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**UKRAINIAN STANDARDIZED EXTERNAL TESTING INITIATIVE
(USETI) LEGACY ALLIANCE PHASE II**

FEBRUARY 1, 2013– DECEMBER 31, 2015

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

**QUARTERLY REPORT: Y2Q3
(JULY 1 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2014)**

**SUBMITTED BY:
AMERICAN COUNCILS FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION**

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1. Summary of Activities

The USETI Legacy Alliance Phase II is a Global Development Alliance funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) under a cooperative agreement. American Councils for International Education is the Cooperating Partner and lead implementer, collaborating with USAID and 17 other founding partners. The Agreement builds on the accomplishments of previous U.S. Government assistance to: build a sustainable strengthened UCEQA system capable of independently and transparently developing and implementing secure tests that meet international standards; secure a legislative and regulatory policy basis for testing and higher education admissions; and build a sustainable high level of public support for equal access to Ukrainian higher education.

Throughout the reporting period (July-September 2014 – Q6) USETI Legacy Alliance Phase II activities were focused on supporting UCEQA test development and test structure/content quality assurance, education law development, conducting an Alliance partners meeting and a number of other policy development-related matters.

Issues

1.1. Significant Events

Higher Education Strategy Development (*this item concerns non-USETI Alliance work performed under separate USAID procurement; information is included because this work runs in parallel with USETI Alliance activities and subject matter is significantly intertwined with USETI Alliance programming and stakeholders*). On July 28-29, a Professor from JBS International Inc. conducted a workshop on development of the National Strategy of Higher Education in Ukraine. The Workshop was conducted for 23 participants - representatives of MOES, HEIs, academia and civic organizations and representatives of USAID and American Councils. The short-term JBS International Inc. project aims at supporting MOES in reforming Ukrainian higher education. American Councils, as a subcontractor, assisted JBS with development of the background paper and workshop logistics.

Topics of the seminar included:

1. Political economy of educational reforms and “making reforms happen” in education, including HE; lessons learnt from successful reforms.
2. Content and structure of good HE strategies: visions, missions, laws and implementation phase; links to demographics, labor market, economics, legal aspects, European integration policies, global and regional trends in HE; national strategies VS reforms; strategies and no reforms, reforms with no strategies; consensus-building around strategies and reforms; winners and losers of reforms and how to deal with them; the specificity of higher education reforms: university autonomy, conservatism, vested interests and longtime lags in reforms; steps in reform preparations, adoption and implementation; success factors in HE reforms; gradual and big bang reforms - advantages and disadvantages; ownership of strategies and reforms; the role of status quo - and the costs of not following reforms and not having strategies.
3. A case study of successful HE reforms analyzed: 2008-2014 HE reforms in Poland. Lessons learnt from a generic approach to educational reforms (CEE countries, Poland):
 - A. Strategy (two strategies analyzed);
 - B. Reform in six packages: comprehensiveness;

C. Implementation; crucial role of funding;

D. Crucial role of data collection, analysis, and public presentation, and international reviews, support and funding; “selling” Polish reforms as an exemplary type of HE reforms.

4. Educational strategy documents study. Visions studied – key points referred to Ukraine; in the context of other national strategies for HE; conceptual strategies vs. fully-blown strategies with parallel "diagnosis" sections or documents: advantages of both approaches; approaches chosen depending on prior problem-analysis and diagnosis of the status quo unless there are extraordinary, political circumstances.

In the concluding session participants distributed tasks to be completed by the next and final seminar of the project preliminary scheduled for September-October 2014.

Starting on September 12, the second stage of AC-JBS Project was launched. The working group consisting of MOES and external experts, on the basis of recently conducted workshops, began developing the Strategy on Higher Education in Ukraine. The document will be discussed at the next workshop to be conducted on October 7-9.

USETI Alliance participated in the ACC Ukraine 2013 American Independence Day Picnic.

