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Concerted Position of the Government Regarding the Healthcare System Decentralisation

On 15 April 2016, the Ministry of Regional Development and the Ministry of Health presented their concerted position regarding the healthcare system reform in the conditions of decentralisation.

Still in this year, the amalgamated communities will have the opportunity to independently develop the system of primary care in their territory. Also, in the nearest future, there will come into being a methodology for the establishment of the secondary care system, that is, the system of medical circuits.

These steps will resolve the existing problems pertaining to the establishment of a system of high quality services in the amalgamated communities and co-ordinate the actions of central bodies of executive power and local self-government in the course of the healthcare sector further reform.

"In the course of the first six months of this year, we have to determine the definitive mechanism of that reform, so that we approve the 2017 budget within the framework of adopted concept and such laws which will allow arranging for the financing of the primary, secondary, and tertiary care elements of the healthcare", the Vice Prime Minister - Minister of Regional Development, Construction, and Housing and Communal Services of Ukraine Hennadii Zubko

SOURCE: DECENTRALIZATION OF POWER WEB-SITE

Regions Have the Opportunity to Establish Regional Development Agencies

On 6 April 2016, a resolution of the Government approving a model regulation on the regional development agency was published. The government document determines the organisational and legal status of the agency, its fundamental rights and functions, management bodies and sources of financing.

The regional development agency will operate as an office providing consultations and practical assistance in the course of preparation and implementation of programmes and projects for regional development.

Currently, the regional development agencies are successfully operating in such leading countries as Germany, France, Great Britain, Poland, Australia, and Canada.

"By that resolution, the Government promotes the enhancement of the institutional capacity of regions in achieving objectives of their development and the growth of investment attractiveness of regions," First Deputy Minister of Regional Development, Construction, and Housing and Communal Services of Ukraine Viacheslav Nehoda.

SOURCE: DECENTRALIZATION OF POWER WEB-SITE

The European Union Allocated EUR 97 Million for Ukraine to Support Decentralisation

On 22 April 2016, the Government of Ukraine and the European Commission acting on behalf of the European Union signed an agreement on financing the U-LEAD with Europe: Ukraine Local Empowerment, Accountability and Development Programme.

Under the agreement, the European Union allocates EUR 97 Million for Ukraine to Support Decentralisation. The programme will continue for four years of the date of the agreement.

Most funds will be applied for the training of local authority officials at all levels.

"The today's event and 97 million Euros is the first comprehensive financial aid for Ukraine to support its institutional development. These are not just funds, they mean that the European Union recognises the success of decentralisation reform", Vice Prime Minister - Minister of Regional Development, Construction, and Housing and Communal Services of Ukraine Hennadii Zubko

SOURCE: GOVERNMENTAL PORTAL

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From Now On, Local Councils Shall Independently Register the Place of Residence of an Individual

On 4 April 2016, a law of Ukraine has come into force in accordance with which the powers in the area of registration and de-registration of an individual's place of residence are delegated to the local self-government bodies.

Consequently, from now on, local councils shall independently register the place of residence of an individual. In this connection, the existing registration of individuals continues to be in force and requires no re-registration.

SOURCE: DECENTRALIZATION OF POWER WEB-SITE

Local Councils Will Be Able to Manage Lands outside the Boundaries of Settlements

On 19 April 2016, the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine adopted, in the first reading, a draft law expanding the powers vested in the bodies of local self-government in terms of land resources management and tightening state control over the use and protection of lands.

After the law is adopted, the state-owned lands outside the boundaries of settlements will be transferred into the communal ownership of amalgamated territorial communities. Consequently, the village, town, and city councils will obtain relevant powers to manage such lands.

The State will supervise the exercising by the executive bodies of local self-government of control over the use and protection of lands.

"Today, members of the Parliament made the first important step toward the obtaining by territorial communities of one of the most important resources for their successful development", Vice Prime Minister - Minister of Regional Development, Construction, and Housing and Communal Services of Ukraine Hennadii Zubko.

SOURCE: DECENTRALIZATION OF POWER WEB-SITE

24 Pivotal Schools Selected for a Pilot Project

On 21 April 2016, the Ministry of Finance jointly with the Ministry of Education and Science selected 24 pivotal schools for a pilot project, one school in each *Oblast* (region).

Each of the schools will receive funds for the renovation of premises, purchase of learning equipment, and computer-aided technologies with the aim of ensuring high quality of secondary education for children in rural areas.

Those pivotal schools will start on 1 September 2016.

The project was supported by a group of donors, including the US Government, Western NIS Enterprise Fund, and Microsoft Ukraine and, therefore, it became possible.

In general, more than 100 pivotal schools will be established. The tender for the selection of schools is under way.

SOURCE: MINISTRY OF FINANCE OF UKRAINE WEB-SITE

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Leszek Balcerowicz Became the Presidential Envoy in the Ukrainian Government

On 22 April 2016, President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko signed a decree on the appointment of Leszek Balcerowicz, the architect of successful Polish reforms, as the Presidential Envoy in the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. One of his responsibilities is the work with western investors and politicians in order to outline the real situation in Ukraine and show the country's achievements on the track of reforms.

"Ukraine's development is much better than it is pictured abroad. I have to show these achievements that are not always noticed by the West", Leszek Balcerowicz

That appointment is a step toward the establishment of the uniform Strategic Advisors Group on the Support for Reforms in Ukraine and it has been backed by the European Union. Former Vice Prime Minister and ex-Minister of Finance of Slovakia will be another co-chairman of the group. He will also chair the group of advisors to the Prime Minister of Ukraine.

"Our fundamental point is that we will not have a presidential and a prime-minister's team and group. We will have a single, joint team that will reform the country", Petro Poroshenko

SOURCE: <u>PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE WEB-SITE</u>

The First Elections of Deputies and Chairpersons of Local Councils Were Held in Three More Amalgamated Communities

On 24 April 2016, the first elections of deputies and chairpersons of local councils were held in one amalgamated community in Kyiv *Oblast* and in two communities in Rivne *Oblast*.

Thus, as of today, 172 amalgamated territorial communities have already been established in Ukraine. After elections, the newly-established communities will form their own executive committees and will be able to promptly resolve all local issues, efficiently manage their resources, develop their territories, and, consequently, change the life of residents for better.

"More and more communities begin to implement the new system of powers. By the end of the year, we expect another rush for an amalgamation. More than 70 new communities are prepared for holding the first elections", the Vice Prime Minister - Minister of Regional Development, Construction, and Housing and Communal Services of Ukraine Hennadii Zubko.

SOURCE: <u>DECENTRALIZATION OF POWER WEB-SITE</u>

Local Budgets Received More than UAH 30 Billion in the First Quarter 2016

In January through March of this year, UAH 30.1 billion were received by the general fund of local budgets, that is 46% or UAH 9.5 billion more compared to the same period in the previous year.

"The said indicators prove the incontrovertible effect of the budgetary decentralisation. Those are not just figures on paper, they mean a real capability of the local self-government to change the life in their territories - provide high-quality services, make them more affordable and up-to-date", Vice Prime Minister - Minister of Regional Development, Construction, and Housing and Utilities of Ukraine Hennadii Zubko

SOURCE: <u>DECENTRALIZATION OF POWER WEB-SITE</u>

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