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WHO WE ARE

Ukrainian Center for Independent Political Research (UCIPR) is a non-governmental, non-partisan organization, a think tank that impacts the state policies in the domain of democracy through research and promotion of the citizens' access to state governance since 1991.

Our mission is the promotion of democratic values and procedures in the domain of public policies and administration. We are convinced that this makes the state transparent and accountable and unites people into the civil society.

In the process of fulfilling its mission, the UCIPR demonstrates commitment to the values it is promoting and works publicly and openly. The «think-tank» niche determines the specifics of the UCIPR activity, which entails not only expressing interests or monitoring the implementation of policies, but above all — the development of new high-quality policy procedures to better serve the public interest.

We work to ensure that human rights are guaranteed in Ukraine, the political environment is competitive, fair and free elections are held, the state power system is balanced, and local self-government is efficient. Citizens should have the opportunities and skills to influence the state and local decision-making, to exercise public control over the actions of the authorities both personally and through networks of capable public and political organizations.

The UCIPR steadily keeps among the top 100 independent think tanks in the world according to the ranking compiled by the Pennsylvania University Think Tank and Civil Society Program since 1989. The UCIPR entered this ranking for the first time in 2013, when it was awarded 51-st place in the category of the best advocacy program for the development of NGO legislation framework. According to the results of 2017, the UCIPR holds 55-th place in the category «The Best Advocacy Campaign» and is ranked 69-th in the category «The Best Independent Analytical Center».

ACTIVITY AREAS

Influencing the state policy in order to:

- || Strengthen the environment for unhindered functioning of the civil society;
- || Foster social cohesion and diversity and de-occupation of the Crimea;
- || Establish the procedures for democratic participation and political representation of citizens.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2017



DEVELOPMENT OF LEGAL ENVIRONMENT FOR CIVIL SOCIETY FUNCTIONING

In 2017, UCIPR experts continued their activities initiated in 2014 with the five-year project of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Citizens in Action. The overall objective of the project is to improve the legislative and policy environment to make it more favorable for the needs of civil society and reflect European standards. The project envisages strengthening public oversight and participation in governance, which is only possible by improving the legislative/political environment for the media and civil society, as well as the capacity of CSOs to engage citizens and represent their interests at the national and local levels.

In 2017, the main focus was on drafting and introduction of rules for the development of citizen participation in decision-making and monitoring of the practical implementation of positive legislative novelties in the registration procedures of public and charitable organizations. UCIPR focused on the following legislative priorities:

- ◆ Amendments to the legislation on creating a favorable tax environment for non-profit organizations, charity and transparent state financing of non-profit organizations to facilitate the activities of civil society organizations (draft laws on amendments to the Tax Code on the taxation of non-profit organizations);
- ◆ Amendments to the law on state funding of civil society organizations to increase the opportunities for competitive financing of CSOs;
- ◆ Improvement of legislation and bylaws on registration of civil society organizations;
- ◆ Analysis of best international practices in fundraising and identifying gaps in the Ukrainian legislation and practice which prevent donations from individuals and businesses;
- ◆ Amendments to the Law «On Local Self-Government» to improve the citizen participation in local decision-making. Local actions to improve citizen participation in decision-making at the local level.

In addition to simplifying the CSO registration rules, the UCIPR team worked on the abolition of active declarations of activists and additional tax reporting for organizations. In particular, the UCIPR team analyzed the draft Law No. 6271 on the abolition of asset declarations for anti-corruption activists, draft law No. 6674 «On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts on Transparency of Civil Society Organizations and the Use of International Technical Assistance», Draft Law No. 6675 on Amendments to the Tax Code to the extent of the financial statements of CSOs and the Draft Law No. 8501 on ensuring the transparency of charitable foundations and public associations receiving financing from

foreign donors and foreign non-governmental organizations. The UCIPR team also prepared proposals for draft laws No. 6674 and 6675 concerning the introduction of international standards of transparency in the area of CSO reporting. The aforementioned proposals have been developed with key partners through working groups and seminars, as well as in cooperation with members of the Parliament, the Reanimation Package of Reforms (RPR) think tank, the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) and other beneficiaries. The aforementioned analysis of the laws on property declarations and additional reporting for civil society organizations, prepared by the UCIPR team,



Photo: organizers of the conference «International legal standards of transparency and reporting of the civil society organizations» on October 17, 2017, discuss together with international organizations representatives the rules and transparency principles for the organizations representing public interests.

was presented at the International Conference «International Legal Standards of Reporting and Transparency of Civil Society Organizations» on October 17, 2017, attended by more than 150 participants from all regions of Ukraine, representatives of the Presidential Administration, MPs, representatives of international missions working in Ukraine in partnership with civil society organizations.

