



International Centre for Policy Studies (ICPS)

Annual Report 2016

The International Centre for Policy Studies (ICPS) is one of Ukraine's top independent think-tanks involved in the development and analysis of public policy.

Building on more than 20 years of experience, ICPS proposes the strategic vision of the country's development and transformation. It is based on implementation of the complex of cross-sectoral reforms and innovative developments in public governance and political competition.

Mission

Promotion of reforms, democratic principles of governance, and social transformations in Ukraine on the basis of European integration.

Background

ICPS was founded in 1994 upon the initiative of the Prague-based Open Society Institute (OSI). At that moment, ICPS was the first independent think-tank in Ukraine. Its mission was to analyse economic policy and prepare long-term forecasts for the Government and President of Ukraine.

Organisation's structure

ICPS team comprises up to 15 staff experts and 5 administrative employees. Depending on the project, an additional number of experts are engaged.

ICPS comprises:

- Department of Internal Policy,
- Department of Foreign Policy and European Integration,
- Department of Economic Analysis,
- Department of Energy Policy,
- Department of Anticorruption Policy,
- Communication Department,
- Administrative Department.

ICPS has a wide spread network of local partner organizations all over Ukraine comprising 24 local partners in total.

In 2015-2016, the ICPS established main priorities for the next few years and began to work in ten key areas:

- Foreign Policy;
- Political Competition;
- Government Decisions;
- Reforms support;



- Conflict Settlement;
- Constitutional Process;
- Economic Forecast;
- Gender Equality;
- Fight against Corruption;
- Leaders of Change.

The process of the post-bipolar disintegration is leading to the establishment of a new system for world law enforcement and will renew key international institutions. Only now are leading actors starting to comprehend the ramifications of the collapse of the post-bipolar system of international relations and the search for possible new options for global security architecture.

There is no choice but to negotiate on new European security architecture. The alternative to arrangements is the war that is already taking place on Ukrainian territory complete it's with huge material and human losses. Strategic uncertainty and resentment in the relationship between the West and Russia must come to an end - either parties agree, or the confrontation lasts for years and Moscow is defeated only in the medium or long term perspective. The problem is that in the latter case, the price of this global confrontation is paid first and foremost by Ukraine.

To be ready to participate as independent and peer partner in this process Ukraine needs to re-establish its subjectivity on the international arena which is possible through reforming of the country, combating corruption, conducting a duly constitutional process and further reintegration of the country.

The reintegration and conflict resolution

Unfortunately, the ICPS has predicted the risk of the country's disintegration and conflict in the East of Ukraine. The good news, we see the possibilities of its reintegration in future. **Moreover, the ICPS was the first to promote the idea of the national dialogue.**

For many years, the successive Ukrainian governments were unable to unite different regions and establish a united political nation using "soft power" methods. For the whole period of its independence, Ukraine lacked the policy of national unity, broadly implemented in other heterogeneous states.

The situation changed irreversibly when the Russian Federation provided arms and engaged its armed forces to support one of the conflict sides in Ukraine, using the existing differences between Ukrainian regions to incite the destabilization in Donbas and disintegration of the whole country. Since that, the conflict in Ukraine has transformed from internal political confrontation between regional political elites into the multi-layered conflict at the global, regional and local levels.

National dialogue initiatives, reintegration and reconciliation are not part of the mainstream of the political process in Ukraine. Most of the political parties and independent candidates preferred to exclude these problems from their political discourse or, to the contrary, to use the existing situation to stress regional differences to win electoral support among their target constituencies.

Besides local dialogue initiatives aimed at building bridges between different communities and social groups, the ICPS's National Dialogue project appeared to be the only NGO's activity promoting the dialogue initiative at the national level.



Moreover, currently the ICPS is the only Ukrainian think tank that actively promotes *the idea of reintegration of the country*, while the majority of others support the idea isolation of the problem regions (Donbas and Crimea).

Constitution process and need of participatory dialogue for constitutional reform

The ICPS was the first who pointed out and stress on the urgent need of inclusive constitutional process and participatory dialogue for constitutional reform.

Beginning from 1996, when the first constitution of independent Ukraine was adopted, and then in 2004 and 2010 when it was changed, it was a result of a shady deal between political elites on the division of authority, power and national wealth among them.

The current constitutional amendment process, initiated according to the Genève Agreement, is largely taking place behind the closed doors. At best scenario, the public is expected to get a final version of the document and it again would be deprived of the opportunity and the right to influence the process.

Thus, if a new constitutional process does not include the Ukrainian society, we can forget about the country's reintegration. The mistakes of non-transparent constitutional process resulted in death of people near the parliament of Ukraine in August last year. And these risks are still valid.

