



Policy plan of the OpenDoorUkraine.NL Foundation for the years 2019-2021

The **OpenDoorUkraine.NL** Foundation (ODU) was established on 14 December 2018 in The Hague, the Netherlands. Its aim is, in accordance with its statutes, to provide humanitarian, socio-economic and cultural support to the people of Ukraine, who find themselves in a very vulnerable situation for various reasons.

Armed conflicts have displaced 1.5 million people in the country, including 600,000 children. Poverty and insecurity have caused many Ukrainians to work abroad, putting many families under pressure. In the meantime, the size of the population has shrunk from about 45 million in 1991 to about 39 million.

In view of Ukraine's humanitarian need and Europe's interests in reforms to ensure the successful development of this country, it is necessary for various Dutch and Ukrainian non-governmental institutions and actors to work closely together.

Board

To this end, a number of Dutch people active in international humanitarian cooperation, social care, science, journalism and economics, met a number of times in 2017-2018 and decided to set up OpenDoorUkraine.NL. The chairman of the Foundation's Executive Board is Mr. Robert Serry, a former diplomat who was the first Dutch ambassador in Ukraine. The Board Secretary is Mrs. Vera Groeneveld. Mr. Joris Voorhoeve served as (temporary) Treasurer, until he was succeeded by Mr. Nico de Borst, who amongst other activities supports youth homes in Eastern Ukraine.

The Executive Board decided in May 2019 to appoint an Advisory Board. The task of this additional institution is to act as a board of trustees who give advice and meet to check the annual accounts and policy plans. The Advisory Board has the right to disapprove such papers from the Executive Board and send them back with suggestions for improvement.

Mr. Joris Voorhoeve was appointed chairman of this Advisory Board. The other members are Dr. Maksym Igelnik, a Dutch entrepreneur of Ukrainian descent; Mr. Dirck Smits van Oyen, who is the "dean" of Dutch agriculturalists active in Ukraine; and Mr. Ed Hoeks, until recently the Netherlands' ambassador to Kiev. Other persons will be invited to join this board to make available their network and lend their good reputation to the Foundation.

Aim

ODU's aim is to strengthen the various initiatives in the Netherlands and Ukraine for bilateral co-operation, particularly in the spheres of humanitarian action, strengthening civil society,

education and culture, to coordinate well with each other, and also to involve the business communities in both countries. The Foundation will not seek or gain any financial profit and will not remunerate the members of the Executive Board and of the Advisory Board.

Three "Tables" (consultative committees) have now been formed to give concrete form to these activities: Humanitarian affairs, Economy, and Culture and Civil Society. Each Table has a chairman/chairwoman who is also a member of the Foundation's Executive Board, and encourages consultation within and between the Tables.

The Humanitarian Table encourages the collection of relief goods from the Netherlands and transportation to needy people in Ukraine. It develops plans to help with the reception of refugees and homeless people, medical facilities, education and social-psychological assistance. The Humanitarian Table is chaired by Mrs. Beja Kluiters-Albers, who has been active for decades in helping the Ukrainian population with the Sputnik Foundation. One of the aims of this table is to involve the business communities of both countries closely in humanitarian objectives.

Mr. Diederik Kramers, pioneer of the Cultural Table, has already taken the lead in setting up the Foundation's website and posting news and agenda items on issues related to the three thematic Tables. There is presently a vacancy for the post of chair of the Economic Table.

Actions

On 30 August-1 September 2019, a national Ukraine meeting was organised in the National Park De Hoge Veluwe, to which all groups and institutions in the Netherlands that are actively interested in Ukraine were invited. These "Ukraine Days" were devoted to social developments in Ukraine, cultural subjects, ongoing aid projects, and the launch of new forms of cooperation in 2019 and later years. Hundreds of participants showed up and made these days a great success. ODU's Economic and Humanitarian Tables organised a Business Café and a debate on aid for Ukraine, which attracted many interested organisations and actors working in these fields.

One of the cultural aims of the Foundation is to arouse interest in the restoration of the Sophia Cathedral carillon in Kiev and to set up a fundraising campaign in both countries. In addition to strengthening and increasing the synergy between existing activities, OpenDoorUkraine.NL also aims to set up new initiatives where necessary and to acquire funds for this purpose (obviously without a profit motive), such as international aid foundations and the Netherlands' government Matra program for cooperation with Central and Eastern Europe.

The Hague, September 2019