



The Foreign Policy Council “Ukrainian Prism” is a leading Ukrainian nongovernmental, bipartisan think-tank with robust expertise on foreign and security policy (<http://prismua.org/en/>). PrismUA consists of 10 study programs covering all functional and geographical directions of Ukrainian foreign policy. Annually, the expert team produces a unique and comprehensive assessment of Ukrainian foreign policy under the authentic methodology.

The Foreign Policy Council “Ukrainian Prism” was officially registered as a nongovernmental organization in 2015, while analytical work and research had been carried out within the network of foreign policy experts “Ukrainian Prism” since 2012. At present, the organization united more than 30 experts in foreign policy, international relations, and international security, as well as associated experts from different analytical and academic institutions in Ukraine and abroad.

In 2023 the office of the “Ukrainian Prism” in Brussels was launched to extend outreach for in-house expertise to European governments and EU institutions.

Experts of the organization take part in the intersectoral task forces, working on the strategic framework of Ukraine in the foreign policy and security domain. The team’s members contributed to the Foreign policy strategy of Ukraine, the Navy Strategy, the Public Diplomacy Strategy, the NATO Communication Strategy, MFA’s strategy for Asia, etc.

The Foreign Policy Council “Ukrainian Prism” implements several projects to increase the level of foreign policy expertise in Ukraine, consolidate international support for Ukraine and raise awareness of foreign experts, politicians, and journalists about the events in Ukraine. “Ukrainian Prism” implements numerous projects on preparing analysis and recommendations for the Parliament of Ukraine, the Office of the President, the Vice-Prime Minister of Ukraine, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and other governmental and military structures in Ukraine.

“Ukrainian Prism” is one of the leaders in implementing innovative practices of expert diplomacy. In particular, jointly with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Public Council under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it implements the concept of bilateral expert forums with partner EU states to discuss potentially sensitive issues. In 2022 Ukrainian Prism initiated a global partnership project covering Asia and Latin America. To fill in the information gaps in awareness about Ukraine, “Ukrainian Prism” organizes the visits of journalists from foreign states to Ukraine. Our experts regularly contribute to international media, including BBC, Al-Jazeera, TRT, France24, etc.



HENNADIY MAKSAK

Executive Director Foreign Policy Council “Ukrainian Prism”

One of the founders and executive director of the Ukrainian think-tank “Foreign Policy Council “Ukrainian Prism”. Founded in 2015 Ukrainian Prism is a leading non-governmental research and advocacy institution in field of foreign policy of Ukraine and international security. Maksak is also a part of the Ukraine and Eastern Europe Programme at GLOBSEC Policy Institute in Bratislava, Slovakia.

Previously, in 2006-2015 he was the president of the Polissya Foundation for International and Regional Studies, based in Chernihiv (Ukraine).

In 2016-2019 he was a Coordinator of the Ukrainian national platform of the EaP Civil Society Forum. In 2012-2014, 2017-2019 was a member of Steering Committee of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum. In 2017-2020 was chairing the Civic Council under the Ministry on Foreign Affairs. Took part in task forces for drafting the Foreign Policy Strategy of Ukraine (2021), Public Diplomacy Strategy (2021). In 2021 coordinated activity of the initiative group for creation of the Crimean Platform Expert Network.

Studied economics (Chernihiv State Institute for Economics and Management), political sciences (Warsaw University, Center for East European Studies).

Fields of expertise: International relations and foreign policy of Ukraine, security in the Eastern Europe, Eastern partnership policy, European and Euro-Atlantic integration of Ukraine, diplomatic service, expert diplomacy, economic diplomacy



DR HANNA SHELEST

Director of Security Studies and Global Outreach Programmes at the Foreign Policy Council “Ukrainian Prism”

Editor-in-chief at UA: Ukraine Analytica

Dr Hanna Shelest is a Director of Security Studies and Global Outreach Programmes at the Foreign Policy Council “Ukrainian Prism” and Editor-in-chief at UA: Ukraine Analytica. Dr Shelest also is a non-resident senior fellow at CEPA (Washington, DC). Before this, she had served for more than ten years as a Senior Researcher at the National Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of Ukraine, Odesa Branch. In 2014, Dr Shelest was a Visiting Research Fellow at the NATO Defense College in Rome. She has experience in strategic communication and consultancy for government and business, as well as teaching at universities. Since 2006, Dr Shelest has been a guest lecturer for the Diplomatic Academy of Ukraine, George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, Swedish Defence University, Ukrainian Catholic University, etc. She is a regular presenter at international conferences and commenter for the international media.

