



USAID | **UKRAINE**
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THE ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND LEGAL EMPOWERMENT PROJECT IN UKRAINE

QUARTERLY REPORT: JANUARY 1 – MARCH 31, 2013

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The Access to Justice and Legal Empowerment Project in Ukraine

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**Project partner agencies
(or national counterparts):**

Management Systems International (MSI)

Ukrainian Authorities:

- Ministry of Justice of Ukraine;
- Local Government Bodies in select oblasts;
- Members of the Verkhovna Rada;

National NGOs/Legal Clinics:

- NGOs :
 - Volyn Regional Organization of the Union of Lawyers of Ukraine;
 - Agency for Private Initiative Development;
 - Foundation for Medical Law and Bioethics of Ukraine.
- Legal Clinic at Lviv Ivan Franko National University;
- Legal Clinic at Kyiv-Mohyla National University;
- Private law firms

Geographical coverage:

Project management site:

Target group(s):

Ukraine

LEP office, 3, Bankova St., office 33, 01024, Kyiv, Ukraine

- Citizens in need for legal services
- Legal advocacy NGOs
- Students legal clinics
- Law firms
- Ukrainian local authorities

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Access to Justice and Legal Empowerment Project in Ukraine (LEP) emphasizes the empowerment of people, organizations, and institutions as the most sustainable way of increasing access to justice. People will be empowered with increased awareness of fundamental rights and how to enforce them; legal advocacy organizations will be empowered with the practical skills and substantive knowledge to provide quality access to justice and to effectively advocate for change; and governmental institutions will be empowered through stronger communication and linkages with the private sector.

LEP is designed to strengthen and expand local capacity, leverage USAID's investment with private funding, and collaborate with related assistance projects.

LEP has three fundamental objectives: (1) strengthening the capacity of Ukrainian legal advocacy organizations (LAOs) to effectively represent the interests of citizens; (2) building a sustainable nationwide network of LAOs that address citizen demand for legal services in specific areas of the law and leverage the work of such organizations for national reform efforts and promote broader access to justice; and (3) developing partnerships and attracting additional private resources to expand and enhance the impact of the program's *pro bono* efforts.

This report constitutes LEP's semiannual report, presenting results of activities carried out during Q3 of FY 2013 (from January 1 through March 31, 2013) as well as performance monitoring data for the fiscal year.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES AND PROGRESS

Registration as a legal entity will enable the Ukrainian Coalition for Legal Aid (UCLA or Coalition) to solicit and receive funds, an essential aspect of sustainability. In anticipation of this, LEP has worked with the Initiative Group to finalize the organizational Charter, which sets forth the basic governance format, including the Board of Directors and their respective roles; at the same time, LEP has been helping Coalition members establish membership criteria and quality standards for provision of legal aid as the bylaws of the Coalition. Following detailed discussion on the internal part of the Website, the Charter of the Coalition has been finalized by nine perspective founding members at the meeting in Kyiv in February. In March, all documents for registration of the National Coalition for Legal Aid as a Charity Organization were submitted to the registrar.

Objective 1: Strengthen the capacity of legal advocacy organizations to effectively represent the interests of citizens.

Skills training is provided to LEP partners on a quarterly basis, in conjunction with the quarterly meetings. Following sessions on representing clients' interests in civil court cases, the partners suggested enforcement of court decisions as a topic for the quarterly meeting in Zaporizhzhya (QM9) held on February 20-21. LEP continued its practice of collaborating with other USAID projects, including the FAIR and AgroInvest projects during QM9. Judge Svitlana Malovichko of Zaporizhzhya Court of Appeals shared with the participants her advice on formulating the claimant's demands from the perspective of an adjudicator. Nataliya Khramova, acting Head of the State Enforcement Department in Zaporizhzhya, explained the structure and authorities of the enforcement service to the participants, and advised on the enforcement procedures and terms for enforcement.

Further, participants received practical guidance and advice from the perspective of lawyers representing a law firm and an NGO.

Updates in the three substantive areas of law were provided to the participants, including a presentation by Oleksandr Vinnikov, LEP's Legal Advisor, and by representatives of the state agencies: Zaporizhzhya

Regional Branch of State Enterprise “Center for Land Cadastre”, State Territorial Employment Inspection in Zaporizhzhya Oblast, Health Department of Zaporizhzhya City State Administration.

The event is very high quality. The agenda consists of the most urgent issues that require additional explanations by experts. I am very appreciative of the opportunity to participate.

Feedback from a participant to QM9

Site visits to Zaporizhzhya Oblast Department for Social Protection for the Disabled and Zaporizhzhya Regional Branch of the Land Cadastre Center State Enterprise also proved to be very useful:

All legislative amendments that came into effect as of January 2013 were demonstrated to us in practice. We learned about the complexities arising in practice at the regional branch of State Land Cadastre Center. And ways to prevent and resolve those.

Feedback from a participant to QM9 site visit

In addition, LEP Legal Advisor is always available to provide on-line consultations, or host internet conference on substance law matters, on an as-needed basis.

Objective 2: Build a sustainable nationwide network of legal advocacy organizations that address citizen demand for legal services in specific areas of the law and leverage the work of such organizations for national reform efforts and promote broader access to justice.

LEP and the National Coalition for Legal Aid have submitted the required documents to the registrar to register as membership-based charitable organization.

LEP always provides opportunities for Coalition partners specializing in the same areas of law, including NGOs, student legal clinics and MoJ public legal aid offices to meet together at the quarterly meetings to share best practices and insights and discuss possible referrals. During QM9, following the substantive training, participants suggested an interactive exercise to make each of the participants consider their role within the Coalition as the Coalition formalizes itself as a legal entity, and defines major obstacles to the Coalition’s development.

Objective 3: Develop partnerships and attract additional private resources to expand and enhance the impact of the program’s pro bono efforts.

At this stage, based on the massive media coverage of the Pro Bono Award Ceremony and the quarterly meetings, LEP has started to receive proposals for future collaboration and opportunities for partnerships. Private law firms expressed interest in using the case referral mechanism and other opportunities to do *pro bono* available through LEP and the National Coalition for Legal Aid. This quarter, LEP conducted a competition for law students at the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy National University with an opportunity for an internship at one of the LEP partner law firms: the Legal Consulting Center and LexJus. As always, lawyers are invited to participate in trainings at each quarterly meeting, either as participants or as trainers, depending upon their relative expertise. In particular, LEP continued to provide opportunities for its *pro bono* lawyers to participate in the seminars on land law reform this quarter, arranged by the Land Union of Ukraine jointly with experts from the State Cadastre and the State Registration Service.

POLITICAL CONTEXT

Several important new laws came into effect in January and February 2013, in particular, the law on NGOs № 4572, and on charitable activities № 5073.

