

EVALUATION SUMMARY



Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Office of Policy and Evaluation

International Visitor Leadership Program Outcome Assessment

The purpose of the evaluation was to demonstrate the outcomes of the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) and its impact on program alumni, and the program's effectiveness in achieving its legislative goal of fostering mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries.

Key Findings

- **Serving the National Interest and Promoting Mutual Understanding**
 - 97% of IVLP alumni respondents agreed that the program helps achieve the legislative goals of increasing mutual understanding between Americans and people of other countries, and developing friendly, sympathetic and peaceful relations between the United States and other countries.
 - 91% have communicated more accurate information about the United States to other people in their home country based on the knowledge they gained during their IVLP experience in the United States.
 - 77% felt their IVLP exchange experience increased their willingness to trust Americans to a great or moderate extent, while 71% agreed that the United States is a trustworthy partner for their country.
 - Alumni gained a more favorable view of Americans (73%) and the U.S. government (65%) as a result of their program.
- **Support for Democratic Principles and Values**
 - IVLP alumni respondents overwhelmingly agreed with statements on democratic values: citizens should have equal rights (99%); rule of law is fundamental to democracy (99%); free and fair elections are cornerstones of democracy (98%); individuals and organizations have the right to free speech (97%); and independent media is important (95%).
- **Professional Learning and Increased Understanding of the United States**
 - 98% of respondents felt their IVLP exchange experience enhanced their knowledge of their IVLP project theme.
 - The IVLP increased respondents' understanding of the United States (88%) and Americans (86%), in general; U.S. government institutions (76%); daily life in the United States (74%); and U.S. values and culture (71%).
- **Institutional Changes**
 - Respondents initiated work-related changes based on knowledge gained during the IVLP experience: introduced new ideas and knowledge (64%) and new policies or procedures (53%); and founded an NGO or other organization (22%).
- **Program Satisfaction**
 - 98% of respondents felt their IVLP experience to be moderately (34%) or very (64%) valuable for their professional life.
 - Over 90% felt satisfied with the program's administration, experiences, and relevance to their professional development.

Project Information: ORC Macro of Calverton, Maryland conducted the study. ORC Macro, through their Moscow-based subcontractor, conducted in-person interviews with a random sample of 827 IVLP alumni from Georgia, Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine—who participated in the IVLP between 1996 and 2001. Data collection occurred between November 2004 and March 2005 and also included focus groups with IVLP alumni and administrator interviews with U.S. embassy staff in each study country.

Program Information: Since its inception in 1940, more than 135,000 foreign nationals have participated in the IVLP. U.S. embassies nominate participants based on their professional merit and leadership potential. Over 4,000 foreign visitors participate annually in IVLP projects of 2 to 4 weeks, including visits to Washington, D.C. and two or three other U.S. cities. They meet with their U.S. professional counterparts to gain an understanding of U.S. policies and practices and they participate in cultural activities during their stay in the United States. Additional program information can be found at <http://exchanges.state.gov>.

Contact Information: For more information, or to request a copy of the 176-page, two-volume report, please contact the Office of Policy and Evaluation at (202) 632-6325, email ecaevaluation@state.gov, or by mail at State Annex 5, 2200 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20522-0505. Additional program information may be found at <http://exchanges.state.gov>.