USAID «Citizens in Action» Project carried out the advocacy for the 2017 Action Plan on the implementation of the National Strategy for the Support of Civil Society Development in Ukraine for 2016–2020, approved by the Decree of the

President of Ukraine dated February 26, 2018. The respective Action Plan was approved by the order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine On Approval of the Action Plan for 2017 on the implementation of the National Strategy for the Support of Civil Society Development in Ukraine for 2016–2020.

The planned activities include competitive principles of financing of public organizations; reducing tax pressure on charitable activities; simplification of registration of public organizations; reform of public councils; development of social contracting.

CIVIC EDUCATION AND CONSULTATIONS FOR CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS

School of Civic Engagement

Since 2014, the civic activity in Ukraine has augmented. In response to the needs of this audience regarding the knowledge of how to integrate, which tools of influence can be used, which ones are more efficient, the UCIPR has established the School of Civic Engagement. Its topics are a continuation of the UCIPR efforts to strengthen the conditions for the activities of civil society, and its audience included activists from all regions of Ukraine. The School was developed for representatives of initiative groups and civil society organizations that have recently joined the civil society sector and are ready to improve the legislative environment for the activities of organizations at the local level.

During the warm season, in August 2017, the UCIPR conducted a four-day School of Civic Engagement in Kyiv Oblast. 19 civic activists from different regions of Ukraine, including Zhytomyr, Zaporizhzhya, Dnipro, Kryvyi Rih, Donetsk (Sloviansk, Kramatorsk), Kropyvnytskyi, Odesa (Odesa, Tepلودar), Kyiv (Kyiv, Bohuslav), Sumy, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk (Kosiv), Chernihiv, Chernivtsi, Kharkiv and Khmelnytskyi took part in it.

They were selected from among the 350 applicants on the basis of their motivation to continue their activities in their home towns and cities.

The four-day School was organized in an interactive format, with training, lectures, discussions, practical assignments, presentations, group work, practical classes, etc. The trainers provided participants with extensive and in-depth knowledge on advocacy, PR, project management and fundraising needed for a successful advocacy campaign. During the School, the participants improved their skills and competencies in project management, which are essential for the promotion of public initiatives aimed at improving the legal environment for registration of organizations, the implementation of state policy on the development of civil society and the strengthening of democratic engagement at the local level.

After completing the School, each participant developed their own awareness-raising plan for strengthening civil society at the local level, including advocacy campaigns for the development and adoption of targeted programs to promote civil society development, the work of coordination councils for the promotion of civ-



Photo: School of Civic Engagement, August 2017

il society development; improvement of citizen participation in decision-making and citizen mobilization (for example, adoption of local acts on CSO contest based public funding from local budgets, local initiatives, public hearings, participatory budgets, electronic petitions, access to meetings of local councils and plenary meetings of the city council, etc.); ensuring CSO registration by the administrative services centers; development of civic education and cross-sectoral partnership.

The School helped the budding activists to obtain knowledge on the following topics:

- ◆ How to create a civil society organization;
- ◆ How to influence the decisions of the city council;
- ◆ How to control the integrity during public procurements;
- ◆ How to improve the activities of the Coordinating Council on Civil Society Development at the local level;
- ◆ How to influence local budgeting.

HOTLINE

The UCIPR not only seeks to improve the legal regulation of activities of non-profit organizations (including charities) and organizations pursuing public interest, but also assists every subject willing to act as an institution. In 2017, UCIPR continued the operation of the **hotline** on the registration of public and charitable organ-

izations. It provides civil activists from all over the country with practical assistance on relevant issues. For example, they can obtain advice on what they have to do in order to create an organization, which documents should be arranged in order to register it and in which format, how to draw up constituent documents, how to amend them. In 2017, the line received more than 560 calls. In addition, webinars and seminars were held for those interested.



