

ANNUAL REPORT

2016



For 26 years, we have been fostering the development of an open society in Ukraine based on democratic values by supporting publicly significant initiatives.



“

TO DEFEND OPEN SOCIETIES, IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO RELY ON THE RULE OF LAW; YOU MUST ALSO STAND UP FOR WHAT YOU BELIEVE IN. THE ORGANIZATIONS THAT MY FOUNDATION HAS SUPPORTED ARE DOING SO. THEIR FATE IS IN THE BALANCE

”

**George Soros,
Founder of Open
Society Foundations**

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These introductory remarks to the annual report 2016 reflect the Foundation's multi-faceted program activities aimed at fostering the open society. We would like to highlight the strategic innovations that formed the core of our work.

INTRODUCTION: INTERNATIONAL RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION IN **2016**

The International Renaissance Foundation (IRF) practices open reporting to the society on its performance. These introductory remarks to the annual report 2016 reflect the Foundation's multi-faceted program activities aimed at fostering the open society. We would like to highlight the strategic innovations that formed the core of our work.

Last year confirmed the presence of a strong community of activists, experts, and new leaders in Ukraine who are ready to implement changes in politics and be the champions for reforms both in the society and directly in the governmental institutions. Civic activism is outgrowing the previous traditional boundaries for NGO activities.

Earlier on civic engagement was usually limited to critical views, monitoring, and detection of vulnerabilities in the social order, as well as producing recommendations. Nowadays, there is a significant demand from the civil society for practical engagement in the implementation of reforms, fostering progressive change, and transparent state policy at all levels which means creating a fundamentally new culture of daily civil participation.

Hence, the Foundation's new philosophy has been reaffirmed: focusing on the practical implementation of reforms undertaken with the involvement of NGOs, think tanks, and volunteers who operate interactively and mutually amplify the positive change effect.

Therefore, in 2016 IRF continued to actively support the public participation in implementation of key reforms: the public administration and civil service, decentralization, health care, education, law enforcement reforms, and overcoming corruption at all levels, from designing relevant policies to practical implementation and control.

During the last year's political and government crisis, the Foundation worked together with leading independent experts to defend the engagement of professionals to the new executive power branch. Albeit partially, that objective was achieved. We sought to support the pro-reform hubs in the government by attracting independent experts to assist the government in the issues on which the government was ready to actively accept such assistance. At the end of the year, we started working together with the government on implementing the culture and practice of public policy, in which decisions are developed in a way that is transparent and accountable to the society with the engagement of stakeholders, and are implemented with accountability and understandable to the people. This way towards a new administrative culture, which corresponds to the open society principles has only just begun, and the Foundation realizes the complexity of the set goals and the power of the inert old system that has to be reformed step by step.

The Foundation provided support to the initiatives aimed at overcoming the negative consequences of the lasting armed conflict in the Donbas. Those consequences include violation of rights of people affected by the conflict and the challenges faced by citizens who had been displaced to other regions of the country and currently search for a new place in the society.

The Foundation also worked to mobilize internal and international support for the democratic changes, advancing the Ukrainian society's interests in Europe and the world. It helped the civil society's efforts to achieve the lift of the visa regime for Ukrainian citizens by the EU – a process that has been completed and already became an obvious success story of the year.

We took the unfinished work with us into 2017. We fully understand the risks that define the current historical moment: the weakness of state institutions combined with the danger of power-holders distancing themselves from the people, intensification of conflicts between the authorities and the people, and the differences within the civil society. However, we see no way other than to keep helping the society carry on and develop civic and state institutions of the new Ukraine. We mean the traditions, organizations, and institutions that would contribute the vital sprouts to the general political culture that would ensure building critical mass of positive changes that respond to the demands of the Ukrainian people who have already made their historical choice.

OLEKSANDR SUSHKO

Chairman of the Board

YEVHEN BYSTRYTSKY

Executive Director

HOW THE FOUNDATION **WORKS**



The International Renaissance Foundation is one of the biggest charity foundations in Ukraine. It is part of the global Open Society Foundations network. The IRF mission is to assist the development of an open society in Ukraine based on democratic values through the support of significant civic initiatives.

IRF is, at the same time, a donor, a center for consolidation of civic initiatives and a communication platform for pioneers of changes. IRF grants resources and expert support, helps to establish and develop platforms, and works to share the experience and skills necessary for reinforcing the public participation in the development, implementation, and monitoring of reforms. We see ourselves as a special public instrument of the country's active civil society, that helps citizens form their own agenda for the sake of supporting the best initiatives and projects of non-governmental organizations and activists for change.

This report shows how the IRF management works together with distinguished representatives of the society who is part of the IRF Board and expert sub-boards of IRF program initiatives in order to develop organized civil activism aimed at supporting democratic reforms in the key spheres of our society. IRF seeks to contribute to creating a country in which human rights are fully protected and all branches of government are accountable to the citizens. In other words, IRF strives to build an open and democratic society in

Ukraine. For this we support effective communication on the reforms, promote essential positive changes at all levels, and cooperate with a wide circle of partners in order to consolidate domestic and international support of a new Ukraine.

IRF prioritizes initiatives aimed at building mutual understanding, trust, and cooperation in the society. We also work to ensure that public policy models and the experience of civil participation in making the changes necessary for Ukraine become part of governance practice at the national and local levels. Embedding best practices created by NGOs based on values of dignity and human rights, justice, accountability, responsible leadership, social innovation and public participation into institutions will make positive changes in Ukraine irreversible.

The International Renaissance Foundation is working towards two intertwined strategic goals:



Ensure people's participation in the implementation of reforms by creating a value-oriented system of policy-making through the expansion of the public space beyond NGOs, fostering critical thinking, communication, and public debates on a civic agenda;



Ensure that the mechanisms for protection of human rights, justice, dignity, equality and non-discrimination are in place and working

The Foundation pursues these goals through six program initiatives that provide financial, expert, and organizational support to publicly significant projects of civil society organizations which are selected by independent expert sub-boards or the IRF Board.

DEMOCRATIC PRACTICE



*improving
quality of
public policy*



*creating effective
instruments to fight
corruption*



*increasing
accountability and
responsibility of the
authorities*

HUMAN RIGHTS AND JUSTICE



*preventing and
countering
human rights
abuse*



*assisting the
implementation of
effective
anti-discriminatory
legislation and practice
in Ukraine*



*supporting access to
justice and legal aid
among vulnerable
social groups*

EUROPEAN INITIATIVE



*supporting European integration of
Ukraine as a way to implement
effective reforms in the spheres of
democratization, human rights, good
governance and the rule of law*



*strengthening
international support
for Ukraine*

PUBLIC HEALTH



assisting the formation of the economically effective and non-discriminatory public health system



supporting transparent and rational utilization of budget costs directed at the health care needs



ensuring equal access to vitally essential medicines and respective medical treatment especially for vulnerable social groups

ROMA INITIATIVE



supporting NGOs and activists that work to counter discrimination



involving Roma people in public processes



encouraging Roma youth leadership

CIVIC INITIATIVES OF NEW UKRAINE



strengthening organizational and advocacy capacities of self-organized civic initiatives that emerged from the Euromaidan



creating conditions for the civil dialogue, mutual understanding, and reconciliation in Ukraine

REGIONAL OFFICES

The Foundation has four regional offices that enable us to respond quickly to the dynamic context and the civil society agenda in the regions, and provide support to civic initiatives whenever necessary.



KEY NUMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION IN 2016

176 280 071

total amount of grants UAH

450

total number of projects

263

total number of grantee organizations

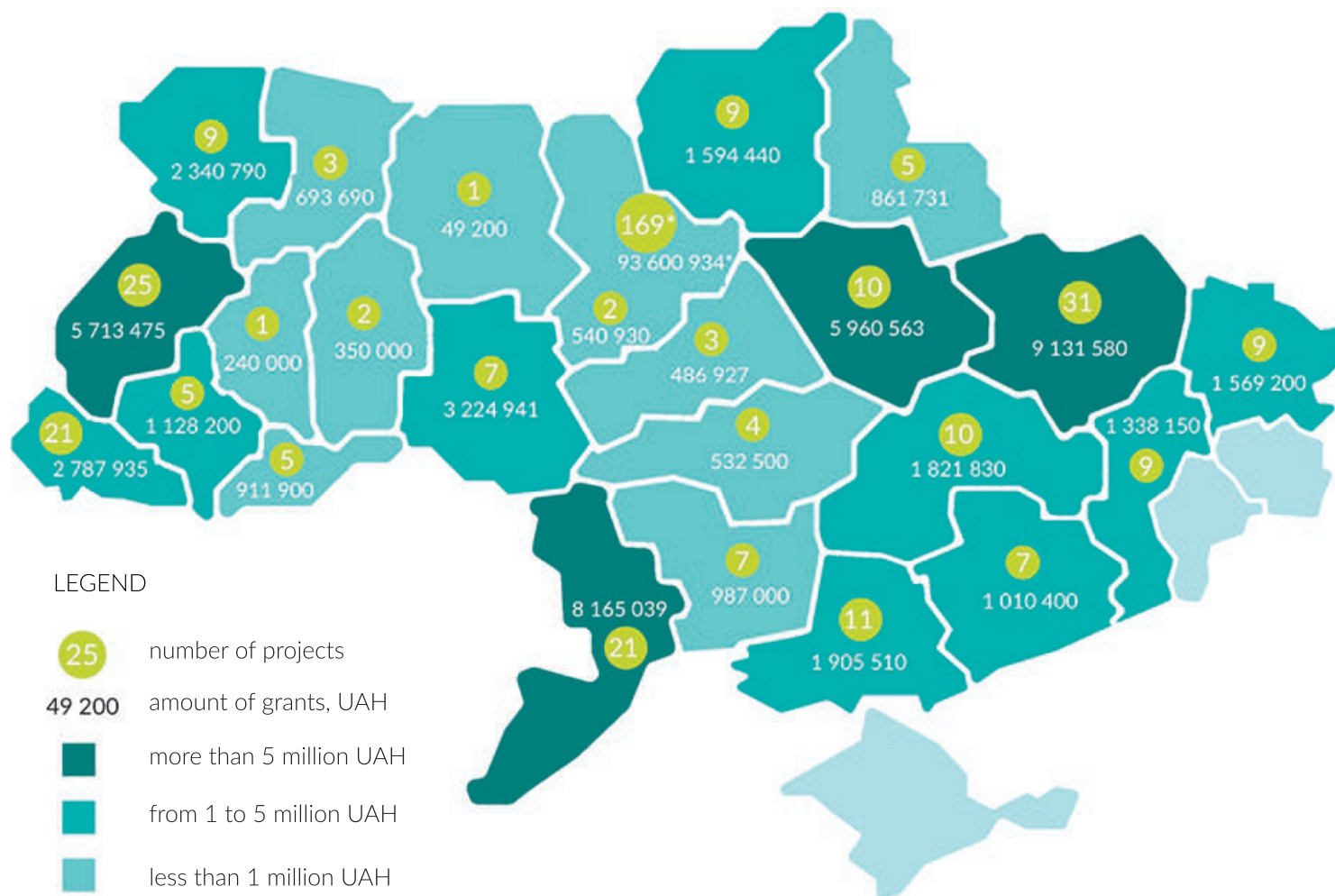
91

number of NGOs supported by the IRF for the first time in 2016

380 691

UAH average grant

PROJECTS BY REGION

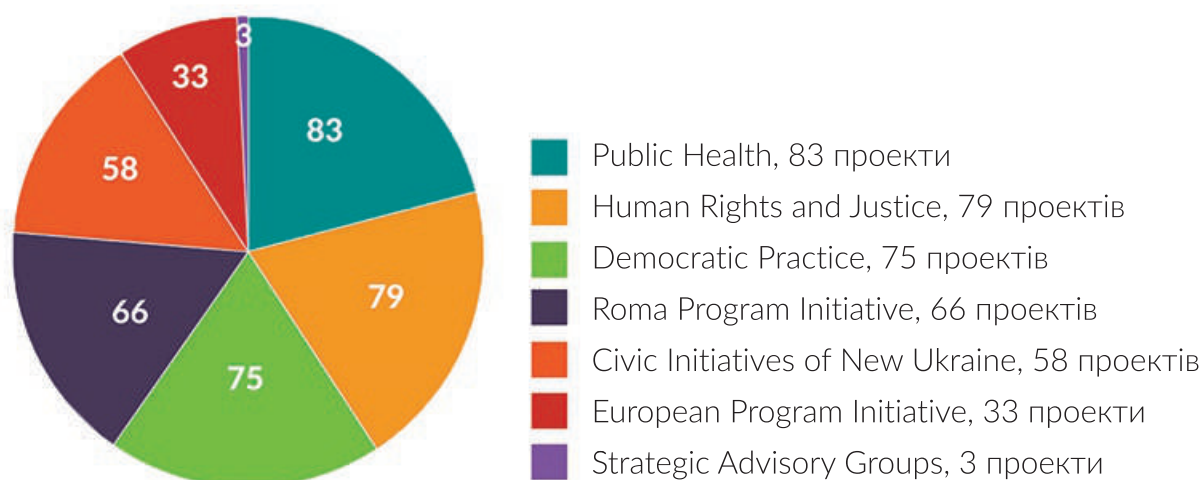


* Majority of projects conducted by Kyiv-based organizations are of the national level