We are sure that only the nationwide dialogue on new provisions of the Constitution will have real legitimacy among publics, allow the possibility for all stakeholders to voice their opinion, take part in creating the new basic law and ensure the inclusion of socially important provisions to the Constitution rather than those dictated by the interests of certain political parties.

To get out this message the ICPS within the Participatory dialogue for constitutional reform project made a research on the best practices of the constitutional process in different countries and made Ukrainian and Russian translation of the manual "Constitution-Making and Reform. In autumn, we launched a process of Creation of People's Constitution comprising series of public discussions in a number of regions of Ukraine called to initiate the democratic constitutional process on the basis civil consensus.

Audit of reforms process and need of the institutional transformation of the country

For many years, the ICPS experts constantly stressed the need of the institutional transformation of the country. We were the neophytes in the reforms promotion on the basis of public consultations and public policy.

The large-scale reform process has been lasting in Ukraine for the last year. The government, as well as a number of civil society initiatives has already elaborated a number of proposals on reform strategies. Although not all of these initiatives seems to be efficient or even can negatively influence the different processes in other sectors, they require analyses and evaluation on how they promote the public interests and how they are being implemented.

The other problem, that the state authorities, in the most of the cases, adopt the decisions without preliminary public consultations with the stakeholders. This creates the situation when the public interests are not taken into the consideration during the elaboration of different policies. It causes the lack of public support of the reforms as well as their slow speed of implementation.

To make the reform process possible and reliable, the authorities must base it on the public consultations with the stakeholders, while the business should learn how to defend its interests in



civilized way. For all that the analyses of the independent think tanks as the ICPS should be used in the reforming process.

As the mechanism of consultations with the expert and business community, public interests are not taken into the consideration during the elaboration of different policies. This situation causes the problem for the state authorities to conduct a public dialogue on the reform process,

Last year we decided to demonstrate this process in practice and launched the project on ***analyses of the implemented reforms and their inter-sectoral influence***. We conducted a series of public consultations on budget and tax reform, deregulation, administrative and local government reform, judicial and law-enforcement bodies' reforms, and energy reform. We determined the influence of these reforms on the other sectors, mainly investment climate, business conditions, public governance. Further we plan to conduct work not only on the monitoring of the reforms as many other public initiatives do, but their auditing and evolution of their influence on other sectors.

The fight with the corruption in the context of decentralization

ICPS was among the first to declare that the fight against corruption should become the main priority of a newly appointed "kamikadze" government. According to our poll, 63% considered the fight against corruption to be the main reform and it was the issue, which united the East and West of the country.

Up today, despite the continuous declarations of the highest Ukrainian authorities, the number of scandals related to it and the scale of its shade schemes continues to grow exponentially.

The ongoing decentralization reform leads to the transfer of public finances to local communities moving the corruption risks to the local level. Communities lack capacities to analyse budgets and prevent corruption helps the corruption to further spread its metastasis throughout the country.

In 2015, the ICPS launched several project aimed to develop capacities of the local communities to control public finance. We trained them to become watchdogs of public funds use, namely how to write official requests and make investigations of corruption in public procurement, as well as strengthened communication between NGOs, media and local authorities. We also facilitated the process of uniting of the local activists from different regions into Regional coalition to foster citizen participation in public finance control (PFC).

The need of new Ukrainian leaders and involvement of dedicated people in the reform process

In 2014, we predicted that the so-called "new faces", which entered the Parliament in autumn 2014, would be unable to change the country and conduct the effective reforms. The reason that they used the old-style party institutions to get to the parliament instead of creating their own one.

However, we are sure that in future new leaders sharing new values will make changes.

The Revolution of Dignity provided Ukraine with a unique chance to take a great step forward on the European path and to become a country where democratic institutions are strong, human rights are respected and people have opportunities to advance and participate in shaping their own future. We believe that the involvement of reform-minded and dedicated people in the reform process is crucial. The driving force of the Euromaidan protests was the youth of Ukraine for whom it is a rare moment in history when they can enter politics.

In 2015, the ICPS together with the Hungarian and Polish NGOs and supported by the International Visegrad Fund launched the ***Visegrad Academy for Political Leadership*** where we



trained a carefully selected group of young political aspirants and civil society activists, providing them with the skills and knowledge that are essential to succeed in politics.

At another point, ICPS supported by US State Department organized the ***Ukraine Strategic Communications Workshop*** in Berlin for 20 Ukrainian government officials from different levels, who are responsible for and committed to implementing dynamic information campaigns. The program focused on communication by government officials with media and the wider public, as well as countering negative information campaigns. It provided participants with practical knowledge in media messaging techniques and to expand their relevant networks, all toward the goal of countering negative and misleading information campaigns.