The new law on NGOs (civic associations) № 4572 of March 22, 2012, came into effect on January 1, 2013. Its major achievements include the right of NGOs to protect public interests, not limited to their membership; the right of legal entities to associate for not-for-profit purposes; the right to run business activities directly, without setting up business companies; 4) no restrictions regarding territorial status; 5) simpler registration procedures; 6) specific requirements for reporting and disputes resolution procedures in the articles; 7) clear regulations on accreditation of foreign NGOs' representative offices; 8) close-end list of legal grounds for NGOs' dissolution upon the claims by government agencies.

The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine (CMU) and the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine continue to adopt regulatory acts to implement the Law "On Free Legal Aid" with the following developments:

1. The compensations and fees for attorneys by secondary legal aid centers became amended with CMU Resolutions № 1214 and № 1215 on December 19, 2012, and №130 on March 04, 2013).
2. Public procurement regulations shall be applicable to each person eligible for secondary legal aid (Ministry for Economic Development Order №246 as of March 14, 2013).
3. The Ministry of Justice issued an official letter on disciplinary liability of attorneys providing legal aid as of February 28, 2013.

On May 22, 2013, parliamentary hearings on court decisions enforcement are to be held where representatives of NGOs and law schools shall be invited. On June 12, 2013, parliamentary hearings on the human rights situation shall be held with extensive media coverage.

Ministry of Justice of Ukraine registered Professional ethics code for notaries (Order № 431/5 of March 13, 2013).

The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved the annual action plan for implementation of the national program of Ukrainian law adaptation to the EU legislation (Order № 157-p of March 25, 2013). This plan includes developments of draft laws and regulations on guarantees for staff in employers' insolvency; a number of technical regulations in medical equipment and drugs; copyright and intellectual property protection.

In addition, several important initiatives were taken in the Coalition's legislative areas as follows:

Property

The Law on registration of real property titles came into effect on January 01, 2013.

The official site of administrative services, including property registration, was established under the Cabinet of Ministers Resolution № 13 as of January 3, 2013.

The Cabinet of Ministers settled the procedures for executing court decisions against treasury or public legal entities (Resolution № 45 on January 30, 2013), including recovery of damages. It would decrease risks of non-implementing penalties against the government.

The Ministry of Justice issued an official letter on heritage contracts on February 12, 2013.

The Model lease contract for public or municipal premises was amended with the Public Assets Fund Order № 276 of March 05, 2013, whereby if the contract duration is one year or less, lease payments shall be made in advance to the property owner.

Employment

Bylaws of the State Employment Service listing 33 major functions were approved by the President of Ukraine's Decree № 19/2013 on January 17, 2013, one of which deems that no compulsory registration of personal databases shall be required from employers and NGOs as for their employees and members, (Cabinet of Ministers Resolution № 60 on January 30, 2013).

In addition, new procedures for unemployment registration and resources for new job placement were approved by CMU Resolution № 198 on March 20, 2013. Public works and other provisional employment for registered unemployed people are to be organized under CMU Resolution № 175 of March 20, 2013. Lastly, partial compensation of employers' social insurance contributions is now regulated with CMU Resolution № 153 on March 13, 2013.

Health

The Cabinet of Ministers Resolution approved the legal procedures issuing birth certificates for children born outside of medical facilities by its resolution № 9 on January 9, 2013.

The CMU also now requires annual medical examinations of school children with its resolution № 25 of January 14, 2013).

The Ministry of Health developed new reporting forms for imported drugs (Order № 39 of January 21, 2013).

The MoH also approved the licensing regulations for drugs importers (Order N 143 of February 20, 2013). Also, CMU Resolution № 103 on February 11, 2013, and Resolution № 112 of February 13, 2013, will regulate the documents to be submitted for these licenses shall become effective on March 1, 2013, and December 1, 2013, correspondingly.

Criteria for HIV/AIDS risk groups have been identified in Ministry of Health Order № 104 of February 08, 2013.

The annual action plan for setting up local emergency centers was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine's Order № 203-p on March 25, 2013.

Concept for nuclear medicine development until 2017 was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine's Order № 130-p of March 13, 2013.

ACTIVITIES

Objective I: Strengthen the capacity of legal advocacy organizations to effectively represent the interests of citizens.



Participants to QM9 in Zaporizhzhya

Activity I(a): Developing demand-driven technical training for partner organizations on specialized topics including trial advocacy skills, drafting of policy papers, and legislative drafting.

Skills training are conducted at each LEP quarterly meeting, based upon topics selected in the partners' needs assessment conducted in the beginning of Year 3. Following sessions on representing clients' interests in civil court cases, the partners suggested enforcement of court decisions as a topic for the quarterly meeting in Zaporizhzhya (QM9) held on February 20-21. As enforcement starts with the court adopting a decision, Judge Svitlana Malovichko of Zaporizhzhya Court of Appeal shared with the participants her advice on formulating the claimant's demands having in mind the need to enforce a decision:

The major objective of court activities is not adoption of a respective decision, but enforcement thereof. And the lawyers should be controlling the process.

Nataliya Khramova, acting Head of the State Enforcement Department in Zaporizhzhya explained the structure and authorities of the enforcement service to the participants, and also outlined procedural requirements to enforcement.

Further, Pavlo Starkov from the local *pro bono* partner law firm "Victoria" shared his advice on how to ensure efficient enforcement, starting with the very first stages of work with a client – gathering the required documents, taking measures to preserve the property, etc. Especially highly valued by the participants was the presentation and the Q&A session by Vitaliy Misyats from the Podillya Legal League, a very experienced partner specializing in property rights. As one of the participants indicated in their feedback:

The quarterly meeting is an event that you simply must participate in. These meetings provide us with an opportunity to share experience, ideas and contribute to strengthening rule of law in Ukraine. This is a wonderful example for establishing good working relations with other partner organizations. Always the best presenters having invaluable experience; it is always a great pleasure to listen and learn from them. Skills that we get we try to implement in our activities.

Participants, as usual, received updates in three substantive law areas including a thorough analysis of legislative amendments by Oleksandr Vinnikov, LEP's Legal Advisor. Analysis of the situation in the three respective areas was provided by representatives of the state agencies: Mykhailo Fedyshyn, Head of the Regional Development Department, Zaporizhzhya Regional Branch of State Enterprise "Center for Land Cadastre" Serhiy Boichenko, Head of State Territorial Employment Inspection in Zaporizhzhya Oblast, and Nadiya Sevalnyeva, Head of Healthcare Department of Zaporizhzhya City State Administration. As registration of land parcels and land titles are top priority, Anna Koshyl and Andriy Koshyl of the Land Union of Ukraine, provided the overview of the topic procedure for realization of land titles and registration of land parcels, focusing on peculiarities for land relations regulation in 2013. One of LEP's Coalition

Coaches, Vasyl Polujko, also shared practical examples of situations where problems may arise in land relations, and provided his recommendations for resolutions.

