation and social integration of veterans and war-affected populations, combining medical, social, and community-based approaches.

**Why this matters for cooperation:**

- growing need for modern rehabilitation models
- opportunity to exchange expertise and practices
- contribution to long-term social stability

**Opportunities for partnership:**

- joint rehabilitation programs and exchanges
- professional training and internships
- development of shared standards and approaches

### **4. Democratic Governance & Digital Transformation**

Strengthening trust through transparent and participatory governance

We work on transforming local governance into a more open, understandable, and citizen-oriented system, including digital tools and participatory practices.

**Why this matters for cooperation:**

- increases transparency and accountability
- supports effective use of public resources
- builds trust between citizens and institutions



### **Opportunities for partnership:**

- cooperation with municipalities
- joint development of digital participation tools
- exchange of governance practices and innovations

## **5. Culture, Identity & Community Recovery**

Using culture as a tool for resilience, inclusion, and social cohesion

We support cultural initiatives that help communities recover, strengthen identity, and create inclusive spaces for different groups, including displaced populations.

### **Why this matters for cooperation:**

- culture supports mental recovery and social cohesion
- strengthens community identity and participation
- connects local and European cultural ecosystems
- promotes Ukrainian culture in Germany and Europe

### **Opportunities for partnership:**

- cultural exchange programs
- promotion of Ukrainian culture in Germany (events, exhibitions, collaborations)
- cooperation with cultural institutions and networks
- joint cultural and community-based initiatives



## DELEGATION MEMBERS



### Lyusyena SHUM

**Executive Director of the NGO “National Interests Advocacy Network ANTS”**

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Lyusyena Shum is a Ukrainian civic leader and cultural advocate, serving as Executive Director of the NGO “ANTS National Interests Advocacy Network.” She works at the intersection of culture, public diplomacy, and international cooperation, focusing on strengthening community resilience and promoting Ukraine’s voice globally. Within ANTS, Lyusyena has played a key role in building and coordinating networks of civic leaders, institutions, and communities across Ukraine. Her work includes implementing projects aimed at regional development, capacity building, and fostering international partnerships. Since the start of the full-scale invasion, she has led initiatives to support Ukraine’s cultural sector, including documenting damage to cultural institutions and mobilizing international support.

### **About the organisation:**

ANTS is a national civil society network that connects communities, public policy, and international partners to strengthen Ukraine’s resilience, democratic development, and EU integration. The organisation builds cross-sector partnerships and transforms local initiatives into national and international cooperation.

### **Focus:**

- international cooperation, network building, EU integration, community resilience

### **Partnership interests:**

- international partnerships and cooperation frameworks
- EU integration at community level
- cross-sector and cross-country collaboration



**Dariia PANOVA**

**Head of ANTS Youth Club, NGO ANTS**

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Dariia is the Head of the ANTS Youth Club, a member of the Youth Council at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, and an expert in international engagement and cooperation.

She has experience in designing and implementing educational and policy engagement projects for young people, particularly in the fields of democracy, civic education, and international relations. She works on engaging youth in socio-political processes and facilitating cooperation with partners to involve them in initiatives for and with young people.

**About the organisation:**

ANTS Youth Club engages young people in civic participation, leadership, and international cooperation.

**Focus:**

- youth engagement, civic education
- Partnership interests:
- youth exchange programs
- civic initiatives
- youth leadership development



**Yuliia POPOVA**

**Head, NGO “Platform for Sustainable Development ‘Perspective’”**

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Yuliia has extensive experience in education, local government, and civil society. She brings over 10 years of professional experience in community development, strategic planning, and resource



mobilization. She has 6 years of experience in the public sector, where she has been involved in project development and implementation, building partnerships with communities, media, and international organizations, as well as advocating for socially significant changes.

Yuliia has implemented more than 50 social, cultural, and business projects funded through grants. In addition, she supports other teams in preparing project proposals and identifying potential partners. She also coordinates cooperation between communities in Ukraine and develops international partnerships with foreign municipalities, educational institutions, and civil society and charitable organizations.

**About the organisation:**

The organisation works on community development, youth policy, and social initiatives in Poltava region.

