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# The Global Development Alliance Ukrainian Standardized External Testing Initiative (USETI)

*Improving Access to Better Higher Education through  
Educational Testing in Ukraine*

The Fundamental Objective:  
**Fair access to quality higher education  
in Ukraine: a right secured**





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## Preface

- Ukrainian Government attempt to implement standardized testing-based admission in 1993 – **FAILURE**
- Testing-based admissions at Ivan Franko National University of Lviv and National University “Kyiv-Mohyla Academy” (Kyiv) 1994 thru 2007 – **LOCAL SUCCESS**
- 2002 thru 2005 – International Renaissance Foundation-supported Testing Technologies Center operates as Precursor of current government operated testing center – **CIVIC SUCCESS**



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# The Background

In 2005, to improve fair access to higher education and reduce *rampant corruption*, Ukraine introduced standardized testing in HEI admissions.

A testing agency, the Ukrainian Center for Educational Quality Assessment, was established and became responsible for developing and implementing testing systems.



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# USG Assistance - The Beginning

- UCEQA has been the primary recipient of USG technical assistance since 2006
- The Ukrainian Standardized External Testing Initiative (USETI) became a complement to the activities supported by the GOU and other international donors to build UCEQA's capacity for test development, administration, and implementation, and to institutionalize a testing system protected from corruption

## USG support

- **2007-2010: The Ukrainian Standardized External Testing Initiative (USETI)**

Millennium Challenge Corporation Threshold Country Plan (TCP) with a single Strategic Objective of Reduction of Corruption in the Public Sector



**USETI**

Програма сприяння  
зовнішньому тестуванню  
в Україні

- **2010-2012\*: The Ukrainian Standardized External Testing Initiative Legacy Alliance**

USAID Global Development Alliance that provides further support in key aspects of capacity building, institutional strengthening and consolidation of outreach efforts on behalf of testing in Ukraine.

\*estimated completion date is 12/31/2012

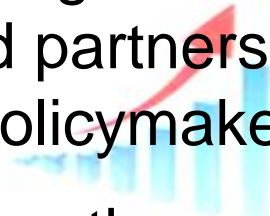
# The Expected Outcomes



1) A sustainable strengthened UCEQA capable of independently and transparently developing and implementing secure tests that meet international standards



2) A secure legislative basis for testing and higher education admission, and an institutionalized partnership between business, higher education, and policymakers



3) Public support for testing to ensure the sustainability of testing no matter what government comes into power



4) A basic high-quality test-preparation industry

*The implementation model is flexible and responsive to an evolving country environment and dynamic stakeholder involvement.*





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# PARTNERS FOR DEVELOPMENT

United States Agency for  
International Development

Ministry of Education and Science,  
Youth and Sport of Ukraine

Union of HEI Rectors of  
Ukraine

American Councils for International  
Education: ACTR/ACCELS

Ukrainian Center for Education  
Quality Assessment (UCEQA)

National Academy of  
Pedagogical Sciences of  
Ukraine

American Institutes for Research  
(AIR)

