



**AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF UKRAINIAN ORGANISATIONS
СОЮЗ УКРАЇНСЬКИХ ОРГАНІЗАЦІЙ АВСТРАЛІЇ**

NATIONAL CONSULTATION

FOCUS GROUP ACTIVITY

BACKGROUND

INSTRUCTIONS

REPORTING

Intergenerational Horizons Working Party Report

**On occasion of 70th Anniversary of Ukrainian
Settlement in Australia
2018-2019**

Strengthening the Future – Remembering your past

August 2018



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СОЮЗ УКРАЇНСЬКИХ ОРГАНІЗАЦІЙ АВСТРАЛІЇ

Representing 22 Peak Ukrainian Organisations in Australia
Member of Ukrainian World Congress

August 2018

National Consultation
An Invitation to all in our community
We are inviting YOU

The Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations (AFUO) is embarking on a
National consultation program
We want to be able to plan, build on the past and identify and avoid barriers that may have halted or continue to stem our progress.

We invite you to make your opinions and proposals known

This is an open invitation to all- regardless of your activity or inactivity within the community.

We all encourage those who have come into the community through marriage, friendship or relationships to also provide input

How?

Through focus group consultation facilitated by AFUO and its members organisations
You can take the lead and form your own focus group

You can respond online ([link tbc](#))

The only caveat for participation is that those wishing to participate adhere to the following

1. A fair hearing for new ideas and the ideas of others
2. No judgement - we neither judge or feel judged
3. Mindfulness re: language
4. Respect

The AFUO will then collate the responses and formulate a report which hopefully assist in our strategic planning

The Report will be a public document

Get involved – help build the future and make your voice heard – Lets broaden our horizons

Stefan Romaniw OAM
Chairman

The Home We Build Together
NATIONAL CONSULTATION AND DIALOGUE WITH
AUSTRALIA'S UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY

The Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations (AFUO) as part of the 70th Anniversary of Ukrainians in Australia 2018-2019 will endeavour to embark on a National Consultation Project:

**The Way Forward for Australia's Ukrainian Community –
2017 and Beyond**

It is an inclusive and wide-ranging program open to all who wish to participate.

Its purpose is to extract from the wide range of people and organisations associated or connected or disconnected with the community, their opinion on

- what drives a community,
- what keeps people connected,
- what drives people away and
- what strategies are required to allow full participation.

It should provide insight on planning our future.

The exercise will explore:

- *The understandings of connectivity and participation.*
 - what are the drivers that create the need and opportunities for connectivity?
 - what are the barriers that impede this?
- *The role of planning and leadership*

It should be stated that we commence the process with a blank page and encourage all stakeholders to help **SET THE AGENDA.**

Its underlying thrust; *The Home We Build Together* is a concept being promoted by Jonathan Sacks – a progressive religious and social thinker in the UK.

This involves

- being invited to use and share different talents,
- involving accepting differences,
- involve understanding where people are at a point in time and
- most importantly ensuring everyone feels part of that home and there is room, opportunity and understanding.

Much is based on where we are now. That in a sense is what a community is.

Interested parties will be invited to participate in the national consultation through;

- small focus groups
- organisational responses
- responding electronically

These will be conducted in a variety of settings and should involve a wide range of people. Each member of AFUO and others who may wish to be a facilitator are invited to conduct focus groups in their sphere of influence.

Collectively with the information provided we will obtain a clearer picture.

The only caveat for participation is that those wishing to participate adhere to the following

5. A fair hearing for new ideas
6. No judgement - we neither judge or feel judged
7. Mindfulness re: language
8. Respect

In a second phase we will interview people outside the community with the aim of obtaining an overview as to how we as a community are perceived and what partnerships can we create or strengthen to assist in meeting goals.

Some areas of interest for discussion may be:

- Connecting with my roots
- Participation in organizations and events
- Communication
- Resources and financial sustainability
- Programming
- Leadership
- Education
- Immigration and new settlers
- Social Welfare
- Religion
- Language Culture Heritage
- Mixed Marriages
- New Settlers

This is not an exhaustive list

Focus group findings will be fed into a matrix based on which a report will be prepared that will cover issues.

The Report will provide advice on:

- What are we looking to do?
- What do we need to do?
- Identify and Face the Challenges
- Plan for Proposed Changes and/ or strengthen existing leading practices
- Examine models of succession planning

Some background

The AFUO initiated internal discussion and requested a Consultation Paper be prepared. The Paper formed the basis for community leadership discussion:

Challenges and opportunities:

Over the last few years it has been increasingly evident that there has been a decline in several areas of the Ukrainian community in Australia. This decline manifests itself in decreasing membership of Ukrainian organisations, fewer Ukrainian language publications, reduced participation in community events and an apparent general lack of identification with things Ukrainian.