Photo: School of Civil Engagement

CSO CAPACITY STRENGTHENING IN THE SOCIAL SERVICES AREA

The 2017 became the third year of the implementation of the unique project «Strengthen capacity of CSOs in Georgia and Ukraine to contribute to the policy dialogue on Social Service Delivery», carried out with the support of the European Union in partnership with the German Samaritan Association and Center for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia.

The main goal of the project was to create the practice of high-quality partnership between local authorities and non-governmental service organizations (NGOs) that provide social services to people with disabilities, the elderly and internally displaced persons.

The small grants mechanism allowed to support the provision of free social services, including day care and rehabilitation facilities for people in difficult life situations in Kyiv, Chernihiv, Cherkasy, Lviv, Zaporizhzhya and Dnipropetrovsk oblasts.

More than 4,000 people received services from public and charitable organizations in cooperation with local authorities. Among them, more than 1,300 people received services on a daily basis. NGO services are flexible, depending

on the needs of the client and are essential for many categories of the population. Moreover, such services cost the local authorities at least twice cheaper than maintaining the relevant municipally-owned institutions. In comparison with the EU countries (Austria, France), where the government employs NGOs to provide social services, Ukraine has no clear mechanism for such cooperation. Social contracts are only starting to be implemented in selected cities. In August 2017, the social contracting mechanism was introduced in Kyiv.

Considering the need to develop a mechanism for cooperation between the authorities and NGOs, in the spring of 2017, 15 organizations took the advocacy training, which contributed to the increased sustainability of the social services funded from local budgets:

- ◆ In the city of Bucha, the public organization of persons with disability «Vidhuk» («the Response») received a bus from the city authorities to meet the transportation needs of its clients — people with disabilities;
- ◆ In Chernihiv, NGO «Voice of Parents» and Charitable Organization «Logos» received

through competition process UAH 761,200 as a subgrant and UAH 299,800 from the city budget for the implementation of day care services for clients with disabilities. Moreover, the Chernihiv City Council supported Charitable Organization «Logos» received support not only for utility services, but also for social services for youth with mental disabilities in the amount of UAH 182,200.

- ◆ In Cherkasy, the Charity Organization «From Heart to Heart» received UAH 100,000 for social patrolling in the city during the next year.

We should also mention unique cases of funding achieved as a result of jointly implemented advocacy campaigns.

In the Davydiv amalgamated territorial community of Lviv oblast, the NGO «Center for Education and Human Development» was awarded UAH 89,164 by the decision of the village council to provide social services to single elderly people.

For the first time so far, the social contracting mechanism was implemented by Kryvyi Rih City Council, which allocated the funding in the amount of UAH 40,000 to secure the social contracting mechanism, enabling NGOs to provide services for people with disabilities in villages.

According to the project specialists, the practice of introducing new social services mechanisms should be extended to each territorial community in the context of decentralization. Accordingly, the whole system needs to be reformed in general: from the needs assessment procedure to monitoring and evaluation of the outcomes of services provided.

Photo: Training on Finances for sub-grantees of the EU-Funded Project «Strengthen capacity of CSOs in Georgia and Ukraine to contribute to the policy dialogue on Social Service Delivery»



CULTURE OF DIALOGUE, SOCIO-CULTURAL POLICY, RECONCILIATION DURING THE CONFLICT IN DONBAS

Social cohesion is the cornerstone for the nation-building on the republic principles. The UCIPR is constantly studying public opinion by holding focus groups, which allow to gauge social processes, understand the attitude of people to certain aspects of public life, and also through nationwide polls of public opinion, which also yield quantitative data. Therefore, in 2017, a study «What unites Ukrainian society today?» was conducted with the assistance of the National Endowment for Democracy (USA). The research was based on the results of focus groups held by our specialists in different regions, as well as sociological measurements in all regions of the country (except for the Crimea and areas of Donbas non-controlled by the Government of Ukraine), commissioned by the UCIPR at the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology in September-October 2017. As the study shows, European integration, the desire for efficient reforms, the language issue, the settlement of the conflict in the East of the country – that's where the Ukrainian nation finds the common grounds. Data received by the UCIPR in such public opinion polls are used in the development of a state

policy on unity, as, for example, in the Presidential Decree No. 534 «On Priority Actions to Promote the Strengthening of National Unity and Consolidation of Ukrainian Society, Supporting Relevant Public Initiatives» back in late 2016, while in 2017 the UCIPR submitted their proposals on the development of these initiatives to the government which was planning activities in this context.