Ministry of Healthcare of  
Ukraine Testing Center

International Renaissance  
Foundation

National Academy of  
Management

Fakt Publishers / TIMO Foundation

Ivan Franko National  
University of Lviv

TEMPUS Project Educational  
Measurement Adapted to EU  
Standards

National University of Kyiv-  
Mohyla Academy

pro.mova Expert Company

Petro Mohyla Black Sea State  
University

OPORA Civic Network

Center for Education Policy



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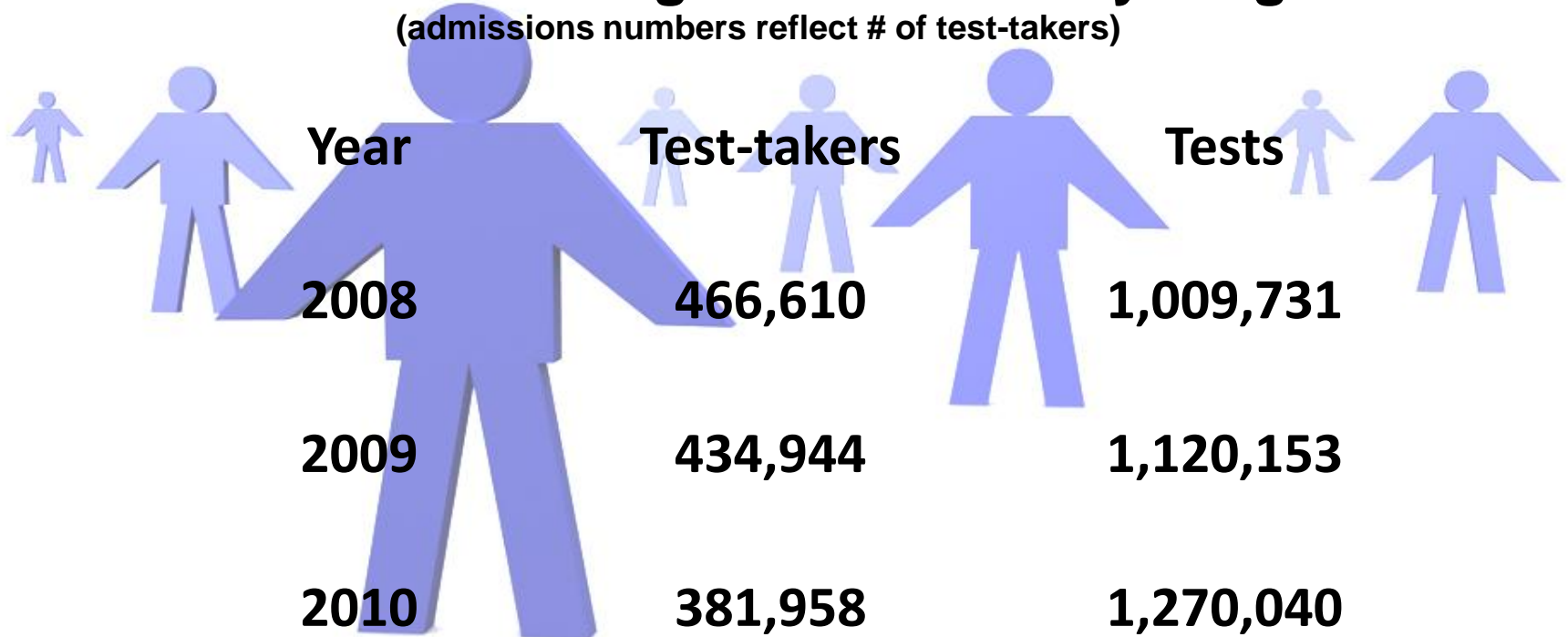
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# HEI Admissions Testing in Ukraine: Very Large Scale

(admissions numbers reflect # of test-takers)



# USETI Best Practices

- *Efficient and transparent HEI Admissions* through Public Monitoring and web-based admission tool “Konkurs”
- Quality System improvement through usage of best world testing practices
- Strengthening of legal and regulatory base

## Best Practices: transparency through Public Monitoring

Each year any independent entity can be assured that external testing and HEI admission campaign is conducted in efficient and proper way through monitoring of:

- *External testing registration*
- *External testing sessions*
- *HEIs admission committees work*



Who can be a Public Monitor?

- *Parent committees @ schools;*
- *HEIs;*
- **CSOs (Civic Network “OPORA”** – takes lead with fellows, develops recommendations that are implemented for a more streamlined and transparent admissions campaign from year to year)



# Best Practices: Transparency On-line: KONKURS

Since 2008 Web-Based Admission System “Konkurs” (transl. – “Competition”), administered by the NGO Center of Educational Policy, lists all applicants to academic programs at more than 400 higher educational institutions in Ukraine, including applicant test scores and other relevant information.

Any internet user, through the Konkurs System, can search and analyze: by Field of Education; HEIs by Region of Ukraine; All Information @ a Particular HEI; All Information @ Fulltime Programs; Applicant List by Rating @ Department...

Вступна кампанія 2011 » Київський національний університет імені Тараса Шевченка  
 Страниця зміняється 25 лютого 2011 року. Дані надано згідно на основі поточних даних.