We conducted several ***seminars and training for the young candidates*** at the local elections, providing them with the knowledge on the constitutional process, fight with the corruption, political competition, and work with the journalists and leadership skills.

Empowering women as a window of opportunities for new leaders

We are the first think-tank in Ukraine who mainstreamed the issue of gender equality through all the projects, researches and surveys. We see gender equality and empowering women as one of the cornerstones of the European integration.

The level of gender equality in Ukraine remains much lower than in the European countries. The most closed spheres for women are politics and state top-management as well as participation in state decision-making. The ongoing changes and reforms in Ukraine open a window for promotion of gender equality values, implementation of best European and world practices in this sphere and modernization of political competition and public administration:

First, the launch of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement implementation foresees implementation of a number of EU directives on antidiscrimination and gender equality into Ukrainian legislation and practice. The administrative reform and adoption of the framework law "On Public Service" give an opportunity for gender mainstreaming in the public administration and overcoming horizontal and vertical gender inequality in the government sector.

The changes in regulation of political competition and electoral systems can help foster gender inequality within the political parties, while the ongoing decentralization gives the opportunity to further promote the gender equality values in the Ukrainian regions.

Foreign policy of Ukraine in the context of the global security system changes

We were the first to present the comprehensive vision of the Ukrainian conflict in the early 2014, demonstrating that it is a conjunction of conflicts at three different levels: geopolitical (global), Ukrainian-Russian (regional) and within Ukraine (local).

At the present moment, we are the only team of foreign policy experts promoting the idea of new foreign policy as well as the need for revising of the existing security architecture in Europe and the world.

As for the Ukrainian foreign policy, it is outdated as continues to be based on principles and paradigms adopted back in 90s. The Ukrainian political elite simplistically perceived situation in the world as a confrontation between the West and Russia, and the basic foreign policy principles elaborated in 90s were based on the Cold War bipolar thinking. The main theory which was discussed between political elites comprises swinging either towards the integration with the West or towards post-Soviet area under Russia's influence. Such an approach became a part of



Ukrainian internal political struggle, strengthened centrifugal tendencies in the country and poses many threats to the country.

The current Ukraine's swing towards the EU is just another evidence of the traditional multi-vector foreign policy approach with constant balancing between the West and Russia as a result of internal political factors.

The use of foreign policy principles, which were developed 25 years ago and no longer correspond to the realities, does not contribute to the conflict settlement, economic development and modernization of the country. Moreover, when it comes to national security in the sphere of Euro-Atlantic integration, Ukraine's foreign policy is directed at achieving goals, which are objectively unachievable in the current state of national development and under current internal and international political conditions.

To promote these ideas in the Ukrainian and European societies the ICPS launched a number of projects: regular meeting within the **Diplomatic Club** are called to bring together Ukrainian foreign policy experts and policymakers for elaborating professional recommendations for Ukrainian authorities regarding the promotion of Ukraine's international standing. This analyses and recommendations are presented at the **Foreign Policy Insight** regular publication. To promote further these ideas we launched **TV Program "Geopolitics"** on 5th TV channel.

Implemented projects

During 2015-2016 the ICPS implemented 19 projects in the areas of reforms, reintegration and modernization of Ukraine. Several of those projects covered all the regions of the country.

- *Supporting reforms focus:*
 - Enhancing the Economic Capacity of Rural Areas in the Context of the Implementation of the EU-Ukraine AA;
 - Hidden Triggers of Economic Growth in V4 Plus Ukraine;
 - Analysis of the Quality of Reform Implementation and its Inter-sectoral Influence;
 - Transparent, Financially Sound and Competitive Municipalities in Ukraine;
 - Impact analysis of the EU-Ukraine DCFTA.
- *Conflict resolution focus:*
 - Initiating the Participatory National Dialogue in Ukraine.
 - Modelling of the Minsk agreements implementation and support of strategic advisors to the Ministry of Temporary Occupied Territories and IDPs.
- *Constitutional process focus:*
 - Participatory Dialogue for Constitutional Reform;
 - Using World Expert Experience and Public Consultations in the Process of Amending the Constitution of Ukraine.
- *Gender equality focus:*
 - Empowering Women;
 - Equal Opportunities for Men and Women in Politics, Business and Civil Society;
 - Beyond the Protocol – Women and International Politics in Germany and Ukraine;
 - Women's Participation in Ukrainian Politics;
 - Modernising Ukraine via Gender Equality Implementation.
- *Fight against corruption focus:*
 - Local Watchdogs to Ensure Control over Public Finances (for Rivne, Kherson, Sumy, Chernivtsi and Zhytomyr regions);



- Local Watchdogs in Ensuring Control over Public Finances (*for Khmelnytskyi, Rivne, Chernivtsi, Chernihiv and Kherson regions*);
- Coalition of Regional CSOs for Public Finance Control.
- Pechenihy: a stolen coast
- *Leaders of change focus:*
 - Ukraine Information Initiative Training in Berlin;
 - Visegrad Academy for Political Leadership;
 - Mapping of the Needs of Political Education in Ukraine.

