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EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES  
KYIV, UKRAINE



# **SUMMARY**

## **of Local and Regional Development Policies in Ukraine**

**Implementation period:**

**February - April 2021**

*Prepared by:*

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## ABOUT THE PROJECT

The current summary was developed within the project **“Strengthening democratic resilience of key public institutions in Ukraine”**. The initiative is being implemented by the International Centre for Policy Studies (ICPS) in partnership with the Institute for Economic and Social Reforms in Slovakia (INEKO) and is financially supported by the Embassy of the United States in Kyiv, Ukraine. The project aims to improve the efficiency of the state administration, self-government and civil society in the area of creation and oversight of regional policies. It also aims to increase transparency and independence of key regulatory and judiciary institutions as well as transparency and financial stability of the biggest state-owned enterprises and local authorities in Ukraine.

The publication presents the assessment of policies at the local and regional level, implemented in February - April 2021. The future evaluations will be made on the quarterly basis. Altogether, more than 20 regulations will be gathered and ranked by the end of the project.

The main objective of the initiative is to improve the quality of regional and/or municipal regulation and legislation through publishing a regular expert assessment of the socio-economic measures proposed or implemented by local governments in Ukraine. The purpose of the evaluation is to describe and promote reform and anti-corruption practices that can be transferred to other localities as well. At the same time, the critical assessment of non-transparent and inefficient measures should discourage representatives of local and regional authorities from their implementation.

The policies included in the current summary were identified and analyzed with the support of the Evaluation Council experts who were selected by the International Centre for Policy Studies on the basis of their experience. Six experts with sufficient experience were asked to assess the chosen local measures and policies, adopted by local and regional authorities.

As a result, six local and regional measures are described in this publication.

We hope that these practices can promote good ideas and inspire their implementation throughout Ukraine.

## SUMMARY

While analyzing the events that take place at the local level on a quarterly basis, we see that there are many issues that need to be improved, analyzed, communicated, taking into account the positions of all stakeholders. Each decision of the city council must be weighed and approved by the maximum majority of participants affected by this decision, or a compromise must be reached. This is a very complex and costly process that requires leadership, special knowledge and skills, communication, in-depth knowledge and analysis of issues. Based on how municipalities are able to make decisions, trust in local government and community support is being built.

In this issue, experts assessed the importance and effectiveness of the following measures:

- Obtaining a permit for legal amber mining and its sale through auctions by the “Volynprirodresurs” utility company. Five successful auctions have already been held, in which not only Ukrainian buyers but also foreign investors took part. Out of the six evaluated measures, the experts gave the highest scores to it.
- Raised the importance of a coalition of five associations of condominiums in the Dnipro city and assessed the legality of the association's cooperation with local governments and the impact of their cooperation on the effectiveness of condominiums.
- A very important issue during the pandemic was the payment of aid to medical workers who fell ill with COVID-19 while being on duty in the Kharkiv region.
- Conducted a review of the establishment of the largest state flag of Ukraine in the cities of regional significance before the celebration of the Day of the State Flag of Ukraine. Opinions were divided on how relevant and timely this issue is during the war in Donbass and another outbreak of a pandemic and lack of resources to meet the needs of hospitals.
- Also assessed the importance and impact on the ecology of Ternopil region of the installation of a landfill gas degassing station and the introduction of this practice in other

regions of Ukraine due to waste disposal is becoming a serious problem for communities across the country.

- Equally important are the issues of decentralization and the problems that arise on the ground in the implementation of the reform. An example is the struggle of the community from Zhmerynskyi district against the closure of schools in villages that are centers of education, cultural life and provide work for residents.

Discussions and evaluations of these and other measures are carried out in order to highlight the problems and issues that arise in the regions, taking into account different opinions and views; to draw community attention not only to criticize government decisions, but also to submit proposals, changes for constructive dialogue and cooperation under implementation of reforms and improvement of the situation of the regions.

**Members of the Evaluation Council:**

1. **Bereza Alyona** - Regional project coordinator, Head of the NGO “Women's anti-corruption movement”.
2. **Blinov Oleh** - Analyst of the NGO “Center for Public Monitoring and Research”.
3. **Katolyk Iaroslav** - Regional coordinator of the projects.
4. **Kuzko Yuriy** - Executive director of the NGO "Center for Public Monitoring and Research”.
5. **Toponen Yulia** - Community facilitator, Charity Fund Caritas Mariupol.
6. **Protsenko Yulia** - Economist-analyst, ICPS.