On July 5, one of Kyiv most highly anticipated outdoor events – the American Chamber of Commerce Annual Charitable American Independence Day Picnic once again gathered friends of the United States of America. American Councils (AC) was a picnic sponsor/co-organizer.

AC ran an information booth and an information table at opposite ends of the venue where visitors could find out about the technical assistance provided to Ukraine through USETI Alliance Phase II, as well as about personal development opportunities in FLEX, Open World Leadership Program, Education USA Advising Center and the Professional/Legislative Fellows Program.

UCEQA report on 2014 external testing issued. On August 19, the Ukrainian Center for Educational Quality Assessment published the report on 2014 external testing at its web site. The report included a description of arrangements for and administration of the external testing in 2014 as well as psychometric and statistic characteristics of each testing session conducted. It also included an item by item psychometric analysis component.

USETI Alliance participated in the USAID Mistechko information fairs in Lviv, Dnipropetrovsk and Kirovohrad.

During the reporting period USETI Alliance took part in three ‘USAID Mistechko’ – informational fairs designed to present the projects funded by the Agency and their cooperation with non-governmental organizations and local governments – in Lviv on July 24, in Dnipropetrovsk on September 13, and in Kirovohrad on September 20.

The USETI Alliance in particular presented the outcomes of its seven-years of work and included information on their future plans.

During the event staff members of USETI Alliance and representatives of relevant Regional Centers for Educational Quality Assessment consulted next year university entrants and their parents on preparing for external testing, as well as ET and admissions procedures.

Also, the Mistechko participants were offered to pass a demo-test on Ukrainian Language and Literature, Math, Physics and the History of Ukraine and try out a scholastic ability test.

Press conference on peculiarities of the new Law on Higher Education On August 8, the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Science and Education Head, the First Deputy Minister of MOES, and the Rector of Kyiv Polytechnical University and head of the working group on the Bill on Higher Education held a press conference, “The New Bill on Higher Education: The European Choice,” at UKRINFORM Agency in Kyiv. During the press conference the speakers gave the details of the key innovations provided for in the bill:

- The new collegial body - National Agency on Education Quality Assessment - will be established;
- Means of prosecuting plagiarism are provided;
- The new electoral mechanism for university rectors is provided;
- Tenure of deans is limited to two terms (five plus five years);
- PhD and Doctor of Science degrees are attained at universities (ultimate decision of HEI);
- State funded universities may accommodate funds on their own bank accounts;
- Number of hours for minimal wage rate (for lecturers) is shortened from 900 to 600 hours. Number of hours per credit is shortened from 36 to 30.
- Starting from 2016 the new mechanism of electronic enrollment to HEIs, including automatic recommendations for filling state-funded seats, will be enacted;
- National educational framework is harmonized with the European one: HEIs offer programs of junior bachelor, bachelor, master, PhD and Doctor of Sciences.

Area One: Strengthening institutional capacity of testing system elements and components

USETI Alliance at Educational Assessment Conference On September 12-13, 2014 the USETI Alliance representative attended the 3rd Black Sea Conference, “New Technologies in Educational Assessment and Classroom Assessment,” in Batumi, Georgia. The conference was organized by the National Assessment and Examination Center of Georgia and sponsored by the Millennium Challenge Corporation/ Millennium Challenge Account Georgia, the Embassy of the United States to Georgia and other international organizations.

The first day of the conference was dedicated to new technologies in educational assessment. Six keynote speeches were presented during the first day by renowned international speakers and representatives of Georgian educational assessment addressing a variety of topics, among the organizations represented were: the Netherlands’ RCEC presenting “What Do You Want to Know From Your CAT?”, the University of Connecticut with “The Development of CBT and CAT in the US: History, Challenges and Solutions”, the Israeli group NITE “Lessons learnt in two decades of computer-based testing at the National Institute for Testing and Evaluation”, the Australian Assessment and Teaching of 21 Century Skills Project “Challenges of Internet-Based Collaborative Problem Solving Assessment”, Estonia’s National Examinations and Qualifications Center “IT Solutions for Education in Estonia”, and representatives of the Georgian group NAEC, “The History and Structure of the GCAT – Georgian School-Leaving Exams Based on Computerized Adaptive Testing”. There were also three parallel open-paper sessions on day one.

