

Decentralization in Ukraine

Monthly newsletter



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

Local Budgets Continue to Increase

Over the period of January to July 2018, the earned revenues of local budgets in Ukraine (net of inter-budgetary transfers) increased by 23.6% or by UAH 24.3 billion, as compared with the same period in 2017, and totalled UAH 127 billion.

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

The Central Elections Commission Failed to Call Expected Election in the Amalgamated Communities

On 9 August 2018, the Central Elections Commission decided to refer to the Committee of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine for Legal Policy and Public Justice requesting it to provide clarifications regarding the regulation of matters pertaining to the organisation of and the procedure for holding all-Ukrainian and local referenda in Ukraine.

According to the Central Elections Commission, no elections may be called in the amalgamated communities without such a clarification.

The clarification of the Parliamentary Committee requires time. And a resolution on the first elections in the amalgamated territorial communities, which elections were planned to be held on 28 October, should have been passed by the Central Elections Commission not later than 17 August. Consequently, there will no elections in the amalgamated territorial communities in October.

Later, the Commission passed a resolution that elections might be called on a later date: in November or December 2018.

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

123 Amalgamated Communities are Prepared for the First Election

As of the end of August 2018, there are 123 amalgamated territorial communities awaiting the calling by the Central Elections Commission of the first local election of chairpersons and members local councils. Those ATCs include 514 village, town, and city councils in the territory of which there live 1.021 million residents in total. Also, 318 thousand residents in 55 communities have been awaiting the election, which communities integrated with the ATCs that had been already established.

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

The First Communities with Centres in Cities of Oblast Subordination have been Established

On 17 August 2018, there was completed the process of formation of two communities with centres in cities of Oblast subordination.

In Kyiv Oblast, five neighbouring village councils integrated with the city of Rzhyshev.

In Mykolaiv Oblast, the Novohryhorivska Village Council integrated with the city of Voznesensk.

Those are the first city communities that completed all stages of the integration process in accordance with the Law of Ukraine "On Voluntary Amalgamation of Territorial Communities".

Since the integration involved cities of Oblast subordination, no additional elections will be held there.

As of the end of August, five cities of Oblast subordination had already incorporated neighbouring communities.

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

On 15 August 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 July 2018.

As before, the most dynamic indicator of the monitoring is the number of communities that have used the mechanism of inter-municipal cooperation. Over the previous month, additional 55 communities by having combined their resources started to deal with the matters of importance to the development of territories. Consequently, more than 916 communities have been already performing 214 agreements in the area of solid waste management, water supply and sanitation, security, social services, administrative services, etc.

The monitoring also shows that the process of community integration speeds up: 92 communities are undergoing the process of integration with 60 ATCs that have already been established, 12 communities are integrating with cities of Oblast subordination.

Also, according to the data provided by the Ministry of Regional Development, 116 Rayons of 490 (with the exception of 25 occupied Rayons) have not been engaged in the process so far.

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

New Tax Legislation: Private Farms and Land Plot Taxation

On 10 August 2018, the President of Ukraine signed Law No. 2497 "On Amendments to the Tax Code of Ukraine and Some Laws of Ukraine regarding the Facilitation of Establishment and Activity of Private Farms".

The Law allows regulating the activities carried out by individual entrepreneurs producing agricultural products, as well as ensuring that communities receive additional revenues resulting from the use of land plots within their territories.

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

The President Signed a Law Expanding Powers of Communities in Dealing Land Issues

On 20 August 2018, President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko signed Law of Ukraine No.2498-VIII "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts regarding the Solution of Collective Land Ownership Issue, Improvement of Rules for Use of Land in Blocks of Agricultural Lands, Prevention of Illegal Takeover, and Facilitation of Irrigation in Ukraine", dated 10 July 2018.

The Law implementation will allow communities using blocks of agricultural lands more effectively, creating required conditions for the prevention of illegal takeover, and facilitating irrigation of lands in Ukraine.