Activity I(b): Providing technical assistance to build the organizational sustainability of partner organizations, including strategic planning, accounting practices, and financial and human resource management.

Last quarter, partner LAOs decided that registration of the National Coalition for Legal Aid is key to building sustainability of the network of legal aid providers due to the Coalition's role as an umbrella organization capable of performing coordination among the members and receiving funding from perspective donors for joint activities by member LAOs.

Towards the end of January, when the President signed the Law on Charities, the amended draft articles were sent to the would-be founders for review. On February 7, 2013, nine founders held the initial meeting in the LEP office and made several decisions, including the start-up of a charity named Ukrainian Coalition for Legal Aid, approval of its founding articles, and rules on electing the governing bodies. It was decided that the governance structure shall include: 1) annual or special general meetings; 2) the board; 3) the supervisory committee; and 4) executive director (currently vacant, a full-time paid position). The number of advisory and auxiliary bodies (e.g., for development of legal aid standards, pursuing funding opportunities, etc.) can be set up by the board or by the general meeting decisions.

The founders elected the Board of five members who act in a personal capacity, not as representatives of their LAOs. One of the governing principles of the Coalition is that no paid staff of the ULAC may be members of the Board.

The elected chairman of the Board currently is Mr. Roman Shurduk, CEO of LexJus law group. Until the contest for ULAC executive director is completed, Mr. Shurduk will run all administrative responsibilities. The founders also elected four members to the Supervisory Committee, including the project legal advisor and one Coalition coach. The committee is in charge of setting up internal controls, including implementing the articles, and solving statutory disputes between members and/or governing bodies. It's expected that in the short term, the committee shall include representatives of major donors, especially domestic ones, as these donors prefer more regular control how their donations are used. In addition, fundraisers of ULAC also would act as members of the Supervisory committee as appropriate.

Some founders' amendments to the draft articles required additional online discussions (through LEP's website?) before submitting registration papers. In particular, they came to no decision concerning the compulsory membership fees. Another outstanding issue regarding the membership of legal clinics without a legal registration is pending until the relevant draft law is passed in the Ukrainian Parliament.

By the end of February, the Coalition articles and other submission papers were submitted for registration. However, as nearly all founders are civic associations, the public registrar had no access to their governing articles and could not check whether the decisions agreed upon by the general meeting are required to authorize the founder's representative for setting up the Coalition as a legal entity. Thus, it took additional time for applications to be submitted to the relevant Ministry of Justice branches and making the general meeting decisions, when necessary.

At this point, the registration formalities are expected to be completed in April 2013.

I am confident that there are no barriers for an organization which is active, works successfully and fruitfully in the society and for the public good. To overcome possible obstacles we must develop a clear strategy for the Coalition's further activities, its clear

position and action plan, which should define all benefits and possible disadvantages of the membership.

Denys Hrechko, founding member of the National Coalition for Legal Aid

Activity I(c) Improving the reach of partner organizations through trainings focused on leadership, public outreach, and informational and advocacy campaigns.

The LEP has been focusing on further developing public outreach and advocacy skills among its partner LAOs. Skills to conduct efficient advocacy campaigns are essential elements to the ultimate sustainability and impact of the National Free Legal Aid Coalition. Therefore, LEP arranged two training sessions this quarter on practical aspects of designing, conducting, and measuring the impact of advocacy campaigns.

As a part of the ninth quarterly meeting in Zaporizhzhya, Maksym Latsyba, Programme Director for the Ukrainian Independent Center for Political Studies, did a presentation on making advocacy campaigns in Ukraine based on a strength and weakness analysis of specific advocacy campaigns. Mr. Latsyba walked the



Maksym Latsyba provides training on advocacy campaigns during QM9 in Zaporizhzhya

participants through for the development of the law on civic associations, starting from 2006. His presentation contained a comprehensive guidance on aspects to be taken into consideration in developing an advocacy campaign, including identification of target groups and partners, designing communication channels, impact measurement, and other factors based on the analysis of a specific advocacy campaign.

In addition, on March 22, during the second day of the Coordinative meeting in Yaremche, Vasyl Hatsko, an expert in advocacy, provided the participants with practical guidance on how to do advocacy in Ukraine, shared his own success stories, provided practical hints on how to attract partners, including state agencies, all of which was very well received by the participants.

As usual, detailed PowerPoint presentations from the quarterly meetings are available on the LEP Website.

In previous quarters, LEP has built strong relationships with the Ukrainian media, as exemplified by the substantial coverage afforded the quarterly meetings and other LEP activities. This quarter, LEP focused on transferring the skills required to publicize the existence of the Coalition itself and the services provided to the Coalition members. Besides informing citizens of their rights to legal aid, LEP is helping bolster the reputation of the Coalition and its members as subject-matter experts.

In addition, LEP facilitated specific outreach opportunities for the Coalition to discuss substantive law issues. In its continued effort to provide individual consultations on public outreach for the promoting the Coalition, LEP's Outreach Expert helped to develop cooperation with the *Uryadovyi Kuryer* newspaper and provided consultations to HORENIYE NGO (Pavlohrad-based) on how to establish media relationships by providing free consultations to readers. As a result, the Coalition received an opportunity to have their column published in the newspaper (see below).

As a coalition, we managed to really move the public by our events, media-clubs. People got more information on their rights and on how to protect them. All our coalition members state that the number of people applying for legal aid has grown significantly, especially in the regions where quarterly meetings were already held. Our regional communication strategy is a part of a general communication strategy. We addressed the local newspaper with the suggestion to provide free legal consultations in it. As soon as

we started, we were surprised to see how the rating of the newspaper started to grow. Of course, this success did not come unnoticed: we started to get proposals from other local media. This communication strategy has brought specific results, which led to the mutually beneficial collaboration: the media got commercial benefits, and we got social – greater access to our target audience. We strongly recommend developing a solid communication strategy to our partner organizations. Activities of an LAO should be highlighted by the press, if such a LAO is public. Its success should be made known to the residents of the region at least.

Denys Hrechko, Projects Manager at Horeniye LAO, Pavlohrad

LEP provided continuous consultation to another member of the Coalition, the NGO Chaika, in working to prepare a series of publications in the media. The organization made a series of appearances in the printed media and its first notable publication at the regional level was an article in the newspaper *Free Reporter*. In particular, the article articulates the outcomes of an information campaign on protection of the right to freedom of association in the privatized and private enterprises of Luhansk.

Activity I(d): Improving linkages between partner organizations and courts to build a foundation for exchanges and mutual learning, contributing to a more citizen-driven experience in Ukrainian courts.



