


This monthly newsletter is a brief overview of Ukrainian authorities' work on implementation of Reform #1 in Ukraine

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION IN THE PART ON DECENTRALIZATION ARE 70 % COMPLETE

The Workgroup within the Constitutional Commission, which works on decentralization reform, has already found the answers to most of the questions concerning the future distribution of authority.

The draft law on introduction of amendments into the Constitution, in part concerning decentralization, is 70% complete. Beside that, the experts agreed on the future system of self-government in Ukraine. It is proposed to adopt a three-level system: basic level – community, middle – povit (district), uniting several communities, and higher – regions, formed based on oblasts. Presently, a specialized professional discussion of the constitutionalists is in progress.

Source: Web-site of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine



"We should work out the amendments to the Constitution, which will provide for irreversible reforms in the country, reflecting public attitudes, once and for all"
– said the Chairman of Verkhovna Rada, the head of the Constitutional Commission, Volodymyr Groysman.

THE PRESIDENT SIGNED THE LAW ON DECENTRALIZATION OF ARCHITECTURAL-CONSTRUCTION CONTROL

On May 13 the President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko signed the law, which decentralized the responsibilities in the area of architectural-construction control and improved urban development legislation.

The document provides for delegation of governmental architectural-construction control from state to local level. At the same time, the function of supervision over legitimacy of local authorities' decisions is retained by the state. A system of state supervision of urban development decision-making and of governmental architectural-construction control, as well as mechanisms for disputing of respective decisions by the ordering party, are created.

Source: Web-site of President of Ukraine



"From now on a community will have respective authority and influence the decisions, concerning construction on its territories"
– said Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of regional development, construction, and housing and communal services, Gennadiy Zubko.

A NEW LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT REFORM SUPPORT PROJECT WAS PRESENTED

On May 9 “Support of Local Self-government Reform in Ukraine” Project was presented.

The project is expected to attract attention of broad public to local self-government reform, provide informational support in the process of voluntary unification of communities, and speed up decentralization processes in the country in general.

The Project unites the efforts of non-governmental organizations and local authorities, as well as Ukrainian and international experts.

The Project will be implemented until December 31, 2016. The Project’s budget amounts to approximately 740 thousand euros, including 660 thousand euros, granted by the European Union.

Source: Web-site of Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine




“Presently, at community level there is a high demand for accessible high-quality information on reforms, particularly – on the process of unification of communities. That is why organizational and communicational support of our European colleagues is more relevant than ever”
– said the deputy Minister of regional development, construction, and housing and communal services of Ukraine, Vyacheslav Negoda.

THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONTINUES ITS COLLABORATION WITH UKRAINE

On May 20, the Congress of Local and Regional authorities of the Council of Europe presented a Roadmap for Ukraine, compiled according to the results of post-monitoring of fulfillment of the Congress’ recommendations on local and regional democracy in Ukraine.

The Roadmap includes the key recommendations for Ukrainian Government on the introduction of amendments into the Constitution of Ukraine, local elections, and other issues, representing crucial factors of local self-government reform success.

Source: Web-site of Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine



“The steps, performed by the Government on the way to decentralization clearly signal, that the country is changing for the best, becoming stronger in spite of all the difficulties. In this reform the authority has chosen the right democratic vector, which the European community will continue to support”,
– said the President of the Congress of Local and Regional authorities of the Council of Europe, Jean-Claude Frecon.

THE LAW ON MUNICIPAL GUARD HAS PASSED THE FIRST READING

On May 21 Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted the draft Law “On Municipal Guard” as basis.

The document will legally attach the right to formation of municipal guard, financed from the local budget, to local councils. The guard will be subject to local communities. The key tasks of the municipal guard will include public order enforcement, prevention of criminal offense, exercising of certain administrative penalties, informing of local affairs bodies on crimes already committed or planned, as well as places of criminal group location.

Municipal guard units will not belong to the structure of the Ministry of Local Affairs of Ukraine.



“Municipal guard will not perform police functions. It is just a guard: fines, law and order on the streets, guarding of municipal premises”, – ”, said the people’s deputy, one of the initiators of the draft law, Yuri Lutsenko.

Source: Web-site of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

THE GOVERNMENT APPROVED THE DRAFT LAWS THAT WILL IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved the draft laws that will improve the quality of administrative services in the sphere of registration, and ensure the delegation of registration functions to local authorities, notary offices, banks, and state enforcement officers.

According to the draft laws, respective services, previously provided by the Ministry of Justice, are placed within the competency of local authorities.

Beside the responsibilities, all the funds, previously received by the state from provision of the services, will be also transferred to the local level. They will provide an additional resource, which the community will be able to use for development of its infrastructure and improvement of service quality.



“The proposed documents completely change the philosophy of provision of administrative services in the area of registration of business and property”, – said the Minister of justice, Pavlo Petrenko.

Source: Web-site of Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine