

ACTION PLAN OF UKRAINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION IN UKRAINE OF THE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE

I. INTRODUCTION

Ukraine fully shares the principles of the Open Government Declaration with regard to promotion of openness and transparency of state policies, engagement of civil society bodies into policy-making, introduction of high standards of professional integrity throughout the state administration.

Inadequate degree of cooperation between government institutions and the public affects the quality of decisions made by authorities. The key task is to ensure transparency of state policies and the availability of information about governmental activities. Instances of corruption constitute a threat to the social and economic development of society. The degree of implementation of up-to-date information and communication technology into the administration with a view to make it more responsive to the citizens' needs is not sufficient.

In close partnership between the Government and with civic society bodies, it is planned to accomplish priority tasks aimed at increasing cooperation between government institutions and the public in making and implementing government decisions, providing access to public information, using effective instruments against corruption, improving government efficiency, including through extensive use of electronic technology.

For the needs of open governance it is essential to introduce cutting-edge information and communication technologies, especially to maintain the dialogue between state institutions and social society by exploiting of interactive cooperation methods and potential of social networks, as well as to modernize the organization of government, increase government transparency and improve access to information. Permanent exchange of information between the Government, civil society institutions and the public is fundamental to formulating social and economic development priorities, accumulating social capital and increasing the country's innovative capacity. The Government will introduce relevant interactive platforms as new mechanisms of joint partnership activities.

Members of the public took an active part in drafting the Action Plan by submitting more than 400 proposals, including during public events held in Ukrainian regions. The document was also discussed at the National Round Table involving Prime Minister of Ukraine, representatives of civic society organizations, and media. The event was covered live on-line.

To meet the commitments set by the Action Plan for Implementation in Ukraine of the Open Government Partnership Initiative, in cooperation with the public, an implementation plan will be drafted by 1 June 2012.

Further, the public will be enabled, to the maximum extent, to access the information on the Action Plan implementation, and to provide its contribution to implementation of measures planned as well as to monitor their efficiency.

To enable public monitoring, a special web site will be launched, a report about implementation of the Action Plan and the implementation plan will be

published semi-annually, public consultations, round tables and other public events will be held, and opportunities for involvement of public experts will be offered.

In light of the aforesaid, having held consultations with the public, Ukraine identifies the following **priority tasks**: *strengthening partnership cooperation between executive powers and civil society bodies through engagement of the civil society into state policy-making; promoting access to public information; preventing and combating corruption; promoting good governance through improvement of administrative services and introduction of e-government.*

II. TO-DATE ACHIEVEMENTS IN PROMOTING OPEN GOVERNMENT

In the field of engaging the public in formulation and implementation of state policy

In recent years, the Government of Ukraine adopted a range of important decisions as regards involving the public into state policy formulation and implementation. In particular, it is provided for: holding mandatory consultations with the public on issues of national and social importance, operation of consultative and advisory bodies (community councils) attached to all executive agencies, promotion of evaluation by non-governmental experts of activities by executive agencies. Since 2008, taking into account the European experience of consulting with the public, the public is enabled to discuss, at the governmental web site named "Civil Society and the Government", regulations being drafted by ministries and other central executive agencies. The mentioned governmental initiatives are aimed at ensuring openness and transparency, and facilitating the participation of citizens in state policy-making. In 2012, the Coordination Council for Development of Civil Society under the President of Ukraine was established, which drafted a Strategy for Promoting Development of Civil Society approved by Decree of the President of Ukraine no. 212/2012 dated 24 March 2012.

In the field of access to public information

On 13 January 2011, Law of Ukraine no. 2939-VI "On Access to Public Information" prescribing a procedure for exercise of and ensuring the right of any individual to access public information in possession of agencies of authority and other administrators of public information was adopted. Introducing international standards of openness, the said Law is a yet another real step by the nation on its way to integrating with the international community. Pursuant to the Law, each executive agency shall establish a special unit or designate an officer arranging for the access to public information.