The Law shall become effective on 1 January 2019.

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

Continued Work on the Draft Law on Public Oversight of Legality of Resolutions Passed by Bodies of Local Self-Government

The Ministry of Regional Development plans, already in September, to submit for approval a draft law developed with the engagement of international experts, which draft law has to decrease the number of events and regulate the system of public oversight and control of activities of the bodies of local self-government in Ukraine.

By the end of August, experts will complete the analysis of the current system of public control of legality of resolutions passed by the bodies of local self-government and prepare their proposals regarding its improvement.

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The Association of ATCs and the U-LEAD with Europe Programme Started a New Project to Provide Legal Assistance to Communities

In August 2018, the Association of Amalgamated Territorial Communities, with the assistance of the U-LEAD with Europe Programme, started the implementation of the new "Introduction of Effective Municipal Management Tools and Legal Assistance to Communities" Project.

The main objective of the Project is to provide legal assistance to the bodies of local self-government of the basic level on matters arising in the course of exercising the right of voluntary amalgamation and integration of territorial communities.

To implement the project, a team of highly qualified lawyers will be formed through an open competitive selection, which lawyers will provide professional legal assistance to the bodies of local self-government upon request from communities.

All village, town, and city councils that plan to implement or are already implementing the procedures for voluntary amalgamation of territorial communities will be able to obtain the assistance.

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

OSCE will Join the Dialogue on Voluntary Integration of Communities with Cities of Oblast Subordination

In September through November 2018, the "Facilitation of Dialogue on Reforms in Ukraine" Project of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) plans to hold a series of regional round table discussions for representatives of local self-government on the integration of communities with cities of Oblast subordination. The events will be held with the support of the Ministry of Regional Development.

Overall, the OSCE plans to hold five round table discussions in the regions. The close-out event has to take place at the end of the year in Kyiv.

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

In August, Family Physicians, Paediatricians, and General Practitioners Received Increased Salaries

In August, the first increased salaries were received by health care professionals from institutions that have transferred to a new funding model in accordance with the "money follows the patient" principle. In July, the National Health Service of Ukraine paid UAH 255.3 million for health care services to 161 primary health care institutions.

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

International Community Called to Unblock Elections in the Amalgamated Communities

On 28 August 2018, donor agencies, embassies, and international organisations supporting the amalgamation of territorial communities in Ukraine made a joint statement. The international community calls to resolve all legal and technical issues to ensure that arrangements for holding elections in the newly established amalgamated territorial communities are made on a timely basis.

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70 Regional Start-Ups will be Implemented in Ukraine as a Part of Sectoral Support by EU

On 23 August 2018, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved the allocation of budget funds to 70 regional development projects that underwent the competitive selection and might be implemented in 2018 for the account of funds from the state budget, which funds were received from the European Union as a part of the Agreement on Financing the Sector Policy Support Programme - Support to Ukraine's Regional Policy.

It will afford opportunity to carry out reforms in the area of regional development and decentralisation in Ukraine more effectively through funding regional development projects that will ensure the development of innovative economy and investments, human resources, tourism, as well as the evolution of all-Ukrainian solidarity.

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

"Own Land": Suspilne TV Company Launches a New Project in Regions

On 3 August 2018, five affiliates of Suspilne TV Company launched the new "Own Land" Project. It is a programme on what can be achieved when you combine your efforts with your neighbours and by communities in general.

Affiliates of Suspilne TV Company in Poltava, Kharkiv, Kirovohrad, Kherson, and Zakarpattia Oblasts take part in the production of the programme. Overall, they plan to shoot 50 episodes on success of and challenges faced by people who have united for achieving a common goal.

The programme is produced by Suspilne TV Company at the initiative of the Ministry of Regional Development, Construction and Housing and Communal Services of Ukraine. Financial support is provided by the U-LEAD with Europe Programme.

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

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

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