On the other hand, new experiences have been created and have attracted the attention of community members those active and those who may have drifted. In more recent times we have seen the stronger activities of our State Associations, activity in our youth groups and our cultural activity and other areas –

There is activity – there is commitment - - But we want to grow these

Changing Times

The early challenges faced by the first Ukrainians in Australia were more than matched by their enthusiasm and community spirit. However, with the progression of time, there was slow decline in the participation rate in Ukrainian community life. Many reasons can be offered to explain this, including:

- Natural ageing processes, including illness and death
- Assimilation into the broader Australian community as opposed to integration
- Loss of Ukrainian identity'
- Leadership
- External influences including recreational and technological
- Lack of awareness
- Lack of motivation (e.g. no further need to 'fight' for Ukrainian independence)
- Personal self-interests
- Disillusionment with 'old-fashioned' views
- Lack of new ("interesting") opportunities
- Personal disagreements
- General apathy

It should be noted that these 'reasons' are not particular to the Ukrainian community in Australia but could apply equally to any community anywhere in the world.

During this period of seeming decline, there have been periods of upsurges in interest, usually brought about by fresh events from abroad including:

- Break up of Soviet Union / gaining of Ukrainian independence
- Visits to Australia by (Ukrainian) guests such as prominent Church dignitaries, politicians and cultural groups
- The Orange Revolution, Revolution of Dignity
- Success in world sporting events (Olympics, World Cup, Invictus Games)
- More recently focus on Holodomor 1932-33
- Australian Ukraine – Parliamentary Friendship Groups
- AFUO National cultural festivals
- Active involvement in the Ukrainian World congress and in participating in setting global priorities
- Use of social media and communications have improved

There are many issues. The exercise should identify some of these and provide some solutions to Ukrainian community leaders to consider.

Ukraine

Ukraine plays a major role for some in seeking purpose, less for others.

At this time the AFUO has defined its relationship in the following way

- a) Support for those defending Ukraine and its borders through human aid, projects of support and through political lobby of the Australian Government and the international community
- b) Assisting in building a positive image of Ukraine
- c) Assisting in driving economic development
- d) Cooperation and strategic planning Australia and Ukraine Embassies in Kyiv and Canberra

No doubt there are community connections – cultural, educational, social etc.

Australia

The AFUO and other organisations endeavour to play a role in Australian politics, mostly in seeking support for Ukraine. An undervalued piece of activity is lobbying for funding for projects on the ground in Australia.

History

One issue that is lacking is our knowledge of the past- how did the community come about, what were the drivers, what sacrifices were made amongst other issues

This part of community engagement should be mandatory Our member organisation should devote time and effort in teaching about the past. This may give following generations and those who have settled here recently and better understanding of why? And how? The community came about and why? And how? We may move forward

Currently the AFUO has a project underway that will highlight many of these issues

Process

The AFUO encourages each State Hromada (Associations) to take a lead and form a Consultation Steering Committee consisting of representatives from our Churches and organisations in your State and collectively identify facilitators and focus group participants. This does not exclude AFUO members conducting their own focus groups.

The recent AFUO Meeting with State Hromady (Associations) presidents endorsed this project and agree to take the lead.

Where can we find participants?

There are many ready-made groups:

The process will be achieved if you make it a **PRIORITY** and you are **STRATEGIC**.

- **Ready access**

Existing choirs, dance groups, committee meetings, parents waiting for children at various practises, Ukrainian schools, CYM, Plast structures, Sviato Shevchenko, Sviato Herojiv, (where people can come before or stay after), Church communities s Golf, Volleyball, Soccer games, After Liturgy on Sunday. Pizza night etc

- Locating a cohort that has comes from time to time (**medium participation**)
- Locating those who have **drifted away**

Interview students, parents, and members not necessarily leaders, play groups, new arrivals, senior citizen groups, successful Ukrainian business leaders or leaders in their profession.

Connecting with our Mixed marriages and others in the community have connection with community

Remember these are focus groups –They are to have wide representation.

We are not seeking to interview all members in the community, but a cross section

PROCESS

How long should a focus group last?

75-90 minutes with a break for tea and coffee

e.g.	7.00 pm for 7.15 start Tea Coffee
7.15pm	Introduction purpose, explain process etc
7.25pm	Commence questions
8.40	Wind up
8.45	Thank you
	Followed by Tea and Coffee

Timeline

Weeks 1, 2, 3

- Planning, constitute steering committee, nominate overall Coordinator, identify facilitators, identify first crop of members of focus groups.
- Hromada and Parishes to identify branches and satellites e.g. Wollongong, Newcastle, Newborough, Geelong Noble Park, Gold Cost Northam and similar places
- AFUO to prepare media campaign and awareness raising campaign through Australia

Week 4

planning meeting with facilitators

Week 5

First series of focus groups

Parallel to this ongoing development of list of possible participants

Objective minimum of 1-2 focus groups per week

Week 6

Meeting Steering committee to obtain Feedback on any issues relating to process

Ongoing focus groups

Weeks 7 and 8

seeking out focus group participants

Weeks 9-12

Focus Groups

Weeks 13-14

Collation of information

Send collated information to AFUO for analysis

Or map your own journey!

