

MARTA BARANDIY

Political strategist and civil society leader

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LinkedIn

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PROFILE

Multilingual legal expert, political strategist, and civil society leader with a Ph.D. in International Law and over 20 years of progressive experience in international governance, rule of law, European institutional advocacy, and democratic transition support. Recognized for bridging legal scholarship and political practice, combining high-level negotiations with grassroots mobilization.

Founder and President of Promote Ukraine – a Brussels-based NGO awarded the European Citizen's Prize by the European Parliament. As Representative of the Ukrainian Ombudsman to the EU and Lead Candidate to the European Parliament (Voor U), she brought a unique duality of credibility: state-level legitimacy and civic trust.

Combining academic discipline and activist agility, she has led more than 250 events across EU institutions and NATO, coordinated humanitarian programs with measurable impact, shaped political discourse through high-impact publications and media engagements, and built one of the most effective platforms for Ukraine-EU dialogue since 2014.

Her areas of expertise include sovereignty theory, constitutional transformation, informational security, public diplomacy, civic resilience in wartime, and the role of human rights in security architecture. She is also a sought-after advisor to policymakers, institutions, and diplomatic missions across Europe and beyond.

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in International Law (Dr. iur.)

University of Saarland, Germany |
2009 – 2012

Thesis: "Sovereignty as a Remedy for the Interests of States" (written in German)

- Scholarship recipient of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation
- Research focused on the transformation of sovereignty under international and European law, including post-Soviet transitions

LL.M. in European Law

Europa-Institut, University of Saarland,
Germany | 2007 – 2008

Thesis: "European Integration of Ukraine and the Concept of Sovereignty"

- Focus areas: European Human Rights Law, EU Economic Law

Master's Degree in International Law & International Relations

Ivan Franko National University of
Lviv, Ukraine | 2004 – 2005

- Graduated with honors
- Specialized in public international law, diplomatic law, and international organizations

PRIMARY EXPERIENCE

German Marshall Fund of the United States

Marshall Memorial Fellow, January 2025 – December 2025

- One of 24 fellows for the 2025 cohort of GMF flagship leadership development program. This cohort represents 13 countries and 9 different sectors, including politics, business, media, and civil society.

Ukrainian Free University, Munich

Visiting Lecturer, September 2017 – Present

- Taught international law, theory of sovereignty, and conflict resolution. Supervised Master's theses on international public law, transitional justice, and constitutional reform. Integrated academic theory with real-time geopolitical developments, notably in the context of Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

Ombudsman of Ukraine

Representative of the Ukrainian Parliament

Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) to the European Union and Belgium, July 2024 – December 2024

- Appointed by the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights as official liaison to the EU institutions and Belgian authorities.

Voor U Political Party (Belgium)

Lead Candidate to the European Parliament,
2024 European Elections

- Nominated as the party's leading candidate in recognition of her long-standing civic commitment and cross-cultural leadership. Campaign platform focused on defending European values, reinforcing the rule of law, fighting disinformation, and building bridges between citizens and institutions.

Promote Ukraine (Brussels)

Founder and President, May 2014 - Present

- Established one of the EU's most visible and trusted Ukraine-focused NGOs. Under her leadership, Promote Ukraine received the European Citizen's Prize (2022), established the Ukrainian Civil Society Hub in the European Parliament, and coordinated more than 200 advocacy events, 300 demonstrations, and 250 bilateral meetings with EU, NATO, and national leaders. Responsible for strategic direction, international outreach, media strategy, legal documentation, and 250+ volunteers' mobilisation in wartime settings. Served also as Editor-in-Chief of Brussels Ukraïna Review.

Promote Freedom Foundation (Brussels, Los Angeles)

Founder, December 2021 - Present

- Set up a Foundation to support democracy movements across the globe.

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LANGUAGES

- **Ukrainian** – Native proficiency
- **Russian** – Native proficiency
- **German** – Full professional proficiency (working language for Ph.D. and legal publications)
- **English** – Full professional proficiency (teaching, legal writing, public speaking)
- **Polish** – Professional working proficiency
- **French** – Professional working proficiency (EU context, communication with institutions)
- **Dutch** – Intermediate level (working knowledge for Belgian civic and political life)

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

Asters Law Firm (Ukraine)

Head of Brussels Office, 2018 – 2021

- Established and managed the Brussels representation of Ukraine's largest law firm.

Volvo Group, Ghent

Complaint Manager & Multilingual Crisis Specialist, 2012 – 2016

- Managed critical customer relations and international disputes in seven languages.

Noerr LLP, Kyiv and Munich offices

Legal Trainee, 2008 – 2009

- Worked on legal documentation and case analysis in family, corporate, and customs law.

Mission of Ukraine to the European Union, Brussels

Intern, 2007

- Drafted diplomatic briefings and speech materials for Ukraine's Mission to the EU.