## METHODOLOGY

### Selected Measures for Evaluation

The measures were identified based on:

- media monitoring.
- advice from local activists and experts.
- direct addressing to local governments.

ICPS made final selection about which measures to evaluate. Emphasis was laid on measures widely discussed in the public as well as on measures, which are, according to ICPS, rare, innovative and/or important for the economic and social development of the country.

### Evaluation Criteria

Experts evaluated all selected measures in two categories: quality (i.e. experts' acceptance) of the measure and importance/significance of the measure for the society and economy at local level.

### Quality of the Measure [-3; +3]

Experts evaluated the effect of a given measure and gave it a grade. Range:

- 3 expert's absolute disapproval of the measure*
- 2 expert's moderate disapproval of the measure*
- 1 expert's minor disapproval of the measure*
- 0 status quo, no change, no effect of the measure*
- +1 expert's minor approval of the measure*
- +2 expert's moderate approval of the measure*
- +3 expert's absolute approval of the measure*

### **Importance of the Measure for the Society and Economy (%)**

Experts expressed opinion how essential and necessary a given measure was for the society and economy, for the economic and social development at local level. This category highlights the importance of reforming a given feature of a system in the city or region. The higher the score, the more important the measure is.

### **Rating of the Measure**

To get the Rating of the measure, the average quality grade of the measure was multiplied by a coefficient expressing the average value of the measure's importance/significance for the local society and economy. Thus, the rating valued of the evaluated measures come in range [- 300; +300]. According to these rating values, all measures are ranked in a chart. The Rating of the measure indicates the contribution of an evaluated measure to the economic and social development of the city or region.

### ***RANKING OF BEST AND WORST MEASURES***

<i>Case</i>	<i>Quality [-3; +3]</i>	<i>Relevance [0%; 100%]</i>	<i>Final score [-300; 300]</i>	<i>Ranks</i>
The first open auctions for the sale of amber were held in Volyn region	2.83	90.83	257.36	<b>I</b>
Malashivets landfill degassing	2.67	85.83	228.89	<b>II</b>
Dnipro city program to promote condominiums	1.83	76.67	140.56	<b>III</b>
Challenges towards implementation of local reforms	2.33	60.00	140	<b>IV</b>
The largest state flags with flagpoles	1.00	40.83	40.83	<b>V</b>
Kharkiv region: payments to doctors in case of COVID-19 illness	-1.5	46.67	-70	<b>VI</b>

## I. The first open auctions for the sale of amber were held in Volyn region<sup>1</sup>

### ***Features of the measure:***

As of the end of the first quarter of 2021, four open auctions for the sale of legally mined amber took place in Volyn region. Any participants have the opportunity to register for the auctions on the website of the utility company "Volynprirodresurs" at <https://vpr-ua.com/>. This enterprise belongs to the Volyn Regional Council and became the first and, so far, the only communal enterprise in Ukraine, which received a permission for amber mining.

Amber is extracted only by excavator method; the fertile layer of earth is removed beforehand. The notorious pumps are not used at all.

Bidding is available to participants from all over the world due to everyone can register to participate in the bidding and to be present in the auction hall, as well as through video conferencing. In addition, large volumes of amber are also sold in the inter-auction period, but only at prices that were formed as a result of auctions.

In total, 1,435 kilograms of amber of various fractions worth UAH 31.5 million were sold as a result of open auctions. The funds received from its implementation replenish the regional budget. Dozens of participants took part in each of the auctions. In particular, 23 participants were registered for the auction, which took place on March 26, 2021.

### ***Reference:***

Illegal extraction and sale of amber in recent years has consistently been among the largest [corruption schemes](#) in the regions. According to various estimates, amber production ranges from 120 to 300 thousand tons per year. Only 5,000 of them are legal. Most of the stones are sold on the "black markets" of Poland and China. Numerous criminal cases against diggers and officials covering their activities have led to modest results. Changes in amber mining began only in 2019. On December 19, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted Bill №2240, which envisages the issuance of permissions for amber mining exclusively through open and transparent auctions. Such auctions have created conditions for fair competition.

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<sup>1</sup> Investigated by: Kuzko Yuriy - Executive director of the NGO "Center for Public Monitoring and Research".



The Volyn Regional Council decided to go even further and introduced open transparent auctions for the sale of amber extracted by the utility company legally.