Judge Svitlana Malovichko of Zaporizhzhya Court of Appeals makes an opening presentation at QM9 in Zaporizhzhya

The LEP continues to use quarterly meetings as a venue for the LAOs to communicate with members of the judiciary. On February 20, Judge Svitlana Malovichko of Zaporizhzhya Court of Appeals shared with the participants her advice on formulating the claimant’s demands from the perspective of enforcing a decision at QM9 in Zaporizhzhya. Further, the LEP is planning to invite a Judge from the Volyn Court of Appeals to the QM10 to be held in Lutsk in April, and to arrange a site visit to the Court to discuss possible ways for the judiciary and the LAOs to collaborate to improve people’s access to the courts.

Activity I(e): Supporting “know your rights” and public information campaigns (and other types of educational outreach) by partners in the legal issue areas targeted by the program.

LEP has supported a total of 14 public information campaigns through its small grants programs. This quarter, one LEP partner, the Luhansk-based Women’s NGO “Chaika” actively implemented and completed its public information grant campaign. In total, 103 legal aid consultations were provided, and the NGO’s lawyers represented interests of 16 fired miners in courts. As a result, 8 members of the miners trade unions were able to receive decisions in their favor as a result of the consultations of the grantee’s lawyers (the miners’ cases involved unlawful resignation orders, disciplinary fines, and those measures were connected with trade union membership).

As for the the information campaign, approximately one million people in Eastern Ukraine have received information about miners’ employment-related problems as a result. Through leaflets disseminated among miners, over 2,000 miners learned how to protect and exercise their employment-related rights and freedom

of association rights. Likewise, the press conference on the freedom of association attracted considerable local media attention, as a result of which 9 articles in local media was published on the topic. Participating in the press conference were representatives of local state authorities, trade unions, NGOs and local media. The training on ways to inform employees on their right to freedom of association and the ways to execute this right gathered 26 active members of mines and miners trade unions. In the framework of the project, the grantee representatives took part in 51 TV and radio programs on local TV broadcasts. In general, the project has succeeded in spotlighting trade union issues, especially raising awareness of mines and miners' employment rights, and in protecting rights of unlawfully fired activists.

Objective 2: Build a sustainable nationwide network of legal advocacy organizations that address citizen demand for legal services in specific areas of the law and leverage the work of such organizations for national reform efforts and promote broader access to justice.

As the Law "On Charities" became effective following the President's signature at the end of January, the amended draft articles were sent to the would-be founders for review. On February 7, 2013, nine founders held the founding meeting in the LEP office and made several decisions establishing the Ukrainian Coalition for Legal Aid, approval of its articles, and elections of its governing bodies.

It was decided by elected the founders that the five members of Board would act in a personal capacity and not as representatives of their LAOs; in addition, no paid staff of the ULAC may be the members of the Board. Additional established rules included a General meeting (annual or special) consisting of LAO members' representatives, who may not be members of the Board or the Supervisory committee. Special meetings may be called upon as deemed necessary by the Board, the Supervisory Committee or 10% of Coalition members.

The major decision making rights of the General meeting are to make amendments to the articles; electing or dismissing members of the Board and the Supervisory committee; approving long-term plans and governing bodies' reports; and lastly joining with other associations or NGOs; 5) winding up the Coalition.

The Board meetings are planned to take place every quarter at a minimum, and the Board's powers include: 1) general management of the General meetings; 2) approval of operational and financial plans; 3) preparing operational and financial reports to the General meeting; 3) making decisions on setting up branches, subsidiaries and business companies. The Board also shall appoint or dismiss the Executive Director as appropriate (until his or her appointment, the chairman of the Board acts as executive director).

The Executive Director shall report to the Board and ensure compliance with its Coalition rules and decisions. The Executive Director has the following responsibilities: 1) make contracts and other deeds on behalf of the Coalition; 2) issue powers of attorney; 3) open and close bank accounts; 4) staff management and supervision; 5) other routine administrative management.

The Supervisory Committee will have control over the Coalition's procedures, (by the Board, CEO and its subsidiaries) its assets and compliance with established rules articles (including resolving disputes concerning membership). Thus, the Supervisory Committee may demand reports from the Board and the Executive Director. The Supervisory Committee also is in charge of independent auditors' selection and assistance in fundraising.

In order to avoid a potential conflict of interest, no person may be a member of the Board and the Supervisory committee simultaneously, or be an employee of the Coalition (except for the chairman of the Board until the appointing the Executive Director is elected).

Activity 2(a): Creating multiple national networks and associations that bring together legal advocacy organizations focused on similar issues in order to support regular interactions between representatives and support joint advocacy campaigns where feasible.

The primary forum for partners to meet and discuss their collaboration is LEP's quarterly meetings, and this quarter, LEP hosted QM9 in Zaporizhzhya on February 20-21, 2013. As usual, LEP partner LAOs had an opportunity to communicate with 20 representatives of public legal aid offices from the Ministry of Justice and establish ways of collaboration and possible client referrals.

Collaboration between the National Coalition for Legal Aid with public legal aid offices at the Ministry of Justice extends and prospers. And such cooperation with the NGOs providing help to the public legal aid offices proved to be extremely efficient. This model has already been implemented in 16 oblasts, including in Khmelnytskyi where a public legal aid office collaborates with the Podillya Legal League, in Kharkiv with the Blind Lawyers Association, in Volyn with Ad Astra students' legal clinic and in Rivne with the Committee of Voters of Ukraine, etc...

Oksana Yukhta, Head of MoJ's Department for Coordination of Legal Work and Legal Education

In following other successful quarterly meetings, QM9 hosted substantive training, where participants were able to share best practices and insights. During the sessions, participants discussed practical case referral systems among LAOs within each network, joint advocacy campaigns and communications via the internal website. Further, Coalition Coaches Vasyl Polujko and Yuriy Trokhymenko suggested interactive exercises to make each of the participants consider their role within the Coalition and formalization of the Coalition as a legal entity, as well as defining major obstacles to the Coalition's future development.



Coalition Coordination Meeting in Yaremche, March, 2013

On March 21-22, the Coordinative Meeting of the National Coalition for Legal Aid took place in Yaremche, Ivano-Frankivsk oblast. As customary, the meeting provided a venue both for the partners to share their success stories, (including Larysa Zalyvna from the Luhansk-based NGO Chaika) and to discuss the Coalition's strategic development, especially following the registration of a charity expected in early April.

It was also used to update partners on the latest legislative developments in the three topical areas of the Coalition's focus. Kyrylo Rubanovskiy from the NGO Agency for Private Initiative Development shared with the participants recent developments on the requirements of the newly adopted Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1362

“On Approval of the Procedure and the Terms for Competition and Requirements to the Professional Level for Attorneys Involved into Provision of Free Secondary Legal Aid”. In addition, he addressed the major changes that took place in the legal system for registration of immovable property, as the State Registration Services started its activities as of January 1, 2013, and new enforcement procedures introduced by the Law “On State Guarantees Regarding Enforcement of Judgments”. Lastly, the changes to the Law on Emergency Medical Aid were explained and discussed with Coalition members.