Conflict resolution focus:

- ***Initiating the Participatory National Dialogue in Ukraine.***

Donor: the Netherlands Embassy, MATRA

The general objective of the project was to initiate, design and conduct a national dialogue, which would bring together representatives from regional elites, civic activists, political and opinion leaders etc, on the future development of Ukraine as an integral and sovereign state.

Main results: the ICPS had prepared and publish additional research on “*Mapping of dialogue initiatives to resolve the conflict in Ukraine*” to structure the working field and to help find synergy with other similar projects. Later this data was used by mediatEUr to build a Dialogue Support Platform in Ukraine for the United Nations Development Programme in Ukraine (<http://dialoguesupport.org>).

Thus the general number of activities reached 45. The public event dedicated to Crimea was conducted in Kyiv with the participation of Crimean IDPs; the public events dedicated to Donetsk and Luhansk were conducted in Kyiv as well with the participation of the IDPs and Skype-conference with the representatives of these regions currently living on the uncontrolled territory. The later public discussions with representatives of Donetsk and Luhansk region were conducted in Sloviansk (located in the part of Donetsk oblast controlled by the government of Ukraine), including the participants from both Ukrainian government-controlled and rebel-held territories.

- ***Modelling of the Minsk agreements implementation and support of strategic advisors to the Ministry of Temporary Occupied Territories and IDPs***

Donor: International Renaissance Foundation

Implementation of political component of the Minsk Agreements and activity of the subject Ministry of temporarily occupied territories and IDPs Ukraine (MinTOT) require an understanding of applied aspects of the implementation of the set of measures signed in Minsk. At present, the Ukrainian government and expert community lack experience in modelling political processes, also there is no discussions and no model of implementation of the Minsk Agreements. In case if such a model is successfully elaborated and implemented it may become an instrument of Donetsk and Luhansk self-proclaimed republics replacement and also become a road map for international organizations, government, media, NGOs, political parties, the Central Election Commission to have effect on the uncontrolled territories. For this purpose the ICPS is implementing the project on model elaboration of the Minsk agreements implementation on which basis will be offered the analysis and proposals for improving the existing regulatory framework, strategic decisions in order to reintegrate territories not controlled by the Ukrainian government. To perform this task a group of



strategic advisors will be established at the MinTOT to provide expert analytical and advisory assistance in the ongoing work of the subject Ministry.

The purpose of the Project:

On the basis of public consultations with stakeholders to conduct modeling of the Minsk Agreements implementation as a tool of Donbass reintegration and to draft relevant legal documents for the worked model implementation with the help of strategic advisers to the MinTOT.

Activities in the Project:

- 1.1. Preparation of analytical document on possible models of conflict resolution in the Donbas, their drawbacks and advantages, economic, political, security, humanitarian and other dimensions.
- 1.2. Preparation of an analytical study on modelling of the Minsk Agreements implementation as a tool for reintegration and replacement of the Donetsk and Luhansk self-proclaimed republics.
- 1.3. Collection and generalization of proposals concerning modelling of the Minsk Agreements implementation at 4 public consultations in Kyiv, Kharkiv and Kramatorsk.
- 1.4. Discussion of the documents contents and proposals with representatives of the MinTOT and state authorities to determine their needs on the part of experts in the implementation of the reintegration strategy of temporarily uncontrolled territories.
- 1.5. Conducting of the final presentation of models of the Minsk Agreements implementation.

Constitutional process focus:

- ***Participatory dialogue for constitutional reform;***

Donor: International Renaissance Foundation

The project has several goals: profound and professional analysis of the proposed amendments to the Constitution; maximum involvement of experts and mediators with have experience of constitutional reforms in various countries, that will allow to use the best world practices in the work on the text of the Constitution; raising awareness among all key stakeholders of the constitutional process in Ukraine; clarifying the role each individual citizen can play in the formation of a new Constitution.

