

# HOW TEACHERS CAN STRENGTHEN ACADEMIC INTEGRITY CULTURE: UKRAINIAN PERSPECTIVES ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

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Revolution of Dignity in Ukraine became a no-return point in the country's modern history. Ukrainian people have proclaimed their rightful choice to integrate with EU, and Ukrainian authorities had no other choice but to change Ukrainian policies to comply with European vector. With that Ukrainian secondary education system had to change as well. During our presentation we will talk about the changes and challenges that Ukrainian secondary education has had to undergo in terms of academic integrity and how we have addressed those with Seeding Academic Integrity in Secondary Schools Project – SAISS and Academic Integrity and Quality Initiative (Academic IQ) project activities.

In 2015, following the Revolution of Dignity, the Ministry of Education and Science (MOES) declared academic integrity a key priority in education reform. A series of changes in Ukrainian Law have followed.

In 2017 Ukrainian government added Article 42 “Academic Integrity” to Ukrainian Law on Education<sup>1</sup>, thus legally enforcing Ukrainian educational institutions to adhere to academic integrity principles. Later on in 2019 the government added Article 43 “Academic Integrity” to the Law on Secondary Education in Ukraine<sup>2</sup>, thus providing secondary schools with precise list of academic integrity expectations toward all academic process participants, list of violations and responsibilities that may follow.

Though providing a legal basis for creating a culture of academic integrity in Ukrainian secondary schools, schools' administration, teachers, students, and parents have been lacking information and practical tools so as to put the law into practice.

In 2019 the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv (PAS), and American Councils moved to address the issues of academic integrity

in secondary schools through its Seeding Academic Integrity in Secondary Schools Project (SAISS). That was our answer to the challenge of scarcity of academic integrity resources in Ukrainian language. We have continued our efforts to address secondary schools' needs in academic integrity resources withing the second iteration of the project, now called “Academic Integrity and Quality Initiative”

Throughout the two projects we have been taking the best American and European practices on academic integrity, adapting them to Ukrainian realities, and delivering them to all those involved in secondary education process.

During our presentation at European Conference on Academic Integrity and Plagiarism 2021 we will talk about how the focused interviews we have conducted with teachers and parents have helped us to better understand the current state of academic integrity culture in secondary schools, what needs and challenges we have discovered, and how we have later translated our findings into academic integrity resources relevant specifically for Ukrainian school's needs.

We will also present the resources themselves, focusing on their structure, content, and how they meet Ukrainian secondary education needs and challenges we have discovered, including the need to comply with Ukrainian law regulations. Namely, we will take a closer look at our online course “Academic Integrity for Teachers”<sup>3</sup>, lesson plans with integrated academic integrity principles, methodological recommendations on academic integrity for schools' administration and teachers, as well as a School World Special Issue on Academic Integrity for school administration.

<sup>1</sup>[https://mon.gov.ua/ua/npa/law-education#\\_Toc493603883](https://mon.gov.ua/ua/npa/law-education#_Toc493603883)

<sup>2</sup><https://decentralization.gov.ua/en/news/12399>

<sup>3</sup><https://courses.ed-era.com/courses/course-v1:AmericanCouncils+AcIn101+AcIn2019/about>