In the promotion of social cohesion, the UCIPR is partnering with the CMI (Martti Ahtisaari Center) since 2014 in implementing dialogue initiatives on the political settlement of the conflict in certain regions of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. Within the initiative, regular meetings and consultations with experts and politicians are held to find ways and scenarios for the conflict cessation, the versatile global political experience of facilitating the reconciliation is researched. The parliamentarians, representatives of the Presidential Administration are familiarized with various practices and political actions of conflict resolution and exploring political mechanisms of appropriate process.

Based on this experience, in 2017, UCIPR experts provided trainings on conflict prevention, advocacy of public initiatives as a way to prevent conflict in the community.

Two unique studies performed in cooperation with International Alert and with the financial support of the European Union – «Citizens and the state in the government-controlled territories of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts: Problems, challenges, vision of the future» and «The identity issue for Russian-speaking population in Ukraine in the context of armed conflict in the East of the country» contributed to understanding the real state of affairs in the territories adjacent to the contact line. Data were obtained as a result of focus group surveys conducted in settlements of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. They express the opinions of local residents about the readiness of different parties to the conflict for dialogue, studies a wide range of problems in the government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts — regional governance, information component, assessment of the socio-economic situation by local residents. The second study examines the role of language and identity of citizens, the relationship between language, identity and territory in the context of armed conflict in the East of Ukraine.



HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CRIMEA.

ANALYSIS OF PROCESSES IN THE CRIMEA.

UKRAINE'S POLICY ON THE CRIMEA

In 2017, the UCIPR continued to carry out systematic monitoring and analysis of processes around the occupied and annexed Crimea, as well as assessing the ethno-political situation in Ukraine, ensuring the rights of national minorities, and indigenous peoples. A network of experts was created in six regions of Ukraine, which provided more than 50 classified analytical monitoring reports for the Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe on the situation in Ukraine in the area of protection of minority rights and the situation in Crimea.

The work of the UCIPR experts in the Constitutional Commission, communication with experts on the relevant issues and the task of regulating the status of Crimean autonomy in the Constitution of Ukraine prompted a study on the constitutionalizing and functioning of autonomies in the unitary states. The process of shaping Ukraine's policy towards the Crimean Peninsula and the main stages of constitutionalizing the relations is highlighted in UCIPR publications

«Crimean Peninsula Autonomy: Discussions, Challenges, Content» and «Expert Positions. Status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea in the Constitution of Ukraine», which were made possible thanks to the assistance of the National Endowment for Democracy (USA). The books are useful to civil servants, representatives of international organizations, non-governmental organizations, mass media — all subjects who care about the de-occupation of the Crimea, constitutional reform in Ukraine, the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples and national minorities.

In 2017, with the assistance of the International Renaissance Foundation, in cooperation with the Ministry of Information Policy and representatives of the National Security and Defense Council, a draft state information strategy on the occupied Crimean Peninsula was elaborated and promoted under the initiative and active contribution of the UCIPR. The Crimea Information Reintegration Strategy has become an innovative pioneering process. It was initiated despite the lack of a clearly formulated state

policy on the liberation of Crimea from the occupation and reintegration of its inhabitants, as well as in the absence of financing of such activity from the state budget. The drafting of the Strategy was preceded by a thorough study on the state of affairs on the peninsula, holding of focus group studies with different audiences to identify their information needs, a preliminary

long-term UCIPR research regarding the place of the Crimea in the establishment of the Ukrainian sovereign state, monitoring of the current situation in the Crimea, consultations with different stakeholders, including the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People. The draft strategy was passed on to the stakeholders.

