

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

DECENTRALIZATION IS ALREADY 46% COMPLETE

On June 12, during the first meeting of the Regional Development Council under the President of Ukraine the results of local self-government reform implementation were presented. According to Ukrainian experts and foreign specialists, the reform is 46% complete.

Throughout the year important legislative changes were adopted. Particularly, thanks to budgetary and tax decentralization, during the first quarter of 2015, revenues of local budgets increased by 5.5 billion UAH and amounted to 21 billion UAH. Draft prospective plans of formation of capable communities have been developed in all oblasts of Ukraine, and more than 50% of them are already approved by oblast councils.

"We already see the first results of the reform. The next important step is to introduce respective amendments into the Constitution of Ukraine. Without them we will be unable to move on and implement the reform in full",

said the Vice Prime Minister, Minister of regional development, construction, and housing and communal services of Ukraine, Gennady Zubko.



Source: web-site of Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine

THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION ADOPTED THE DRAFT LAW ON INTRODUCTION OF DECENTRALIZATION AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF UKRAINE

On June 26, the Constitutional commission adopted the draft law on introduction of decentralization amendments to Ukrainian Constitution. The draft law will be presented for consideration to the President of Ukraine.

Earlier, on June 24, the Venice Commission commented approvingly on the draft amendments.

"The draft amendments introduce a form of decentralisation in the exercise of state power which is largely compatible with the European Charter of Local Self-government. Overall, the amendments are well drafted and deserve support."

The draft amendments clearly differentiate the competencies of local self-government and the state. This

is a new approach for Ukraine as a post-Soviet state.

The draft law provides for creation of executive committees at raion and oblast levels; specific financial instruments are assigned to local self-government bodies, while their authority is clearly defined.

The draft law provides for elimination of local state administrations. New bodies with control and coordination functions shall be formed instead. A system will be created, which makes it impossible to violate the rights of people.

"Amendments introduced into the Basic law should make the process of democratic transformations in Ukraine irreversible. The citizens of Ukraine wait for intensive progress of reforms and for urgent approval of the decisions which are crucial for state construction",

said the Chairman of Verkhovna Rada, Volodymyr Groysman.



Source: web-site of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

Source: web-site of the Venice Commission

VERKHOVNA RADA APPROVED THE PLAN OF LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT OF THE REFORMS IN UKRAINE: BEFORE THE END OF 2015 11 LAWS ON DECENTRALIZATION WILL BE PASSED

On June 4 Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted the Decree "On Plan of legislative support of reforms in Ukraine". The legislators are advised to develop draft laws and present them to Verkhovna Rada for consideration, taking the terms, provided in the document, into account.

Before the end of 2015 it is intended to adopt 11 laws on decentralization. In general, the plan envisions the development of 182 new laws, as well as introduction of amendments into more than 300 different normative documents.

Source: web-site of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

"We need to follow the tight schedule and improve the quality of lawmaking; in this way all our decisions will not be developed chaotically, but form a unified system, handling these or that issues and transformations in different spheres",
said the Chairman of Verkhovna Rada, Volodymyr Groysman



FOR THE FIRST TIME SELECTION OF INVESTMENT PROJECTS OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT WILL BE CONDUCTED ON OPEN COMPETITION BASIS

On June 16 the presentation of online platform of the State Regional Development Fund (dfr.minregion.gov.ua) took place.

From now on selection of investment programmes and projects, co-financed by the State Fund for Regional Development, will become as transparent as possible.

Source: web-site of Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine

"From now on everyone will have access to the general information on investment projects, while the experts, who conduct the evaluation and selection, will have access to all the documentation they need",
said the deputy Minister of regional development, construction, and housing and communal services of Ukraine, Vyacheslav Negoda.



VERKHOVNA RADA APPROVED THE DRAFT LAW ON LOCAL ELECTIONS AS BASIS

On June 18 Verkhovna Rada adopted the draft law "On local elections" in the first reading. The draft law provides for voting according to open lists, two-round elections of mayors of large cities, and reduction of the number of deputies in local councils.

It is intended that, once the law is adopted, the practice of manipulations during elections will be stopped, and truly high-quality membership of local councils will be ensured.

Source: web-site of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

"The old system exhausted itself, and we have to work according to the new system of open lists, public elections, and without any violations",
said the Chairman of Verkhovna Rada, Volodymyr Groysman.



HEADS OF OBLAST COUNCILS MUST APPOINT DEPUTIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT REFORM

On June 4 the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopted the decree, providing for creation of a new post of a deputy head of local state administration for implementation of local self-government reforms. The document provides that oblast and Kyiv city

state administrations shall introduce the new post of deputy head of respective local state administration. The official will be responsible for implementation of local self-government reform and decentralization of authority of local executive bodies.

Source: web-site of Ministry of Regional Development, Construction, Housing and Communal Services of Ukraine

THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL UNDER THE PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE STARTED WORKING

On June 12 the first meeting of Regional development council – a consultative and advisory body under the President of Ukraine – took place.

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government decentralization reforms, regional development, resolution of problematic issues of sustainment of the regions.

Councils for regional development shall also be formed in every oblast as consultative and advisory bodies, headed by chairpersons of respective state administrations.



“The key point of effective authority is to make the distance between an ordinary person and the decision-making authority as short as possible”,
said the President of Ukraine, Petro Poroshenko.

Source: web-site of the President of Ukraine