

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

### The office for local self-government is created in Verkhovna Rada

On December 4 the parliamentary office for local self-government was created in Verkhovna Rada.

It is planned that office specialists will provide all the necessary support (technical, legal, expert, logistical) to managers of local self-government bodies.

The objective is to ensure openness and transparency of activities of the Parliament, the Chairman of Verkhovna Rada, people's deputies, and strengthen the connections between Verkhovna Rada and local self-government bodies, their associations, as well as territorial communities.

Source: web-site of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

*"Ukrainian Parliament is at your service, in this office you can get all technical means for efficient work",*

**said the head of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Volodymyr Groysman.**



### Euro-commission officially announced the allocation of almost 100 million euros for funding of authority decentralization in Ukraine

On December 7 the European Commission declared, that it adopted a complex of activities on support of decentralization and strengthening of local self-government in Ukraine.

97 million euros are allocated for this programme. It is financed mostly (EUR 90 million) by the EU budget; EUR 6 million are provided by Germany, EUR 1 million – by Poland.

The funding will be targeted at strengthening of administrations and support of their accountability at local, regional, and central levels.

Source: web-site of Decentralization of Power

*"Ukraine remains top priority on the European agenda",*

**said the supreme EU representative for foreign affairs and security policy Federica Mogherini.**



### The President signed the laws on decentralization of state registration competencies

On December 11 the President of Ukraine, Petro Poroshenko, signed the laws on decentralization of responsibilities for state registration of legal entities and individual entrepreneurs, as well as property rights for immovable property and their encumbrances.

Local self-government bodies, local state administrations, notary offices, and accredited subjects are granted the right to register legal entities and individual entrepreneurs, as well as the right to register property rights for immovable property.

Business conduction conditions are simplified, while the reformation of registration service is under way.

Source: web-site President of Ukraine

*"This will provide an additional resource to local self-government bodies, and, first of all, allow people to avoid standing in queues, going from the raion to oblast centre, paying bribes, and, instead, quickly and effectively obtain necessary certificates and permits",*

**said the Prime-minister of Ukraine, Arseny Yatsenyuk.**




### Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine approved the Law “On state service”

On December 10 Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine approved the Law “On state service”, providing for creation of a conceptually new state service system and increasing the responsibility of officials.

Only professional staff will be employed in the state service. Selection of candidates for vacancies will be conducted exclusively on competitive basis. Representatives of the public and the experts will be included into staffing commissions of all governmental bodies.

It is envisioned that political pressure upon officials will be terminated. State servants of “A” category are forbidden to join political parties. Introduction of the post of State secretaries of Ministries, who are to manage the apparatus and ensure fulfillment of the key functions by the ministries, will allow them to keep professional teams when the ministers are changed.

Source: web-site Government portal



“Adoption of the law “On State service” is the first (but a very important) step towards more effective, de-politicized, highly-qualified, and professional state service, which will be able to serve its citizens in a better way. The EU will provide Ukrainian government with expert support to facilitate the development of an all-encompassing strategy of the state government reform. It is extremely important for this process to be conducted without delay”,  
**said Euro-commissioner for European neighbourhood policy and enlargement negotiations, Johannes Hahn.**

### The law on roll-call voting in local councils entered into force

On December 23 the President of Ukraine, Petro Poroshenko, signed the Law on roll-call voting.

The law provides for open voting by roll call in local councils, and makes voting outcomes accessible to the general public.

In practice, this law will allow to make voting in local councils transparent, ensure public control over voting of each deputy, thus, contributing to increase of personal liability of people's chosen representatives, and improvement of local self-government quality.

Source: web-site President of Ukraine



“The deputies must feel personal responsibility for decisions they made. It is a very important step for development of local self-government”,  
**says the MP of Ukraine, Vadym Kryvenko.**


### Budgetary support of decentralization is increased

On December 24 Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted the draft law on State budget of Ukraine for 2016.

In comparison to 2015, the 2016 State budget allocates twice as much funding for support of regional development, continuation of decentralization, and support of new amalgamated communities.

3 billion UAH are allocated to the State fund of regional development for 2016, 1.94 billion UAH are allocated for social and economic development of regions. The subvention for support of infrastructural projects of amalgamated territorial communities amounts to 1 billion UAH.

Source: web-site Government portal



“In 2016 we expect local budgets to increase in comparison to 2015. Particularly, thanks to extension of their own competencies, reduction of the unified social tax and load on the salary, taking it out from the shade, and increasing it”,  
**said Vice-prime Minister, Minister of regional development, construction, and housing and communal services of Ukraine, Gennady Zubko.**

### In March 2016 ten more amalgamated communities will hold the first local elections

On December 25 the Central election committee adopted the decision, providing that on March 27 of the next year ten more amalgamated communities would hold the first local elections.

Elections of deputies of village, settlement, city councils of amalgamated territorial communities, as well as respective village, settlement, city council heads, will take place in amalgamated territorial communities in nine oblasts. The electoral process in these communities will start on February 6, 2016.


Source: web-site Government portal

### The President signed the law on extension of competencies of local self-government bodies and optimization of administrative services provision

On December 26 the President of Ukraine, Petro Poroshenko, signed the law on extension of competencies of local self-government bodies and optimization of administrative services provision.

Executive and local authorities are granted new competencies, particularly concerning the registration of the place of residence, provision of data from the State land cadastre, working with documents, confirming citizenship, creation of the register of territorial communities, exchange of data between registers of territorial communities, and data transfers in the Unified state demographic register.

Source: web-site President of Ukraine




"This law permanently eliminates unreasonable queues, in which people have to stand in order to register their place of residence, get a passport or some information from the State land cadastre",  
**says the chairman of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Volodymyr Groysman.**

### A rating of socio-economic development of Ukrainian regions is launched

Minregion of Ukraine launched a rating evaluation of socio-economic development of regions.

Oblasts will be estimated on a quarterly basis, according to 27 indicators, belonging to 6 streams, and on an annual basis, according to 64 indicators in 12 streams. Introduction of the evaluation will allow for estimation of socio-economic development condition in oblasts. Beside that, the criteria will serve as indicators of effectiveness of managerial decisions, made at central and local levels, targeted at enhancement of competitive capacity of the regions.

Source: web-site Government portal



"Local managers must compete for investments, financial self-sustenance, and investment attractiveness of their oblasts. All these factors will contribute to economic development of Ukraine as a whole",  
**said Vice-prime Minister, Minister of regional development, construction, and housing and communal services of Ukraine, Gennady Zubko.**