The participants spent the second part of the day doing practical training on formulating “success stories” with one of LEP's Coalition coaches, Natalia Kachanova. Participants developed their skills on how to successfully present ideas, the project, with consideration of benefits not available to other applicants, on how

to ensure that the success stories are unique and persuasive. The participants were given a task to write a success story that could be “sold”, and are expected to present the results at the next meeting.

During the second dayn Vasyl Hatsko, an expert in advocacy, provided the participants with practical guidance on how to implement advocacy efforts in Ukraine, shared his own success stories, including “Anti-tobacco campaigns”, and the “Company” case (also see Activity 1c).



During the Congress of the Association of Legal Clinics in Ukraine supported by LEP

The LEP continues to support student legal clinics as one of the most widely-spread providers of free legal aid for the underserved population. On March 1, 2013, the LEP supported the first Congress of Students’ Legal Clinics arranged by the Association of Legal Clinics of Ukraine following a change in its management: Vitaliy Yelov, director of “Ad Astra” legal clinic, an active partner specializing in property rights protection, has been elected as the Chairman of the Association. The objective of the Congress was modernization of the network of legal clinics, identification of priorities for their further development, as well as discussion of issues related to provision of free legal aid, including collaboration with other free legal aid providers. Oleksandr Vinnikov, LEP’s Legal Advisor, made a presentation on the role and legislative regulation of legal clinics in providing of legal aid. In addition to “Ad Astra” legal clinics, the other 13 active LEP partners including the legal clinics of the Odessa Legal Academy National University, Kyiv-Mohyla Academy National University, Donetsk National University, and others took active part in the discussions. In particular, participants discussed the clinical strategic development plan and directions for cooperation of the Association with state agencies and non-governmental institutions. Particular focus was given to the possible ways for legal clinics to join the National Coalition for Legal Aid.

The LEP also provided an opportunity for its partner student legal aid clinics to have their coordinative meeting following the Coalition’s coordinative meeting on March 22. Participants discussed quality standards for free legal aid provided by student legal aid clinics, practical studies and internships in legal clinics, all of which would provide further motivate students to join legal aid clinics. In addition, participants discussed the procedure for the student legal aid clinics to join the registered National Coalition for Legal Aid; the decision was made that the Association of Students Legal Clinics of Ukraine that comprises 53 legal clinics may join the Coalition as an NGO. The management of the Association will be exploring the issue of accession further.

Activity 2(b) Developing synergies between the work done by regional advocacy organizations at the local level and regional and national policymakers, in order to build a vital link between effective advocacy campaigns and promising reform efforts in program-supported priority issue areas.



LEP participation at the Verkhovna Rada Information Fair - 2013

On March 5-6, the LEP participated in the Informational Fair-2013 held in the premises of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. This is a traditional exhibition for civil society organizations and international donor organizations to gather, and the event is organized by the USAID PDP in collaboration with the Parliamentary Secretariat.

The Fair provides an opportunity for NGOs and international donor projects to present their programs and events to

Ukrainian lawmakers. Members of Parliament, staff members of Parliamentary factions and committees may use the

information and the materials presented during the Fair both to support their legislative activities and for the MPs' work in their electoral circuits.

In addition, LEP uses its quarterly meetings as opportunity to arrange site visits to the state agencies to enable the participants to learn more about operating procedures and to discuss any urgent issues. Thus, during QM9 in Zaporizhzhya, the LEP, in collaboration with the USAID AgroInvest Project, arranged a site visit to Zaporizhzhya Regional Branch of the Land Cadastre Center State Enterprise as previously requested by the partners:

Regarding the land issues, we would greatly appreciate a site visit to the district department of land resources, where the cadastre registrars are located, in order to learn how they work, and to ask questions. It would also be desirable to visit the State Registration Service so that the registrar may answer questions and show sample documents/forms.

Feedback from a participant to the QM9 site visit

In regards to the LEP-supported advocacy campaigns, the All-Ukrainian NGO "Foundation for Medical Law and Bioethics of Ukraine" started implementation of its advocacy grant on March 1, 2013. The grant is aimed to foster the change of government policy in the expert activity domain, to improve the relevant regulations affecting the increase in effectiveness of human rights protection and optimization of enforcing and exercising healthcare right. The NGO's project is located in Lviv, Ukraine and will be implemented with participation from the health care network's partner organizations.

Activity 2(c) Providing seminars, conferences and other continuing education training on best practices and legal developments in the specific areas of law targeted by the networks.

In addition to substantive law updates during the QM9 in Zaporizhzhya (see Activity 1(a) above), the Coordinative Meeting of the Coalition on March 21-22 was also used to update partners on the latest legislative developments in the three topical areas of the Coalition focus (see Activity 2(a) above). Among the updates discussed included the requirements of the newly adopted Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1362 "On Approval of the Procedure and the Terms for Competition and Requirements to the Professional Level for Attorneys Involved into Provision of Free Secondary Legal Aid", the system for registration of immovable property, as the State Registration Services started its activities as of January 1, 2013, and new developments in enforcement procedures introduced by the Law "On State Guarantees Regarding Enforcement of Judgments." Finally, the changes to the Law on Emergency Medical Aid were explained.

Activity 2(d) Engaging the public in policy debates relating to specific issue areas championed by legal advocacy groups by holding public town halls, local campaigns, or other venues that allow for community involvement.

This activity was not a point of emphasis this quarter. However, LEP and its partner LAOs regularly engage the public on policy issues relevant to legal aid and the underlying substantive topics involved. For example, the call-in radio and TV shows engage the public directly. Activity 2(e) Developing network sustainability by researching and analyzing the most promising business practices and business models for organizing the work of legal advocacy groups in Ukraine and creating mechanisms and working with media to share these findings and implement such models on a national basis.

LEP continued to promote the National Coalition for Legal Aid among local, regional and national media. The Coalition itself now receives dedicated media coverage independently, though LEP continues to popularize the Coalition among TV and national newspapers. This quarter, LEP's Legal Advisor Mr.

Oleksandr Vinnikov gave two TV interviews (30-min each) for the national TV program “Ukrayina Aktualna”.



LEP participating in the TV Parogram “Ukrayina Aktualn’a”

Another success for promoting the Coalition in Ukraine was strengthening and deepening the cooperation with the Ukrainian national newspaper “*Uryadovyi Kuryer*”. As a result of building strategic relationships with the publication before, LEP received a suggestion from the editor of the newspaper to initiate and to start a special column called “Consultations of Lawyers” specifically for the members of the Free Legal Aid Coalition. The first step to start the initiative was providing the consultations from Kyrylo Rubanovskiy, a lawyer and expert from the Agency for Private Initiative Development. In the column, he consulted the readers of “*Uryadovyi Kuryer*” on employment issues.

