

# DECENTRALIZATION IN UKRAINE

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

OCTOBER 2016



## Financial Decentralization: Local Budgets Have Increased by UAH 34.2 Billion over the Period of Nine Months

UAH 103.9 billion have been received by local budgets over the period of January through September 2016. In comparison with the same period in the previous year, the addition of revenues to local budgets totalled 49.6% or UAH 34.2 billion.

*That is the budget decentralisation as implemented in practice. Those are the funds that the communities currently allocate for the development of infrastructure, construction and renovation of kindergartens and schools, hospitals, roads, etc. Those are real projects and real resources through which the communities solve their problems. That is the evidence of effectiveness and irreversibility of the decentralisation", Vice-Prime Minister - Minister of Regional Development, Construction and Housing and Communal Services of Ukraine Hennadii Zubko*

SOURCE: [DECENTRALIZATION OF POWER WEB-SITE](#)

## State Registration Services Fee is Retained by the Budgets of the Amalgamated Communities

On 3 October 2016, President Petro Poroshenko signed the law which settles the matter of paying the administrative services fee to the budgets of the amalgamated communities.

From now on, the fee for the state registration services will be paid to the community budgets.

Up until now, the fee for the administrative services rendered in the amalgamated communities was paid to the *Rayon* (District) budget. Meanwhile, both the technical support was granted and the wages to employees were paid from the budget of the amalgamated community.

SOURCE: [DECENTRALIZATION OF POWER WEB-SITE](#)

## Ukraine will have 367 Amalgamated Communities by the End of 2016

In December 2016, additional 183 amalgamated territorial communities will be added to 184 existing ones in Ukraine.

On 7 October, the Central Elections Commission announced on the elections in 143 amalgamated territorial communities to be held on 18 December 2016.

Earlier, on 23 September, the Central Elections Commission called the first election of heads and members of councils in 41 amalgamated communities of 13 *Oblasts* (Regions) of Ukraine which are scheduled on 11 December. In one of those amalgamated communities, the elections will be held for the second time.

28 amalgamated communities are still looking forward to the decision of the Commission on calling of the first election.

SOURCE: [DECENTRALIZATION OF POWER WEB-SITE](#)

## Project Office for Sectoral Decentralisation is Officially Established in Ukraine

On 12 October 2016, the Ministry of Regional Development started the operation of the Project Office for Sectoral Decentralisation in Ukraine. In accordance with the partnership agreement executed between the Ministry of Regional Development and the Expert Deployment for Governance and Economic Growth Project (EDGE), the Canadian Government will provide technical and financial assistance to the Project Office for Sectoral Decentralisation with respect to its operations for one year.

The Office will be engaged in 12 directions of activities: education, health care, social protection, administrative service centres, administrative and territorial system, local budgets, environment and use natural resources, land relations, city planning and architecture, infrastructure (transport, communications, roads), culture, housing and communal services.

The Office is established with the aim to effectively coordinate the work on the formation by industry specific ministries of the state decentralisation policy. The work of the Office will be arranged with the support of experts, the general public, and donor projects implemented in respective sectors.

The Project Office for Sectoral Decentralisation plans to interact in its work with the Central Office of Reform at the Ministry of Regional Development and regional centres for local self-government development in 24 *Oblasts* (Regions), which centres are currently being established with the support from donors.

SOURCE: [DECENTRALIZATION OF POWER WEB-SITE](#)

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Press center of Government Initiative "[Decentralization of Power](#)"

To subscribe: [decentralization@minregion.gov.ua](mailto:decentralization@minregion.gov.ua) | [o.suhodolska@despro.org.ua](mailto:o.suhodolska@despro.org.ua)

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## Fire Protection Service is on the Way to Decentralisation - the Ministry of Internal Affairs Presented the Concept of Reform

On 15 October 2016, Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine Arsen Avakov presented the concept of reforming the State Emergency Service of Ukraine, which concept takes into account the decentralisation processes and the establishment of capable communities.