**Remarks**

Experts consider this measure important and positive due to such initiative allows not only to replenish the regional budget, but also to regulate the process of amber mining, to combat illegal mining and to introduce criminal liability for non-compliance with the law.

**Scores: Quality [+2.83] Relevance [90.83%]**

## II. Malashivets landfill degassing<sup>2</sup>

### **Features of the measure:**

At the Malashivets landfill in the Ternopil region, a landfill gas degassing station has started operating. Malashivets landfill has been operating for more than 50 years.

By the decision of the session of the Ternopil City Council, the site of the landfill was leased for 49 years to the company "Eco-Leader T", which is part of the group of companies "Clear Energy Group". They will carry out all the works, from garbage collection, sorting and to obtaining "clean" energy.

The company LLC "ECO-LEADER T", organized the removal of garbage and installed a degassing machine.

The positive is that the reclamation and technological process take place without spending funds from the city budget. The city council has spent significant sums on landfill maintenance for years because it could not find contractors to lease such a facility. In addition, neighboring communities pay the city budget for the use of the landfill, so in the near future it will have impact on the city's economy.

In addition, the issue of garbage collection and disposal will no longer be a concern. It will be a solution to the environmental issues, because gas is dangerous, it explodes and burns. In addition, it has a good effect on the environment, on vegetation, and, equally important, the unpleasant odor disappears.

Almost 90 percent of the gas in the landfill is extracted through two types of wells: vertical (which drill in the garbage) and horizontal (which are inserted into the garbage and gradually filled with it). Then there is a number of processes, after the methane enters the internal combustion engine, which generates electricity. This technology of mixed methane extraction is used for the first time in Ukraine. The capacity of such an equipment is enough to provide several villages with electricity. In total, about 29 vertical wells have been installed at the Malashivets landfill through which gas is collected.

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<sup>2</sup> Investigated by: Blinov Oleh - Analyst of the NGO "Center for Public Monitoring and Research".

Also, the Ternopil City Council notes that the contractor's company is registered in the Ternopil and taxes from its work will replenish the community budget.

### **Remarks**

This measure was assessed quite positively by experts, because waste disposal is becoming a serious problem for communities. The implementation of the project will improve the ecological situation of the area, will create new jobs, reduce the load on the landfill and extend its service life, as well as reduce resource costs and the risk associated with landfill fires. To spread this practice to other areas, a detailed analysis of the station's operation is required. Such an initiative is not able to fully solve the problem of household waste disposal. And it is worth involving more companies with different approaches to waste disposal to solve the problem comprehensively.

**Scores: Quality [+2.67] Relevance [85.83%]**

### **III. Dnipro city program to promote condominiums<sup>3</sup>**

#### **Features of the measure:**

Associations of co-owners of apartment buildings (condominiums) are the subjects of various processes taking place in the city, including budget and election processes. That is, condominiums must become an effective, influential force. But this requires uniting and jointly declaring the interests. This is the only way to achieve real change from the authorities.

Such an example is the coalition of five condominium associations in Dnipro. They all have a common goal and understanding of what the city authorities need. A forum of condominiums is held regularly, where tasks are formulated for themselves, for the community and for the government.

The city program was developed, supported and lobbied by the Association for the interaction of condominiums and housing-building cooperative (HBC) "Our House". The Association is a public association engaged in human rights activities. It protects the rights and interests of residents of condominiums and housing cooperatives. The program is built on the principle of co-financing. Association for the interaction of condominiums and HBCs receive funds from the city budget and independently select contractors, monitor the quality of materials and works, pay for services, etc.

At the session on March 24, deputies of the Dnipro City Council voted to amend the program to promote the activities of condominiums, housing and communal services and service cooperatives in apartment buildings in the Dnipro city for 2020-2024. The main changes concerned the reduction of the share of co-financing to 25% (previously it was 36%): if the condominium has 25% funding for the planned work, after applying to the city council, it is entitled to receive 75% funding from the city. From now on, the charterer for the services will be the profile department of the City Council. The higher percentage condominiums or housing and communal services are willing to finance, the more likely to win the competition. This does

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<sup>3</sup> Investigated by: Toponen Yulia - Community facilitator, Charity Fund Caritas Mariupol.

not apply to new associations, as there are about 50 of them in the city, so there is no competition between them.

