

IU'S SPEA Receives \$4.9 Million Award to Help Strengthen Democracy in Ukraine

Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) has been awarded a five-year, \$4.9 million contract by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to help strengthen democratic government in Ukraine.

SPEA's grant proposal, with the strong support of Indiana Senator Richard G. Lugar, won the contract through a rigorous, competitive bidding process. The new funding will allow SPEA professor Charles Wise and his development team to build on the nonpartisan work they have already done with the Ukrainian Parliament over the past nine years, which includes helping draft the country's constitution.

In making the announcement about the award, Lugar said, "Countries that are seeking to develop a more representative form of government deserve our support. Indiana University has the ability, the talent, and the track record to help Ukraine with this process. I am pleased an Indiana institution

can assist with this important international work."

Wise will lead the Parliamentary Development Project Team with the assistance of two Washington-based technical advisors, the Urban Institute and Development Strategies, Inc. A field office, headed by field director Fred Bradley and assistant field director Edward Rahimkulov, already is in place to ensure continuity with the school's past work.

The purpose of the project is to assist Ukraine in achieving a more effective, independent, and representative legislature. Among several activities outlined by the proposal, the team will implement a parliamentary internship program for members and staff.

According to Wise, the structured training is critical because the effective passage of legislation is directly correlated with the technical competence of the parliament's members and staff. The project team also hopes to help the Ukraine parliament improve legislature—

executive branch relations, in part through the introduction of a government performance measurement system. That system will use outcome information to monitor the implementation of laws and improve them as needed.

Ukrainian citizens are also expected to benefit from the Parliamentary Development Project. A part of its plan is to increase access and feedback to—as well as participation in—the Ukrainian legislative process. Of special interest to the team is an opportunity to significantly improve gender equity in government, both in terms of representation within the parliament itself and in terms of the historic legal treatment of women.

The project runs through July 2008.

—Cassandra Howard
Communications Director, SPEA

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Among his recent publications are *Understanding Contemporary India*, co-edited with Neil Devotta (Lynne Rienner & Co., 2003); *The Kashmir Question: Retrospect and Prospect* (Frank Cass, 2003); and *Conflict Unending: India-Pakistan Tensions since 1947* (Columbia University Press and Woodrow Wilson Center Press, 2001).

Outgoing Tagore Chair Larson said of Ganguly: "First and foremost, he is a widely published and respected voice regarding modern India. Second, as a highly regarded political scientist he will be adding a social sciences perspective to developing the India Studies

Program, a perspective that is very much needed for the next phase of dynamic growth. Third, as a Bengali he is especially suited for maintaining and increasing the program's ties with West Bengal and India generally."

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