

Leadership Lab Current Fellows



Alexandru Rotari works with politicians to improve their political decisions and communication. He believes that only transparent and fair elections can fortify the democracy, so he is involved in every election campaign as an adviser, observer or candidate.

Alexandru's working experience includes serving as adviser of the Minister of Defense of Republic of Moldova, where we worked among others on the institutionalization of strategical communication at the ministry. Before joining the Ministry of Defense, he worked as a project assistant and mediator for Open

Government Institute under the UNHCR-funded project, aimed to promote refugee employability. The nonprofit sector afforded him with experience in implementing, monitoring and reporting in project management.

Alexandru has strong passion for social entrepreneurship and implementation of unconventional crisis management solutions. He holds a degree in Management of Political Organizations from Babeş-Bolyai University.



Anastasiia Nekrasova is an attorney-at-law practicing in criminal and human rights law at Vasil Kisil & Partners, one of the top law firms in Ukraine. In particular, she represents clients before the European Court of Human Rights.

Anastasiia graduated from the Central European University with an LL.M. degree in Human Rights and has experience of working at Ukrainian Ombudsman's Office and NGO-sector. A strong believer in law as an instrument for positive social changes, Anastasiia is engrossed in strategic human rights litigation and activities that keep her civically engaged.

Cat-lover, Anastasiia adores traveling and promotes an eco-friendly lifestyle.

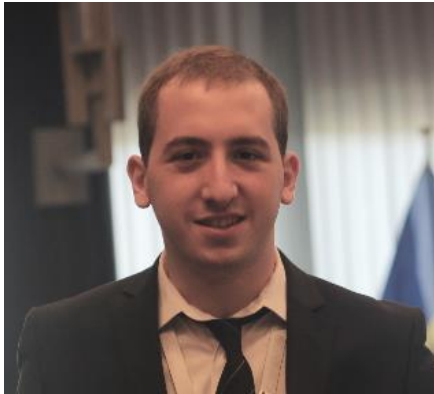


Ariadna Shatova works as an international projects manager, translator, and administrative office assistant for the Heritage Ukraine Foundation. She is also currently completing an MA program in graphic design.

Before joining the Foundation, Ariadna worked at the Odessa Academic Russian Dramatic Theatre named A. Ivanov. Inspired by theater world, Ariadna went on to pursue a BA at the pedagogical university where she graduated as teacher of fine arts in 2017.

Ariadna is often volunteering her time and skills to different actions which help orphans and hearing deficient children to gain life skills.

She loves working in a team, strives to constantly improve her skills and abilities, and strongly believes in the power of helping the less fortunate.



Irakli Gabidzashvili is currently pursuing a master's degree in international Relations at the Ilia State University.

He is also working as a fellow with USAID/Georgia Human and Institutional Capacity Development 2020 Activity. A young professional, Irakli has three years of work experience in International Organizations where he focused on assisting projects and capacity development activities.

A strong believer in open and free societies, Irakli has been involved in many national and international activities. For his commitment to advancing democratic values, Irakli was awarded the Young European Ambassador in 2018. He has also been taking part in competitions related to promoting democracy, sustainable development and leadership, having already won three "Best essay" competitions.

Irakli is passionate about leadership development and always advocates for more engagement of young people in the community development.



Lilit Arzoyan works as Project Manager in civil society development programs at Eurasia Partnership Foundation – one of the strongest and independent organizations in Armenia. She empowers various organizations to become sustainable and have a better impact in the areas where they operate. This enriching experience allows her to continuously improve professional competences in effective management and communication, as well as get specialized in project monitoring and evaluation.

Passionate about digital development, Lilit worked as consultant in “Armenia's Digital Transformation Agenda” World Bank program providing short-term consultancy to the Ministry of High-Tech Industry on digital government strategy development.

Lilit has an Advanced Master's degree in Economics, Management and Finance from College of Europe (Belgium) and a bachelor's degree from Jean Mullin Lyon III (France), French University in Armenia. Lilit believes that each and all of us have our role to play for making the World a better place for ourselves. She enjoys the process of learning from diverse people and experiences.



Maria Stratan is a Project Coordinator with the Institute for Public Policy since 2015. She has 5 years of working experience in public policy, good governance, think-tanks and civil society sector, public administration, community policing and community development, human rights, nondiscrimination and gender equality.

Maria holds a Master of Laws degree LL.M in Comparative Law, Economics and Finance from International University College of Turin and the Università degli Studi di Torino (Turin, Italy) and a B.S. in Finance and Banking from the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova (Chişinău).