Another active member of the Coalition – Denys Hrechko from Horeniye Charity Foundation –prepared a comment for the newspaper on property rights, in which he gave professional advice to readers. Denys Hrechko participated in the preparation of a newspaper article about the consequences of icy roads, material damage and personal injuries. In one example, Mr. Hrechko explained that people that are injured due to slippery sidewalks are entitled to claim compensation for both moral and material damage and he elaborated on the procedures on how to claim such compensation.

A Coalition member also explained which documents need to be prepared in the event of an injury. The lawyer also drew attention to the types of compensation for those that suffered injuries due to icy roads. By giving the commentary to a national Ukrainian newspaper with wide readership, HORENIYE Charity Foundation made a great contribution to the promotion of the Coalition in the Ukrainian media.

With another national popular Ukrainian newspaper, *Ukrayina Moloda*, LEP cooperated with media further in covering success stories. The collaboration with this newspaper also helped LEP to promote its *pro bono* partners. After the publication of a new success story (Ms. Halyna Ivanivna from the Kyiv region) asked LEP for assistance and her case was referred to the LEP active *pro bono* partner, the Ukrainian Council of Lawyers. After that, this success story was actively promoted among media and published in LEP’s Visnyk and project website.

In developing cooperation with local and regional media, LEP received additional media coverage further promoting the Coalition in Ukraine. During QM9 in Zaporizhzhya , six TV cameras presented in addition to approximately ten newspapers of both local and regional levels attended and covered the event and the Coalition. In addition, one Zaporizhzhya TV channel – TRK “Aleks” also posted the online TV plot about the quarterly meeting on the front page of their website.

In the *pro bono* sector, LEP started to promote the collaboration of the Coalition and private law firms with the assistance of the National Union of Journalists edition “Journalist of Ukraine”. Following the coverage of the *pro bono* partners at the Second *Pro Bono* Ceremony in Kyiv, the editor of the journal suggested publishing an interview with the LEP *pro bono* partners to highlight their success stories, activities and cooperation with the Coalition and media. The process is ongoing.

Activity 2(f) Assisting in the establishment of an institutionalized forum that brings together the representatives of legal advocacy groups with justice sector officials to regularly communicate public experiences with the courts and the justice system more broadly to practitioners.

LEP’s quarterly meetings are used as a mechanism to regularly bring together representatives of the LAOs and student legal aid clinics with representative of the judiciary and executive agencies. Quarterly

Meeting 9 in Zaporizhzhya was dedicated to enforcement of court decisions. Svitlana Malovichko, a judge from the Zaporizhzhya Court of Appeals, shared her vision on how the court must ensure efficient protection of the public interest by adopting enforceable decisions.

In addition, site visits traditionally arranged on February 21, the last day of the quarterly meeting, provided the participants with the opportunities to visit Zaporizhzhya regional branch of the State Land Cadastre Center, the public legal aid office at the Chief Department of Justice in Zaporizhzhya oblast, and Zaporizhzhya oblast department of the Social Protection Fund. At the Cadastre Center, participants and the experts working in the Cadastre discussed land registration and appraisal procedures, and introduction of the unified automation mechanism to expedite land title and land lease documents. Participants and experts working in the Cadastre discussed the ways the Cadastre analyzes and implements comments from the system users, and prepared guidance for users.

Priorities for the Zaporizhzhya Oblast Department for Social Protection of the Disabled are creation of workplaces, professional training for the disabled, financial support to re-equip enterprises where the disabled work. Based in city and district employment centers, databases for the disabled people seeking work, and the vacancies are maintained. Coalition members specializing in employment already have examples of successful collaboration with local employment centers.

Experts from the Chief Department of Justice working in the legal aid office also shared their methods for serving people by providing consultations both in person and in writing, and by involving other justice experts, including notaries, for consultations.

«Having seen the way work is organized at the public legal aid office in Zaporizhzhya oblast, we can suggest this positive experience to our colleagues in Voznesensk to improve the way they operate»

Feedback from a participant to QM9

Activity 2(g) Fostering links between issue based legal advocacy networks established in Ukraine and those in neighboring countries focused on the same subjects to share best practices and promote regional cooperation.

LEP has provided exposure to legal advocacy networks in Ukraine, Russia, and the US. Specifically, LEP continues to coordinate with the legal aid centers supported by the International Renaissance Foundation, and collaborates closely with the legal consultation centers affiliated with the MOJ. Moreover, UCLA coordinates with trade unions, supporting their efforts to advocate for employment rights through legal consultation and representation. The collaboration will continue, with the emphasis on fostering the link with UCLA directly, in lieu of LEP.

Activity 2(h) Developing a quarterly newsletter, webzines, updates to a website or other means of communication that increases awareness of issues, problems and resources related to the legal issue network.

LEP partners continue to use the internal part of the Website as a major forum to discuss substantive law issues, specific cases and joint campaigns. LEP's Legal Advisor hosts Q&A sessions regularly on issues identified by the partners.

On January 28, 2013 the Land Union of Ukraine, a member of the National Coalition for Legal Aid specializing in property rights, hosted an Internet conference for all members of the coalition on changes in land legislation of Ukraine, registration of land plots and issues that arise in connection with the adoption of the Law On State Land Cadastre, which came into force on January 1, 2013.

Questions posed during the two-hour online forum were answered by Andriy Koshyl, the President of the Land Union of Ukraine.

In addition to the regular *Visnyk* columns with news, events and success stories, this quarter's *Visnyk* featured an interview with the active Coalition member Denys Hrechko called "Membership in Our Coalition Makes Us Stronger" in honor of LEP's third anniversary.

Pro bono activities were also the headline of this Issue promoting different ways in which the coalition partner law firm contributes to providing free legal aid. A success story with Ms Galyna Ivanivna who received assistance from the Ukrainian Council of Lawyers as well as the article about the practice of providing free legal aid from the Head of the Council, Tamila Oleksandrova, as experience of the Council of Lawyers were published.

The *Visnyk* also covered legal clinics' activities, including the Congress of Ukrainian legal clinics in Kyiv arranged by the Association of Legal Clinics of Ukraine with the support of LEP.

LEP's Legal Advisor continues to provide substantive law analysis on constitutional proceedings and on reforms in the sphere of registration of titles to real property. Organizational capacity is addressed by Natalia Kachanova's material on how to sell a success story of the Coalition to a perspective partner. Finally, efficient ways to prepare and conduct advocacy campaigns for the Coalition members were shared by Maksym Latsyba, an expert on advocacy campaigns in Ukraine, in his article in the *Visnyk*.

Activity 2(i) Creating programmatic links and points of interaction between rule of law activities in the formal justice sector and access to justice activities, in order to enable USAID rule of law programs to adapt implementation approaches as necessary to better respond to public demands on the court system in Ukraine.

On March 5-6, LEP collaborated with the USAID Parliamentary Development Project to participate in the Informational Fair held annually in the premises of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine that provides an opportunity to NGOs and international donor projects to present their projects and initiatives to the Ukrainian lawmakers.