Main results:

- Conducted expert analysis of proposed amendments to the Constitution, the estimation of the text in accordance with international requirements is made and submitted comments and explanations with revisions;
 - Provided public information about the work on the preparation of proposals for constitutional reform and its implementation.
- ***Using World Expert Experience and Public Consultations in the Process of Amending the Constitution of Ukraine.***

Donor: International Renaissance Foundation

The Ukrainian state has gone through several constitutional processes, but each time it resulted in a bargain of political elites on the division of powers and authorities. The struggle



for power carried out by political forces over the recent years has led to even greater distortion of the Constitution and irregular interpretation of the whole law institutions. For example, a lack of understanding of the doctrine for human rights has led to the situation when the socio-economic rights were enshrined in the same legal way as the fundamental human rights and freedoms. The mechanism of power and power distribution does not comply with the world practices. The second best foundations were laid for the development of local government while regional government is not provided for by the Constitution at all.

It is no doubt that defects of constitutional provisions were used by subjects of political relations in order to usurp as much authority as possible and to avoid responsibility. A number of provisions was broken and ignored by governmental entities. Opacity and politicization of constitutional processes causes increasing social disillusionment with the Constitution as the social pact between a state and citizens.

Within a framework of the project its implementation includes the following items:

- Formation of expert advice centre at the Constitutional Commission, which will include both leading Ukrainian and international experts in constitutional law to provide professional expertise and assistance in the development of future provisions of the Constitution in the initial stages.
- roundtables and podium discussions with the public and political parties and other stakeholders to discuss the positions of the parties regarding the problems that lead to the need for constitutional reform involving moderators Interpeace;
- public consultations with all the stakeholders;
- training on the provisions of the new Constitution of Ukraine involving coaches from Interpeace;
- carrying out activities aimed at informing the society on the implementation of constitutional reforms, explanations on feasibility of certain changes;
- providing wide media information coverage on the issues related to the changes of the Constitution of Ukraine;
- creating a web - platform devoted to discussion of the new text of the Constitution of Ukraine;
- 24 regional events were held in the framework of the project.

Supporting reforms focus:

- ***Enhancing the economic capacity of rural areas in the context of the implementation of the EU-Ukraine AA;***

Donor: Canada Fund for Local Initiatives

The aim of the project is to facilitate economic welfare of residents of rural areas in the context of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement (AA).

Main results:

- Increased public awareness about benefits and risks of the implementation of the AA in rural areas of Chernivtsi region;

- Enhanced capacity of local residents to adapt to new economic realities after the signing of the AA, which ultimately will facilitate the improvement of economic welfare of local population;
- Empowerment of women living in rural areas;
- Facilitation of environmentally friendly production and entrepreneurship as a result of the implementation of the AA.

- ***Hidden triggers of economic growth in V4 plus Ukraine;***

Donor: International Visegrad Fund

Goal: The triggers of growth of the transition period are close to exhausting their potential. No clear alternative sets of policies leading to higher sustainable economic and social progress have been prepared. This project formulated such policies in four areas:

- consolidation of public finances;
- education, measurement quality and (labor market) results;
- high unemployment;
- enhancing integration chances of Ukraine.

Main results:

- Workshop in Kyiv, 24.10.2014, Enhancing Ukraine`s integration chances
- Webinar 1, Public Finance Consolidation
- Publishing Country-Specific Analyses on Public Finance Consolidation
- Webinar 2, Education, measurement of quality and (labour market) results
- Country-Specific Analyses on Measuring Quality and Labour Market Results in Education
- Webinar 3, Solutions to high unemployment rate
- Country-Specific Analyses on Solutions to High Unemployment Rate.
- Final conference in Bratislava: How to increase integration chances of Ukraine,
- Policy Paper on Enhancing Ukraine`s integration chances.

- ***Analysis of the quality of reform implementation and its inter-sectoral influence;***

Donor: International Renaissance Foundation

Goal: Assessment of the quality of public decisions taken in the framework of reforms, public consultation and recommendations on the necessary political, regulatory decisions in the budget and tax policy, deregulation, administrative reform and decentralization, reform of the judiciary and law enforcement agencies and reform the energy sector.

Main results:

- The database of reforms conducted in Ukraine since the beginning of 2014 was developed; carried out an internal examination of the reforms in terms of quality and presence of the negative "side effects" in related sectors and conformity of the Association Agreement with the EU on certain areas of project proposal.