ASSESSMENT OF POLITICAL RISKS FOR DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

Integration and cooperation with the leading democratic states of the world is one of the key tasks for Ukraine. It is important for Ukrainian partners to plan their actions to understand the processes in the political environment, to be familiar with the trends of the potential course of events in Ukraine. The UCIPR, having elaborated its own methodology, considers the driving factors behind events in Ukraine, assesses political risks for democratic governance, and forecasts whether the factors will persist or change. Not only events that can have a negative impact on political stability, but also state management

aimed to reduce these risk factors, that is, the response of public authorities to the existence of risk factors, are subject to assessment. The Political Risk Assessment Document, maintained with the support of the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), is being prepared in cooperation with the experts involved; it is issued twice a year and is used in Ukraine and abroad by the circles interested in a source of independent analytics for a better understanding of the political situation in Ukraine — banks, business groups, civil society, and government structures.

DEVELOPMENT OF DIRECT AND REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY PROCEDURES

In 2017 the UCIPR continued its activity in the development of such a decision-making tool for the citizens as a referendum. Another 5 years ago, in 2012, the UCIPR was one of the initiators of the coalition of CSOs «For the Fair Referendum», aimed to a public awareness campaign on the risks of referendum legislation passed in 2012. The most influential non-governmental organizations of Ukraine, which joined the network, provided explanations in the media about the likely consequences of implementing undemocratic provisions in the legislation on referendums. Together with experts from the Electoral Law Institute, the Center for Policy and Legal Reforms, Internews-Ukraine, the International Foundation for Electoral Systems with the assistance of Lexfor law firm and in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, UCIPR experts in 2015–2016 have developed a new version of the Law «On the All-Ukrainian Referendum» and in 2017, they were promoting the inclusion of this draft in the agenda of the Parliament of Ukraine, taking part in regional discussions organized by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES).

In 2017, an initiative was launched to raise awareness of the issue of improving the rules in the field of elections. UCIPR, together with the participants of the electoral law reform expert group within the framework of the Reanimation Package of Reforms — OPORA Civil Network, Internews Ukraine, the Human Rights Platform, Center for Political and Legal Reforms, have supported a powerful information campaign on the need for an open and inclusive electoral process that would have entailed the introduction of open electoral lists in the voting process; organized and participated in public events in support of this idea. Participants of the project supported by the Center for Democracy and Rule of Law (CEDEM), funded by the European Union, studied the experience of countries with efficiently functioning «open list» systems (Estonia, Latvia, Poland), analyzed the intricacies of different voting models, worked on different aspects of the elections with interested journalists from 12 different cities on two-day training.

The results of this activity included the 2015 Report of the Venice Commission (European Commission for Democracy through Law of the Council

of Europe) «Comments on proportional electoral systems: the allocation of seats inside the lists (open/closed lists)» translated into Ukrainian for the first time, and a brochure «Rules and practice of voting on open lists» (with the support of the Center for Democracy and Rule of Law and under the funding of the European Union and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems). It provides an overview of the practical models of proportional electoral systems providing an opportunity for personalized voting based on constitutional and legislative regulation of election procedures in Estonia, Latvia and Poland. The publication allows raising the awareness of interested parties about the peculiarities of the election process in the use of proportional electoral systems with «open lists».

Significant efforts were taken regarding the political environment: the position of political parties on their attitude towards a proportional electoral system with preferential voting was clarified, three appeals to the Parliament were prepared to intensify the work on the electoral legislation reform and to renovate the composi-

tion of the Central Election Commission, as well as to the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada to restored the work of the Working Group on Election Legislation.

The work of the activists gave impetus to the intensification of the reform in the electoral field: the issues of electoral system reform became prominent in the information space, demand for the openness of various aspects of the election and for the increase of the voters' influence on the process of selection of representatives to the state authorities started to develop. Driven by street actions, the law-making process has intensified, and in November 2017, the Parliament passed in the first reading one of the drafts of Electoral Code, which was designed to streamline the electoral procedures. Although discussions on the most appropriate electoral system are still underway, the UCIPR and the experts of the Electoral Law Reform Group of the Reanimation Package of Reforms have drawn attention to election issues and have contributed to progress in the legislative framework to ensure fair elections.