In the field of preventing corruption, ensuring transparency of formulation and implementation of anti- corruption policy

Efforts to prevent and combat corruption are one of key areas of government policy. On 7 April 2011, Law of Ukraine "On Fundamentals of Preventing and Combating Corruption in Ukraine" was adopted with a view to implement international standards in the field of preventing corruption. The mentioned Law received a positive review from the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO).

On 21 October 2011, by Decree no. 1001, the President of Ukraine approved the National Anti-Corruption Strategy for 2011-2015 envisioning immediate implementation of systemic, coherent and comprehensive measures aiming to prevent instances of corruption in all spheres of social life.

In the field of improving the quality of administrative services

In order to improve the system for delivery of administrative services, a range of important steps were taken in Ukraine since 2010, including in respect of:

- cessation of provision of administrative services by commercial entities;
- establishment and maintenance of a register of administrative services;
- reduction of the amount of documents necessary for obtaining administrative services;
- establishment of regional administrative service centers;
- approval of standards for providing administrative services;
- decreasing the number of chargeable commercial services deliverable by executive agencies and state-funded institutions managed thereby (by 44%).

With the purpose of decreasing burdens on individuals and legal entities, the number of chargeable administrative services offered by central executive agencies and their territorial units was reviewed and reduced by 36%.

The Guidelines for developing standards of administrative services targeting transparency of delivering administrative services were approved. The Guidelines, inter alia, provide that an administrative service standard shall contain information on the administrative service and a procedure of provision thereof, including the terms and responsible persons; ensure reducing time and other resources spent by a client to obtain the service.

In the field of e-government

Adoption of the Concept for Developing E-Government in Ukraine and launching the National E-Government Center in 2010 proved to be major steps taken by Ukraine towards promotion of e-government.

Electronic government-related initiatives were included to the 2012 National Action Plan for implementing the Economic Reform Program for 2010-2014 named "Prosperous Society, Competitive Economy, Efficient Government".

III. UKRAINE'S COMMITMENTS UNDER THE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE

Fulfillment of obligations assumed in the framework of the Open Government Partnership Initiative, provided that continuous collaboration with the public and in partnership with civil society bodies are maintained, should become a cornerstone for promoting open government in Ukraine, with the use of cutting-edge information and communication technologies.

Engagement of the public in formulation and implementation of state and regional policies

1. Taking steps to provide for adoption of laws of Ukraine on:

- charity and charitable institutions;
- peaceful assemblies, with regard to the recommendations by the Venice Commission and the draft law on freedom of peaceful assemblies, prepared by the Commission under the President of Ukraine for Strengthening Democracy and the Rule of Law;
- local referendum;
- amending certain laws of Ukraine on participation of the public in formulation and implementation of state policy and addressing issues of local importance.

Implementation period: within 2012.

2. Introduction to Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine of the draft amendments to the Law of Ukraine "On Public Self-Organization Bodies (Community Associations)", amendment of regulations concerning their establishment and activities so as to facilitate procedures for establishing community associations, expand their financial and material resource base, introduce safeguards for their operation etc., as well as of a bill regulating issues pertaining to organizing and holding general assemblies (conferences) of members of local communities at their residence.

Implementation deadline: December 2012.

3. Amending resolutions by the Cabinet of Ministers regulating collaboration with civil society bodies as related to holding consultations with the public, evaluation by the public of executive agencies' activities, and anti-corruption public evaluation of draft regulations.

Implementation deadline: December 2012.

4. Implementing a comprehensive set of measures in respect of training and improving skills of state servants as regards consulting with the public and collaboration therewith in the context of the process of formulating and implementing state and regional policies.

Implementation deadline: November 2012.

Ensuring access to public information

5. Harmonizing legislation with Laws of Ukraine "On Information" and "Access to Public Information".

Implementation deadline: September 2012.

6. Adoption of regulations necessary for implementing Law of Ukraine "Access to Public Information".

Implementation deadline: June 2012.

7. Drafting, in collaboration with members of the public, guidelines for classifying data as restricted by agencies of authority and local government bodies.