The second conference day was devoted to new technologies in classroom assessment and was highlighted by such organizations and topics: Netherlands’ ETS Global “Scenario-Based, Technology-Enhanced, and Computer-Delivered Assessments in Mathematics: Formative and Summative Examples and some Psychometric Results,” Cito International, of the Netherlands “Monitoring Learning Outcomes of Learners Over Years: A Tool for Teachers (and Parents)”, the University of London Institute of Education “What Do We Know About Effective Classroom Assessment?”, and the Georgian organization NAEC “Classroom Assessment Policy and Practice in Georgia”. There were also three parallel open-paper sessions on day two. The conference concluded with a round table discussion in which all the key-note speakers took part.

Technical Assistance delivered –Establish UCEQA capacity for ancillary testing mechanisms and applications On September 11-12, a consultant from USETI Alliance visited UCEQA. During his visit the Consultant advised UCEQA on the development of multi-level SETs as well as unifying final school attestation and HEI admissions tests within SET next year. After these discussions, the following recommendations were made:

- the integration of a HEI admissions test with the final school attestation in SET for the year 2015 might be done only for one subject - Ukrainian language and literature;
- the split of tests into two levels in the year 2015 could be done ONLY for two subjects:
 - Ukrainian language and literature (basic level as school state exam – Ukrainian Language, optional advanced level for admission - Ukrainian language and literature);
 - Mathematics (optional basic level - math literacy, optional advanced level - advanced math);
- the pass/fail benchmarks will be introduced for all subjects; that change will be related with the cancelation of 124/136 points requirement for admission set by HEIs (i.e. the scaling of SET results will be changed, the student failing on an exam will receive just a "failed", all passed will be scored on the scale 101-200); this change will have implications on the design of tests.

Technical Assistance delivered – Secure UCEQA capacity for item banking, test development and test structure/content quality assurance On September 25-26, an USETI international consultant worked with UCEQA Ukrainian Language and Literature specialist and external item writers and reviewers on test analysis and two-level test design. The consultant also informed the workshop participants on computer-based and computer adaptive testing practices in Georgia. At the workshop 19 participants from all over Ukraine were present.

Technical Assistance delivered – Synchronize UCEQA in-house training capacity with the academic program in educational measurement In August 2014, with cross-cutting support of the Dragomanov National Pedagogical University Master’s Program in Educational Measurements and to the UCEQA system, USETI Alliance sponsored the study of seven representatives of UCEQA and RCEQAs as the correspondent students at the Master’s Program for the academic year 2014-2015.

Area Two: Establishing legislative and regulatory policy foundations for fair and objective university admissions policy and practices

Law on Higher Education adopted. On July 1, Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, with 276 votes, adopted the Bill On Higher Education in the second and final reading. The Bill was developed in 2011 by the working group led by the Rector of Kyiv National Polytechnic University. The development of this Bill was a complex and controversial process that took several years of debates by numerous stakeholders including USETI and USETI Alliance partners.

Standardized external testing is now established in Ukraine – the Bill consolidated SET as the mandatory mechanism of admission to higher educational institutions.

The adopted Bill substantially differs from all numerous drafts developed and discussed during last [six] years. While all other projects were mainly focused on reaching the concordance of the Ukrainian education system with the Bologna Process principles, the adopted Bill laid foundations for substantial reform of Ukrainian education.

The Bill provides the universities with much wider autonomy – the Ministry defines State Standards [of education] and the university is fully responsible for the curricular content. The University Boards from now on are the only bodies that may recommend textbooks and other educational literature for print.

According to the experts, such steps will foster fair competition between universities and better understanding and cooperation between HEIs and labor market.

Higher education institutions are classified as colleges, institutes, academies and universities.