CONTRIBUTING TO OPINION SHARING AND STATE POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The UCIPR experts joined the Council of Inter-Nation Understanding under the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, when the position of Governmental Commissioner for Ethnic Policy was introduced at the government.

The UCIPR experts are members of the Expert Council at the Committee on Human

Rights, National Minorities and International Relations and in that capacity participated in the preparation of the draft National Human Rights Strategy in pursuance of the Presidential Decree No. 811 of October 15, 2014 «[On the Development of the National Human Rights Strategy](#)», in particular, regarding the safeguarding of the rights of national mi-

norities, the identification of new challenges related to the protection of human rights in temporarily occupied and uncontrolled territories. In 2017, activities were carried out related to an independent assessment of the implementation of this strategy according to the UCIPR expertise.

COMMUNICATION OF THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION PROCESSES. SECURITY ASPECTS OF THE UKRAINIAN POLITICS

Starting from 2014, when the UCIPR contributed to the formation of the Ukrainian counterpart of the Ukraine-EU Civil Society Platform created under the Association Agreement, we joined Working Group 1 «Political Dialogue, Foreign and Security Policy». The UCIPR also took part in the coordination of Working Group 3 «Human Rights, Gender Equality and Non-Discrimination»: within the framework of the activity, a monitoring report was prepared to assess the implementation of the Agreement in the areas of ensuring the rights of minorities, non-discrimination, and gender equality.

Recent threats to the territorial integrity and internal unity of society spurred the state policy in external and internal security area. UCIPR ex-

perts together with representatives of the Centre for Global Studies «Strategy XXI» in February 2017 organized and conducted a high-level round table with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (Federal Republic of Germany). The relevant Policy Paper «NATO-Ukraine Neighborhood: Non-military Cooperation and Joint Response to Hybrid Threats» is also dedicated to its topic. The paper includes experts' survey data presenting the specialist assessment of the need for security institutions to cooperate in the security sector and the state of affairs and allowing to understand the prospects for Ukraine-NATO rapprochement, joint action formats and areas to strengthen the security building in the Eastern European region.

COALITIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

The achievements of a single organization are incomparable with the performance of partnerships and coalitions in terms of the impact and energy. The UCIPR is a reliable partner for many civil society organizations and networks.

In 2017 we efficiently cooperated:

- ◆ In the coalition «For Favorable Legislation for CSOs», which includes 24 organizations
- ◆ In the coalition «For the Honest Referendum» together with the Center for Political and Legal Reforms, the Institute for Electoral Law, the Platform for Human Rights, Internews-Ukraine.
- ◆ Coordination of Working Group 3 «Human Rights, Gender Equality and Non-Discrimination» of the Ukrainian counterpart of the Ukraine-EU Civil Society Platform since 2016.
- ◆ In the coalition «Public support for reforming legislation for parliamentary elections», 2017 — Internews-Ukraine, OPORA Civic Network, Human Rights Platform, Institute for Electoral Law
- ◆ With the Centre for Global Studies «Strategy XXI»
- ◆ Peace Action, Training and Research Institute of Romania (PATRIR)
- ◆ The Crisis Management Initiative (CMI, Martti Ahtisaari Foundation), Finland
- ◆ In the network «Partnership for the Freedom of Peaceful Assembly» — 27 organizations
- ◆ In the network «Expert Platform for the Development of Local Democracy in Ukraine» — 15 organizations.

Since its very foundation by the activists of EuroMaidan in 2014, UCIPR is a member of Expert Initiative «Reanimation Package of Reforms». In 2017, the UCIPR worked in the following groups: Decentralization, European Integration, Electoral Law Reform. Furthermore, in December 2017, the UCIPR became part of the RPR Council, which is formed annually through elections of 82 member organizations of the network. It is a great honor for the UCIPR and the opportunity, jointly with other organizations, to formulate the civil society driven agenda of reforms and support the RPR strategic goal setting.

The UCIPR as a think tank prioritizes the quality of development, recommendations, draft decisions that are proposed, and guarantees of the absence of clandestine influences on the UCIPR work.

Since 2014, the UCIPR is among the founders of the Ukrainian Think Tank Liaison Office in Brussels, which allows distributing the materials of the Center to the audience in decision-making centers in the united Europe institutions.