Про ВНЗ    Статистика    Денна форма    Заочна форма

Перелік напрямів та спеціальностей денної форми навчання:

Н	Л	Д	К	П	В
6.010106 Соціальна педагогіка Факультет: педагогічний	25	15			14000 грн
6.020101 Культурологія Факультет: Філософський	60	15			
6.020301 Філософія Факультет: Філософський	125	40			14000 грн

878	поталов володимир андрійович	166.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
879		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

#	ПІВ	Σ	С	Т	А	О	П	М	ПЧ	ПК	Ц	Д
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Умовні позначення:

#	Порядковий номер у рейтинговому списку	П	Додаткові бали для випускника підготовчого відділення
ПІВ	Провіщик, в/з, по-батькові абітурієнта	М	Учасник міжнародної олімпіади
Σ	Сума всіх балів	ПЧ	Право на першокурсний вступ
С	Бали сертифікатів ЗНО або екзамена	ПК	Право на лозоккурсний вступ
Т	Бали за творчі екзамени	Ц	Цільове направлення
А	Середній бал аттестата	Д	Оригінали документів
О	Додаткові бали за диплом олімпіади або конкурсу МАН		

Вступна кампанія 2011 » Київський національний університет імені Тараса Шевченка » 6.020302 (Історичний факультет) » Список абітурієнтів на денній формі навчання

Страниця зміняється 25 лютого 2011 року. Дані надано згідно на основі поточних даних.

#	ПІВ	Σ	С	Т	А	О	П	М	ПЧ	ПК	Ц	Д
1	мільчиченко таїсія вкторівна	768.5	199.5	175	—	199	—	—	—	+	+	—
2	кубай данило ніколаєвич	767.4	195	170	—	192.4	30	—	—	—	+	—
3	вогнян Дмитро кривавий	764.7	192.5	168	—	186.7	30	—	—	—	+	—
4	мінкович світлана геннадівна	758.4	191.5	186.5	—	192.4	—	—	—	+	+	—
5	баранов сергій ніколаєвич	755.3	192.5	180	—	194.3	—	—	—	+	+	—

In 2010 more than 4,000,000 unique visitors viewed <http://vstup.info> from 99 countries. Pages browsed exceeded 54 million.

## Best Practices – Capacity Development: Improving Tests and Testing Systems

International practice has come up with objective indicators measuring the effectiveness and objectiveness of tests used in admissions processes. USETI's international consultants are training a cadre of over 100 item writers and nearly 400 other personnel in national and regional centers

USETI/USETI Alliance develop Ukrainian specialists in:

- *Item Writing*
- *Test Development*
- *Test Administration*
- *Scoring and Scaling*
- *Supports annual Validity Studies*

Much work remains as Ukrainian stakeholder demands mature...



## Best Practices: Legal Framework Development

USETI Educational Law Policy Expert Group (**ELPEG**) as an efficient mechanism of Strengthening of legal and regulatory base

- Throughout 2008-2011, the USETI ELPEG has played a direct role in the development of key regulatory documents by GOU actors:
  - The Ministry of Education & Science (National Conditions for Admission to HEIs for 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011; Ministerial orders on Public Monitoring);
  - The By-Laws of the Ukrainian Center for Educational Quality Assessment;
  - Ukrainian Parliament, Presidential Administration (draft amendments to laws specifying Testing as educational assessment tool and test scores for admission)



## National Polls – Democratic Initiatives Foundation

	June 2005	March 2008	Dec. 2008	March 2010	March 2011
Support Testing as the main criterion for HEI admissions	44%	37% / <b>50%*</b>	41.9% / <b>55.4%*</b>	40.8% / <b>61.8%*</b>	45.9% / <b>57.3%*</b>
Agree that Testing has decreased the level of corruption in HEI admissions	13%	13.6% / <b>23%*</b>	15.5% / <b>21.7%*</b>	42.6%	41.7% / <b>47.9%*</b>

\*- denotes target group of persons with personal or direct experience of HEI admissions

## Challenge as Opportunity

The difficulties in achieving a durable political consensus in Ukraine and politicization of policy debates represent a potential risk to testing

Recent elections have brought testing into the focus of political debates over issues such as mandatory testing, language of testing, and privileged admissions. The broadening of this Alliance, to encompass private sector groups and HEI communities, offers a buffer to protect the institutional investment and a bridge to the future.

Further strengthening over the **medium term (3-5 years) would** cement UCEQA's institutional capacity and make it an education trendsetter. Further policy action would take this reform beyond politics and provide a polished national tool for more workforce-relevant quality higher education.