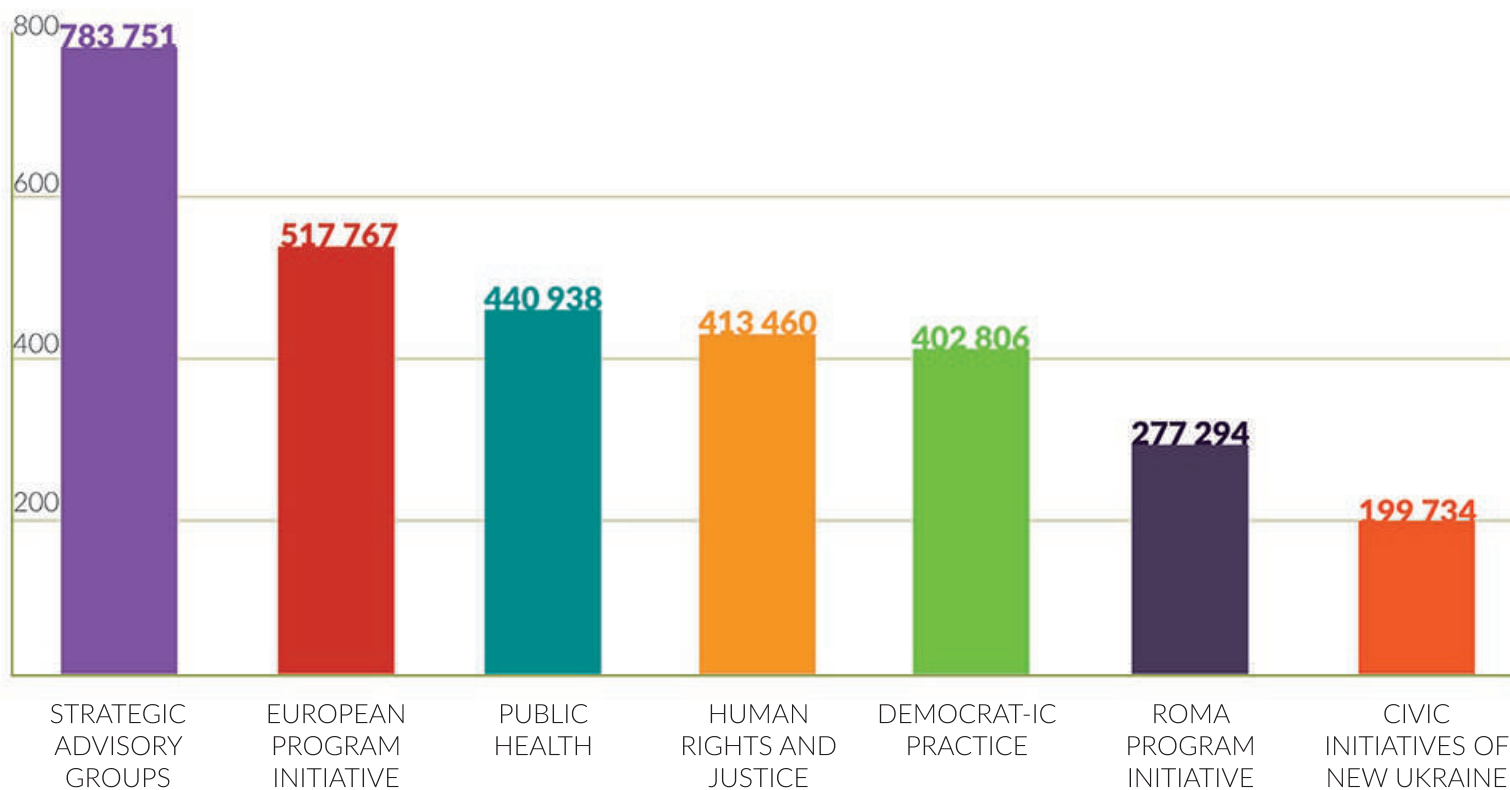
BUDGET OF PROGRAM INITIATIVES, UAH



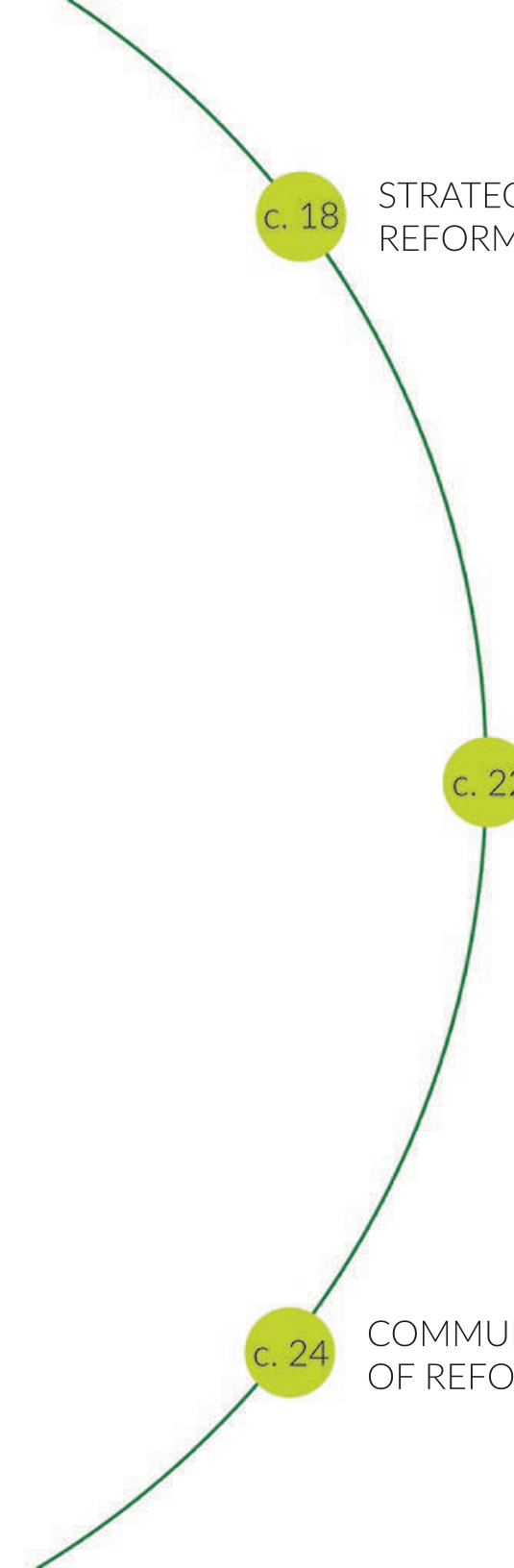
NUMBER OF PROJECTS PER PROGRAM INITIATIVE



AVERAGE GRANT PER PROGRAM INITIATIVE, UAH



**CIVIC PARTICIPATION IN
PUBLIC POLICY-MAKING
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STRATEGIC ADVISORY GROUPS: SUPPORTING REFORMERS IN THE GOVERNMENT

The Foundation seeks to engage committed, recognized, and independent experts in designing and implementing reforms at all levels. Equally important is building constructive cooperation between the public authorities and the civil society that serves as a champion and catalyst of the reforms.



This priority has been pursued through projects of the Strategic Advisory Groups (SAGs). SAGs emerged from an initiative of IRF's founder George Soros. In April 2014 he offered additional assistance to create task forces of experts, who would bring international experience to the post-revolutionary activities of the government.

SAGs started working at the key ministries. The SAGs' work unfolded almost simultaneously with the creation of the National Reform Council (NRC) as a high-level coordination platform for collaboration between the President of Ukraine and the Administration, the cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, the Parliament of Ukraine and the civil society. The NRC idea belongs jointly to George Soros and EBRD and was voiced for

the first time at an international conference on reforms hosted by IRF in July 2014. The SAGs designed proposals for reforms and other public policy documents later submitted to Project Management Offices and Reform Offices acting under NRC, the Cabinet of Ministers, and reform support teams within selected ministries. A significant number of SAG experts, primarily local ones, have collaborated with other reform support projects, including the Reanimation Package of Reforms.

Proposals and models of reforms created within the framework of SAGs based on a fully open and transparent process of public policy-making involved stakeholder consultations, engagement with leading international experts, development and discussion of draft analytical documents as well as civic advocacy. The

SAGs' work played an important role in organizing public debates on the successes, challenges and further steps of reforms.

IRF's three-year support to the work of Strategic Advisory Groups has helped bring together leading NGOs, think tanks and experts in the spheres of combatting corruption, deregulation, decentralization, energy, education, health care, law enforcement, and others. The SAG projects were completed in 2016.

The learning from these projects continues to be operationalized realized in the projects supported by other donors and in the daily work of governmental agencies and other public authorities and stakeholders. Within the recent three years, substantial positive change has occurred in the public debate on reforms. The level of the government's openness to dialogue with stakeholders and the level of engagement of NGOs in the public policy-making have grown considerably. According to a survey by TNS, 27% of respondents – one of the highest – believe that NGOs are the primary drivers of the positive changes in the country.

The most notable achievements of 2016 include the progress of the public administration reform. A new law of Ukraine "On Civil Service" came into effect in May 2016. The Strategy of Public Administration Reform approved in June 2016 sets the foundation for securing the budget support for this reform by the EU. State Secretaries were appointed following selection on a competitive basis. Support for this process was offered within a project implemented by the Center for Political and Legal Reform. IRF also provided assistance to reforms in individual ministries. The NGO Foundation for Reform Support in Ukraine helped to ensure the operation of the Reforms Support Office at the Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine, aimed at promoting the administrative reform within the Ministry of Infrastructure, building a technical office of reforms, performing the functional audit of the Ministry and its subordinate agencies.

The Strategic Advisory Group to the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade worked to assist the Ministry to set up a system of coordination of international aid (Digital Ukraine Association). The goal was to facilitate monitoring and assessment of implementation of internationally-funded projects and exchange of information on the use of international aid between the government and the donors. Another SAG to the Ministry led by NGO "Easy Business" focused on deregulation aimed at improving the investment climate in Ukraine.

The Ministry of Temporarily Occupied Territories and IDPs of Ukraine received expert assistance from a SAG led by the International Center for Policy Studies aimed at helping the Ministry to draft proposals and legislation on reintegration of temporarily occupied territories.

A Strategic Advisory Group led by the DiXi Group think tank worked closely with experts of the Cabinet of Ministers and the Parliament to design and adopt a law introducing an independent and professional regulator in the energy sphere, the National Commission for State Regulation in the Sphere of Energy and Public Utilities.

2016 became a year of massive implementation of the decentralization reform, in particular, the improvement of legislation and establishment of governing bodies in united territorial communities (project implemented by the Institute of Civil Society).

The health care reform caught its second wind. The government approved a series of program documents in the autumn of 2016 which are based on the previous work of the respective SAG. In 2014-2015 the Health SAG experts worked closely with the Ministry of Healthcare and international donors to create an analytical document that laid the foundation for the National Strategy of Healthcare Reform for 2015-2025. At the end of 2015, the government approved two key elements of the National Strategy – a concept of reforming the system of funding for public health and a concept of development of a public health system.

27%

*Ukrainians believe
that NGOs are the
primary drivers of the
positive changes in
the country*

Implementation of the healthcare reforms in the format designed by the Ministry of Health jointly with experts of the Health SAG included the introduction of the mechanism of reimbursement of costs of medicines, improvements in the procurement of medicines, and deregulation of registration of medicines already registered in countries that have strong regulatory systems (the EU, the USA, Japan, the UK). SAG experts also took part in designing a concept of ensuring access to medical services through the creation of hospital districts in the context of decentralization reform.

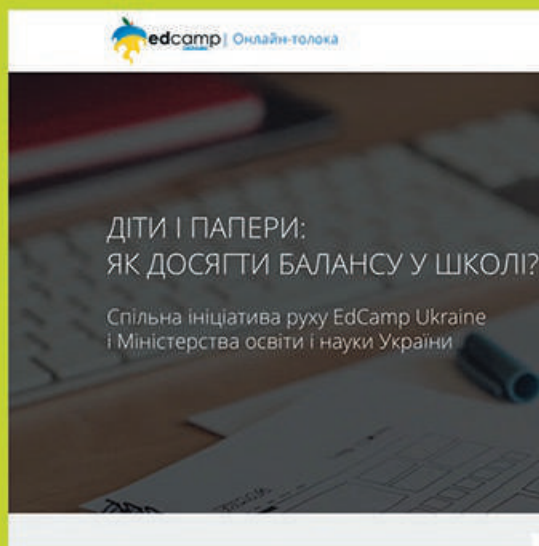
Another important component of the SAG experts' work was assisting the government to introduce earlier proposed reforms. Within the reform of the Ministry of the Interior and the Police, experts of the Kharkiv Human Rights Group developed a new criminal proceedings model for the National Police and tested its effectiveness within a pilot project implemented at the General Department of National Police in Lviv oblast. The advisory group also drafted proposals for relevant amendments to the Criminal Code, the Criminal Code of Practice, the law on the National Police, draft legislation on criminal delinquencies, on detectives, and others. The group

also drafted a concept of informatization of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) and the implementation of some of its particular components for MIA and Central Bodies of Executive Power (CBEP). Among other things, a model of civic control over the MIA performance was introduced.

The education reform was another key priority of this cluster of projects. The Institute for Development of Education drafted a concept and a bill "On Comprehensive Secondary Education" and designed proposals for renewing the syllabus for primary school in order to ease the content, update the materials and introduce the competence-based approach to program design. The Centre for Testing Technologies and Monitoring of Quality of Education brought together the expert community of the Education Policy Portal to perform nine monthly online surveys, nine monthly virtual round tables, Internet discussions on major educational policy issues, and design possible alternatives for developing education as a foundation for future policy decisions. A project "Children and Papers: How to Reach Balance at School?" by EdCamp Ukraine surveyed teachers and administrators of comprehensive schools on the volume of their paperwork and needs to reduce



Foundation continues working on institutionalization of a new culture of public policy-making, proper communication of reforms between all stakeholders and building capacity of independent and professional think tanks to make a considerable contribution to the development of public policies quality



bureaucracy in it. This survey and subsequent open online discussion of its results served as the basis for recommendations regarding ways to optimize the paperwork circulation in the general secondary education system.

Implementation of the SAG projects illustrated the immense importance of communicating reforms as an instrument for forming a new quality of public discussion on further development of public policy. With this objective in mind, the Foundation supported projects aimed at the general change of culture of communication and discussion on reforms (Ukrainian Crisis Media-Centre, PolitEyes project), as well as at discussion of particular reforms with specific target audiences (Internews-Ukraine project for discussing reforms on energy efficiency with the local media).



Having finished its work in the SAG format, the Foundation continues working on institutionalization of a new culture of public policy-making, proper communication of reforms between all stakeholders and building capacity of independent and professional think tanks to make a considerable contribution to the development of public policies quality.





SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDEPENDENT THINK TANKS

IRF introduced the Think Tank Development Initiative (TTDI) in 2014 in partnership with the Think Tank Fund of the Open Society Initiative for Europe (TTF OSIFE) with the financial support of the Sweden Embassy in Ukraine. TTDI is meant to improve the quality and practice of decision-making by the public authorities through improving the level of trust to think tanks and enhancing their role in the process of decision-making.

The think tanks' role in the public policy process can be changed through reinforcing their institutional potential. For that, a self-assessment instrument was created within TTDI for think tanks and NGOs that have an analytical component. The instrument allows to identify the organization's strengths and weaknesses according to seven basic categories, each having a set of indicators and score points. The assessment results gives the organization a "profile" of its stronger and weaker points and becomes the foundation for identifying organizational development objectives.

A report titled "Audit of Minsk Agreements" (in cooperation with OSIFE and the Ukrainian Think Tank Liaison Office in Brussels) was prepared jointly by the Institute of World Policy, Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation, Vox Ukraine, and Donetsk Institute of Information. The report, providing an overview of the Minsk agreements and three possible scenarios of resolving the conflict, was presented in Brussels, Kyiv, and Kramatorsk.

In 2016 eight TTDI think tanks conducted 17 studies jointly with relevant public authorities. These included “Independent Think Tanks and Government Bodies: Partners in Reform Progress or Two Parallel Realities? (Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation), “Crimean-Tatar Autonomy as Part of Ukraine: What Will the New Crimea Be? (Europe Without Barriers), “Issues of Restoring Ukrainian Broadcasting in the Donetsk Oblast” (Donetsk Institute of Information), “Models of Monetizing Subsidies: Time to Choose” (DiXi Group) and discussion notes of the Institute of World Policy on Ukraine’s bilateral relations with key partner states “Ukraine’s Foreign Policy Audit” and “Foreign Policy Audit. Recommendations to the Foreign Policy Strategy”.



PROMETHEUS

In collaboration with the “Prometheus” online education platform, the Foundation supported creation of a series of online courses:



Data Analysis - it includes gathering and processing big data for better decision making. Data analysis uncovers invisible trends and radically improves decision-making in public administration, health care, education, economy, business etc.

Number of students enrolled: 11,776



Data Visualization - course that provides an understanding of data collection and preliminary preparation of data for analysis and visualization of the results. This course teaches how to correctly code data in the visual form.

Number of students enrolled: 13,481.



Machine learning - the course provides detailed information about the sphere, methods, and algorithms of machine learning. Those who pass this course can start solving real tasks in the sphere of data science.

Number of students enrolled: 7,741.



COMMUNICATION OF REFORMS

Ukrainian Crisis Media Centre (UCMC) worked on developing strategic communication which would compensate the lack of resources in other media for preparing quality materials explaining the reforms. UCMC also launched the “Slow Journalism: Complicated Reforms Explained in a Simple Language for People, Who Still Require Information.” UCMC served as the base for a new analytical media centre which follows events that attract the most media attention. The centre also supplies the media and the proactive part of the society with analytical materials that help to have a better understanding and to critically assess public statements of politicians, experts, and officials on implementation of reforms. UCMC also began the project “Communicating Judiciary Reform” designed to highlight the course of the judicial reform and its results, receive feedback from people in regions, and engage representatives of the juridical community and citizens in the implementation process.

The Institute for Economic Research and Political Consultations organized “Dialogue for Trade Facilitation: Preparing Recommendations for Building Capacity for a Public-Private Dialogue on Forming Responsible Trade Policies.” The Institute focused on ways to simplify the trade procedures and deregulation. The research results and other analytical materials were provided to the Government Office for European Integration, the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, and other governmental agencies.

The Kakha Bendukidze Free Economics Centre worked on “Communications Support for the Tax System Reform”, a project aimed at helping effective implementation of the reforms by the Ministry of Finance. The project aims at building awareness and improving perception of these reforms in the public sphere and generating public support for the changes. The idea was to build the capacity in the Ministry

of Finance to communicate reforms and to produce information materials on reform of the State Fiscal Service, Customs, Tax Police, and the taxation system.

The Innovative Democracy Agency created an “Electronic Platform to Facilitate Civic Engagement in Law-Making”. The project strived to strengthen professionalism and responsibility of Ukrainian MPs. The electronic platform allows to regularly publish expert opinions on issues of the legislative processes and to receive a personalized rating of

political factions and MPs regarding the support (and opposition) to key socio-political and economic reforms. The platform aimed at making the debates more professional, involving the society and experts to legislative processes and facilitating participation in public policy-making.

The Foundation also supported a string of other projects aiming at intensifying the reforms, including:

**Kyiv
Post**

Reform Watch, a journalist project of the Media Development Foundation, which provided the English language coverage of reform processes in Ukraine via kyivpost.com web-site and the printed edition of the Kyiv Post newspaper;

**VOX
CHECK**

VoxCheck checks the trustworthiness of statements made by Ukrainian politicians in order to oppose political populism and to encourage more responsible Ukrainian politics and public statements;

ASK

Expert Center for Analysis, Support, and Consulting on Reforms operated as a resource for the government and a source of information for the society about the implementation of reforms. Within the project communications strategies in key reforms areas were created and implemented.





COUNTERING CORRUPTION, INCREASING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF PUBLIC FINANCE

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CIVIC PARTICIPATION IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EXTRACTIVE
INDUSTRIES TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE (EITI)

The Foundation continued to support projects which create effective instruments for fighting corruption and increasing accountability of state bodies to the citizens. The Foundation supported improvement of anti-corruption legislation; implementation of the transparent public procurement system; beneficiary ownership information disclosure; opening access to public registers and budgets; building capacity to use open data; investigative journalism; and involvement of civil experts and community leaders in implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI).

PUBLIC ANTI-CORRUPTION **EXPERTISE** **OF LEGISLATION**

The Foundation supported the work of the Civic Expertise Council under the Parliamentary Committee for Preventing and Countering Corruption. The primary objective of the Civic Expertise Council was to prevent the adoption of ambiguous norms which could create suitable conditions for corrupt infringements of the law. Thanks to the Council's work, the Committee managed to shorten the time necessary to prepare the bills for the review. Most of the recommendations issued by the Council's experts were taken into account by the Committee. None of the bills that had received the Council's negative expert assessment became a law. Despite the colossal strain, legal consultants managed to review the draft bills on time in order to have possibility to improve the drafts before session hearings.