UCIPR PROJECTS IN 2017

In the last three years (2015–2017), the UCIPR has implemented 15 successful projects supported by such donors as the National Endowment for Democracy (USA), the European Commission, the International Renaissance Foundation (Ukraine), the High Commissioner for National Minorities of the OSCE (the Netherlands), Private Agencies Collaborating Together, Inc (PACT, USA), International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES, Ukraine), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Ukraine, the Embassy of Great Britain in Ukraine, Konrad Adenauer Foundation (Germany), International Alert (Great Britain) for the total amount of USD 1,700,000. In July 2014 the UCIPR signed a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Agency for International Development for the total amount of USD 1,500,000, with the institutional support to the UCIPR being a part of it.



USAID
ВІД АМЕРИКАНСЬКОГО НАРОДУ



**National Endowment
for Democracy**
Supporting freedom around the world



British Embassy
Kyiv

osce
HCNM



INTERNATIONAL
RENAISSANCE
FOUNDATION



building
local
promise.



**international
alert**



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



REANIMATION PACKAGE
OF REFORMS



**Konrad
Adenauer
Stiftung**



CENTRE FOR DEMOCRACY
AND RULE OF LAW



Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund

- ◆ Since 2014, the UCIPR has been implementing a systemic five-year project of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Ukraine Civil Society Enabling Environment Activity (Citizen-in-Action) No. AID-121-A-14-00002. A major national-level project is aimed at improving the legal environment of civil society organizations and increasing the CSOs capacity to apply such legislative innovations. Moreover, this project provides opportunities for institutional strengthening of the UCIPR, development of the system of strategic and internal management. 2014–2019.
- ◆ Promoting Social Dialogue. No. 2017-484, National Endowment for Democracy (NED). 2017–2018.
- ◆ Ukraine Support Program. Management of Inter-ethnic Relations in Crimea Phase VI. Extension of IPA Crimea Monitoring // Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE HCNM) / Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). No. 1400318. A systematic comprehensive monitoring of the implementation of human rights in the Crimea and the ethno-political situation is carried out within this project. The materials serve as a basis of OSCE human rights reports on Crimea. 2015–2017.
- ◆ Strengthen capacity of CSOs in Georgia and Ukraine to Contribute to the Policy Dialogue on Social Service Delivery // Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund Deutschland. E.V. (ASB). No. GE01502. A new practice of quality partnerships at the local level in six oblasts is being created between authorities and non-governmental organizations that help people with disabilities, the elderly and internally displaced persons. 20 advocacy organizations were trained and they managed to raise funds from local budgets to provide social services. 2015–2018.
- ◆ The State Policy of Ukraine on the Crimea: Analysis, Monitoring, Expert Support // International Renaissance Foundation. No. 50487. On the basis of the monitoring of processes and analysis of the Russian authorities' decisions concerning the Crimea, a White Policy Book on changes in the field of culture, information, politics, education, ethno-national relations, social and economic processes in the occupied Crimea has been prepared. Strategic areas of Ukraine's policy regarding the occupied territory of the Crimean Peninsula were formulated. 2017.
- ◆ From Conflict to Peace: A Path to Understanding and Reconciliation // International Alert (Great Britain)/ No.20160318. For the first time in Ukraine, identity dynamics were studied, data on processes of self-awareness, use of languages, perception of the conflict on the Donbass by Russians and Russian-speaking population living in different regions of Ukraine were collected and analyzed. 2015–2017.