**Focus:**

- economic development, youth entrepreneurship

**Partnership interests:**

- local development projects
- youth exchange programs
- joint training initiatives



**Denys ZEINALOV**

**International Relations Expert**

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Denys Zeinalov is a political scientist specializing in international relations and regional security, with expertise in the Black Sea region, the South Caucasus, and Central Asia. He is an expert in international and youth diplomacy, as well as a public activist, volunteer, and analyst. Denys has extensive leadership experience in the civil society sector, including work with NGOs such as Ukrainian Students for Freedom, Ukrainian Volunteer Service, and ZMiSTom. His professional background also includes roles as an expert in accreditation of educational programmes at the National Agency for Higher Education



Quality Assurance, a paralegal in the field of free legal aid, and a lecturer. He actively applies multilateral diplomacy in practice and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in International Relations and Diplomacy at Baku State University. As a researcher, he focuses on regional security challenges, information threats, and foreign policy, and is the author of several academic publications.

**Partnership interests:**

- policy exchange
- international cooperation
- research initiatives



**Viktoriia KOLESNIKOVA**

**Senior Researcher, Institute of Archaeology NAS of Ukraine Member, Ukrainian Association of Archaeologists**

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Viktoriia is a secretary of the Board of the Ukrainian association of archaeologists, member of the Union of Local Historians of Ukraine, member of the Ukrainian Oral History Association. She is an author of more than 70 scientific works, including 4 monographs (individual and collective). Work experience includes research activities, organizing research, information support in research work, and project management. Co-author of strategic and analytical documents. Has experience in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine through participation in working groups, strategic sessions, and projects. Has experience in project management, including projects supported by the British Library, the National Foundation for Fundamental Research, the Ukrainian Cultural Foundation, the Goethe Institute.

**About the organisation:**

The Institute of Archaeology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine is a leading research institution focused on the study and preservation of cultural heritage. The Ukrainian Association of Archaeologists brings together experts working on heritage protection and research.

**Focus:**

- cultural heritage, research, preservation

**Partnership interests:**

- research collaboration
- heritage preservation
- cooperation with museums and cultural institutions

**Nataliia KOSTENKO****Head, NGO “Berehyni Dnipra”**

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Nataliia Kostenko from Dnipro and has more than three years of experience in the humanitarian sector. She is the founder and head of the NGO «Berehyni Dnipra», where they help IDPs, women with children, elderly people, and people with disabilities. She also worked as a case manager at the NGO «Desyate Kvitnya». Before that, she managed teams and projects in the banking sector for 16 years. She has personal connections with veterans, therefore the topic of their rehabilitation and socialization is especially important to her.

**About the organisation:**

NGO “Berehyni Dnipra” works on humanitarian support and social assistance for vulnerable groups, including internally displaced persons, women with children, elderly people, and people with disabilities.

**Focus:**

- humanitarian support, inclusion, community resilience
- Partnership interests:
- social and humanitarian programs
- community resilience initiatives
- inclusion and support services



## **Zorie HANIIIEVA**

### **Project Manager, NGO “DarTil”**

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Zorie Haniieva is a Crimean Tatar, currently a resident of Chornobaivka, Kherson region. Has three educations: technical, economic, and management. Worked in the banking sector for more than 15 years, since January 2021 started working in the Chornobaivka village council to understand why the community does not participate in grant competitions,

as all her life she is a civic activist. Already in March 2021, the first grant was won. Zorie continues project activities, communicates with partners, expands cooperation with international organizations and local NGOs, participates in conferences, including international ones, presents the Chornobaivka community and builds sustainable relationships. Since August 2023 she is a member of the NGO «DarTil» – an organization that works locally in the community and is engaged in infrastructure development and educational activities, in particular regarding the history and customs of the indigenous people of Ukraine, the Crimean Tatars.

Zorie hopes that Chornobaivka will become a logistics center of the south of Ukraine and does everything to bring the implementation of this dream closer – Chornobaivka community for life and development.

### **About the organisation:**

NGO “DarTil” operates at the local level in Kherson region, focusing on community development, infrastructure recovery, and educational initiatives, particularly in areas affected by war.