200

bills analyzed

1603

*conclusions on draft bills
produced and submitted to
the Committee by the
Civic Expertise Council*

0

*bills with negative
feedback from the expert
became a law*

75%

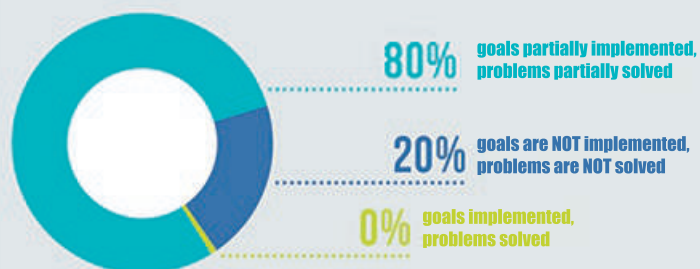
*of the Council's
recommendations were
considered by the
Committee*

INDEPENDENT ANALYSIS OF THE **STATE'S** **ANTI-CORRUPTION POLICY**

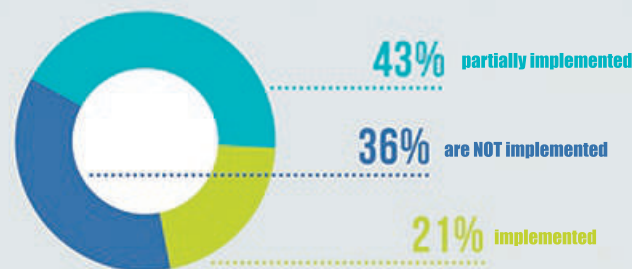
Experts of the Center for Political and Legal Reform, the Transparency International Ukraine, and the Reanimation Package of Reforms analyzed the implementation of the state anticorruption policies in 2016. The findings show that the Anti-Corruption Strategy for 2014-2017 and the State Program for the strategy implementation were only completed at 60%. Most of 44 complex measures from the Anti-Corruption Strategy gave only a partial result, and 78% of the tasks for different bodies of the government, identified by the State Program, were not completed at all.

Only one out of five most important anti-corruption obligations from the Coalition Agreement was fulfilled by the Parliament on time: passing the law on transparent funding for political parties and election campaigns. The government fulfilled less than a half of anti-corruption measures mentioned in the Priority Action Plan for 2016. In particular, it concerns the functionality of the National Agency for Prevention of Corruption (NAPC), detection, search and recovery of assets received from corrupt actions, and functionality of the National Bureau of Investigations (NBI).

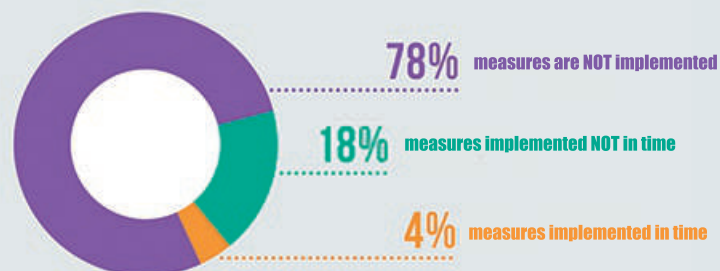
DEGREE OF GOALS IMPLEMENTATION AND PROBLEMS SOLVING DEFINED BY THE ANTI-CORRUPTION STRATEGY FOR 2014-2017



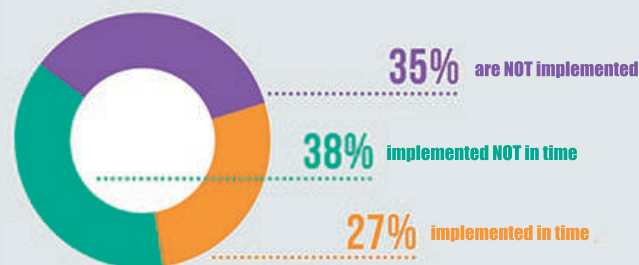
IMPLEMENTATION OF ANTI-CORRUPTION MEASURES DEFINED BY THE ANTI-CORRUPTION STRATEGY



IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURES OF THE STATE PROGRAM ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ANTI-CORRUPTION STRATEGY 2015-2017



IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURES OF THE STATE PROGRAM WITH DEADLINE ON 1 MARCH, 2017



.007 ANALYTICAL SEARCH SYSTEM



A web-portal www.e-data.gov.ua was created by the Ministry of Finances of Ukraine in line with provisions of the law “On Transparency of Use of Public Funds.” To facilitate access to public finance data, IRF supported a project to design and maintain the .007 analytical search engine, a service for searching and visualizing analytical information from the E-Data portal on the use of public funds. The portal is the largest database on public funds in Ukraine and provides public with the simplest effective instrument of controlling the use of taxpayers’ money. It gives access to the Treasury’s database of more than 40 million transactions.

However, the portal does not have additional instruments for searching, visualizing, comparing and promoting the public finance data. The .007 offers a solution by enabling the use of a variety of search criteria (context, names of operators and beneficiaries, geography, types of services, etc.) as well as the function to build infographics showing how the funds move between counteragents according to transactions and electronic procurement deals. The .007 system received the IT nomination from the Studway Awards 2016.

SUPPORTING PROZORRO PUBLIC E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM

The pilot stage of ProZorro was completed in 2016. Starting from August 1, 2016 when the law “On Public Procurement” came into force the switch to the ProZorro system became mandatory for all state clients. The quantity of tenders in the system has already surpassed the 200,000 mark. Over 10,000 clients have joined the system. An average bid gets 2.62 offers. The system has already saved UAH 3.87 billion of public funds.

The Foundation supported ProZorro since the system’s early days and continued to do so throughout 2016. With support of the Foundation, Transparency International Ukraine helped the country, clients, businesses, and civil society to move to the new system of public procurement, increase the level of trust in public procurement, and strengthen competition. Transparency International Ukraine and ProZorro built an expert center for training ProZorro users.

165

trainings for over 9,000 clients from business and civil society organizations

16

ProZorro agents trained to deliver professional aid, consultations, and to teach clients how to use the online public procurement system

900

regional trainers prepared to serve as “ProZorro agents” to provide professional assistance and advice to local clients

25%

recommendations of the Commission of Appeal on pre-threshold procurement deals were taken into account in favor of the plaintiffs



prozorro
ПУБЛІЧНІ ЗАКУПІВЛІ

IT SERVICES FOR COUNTERACTING GRAND CORRUPTION **IN THE INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT**

With support of the IRF 1991 Open Data Incubator and the Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine organized a hackathon that produced five innovative projects aimed at ensuring transparent processes of administrating Ukraine's infrastructure. The services are expected to help to improve the interaction between the authorities and the public. They include:



BI Bot

a service that shows connections and business analytics in the sphere of public finances



8 KOLO

a system for monitoring the railroads rolling stock



Smart Country

a service for controlling the quality of customer service by top managers of state-owned companies



7 Red Lines

a service that generates a systemic solution aiming evidential database founded on big data and used for conducting investigations



E-ticket

at improving the effectiveness of tickets sales from the Ukrainian Railways, Ukrzaliznytsia

IMPROVING PUBLIC REGISTERS FOR MORE EFFECTIVE USE OF THE DATA TO COUNTER CORRUPTION

Institute for Regional Press Development and the NGO Chancellery Hundred analyzed the State Register of Real Estate Property Rights to identify problems in the Register's work and recommend solutions for fixing them. The NGOs analyzed 83,844 records in four groups of Register and surveyed 50 users.

The analysis looked at:

- ▶ Ease of use;
- ▶ Information openness (level if completeness of the Register);
- ▶ Conformity to the legislation.



TRANSPARENT “**PARTY CASH**” AND ACCOUNTABLE FINANCING OF POLITICAL PARTIES

The “Party Cash” web portal was launched in 2016 to uncover funding sources of political parties. Thanks to the portal anyone can find out about sponsors of various political parties as well as to see how political parties were spending public funds. 53% of countries worldwide already have similar web portals. The site contains information about political parties, top news and analysis on political parties, and a “Report Corruption” tab. The website presents data on income, expenditures, assets and liabilities of six political parties represented in the Parliament and thirty political parties represented in regional councils and regional centers. The monitoring of their financial reports was performed by the NGO Eidos.



6 political parties analyzed (Opposition Block, National Front, Samopomich, Petro Poroshenko Block, Solidarity, Batkivshchyna, and Oleg Liashko Radical Party)



500 violations of the law detected



10 inquiries submitted to National Agency for Prevention of Corruption



Most frequent violations: funding provided by foreigners, deliberate lowering of expenses on office rent and salaries for employees, concealing parts of expenses, late reporting, failure to open bank accounts



Партійна Каса

SUPPORT FOR INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM

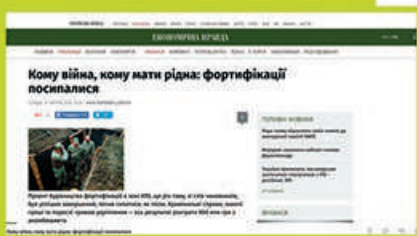
Anti-corruption journalist investigations have considerable social resonance and serve as an effective instrument for alerting the public attention about possible facts of corruption. Such investigations help uncover corruption schemes and prevent opportunities for further abuse. After the broadcast of the TV program “Our Money with Denys Bihus”, the Higher Commercial Court annulled privatization of two buildings of the Ministry of Education and Science in Kyiv downtown area. Anti-monopoly Committee of Ukraine imposed 431 million UAH worth fines on the tobacco monopolist. Special Anti-corruption Prosecutor’s Office (SAP) investigated illegal enrichment of a deputy chief of investigative directorate in Kyiv. More effective investigations are to follow.



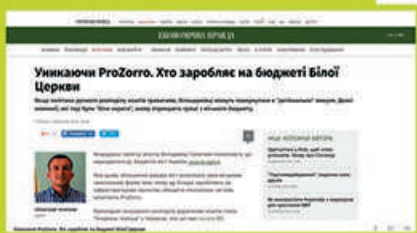
investigations by NGOs, including NGO Lviv Group (<http://lviv.nashigroshi.org/>), NGO Bureau (Dnipro) (<http://buroua.com/>), Centre for Local Self-governance, Our Money TV (<https://bihus.info/projects/nasi-grosi-tv>), Data Journalism Agency (<http://texty.org.ua>)



Investigative reporting by the NGO Bureau triggered a criminal investigation on overpricing of the construction materials for reconstruction of pedestrian areas in Dnipro, journalist materials were attached to the case.



After the Center for Local Self-Governance’s investigation “Someone’s War, Another one’s Mother: Crumbled” which highlighted the poor construction of fortifications in the anti-terrorist operation zone, the State Audit Service announced additional checks of the expenses reported by the Zaporizhia region’s Department for Capital Construction.



Following the investigation “Evading ProZorro. Who Profits from the Bila Tserkva Budget?” on the allocation of budget funds in Bila Tserkva produced by the Center for Local Self-governance, the Prosecutor’s Office started two criminal investigations with one more check is still being in process.

DEVELOPMENT OF **LOCAL** ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVES

The Foundation worked with the regional authorities and NGOs to support a number of projects aimed at applying public oversight mechanisms to counter corruption in Odessa oblast. Projects included 52 anti-corruption investigations; results of 22 journalist investigations were published; results of 12 anti-corruption expert reviews were submitted to the regional authorities, the Parliamentary committees, the National Anti-corruption Bureau, and the State Regulatory Service. Materials from nine investigations were submitted to the courts and law enforcement agencies.

Anti-corruption initiatives also developed in Western Ukraine. The results were presented at the Anti-corruption Forum in Drohobych. The Forum inspired further anti-corruption actions in a number of areas, including accountable use of public funds and transparency of land and property use. These mechanisms can be used by the civil society and local authorities in other regions of Ukraine. The resolution of the Forum features recommendations for the anti-corruption strategy of the Lviv oblast.

CIVIC PARTICIPATION IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES **TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE (EITI)**

With its multi-billion annual turnover, Ukraine's extractive industry is vulnerable to high corruption risks. It can serve as a source of shadow funds that can be used for corruption, and, therefore, requires change. For the past decade, the Foundation has been active in empowering civil society activists as extractive industry transparency experts, attracting the media attention to the sphere, supporting the development of the regulatory and legal framework and advocated it in different governmental bodies.

Ukraine received the official status of the candidate country of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in 2013. EITI is an independent, internationally and voluntarily supported standard of transparency which is now implemented in 48 countries. When Ukraine took on responsibility for implementing the EITI Standards, the public pressure enabled the disclosure of information on licensing the exploration and transportation of natural resources on the territory of Ukraine. The EITI commitments introduced mandatory audit of payments by extractive companies and amounts of incomes received from to the sector by the local and national budgets.

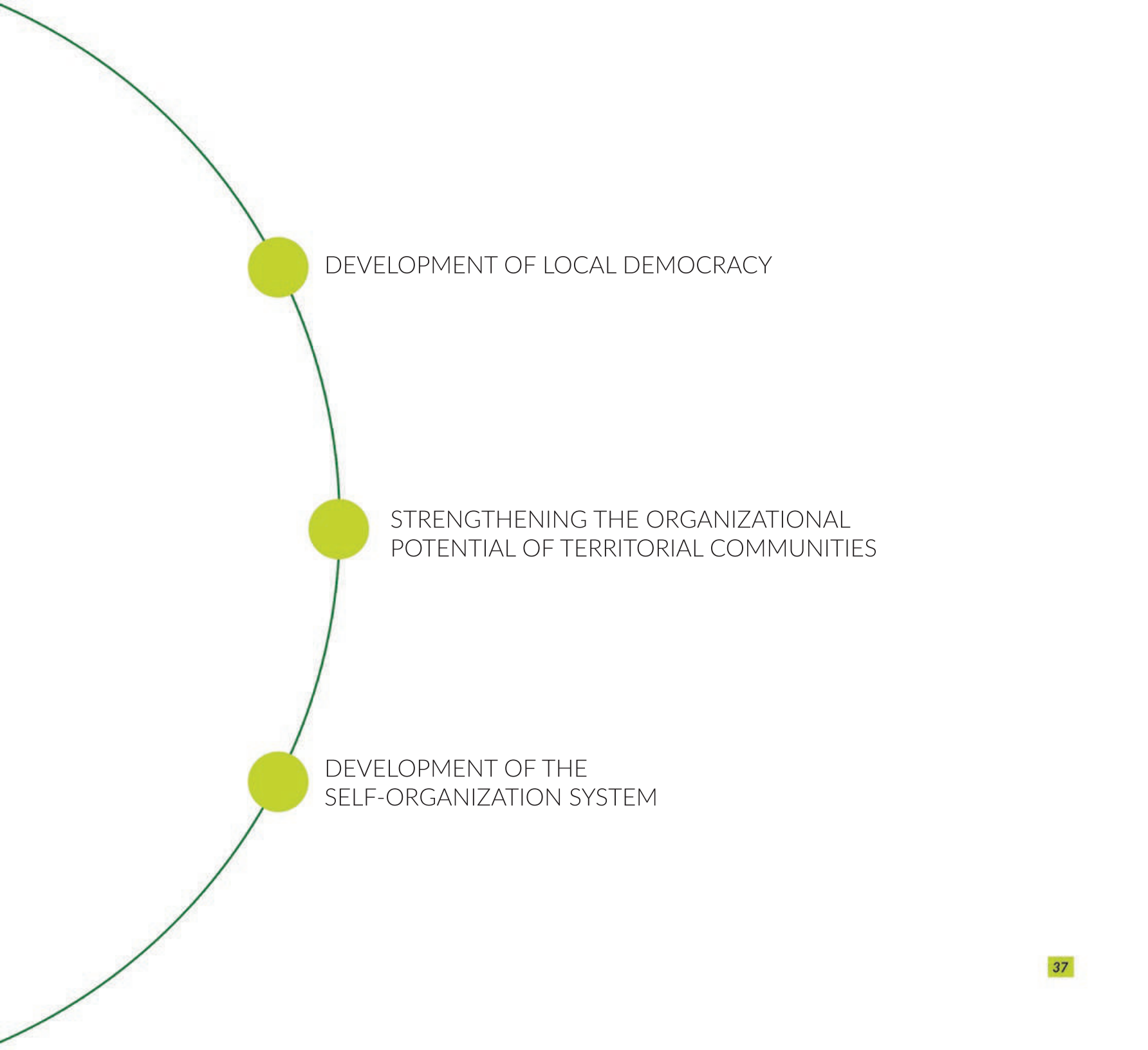
Ukraine also became the first country to make the register of beneficiary owners public. The country is preparing to pass a bill on enhancing transparency in the extractive spheres that was drafted with the help of IRF.

Ukraine's second report on the implementation of EITI (for 2014-2015) was prepared by experts for a public presentation. The report highlighted Ukraine's progress in implementing EITI and the role of extractive industries in country's economy. The report also supplies information on the stock and volumes of coal mining, oil, iron, manganese, and titanium ore. The first validation of Ukraine's compliance with the EITI will be done in July 2017. The next milestone is for Ukraine to receive the EITI implementing country status.

Ukraine has become a leader in the EITI implementation in the Eurasia region and can serve as an example for implementing best practices in transparency of extractive industries, in particular in terms of the civil society's influence on the process. This effort works to establish Ukraine as a good-governance country.



CONTRIBUTING TO THE DECENTRALIZATION REFORM



DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL DEMOCRACY

STRENGTHENING THE ORGANIZATIONAL
POTENTIAL OF TERRITORIAL COMMUNITIES

DEVELOPMENT OF THE
SELF-ORGANIZATION SYSTEM



Decentralization and development of local democracy are among the Foundation's key priorities. Since 2010 we have provided support for designing this reform. However, only after the Revolution of Dignity the society finally had an opportunity to begin a democratic territorial reform aimed at breaking the monopoly of the central powers. Beyond that, the decentralization process boosts public activity and stimulates the territorial community members to personally participate in addressing local issues and developing the population's self-organization system. Hence, the Foundation supported civic initiatives aimed at strengthening the organizational potential of territorial communities so that they would be able to self-govern in practice.