Dr Shelest is a Member of the Supervisory Board at the Ukrainian Institute. She was an adviser of the Working Group preparing Ukrainian Navy Strategy 2035 and was involved in working groups developing the Foreign Policy Strategy of Ukraine, Asian Strategy for MFA, and Ukraine’s NATO Public Communication Strategy. She led different policy-related projects, among others: Scorecards of the Ukrainian Foreign Policy (2015-2023); Ukraine-NATO: Enhanced Level (2022); The Hybrid War Decade (2019); Foreign Policy Recommendations for the Parliament of Ukraine (2017-2021).

Dr Shelest is a Rotary Peace Fellow 2010, Black Sea Young Reformer 2011, John Smith Fellow 2012, NDC PfP Research Fellow 2014, Marshall Memorial Fellow 2016, TUBITAK Research fellow 2018, Think Visegrad Fellow 2019, IWM Europe’s Future Fellow 2023/2024.



Dr Yevgeniya Gaber
Non-resident Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council
Affiliated Expert at the Foreign Policy Council “Ukrainian Prism”

Dr. Yevgeniya Gaber is Professor of National Security Studies at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies and a non-resident Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council. She is an Affiliated Expert at the Foreign Policy Council “Ukrainian Prism”.

She specializes in European and Black Sea security, with a particular focus on Ukraine, Türkiye, and Russia.

Prior to joining the Marshall Center, Dr. Gaber worked as a foreign policy advisor to the Prime Minister of Ukraine (2021) and Deputy Director of the Diplomatic Academy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine (2018 - 2020), where she was responsible for developing institutional cooperation with international partners and designing leadership seminars for diplomats and policy-makers in the defense and security sectors. She previously served as a diplomat in the Embassy of Ukraine in Ankara (2014 - 2018).

Dr. Gaber’s more than 15 years of academic experience includes serving as Assistant Professor at the International Relations Department of Odesa National Mechnikov University (2009 - 2014) and most recently, teaching graduate courses on Black Sea security as a Visiting Professor at the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs in Carleton University, Canada (2022).

Dr. Gaber is a GMF Marshall Memorial Fellow, as well as a nonresident Senior Fellow at the Center in Modern Turkish Studies, Carleton University. She is widely published and is a frequent speaker at the diplomatic and defence academies across Europe.

She is fluent in Ukrainian, English, Turkish, Russian, and speaks intermediate French.



YULIIA SHAIPOVA

Affiliated Expert at the Foreign Policy Council “Ukrainian Prism”

Oxford University MSt in Diplomatic Studies Candidate

Yuliia is a public policy professional with 5+ years of experience in the legal and political spheres and management experience. Since 2021, she has been an Affiliated Expert at the Foreign Policy Council “Ukrainian Prism”

Previously, Yuliia worked as the Centre for Economic Recovery Team Lead, where she co-led the European integration work stream, as well as helped manage the international relations stream of the Centre and the Centre’s institutional development. In 2019-2023, Yuliia has also been serving as a Legal and Policy Adviser to a Ukrainian Member of Parliament, who previously served as a Secretary of the Foreign Affairs Committee and currently serves as a Deputy Head of the Ukrainian Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

Before that, Yuliia worked with all three branches of government, interning at the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (Parliament), and the High Council of Justice. She has also worked as a trainee at the Parliament of Canada, and besides participated in educational and advocacy visits to Belgium, Germany, Hungary, Serbia, Switzerland, and Poland. Yuliia holds a Bachelor’s degree in Law from Odesa Law Academy and a Master’s degree in Law from Kyiv Mohyla Academy. Currently she is obtaining an MSt in Diplomatic Studies from the University of Oxford. She is fluent in English and German, she possesses basic knowledge of French as well.