

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


OPERATION OF REGIONAL OFFICES FOR REFORMS WILL CONTINUE

On October 1 Minregion, Council of Europe Office, and the Association of Ukrainian Cities signed a Memorandum, allowing 24 regional offices for reforms to go on functioning.

Employees of reform offices will continue to engage communities in the process of unification in accordance to prospective plans of community territory formation, provide methodological support and consultations regarding organization of work of unified communities' local councils and their executive committees, as well as popularize the process of capable community building and authority decentralization.

The Memorandum will remain in force until December 25, 2015.

Source: [web-site Government portal](#)



"We are joining efforts to implement the reform of local self-government and decentralization of authority, form capable territorial communities in Ukraine, and looking forward to even more active work of regional reform offices", **said the First deputy Minister of regional development, construction, and housing and communal services of Ukraine, Vyacheslav Negoda.**


A REFORM SUPPORT CENTRE WILL BE CREATED IN KYIV

On October 1 a presentation of the premises, intended for creation of the Centre for regional development, took place. The premises were granted to the Government by the Parliament under support of the chairman of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Volodymyr Groysman. The Centre should become a unique example of joint work of the state, the public, and international partners.

The Centre's principle objectives are: coordination of operations of local reform offices, implementation and adaptation of international experience, expert and legislative support.

The Government implements this project jointly with such international organizations as DESPRO (Switzerland), GIZ (Germany), USADI, governments of European countries.

Source: [web-site Government portal](#)




«We are creating a unified platform to unite the efforts on implementation of the reform of local self government and authority decentralization», **said Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of regional development, construction, and housing and communal services of Ukraine, Gennady Zubko.**

THE GOVERNMENT FORMS A LEGISLATIVE “ROADMAP” FOR DECENTRALIZATION

On October 5 Minregion started to form the “roadmap” for decentralization. The map will be needed for efficient harmonization of the legislation after Verkhovna Rada votes for amendments to the Constitution on decentralization in the second reading.

The “roadmap” has three legislative packages. The first, basic one envisions four draft laws, on which the new Constitution will rely. The second package envisions adaptation of a set of laws, concerning budget, taxes, electoral system etc. The third package envisions the introduction of amendments into sectoral legislation. In general, 22 sectors of state government will require changes. A plan of the country’s gradual transition to decentralization course should be implemented in spring 2018.

Source: web-site Government portal



«We will not sit and wait for decisions of the deputy corps. We will change what cannot be changed without amendments to the Basic Law, after the voting. But for now, we will delegate what competencies we can to the local level»,
said Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of regional development, construction, and housing and communal services of Ukraine, Gennady Zubko.


THE PLAN OF REGIONS’ DEVELOPMENT FOR 2015-2017 IS DEVELOPED

On October 8 the Cabinet of Ministers approved the Plan of action on the implementation of the National strategy of regional development until 2020 for 2015-2017.

The Plan should ensure equal development of the territories, elimination of inter-regional social and economical disproportions, and stimulation of economical activity and employment of community residents.

According to the Plan, executors, funding sources and forecasted values of efficiency indicators for specific strategic tasks (until 2017) will be defined.

Source: web-site Government portal



«Approval of this Plan is a pre-condition for monetary transfers of EUR 55 million, in accordance to the EU programme of sectoral budgetary support “Support to Ukraine’s Regional Policy”, as part of the Agreement between Ukrainian Government and the European Union”,
said Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of regional development, construction, and housing and communal services of Ukraine, Gennady Zubko.

UNIFIED COMMUNITIES WILL GET A SUBVENTION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE

On October 8 the profile Committee of Verkhovna Rada approved the proposal of Minregion concerning the need for allocation of a separate subvention to local budgets for building of the infrastructure of unified territorial communities.

The proposal is based on the presumption that unified territorial communities have the right to count on support of the state, as provided by the law.

The subvention amounts to approximately 1.4 billion UAH.

Source: web-site Government portal



«The state must clearly affirm, that unification of communities and implementation of decentralization are its top priorities”,
said Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of regional development, construction, and housing and communal services of Ukraine, Gennady Zubko.

A MECHANISM FOR STATE REGISTRATION OF UNIFIED COMMUNITIES IS DEVELOPED

On October 8 a profile Committee of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine approved the draft Law "On Introduction of Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine as to Peculiarities of State Registration of Local Self-government Bodies as Legal Persons".