The Foundation continued to support these activities in 2016. Particularly, the IRF supported the further implementation of the laws "On Voluntary Amalgamation of Territorial Communities" and "On Cooperation of Territorial Communities." These bills provide direct participation of citizens in the processes of amalgamation and cooperation of territorial communities. As territorial communities amalgamate, there is a need to develop a system of people's self-organization bodies in communities. IRF's support for such entities will contribute to the implementation of the National Strategy to facilitate the development of civil society in Ukraine for 2016-2020. To foster the development and

ownership of the traditions of citizen's direct participation at the local level, the Foundation supported projects aimed at capacity building in territorial communities of cities, and villages.

The Foundation also helped to establish the Regional Network of Resource Centers aimed at development of self-organization and local democracy. The Centers provide assistance to territorial communities in developing their strategies, charters, and local procedures directed at increasing transparency and quality of self-government. In 2016, the Network united 12 centers across Ukraine.



at least

20

*statutes of territorial
communities were
developed*

at least

2000

*people participated in
specialized trainings on using
instruments of local
democracy*

The Centers took on drafting, public discussions and advocacy of the newly-formed amalgamated territorial communities' strategic documents. Long-term and mid-term strategies for development in the respective united territorial communities were developed in 11 regions of Ukraine. All of the project's communities approved such Strategies by decisions of local councils. The practical implementation process is under way.

With IRF's support, the Ukrainian Association for Assisting Self-Organization of the Population studied the results of the first elections of the community heads ("elders"), analyzed the regulation under which they operate, and produced recommendations that were taken into account during the revision of the draft bill on "elders" status. The study looked into the role of the self-organization in the system of governance of an amalgamated community and the cluster approach to the community development as the way for achieving their economic growth. The experience of using electronic petitions in the regional centers of Ukraine was also analyzed.

The XI International Conference on people's self-organization in Odesa brought together civic leaders and experts from Ukraine, Italy, Georgia, Belarus, Poland, Estonia, the USA, and representatives of local and national authorities. The conference was organized by the

Association for Community Self-Organization Assistance and Odessa Institute for Social Technologies in conjunction with the European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA). The conference featured a presentation of findings of a cross-regional research on the public participation in the amalgamation processes and development of territorial communities. This complex cross-regional study covered 46 communities in Volyn, Dnipro, Lviv, Luhansk, Mykolaiv, and Odesa oblasts. The study looked into three types of territorial communities: already amalgamated (20), those planning to amalgamate (12), and those that had tried to amalgamate but failed (14).

According to the study results 78.8% of respondents reported on active public discussions in their communities regarding the amalgamation. The primary arguments for unification were a bigger budget and the prospect of improvement of social services, as well as a chance to become a richer community. The research conclusions were summarized in an Analytical Report, as part of a project on "Social Dialogue for Developing Communities in Ukraine in the Context of the Decentralization Reform.



CONTRIBUTING TO THE HEALTHCARE REFORM

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SUPPORT FOR THE CREATION AND IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE NATIONAL ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST

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ESTABLISHING THE PUBLIC HEALTH CARE CENTRE AT
THE MINISTRY OF HEALTHCARE OF UKRAINE

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TRANSPARENT PUBLIC PROCUREMENT
OF MEDICINES IN 2016-2017

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PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON AVAILABILITY
OF MEDICINES IN HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

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BUILDING A SYSTEM OF REIMBURSING
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OPEN REPORTING ON THE HEALTHCARE
BUDGETS BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES

c. 47

HEALTH INDEX: INTRODUCING PUBLIC
ASSESSMENT OF MEDICAL AID IN UKRAINE



In 2016, the Foundation focused on promoting the inclusion of the public health approach into the systemic health care reform. Other areas of focus included the improvement of access to necessary treatment through the primarily healthcare arrangements, and promoting the models of accountable health financing at national and regional levels. These initiatives enabled the firm inclusion of human rights in the approach to the health care reform.

The Foundation worked on the implementation and protection of the key achievements of the Health Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) and patients' rights NGOs. This work expedited the transfer of public procurement of medicines to be administered by international organizations which resulted in saving of 40% of the budget funds in the first year alone.

The Foundation helped to simplify requirements for the state registrations of medicines already registered in the EU. That helped remove numerous bureaucratic barriers and improved access to medicines for Ukrainian patients. The Foundation also helped to create a system of reimbursement of the costs of the medicines included in the National Essential Medicines List. We supported the SAG experts working with the Ministry of Health to develop a concept for securing access to medical services through creating hospital districts within the decentralization reform.

SUPPORT FOR THE CREATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE **NATIONAL ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST**

With the joint support from the IRF and the Medicine and Law charity fund, the Expert committee developed a new methodology and designed the National Essential Medicines List. This National List is expected to serve as the basis for public procurement of medicines at the national and regional levels. Based on the results delivered by the Expert committee, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine passed two regulations: on the reimbursement and on regulation of primary medicines prices.

ESTABLISHING THE **PUBLIC HEALTH CARE CENTRE** AT THE MINISTRY OF HEALTHCARE OF UKRAINE

Within the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, Ukraine committed to optimize the public health system. The entire public health sphere is to undergo re-orientation from the control function (which bears corruption risks) to prevention aiming at preventing health problems and promoting healthy lifestyles. This objective will be pursued by the Public Health Care Center established under the Ministry of Health Care of Ukraine. IRF supported the creation of the Center as a new structural and functional element in Ukraine's health care system at the national and regional levels.

80 Ukrainian, Lithuanian, Romanian, and Polish healthcare professionals gathered for the III Summer School "Transformation of Health Care System: Eastern Europe 2016" in order to rediscover effective solutions under the current conditions and resources of health care. The summer school is an education and information platform for health care managers. This platform is designed to stimulate the process of reforms in Eastern European countries and takes into account the particular needs and conditions of the region. Following the example of the Lugano Summer School in Switzerland, the Ukrainian platform for learning and exchanging experience was founded by the Health Care School of the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and the Ukrainian-Swiss program "Mother's and Child's Health." The School became possible with the financial support of the Swiss Cooperation Bureau in Ukraine and the UNICEF, later joined by the IRF and PACT/ USAID.

TRANSPARENT PUBLIC **PROCUREMENT** **OF MEDICINES** IN 2016-2017

With support of IRF, the Patients of Ukraine charity fund ensured constant public control over transparency, accountability, and effectiveness of the use of budget funds in health care. Thanks to the joint efforts of reformers in the Ministry of Health of Ukraine and a civic campaign, the functions of the public procurement of medicines were temporarily transferred from the Ministry to international organizations. The patients' rights organizations ensured close monitoring of the procurement process.

2 197 214 793 **UAH**

Overall amount allocated for public procurement of medicines through international organizations: children's and adult oncology, children's and adult hepatitis, children's hemophilia etc.

800 000 000 **\$**

of 2015 budget funds allocated for procurement of medicines were saved in 2016

BUILDING A SYSTEM OF **REIMBURSING THE COST** OF MEDICINES TO PATIENTS

In 2016 civic experts joined efforts with the Ministry of Health to develop a concept of compensating the cost of medicines for primary ailments for three treatment programs (hypertension, type 2 diabetes, and bronchial asthma). The concept was approved in 2016, and the start of reimbursement began in 2017. The compensation (reimbursement) of the costs of medicines that are on the National List is a necessary step towards long-term systemic changes in the sphere of state provision of access to medicines.

500

UAH million allocated to reimbursement in the 2017 budget

CONCEPT

based on the experience of eight European countries

350

UAH million allocated for medicines to treat cardiovascular disease

100

UAH million allocated for medicines against type 2 diabetes

THE MONEY

can be re-distributed between different groups of patients with different health conditions

50

UAH million allocated for medicines to treat bronchial asthma



PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON **AVAILABILITY** **OF MEDICINES IN HEALTHCARE FACILITIES**

An important aspect of reforming the healthcare system is the need to improve the availability and quality of medical aid through designing and introducing a minimal package of free essential medicines. This has been made possible with the new model of providing first medical aid.

Every year the government allocates funds for public procurement of medicines but because of unscrupulous doctors and corruption schemes the free medicines have not been accessible for patients.

Re-selling medicines bought by the state to the patients has become a common practice. Today, civil activists' efforts resulted in opening of the medicines lists procured by the state and available in the Odesa regional hospitals. From now on any patient in Odesa and Odesa oblast can see the list of medicines which are procured with either the national or local budget funds. The lists are published at the web-site: liky.odessa.ua.



Thousands of Ukrainians die without medicines due to corruption schemes in the hospitals. The state procures the medicines, but almost no patient receives any of those medicines. There is only one reason for that: year after year, the medicines bought by the state with the budget funds are re-sold. Thanks to the political will and the IRF support, it was possible to make the medicines lists (liky.odessa.ua) public in Odesa and the oblast. These meds are available at every hospital of the region. This initiative enables any patient to access the web-site, check the availability of the needed medicines in his or her hospital and demand them from the doctor. We went a long way from the idea to the result, which overpowers corruption at hospitals. More than 20 thousand dwellers of Odesa region have already used this resource and the experience of Odesa is expanding to other regions of Ukraine. In the near future we are planning to launch the web-site covering the entire Ukraine called "E-meds"

OLHA STEFANYSHYNA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CHARITABLE FOUNDATION 'PATIENTS OF UKRAINE'

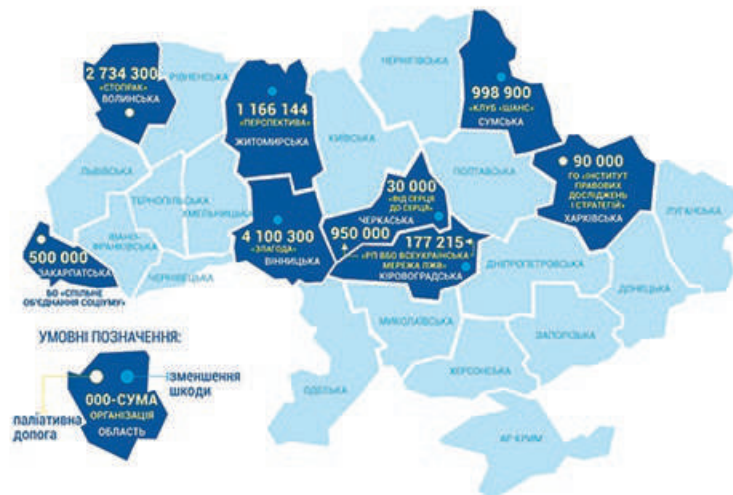
OPEN REPORTING ON THE HEALTHCARE BUDGETS **BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

The healthcare reform presupposes the introduction of accountability mechanisms in the financing of the health care system. The Foundation supported the development of the public society's capacity to partake in shaping health care policies and corresponding budgets and also to perform budget monitoring and introduce accountable use of the public funds.

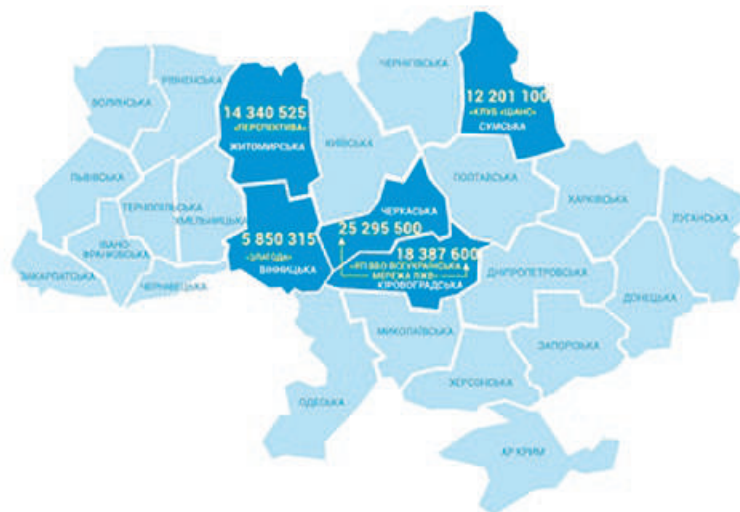
With IRF's support a network of patient NGOs has run a public campaign since 2014 for open reporting of the local authorities regarding the process of allocating budgets to the health care sphere. The experience of Poltava, Sumy, Vinnytsia, and Cherkasy oblasts proved the effectiveness of public participation in the planning of local budgets. This activity continued throughout 2015 in Chernihiv, Cherkasy, Volyn, Lviv, Sumy, Vinnytsia, Kharkiv, Kirovohrad, Luhansk, and Donetsk oblasts.

As a result of the social accountability approach and the mechanisms of accountable planning and use of the budget funds (such as “open budgets”), NGOs managed to join the health care planning process and track the spending. This enabled effective budget advocacy for the programs of mitigating harm and palliative care.

HARM REDUCTION AND PALLIATIVE CARE



FIGHTING HIV/AIDS



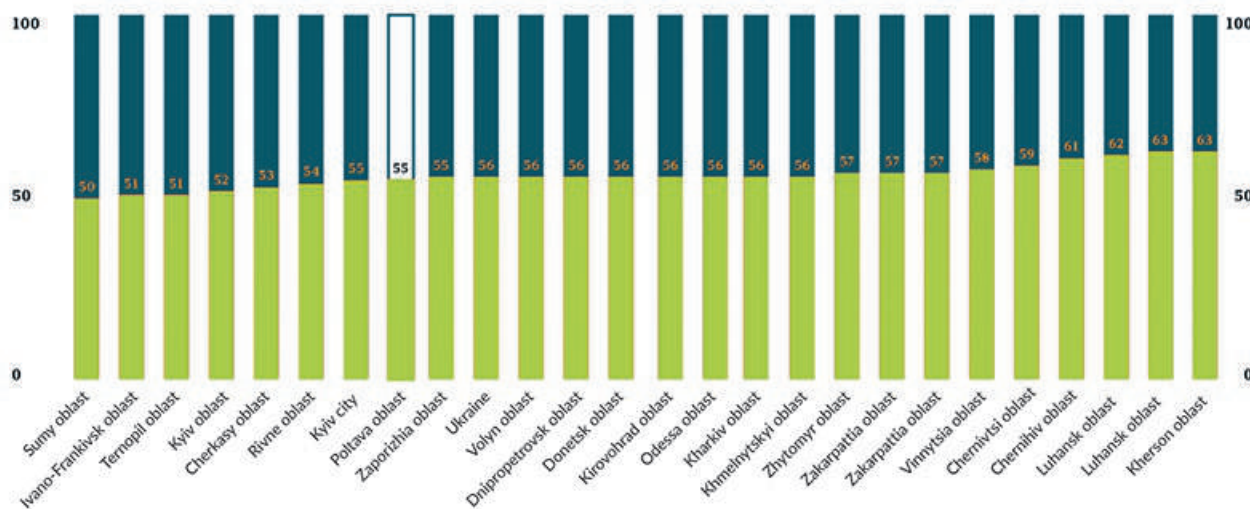
HEALTH INDEX: INTRODUCING PUBLIC ASSESSMENT OF MEDICAL AID IN UKRAINE

The Health Index. Ukraine project was created by the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology (KIIS) in cooperation with the Social Indicators Center and the IRF. The project was based on a sociological survey of 10,000 Ukrainian families. The research strived to determine the attitude of citizens towards the health care system, their behavior in case of illness, and the level of their understanding of the health risk factors. The results of the survey were grouped into five blocks: satisfaction with the health care, seeking help from a doctor and prevention of illnesses, expenses on medical aid and medicines, knowledge about health and healthy behavior, self-evaluation of the health condition. The Foundation was inspired by the Euro Health Consumer Index (EHCI) which compares the EU countries' health care systems and determines the best way for their development, as well as by the Canadian experience of conducting similar research.

The Index is a tool designed to help health care officials, managers and those who shape health policies at the national, regional, and municipal levels to assess the influence of the health care reform on patients and the public. The Health Index. Ukraine is a quality source of data, which complements management instruments in the regions. The information gathered through the survey allows a better understanding of the situation in a specific region, comparing it with the situations in other regions and the national indicators. It also encourages sharing of learning between the regions. We expect that local communities will use the provided information actively in the dialogue with the authorities for the sake of positive changes.



HEALTH INDEX BY REGIONS IN 2016





SUPPORT TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT REFORM



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STRATEGY OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN REFORMING
THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

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REFORMING THE TEMPORARY DETENTION FACILITIES
TO PREVENT HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE IN CONFINEMENT

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COMMUNITY POLICING

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ENSURING QUALITY AND AVAILABILITY
OF THE UNPAID LEGAL AID

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DEVELOPMENT OF A NETWORK
OF LEGAL CLINICS

STRATEGY OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN REFORMING THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS



Supporting the MIA reform is an important direction for the Foundation's activity. The reform started with the creation of the MIA Development Strategy. Civil society, Ukrainian and international experts were involved in the process. The government approved the document in October, 2014. "Reforming MIA: Transparency and Responsibility" platform was formed to facilitate implementation of the Strategy. The platform included nine working groups: from analysts and developers of legal documents to communication experts and HR specialists. Various components of the MIA Reform Action Plan were developed and implemented by almost 150 experts with the support of the EU Advisory Mission and the IRF.