As always, LEP collaborated with the USAID FAIR and Agroinvest Projects in preparation of the QM9 in Zaporizhzhya in February. FAIR helped to arrange for the Judge of the Civil Cases Chamber at the Court of Appeals of Zaporizhzhya Oblast to make an opening presentation on the role of courts to ensure efficient enforcement. Mr. Andriy Koshyl, an active LEP partner specializing in land issues, who is also a partner of the AgroInvest Project, made a presentation on land registration, and also informed the participants of AgroInvest Project's Grant Campaigns, where the Coalition could apply. Both presentations were very informative and useful, and the site visit to the local land cadastre office, arranged with the help of AgroInvest Project, provided a unique opportunity to see how registration of land parcels is done in practice, and was very informative even for those who specialize in land law.

In addition, the USAID Solidarity Center Project participated in the quarterly meeting for the purposes of coordination.

Objective 3: Develop partnerships and attract additional private resources to expand and enhance the impact of the program's *pro bono* efforts.

Activity 3(a) Creating a national legal sector clearing house that connects private sector lawyers with clients in need of legal assistance and provides quality and timely assistance to vulnerable underrepresented groups.

LEP continues to support its clearinghouse role, facilitating appropriate referrals to law firms willing to take cases on a *pro bono* basis. To enhance opportunities provided by the clearinghouse, LEP started to develop the ToR for improvement of the Website that, among other, will provide for automatic case referral from partner LAOs to the *pro bono* law firms. Presently, 33 law firms have volunteered as resource references for the Coalition.

Activity 3(b) Identifying and mobilizing resources from various law firms that can be of assistance to legal advocacy organizations and networks.

Based on the massive press coverage of the Second *Pro Bono* Award Ceremony in December 2012, several law firms initiated meetings with the LEP to discuss procedures for possible collaboration, including MedLaw (Kyiv-based) and Victoria (Zaporizhzhya-based). One partner, Pavlo Starkov, shared his experience in ensuring efficient enforcement of judicial decisions with the participants of QM 9 in Zaporizhzhya. DLA Piper Law Firm from Kyiv expressed an interest to join the Coalition, and signed the Memorandum of Understanding with the LEP in January 2013. In addition, an international expert from DLA Piper, the biggest law firm in the world, is planning to attend QM 10 in Lutsk in April to present her expertise on *pro bono* activities.

Activity 3(c) Assisting legal advocacy organizations to develop legal advocacy and technical skills training programs for private sector lawyers.

As land reform is a priority issue due to the latest legislative amendments coming into effect as of January 2013, LEP continues to engage its partner *pro bono* law firms at the land reform seminars arranged regularly (this quarter, on January 29) by the Land Union of Ukraine, one of its LAO partners, jointly with the state agencies, including the State Registration Service (on registration of land titles), and with the State Cadastre Center State Enterprise (in charge for registration of land parcels). These collaborations and regularly contact further establish the connections between the Coalition and the private sector.

Activity 3(d) Recruiting *pro bono* volunteers from law firms and providing them with training on specific legal advocacy and technical skills in the areas of law targeted by the program.

LEP recruits *pro bono* volunteers by raising the profile of the Coalition and providing publicity to its current volunteers. In addition, by providing training opportunities, private lawyers get additional benefits from their association with the Coalition. Several local lawyers attended LEP's QM9 in Zaporizhzhya, including Pavlo Starkov, a partner from the Law Firm Victoria.

Activity 3(e) Developing internship programs for private sector lawyers and *pro bono* competitions for law firms to develop the *pro bono* service culture within the country.

In May, based on the initiative of two partner *pro bono* law firms: Legal Consulting Center Law Firm and LexJus Law Group, the LEP held a student competition in civil law for the 3rd and 4th year students working with the legal clinic at the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy National University. The students were given two practical cases to resolve during the competition; the winners will be given a unique opportunity for



Students working on practice cases (the winner will receive an internship opportunity in one of two *pro bono* partner law firms.

internship in one of the two law firms. This initiative is a bright example of “vertical” collaboration within the LEP triangle with the objective to ensure equal access to justice and provision of high-quality and efficient legal aid. Students of the legal clinic had an opportunity to test their knowledge in practice, and the best students will be given an opportunity to get practical skills on how to correctly and confidently to use implement their skills. The participating partner law firms have once again confirmed their high professional responsibility and openness to participate in socially significant projects to develop rule of law principles in Ukrainian society and further advance of the *pro bono* culture in Ukraine.

Activity 3(f) Generating support for legal advocacy organizations from local businesses and creating a dialogue on selected issue areas.

LEP started preliminary negotiations with Liga: Law Company Public Relations Director Klaudia Shevelyuk to discuss their possible involvement as a socially responsible business with the National Coalition for Legal Aid. Ms. Shevelyuk expressed interest in supporting the Coalition. Discussions involved the possibility of making a version of Liga law database available to members for free at the internal part of the LEP website. She also expressed interest in participating in the Coalition Media-Club session in May to present the Liga’s examples of socially-responsible efforts and the resources that may be available to the Coalition.

INDICATOR DATA

Per the terms of the Cooperative Agreement, Performance Monitoring and Evaluation data will be provided with the LEP Semi-annual report on September 30, 2013.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS/GOALS

Accomplishments this quarter include:

Activity 1(a) Developing demand-driven technical training for partner organizations on specialized topics:LEP provided practical skills training on enforcement of judicial decisions at QM9. A local judge, head of the enforcement service, LEP’s legal advisor, *pro bono* attorney and a partner LAO lawyer provided a comprehensive picture of the enforcement procedure from different perspectives, and provided practical guidance on how to ensure efficient enforcement.

Activity 1(b) Providing technical assistance to build the organizational sustainability of the coalitions and their partner organizations: With LEP’s support, the initiative group completed preparing documents required for registration of the National Coalition for Legal Aid as a charity organization, and submitted these documents to the registrar.

Activity 1(c) Improving the reach of partner organizations through trainings focused on leadership, public outreach, and informational and advocacy campaigns: While LEP partners continued to participate in talk shows, launched their own newsletters and articles, and were prominently featured in local and national media under the LEP guidance, this quarter, the LEP paid special attention by hosting two training sessions on advocacy.

Activity 1(d) Improving linkages between partner organizations and courts to build a foundation for exchanges and mutual learning, contributing to a more citizen driven experience in Ukrainian courts: LEP engages judges as trainers in its quarterly meetings in order to strengthen linkages between the Coalition and the courts. During QM9 in Zaporizhzhya, LEP hosted Judge Svitalana Malovichko from the Zaporizhzhya Court of Appeals.

Activity 1(e) Supporting “know your rights” and public information campaigns by partners in the legal issue areas targeted by the program: This quarter, LEP continued its approach on entitling its partners to use skills obtained from trainings and one-on-one consultations from the LEP Communications and Outreach Expert to initiate public information campaigns independently. This is a significant step towards sustainability.