The draft law should regulate the relations and remove legal drawbacks, emerging as a result of state registration of a local self-government body of a unified community as a legal person.

Source: web-site Government portal

"Re-registration of 159 village, settlement, city councils of unified territorial communities and 159 respective executive committees is required; termination of activity of approximately 1200 local councils has to be registered as well. For this a clear procedure is required, and this procedure is provided by the draft law",
said the First deputy Minister of regional development, construction, and housing and communal services of Ukraine, Vyacheslav Negoda.



RESIDENTS OF 13 CITIES ALREADY HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT E-PETITIONS TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES

On October 15 an online system for submitting local petitions e-dem.in.ua was presented in Kyiv.

13 cities of Ukraine, including Lutsk, Vinnytsia, Trostyanets, Dniprodzerzhynsk, Myrgorod, Ternopil, have already expressed their willingness to use the system. The system will operate in testing mode throughout October 2015 in the 13 aforementioned pilot cities.

The system will boost the quality of local self-government, improve the interaction between authority and citizens, and contribute to development of social innovations in Ukraine.

Source: web-site State Agency Ukraine on e-governance

«Local petitions are a considerable test for democratic maturity, for both local authorities and local communities. Soon e-petitions will function in Ukrainian cities, and residents of respective communities will be able to affect local governmental decisions in a new efficient and democratic way»,
said the head of the State agency for e-government of Ukraine Oleksandr Ryzhenko.



LATVIA WILL ASSIST THE UNIFIED COMMUNITIES OF CHERNIGIV OBLAST

October 15 was the day of completion of a week-long working visit of a group of experts from the Ministry of environmental protection and regional development of Republic of Latvia to Ukraine.

According to the visit's results, Latvia will provide methodical support to Kipti, Parafiyivka, and Vertiyivka unified territorial communities in development of high-quality prospective community development plans, training of professionals in communities in accordance to the key directions of formation of investment attraction plans for development of territories.

Source: web-site Government portal

«Our specialists are ready to help Ukraine in creation of communities, that will exemplify effective development and provision of high-quality public services to the residents»,
said director of Department of self-governments of the Ministry of environmental protection and regional development of Republic of Latvia, Aivaras Draudins.




THE FIRST ELECTIONS TOOK PLACE IN 159 UNIFIED COMMUNITIES

On October 25 the first local elections took place in 159 unified communities.

Residents of unified communities elected local council heads and deputies. The date of elections of elders in settlements of these communities will be later defined by local councils. Until that time the functions of village elders will be performed by current village council heads.

According to the European parliamentary delegation members and international observers, the elections were held in compliance with the international standards.

Source: web-site of Decentralization of Power




“Local elections in Ukraine became the starting point of decentralization and territorial reforms in the state. In spite of complicated situation, in general, the elections were organized, at a satisfactory level”, said the head of the mission of Council of Europe Congress observers, Gudrun Mosler-Tornstrom.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE DRAFT LAW “ON PREFECTS” IS CLOSE TO COMPLETION

On October 26 Minregion informed that the Draft Law of Ukraine “On Prefects” should be fully developed in the nearest time.

Particularly, the draft law provides that the first prefects shall be appointed through selection of candidates on competitive basis. At the same time, a candidate pool of potential future prefects shall be formed.

Source: web-site Government portal



«Before parliamentary voting for amendments to the Constitution on decentralization we need to have a thorough understanding of what the institution of prefects is”,
said the First deputy Minister of regional development, construction, and housing and communal services of Ukraine, Vyacheslav Negoda.

GERMANY WILL SUPPORT UKRAINIAN CITIES ON THE WAY TO DECENTRALIZATION

On October 26 a 5-year agreement on cooperation was signed by Minregion of Ukraine and the Ministry of environment, nature protection, construction and safety of nuclear reactors of Germany.

Particularly, the document provides that German municipalities shall start direct cooperation with Ukrainian unified communities.

Implementation of collaboration will yield specific results: modern approaches in urban construction policy, high-quality public transport, facilitation of local economy and local labor market, implementation of energy-saving technologies.

Source: web-site Government portal



«This agreement indicates that our German partners, who have knowledge and technologies on the one hand, and investment resource on the other, have appreciated the success of decentralization implementation in Ukraine”,
said Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of regional development, construction, and housing and communal services of Ukraine, Gennady Zubko.