COMMUNITY POLICING



The new law of Ukraine "On the Police" and an in-depth research of the level of integrity in the operation of the National Police opened new opportunities for ensuring high quality public safety. In 2016 the IRF supported a number of NGOs in Vinnytsia, Kovel, Chernihiv, Kharkiv, Kyiv, Stryi, Sambir, Trostyanets, Mykolaiv, Rubizhne, and Kamyranets-Podilsky to start shaping models of cooperation with the police that would contribute to the change of working approaches. Safety in the communities requires common responsibility and cooperation between the police, self-government and the citizens. Specifically, new instruments and forms of community policing involve collaborative identification of local safety and law enforcement priorities.

REFORMING THE TEMPORARY DETENTION FACILITIES TO PREVENT HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE IN CONFINEMENT

The National Police of Ukraine presented its new Human Rights Protection Office in 2016. Earlier on, the IRF supported the management of the National Police of Ukraine in studying the international experience, in particular, that of the UK. The main function of the Office is to control the adherence to the human rights in places of non-freedom, including temporary detention facilities (TDF). The IRF was directly involved in reforming the TDFs.

Two years ago the Foundation launched an in-depth study into the adherence to human rights under the conditions of police detention and arrest. Experts worked for a month in district police quarters in different regions of Ukraine, noting everything that was happening there. The research results gave grounds for a dialogue and further cooperation of the MIA leadership, the National Police, and the public human rights activists.

In partnership with the National Police of Ukraine, the Human Rights Expert Centre, the Ukrainian Legal Aid Foundation, the Kharkiv and Lviv Regional State Administrations with the support of the Foundation, working procedures are being changed at the level of Kyiv TDFs. These changes include the introduction of electronic custody records instead of paper journals, providing full access to the information on the detainees in real time (video surveillance included). A new format of informing a detainee of his/her rights during the first contact with the policeman was also introduced. Together with the National Police of Ukraine, the project experts identified indicators for assessing the impact of the new system of oversight over ensuring the detainees' rights. Pilot projects have been launched in early 2017 in Kharkiv oblast (ensuring that detainees are informed immediately about their rights), Kyiv and Lviv oblasts (introduction of the electronic protocols covering TDF work).



НАЦІОНАЛЬНА
ПОЛІЦІЯ

УПРАВЛІННЯ ЗАБЕЗПЕЧЕННЯ
ПРАВ ЛЮДИНИ

ENSURING QUALITY AND AVAILABILITY OF THE **UNPAID LEGAL AID**

In 2006 the IRF started working with the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine on developing a system of unpaid legal aid that would be in action from the moment of detention. The system was designed to work in the 24/7 mode. Today IRF strives to build a nation-wide network in Ukraine that would provide for the legal needs of the population in local communities and take into account special needs of the vulnerable groups. To achieve that the Foundation supported the expansion of access to primary legal aid in territorial communities, development of mechanisms for alternative dispute resolution, and the development and implementation of a certification study program for paralegals.

A state-run system of providing unpaid secondary legal aid in civil and administrative cases became operational in Ukraine in mid-2015. 100 local legal aid centers were opened in all regions of Ukraine.

In 2016 the IRF supported 36 NGOs from 20 regions of Ukraine to implement projects aimed at the integration of primary and secondary unpaid legal aid. The quality and timeliness of provision of unpaid legal consultations depend primarily on the ability of the civic sector and the state institutions to cooperate, search for new and innovative ways to expand the legal empowerment spectrum for Ukrainians. To achieve that objective, IRF and the Quality and Accessible Legal Aid project funded by the Government of Canada ran a competition to select the organizations to facilitate the integration of different providers of legal services in their communities.



36 NGOs from 20 regions of Ukraine engaged in integration of primary and secondary unpaid legal aid;



Primary legal aid includes: explanation of procedures, providing consultations and explanations on legal matters; writing appeals, complaints and other legal documents (except for procedural documents);



Secondary legal aid includes: legal defence and representation of interests of individuals in courts, other state bodies, local self-government, in relations with other individuals; and drafting of documents of procedural nature;



The “community empowerment” concept presumes that people, including socially vulnerable, are able to apply law in search of specific solutions to their daily legal issues, as well as to enhance accountability and responsibility of the authorities

Within the next three years IRF in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice, the Coordinating Center for Unpaid Legal Aid, the Legal Development Network, and the Ukrainian Legal Aid Foundation plans to transform the Coordinating Center for Unpaid Legal Aid into an independent structure that would be able to assess the needs and measure the impact of legal services, and to provide grants to local NGOs. With the help of methodological recommendations and advocacy arrangements we plan to assist local communities in drafting and adopting effective programs of legal education for the population, developing safe neighborhoods, and providing primary legal aid. A pilot study and certification program for community-based paralegals began in 2016.

DEVELOPMENT OF A NETWORK OF **LEGAL CLINICS**

In 2016, legal clinics - which we see as an instrument for providing unpaid legal aid - marked their 20th anniversary of operation in Ukraine. The Association of Legal Clinics of Ukraine is at the helm of coordinating the work of the network, supporting its activity, and promoting the development of the legal clinics' education and pursuit of their academic and educational programs. Nowadays, the Association is comprised of 2,000 teachers and students, who provide over 10,000 consultations per year and run 1,000 street law classes for 30,000 Ukrainian teenagers. Throughout the years of their work, members of the Association have adopted the best international approaches to teaching legal defense and legal education for law students. The positive experience of the Ukrainian community of legal clinics has been analyzed and described in numerous dissertations in law and pedagogics. The Association includes 56 legal clinics as its members.

With the donor support the Online House of Justice, a portal of online services, became operational in Ukraine in 2016. The Online House of Justice makes it possible to receive a copy of the birth certificate, the certificate for marriage, the change of name or of other document in just a couple of days. This service makes public services simple and easily accessible. IRF supports a number of other initiatives aimed at simplifying access to the justice system, including the "Legal Space" portal and the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union.



**Association of
Legal Clinics
of Ukraine**

**EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AND
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
FOR CATALYZING REFORMS IN
UKRAINE**

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WITH THE EU IN THE ENERGY SECTOR

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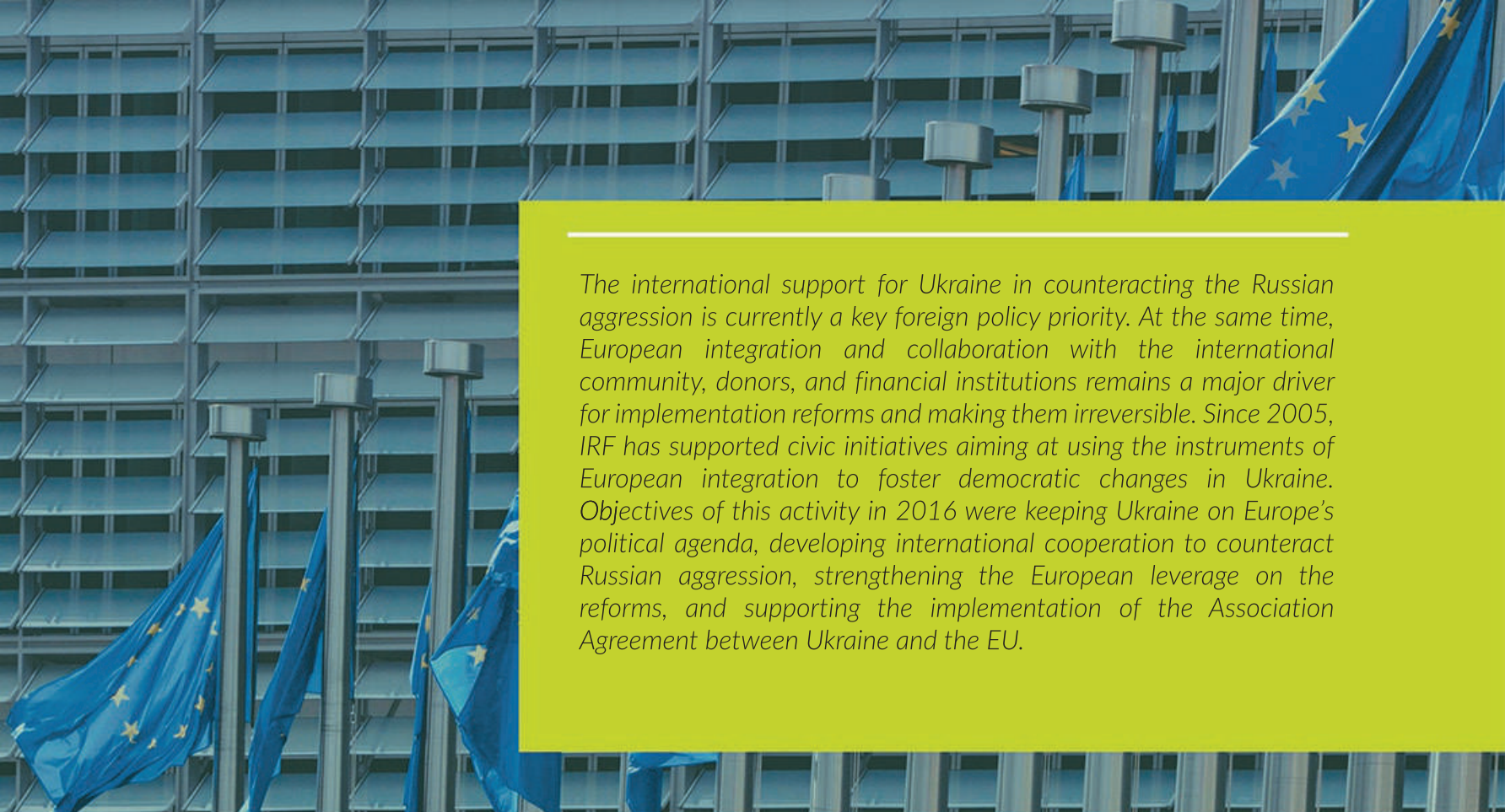
MONITORING THE VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL
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"CIVIL SYNERGY": PRO-EUROPEAN
CIVIL SOCIETY PLATFORMS

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INTERNATIONAL EXPERT COLLABORATION



The international support for Ukraine in counteracting the Russian aggression is currently a key foreign policy priority. At the same time, European integration and collaboration with the international community, donors, and financial institutions remains a major driver for implementation reforms and making them irreversible. Since 2005, IRF has supported civic initiatives aiming at using the instruments of European integration to foster democratic changes in Ukraine. Objectives of this activity in 2016 were keeping Ukraine on Europe's political agenda, developing international cooperation to counteract Russian aggression, strengthening the European leverage on the reforms, and supporting the implementation of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU.

COUNTERACTING **RUSSIAN PROPAGANDA** **AND DISINFORMATION** ABOUT UKRAINE ABROAD

In 2016, the Foundation supported the independent public media outlet “Euromaidan Press” (www.euromaidanpress.com), which had emerged during the Euromaidan. The online publication gives anyone an opportunity to write and translate into English and German languages information about events, stories, and trends in Ukraine and the neighboring countries. This web resource also runs information campaigns in the social media (e.g. attracts international attention to the Ukrainian

political prisoners in Russia), analyzes and explains primary narratives of the Russian propaganda, facilitates networking and highlights actions of pro-Ukrainian activists in Europe and around the world, as well as informs the public of the activities of the far-right and far-left forces directed against Ukraine's European integration efforts. The work is based on analyzing public information and prioritizes regular publication of materials abroad.

We supported the initiative of the Odessa civic group “2nd of May” which had investigated the May 2nd, 2014, events in Odessa and produced a documentary “Odessa Tragedy: the Bloody Trace of the ‘Russian Spring’”. In 2016, the film was provided with the voice-over and subtitles in several European languages to make it assessable for foreign audiences.



In 2016, IRF supported the DocuDays UA International Human Rights Documentary Festival visit to five European countries: France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and Greece. The “See Ukraine: DocuDays On Tour” project (<http://seeukraine.org>) brought documentaries and photo exhibitions, organized meetings with Ukrainian film-makers, lectures and discussions with civic activists and human rights defenders who provided the background to the situations shown in the documentaries and offered more information about Ukraine.



COMPLETING THE RATIFICATION OF THE EU-UKRAINE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT

In the spring of 2016, a consultative referendum regarding the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU took place in the Netherlands. Before the referendum, IRF supported a number of initiatives aimed at making the Ukrainian expert and public voices heard by the Dutch audience. This support enabled Ukrainian experts to take part in the debates on Ukraine in the Netherlands, and gave an opportunity for Dutch media and opinion leaders to visit Ukraine with press tours in order to bring unbiased information about Ukraine to the Dutch people. Other NGO initiatives included a series of articles and infographics on the benefits of the Association Agreement for the Netherlands, a nation-wide survey in Ukraine was conducted to inform the

Dutch civil society on voting expectations, information campaigns to engage Dutch LGBT organizations, environmentalists and the youth.

Despite unfavorable results of the consulting Dutch referendum in April 2016, all of our supported initiatives had a positive effect on increasing awareness on Ukraine and contributed to dispelling the myths of the Russian propaganda in the Netherlands. In the long run, those efforts might have had an indirect positive effect on the final decisions by both chambers of the Dutch Parliament when it voted on the ratification of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU in 2017.

MONITORING THE COMPLIANCE WITH KEY **POLITICAL PRIORITIES** OF THE EU-UKRAINE ASSOCIATION

In collaboration with the network partners of the Foundation, the Open Society Policy Institute (OSEPI - Brussels) and the Open Society Initiative for Europe (OSIFE), leading Ukrainian experts prepared a series of reports on the three spheres that are the priorities of the Association with the EU: the judiciary reform, non-discrimination, and anti-corruption.

According to their conclusion, while the success of Ukrainian reforms is noticeable, they cannot be regarded irreversible yet. The confrontation between the proponents of changes and the defenders of the status-quo continues.

The experts noted a number of important achievements in the above mentioned areas, including the amendments to the anti-discrimination legislation; the launch of the e-declaration system; the launch of the National Anti-corruption Bureau of Ukraine; the transfer of public procurement to online system ProZorro; the launch of the judiciary reform, based on amendments to the Constitution; the reboot of the Supreme Court and the voluntary resignation of 2,000 out of the 7,000 judges of the old judiciary system. Ukraine managed to achieve these victories thanks to the cooperation with the European Union, the International Monetary Fund, and other international partners.

The experts identified the following priorities for 2017:



Fighting corruption: ensuring sustainability of the electronic declarations system for civil servants and the launch of the e-declaration verification system; ensuring procedural capacity of NABU to carry out independent investigations; establishing independent anti-corruption courts with the participation of international partners.



Judiciary reform: ensuring transparent selection of independent and honest judges to the new Supreme Court; preparing a competitive selection of judges at lower levels to fill available vacancies.



Fighting discrimination: providing effective mechanisms of appeal, compensation and penalty in cases of discrimination; putting in practice the respective measures envisaged by the governmental action plan for the implementation of the National Human Rights Strategy till 2020.

These assessments and recommendations were presented in Brussels in January and March 2017 to representatives of the European Parliament, the Eastern Europe and Central Asia Task Force at the EU Council, members of the Support Group for Ukraine at the European Commission, advisors to European Commissioners, the European External Action Service staff, and representatives of other organizations. The documents were well received by the audience. The expert reports have been published at the European Parliament's website.

ADVANCING THE **VISA-FREE REGIME** BETWEEN UKRAINE AND THE EU

Starting in 2010, with IRF's support an NGO Europe Without Barriers conducted monitoring and advocacy of Ukraine's compliance with the commitments necessary for an introduction of visa-free travel to the EU. In order to accelerate the last steps in this long-lasting process, in 2016 IRF continued to support initiatives that ensured constant attention to the numerous problematic issues related to meeting the visa-free criteria. The focus was on providing public commentaries on the statements by politicians and organizing discussions before the respective voting in the Parliament.

In parallel, closed-door consultations were organized with European expert missions and institutions of the EU. A study of migration challenges from Ukraine in the case of introduction of a visa-free regime was performed; the results were presented in Brussels and Berlin by a group of Ukrainian experts (Europe Without Barriers; CEDOS think tank, Reanimation Package of Reforms, and the Europeiska Pravda web-media). The Foundation also supported public appeals by Ukrainian civil society experts for accelerating the visa liberalization process as well as their non-public consultations with the EU institutions

Such an active and unanimous position of the Ukrainian civil society played its role in the approval of the decision by the European parliament in spring of 2017 to remove visa requirements for short-term trips of Ukrainian citizens to the countries of the Schengen Area.

Nevertheless it should be remembered that after visa-free is in place the EU is to introduce post-monitoring mechanism aimed at ensuring that reforms undertaken in Ukraine for fulfilling the visa-free criteria are in place and working. The introduction of such a mechanism was supported by Ukrainian civil society experts who see it as yet another guarantee for ensuring irreversible reforms.



EXPERT SUPPORT FOR THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION INSTITUTIONS IN THE PARLIAMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE

During first two years after the Association Agreement was signed in 2014, the Parliament of Ukraine has passed about 70 laws aimed at fulfillment and implementation of the respective reforms. However, a massive load of draft bills have been submitted to the Parliament. According to Parliament's Procedures, the Parliamentary Committee for European Integration is to provide its conclusions on the draft bills, mostly initiated by MPs and focusing on economic and regulatory policy issues. Therefore, the Committee required expert assistance in performing analysis of those legislative initiatives and communicating the issues that contradict the EU legislation and the Association Agreement.

At the Committee's request, an independent Parliamentary Expert Group (PEG) initiated by the Open Society Foundation provided expert conclusions on 200 draft bills submitted by members of the Parliament. Experts also provided their conclusion on draft amendments to the Parliament's Regulation Procedure and produced their own proposals for the amendments designed to improve the mechanism of bringing the Ukrainian legislation closer to that of the EU.