Cooperation procedure: the chairman of the representative body submits an application for work to the city council department for self-organization of the population, created to perform documentary support of operations. An examination is being conducted. After that, the contractor participates in the tender and in case of victory signs a direct agreement with the chairman of the condominium or HBC. After signing the act by the chairman of the condominium or housing and communal services and by the responsible persons of the city council who control the works, the payment is received. Some deputies and chairmen of condominiums and housing and communal services noted that the changes would deprive them of public procurement, control the progress of work and could lead to higher prices. However, they decided not to make changes, but to monitor how this will happen in practice.

This year, 166 associations in Dnipro became the winners of the competition among condominiums and housing and communal services and will receive co-financing. Previously, each association could submit projects for not more than UAH 200,000, while currently the bigger the house, the more money they can get, in proportion to their area. If in previous years many applications were related to repairs of electricity networks, water supply, drainage, this year Dnipro residents pay a lot of attention to repairs of entrances, insulation of facades. The city budget provides UAH 30 million for this program.

In the future, residents of the private sector, heads of self-organization bodies or neighborhood committees will also be able to submit their projects to the city council.

### ***Reference***

Dnipro is one of the leaders in creating associations of co-owners of apartment buildings and their further support from the city budget. The co-financing program for condominiums and housing and communal services started in 2016. During this time, more than 2,500 repairs were carried out in the Dnipro under the program.

### Remarks

Experts positively assess the development and support of condominiums in the city. Cooperation with the city authorities will allow to modernize and restore the housing stock. At the same time, there is a question about the legality of financing from local budgets for the repair of entrances due to a house with all the auxiliary and technical premises on the right of joint ownership belongs to all apartment owners of such a house, but not the city. Also, there are issues regarding the recognition of condominiums as a subject of the election process, as such associations do not appear in the Electoral Code of Ukraine. The election of residents by the board cannot be considered an electoral process, as it is a normal economic activity of formation of governing bodies (as well as the election of management of enterprises and public organizations). In addition, changes to the program may partially limit the capabilities of condominiums and reduce their effectiveness.

**Scores: Quality [+1.83] Relevance [76.67%]**

#### **IV. Challenges towards implementation of local reforms<sup>4</sup>**

##### **Features of the measure:**

Any reform presupposes the harmonization of the interests of the state and territorial communities and must ensure the needs of citizens, sustainable social development and appropriate response to external and internal challenges. The decentralization reform envisages the expansion of the powers of local self-government bodies and the increase of financial and material resources. Every issue related to field optimization should be taken carefully and requires consideration of the position of all participants in the process, including the mayor, deputies, elders and community residents.

Zhmerynka City Council planned to reorganize (liquidate) three schools located in the villages of Pochapyntsi, Karmalyukove and Kurylivtsi. In March, the city council raised the issue of "Optimizing the network of educational institutions." The announced decision concerned the closure, merger or downgrading of schools operating in rural areas of the Zhmerynka community. As part of this issue, it was planned to transfer children and teachers from schools in the villages of Pochapyntsi, where there are 125 students study, and Karmalyukove (102 students) to the school in the village of Kurylivtsi with 14 students; to close nine-year schools in the villages of Riv and Schuchyntsi, primary school in the Bilykivtsi village. The decision noted that the school building in the village of Kurylivtsi is better.

The community was outraged to hear of this decision. Representatives of the community addressed the deputies. They claim that the city council did not meet or consult with the teams, and only warned the directors about their decision. School teachers were also outraged due to some of them would lose their jobs.

After talking with representatives of the community and visiting educational institutions in the mentioned villages, the deputies brought this issue up for discussion.

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<sup>4</sup> Investigated by: Protsenko Yulia - Economist-analyst, ICPS.

Deputies estimate that 10 buses are needed to transport more than 200 children every day. And the one-way road takes 40 minutes due to poor or in some places no road surface between the villages. Funds in the city budget for these expenses were not provided.

After discussing all the arguments for and against this decision, the Zhmerynka City Council decided not to bring the issue of school reorganization to the session. The village schools of Pochapynets and Karmalyukovo will be preserved.

### **Remarks**

The consolidation and creation of powerful support schools with delivery from smaller settlements is a normal world practice. On the other hand, schools in small settlements are centers of at least some development and jobs. Education reform encourages the optimization of the school network. Given the complex process of decentralization, it is necessary to make thorough calculations and assess not only the economic but also the social impact of the reform.

**Scores: Quality [+2.33] Relevance [60%]**



## V. The largest state flags with flagpoles<sup>5</sup>

### **Features of the measure:**

On January 11, 2021, at a meeting in the Office of the President of Ukraine, a protocol decision was made and sent to the heads of all regional state administrations and heads of city state administrations to ensure the implementation of the project of establishing the largest state flag of Ukraine in cities of regional significance in order to properly prepare for the celebration of the Day of the State Flag of Ukraine in the current year.

