

ODU Highlights 2020

Despite of the unexpected circumstances of the COVID19 pandemic, the fundraising capabilities of ODU in 2020 were stabilised and the operating results did not deteriorate compared to the year before. Although the in-person events got cancelled as from March, ODU expanded its presence as a networking and advocacy organisation through alternative means.

First and foremost, ODU has intensified its advocacy activities with a view to create better conditions for cooperation between the Netherlands and Ukraine. Additionally, its online communication channels were further diversified in order to increase the understanding about Ukraine in the areas of business, culture, and humanitarian cooperation. The ODU LinkedIn account was launched with up-to-date posts which attracted significant interest within one year.

The *Humanitarian Table* continued to actively share information among its members to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian goods to Ukraine. Problematic issues related to such deliveries have been addressed by approaching the relevant authorities involved. Additionally, the work of Dorcas (Dutch NGO for relief and development) was supported by facilitating connections with regard to plans to solidify sustainable socio-economic development in the area of Eastern Ukrainian Donetsk.

The *Economic Table* organised in cooperation with the UA Chamber of Commerce and the Ukrainian Embassy in the Netherlands a landmark online conference about the privatisation of state-owned companies in Ukraine. Given the high-level speakers and significant interest, one can look back at an impactful and successful event.

The *Cultural and Civil Society Table* was set up with a strategic plan of activities for the next year. Furthermore, ODU provided financial support for the Ukrainian language teaching capabilities of the UA diaspora in the Netherlands.

Last but not least, in 2020 ODU concluded partnership arrangements with Arzinger Law Firm, Ekol Ukraine and ARENA CS.