

## **European Integration School Kicks Off Across Ukraine**

On April 16 2026, the “European Integration School” project has been launched in Ukraine, bringing together a series of lectures and interactive sessions for teenagers. The initiative aims to raise young people’s awareness of European values and to foster the development of civic engagement.

The project is implemented by the Young European Ambassadors initiative in partnership with the “Next Visionaries” programme, initiated by ERSTE Foundation and the NGO Internews Ukraine. Its key objective is to make the complex processes of European integration understandable, relatable and practically relevant for pupils.

The “European Integration School” project is delivered in two phases. The first phase involves intellectual and educational lectures in schools in both Kyiv and Kropyvnytskyi for teenagers aged 13-17. The format combines interactive lectures, open discussions and practical elements that contribute to shaping personal democratic values, developing critical thinking, and encouraging active citizenship. Participants:

- learn how the European Union functions and what European integration means for Ukraine in practice;
- discuss European values, human rights and the rule of law;
- take part in quizzes and discussions;
- receive answers to questions about opportunities for young people – from education to participation in international programmes.

The second phase of the project involves a practical team-based event for the most active participants of the first phase. During this event, young people will have the opportunity to develop their own ideas and solutions to strengthen youth participation in democratic processes and European integration initiatives within their communities.

### **Project Highlights: Kyiv**

In Kyiv, the lectures brought together active senior school students who not only listened but also engaged actively in discussions. Young European Ambassadors Daryna Lynnyk and Daria Hrosul delivered a presentation on the history of the European Union’s formation, explained how EU institutions function, and outlined Ukraine’s path towards EU membership. Particular interest was sparked by topics such as human rights, the role of civil society, and the tangible changes European integration brings to everyday life. The live dialogue format allowed participants to ask complex questions about Ukraine’s journey towards the EU, as well as about specific educational opportunities in EU countries.

### **Project Highlights: Kropyvnytskyi**

In Kropyvnytskyi, thanks to cooperation with the Youth and Sports Department of the

Kirovohrad Regional Administration, the events became a platform for open dialogue about young people's expectations and the challenges related to Ukraine's European course.

Participants were actively engaged in discussions and demonstrated a high level of interest in the topic. During the quiz, a genuinely intense contest unfolded, with students eagerly competing to provide correct answers, showing strong engagement and knowledge.

The "European Integration School" is not only about transferring knowledge from university students and young professionals to schoolchildren, but also about creating a space where everyone can reflect on their role in the country's transformation. At a time when Ukraine is undergoing a complex path of reforms and striving towards its European future, such initiatives represent an investment in resilience and the democratic development of the country.