### **Focus:**

- community recovery, regional development
- Partnership interests:
- local development projects
- infrastructure and recovery initiatives
- regional cooperation



**Marta CHERNIAKOVA**

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Marta works at the Boiarka City Council (Kyiv region) as a specialist in international cooperation, where is engaged in the development of partnerships and the search for opportunities for the implementation of joint projects. She is also a member of the youth council and is involved in work with youth, in particular in matters of their participation in the life of the community. She takes part in volunteer initiatives, which gives a practical understanding of the needs of residents and the challenges the community faces. Her work combines experience of international cooperation, local self-government and work with youth, focusing on the development of partnerships, exchange of experience and support of initiatives aimed at resilience and recovery of communities.

**About the organisation:**

Boiarka City Council is a local self-government body working on community development and international cooperation, including partnerships with foreign municipalities.

**Focus:**

- municipal cooperation, partnerships
- Partnership interests:
- city-to-city cooperation
- local development projects
- youth engagement initiatives



**Mariia LAVNICHEK**

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Maria Lavnichek is a museologist, cultural manager



and founder of the NGO «Cultural Garage». The activities of the organization focus on developing accessibility of culture and implementing inclusive and barrier-free practices, as well as strengthening the role of culture as a resource for community recovery. Maria has almost four years of experience working at the Royal Castle on Wawel (Krakow, Poland), where worked with visitors and gained a practical understanding of the interaction of museum institutions with different audiences. This experience became the basis for further work on the development of memory culture and accessibility in the Ukrainian context. She is an author of scientific articles devoted to the activities of museums of Ukraine during the period of formation of the totalitarian system (1939 – 1941). Works with small museum centers, helping them implement inclusive practices and strengthen.

### **About the organisation:**

NGO “Cultural Garage” develops accessible cultural spaces and supports community recovery through culture, education, and inclusive practices, including work with displaced populations.

### **Focus:**

- culture, inclusion, community recovery
- Partnership interests:
- cultural exchange programs
- inclusive cultural initiatives
- cooperation with cultural institutions



**Kateryna SURVILOVA**

**Co-founder, PUSH-UA (Potsdam - Ukraine Soziokultureller Hub) e.V.(Germany)**

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Kateryna is a co-founder of PUSH-UA (Potsdam- Ukraine Soziokultureller Hub) e.V., an association that supports Ukrainians in Potsdam through language practice, networking, useful workshops, and creative sessions that help faster integration and personal development. She is a



moderator of a language café, a project coordinator, and is responsible for communication, as well as for creating a safe and friendly space for language practice, community development, and launching initiatives that unite and support Ukrainians in Potsdam.

### **About the organisation:**

PUSH-UA e.V. is a socio-cultural hub based in Germany that supports Ukrainians through integration, networking, and community initiatives, while building bridges between Ukrainian and European societies.

### **Focus:**

- diaspora engagement, integration, international cooperation

### **Partnership interests:**

- Ukraine–EU cooperation
- diaspora initiatives
- integration and community projects



### **Maryna IVANUSHKINA**

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Maryna has over 15 years of experience in public service and local self-government, having progressed professionally from a specialist to a deputy mayor. In 2014, she remained faithful to her oath of service to the people of Ukraine and left her hometown of Shakhtarsk, Donetsk region, due to its occupation. After that, she continued her professional activity in the Bakhmut and Soledar communities, where she contributed to the processes of building effective local self-government. Her experience covers both the stage of forming capable communities within the decentralization reform and work on creating community networks under conditions of relocation.

In 2025, she decided to apply her professional experience in the civil society sector and joined the team of the “Right to Protection” Charitable Foundation in Dnipro. In her work, she focuses on developing participation



and engaging residents in active involvement in community life. She aims to strengthen the capacity of communities for inclusive decision-making and to support initiatives that promote sustainable development and citizen engagement in decision-making processes within communities.

**About the organisation:**

The Charitable Foundation “Right to Protection” is a leading Ukrainian NGO working on protection of vulnerable groups, legal support, and strengthening community resilience and participation.

**Focus:**

- governance, participation, social policy
- Partnership interests:
- governance models and reforms
- community engagement
- inclusive decision-making

# TIME OF UKRAINE HAS COME

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