UKRAINE'S ENERGY DIPLOMACY AND INTEGRATION WITH THE EU IN THE ENERGY SECTOR

The Foundation supported the development and publication of the Energy Diplomacy Strategy, which offers a systemic perspective on ways to increase Ukraine's presence in the world's regional energy markets. The document is addressed to the state authorities in order to help identify pressing and realistic objectives of modern energy diplomacy. The publication was produced in collaboration with over 25 Ukrainian and foreign energy experts. The effort involved 7 public expert discussions focused on different geographic regions. With the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, 21 embassies of Ukraine abroad were involved in the discussion. The result was an in-depth analysis of the energy sphere at global and regional levels. The analysis identified the key tasks

for the Ukrainian diplomacy in the two-way cooperation with the important players and international institutions. The publication outlined scenarios for Ukraine's policy regarding its positioning in the energy market and analyzed other countries' experience of coordinating their external energy policies.

Since the energy diplomacy influences the development beyond the energy sphere and affects the country as a whole, experts proposed establishing a new institution, a Special Commissioner of Ukraine for International Energy Issues with a mandate to coordinate the work of all relevant agencies and key state companies in the implementation of Ukraine's energy policy.



The Foundation also continued to support the monitoring work by the DiXi Group on Ukraine's compliance with its obligations within the Energy Community. Monthly monitoring reports, public and working discussions in the "civil society – business – government" format, and a dialogue with European experts and institutions facilitated the reforms in the Ukrainian energy sector and helped raise awareness among stakeholders on the essence and rationale of the EU legislation in the spheres of energy, energy efficiency and the environment, all of which Ukraine has to implement. A video was prepared to explain the essence of Ukraine's obligations and increase of energy tariffs.



An international energy conference organized by the Kyiv Energy Research Institute with the IRF's support in April 2016 focused on energy reform in Ukraine in the context of integration of the Ukrainian energy systems and markets with those of the EU. The conference served as a professional communication platform that brought together about 150 Ukrainian and international experts in the sphere, including Ukrainian and the EU officials, representatives of the European Commission and the Energy Community Secretariat, leading energy companies, international organizations, energy consulting groups, and independent experts from Ukraine, the Visegrad countries, Romania, Moldova, Germany, and other European countries.

MONITORING THE **VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL SANCTIONS** ON THE TERRITORY OF CRIMEA

Currently, the sanctions imposed on the Russian Federation by the USA, Canada, and the EU, together with some legislative acts of Ukraine in response to the annexation of Crimea, constitute the only effective mechanism of pressure on the aggressor country. However, there is a lack of effective control of compliance with the sanctions, therefore the number of breaches keeps growing. A charitable foundation “Maidan of Foreign Affairs” ran a project designed to alert the Ukrainian society and authorities to the cases of breach of the international sanctions imposed of Russia after the annexation of the Crimea. The monitoring of the violation of sanctions focuses on such areas: (1) maritime shipping; (2) civil aviation; (3) investment projects; (4) Russian enterprises engaged in schemes aimed at bypassing the sanctions; and (5) tourism and visits by foreign nationals.

The monitoring data indicates that sanctions do work and hurt the perpetrators of the annexation. While only 40% of the ships entering the ports of the annexed Crimea in early 2014 were Russian, the number increased to 90% by early 2017. An example of cooperation between Ukrainian maritime border guards and the project team was the detention and arrest of the perpetrator ship “SKY MOON” on Danube river on November 30, 2016. The violations are recorded at www.blackseanews.net. The perpetrator ships listed in the Blackseanews.net database were included in the international database of problematic ships, moderated by a key international employment portal for sailors, the Seafarers Journal. The project shares its findings with diplomats in the EU, and the institutions in Brussels in charge of shaping and monitoring the EU sanction policy

Areas of monitoring sanctions



maritime shipping



civil aviation



investment projects



Russian enterprises engaged in schemes aimed at bypassing the sanctions



tourism and visits by foreign nationals

“CIVIC SYNERGY”: PRO-EUROPEAN CIVIL SOCIETY PLATFORMS

Effective implementation of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, the pursuit of the Eastern Partnership goals and fulfillment of the European integration reforms demand active and systematic engagement of the civil society. Nowadays, there are two institutionally defined mechanisms for coordinated civic participation: the Ukrainian National Platform of the Civil Society Forum of the Eastern Partnership (EP CSF) and the Ukrainian Side of the Ukraine-EU Civil Society Platform (US UCSP).

The Civic Synergy: Increasing Public Participation in the European Integration Reforms through the US UCSP and EP CSF was launched by the IRF's European Program Initiative with the financial support from the EU in 2016. The three-year project is designed to build capacity and effectiveness of the two Platforms.

Based on an independent evaluation of the two Platforms, the project launched processes of strategic planning; opened a dedicated office to serve as a working meeting hub for the Platforms' members; established the Platforms' permanent secretariats; organized a number of working and public institutional events, including the meeting of the bilateral Ukraine-EU Civil Society Platform in Kyiv on November 8-9, 2016, the Annual National Conference of the Ukrainian National Platform of the Civil Society Forum of Eastern Partnership on November 11-12, 2016. The project also serves as a facilitator of dialogues between the Platforms and the governmental agencies. A call for grant proposals for the Platforms' member organizations was launched. The project is expected to strengthen the Platforms' performance in analysis, advocacy, and information dissemination and contribute to their ability to influence policies and coordinate their efforts to enhance the visibility and effectiveness of the civil society in the European integration field.



INTERNATIONAL EXPERT COLLABORATION

The Foundation supported numerous expert initiatives aimed at improving the direct communication between Ukrainian civic experts and European institutions, experts and the opinion leaders in the the key EU member states on the status and priorities of reforms in Ukraine, challenges caused by the Russian aggression, and the EU's instruments to support Ukraine. The participation of Ukrainian experts in various events in the EU countries allowed to present Ukrainian positions and advocate for the increased attention to Ukraine as an EU's external policy priority.



IRF supports the Ukrainian Think Tanks Liaison Office in Brussels (<http://ukraine-office.eu>), a platform consolidating efforts to promote reforms and European integration of Ukraine through communication, advocacy, and building partnerships between think tanks of Ukraine and the EU. In early 2016, the Office held the first Ukrainian Laboratory in Brussels - Ideas Fair to Support Reforms in Ukraine. The Fair reconvened in early 2017 as a traditional annual event. The Ukrainian Laboratory in Brussels gathers about 100 participants from Ukraine and many countries of the EU. The

participants include leading Ukrainian think tanks, most influential European think tanks, donors and foundations, consulting campaigns, governmental agencies, academic and business communities. Discussions focus on priorities of reforms on the EU-Ukraine agenda, identify research project needs, and search for project implementation partners.

In October, 2016, before the Normandy Format summit in Berlin and the session of the European Council that

addressed the issues of continuing the EU sanctions on Russia, four Ukrainian think tanks and the Office presented a joint report in Brussels, “Not So Quiet on the Eastern Front: An Audit of the Minsk Agreements and Ukraine’s Reintegration Options”. The report presented the Ukrainian experts’ view on trends in the public opinion on the future of the Minsk agreements, and the scenario of reintegration of the occupied territories in the East of Ukraine. In cooperation with the Stefan Batory Foundation (Poland), IRF supports the Ukraine-Poland Forum, founded in 2012 to bring together politicians, experts, civic activists, and opinion leaders of the two countries with the aim to exchange ideas and views for better understanding of situations in both countries and foster bilateral relations.



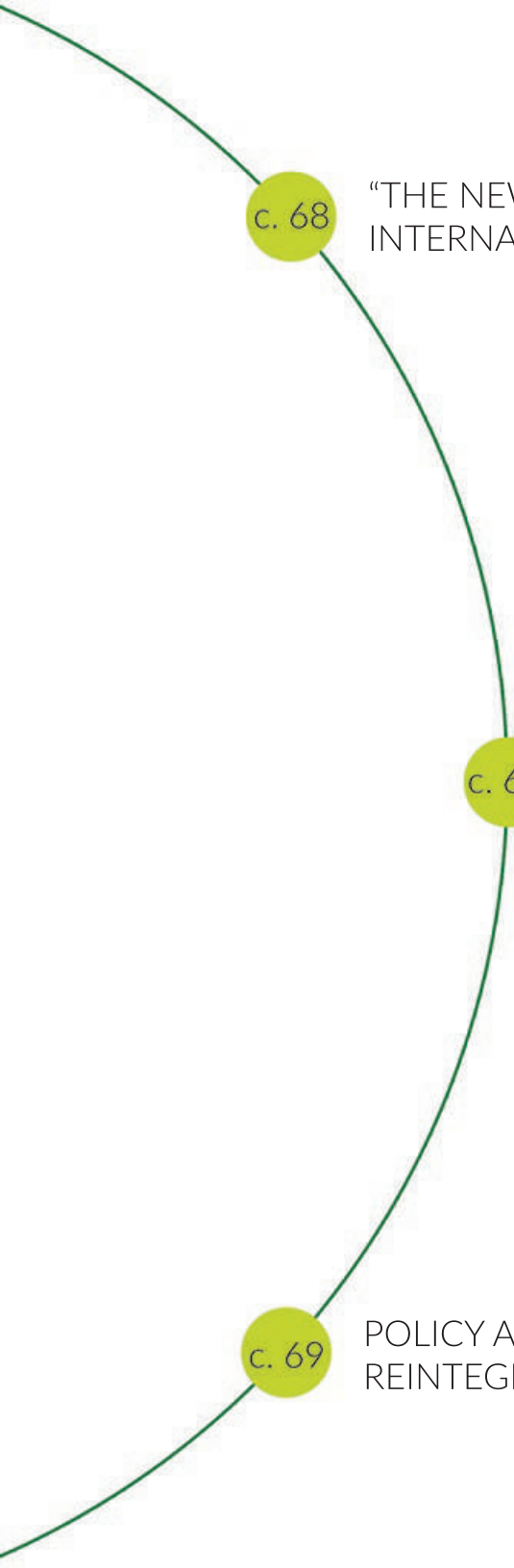
The 2016 Forum in Kyiv hosted a conference “Poland – 2016: Home and Foreign Policy Trends”, aiming at reviewing new tendencies of Polish internal and external policies after the arrival of the new Law and Justice Party to government in 2015. A conference in Warsaw, “Ukraine: Building a Modern Identity”, focused on the Ukrainians’ pursuit of their self-identification as a modern political nation in the context of the recent changes, the Revolution of Dignity, and the Russian aggression. Special

attention was dedicated to the evolution of views on history and historic memory of Ukrainians and the ways of finding understanding regarding the memory politics of Ukraine and Poland.

In cooperation with the European Exchange and with support of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ukrainian-German Kyiv Dialogue initiative (<http://www.kiev-dialogue.org>) continued its efforts to foster the development of mutual understanding and cooperation between Ukrainian and German experts, civic activists, and opinion leaders. The 12th Annual International Conference of Kyiv Dialogue, “New vs. Old: Ukraine in the Process of Transformation”, addressed the Ukrainian discourse in Germany after the Revolution of Dignity, the transformation of Ukraine’s political system, the pressing challenges, successes and failures of reforms in Ukraine, the decentralization reform, and the situation on the temporarily occupied and liberated areas. With the support of the German MFA, the Kyiv Dialogue organized a youth project to deliver a series of trainings and workshops at schools and universities of Kharkiv, Dnipro, Odesa, and Ivano-Frankivsk, and a study visit of the most active participants to Kyiv. The activities sought to contribute to the increasing interest of the Ukrainian youth in political processes and civic engagement of the youth.



**SUPPORTING MUTUAL
UNDERSTANDING,
RECONCILIATION, AND
REINTEGRATION OF PEOPLE
AFFECTED BY THE WAR IN
THE DONBAS**



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“THE NEW COUNTDOWN”: BUSINESS INCUBATOR FOR
INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS AND ATO VETERANS

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SUPPORTING THE SOCIAL
ADAPTATION OF VETERANS

c. 69

POLICY ADVOCACY AND STRATEGY FOR THE
REINTEGRATION OF THE OCCUPIED CRIMEA

The Foundation's strategic priorities include supporting civic activism aimed at facilitating positive change and contributing to the dialogue, renewal of trust, mutual understanding, and fostering social cohesion in the communities and, in particular, among the groups of people affected by the war in the Donbas and the occupation of the Crimea. The Foundation supported a number of communication and cultural projects that sought to contribute to the de-escalation of the conflict, engaging the youth, artists, education specialists, associations of displaced universities, and development of local public spaces for creative work and collaboration.



“THE NEW COUNTDOWN”: BUSINESS INCUBATOR FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS AND ATO VETERANS

The Foundation supported “The New Countdown” project that developed into a successful business incubator model that united efforts of internally displaced persons (IDPs), veterans of the Anti-terrorist operation (ATO), local businesses, and concerned volunteers. The project's partners in the regions were four NGOs: the Crimean Diaspora (Kyiv), the Business People Club (Lviv), the Impact Hub Odessa and the Private Employers Association (Kharkiv).

Thanks to “The New Countdown”, 440 IDPs, former ATO soldiers and members of their families took part in complex business courses, received accounting and legal consultations as well as assistance and advice from the local business communities.

Based on successful presentation of their 67 graduates of “The New Countdown” received funding for starting or restoring their own businesses, creating new jobs for themselves and their families. With the micro businesses supported before, “The New Countdown” community has grown to 150 small enterprises.

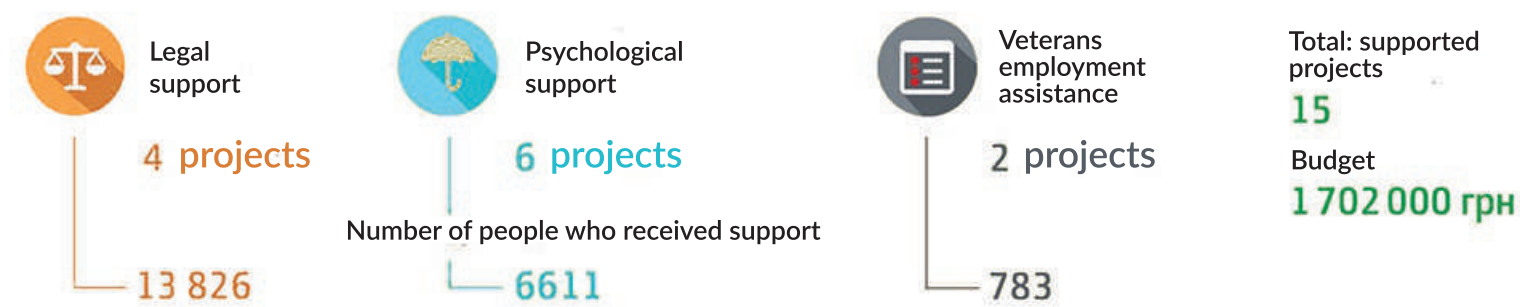
In 2016, “The New Countdown” was included in the Kharkiv regional program for facilitating the development of small and medium enterprise. Thus, the project will continue with the resources made available by the local community.



SUPPORTING THE SOCIAL **ADAPTATION OF VETERANS**

Many initiatives supported by the Foundation in 2016 were implemented within the track of “Facilitating Social Adaptation of ATO Soldiers”. The Foundation joined resources with other donors and volunteers to provide legal consultations to more than 13,000 ATO veterans and their families on the acquiring the “participant of combat operations” status, receiving public benefits, psychological assistance, and consultations on starting a business. The project helped to design models of cooperation with municipal authorities in addressing the veterans’ immediate needs, including entitlements to plots of land, and social and psychological adaptation of veterans.

We supported an NGO Legal Hundred to run a free-call emergency helpline. The NGO served as the foundation for further effective partnerships aimed at providing unpaid legal aid the veterans. This partnership currently includes 70 partner NGOs across Ukraine and coordinates a nation-wide network of 200 lawyers.



POLICY ADVOCACY AND STRATEGY FOR THE **REINTEGRATION OF THE OCCUPIED CRIMEA**

The Ukrainian Centre for Independent Political Research (UCIPR), in cooperation with the Ministry of Information Policy and a wide circle of professionals drafted a State Strategy for Information Reintegration of Crimea, organized public discussion and advocacy at the Ministry of Information Policy. Another UCIPR project supported by IRF produced the white paper “Crimea After the Annexation. State Policy: Challenges, Decisions and

Actions” focusing on the temporarily occupied Crimean peninsula. The document offers ways of policy implementation in spheres of culture, education, ethno-national relations, social-economic issues, property rights, and information policy.





DEFENDING THE HUMAN RIGHTS

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INTERNATIONAL HYBRID JUSTICE
MECHANISM IN TIME OF THE CONFLICT

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COUNTERING DISCRIMINATION AT THE WORKPLACE:
UKRAINIAN CORPORATE EQUALITY INDEX

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OF THE NATIONAL PREVENTIVE MECHANISM

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NON-DISCRIMINATORY
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ENSURING ACCESS TO CONTINUOUS
TREATMENT IN PLACES OF NON-FREEDOM



Fostering the adherence to human rights and shaping a proper justice system based on the rule of law is an overarching priority for the IRF. In 2016, IRF's support for civic initiatives in this sphere focused on two key themes: (1) justice reform and the rule of law; (2) countering all forms of discrimination, including the reduction of the number of cases of violation of rights of vulnerable patients, through improving their access to legal aid. The Foundation and its civil society partners built the work on the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM), the implementation of the World Health Organization's resolution on palliative care (including the development of the children's palliative care), and advocacy for decriminalization of drug addicted.

