

# **A message from the new President of the International Council**

## **Margaryta Danilko**

For me, the English-Speaking Union means people who are inspired, motivated and dedicated to increasing global awareness and friendship through the use of the English language.

Having been teaching English at a Ukrainian university for many years I learned about the English-Speaking Union only in 2008 from my friends who were members in the UK. They encouraged me to start an ESU in Ukraine, and in 2008 ESU Ukraine ran its first Public Speaking Competition.

Since then a lot of other national competitions, projects, seminars, workshops, meetings and social events have been held by the ESU Ukraine for its members and the general public. During all this time the success of the activities arranged by the ESU Ukraine was due to the enormous support of the vibrant people from Dartmouth House and International ESUs.

The ESU unites nations worldwide into a big international family, where diversity is celebrated. Working together, we learn from each other and grow together, explore and enjoy different cultures, and enrich the knowledge of the world and ourselves. Teamwork is crucial to our collaboration as we expand into a larger international community. I am honoured to have been elected the President of the International Council, and very grateful that the International ESUs have trusted me with this position. Recognising my personal responsibility, I strongly believe in a teamwork of partners, who are eager to contribute their knowledge, experience and energy in achieving the ESUs overall mission.

The threshold of the ESU Centenary is a good time to reflect and evaluate on what has been achieved during 100 years. It is also a proper time to design a strategic framework and roadmap to navigate the ESU for at least the next decade. Nowadays, when the International ESUs have spread over five continents and extend friendly relations among nations worldwide, it is evident that they can play a pivotal role in the sustainable development of the ESU.

At present, the main strategic question is: How can International ESUs raise the profile of the organisation? And my answer is: people.

We, the ESU people, can develop a very close cooperation among all the International ESUs, initiating small 2-3 country projects and pairing up branches, we can engage more alumni and educators in our activities, we can attract tech people to support us in using new technologies and internet facilities to the fullest, we can involve embassies, publishing houses, media and ministries of education. People are the key to the enhancement of the ESU, and we can be the catalysts in helping our organisation to grow, prosper and succeed.