Another positive development is further harmonization of the Ukrainian educational legislation with the European one. The new Bill introduced five degrees: junior bachelor, bachelor, master, PhD and

Doctor of Sciences, which corresponds with the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) developed by UNESCO to facilitate comparisons of education statistics and indicators across countries on the basis of uniform and internationally agreed definitions.

The Bill legalized in Ukraine the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) which is a tool that helps to design, describe, and deliver study programs and award higher education qualifications.

A lot of steps are made towards securing the quality of education. Each HEI will have to take special measures to secure educational quality within itself. In parallel, the Bill provides establishment of the National Agency that will be responsible for study programs licensing and expertise and Scientific Boards accreditation. The Agency will be formed from academia, employers and students, which will hopefully guarantee its independence from the Government and other groups of influence.

The HEIs will have wider rights in issuing their own diplomas and other documents confirming education when some study programs are not accredited by the State. The decision of Scientific Boards on awarding degrees becomes final and does not require approval from the State bodies. One of the most substantial changes suggested by the experts is responsibility for plagiarism (for the first time in history of soviet and post-soviet education in Ukraine).

On July 30, the Ukrainian President signed and thus enacted the Bill on Higher Education.

Reform legislative foundations for fair access to higher education On July 11, USETI Alliance hosted the group of authors of the Bill on Higher Education to prepare the draft law for the parliamentary reading and discuss further amendments to the document that would maximize its correspondence to the draft Law on Education. More than 30 experts participated.

On July 15, the Parliamentary Committee on Science and Education conducted meeting with the representatives of lyceums, technical colleges and vocational schools regarding their operations under the newly adopted Bill. Participants discussed particular changes within the National Qualifications Framework.

On July 15, the USETI Alliance representative met with the MOES Department of Higher Education Director and discussed peculiarities of the KONKURS Information System operations during 2014 admissions campaign. Within the reporting period the State Single Database on Education operator Inforesurs began transferring data to the KONKURS System. In a short period of time, the information containing personal SET scores and lists of applicants to each HEI will be published on the KONKURS internet site.

On July 17, the International Renaissance Foundation (IRF) hosted the first assembly of the Strategic Advising Group in Education (SAGE) initiated by IRF. Participants discussed conceptual issues of educational reform in Ukraine. The USETI Alliance representative informed participants on recent developments in the work on the Bill on Education. Participants agreed on the SAGE Action Plan and distributed tasks between institutions and experts.

On July 18, the F. Ebert Foundation and National Technical University KPI conducted a round table on Higher Education and Labor Market. USETI Alliance presented the findings of the “Research on State Financing of University Seats Effectiveness.”

The Eighth Scientific Methodological Seminar on Education Legislation and Educational Policy.

On July 18, the American Councils/USETI Alliance hosted regular meetings of the Working Group on the Bill on Education. Experts discussed the future structure of education and selected four options for the draft Bill. Currently, the most debated issue is the duration of general primary

education (four or five-six years), basic general secondary education (eleven or twelve years), and complete general secondary education (two or three years).

On July 23, the working group met to discuss the Pre-Primary Education section of the Bill on Education, with the participation of the USETI Alliance

On July 24, USETI met with the Deputy Minister of Education and Science and discussed the application of KONKURS Information System (financed by USETI Alliance and administered by its grantee – Center for Education Policy) to prevent corruption during the 2014 admissions campaign. This year KONKURS shall be detecting any attempts to interfere with the system aimed to change applicants' scores. Also discussed was the interaction and data exchange between KONKURS and State Single Data Base on Education (SSDBE).

On July 25, the working group (with participation of USETI) met to discuss the general Secondary Education Section of the Bill on Education.

The Ninth Scientific Methodological Seminar on Education Legislation and Educational Policy.

On July 30, the American Councils/USETI Alliance hosted regular meetings of the Working Group on the Bill on Education. Thirteen experts met to discuss the vocational education section of the Bill. The following organizations participated: the National Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine, the Confederation of Employers of Ukraine MoES, the Ukrainian Association of Monitoring, the Alliance of Professional Organizations of Ukraine, the "POTOK" Association, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Kyiv University, and the USETI Alliance.