- A survey of stakeholders in terms of assessing the quality of the reforms proposed to society was made, including developed by the reformist environment, government, president and the parliamentary groups of influence; prepared 5 publications with expert survey.
- 5 analytical reports on quality assessment of developed and implemented reforms in the following areas: budget and tax policy, deregulation, administrative reform and decentralization, reform of the judiciary and law enforcement, reform the energy sector, were prepared.
- 10 public consultations in areas such as fiscal and tax policy, deregulation, administrative reform and decentralization, reform of the judiciary and law enforcement, reform the energy sector, were held.
- 5 recommendations for public policy on the basis of public consultation and examination regulations (one publication), were prepared.
- A final conference with stakeholders to discuss the previously prepared recommendations for public policy was held.
- As part of providing active media campaign for information support of the project more than 10 publications and 5 blogs, 15th comments / interviews with media, 4 infographics were made. All analytic materials, elaborated during the project were placed in the public domain of the ICPS and resources of information partners.
- Elaborated recommendations were sent to the National Council of Reform and the specialized authorities to improve the quality of government decisions.

- ***Transparent, Financially Sound and Competitive Municipalities in Ukraine;***

Donor: SlovakAid

The main objective of the project is to contribute to the improvement of the financial health regions, cities and towns in Ukraine. Transparency, fiscal sustainability and shaping of regional competitive advantages are the very basic fundamentals for effective performance of municipalities in the long term horizon.

Main results:

- The data on the financial health of all the regions and its administrative centres were collected and released.
- A permanent platform for publication of the data in a user-friendly way (including charts and filters) on our website was created.
- Analysis of the financial stability of 24 regions and their administrative centres was made.
- Recommendations for legal amendments and establishment of sanctions to improve compliance with the criteria were proposed.
- Presentation of the project's results to the general public and the public agents was made.

Fight against corruption focus:

- ***Local watchdogs to ensure control over public finances;***

Donor: the Black Sea Trust



The goal of the project was to foster citizen participation in public finance control (PFC) at the local level and strengthen communication between NGOs, media and local authorities when it comes to public funds.

Main results:

- 5 regional anticorruption seminars with round-table discussion were held in Rivne, Kherson, Sumy, Chernivtsi, Zhytomyr regions.
 - Educational materials for seminars in the regions, which were distributed among activists and local officials were prepared:
 - An overview of anticorruption initiatives of 2014;
 - A template for public investigations of financial violations by local officials;
 - The guideline outlining principles of PFC, state agencies responsible for the field, European best practices, as well as instruments through which civic activists may ensure PFC at the initial stage of anticorruption reform.
 - A two-day training session in Kyiv for 20 highly motivated activists was organized. The participants met with MP Egor Soboliev and various famous journalists and civic activists that are actively promoting the fight against corruption in Ukraine.
 - A press conference with the participation of journalists and experts to draw the public attention to situation with anticorruption reform in the country and to the results of the project was organized.
- ***Coalition of regional CSOs for public finance control;***

Donor: The UK Government

The main objective of the project was to increase public awareness of the public finance control (PFC) at the regional level in Ukraine.

Main results:

- The project envisaged the publication of 30 investigations on the Anticorruption Portal of Civil Investigations;
- The project aimed at engaging the local activists and journalists from six Ukrainian regions: Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Odesa, Lviv, Chernivtsi and Kyiv oblasts. As a result, the project involved the publication of the investigations of the cases from another seven regions: Kirovohrad, Khmelnytskyi, Kherson, Zhytomyr, Sumy, Zakarpattia and Ivano-Frankivsk oblasts. Ultimately, there were the investigations from 13 regions published on the Anticorruption Portal of Civil Investigations contains the investigations from 13 regions;
- The project's value for money overseen 30 investigations on UAH 200,000+ violations totally revealing the abuses on at least UAH 6,000,000. Ultimately, 30 investigations revealed the abuses on UAH 786,540,782 that is more than 100 higher than a benchmark milestone;
- The authors of 25 investigations after the publication of their materials contacted local authorities or law enforcement bodies and in six cases, they achieved the cancellation of tenders, repudiation of illegal contracts or termination of illegal construction as a positive result;



- Two cases became the subject of the investigation at the National Agency on Prevention of Corruption (NABU);
- The Coalition of Regional CS Organisations for PFC, which became the key output of the project, is a unique association uniting the regional anticorruption investigators in Ukraine and the only platform working at the regional and local levels.

Leaders of Change focus:

- ***Ukraine Information Initiative training in Berlin;***

Donor: Embassy of the US in Berlin

Goal:

1. Provide participants with a practical toolkit for conducting information campaigns, both proactive and reactive, via traditional and new media.
2. Engage in dialogue about the threats posed by negative information campaigns targeting Ukraine and possible medium-term and long-term solutions.
3. Create a network of trusted contacts among government officials in Ukraine, who can support each other in a concerted effort to deliver their message and counter injurious negative information campaigns.
4. Create a network among Ukrainian participants and U.S. and European specialists to support one another's work in the future.