Office of MEP Herbert Bösch, European Parliament, Brussels

Intern, 2004

- Analyzed EU budget and funding mechanisms for partner countries. Supported parliamentary research on EU-Ukraine relations and eastern neighborhood policy.

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FELLOWSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Marshall Memorial Fellowship

German Marshall Fund of the United States

January – October 2025

- Selected for one of the most prestigious transatlantic leadership fellowships, engaging with policymakers, thought leaders, and civil society in Europe and the United States. Focus areas include democratic resilience, EU-US relations, and the future of global governance.

EVIP Visiting Program

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Taiwan

August 2024

- Participated in the European Values in Practice (EVIP) diplomatic and leadership immersion program. Engaged with Taiwanese ministries, civil society, and international experts on strategic communications, democratic integrity, and Asia-Europe cooperation.

Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS) Scholarship

Germany | 2008 – 2011

- Awarded full doctoral scholarship for research in international law and sovereignty at the University of Saarland.

European Forum Alpbach Scholarship

Austria | 2002 & 2003

- Attended European Forum Alpbach as a young scholar in political science and international law.

European Forum Alpbach Scholarship

Austria | 2005

- Supported participation in intensive academic seminars on EU institutions and international legal order.

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Brussels Ukraïna Review

Editor-in-Chief

2019–2024

- Editor-in-chief of a quarterly multilingual journal dedicated to EU–Ukraine–Russia relations. Coordinated twelve published editions, overseeing editorial policy, contributor engagement, and high-level dissemination to European institutions. [Learn more.](#)

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- **Souveränität als Gewährleistung der Interessen der Staaten: Völkerrechtliche und europarechtliche Aspekte**, Peter Lang AG, 2012
- **Europäische Integration der Ukraine und Souveränität: Rechtliche und politische Aspekte**, Akademikerverlag, 2008

Articles (Selected)

- **Behind the Digital Curtain: A Look Inside the Russian Information War Against the West**
DOI: 10.34054/bdc001
- **The Duality of Ukrainian Reality: Resistance of Corruption to Western Ideals**
Euromaidan Press, 02 May 2018. [Link](#)
- **Zullen we pas wakker worden wanneer Rusland effectief een NAVO-land militair aanvalt?**
Knack, 24 February 2024. [Link](#)
- **Russia's Ashmanov Doctrine: The Shield and Sword of Kremlin Propaganda**
Euromaidan Press, 12 March 2018
- **Russia Still Overshadowing Ukraine in the Heart of the EU**
Business Ukraine Magazine, June 2018
- **Beware of Russia's Bilateral Cyber World Order**
Vocal Europe, 07 December 2018
- **Germany Strengthens Russia's Insolence with New Economic Agreement**
Euromaidan Press, 12 June 2019
- **Zelenskyy's Prisoner Swap: Should Ukraine Rescue Its Hostages at Any Cost?**
Euromaidan Press, 31 December 2019
- **This Is How Online Hate-Rhetoric Mutates Our Values**
Promote Ukraine, 17 January 2017

Policy and analytical essays

- **Resistance of Corruption to Western Ideals in Ukraine** - Euromaidan Press, Forbes Ukraine
- **Temporary Protection at a Crossroads: Direct Effect, Social Assistance, and Post-TPD Legal Pathways**
Egmont Institute, 17 February 2026. [Link](#)
- **Vergeeten gezinnen van de tijdelijke bescherming: juist de vrouwen die solidair waren, zijn de dupe van een systeem dat solidariteit moest garanderen**
Knack, 06 November 2025. [Link](#)
- **Why Ukrainian Millennials Are Leaving** - Mind.ua

Editorials and public commentaries

- Quoted and cited in Politico Europe, Euractiv, Le Soir, EUobserver, and other EU-focused outlets

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GUEST LECTURES & MENTORSHIP

Ukrainian Free University (Munich, Germany)

2017 – Present

- Delivered graduate seminars and guest lectures on international law, sovereignty, conflict transformation, and Ukraine–EU integration. Supervised Master's theses.

American University – Brussels Center

2022 – Present

- Mentored 40+ interns from American University at the NGO Promote Ukraine.

Ukrainian Leadership Academy (Kyiv & Brussels)

May 2019, May 2025

- Mentored cohorts of Ukrainian civic leaders through workshops on advocacy in the EU, democratic transformation, and political communication.

University of Tübingen – Institute for Political Science (Germany)

March 2025

- Delivered a guest seminar in Brussels for MA students in security studies on hybrid threats, the EU's eastern strategy, and civil resistance in crisis situations.

University of Pennsylvania – East European Studies (USA)

January 2025

- Delivered guest lecture in Brussels on Ukrainian civil society's response to war, legal identity, and the challenges of sovereignty and state continuity.

University of Leuven (Belgium)

April 2019

- Delivered a lecture on European fundamental rights and the post-2014 geopolitical transformation of Eastern Europe.