On August 20, the Working Group on the Bill on Education met. Participants consented on the concept of the Pre-primary Education Section and discussed the materials prepared for the Secondary Education Section.

On August 22, USETI participated in the meeting of the MOES Board.

On August 22, USETI participated in the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Science and Education Expert Group meeting. Participants discussed the draft Education of Ukraine Development Concept. The Pre-primary Education and Vocational Education Sections have been finally verbalized and submitted to the Committee.

On August 23, USETI distributed recommendations on evaluating the proposals on secondary education restructuring among national experts.

On August 26 USETI met with the UCEQA to discuss SET modernization. The discussion was prompted by the previous debates during the MOES Board meeting, in particular the integration of SET and GPA, and external testing restructuring.

On August 27 the Working Group on the Bill on Education met. Participants discussed the Secondary Education Section developed by the Secretary Academician of the National Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine. Participants consented on the section's structure and content of its main clauses.

On September 4 members of working group on the Bill on Education met. Participants continued discussion of the Secondary Education Section developed by the Secretary Academician of the National Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine. The bulk of section's clauses were consented. Participants will continue work on the Bill on-line.

Implementing the new Bill On September 30, the National Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine (NAPSU) addressed USETI Alliance with request to participate in the seminars initiated by NAPSU, MOES and Verkhovna Rada Committee on Science and Education for HEI administrators and support it. Five one-day “The Autonomy and Responsibility of HEI” seminars (each for 50 participants) are aimed at supporting the process of the Bill on Higher Education implementation. The seminars will consist of four sessions: The Academic Autonomy; The Organizational Autonomy, The HR Autonomy; The Financial Autonomy. The seminars are scheduled for October 10 and 21, November 7 and 21, and December 5.

Development of MOES Conditions on Admission for 2015 On September 5 the members of working group on the Conditions of Admission 2015 have met for the first time. Participants discussed multi-level Math and English language tests and decreasing the overall number of subject tests for HEI entrants.

Area Three: Transforming support for testing into a proactive contemporary public expectation

Technical Assistance delivered – Secondary Data Analysis development During the visit to Kyiv on September 11-12 the USETI Alliance consultant worked with UCEQA IT specialists on extension of the secondary data analysis based on 2008-2014 SET results.

Support for “Konkurs” admissions management system. During the reporting period USETI Alliance grantee Center for Educational Policy supported the work of the “Konkurs” admissions management system.

The Konkurs system, through the Single State Education Data Base, displayed lists of HEI applicants, indicating their provisional rankings, privileged categories, provided by Ukrainian legislation and Admission rules, and also showed firm rankings of applicants who had submitted original documents.

Also, CEP closely cooperated with Civic Network “OPORA” during its HEIs admission campaign monitoring. Per OPORA’s requests the Konkurs System published its informational materials for both HEIs admission commission and HEIs applicants.

The key indicators of work of the web-based admission system Konkurs in the 2014 admission campaign (with indicators of previous years):

| | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Number of HEI applications | 1,227,000 | 1,119,000 | 897,400 | 1,040,000 | 1,423,390 | 1,387,000 |
| Hosts | 2,825,000 | 4,000,000 | 5,392,000 | 8,662,000 | 12,400,000 | 12,000,000 |
| Hits | 50,000,000 | 60,000,000 | 82,000,000 | 122,000,000 | 140,000,000 | 150,000,000 |

Monitoring of HEIs admission campaign During July-September Civic Network “OPORA”, with USETI Alliance and the International Renaissance Foundation support, monitored the 2014 HEIs admission campaign.