INTERNATIONAL HYBRID JUSTICE MECHANISM IN TIME OF THE CONFLICT

Within this strategic priority, the Foundation and partner organizations worked on ensuring the inevitability of penalty for crimes against humanity and war crimes through creation and temporary implementation of a hybrid justice mechanism with the participation of foreign experts. The use of such mechanism is particularly relevant in the situation when the unreformed national justice system is unable to counter the impunity for grave crimes.

In order to prevent impunity for particularly grave crimes through the development and implementation of an international element into the justice system, the Foundation supported monitoring and documentation of human rights violations and international crimes; advocacy for the ratification of the Rome Statute; designing a “hybrid” mechanism to involve foreign professionals for investigating cases of corruption, war crimes, and crimes against humanity; facilitating communication of Ukrainian NGOs with the International Criminal Court (ICC) regarding the possible perpetration of war crimes and crimes against humanity during the events of the Maidan, the armed conflict in the East of Ukraine, and the annexation of Crimea.

In 2015, 17 organizations united into a coalition “Justice for Peace in the Donbas” to document cases of human rights abuse during the armed conflict. In 2016, the Coalition produced a monitoring report on the facts of gross human rights violations, including illegal detention in the armed conflict zone in the East of Ukraine. The report “Surviving the Hell: Testimony of Victims on Places of Illegal Detention in Donbas” was presented in several regions of Ukraine. The Coalition created a website with an easy-to-use form for notification of human rights violations, a list of organizations that provide legal, humanitarian, psychological, medical, and social aid; and an interactive map that shows places and types of the perpetrated violations.

In the recent years Ukraine has been facing the need to investigate and punish crimes against humanity committed during the Euromaidan, the war crimes and massive violations of human rights during the armed conflict in the East of the country, and the occupation of Crimea. However, the justice system cannot be effective if changes are segmented, and the system’s various elements have different capacity. Objective court hearing is a necessary final element of any prosecution.



A number of Ukrainian experts, including representatives of the IRF, the Reanimation Package of Reforms, and the Human Rights Agenda Platform, initiated a wide public discussion of opportunities for effective international assistance involvement in order to strengthen the Ukrainian justice system. International experts were invited to Ukraine to bring in their experience of practical implementation of a “hybrid justice mechanism” that would allow foreign experts to work together with investigators, detectives, public prosecutors, and judges of the national judiciary bodies. The experts were: Carlos Castresana, first Commissioner of the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala (2007 to 2010); Isabel Reig, who was involved in creating specialized public prosecutor's offices on human rights violation in Mexico and Bahrain; Eric Vitti, former external relations advisor to the President of the International Criminal Court and former political advisor of the Prosecutor General of the Special Court in Sierra-Leone; and Christian De Vos, who researched multiple country experiences of dealing with international crimes.

In October 2016, documented evidence of massive and systemic crimes against civilians during the Euromaidan was submitted to the International Criminal Court. An official cover letter to The Hague was signed at a press conference by Markiyan Halabala, a lawyer of the Heavenly Hundred (the civic activists killed by the government in the Maidan), the IRF's



Human Rights and Justice Program Director Roman Romanov. For two years, the Foundation has coordinated the efforts of 13 NGOs and volunteer groups that gathered and summarized the data and made the first submission to the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC in January 2015. Later on, the Office of Prosecutor General of Ukraine also submitted an official case to The Hague. Since then, within the preliminary review and assessment of whether the crimes committed on Ukraine's territory from November 21, 2013 to February 22, 2014 fall under the jurisdiction of the Rome Statute, authorized representatives of the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC have visited Ukraine twice. Ukraine was mentioned for the first time in an annual report delivered at the Assembly States Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC in November 2015.





СТВОРЕНІ
РІВНИМИ,
НАРОДЖЕНІ
РІЗНИМИ!

COUNTERING **DISCRIMINATION AT THE WORKPLACE:** UKRAINIAN CORPORATE EQUALITY INDEX

It has been two years since the IRF launched the Ukrainian Corporate Equality Index study in 2015. Within this short period of time we have seen considerable progress in the implementation of equality and non-discrimination policy at the workplace.

The Ukrainian Corporate Equality Index is produced by the NGO “Tochka Opory” in partnership with the Ukrainian Women’s Consortium, the National Assembly of People Living with Disabilities, and the Anti-discrimination Coalition in Ukraine. The project is a unique example of cooperation between the business sector and the civil society in promoting the principles of equality and non-discrimination in the labor sphere. Having the support of the business and the society, the project can succeed in the implementation of the non-discrimination policy in the public sphere. Discrimination at the work place on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity is forbidden by law. The general trends of decrease in the numbers of young creative workforce motivate success-oriented companies to look for non-standard innovative approaches to cooperation, attracting and keeping

valuable employees. The Index is based on the most interesting solutions from the American and European business approaches and designed to help companies move forward in that direction.

The latest edition of the Index attracted over 150 participating companies, more than twice as many as in the first year. In addition to businesses, state institutions such as the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade and the Ukrainian Railway (Ukrzaliznytsia) also participated in the survey. The companies taking part in the Index for the second time have improved their scores by an average 12 points. In 2016, the IRF’s partners launched an annual HR Forum on equality and non-discrimination policies. The Forum was created as a special platform for exchanging experience, ideas, thoughts, and practices among companies that work in Ukraine and implement or plan to implement the non-discrimination policy at the workplace. More than 100 representatives of small, medium, and large businesses participated in the first Forum.

PROTECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS IN **PLACES OF NON-FREEDOM**

The law on the National Police of Ukraine, the decentralization reform, and the ever-growing public demand for change in the activity of law-enforcement agencies, as well as the arrival of a number of reform-ready professionals in the government, created good conditions for developing and piloting local models for improving safety in the communities based on cooperation between law-enforcement agencies and the communities.

In order to help to ensure the right to life and physical integrity, the Foundation supported the development and implementation of new mechanisms for protecting the rights of people currently in places of non-freedom. We supported the establishment of the Human Rights Department within the National Police of Ukraine and the introduction of custody records in places of detention in order to ensure accountability of the police and protection of the detainees, in particular representatives of the vulnerable groups. We also supported the development of an independent monitoring mechanism and expansion of the monitors' network that is engaged in monitoring the observance of human rights standards in places of non-freedom in cooperation with the Ombudsman's Office, based on the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM).



Ukraine has over 6,000 places of non-freedom: from prisons and pre-trial detention settings to orphanages and mental clinics



1,200,000 people are kept in closed institutions

The Foundation continued to support the implementation of the NPM as an independent national body created and acting in accordance with the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention Against Torture, aimed at ensuring the ongoing monitoring of all places of non-freedom in order to prevent cruel treatment of people held there. The NPM became operational in Ukraine in 2012 upon the introduction of the necessary amendments to the law on the Parliament's Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsman). Since then public monitoring experts have visited more than 30 institutions commonly referred to as "places of non-freedom." In 2016, the NPM underwent rebranding and launched a large-scale information campaign #people_are_not_cans, aimed to highlight the fact that as many as 1,200,000 people in Ukraine are confined in the closed settings, often in terrible conditions.



DEVELOPING A PUBLIC MONITORING NETWORK OF THE **NATIONAL PREVENTIVE MECHANISM**

The Foundation has collaborated with the Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Human Rights to apply the regulations of the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) through independent monitoring aimed at countering human rights violations in closed settings. Such institutions are the high-risk territory for human rights abuse. In order to minimize such risks, the National Preventive Mechanism was established at the UN level in 2002 by the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and other forms of cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment and punishment.

Since 2012, the Foundation has collaborated with partners to introduce and implement the NPM practices and human rights protection models in the “Ombudsman +” format, which involves joint visits to places of non-freedom by representatives of the Ombudsman’s Office and independent monitors representing civil society organizations.

45

people trained as monitors in 2016

NETWORK

Institutionalization of monitors network into a public organization “Ukraine without Tortures”

141

people were part of the monitors’ network of the NPM as of beginning of 2017 in almost all regions of Ukraine



DEVELOPING PALLIATIVE CARE

Respect for human dignity is also a matter of human rights. The state's and society's attitude, in particular, to terminally ill people tells much about how civilized a country is. That is why the IRF continued to support the development of a palliative care system in Ukraine, to promote changes in the medical practices in accordance with the international standards, by teaching medical personnel to provide adequate pain relief to the patients.

Ukraine acquired morphine pills in 2013, and the legislation regulating the use of strong painkillers in the health care settings has been considerably liberalized. However, the issue of providing patients with adequate pain management medication, as the right to access to essential medicines and dignified conclusion of life, remains unsolved.

More than 400,000 Ukrainian patients, including 18,000 children, require palliative assistance. IRF together with the Human Rights Watch and Ukrainian human rights organizations conducted a study on accessibility to adequate pain management in Ukraine. The study comprises over 100 documented personal stories of terminally patients and their families and 30 medical workers in 10 regions of Ukraine.

IRF managed to engage representatives of different churches and religious organizations, active in providing support to terminally ill people, to the development of palliative care. The All-Ukrainian Inter-Confessional Conference on May 25-26, 2016, addressed the role of churches and religious

organizations in this process. Ukrainian society traditionally holds religious communities in high esteem, therefore, uniting efforts of the clergy and public activists contributes to a broader understanding of the need to ensure access to proper pain management.

An important step towards the liberalization of relations between doctors, patients and their families was made through a successful information campaign, #AccessToIntensiveCareUnits. The Ukrainian law does not allow family members to visit patients and stay with them in the intensive care units (ICU). However, de-facto the decision to allow or deny access to the intensive care ward depends entirely on the chief doctor or individual doctors who are authorized to make that kind of decisions.

Opponents of the "open-door" ICUs stressed the need to keep the space clean and make sure that the family members to not distract doctors from their work. However, the activists were convinced that those were simply excuses and the problem was the lack of accountability and transparency of the personnel's work. In particular, there were concerns about the truly necessary amount of medicines for patients and the quantity of medicines required from family members by the doctors. Closed ICUs reduces accountability, and family members are left unaware of what is really happening to the patient. These two conditions form the

400

More than 400,000 patients in Ukraine, including 18,000 children, require palliative care

100

documented personal stories of terminally ill patients and their family members highlight violations of the patients' right to pain management

30

documented stories from medical workers from 10 regions of Ukraine

lack of trust to doctors and to the health care system as a whole.

Ukraine does not have any clear statistics regarding children in need of palliative care. According to the Ministry of Healthcare, the number is about 17,500 children; according to UNICEF, the numbers are significantly higher and range between 30,000 and 70,000 little patients. Speaking in an open discussion “Children’s Palliative Care in Ukraine” in November 2016, Acting Minister of Healthcare of Ukraine Ulyana Suprun announced that the first batch of children’s morphine (syrup) would be procured in 2017 within the Oncology National Program. The medicines will be made available to children with the oncology diagnosis, which comprise only 20% of the overall number of children patients in need of palliative care. However, this decision can be seen as an important step towards recognizing the children’s palliative care needs.

#HatsOn, a nation-wide flashmob, took place on November 14-15, 2016 to mark the World Children’s Palliative Care Day. Thousands of caring people wore their hats and published their photos on Facebook to attract attention to the unsolved issues of terminally ill young patients in Ukraine. Among participants of the flashmob were: Presidential Childrens’ participants of the flashmob

were: Presidential Childrens’ Ombudsman Mykola Kuleba, Acting Minister of Healthcare Ulyana Suprun, a well-known children’s doctor Yevhen Komarovsky, writer Serhiy Zhadan, actress and initiator of the social art-project, “Oscar and the Pink Lady”, Irma Vitovska, artist Andriy Yermolenko and a number of others.

Seeking to expand access to adequate pain management for terminally ill patients, the Public Health Analytical Center launched a project designed to analyze the current regulations for pharmacies in the field of procuring and supplying patients with drug substances and psychotropic medicines, focusing specifically on provisions for a minimum list of medicines that should be available at any pharmacy. The analysis was followed by recommendations for improving the legislation so that to ensure that the patients requiring such medications could have access to them through the entire pharmacy network.

IRF supported charitable foundation “Sobornist” working to change doctors’ attitude to the legal usage of substances in health care institutions. Based on the analysis of patients’ and medical personnel’s complaints and appeals, the project drafted legislation amendments concerning the circulation of medicines containing controlled substances (Orders #360, #494 and #41 of the Ministry of Healthcare of Ukraine).



NON-DISCRIMINATORY DRUG POLICY

Respect for human dignity under any circumstances is an inalienable right of any person. To start a wide-range discussion on optimization and reform of Ukraine's drug policy, human rights NGOs and charities, professional associations and retired law-enforcement offices, churches and religious organizations joined efforts with the Coalition for Respecting Human Dignity. Ukraine's new drug policy needs to be based on prioritizing human rights, humanity, and non-discrimination regarding people who use drugs and patients who require pain management or psychiatric assistance.

The Eurasian Institute for Drug Policy analyzed the practice of severe criminal prosecution of people who use drugs. The prosecution was proven to have practically no effect on the substance abuse levels but cause violations of human rights as well as hard social and medical consequences for drug addicts. The research findings were summarized in recommendations and advocacy of the necessary legislative and regulatory changes. Experts drafted amendments to Order #188 of the Ministry of Healthcare, articles #306-311 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine and several other legal acts.



Ukraine's new drug policy needs to be based on prioritizing human rights, humanity, and non-discrimination regarding people who use drugs and patients who require pain management or psychiatric assistance.

ENSURING ACCESS TO **CONTINUOUS TREATMENT** IN PLACES OF NON-FREEDOM

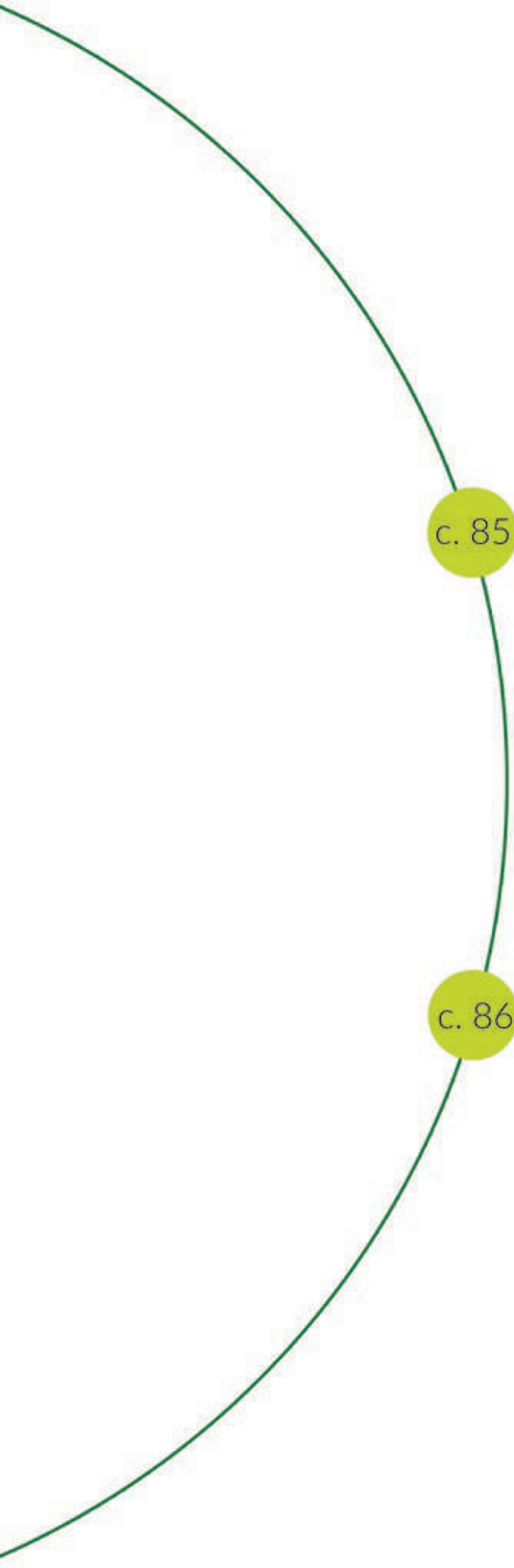
For many years, civil society activists and experts have been raising the issue of access to quality medical aid for detainees and people in places of non-freedom. An example of synergy of efforts of NGOs and authority representatives can be seen in collaboration between the Ombudsman's Office and the National Preventive Mechanism. This collaboration aims at countering the violation of the right to receive uninterrupted medical treatment in places of non-freedom and works through supporting monitoring visits, public investigations, response actions, policy analysis and advocacy.

Based on the National Preventive Mechanism, the Institute of Legal Research and Strategies conducted regular monitoring visits to institutions of the Ministry of Healthcare, Ministry of Social Policy, and the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine. The objective of those monitoring visits was to document cases of violation of the patients' rights in closed institutions and to produce a report on the state of compliance with the human rights standards in places of non-freedom. The report and other materials were submitted to the Ombudsman's Office, and resulted in the issue of a formal note by the Ombudsman urging the relevant public authorities to ensure that the affected individuals' rights are restored. Special notes were addressed to the Cabinet of Ministers, the Ministry of Healthcare, the Ministry of Social Policy, and the State Penitentiary Service demanding to remove causes of systemic violations of human rights, and to develop and advocate the necessary legal amendments.