- ◆ International Roundtable with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (Federal Republic of Germany) «NATO-Ukraine Rapprochement: Non-military Cooperation and Joint Response to Hybrid Threats». February 2017.
- ◆ Enhancing Government Capacity for Working with Crimea Residents and IDPs from Crimea // British Embassy Kyiv. Development of guidelines for civil servants working in the field of public services, education, social policy, providing documents for internally displaced persons and residents of the occupied territory of Crimea, in order to increase the capacity of the Government of Ukraine to ensure the realization of human rights in the Crimea. 2017.
- ◆ Drafting and advocating a government information strategy on the occupied Crimean Peninsula // International Renaissance Foundation. No. 51265. Creation of a draft Strategy of Ukraine's Information Policy for the Crimea and communication with the authorities of Ukraine on the State's mission to maintain communication with citizens of Ukraine on the peninsula, with the international community and stakeholders on human rights violations in the Crimea, Russia's policy in Crimea, violations of international law in connection with the annexation of the Crimea. 2017.
- ◆ Public Support for Reforming Parliamentary Electoral Law // European Union, Center for Democracy and Rule of Law, Reanimation Package of Reforms. Conducting an informational, educational and advocacy campaign aimed at attracting the attention of society and political stakeholders to the need to democratize the parliamentary elections rules and adopt new relevant legislation. The campaign was based on the expert materials prepared by the experts of the Group on reforming the electoral law of the Reanimation Package of Reforms network. 2017.
- ◆ Monitoring Progress Empowering Action / The European Center for Non-Profit Law (ECNL). Development of a methodology for assessing the progress of legislative provisions designed to regulate relations between non-profit organizations and the state. 2017–2018.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL REPORT

In 2017 the UCIPR managed to raise more than UAH 16.5 million for the implementation of its charter activities on supporting social cohesion processes, strengthening the civil society and establishment of the democratic participation procedures and enhancing political accountability. We are proud to see such support to our initiatives and express our sincere gratitude to our friends and partners:

UCIPR FINANCIAL SUPPORT SOURCES IN 2017

	<i>UAH</i>	<i>%</i>
U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)	9 257 988	55.54
Arbeiter Samariter Bund Deutschland (ASB) e.V. (EU)	1 543 697	9.26
The European Center for Not-Profit Law (ECNL)	315 964	1.90
Embassy of Great Britain	436 745	2.62
International ALERT	413 083	2.48
National Endowment for Democracy (NED)	1 600 420	9.60
Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE HCNM)	2 353 051	14.12
Center for Democracy and Rule of Law (CEDEM) with the support of the European Union	452 041	2.71
International Renaissance Foundation	294 962	1.77
Total	16 667 951	100

ALLOCATION OF UCIPR EXPENDITURE FOR 2017 BY COST CATEGORIES

UCIPR cost categories, fact 2017	UAH
Program staff	7 703 933
Administrative personnel	2 619 293
Travel	107 394
Office supplies	120 761
Publication and printing	245 247
Audit	306 409
Bank services	11 477
Communication	48 319
Office rent&utilities	1 325 025
Equipment purchase&maintenance	229 006
Database subscriptions&updates	43 778
Software	36 282
Contracts for works	1 927 509
Events	1 276 478
Informational products	667 040
Total	16 667 951

CAPACITY BUILDING AND STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT

In 2017 the UCIPR continued to work for the institutional development to ensure high standards of good governance, as well as transparency and accountability of the organization management.

The main achievements in the organizational development were as follows:

- ◆ Introduction of Good Governance standards;
- ◆ Improvement of internal control systems and introduction of international financial management standards;
- ◆ Activation of the internal training and professional development program of the organization;
- ◆ Updating the information security system rules.

The UCIPR managed to achieve the qualitatively new activity organization level. The Center is now able to ensure efficient implementation of the systemic multi-annual national level projects.

The UCIPR has successfully passed two audits in 2017 — one of them was requested by the IRF and carried out by the Ukrainian company «Marinchenko & Partners», the second was performed by Deloitte Ukraine as a member of the international company «Deloitte Touche Tomatsu Limited» upon request of the USAID.

UCIPR BOARD

The Board is a component of the UCIPR strategic management and is entrusted with supervisory function. We are proud to have the respected and renowned personalities of the civil and business sector in our Board:

Mykola Riabchuk, Head of Advisory Board, Ukrainian writer, political scientist, President of the Ukrainian Centre of International PEN-Club (Ukraine)

Mykhailo Veselskyi, UCIPR Member of the Board, manager, Founder and Chairman of the Board of Evrotek Company

Gulnara Bekirova, UCIPR Member of the Board, historian, political scientist, Deputy Head of the Special Commission of the Kurultai of the Crimean Tatar People genocide research

Natalia Bourjaily, UCIPR Member of the Board, Vice-President of the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law, USA

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