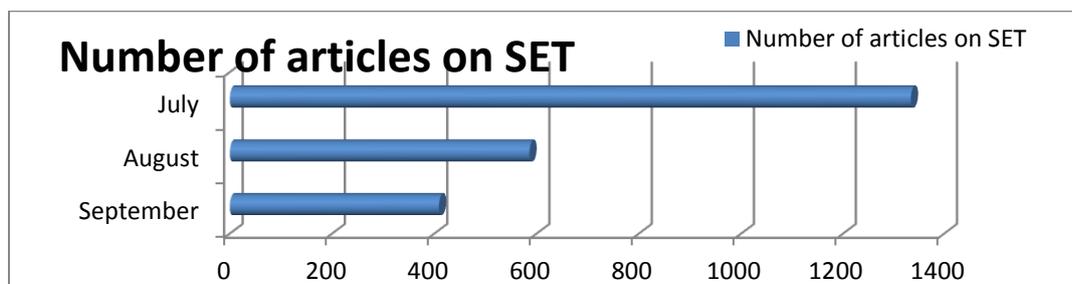
OPORA Monitoring at a glance:

- Throughout the admission campaign OPORA ran the hot-line for all interested parties of admission campaign;
- The following press materials were developed: The 2014 HEIs Applicant Calendar; The principal tendencies of 2014 HEIs admission campaign; 2014 HEIs admission peculiarities for privileged applicants; Procedure of HEIs enrollment in 2014;
- The typical complaints on the applicants rights violations were developed;

- On the results of admission campaign monitoring, national and regional press-conferences were conducted.

16th USETI Alliance Partners meeting On September 23, the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine hosted the XVI USETI Alliance Partners Meeting. This time the event was dedicated to the overview of the 2014 admissions campaign.

MediaMonitoring. According to the InfoStream© monitoring service, within the reporting period (July- September 2014) 2329 articles related to external testing and admission to HEI appeared in Ukrainian media— 1334 articles in July, 586 in August, 409 in September 2014.



Events related to SET and admission campaign most broadly covered in media in the reporting period:

| Date | Events related to SET and admission campaign most covered in media (July-September 2014) | Quantity of articles |
|--------------|--|----------------------|
| July 1 | President Poroshenko signed and thus enacted The Bill On Higher Education | 147 |
| July 2 | Discussion on the Bill On Higher Education | 108 |
| July 4 | Press-conference in Kharkiv, UCEQA Director: “There will be a third SET session” | 112 |
| July 7 | The SET Champions (high scorers) 2014 | 84 |
| July 8 | Press-conference of OPORA Civic Network: SET 2014 Public Monitoring Findings | 61 |
| July 11 | Admission campaign begins | 79 |
| August 5 | School year for Donbass freshmen will start not earlier than October 1 | 40 |
| August 6 | The Ministry of Education and Science is preparing amendments to the Conditions on Admission to HEI | 32 |
| August 11 | OPORA Civic Network released report on “The Trends and Peculiarities of 2014 Admission Campaign” | 22 |
| August 13 | Discussion on the Bill On Higher Education | 40 |
| August 15 | UCEQA Director at press-conference in the Ukrinform News Agency: “Half of the school gold medalists in Ukraine are faked” | 37 |
| August 26 | Luhansk HEIs will start school year on September 1, by correspondence | 35 |
| September 12 | Panel of experts discussed finding of 2014 admission campaign | 29 |
| September 16 | MOES made amendments to the Conditions on Admission to HEI in regard with: application submitting; selection of students; enrollment to HEI in Donetsk and Luhansk regions | 21 |
| September 18 | MOES released Draft Conditions on Admission to HEI 2015 | 23 |