Activity 2(a) Creating multiple national networks and associations that bring together legal advocacy focused on similar issues: LEP continues to facilitate networking among its partners and the MoJ public legal aid offices. Also, 9 founding members submitted documents for registration of the National Coalition for Legal Aid, a charity capable of receiving funding as a sustainable model.

Activity 2(b) Developing synergies between the work done by regional advocacy organizations at the local level and regional and national policymakers in order to build a vital link between effective advocacy campaigns and promising reform efforts in program supported priority issue areas: LEP presented the Coalition at the Informational Fair 2013 in the Ukrainian Parliament having informed the MPs and parliamentary staff on the opportunities of a strong legal aid provider.

Activity 2(c) Providing seminars, conferences and other education training on best practices and legal developments in the specific areas of law targeted by the networks: LEP includes substantive training at each of its quarterly meetings. QM9 featured legislative updates in the substantive areas of law affecting each of the networks provided by the LEP Legal Advisor and representatives from the respective state agencies. Land issues are top priority, so LEP encourages its partner organizations which are subject matter experts to conduct their trainings, and host on-line consultations for other partners.

Activity 2(d) Engaging the public in policy debates relating to specific issue areas championed by legal advocacy groups by holding public town halls, local campaigns or other venues that allow for community development: These activities are integrated into LEP’s media work (talk shows and call in programs) as well as in the public information campaigns and as such are described more thoroughly in other sections.

Activity 2(e) Developing network sustainability by researching and analyzing the most promising business practices and business models for organizing the work of legal advocacy groups in Ukraine and creating mechanisms and working with media to share these findings and implement such models on a national basis: In collaboration with the most active members who signed to be the founding members, LEP finalized the charter of the Coalition in accordance with the Ukrainian law to register as a National Charitable Organization and submitted the documents to the registrar.

Activity 2(f) Assisting in the establishment of an institutionalized forum that brings together the representatives of legal advocacy groups with justice sector officials to regularly communicate public experiences with the courts and the justice system more broadly to practitioners: LEP continues to regularly convene LAOs, judges, and MoJ colleagues at its quarterly meetings. QM9 featured a presentation from a local judge and engaged 20 lawyers from several district and oblast MoJ public legal offices.

Activity 2(g) Fostering links between issue based legal advocacy networks established in Ukraine and those in neighboring countries focused on the same subjects to share best practices and promote regional cooperation: LEP and UCLA collaborate extensively with the legal consultation centers affiliated with the MOJ in addition to the legal aid centers sponsored by the International Renaissance Foundation. Other Ukrainian advocacy networks affiliated with the program include working with the trade unions. Internationally, LEP maintains links with the National Legal Aid and Defenders Association in the U.S.

Activity 2(h) Developing a quarterly newsletter, webzines, updates to a website or other means of communication that increases awareness of issues, problems and resources related to the legal issue network: LEP facilitated its partner LAO to do the on-line conference on land issues. In addition, the LEP has published its 8th issue of *Visnyk*, and distributed it to participants of QM9, including LAOs, *pro bono* law firms and MoJ public legal aid offices.

Activity 2(i) Creating programmatic links and points of interaction between rule of law activities in the formal justice and access to justice activities, in order to enable USAID rule of law programs to adapt implementation approaches as necessary to better respond to public demand on the court system of Ukraine: LEP continues to collaborate with other USAID projects, in particular in organizing its quarterly meetings. This quarter, LEP collaborated with USAID FAIR, AgroInvest and Solidarity Projects on QM9 in Zaporizhzhya, and participated in the Informational Fair arranged by the USAID/PDP in the Ukrainian Parliament.

Activity 3(a) Create a national legal sector clearing house that connects private sector lawyers with clients in need of legal assistance and provides quality and timely assistance to vulnerable underrepresented groups: LEP continues to support its clearinghouse role, facilitating appropriate referrals to law firms willing to take cases on a *pro bono* basis. Presently, 33 law firms have volunteered as resource references for the Coalition.

Activity 3(b) Identifying and mobilizing resources from various law firms that can be of assistance to legal advocacy organizations and networks: This quarter, LEP attracted 4 new *pro bono* partners.

Activity 3(c) Assisting legal advocacy organizations to develop legal advocacy and technical skills training programs for private sector lawyers: Land registration being an urgent issue, LEP made arrangements with its partner LAO, the Land Union of Ukraine (LUU), to regularly invite lawyers from partner *pro bono* law firms to participate in trainings provided by the LUU jointly with the State Registration Service and the State Cadastre Center.

Activity 3(d) Recruiting *pro bono* volunteers from law firms and providing them with training on specific legal advocacy and technical skills in the areas of law targeted by the program: LEP invites its partner law firms to participate as trainees at its QMs.

Activity 3(e) Developing internship programs for private sector lawyers and *pro bono* competitions for law firms to develop the service culture within the country: LEP, in close collaboration with two partner law firms – Legal Consulting Center and LexJus – conducted a competition for students of the legal clinic at Kyiv-Mohyla Academy National University for an internship opportunity in a law firm.

Activity 3(f) Generating support for legal advocacy organizations from local business and creating a dialogue on selected issue areas: LEP is working with Liga to secure their support for UCLA.

CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED

As students' legal clinics are the most widely-spread legal aid providers, LEP and its partner LAOs anticipated that student legal clinics would be able to join UCLA via their status as members of the Association of Legal Clinics of Ukraine. However, it became evident that the Association has been registered only "by way of notification" as a non-incorporated NGO, and thus is not a legal entity. Thus, during the next quarter that LEP will facilitate discussions on alternative options for the Association to join the Coalition. Due to the delays in execution of the Law "On Charities" providing for the favorable climate for LEP's partners to register as an all-Ukrainian charity, and delays with the registrar, UCLA will not be formally registered until next quarter. Lack of official registration hindered efforts to build its sustainability; also, fundraising activities were delayed pending registration. Thus, the LEP will need to work very intensively with the members to help transfer skills to the leaders of the coalition, including the Executive Director (to be selected and appointed next quarter) and the Head of the Coalition Board.

EXPENDITURES

The SF425 has been sent to the AOR. Actual expenditures are consistent with budget projections.

PROGRAMMING PRIORITIES

During the next quarter LEP will focus on activities to promote Coalition sustainability. LEP will work with the Coalition Board and members to solicit candidates for the position of the Executive Director, a full-time position with the primary responsibility to develop the Coalition by solidifying its internal structure, recruiting new members, developing member services and executing a strategic plan for sustainability. LEP will work with the Executive Director to ensure "knowledge transfer" from the LEP staff.

Consistent with its strategy, in the final project year, LEP is working intently to expand collaboration between the Coalition and private law firms, developing opportunities to efficiently and effectively utilize available *pro bono* services.