A part of fire safety stations and fire-extinguishing equipment held by the State Emergency Service will be transferred to territorial communities with the aim of establishing their own fire protection service, whereas the fire fighting and rescue units of the State Emergency Service at the Rayon level will be reinforced and the composition of first-alarm assignments will be brought up to full strength.

The transformation of the system of fire protection service starts from the establishment of additional local fire brigades in the newly established territorial communities. Those brigades will operate with the minimum number of required personnel, however, in the event of a fire, they will be reinforced by volunteer fire fighters. The work on the establishment of local fire brigades and the preparatory efforts for the enlistment of volunteers have begun in six pilot Oblasts: Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Kyiv, Vinnytsia, Ternopil, and Lviv.

SOURCE: [DECENTRALIZATION OF POWER WEB-SITE](#)

## The First 25 Amalgamated Communities to Obtain Assistance from the DOBRE Project are Identified

On 25 October, during the official launch of the USAID DOBRE (Decentralization Offering Better Results and Efficiency) project, there were named the first 25 amalgamated communities which would obtain assistance from the project.

The selected communities include six from each of Ternopil and Dnipropetrovsk Oblasts, four from Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast, three from each of Mykolajiv and Kherson Oblasts, two from Kharkiv Oblast, and one from Kirovohrad Oblast.

*"The start of the DOBRE programme is indeed a good thing for Ukraine. As a matter of fact, the project is aimed at the assistance for communities which have assumed the responsibility to change the management system in the country, change the life of people in their territories. The amalgamated communities will obtain assistance for the implementation of specific projects: development of strategic plans and city planning documentation, introduction of electronic governance, application of the best practices regarding the establishment of the Administrative Service Centres, the development of infrastructure", Vice-Prime Minister - Minister of Regional Development, Construction and Housing and Communal Services of Ukraine Hennadii Zubko.*

SOURCE: [DECENTRALIZATION OF POWER WEB-SITE](#)

## Trans-Border Cooperation will be Coordinated by the Ministry of Regional Development

On 26 October 2016, by the resolution of the Government, a number of powers regarding the coordination of trans-border cooperation were transferred from the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade to the Ministry of Regional Development.

The function of coordinating the development and implementation of programmes and projects on the trans-border cooperation was assigned to the Ministry of Regional Development. The Vice-Prime Minister - Minister of Regional Development, Construction and Housing and Communal Services of Ukraine was appointed as the Chairman of the Coordination Centre for Activities Related to the Participation of Ukraine in the Implementation of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.

Thus, the actions of central and local bodies of executive power in terms of Ukraine's participation in the implementation of the Strategy will be coordinated.

As is known, the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region was approved by the EU Council in 2011, and it is aimed at ensuring the infrastructural, environmental, social and economic, and institutional development of the region (14 countries, nine of which are EU member states, and five, non-EU member states, including Ukraine).

SOURCE: [DECENTRALIZATION OF POWER WEB-SITE](#)

## The Decentralisation of Health Care will Start at the Level that is the Most Immediate to People, Concept of the Ministry of Health

The Ministry of Health presented a concept of reforming the health care system in Ukraine. The Ministry determined that the creation of maximum possibilities for providing high-quality and affordable health care services at the local level without increasing the tax burden on the people at the same time is the key priority in the circumstances of decentralisation. The primary medical care level is the basis of the health care system, therefore, it was decided to start the practical implementation of the reform at this very level. Ukrainians will be able to freely choose a family physician and paediatrician and sign direct agreements with him/ her, which agreements contain the expressly determined scope of services that are guaranteed and paid for by the state. In the event when the patient is not satisfied with the family physician, he or she may change it. Family physicians will issue certificates required by the kindergarten, school or swimming-pool. The place of residence ceases to be binding.

*"Our aim is that each family has a physician. The family physician should become the family's agent in the health care system, he or she should steer, monitor the health and ensure the entire initial diagnostics. The family should have confidence in him or her, and for this purpose, the physician should be motivated, first of all, financially", Deputy Minister of Health of Ukraine Pavlo Kovtoniuk.*

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