

DECENTRALIZATION IN UKRAINE

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

APRIL 2018



Local Budgets Continue to Increase

Over the period of January through March 2018, the influx of own revenues to the general fund of local budgets in Ukraine increased in comparison with the previous year and totalled UAH 51.6 billion.

In general, according to the forecasts of the Ministry of Regional Development, local budgets will increase up to UAH 230 billion in 2018.

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

The First Elections were Held in 40 Amalgamated Communities

On 29 April 2018, the first elections were held in 40 amalgamated territorial communities. Those amalgamated territorial communities are comprised of 133 local councils.

In addition, off-year elections of members of councils were also held in five communities on the same day, which communities had acceded to the amalgamated territorial communities.

After the completion of the elections on 29 April, there are 705 amalgamated territorial communities in total in Ukraine.

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

The Ministry of Regional Development Published Updated Monitoring Data on the Decentralisation

On 13 April 2018, the Ministry of Regional Development published monthly monitoring data on the decentralisation of power and local self-government reforming process, which monitoring showed the indicators for February 2018.

The growth of local budgets and increase in the number of agreements on cooperation of communities were the most dynamic indices of the progress of the reform.

Also, the monitoring shows that the number of Rayons in Ukraine where not a single amalgamated territorial community has been established is decreasing.

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

The Government has Distributed UAH 1.9 Billion Grant for Infrastructure among Amalgamated Territorial Communities and Changed the Terms of Its Allocation

On 4 April 2018, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved the distribution of the grant for formation of infrastructure in the amalgamated territorial communities in 2018.

The amount of the government grant is equal to UAH 1.9 billion. Those funds have been distributed among 665 amalgamated communities established in 2015-2017 in proportion to the area of territory and the number of rural population.

It is important that the Government has improved the procedures for, and terms of, allocation of the grant. In particular, after the resolution becomes effective, communities will have two months to file applications for projects in the full amount of the grant to the Ministry of Regional Development. Consequently, those projects will have to be implemented in six months.

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

The Government has Initiated Open Discussions between Heads of Oblast State Administrations and Ministers

Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman initiated a new format of cooperation with regions, which format provides for open discussions between Heads of Oblast State Administrations and members of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine regarding the most pressing matters of each region.

The first meeting was held on 23 April 2018 in the Government House, with the participation of relevant Ministers and Heads of Kyiv, Vinnytsia, Kharkiv, and Odesa Oblast State Administrations.

"I am not satisfied with the level of cooperation with regions and I propose a new format. We have to deal as promptly as possible with the problems we are facing, including the matters pertaining to powers at the local level. We allot a task for ourselves: development of economy. And the task of the regional community is to add to the resources transferred by us, create business climate, carry out comprehensive unshadowing so that people see actual increase in wages. We implement systemic changes in education, health care, and energy generation and efficiency. We would like that the work at local level is coordinated", **Prime Minister of Ukraine Volodymyr Groysman**.

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PAGE 1 OF 3

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The Law Allowing Communities to Accede to Cities of Oblast Subordination has been Adopted

On 3 April 2018, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted Draft Law No. 6466 in the second reading and in whole, which draft law deals with the voluntary accession of territorial communities to the cities of Oblast subordination.

Draft Law No. 6466 will allow the cities of Oblast subordination to unite neighbouring village and town councils and become a centre of the amalgamated community without unnecessary bureaucratic procedures.

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

The Amalgamated Communities will Know the Amount of Government Grant for Infrastructure to be Allocated Thereto, - a Relevant Draft Law was Registered in the Verkhovna Rada

Draft Law No. 8213 as developed by the Ministry of Regional Development, which draft law establishes a minimum guaranteed amount of the government grant for the formation of infrastructure in the amalgamated territorial communities, was registered in the Verkhovna Rada.

The Draft Law stipulates, in particular, that the government grant for 2019 and next years will be distributed among budgets of an amalgamated territorial community in proportion to the area of territory and the number of rural population in the community and that the amount of such financial support will annually decrease by 20 % per one rural resident.

It is stipulated that the state will provide the grant for infrastructure to the amalgamated communities for a period of five years of the date of establishment thereof.

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

The Government has Transferred Lands Located outside the Boundaries of Settlements to Additional 27 Amalgamated Communities

On 5 April 2018, within the framework of the initiative introduced by the Government, additional 27 communities received more than 22 thousand hectares of agricultural land located outside the boundaries of settlements.

The Government plans to transfer land to 50-70 amalgamated communities every month and to complete the process by the end of the year.

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

The Government Channelled UAH 1 Billion Grant for the Equipment to Primary Schools

On 4 April 2018, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopted the Resolution governing the distribution of funds of the government grant for the New Ukrainian School.

The total amount of the government grant for 2018 is UAH 1,385.2 million. UAH 998.7 million of those funds will be used for the equipment for primary schools, and UAH 386.5 million will be used for training primary school teachers.

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

The National Photographic Competition "Big Pictures of Small Locations: My Community - Our Future" has Started

On 23 April 2018, the National Photographic Competition "Big Pictures of Small Locations: My Community - Our Future" started, which competition will continue until 20 May 2018.

50 selected photographs made by the winners will become a part of the mobile photographic exhibition that will travel throughout all Oblasts of Ukraine. The winners will also get valuable gifts from the arrangers.

The photographic competition has been organized by the Ministry of Regional Development with the assistance of the ULEAD with Europe Programme.

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PLEASE SEE PAGE 3

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The Council of Europe has Outlined Further Road Map for Decentralisation in Ukraine

On 26 April 2018, the second round-table on decentralisation matters in Ukraine took place at the Headquarters of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg.

During the event, it was noted that the decentralisation was one of the most successful reforms being implemented in Ukraine in cooperation with the Council of Europe and the European Union. The new 2018-2021 Action Plan of the Council of Europe for Ukraine regarding the decentralisation, as approved in February 2018, provides for the extension of the road map not only to the amalgamation and enhancement of communities but also to the implementation of sectoral decentralisation. It is a step-by-step instruction for communities with respect to ensuring new quality in the education, health care, administrative and social services, safe and comfortable living of our citizens.

The fundamental issue of the event was the discussion and development of position regarding the legislative framework governing the matter of statutory compliance by local self-government bodies of Ukraine in their activities.

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

PAGE 3 OF 3

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

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