In early spring, media reports began to appear in the regions that the heads of administrations had taken the initiative to the regional councils with a request to allocate funds for the implementation of the protocol order of the Office of the President of Ukraine.

Large flagpoles for state flags will appear in every region of Ukraine. By the 30th anniversary of Independence, such a project will be built in Rivne, Lviv, Poltava, Kherson, Uzhhorod, Khmelnytsky and other regional centers. This can be found in the regional media of these regions.

The project will be built in [Rivne](#) on Maidan Prosvita Square. The flagpole will be 50 meters high and the flag will be 7 by 10.5 meters wide. In addition, the project will include a range of works to decorate the place for ceremonial events. The cost of all works will be 3 million hryvnias.

A flagpole with national symbols for the celebration of the 30th anniversary of Ukraine's Independence should be installed on the territory of the Land Forces Academy in [Lviv](#). The price is UAH 7 million, the allocation of funds was supported by deputies of the Lviv Regional Council on April 13, 2021.

In [Poltava](#), by the 30th anniversary of Ukraine's independence, the largest national flag in the region will be installed in the Heroes of Ukraine Square. The height of the flagpole will reach 50 m, and the size of the canvas will be 12 by 18 meters. The area next to the flagpole is planned to be arranged and illuminated. The works will cost 5-10 million hryvnias.

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<sup>5</sup> Investigated by: Bereza Alyona - Regional project coordinator, Head of the NGO "Women's anti-corruption movement".

In [Odessa](#), by the 30th anniversary of Ukraine's independence, they plan to create a square of modern history of the country. A flagpole up to 50 meters high with a platform for official events will be installed in front of the building of the Odessa Regional State Administration.

The tallest 80-meter flagpole will be installed in [Kramatorsk](#) in Donbass for the Flag Day of Ukraine. Drilling work near the fountain in the park has already begun. Kramatorsk Mayor Oleksandr Honcharenko said that the construction would be financed from the regional budget. The estimated cost of the project is UAH 12 million.

At a regular session of the Khmelnytsky Regional Council on April 8, deputies supported changes to the regional program of development of civil society for 2021-2023, which envisages the allocation of 5 million hryvnias from the regional budget to establish the largest state flag of Ukraine in the region. The cost of installing the flag will reach 12 million hryvnias, of which 5 million will be financed from the regional budget, and the rest will be funded by the patrons. The same amount of funds is planned to be allocated in [Kirovohrad](#) region.

Kharkiv oblast stood out the most among the oblasts. Here they plan to spend 21 million hryvnias on the arrangement of a park in the center of [Kharkiv](#) with the construction of a stele with state symbols. At the session of the regional council on March 11, half of the amount (10.5 million) was allocated as a subvention to the city budget from the regional budget. The rest should be envisaged in the budget of Kharkiv.

At the same time, as stated on the website of the Rivne Regional State Administration, "each region is building its own complex, where solemn events will be held. It will be tall constructions where the flag of Ukraine will be placed. The idea to unite all the cities in this way belongs to the President's team."

As can be seen from the analysis of regional media, the Office of the President of Ukraine not only initiated the "unification" of all cities, but also created a certain competition in the context of the height of the flagpole and the amount of allocated funding.

The establishment of state symbols is usually an important and noble cause. If we consider the initiative of the Office of the President of Ukraine from the prism of patriotism,

then any Ukrainian man or woman will certainly have no doubt that this initiative is needed. It seems especially important in the year when Ukraine celebrates the 30th anniversary of its Independence.

### **Remarks**

Opinions of experts were divided in relation to this measure. In the period of exacerbation of the pandemic and lack of funds to combat it, the initiative of the Office of the President of Ukraine seems untimely. While in the session halls of the regional councils there are discussions about patriotism and the need to allocate funds for the project to install flagpoles, the regional hospitals that save patients from COVID-19 one after another "shout" about the lack of oxygen. Also, experts consider it inexpedient to measure patriotism by the length and width of the established state flag. On the other hand, given the current state of Ukrainian-Russian relations and the war in Donbass, which has been going on for the eighth years in a row, it is important to organize events to unite citizens and support the patriotic spirit. The question remains how effective such measures will be given the significant costs of their implementation.