The Exercise - FACILITATORS

You are requested to conduct focus groups – maximum 12-15 people

Required Personnel:

Focus Group leader and Scribe

Target audience

Males and Females 15 years and older

Selection – Homogenous or diverse

You may wish to record discussion on a white board or butcher's paper.

Organisation response

You may wish to provide an organisational response – Paper prepared by your members or leadership team

Electronic response WEB

These questions will also be placed on the AFUO Website to allow individuals to respond electronically

MY COMMUNITY - IDENTITY AND COMMUNITY

The community is diverse. People come to it and associate with for a variety of reasons.

Their expectations vary.

Their family background, connection, spouse etc. play a pivotal role in how and when they connect

Therefore, the questions will need to accommodate this diversity. It might be useful to start with identifying what a connected community looks like (Not necessarily Ukrainian)

Do you consider yourself to be part of a connected community?

If so which one(s). (bearing in mind that people can have multiple membership which includes place based – that is geographic, and interest based such as Ukrainian or both. E.g. I could be part of my local school community, the Ukrainian community and the broader community.

Do you consider yourself a member of the Ukrainian community?
(This may need to unpack what it means.)

The focus question is:

1. What keeps a person connected to a community? (Ukrainian background or person of non-Ukrainian background but associated with a Ukrainian)
This needs to be discussed in the context of how we define connectivity and *What do we mean when a person is connected? And what keeps our interest and is the “community” relevant to our current ‘needs’.*
Is language important?

Follow up questions:

PARTICIPATION

2. What can be done to encourage people to stay connected or to re connect?
3. What are the barriers for participation – connecting?
4. What can we do to increase opportunities for participation and access?
5. What do you see the 3 things that are essential for community participation and growth?
6. What opportunities have been missed and why?

Ukraine

What role does Ukraine play in keeping a community alive?
How do you connect with Ukraine or issues dealing with Ukraine?
How can this be improved?

Australia

How do you see our community in context of the broader Australian community?
How can the image of the Ukrainian community be enhanced in the broader Australian community?

Sustainability

7. What are the challenges that the community will meet over the next decade?
8. What opportunities does it have to deal with these challenges? What are its limitations?
9. How would you define the make up of the community in 2018 and how should the community be dealing with these different parts?
10. Strategies
Ukrainian community organisations represent your interests -They are elected and responsible to its members
What are the 3 things you would like them to do? What are they not doing?
11. What are some of the strategies that could be used to increase involvement in:
 - Church life (spiritual and organisational),
 - Hromada State Associations (spiritual and organisational)
 - connection with Ukraine,
 - Other specific groups?
12. Why is important to have community structures and leadership?
Does this mean we take away initiative or opportunities or does community? encourage initiative but understands the importance of coordination

Way forward

13. If you as a group had to set the agenda for the next 10 years what would the top 5 priorities?
14. How would approach succession planning?
15. Do you have any ideas on how to improve communication within the community?
16. Any other comments

REPORT

You are requested to provide a written report on the consultation
Pro forma is attached.

WORKING PARTIES

To be representative of community - diverse in makeup, age, sex, participation, interests

REPORT

Name of focus group leader:

**Contact
number**

**Date of
Consultation**

Venue

**Length of focus group
activity**

**Provide a brief description of the focus group's composition: e.g., age, group make up,
parents, etc**

The Report needs to provide key words that encapsulate the thrust of the discussion

1. **What keeps a Person –Family (Ukrainian background or person of non-Ukrainian background but associated with a Ukrainian) connected to a community?**
This needs to be discussed in the context of how we define connectivity and What do we mean when a person is connected?

2. **What can be done to encourage people to stay connected or to re connect?**

3. **What are the barriers for participation – connecting?**

4. **What can we do to increase opportunities for participation and access?**

5. **What do you see the 3 things that are essential for community participation and growth?**

6. **What opportunities have been missed and why?**

7. **What are the challenges that the community will meet over the next decade?**

8. **What opportunities does it have to deal with these challenges? What are its limitations?**

9. **How would you define the make up of the community in 2015 and how should the community be dealing with these different parts?**

10. **Ukrainian community organisations represent your interests
What are the 3 things you would like them to do? What are they not doing?**

11. **What are some of the strategies that could be used to increase involvement in:**
 - **Church life (spiritual and organisational),**
 - **Hromada (spiritual and organisational)**
 - **connection with Ukraine,**
 - **other specific groups?**

12. **If you as a group had to set the agenda for the next 10 years what would the top 5 priorities?**

13. **How would approach succession planning?**

14. **Do you have any ideas on how to improve communication within the community?**

15. **Role of community structures and the need for coordinated representation**

15. **Any other comments**