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SPEECHES & MODERATION

European Institutions & International Conferences

“Unseen Heroes: Empowering Women and Protecting Children within Russia’s War on Ukraine”

- European Parliament, Brussels, 23 May 2023 — **Moderator**

“Beyond Geopolitics: Does the Crimean Tatars’ Case Matter?”

- European Parliament, Brussels, 9 October 2018 — **Moderator**

Plenary Speech: Voice of Ukrainian Civil Society

- European Economic and Social Committee, Brussels, June 2022 — **Speaker**

“European Path of Ukraine”

- European Economic and Social Committee Sitting, 2022 — **Speaker**

“Building Ukraine’s Future in Times of War”

- Friedrich Naumann Foundation, Brussels, October 2024 — **Speaker**

“EU–Ukraine Integration at a Crossroads: Opportunities and Risks of the Association Process”

- Friedrich Naumann Foundation & Promote Ukraine, Brussels, 11 June 2019 — **Moderator**

“Im Osten was Neues: Die Erweiterungsperspektiven der Europäischen Union”

- 11th Genshagener Forum for Franco-German Dialogue, Berlin, June 2023 — **Speaker**

“EU Sanctions: Towards a Comprehensive Ban on Russian Aluminium”

- European Aluminium Association Roundtable, Brussels, 17 February 2024 — **Speaker**

Civic Events & Symbolic Engagements

Peace Vigil: “Support Ukraine Now!”

- Langemark, 100 years after WWI outbreak, October 2014 — **Speaker**

“Female Leadership: Survival Kit for Beginners”

- Online leadership dialogue, 29 July 2020 — **Speaker**

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MEDIA INTERVIEWS & FEATURES

Television

ZDF – Heute in Europa - “Einsatz für Ukraine in Brüssel”

Johanna Muth, 12 December 2024

- Marta Barandiy profiled as “the face of Ukraine in Brussels” and European Citizen’s Prize laureate. [Watch](#)

TV5Monde - “Guerre en Ukraine: 1 million de réfugiés en une semaine”

Namouri Dosso, 3 March 2022

- Commentary on humanitarian response and skepticism toward ceasefire promises. [Watch](#)

L’Avenir (RTBF) - “Les Ukrainiens ont trop perdu pour négocier quelque chose”

Maxime Binet, 22 March 2024, ‘Café sans filtre’

- Interview on the political costs of war and advocacy in the EU. [Read](#)

Euronews – Brussels, My Love?

- “The Real Meaning of Ukrainian Accession”, 2024. [Watch](#)

UATV (Ukraine)

- “See Ukraine for Its People, Not Its Problems”, 2017. [Watch](#)

RTL, Belgium

- Multiple segments (no direct links provided)

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MEDIA INTERVIEWS & FEATURES

Print & Online Media

Euractiv

- “We need a genuine Union of European Citizens that includes Ukraine”, 7 April 2022. [Read](#)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

- “Alle gegen Putin”, 25 March 2022. By Bjoern Finke et al. [Read](#)

The Sydney Morning Herald

- Commentary for the Australian Newspaper on possible war of Russia on Ukraine. [Read](#)

The New York Times

- Coverage mentioning Promote Ukraine’s advocacy. [Read](#)

Podcasts

Euphoria – EU&U

- “The EU and Ukraine’s Role in the New World of Might”. March 2025. [Listen](#)

Ukrainian Weekly Podcast - “Promoting Ukraine in Belgium”

- Host: Mike Buryk, 14 June 2024. [Read/Listen](#)

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AWARDS & DISTINCTIONS

European Citizen's Prize

Awarded by the European Parliament (2022)

- In recognition of Marta Barandiy's leadership of Promote Ukraine and its outstanding contribution to European solidarity, civil society resilience, and civic diplomacy during war.

State Guard Administration of Ukraine

Medal "For Patriotism and Protection Against Russian Aggression" (2022)

- Awarded for strategic support of national sovereignty and civilian security coordination.

Security Service of Ukraine (SBU)

Medal "For the Protection of Ukraine's Sovereignty" (2022)

- Recognition of public advocacy efforts, informational resilience, and support for institutional defense.

Ukrainian Armed Forces, Commander-in-Chief

Merit Award "For Supporting the Armed Forces" (2023)

- Awarded for mobilizing international support, logistics, and communication tools for frontline units.

State Border Guard Service of Ukraine

Honorary Badge "For Strengthening the State Border" (2024)

- For facilitating cross-border coordination of aid, diplomatic missions, and civil protection.

REFERENCES

- H.E. Ambassador Prof. Dr. Martin Selmayr, Head of Delegation of the European Union in Rome
- Pina Picierno, Vice-President of the European Parliament
- Laurens Soenen, Spokesperson of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium
- Kateryna Yushchenko, former First Lady of Ukraine

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