**Scores: Quality [+1] Relevance [40.83%]**

## VI. Kharkiv region: payments to doctors in case of COVID-19 illness<sup>6</sup>

### Features of the measure:

On March 11, 2021, deputies of the Kharkiv Regional Council [approved](#) a new Procedure for the use of funds provided for one-time financial aid to medical and other employees of public health facilities who fell ill with acute respiratory disease COVID-19 caused by coronavirus SARS-CoV-2.

As in the previous version, the Procedure determines the mechanism of appointment and payment of one-time financial assistance in the amount of up to 10 thousand hryvnias to medical and other employees of municipal health care institutions who fell ill with COVID-19 while performing professional duties under high risk. These payments are made within the allocations provided by the comprehensive regional program "Health of Slobozhanshchina" for 2021-2022."

However, the new Procedure significantly narrows the range of people who can benefit from this type of care, due to currently the compensation is provided only for those health workers who have suffered a severe course of the disease (COVID-19, complicated by pneumonia, intoxication syndrome and other serious complications). Commenting on the decision of the regional council, Deputy Director of the Department of Health of the Regional State Administration Gennady Bondarchuk [said](#) that many people have a positive immunoglobulin G, but had no signs of the disease, and there are not enough funds to pay compensations to such persons from the regional budget.

According to the new Procedure, the basis for providing one-time financial assistance to medical and other employees who fell ill with COVID-19 is the decision of the commission on providing one-time financial aid to medical and other employees of public health facilities of Kharkiv region. This decision can be made if the employee has written an application for financial assistance to his / her head of the municipal health care institution, and the head has applied to the commission with a corresponding submission. In addition, the commission must

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<sup>6</sup> Investigated by: Katolyk Iaroslav - Regional coordinator of the projects.

obtain a copy of the applicant's passport, a copy of his identification code, an extract from the medical records of the institution where the person was treated, a copy of the disability certificate and a laboratory test (PCR) confirming COVID-19 (certified by the head of the institution), as well as a certificate of bank details of the person. Thus, the regional council uses the same approach to compensation as the state.

At the same time, financial assistance from the regional council can be provided not more than once a year (although physicians involved in the treatment of patients can get sick much more often). In addition, the commission, when deciding on the amount of one-time assistance, should take into account the course of the disease (severe, the presence of complications), the term of the sick leave (s), etc.

In total, according to local journalists, about 40 certificates are needed to make a decision. Thus, it is necessary to prove that the doctor was infected from the patient. And it is very difficult to prove it - each case of infection is considered by a specialized commission at the hospital. And this investigation could take months.

The Kharkiv City Council is also trying to support its doctors and teachers. However, the city took a fundamentally different path: payments were made not through the compensation mechanism from the beginning, but as [material assistance](#). Accordingly, in this case, the decision of the medical commission is not required (just a statement addressed to the mayor, a medical certificate, a copy of the passport, etc). However, the amount of financial assistance also depends on the complexity of the disease and can be 5, 8 or 10 thousand hryvnia. [According](#) to acting Kharkiv Mayor Ihor Terekhov, at the end of January 2021, 40 applications were received from teachers and applications from doctors began to arrive.

The medical institutions of Kharkiv are also taking measures: many of them have issued staff insurance against infectious diseases, so in case of illness, the employee can claim insurance benefits.

### ***Reference***

As of the end of March 2021, more than a thousand physicians of the Kharkiv region became ill with coronavirus, 53 of them died.

In general, in Ukraine, the situation with the payment of compensation to physicians who received a disability due to coronavirus disease has reached a dead-end. The Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on National Health, Medical Care and Health Insurance, Mykhailo Radutsky, stated that during two months of 2021, 8 people received compensation from the state, and as of beginning of April 10 people received it.

Similarly, there are problems with payments in case of the death of a medical worker. As of April 1, only 83 families received insurance payments in the amount of UAH 132 million, although 567 more doctors died from "covid".

The most common reasons for refusals in insurance payments are the following: it has not been proved that the doctor became infected at work; a non-medical worker (driver, younger nurse) died; family members are missing; the necessary documents are not provided.

### **Remarks**

Despite the generally positive perception of the payments to medical workers, experts believe that the restrictions that were imposed prevent most medical staff from receiving compensation for COVID19. Doctors do not feel protected and lose motivation. On the other hand, the lack of control allows for misuse of funds. Therefore, it raises serious doubts about the effectiveness of such an approach and increases distrust in the health care system.

**Scores: Quality [-1.5] Relevance [46.67%]**