She is the Alumna of the Open Society Foundations' (OSF) Undergraduate Exchange Program at the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire, USA (2012), Alumna of the Swedish Institute Summer Academy for Young Professionals on Sustainable Public Management (2017), Swedish Institute Summer Academy for Young Professionals on Sustainable e-Government for Resilient and Innovative Democratic public administration (SeGRID) (2018) and Alumna of the International School of Economics at Tbilisi State University Summer School: Study Reforms and Development in Georgia (2018).



Serghei Gherghelejiu works as an energy risk manager, for the French consulting company Pureenergy Associates. Serghei is responsible for the strategic monitoring of the European energy markets, price forecasting, scenario modeling, preparing and launching tenders, and analyzing the client's energy expenses. Serghei leads the Moldavian branch of Pureenergy Associates, being also in charge of the development of new reporting and modeling tools.

Serghei has a rich professional background, over the past 8 years having worked as Business Intelligence Specialist for the Moldavian JSC Moldtelecom and Media Analyst for the French media group Argus de la Presse.

Serghei holds a bachelor's degree in Economy from the Academy of Economic Sciences of Moldova and a bachelor's degree in Management from Auvergne University. He also earned a master's degree in Marketing and Public Relations from the Academy of Economic Sciences of Moldova.

When he's not working, Serghei plays intellectual games, dances tango and practices hiking. He is also passionate about history, anthropology, and literature.



Sofiiia Kryshtal is a young change-maker from Ukraine. Currently, Sofiiia works as a program manager with the NGO Resource Center where she leads a nation-wide project on the professional development of NGO representatives.

Sofiiia has over 10 years of experience in the third sector. Among other distinctions in the field, she worked on the police reform implementation, civil society engagement, and electoral culture development.

In her free time, Sofiiia enjoys learning languages, doing gymnastics, jogging, and traveling.



Tamar Mkurnalidze is a civil society activist from Georgia focusing on women’s rights. Her goal is to make a positive impact on people’s lives, both inside and outside of Georgia’s borders.

Tamar holds a bachelor’s degree in international relations from the International Black Sea University. She is currently pursuing a master’s degree in Public Policy Administration and Management at Ilia State University to hone her skills in non-governmental sector management.

Her work organizing events for the Peace Foundation, a Tbilisi-based NGO, as a project assistant for the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, and as a project organizer for Women’s

Gaze, a women’s rights group in Georgia, have intensified Tamar’s drive to continue to improve the lives of others.

Her most recent achievement was developing, implementing and managing the ‘Know Your Body’ project, a series of educational seminars on women’s reproductive health in Georgia’s Adjara region. She is currently continuing her work to improve women’s lives in Georgia and hopes that the women of the future will have more freedom, opportunities, and safety than the women of today have.



Teona Surmava works with the International Relations Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia where she focuses on European integration and police reform. She has led the Ministry’s efforts to develop a community-led policing methodology. She is also a lecturer in nationalism studies at Caucasus University and East European University in Tbilisi.

Before joining the Ministry, Teona worked as a consultant with the international organization “Project Harmony International” Georgia.

Teona has participated in the U.S. State Department’s Professional Fellowship Program (PFP). She is currently Eurasia Democratic Security Network (EDSN) 2019 Fellow. Teona holds an M.A. in Nationalism Studies from Central European University (Budapest, Hungary) and a B.A. in International Relations from Tbilisi State University (Tbilisi, Georgia).



Yevheniia Romanova works as Project Assistant with the UN Migration Agency, the International Agency for Migration in Kyiv, Ukraine. Her main work focuses around providing Internally Displaced People from Eastern Ukraine with durable housing solutions. She is responsible for project reporting and communication with implementing partners as well as supporting procurement and finance procedures. Yevheniia is also engaged in staff development activities, helping organize informal internal trainings for colleagues to help them to improve their skills and competences in Gender Mainstreaming, Adaptive/Iterative Project Design,

Professional Ethical Standards, etc.

Before joining the International Agency for Migration, Yevheniia worked for Era, an Ukrainian radio station, where she was responsible for week review programs and investigative projects focused on revealing of corruption on state level.

Yevheniia has a bachelor's degree in Journalism from Zaporizhzhia University and Certificate of Completion Media Studies Course from University of Groningen, the Netherlands. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in Public Administration at Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, while also volunteering for the UN Volunteers translating texts for programming documents of the UN Agencies. Yevheniia is fluent in Ukrainian, Russian, English and has basic knowledge of Spanish.