Main results:

- The program brought specialists from a variety of backgrounds to Berlin to provide participants with practical knowledge in media messaging techniques and to expand their relevant networks.
 - The program provided practical information through site visits, thematic talks, and hands-on trainings. In most cases, experts addressed the group on their particular topic, and then engaged in a discussion with participants. Practical trainings were included to give participants first-hand experience in areas such as political communication strategy, preparing for and participating in press-conferences, interview techniques, use of new media, etc.
 - The participants were provided with a practical toolkit for conduction of information campaigns and countering negative information campaigns.
- ***Mapping of the Needs of Political Education in Ukraine***

The study shall provide the survey and the analysis of existing political education programs in Ukraine on the one hand, and on the other hand, it shall furnish the analysis of the needs that are being relatively unaddressed by these efforts.

The research shall provide the macro level analysis of how best the needs of Ukraine's political system and political parties can be addressed by targeted political education programs and where are the gaps in this regards, both in terms of the contents/curricula of such trainings, as well as regional or professional target groups of such programs.

The study is aimed to answer the following question:

- What major political education programs are currently being implemented in Ukraine?



- In which regions and with what intensity?
- What are the issue areas/subjects which are covered by these programs?
- What are the target audiences of such programs?
- Are there regions/regional centres where there are no such programs carried out?
- What are the implementation modalities of these programs? I.e. duration per cycle of training etc.
- Are there any linkages of these programs with local governments or political parties present?

Analytical focus:

- **European universities: lectures, which will tell the world about Ukraine;**

Donor: *International Renaissance Foundation*

Goal: Bringing the objective information about Ukraine to the European academic environment, conducting of 12 lectures at leading universities of the European and participating in additional activities.

- **Preparation of political forecasts and analytic data in a joint project with the United Nations;**

Donor: UN Representative Office (in Ukraine)

Goal: Preparation of political forecasts and analytic data in a joint project with the United Nations

Gender equality focus:

- **Women's Participation in Ukrainian Politics**

Donor: Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD)

In light of an ongoing debate about gender equality, it is important to look at how Ukrainian political parties respond to increased demand for women's representation in politics notwithstanding whether such demands are placed on them by the law or, as a result, of increased public awareness and demand.

The project will assess the two dimensions that are relevant to women's political participation: intra-organizational context and socio-cultural/political environment.

From the intra-organizational perspective, the research will identify the steps that Ukrainian political parties have taken to better address the issue of equal representation in politics and the strategies and methods they have employed to recruit, train and nominate more women.

From the political/socio-cultural perspective, the research shall explore the political dynamics through gender lenses and look for example at public perceptions, and access to resources for women in addressing the question as to why there are relatively few women politicians playing the key roles in political parties.

The objective of this research are:



- to provide a comprehensive analysis of measures used by Ukrainian political parties to increase involvement of women in policy making;
 - to identify the main challenges on the intra and interparty level;
 - to highlight innovative approaches implemented by the Ukrainian parties in the recent past to engage more women;
 - to discuss what discourages political parties from becoming more equally representative of women.
- **Beyond the Protocol – Women and International Politics in Germany and Ukraine**

The main goal of the project is to create a common German-Ukrainian understanding of the role of women in foreign policy.

The project will empower the participants, i.e. to help them raising awareness for the importance of women in politics of peace and security as a whole. In the long run, the project would contribute to making them “gender-aware” domestic and foreign policy decision-makers and-shapers.

The project output: two public exhibitions (in Berlin and Kyiv) of the photo series of Ukrainian and German women in the international politics which stories inspire the project participants. With this project, we want to develop visions of a “feminine component of the foreign policy” for Germany and Ukraine.

- **Modernising Ukraine via Gender Equality Implementation**

The aim of the project is to mainstream the gender equality issues in politics and government decisions at the national and regional levels; it comprises three components:

Component 1: gender monitoring of the legislative initiatives, mainly in constitutional and electoral dimensions, as well as in public service and European integration (implementation of the gender provisions of the Association Agreement).

Component 2: survey on the ways to overcome the horizontal and vertical segregation in the traditionally male dominated spheres: security, diplomacy, justice, law enforcement etc.

Component 3: elaboration and implementation of three Indexes of gender equality in key directions: Index of Gender Equality for the Central Government Institutions, Index of Gender Equality for the Political Parties and Index of Gender Equality for the Ukrainian Regions.