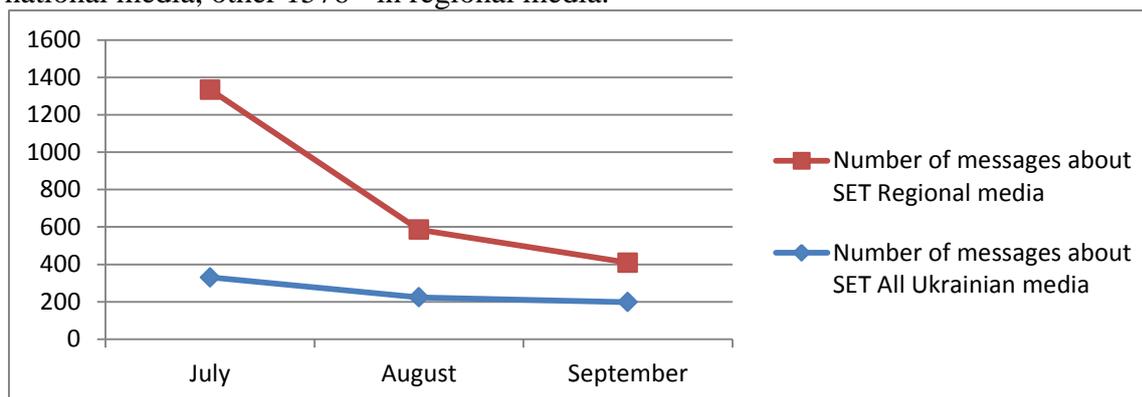
Top SET-related media topics in July, 2014: Enacting (by the President’s signature) of the Bill On Higher Education; discussing the higher education innovations; findings of SET public monitoring campaign; start of admission campaign.

In August the tops were: delay of a school year in Donbass; discussing the Bill on Higher Education.

In September media most actively discussed revisions to the enrollment procedures in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts and discussed the 2015 admissions.

Media activity peaks related to the days of the most significant events like: adopting the new Bill, press-conferences/round tables of high-level educational authorities, MOES orders release.

Within the period of July – September 2014, 753 news items out of total 2329 were published in national media, other 1576 - in regional media.



Top speakers in July-September 2014:

Director of the Ukrainian Center for Educational Quality Assessment

First Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine

Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine

Educational Programs Coordinator, OPORA Civic Network.

| Month | Number of messages about SET | Top speakers | | | |
|-----------|------------------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------|
| | | <i>Likarchuk</i> | <i>Sovsun</i> | <i>Kvit</i> | <i>Strelyuk</i> |
| July | 1334 | 100 | 13 | 19 | 27 |
| August | 586 | 63 | 29 | 14 | 2 |
| September | 409 | 55 | 32 | 11 | 1 |
| Total | 2329 | 218 | 74 | 44 | 30 |

Extend reporting on testing and HEI admissions processes and issues through electronic listserv and social media During the reporting period three bulletins were published – for July, August and September 2014.

The USETI Alliance bulletin illustrated the most important educational developments following the stated purpose and tasks of USETI Alliance.

The USETI Alliance bulletins are available at the web-site www.useti.org.ua.

Extend advocacy outreach to employers to promote fair access to higher education and testing-based HEI admissions In September 2014, USETI Alliance developed and distributed a

quarterly Education & Business bulletins. Ukrainian employers receive quarterly updates on the higher education access, quality, and relevance to the needs and trends of workforce development from the USETI Alliance.

1.3 Variances from Work-plan

All items described below involve time shifts conditioned by factors largely external to USETI Alliance. Numbers refer to specific tasks in the USETI Alliance Work Plan (see Annex 1). None of the issues described are critical, and require only shifts in project operational planning. The net effect of some shifts will be more programming during Y2 and possibly Y3, which, paradoxically, may improve project value as a sustainability development tool for UCEQA in particular.

1.4 Reports and Deliverables Completed and Submitted to USAID

Reports

- Updates on Project Activities sent to USAID.

2 Activities Completed

See attached chart of activities completed.