SUPPORTING CIVIC ACTIVISM IN ROMA COMMUNITY



c. 85

IMPROVING ACCESS TO EDUCATION
FOR ROMA YOUTH

c. 86

BUILDING CAPACITY OF THE ROMA COMMUNITY
TO PARTAKE IN THE LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT



The IRF's Roma Program Initiative has been operational for twenty years and is a unique example for donor structures in Ukraine. The goal of the Initiative is to support positive social changes in Roma communities, counter discrimination, improve Roma's access to legal aid, education, health care and social services, promote cultural dialogue, and support the young generation of Roma leaders and activists. The Initiative supported the adoption and implementation of the Roma Protection and Integration Strategy, the development of a network of capable Roma NGOs, legal empowerment and legal aid provision in the Roma communities, the improvement of Roma people's access to medical services and education through the mechanisms of engagement of Roma medical and social mediators, teaching assistants, and responsible parenting programs.

IMPROVING **ACCESS TO EDUCATION** FOR ROMA YOUTH

The Foundation facilitated the access of Roma children to primary education through the development of Responsible Upbringing Centers and the expansion of cooperation with the local authorities. The aim was to introduce a model of teaching assistants in areas with a high percentage of the Roma population, and to introduce inclusive practices of preparing Roma children to schools in Zakarpattia oblast.

8

teaching assistants were selected to work in 7 educational institutions in Zakarpattia and Odesa oblasts within the pilot projects

80

children passed pre-school preparatory classes in Zakarpattia oblast

5

Responsible Upbringing Centers provide social assistance to Roma families in Zakarpattia and Odesa oblasts

In collaboration with the Roma Education Fund, IRF runs an annual open call for applications for Roma youth to enroll in the Law and Humanities Program. The program provides some 120 scholarships a year to cover costs of a university study with the following majors: Roma people history, law and humanities, medicine, and international relations. The goal of the program is to facilitate the formation of a critical mass of university alumni who are proud to be Roma and have skills

and knowledge allowing them to become professionals in their spheres, who are also closely connected with the Roma communities, support their further development and inclusion into the society. The Law and Humanities Program is co-funded by the “Erinnerung, Verantwortung und Zukunft” Foundation (EVZ) and the Roma Education Fund. More than 300 young Roma received scholarships from this Program in Ukraine.



Young Roma activists have successfully implemented 7 projects, including the launch of the Roma youth information portal “Yakha” (<http://jakha.info/>), making a video “Kale Jakha Kirke Jasva” (Black Eyes Bitter Tears) highlighting the unacceptable ethnicity-based discrimination (the video was awarded with the first position at the Short Film Festival on discrimination of Roma in Albania), and producing an animated short film about teaching the Roma language

18 young Roma had internships at local self-governance bodies in six regions; 4 project participants got employed after the internship and 14 other entered the HR waiting list for two years. 7 young activists had internships at human rights NGOs

23

activists attended the Ukrainian Human Rights School

4

trainings within the Professional Support for the REF fellows

114

scholarships of the Law and Humanities Program

43

young Roma received Ukrainian university degrees

BUILDING CAPACITY OF THE ROMA COMMUNITY

BUILDING CAPACITY OF THE ROMA COMMUNITY



Currently, there is a great demand for new leaders in the Roma community who would be able to interact with the public authorities, formulate needs, maintain a dialogue, and achieve positive results in the integration processes. These leaders need to be educated and prepared to take responsibility for democratic change and initiatives within their communities. They will be the change-makers for the Roma communities and help counter negative stereotypes among other members of the Ukrainian society.

In 2016, the Foundation and Roma community activists worked together to shape an advocate an effective public policy for the Roma minority at the national and local levels. The Roma Expert Coalition, and advisory body to the working group at the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, seeks to design and improve regional programs aiming at facilitating the access for Roma to administrative and social services. The Ukrainian Roma NGOs Coalition, Strategy 2020, has been monitoring the implementation of the Roma Protection and Integration Strategy till 2020.

To foster capacity of local public authorities and self-governance bodies to design and effectively implement strategies, actions plans, and inclusive policies and services for the Roma communities, based on principles of non-discrimination and gender equality, the Coalition of Roma NGOs, the Chirikli International Roma Women's Foundation, and other civic initiatives have launched the development of local social programs that would include the Roma communities' needs in healthcare, social mediation for families in need. The initiative is implemented in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Odesa, Zaccarpattia, Kropyvnytsky, Volyn and Zaporizhya oblasts.



20 Roma social and health mediators ensured social support for Roma communities in 6 regions



16 cases of discrimination of Roma in healthcare settings were reported by the mediators to the Ombudsman's Office

In 2016, the Roma community of Ukraine faced multiple cases of discrimination, hate speech, statements and actions – including those made by representatives of public authorities - that infringe on dignity and rights of the Roma population. The massive unrest in the village of Loshchynivka, Odesa oblast, caught the nation-wide media attention in August 2016. Having seen no unbiased investigation and fair court trial, local residents attacked houses of several local Roma families. The local council adopted an illegal decision to dislodge all Roma from

Loshchynivka. The decision was endorsed by the Izmail district state administration. The Ombudsman's Office and human rights defenders expressed deep concern with the local authorities' statements. IRF appealed to the national authorities and urged them to stop mass human rights violations. Head of the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights Hryhory Nemyria and IRF initiated a committee hearing on the Loshchynivka case. The Anti-Discrimination Coalition gave its annual anti-prize, "Discriminator of the Year", to the Loshchynivka village council for the "really shameful act".



Given the numerous challenges faced by the Roma people, we see the need to help prepare Roma community activists, in particular the Roma youth, to protect civic interests and human rights, and support their integration into the human rights community. IRF supported the Ukrainian Human Rights School for young Roma activists, as a part of a long-term nation-wide human rights educational program, Understanding the Human Rights.

Understanding the importance of supporting cultural initiatives aimed at the preservation of historical memory and opposing stereotypes and generalizations regarding Roma, the Foundation supported the XIX International Roma Jazz Festival, Pap-Jazz-Fest-2016, in Uzhhorod.



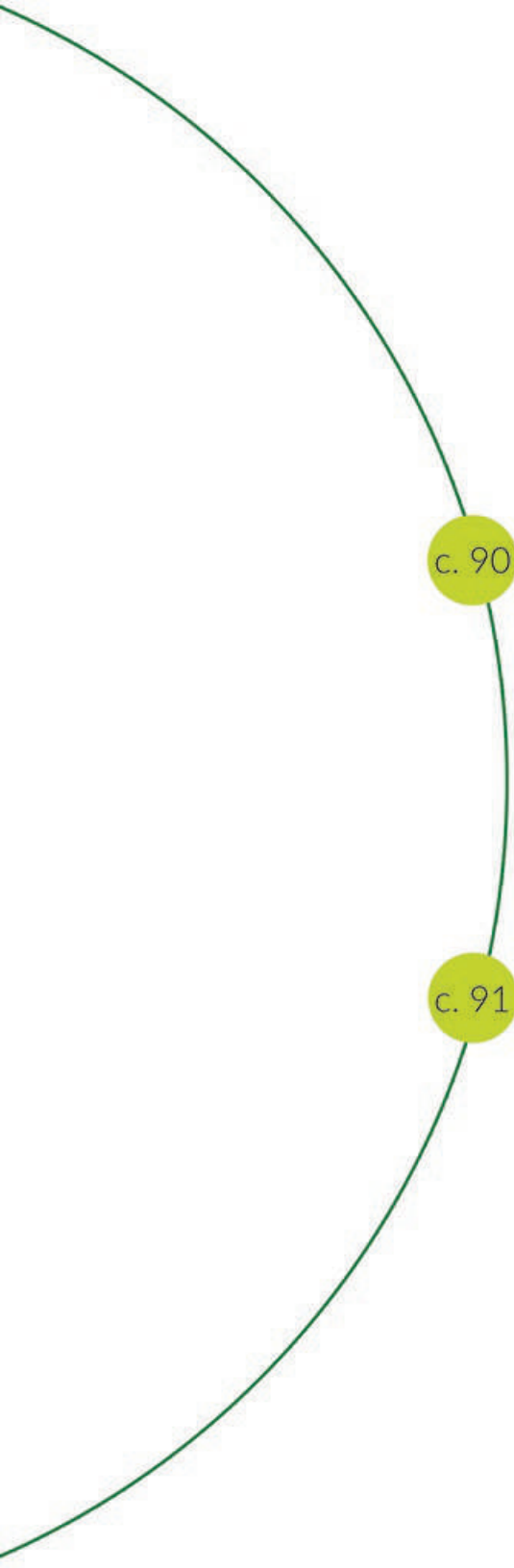


Міністерство
закордонних справ
України

UTE

Форум кримінальної юстиції України 27 квітня 2016 року

SUPPORTING HUMANITARIAN AWARENESS INITIATIVES



c. 90 IRF LIBRARY GOES ONLINE

c. 91 CULTURAL DIPLOMACY



IRF LIBRARY **GOES ONLINE**

In cooperation with the Center for Research of the History and Culture of Eastern-European Jewry, IRF published online digital versions of 100 books from the Foundation's library that are most demanded by civil society organizations.

The Foundation supported transparent and objective assessment of the works submitted by participants of the All-Ukrainian Literary Contest of novels, film scripts, plays, and love songs lyrics, "Coronation of the Word". We also supported a fundraising initiative seeking to collect funds for publishing Volume 1 of the Ukrainian Small Encyclopedia by Yevhen Onatsky; publishing the "Cinema Born in Ukraine" book; restoring and digitalizing the music recordings and running a fundraising campaign to preserve the musical legacy of a notable Ukrainian opera and chamber singer, Borys Hmyrya; and a promotion campaign seeking to popularize the history of Ukrainian cinematography.

The Foundation supported the creation of the Vasyl Stus Virtual Museum and three mobile exhibitions in Druzhkivka, Pokrovsk, and Lysychansk, designed to serve as the communication platforms for building mutual understanding and peace in Ukraine.

CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

IRF supported the International Association of Humanitarians (IAH) in organizing an international academic conference “Social Catastrophes in the First Half of the 20th Century in Ukraine and the World: Historical Context and Demographic Consequences”. The conference addressed the assessment of Ukraine’s losses from totalitarian regimes and the ways to oppose authoritarian and populist trends nowadays. IRF also supported the participation of Ukrainian academics and university lecturers in a convening of the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) and the International Association of Humanitarians (IAH), “Image of the Other”.

In cooperation with the Ukrainian Catholic University of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, the Foundation supported the Crimean Forum in Lviv dedicated to the 40th anniversary of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group. The objective of the Forum was to develop effective methods for defending human rights in the Crimea under the temporary occupation and persecution of the opposition, as well as the ways for overcoming the democratic values crisis and countering the proliferation of authoritarian and populist ideas in Europe.

The II Ukrainian Forum of Cultural Diplomacy in Kyiv was held at a joint initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine and the Kyiv Office of the Kennan Institute. The Forum sought to unite the efforts of the Cabinet of Ministers, the Parliament, civic activists and international experts aimed at drafting a national strategy for developing cultural and public diplomacy of Ukraine. The Forum included a presentation of an independent assessment of Ukraine’s cultural diplomacy efforts in 2014-2016 and an analysis of the ways of intensifying the state-run and volunteer efforts to develop Ukraine’s leadership potential abroad. The Forum provided recommendations to the Ukrainian government, the non-governmental sector and other actors of Ukraine’s reputation policy on the ways to improve cultural diplomacy of Ukraine and bring it to a new level of effectiveness and strategic planning.

Ukrainian contemporary literature plays an extraordinary role in shaping a common national cultural space and uniting people from different regions of Ukraine. The “New Book for the East of Ukraine”, a public discussion organized by IRF within the Lviv Publishers’ Forum, looked at the ways and methods of promoting Ukrainian literature, primarily in the liberated territories, and other educational and cultural initiatives by artists, writers, academics, and teachers who engage as volunteers in the East of Ukraine.

The Foundation supported the Urban Initiatives Laboratory that sought to assist cultural and urban initiatives, promote the development of civic engagement platforms in Eastern Ukrainian towns, and support the networking of these movements. The event brought together over 50 civic leaders from 11 oblasts of Ukraine. The Impact Hub Odessa, the Warm city – Ivano-Frankivsk, the Shelter + from Kryvyi Rih and other major initiatives had a chance to present their experiences to colleagues in the East.

IRF supported the “Technological Nation” project by the Brainbasket Foundation and helped to provide the equipment to 25 study hubs, based in public libraries in Ukraine’s major cities. The hubs provide opportunities to study the programming basics from the courses of the world’s leading universities. They also facilitate further employment of the participants in the IT sector.



AUDIT REPORT



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Independent Auditors' Report on the Summary Financial Statements

To the Board of Directors of
International Renaissance Foundation

Opinion

The summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at 31 December 2016, the summary statements of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, changes in fund balance (equity) and cash flows for the year then ended, and related notes, are derived from the audited financial statements of International Renaissance Foundation (the "Foundation") for the year ended 31 December 2016.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements, on the basis described in Note 1.

Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by International Financial Reporting Standards. Reading the summary financial statements and our report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements and our report thereon.

The Audited Financial Statements and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated 12 May 2017.

Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements on the basis described in Note 1.



International Renaissance Foundation
Independent Auditors' Report on the Summary Financial Statements
Page 2

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 810 (Revised), *"Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements"*.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Gasparian', is written over the text of the Auditor's name and title.

Sergey Gasparian

Certified Auditor

Auditor's Certificate № 006609 dated 2 July 2009

Deputy Director, JSC KPMG Audit

12 May 2017

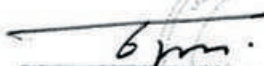
**INTERNATIONAL RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION
SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2016**

**SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2016**

(in US dollars)

	31 December 2016	31 December 2015
ASSETS		
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, equipment and intangible assets	95,131	114,843
CURRENT ASSETS		
Inventories	1,097	1,232
Prepayments	29,531	27,803
Receivables	3,147,186	3,303,545
Cash and cash equivalents	1,198,862	892,694
	<u>4,376,676</u>	<u>4,225,274</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>4,471,807</u>	<u>4,340,117</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE (EQUITY)		
FUND BALANCE (EQUITY)	<u>1,490,286</u>	<u>1,539,104</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accruals	2,106,453	2,460,187
Deferred revenues	768,245	249,548
Other liabilities	106,823	91,278
	<u>2,981,521</u>	<u>2,801,013</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE (EQUITY)	<u>4,471,807</u>	<u>4,340,117</u>

On behalf of the Board of Directors:


Yevgen Bystriytsky
Executive Director

12 May 2017


Natalia Sannikova
Finance Director

12 May 2017

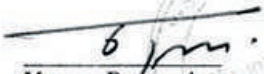
INTERNATIONAL RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION
SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2016

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

(in US dollars)

	Year ended 31 December 2016	Year ended 31 December 2015
CONTRIBUTION INCOME		
Open Society Foundations' (OSF) income	10,566,599	12,869,353
Third parties funding	816,878	2,162,428
	<u>11,383,477</u>	<u>15,031,781</u>
EXPENSES		
OSF program expenses	(9,497,423)	(11,763,990)
OSF administrative expenses	(1,063,064)	(974,871)
Third party related expenses	(990,757)	(2,134,825)
	<u>(11,551,244)</u>	<u>(14,873,686)</u>
(Deficit) surplus of contribution income over expenses	<u>(167,767)</u>	<u>158,095</u>
OTHER INCOME (EXPENSES)		
Other expenses	(648)	(704)
Foreign exchange gain, net	355,990	886,884
Surplus for the year	<u>187,575</u>	<u>1,044,275</u>
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		
<i>Items that will never be reclassified to profit or loss</i>		
Foreign currency translation difference	(236,393)	(406,555)
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE (LOSS) INCOME FOR THE YEAR	<u>(48,818)</u>	<u>637,720</u>

On behalf of the Board of Directors:


Yevgen Bystriytsky
Executive Director

12 May 2017


Natalia Sannikova
Finance Director

12 May 2017

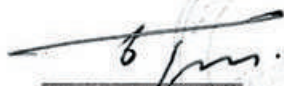
**INTERNATIONAL RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION
SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2016**

**SUMMARY STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE (EQUITY)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016**

(in US dollars)

Fund balance (equity) as at 31 December 2014	901,384
Surplus for the year	1,044,275
Foreign currency translation difference	(406,555)
Fund balance (equity) as at 31 December 2015	1,539,104
Surplus for the year	187,575
Foreign currency translation difference	(236,393)
Fund balance (equity) as at 31 December 2016	1,490,286

On behalf of the Board of Directors:


Yevgen Bystrytsky
Executive Director

12 May 2017


Natalia Sannikova
Finance Director

12 May 2017

INTERNATIONAL RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION

SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

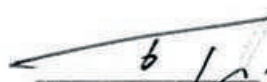
NOTES TO SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

1. BASIS OF PREPARATION

These summary financial statements are derived from the audited financial statements of International Renaissance Foundation as at and for the year ended 31 December 2016 prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and comprise the summary statement of financial position as at 31 December 2016, the summary statements of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, changes in fund balance (equity) and cash flows for the year then ended, and related notes.

The Foundation maintains its underlying accounting records in Ukrainian hryvnias ("UAH"). Management identified the Ukrainian hryvnia ("UAH") as the functional currency. Accordingly, all currencies other than UAH are treated as foreign currencies. However, the US dollar remains the presentation currency of International Renaissance Foundation for the benefit of its users.

On behalf of the Board of Directors:



Yevgen Bystriytsky
Executive Director

12 May 2017



Natalia Sannikova
Finance Director

12 May 2017

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Benaissance

INTERNATIONAL

FOUNDATION