ICPS regular Publications:

- **Inside Ukraine**, regular analytical reports on the internal developments in Ukraine;
- **Foreign Policy Insight**, regular analytical reports on the developments in the international arena;
- **Economic Insights and Forecasts**, monthly analysis of Ukraine’s economic situation.

ICPS regular activities:

- **Diplomatic briefings**, regular meetings with foreign diplomats based in Ukraine to discuss state decisions, political competition and economic forecast under the Chatham House rules;



ICPS public activities 2016:

- 23 Diplomatic briefings on «Inside Ukraine»;
- 18 conferences in Kyiv;
- 200 public events in the regions;
- 45 press-conferences, workshops, webinars and expert discussions in Kyiv;
- 14 public events in EU Member states.

International recognition in 2016

In 2016 ICPS was ranked by [2016 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report](#) prepared at the University of Pennsylvania (USA):

- 33nd position in the Top Think Tanks in Central and Eastern Europe Category,
- 56th position in the Top Education Policy Think Tanks Category;
- 113th position in the Top Foreign Policy and International Affairs Think Tanks Category.

Major donors (2015 – 2016):

- International Renaissance Foundation, Ukraine's one of the largest organization providing financial and operational assistance to the development of an open and democratic society in Ukraine by supporting key civic initiatives.
- Matra, social transformation programme of the Government of the Netherlands;
- German Marshall Fund of the United States, a programme aimed to contribute research and analysis and convenes leaders on transatlantic issues relevant to policymakers.
- UK-UA Reform Assistance Programme of the UK Department for International Development;
- Finnish Local Cooperation Fund, a fund administered by the Embassy of Finland in Kyiv and aimed at supporting local NGOs;
- Canada Fund for Local Initiatives, a program that supports small projects proposed and implemented by local NGOs and other grassroots organizations such as village councils, cooperatives and women's groups;
- International Visegrad Fund, which aims to facilitate and promote the development of closer cooperation between the V4 region and other countries, especially in the Western Balkan and Eastern Partnership regions
- Interpeace, independent, international peacebuilding organization, initially established by the UN to develop innovative solutions to build peace.

Major international partners:

- United Nations Development Programme in Ukraine (Kyiv);
- European Policy Centre (EPC), an independent, not-for-profit think tank dedicated to fostering European integration through analysis and debate (Brussels);
- Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), a leading think tank and forum for debate on EU affairs (Brussels);
- International Centre for Democratic Transition (ICDT), non-profit organisation, which collects the experiences of recent democratic transitions and shares them with those who are determined to follow that same path (Budapest);



- **Robert Schuman Foundation**, a reference research centre, developing studies on the European Union and its policies promoting the content of these in France, Europe and elsewhere in the world (Paris);
- **Institute for Economic and Social Reforms (INEKO)**, non-governmental non-profit organization established in support of economic and social reforms which aim to remove barriers to the long-term positive development of the Slovak economy and society (Bratislava);
- **Cultural Vistas GmbH**, a non-profit exchange organization promoting global understanding and collaboration among individuals and institutions (Berlin - New York);
- **MediatEur**, non-profit organisation, supporting the peaceful transformation of armed conflicts within and between states, by promoting the use of innovative and effective methods of conflict resolution, dialogue and mediation (Brussels);
- **Swisspeace**, a practice-oriented peace research institute analysing violent conflicts and develops strategies for their peaceful transformation (Bern);
- **Polis180**, German grassroots think tank created by young policy enthusiasts, dealing with European and foreign affairs. It aims to overcome party divides and instead focuses on the substance of the questions that bother young generation most.

Membership/affiliations in professional associations/organizations:

- **PASOS**, a network of policy centres in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia;
- **Ukrainian Think Tanks Liaison Office in Brussels**, an association of Ukrainian think tanks with a unique focus on joint action at the EU level to advance reforms within Ukraine and the European integration of Ukraine;
- **EU-Ukraine Civil Society Platform**, an instrument of bilateral cooperation between the EU and civil society in Ukraine envisaged by the country's Association Agreement with the EU;
- **Ukrainian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum**, an open site for NGOs for the discussions, consultations, information activities in the implementation framework of the Eastern Partnership policy;
- **Public Council at the Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Policy of Ukraine**, a platform of public experts, aimed at providing public expertise of the foreign policy of Ukraine;
- **Public Council at the inter-fractional union "Equal Opportunities" at the Parliament of Ukraine**, a platform of non-governmental organisations and experts, aimed at promotion of gender equality in politics, public administration and society in Ukraine;

Media partnership:

- **Apostrophe**, news-portal belonging to top 15 Ukrainian news resources.

ICPS motto:

Making Changes Possible