Implementation deadline: August 2012.

8. Drafting an action plan for introduction of a public information recording system within state authorities, local self-government bodies.

Implementation deadline: June 2012.

9. Public discussion of and finalizing the draft law on introduction of public service television and radio broadcasting in Ukraine.

Implementation deadline: December 2012.

10. Public discussion of implementing a mechanism for free, facilitated and toll-free access, including via the Internet, to information stored in state registers, in particular the immovable property rights register, the register of legal entities and individual entrepreneurs, the register of persons who committed corruption offences, the land registry.

Implementation deadline: December 2012.

11. Providing for implementation in Ukraine of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in compliance with the Initiative criteria.

Implementation deadline: December 2012.

Preventing and combating corruption

12. Implementation of a system of state control, in particular of its institutional mechanism, over declaring assets, income and expenses of public servants, as well as in the sphere of conflict of interests.

Implementation deadline: December 2012.

13. Amendment of Law "On Fundamentals of Preventing and Combating Corruption" so as to ensure openness of data relating to property, income and expenditure returns, in particular through publishing details of returns by high-profile officials at public bodies' official web sites and disclosing data from returns of any public officer upon information request.

Implementation deadline: December 2012.

14. Drafting and dissemination of practice-oriented recommendations on preventing and addressing conflict of interests.

Implementation deadline: September 2012.

15. Introduction to Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine of draft laws on implementation of recommendations made to Ukraine following the 3rd round of GRECO monitoring and monitoring under the OECD Istanbul Action Plan with regard to:

- criminalization of corruption offences;
- funding of political parties;
- improvement of provisions regulating forfeiture of property;
- introduction of liability of legal entities for corruption offences;
- strengthening safeguards for protection of persons reporting offences.

Implementation period: 2012--2013.

16. Development, in collaboration with the public, of regional programs for preventing and combating corruption based on best domestic and international practices.

Implementation deadline: December 2012.

17. Establishment of a mechanism for electronic governmental procurement with a view to ensure transparency and integrity of governmental procurement.

Implementation deadline: December 2012.

**Promotion of good governance
Improvement of administrative services**

18. Take steps aiming to regulate, by means of legislation, the delivery of administrative services.

Implementation period: within 2012.

19. Developing a regulatory framework for enabling access to information about services provided by government agencies and local self-government bodies via communication tools.

Implementation period: within 2012.

20. Launching a single governmental web portal giving access to administrative services.

Implementation period: within 2012.

21. Introduction of administrative services in a digital format.

Implementation deadline: till 2014.

22. Establishment of administrative service centers in all Ukraine's regions.

Implementation period: within 2012--2013.

Implementation of e-government technologies and promotion of electronic democracy

23. Design and development, in cooperation with the public, of a Program for Promotion of E-Government.

Implementation deadline: December 2012.

24. Implementation of an electronic system of collaboration between executive agencies.

Implementation deadline: October 2012.

25. Development and implementation of a unified single data web platform enabling citizens to file petitions and information requests with government agencies and local self-government bodies.

Implementation deadline: October 2012.

26. Development and ensuring operation of an automated system named "One Stop Shop for E-Reporting".

Implementation deadline: April 2013.

27. Launching a pilot "E-Region" project, in particular "Electronic Dnipropetrovs'k Region".

Implementation deadline: December 2013.

28. Launching a two-way system, based on the National E-Government Center platform, for interacting with citizens using social networks named "We Develop E-Government" aimed at engaging citizens into social communication on formulation and implementation of state policy, and making decisions of social import with due regard to opinion of civil society.

Implementation deadline: December 2012.

29. Arrangement and implementation of the "Public Libraries as Bridges to E-Government" initiative with a view to enable free access to official information, interaction between citizens and government via libraries, train librarians to use e-government resources and technologies, implement an awareness-raising campaign and popularize e-government.

Implementation deadline: December 2013.

30. Launching the "E-Government Knowledge Management" portal storing data on best practices in promotion of e-government in Ukraine.

Implementation deadline: July 2013.