3 Upcoming Activities

The following activities are the major activities that will take place in Year 2/Quarter 3 of the project. *Not all upcoming activities are represented here.*

| USETI Alliance Activities in Year 2/Quarter 1 | Comment |
|--|---|
| Area 1: - Secure UCEQA capacity for item banking, test development, and test structure/content quality assurance - Enable UCEQA staff development through international professional exchanges | October, December 2014 November 2014 |
| Area 2: - Implementation of new Law on Higher Education - Facilitate ancillary legislation - Validity Study development | October-December 2014 October-December 2014 October-December 2014 |
| Area 3: - Newsletter on the reform to reach fair access to higher education for employers - National Poll on HEIs admission | July-September 2014 November-December 2014 |

USETI Legacy Alliance Year 2/Q3 (April-June 2014) - Annex 1: Status of Activities of Tasks

| Activities | | End-of-project target |
|--|---|---|
| | Progress | |
| Area 1: Strengthening institutional capacity of testing system elements and components | | |
| Activity 1.1: Secure UCEQA capacity for item banking, test development and test structure/content quality assurance | | |
| 1.1a Train UCEQA and RCEQA specialists in applied psychometrics | During his visit in September consultant Iwa Mindadze assisted UCEQA with applied psychometrics. | UCEQA psychometricians trained in using psychometric methods and applications; increased psychometric capacity |
| 1.1b Scale up UCEQA item piloting system | to be conducted in Q4/Y2. | UCEQA skilled at carrying out pilot tests within live tests |
| 1.1c Roll out UCEQA calibrated item bank | to be conducted in Q4/Y2. | UCEQA calibrated item bank developed and works properly |
| 1.1d Enhance Modern Foreign Language subject tests | To be conducted in Q4/Y2. | UCEQA introduces audio component into the MFL tests |
| 1.1e Advise UCEQA on advanced item development techniques | During his visit in September consultant Algirdas Zabulionis advised UCEQA on advanced item development techniques. | UCEQA skilled in using the advanced item development techniques |
| 1.1f Diversify UCEQA special needs testing capacity | to be conducted in Y2Q3-4. | UCEQA received recommendations for special need test development based on international experience |
| Activity 1.2: Establish UCEQA capacity for ancillary testing mechanisms and applications | | |
| 1.2a Support rollout of the General Ability Test for HEI Admissions | During the USETI Alliance Partners Meeting the GAT was discussed. | The General Ability Test piloted on the experimental basis |
| 1.2b Develop multi-level subject tests for HEI Admissions | During this visit in September consultant Algirdas Zabulionis assisted UCEQA with multi-level subject tests development. | UCEQA is capable to develop multi-level test on advanced level |
| 1.2c Conceptualize Summative Assessment tools for HEIs | In Y2Q3 USETI continued to discuss development of summative assessment for IT-Bachelors. | HEIs begin using a standardized toolkit for bachelor students in additional disciplines as an academic experiment |
| Activity 1.3 Enhance UCEQA staff development capacity | | |
| 1.3a Synchronize UCEQA in-house training capacity with academic program in educational measurement | In August USETI Alliance supported seven representatives of UCEQA/RCEQAs to study at the Master Program. | Support of MA Program on Educational Measurement at the Dragomanov National Pedagogical University |
| 1.3b Enable UCEQA staff development through international professional exchanges | to be conducted in Q4/Y2. | UCEQA staff members introduced to American and European best practices in educational measurement/management |
| Area 2: Establishing legislative and regulatory policy foundations for fair and objective university admission policy and practices | | |
| Activity 2.1 Reform legislative foundations for fair access to higher education | | |
| 2.1a Facilitate new Law on Higher Education | On July 1, Verkhovna Rada passed the Bill on Higher Education. | New Higher Education Law passed securing testing and HEI autonomy |
| 2.1b Facilitate ancillary legislation | A series of meetings on development on Law on Education within Committee on Science and Education was conducted in Q3/Y2. | New Law on Education passed securing educational quality monitoring system |

USETI Legacy Alliance Year 2/Q3 (April-June 2014) - Annex 1: Status of Activities of Tasks

| Activities | | End-of-project target |
|---|---|---|
| | Progress | |
| Activity 2.2 Solidify reformed regulatory policy foundations for fair access to higher education | | |
| 2.2a Conditions on Admission Advisory Platform | In September a meeting on development of 2015 MOES Conditions on Admission conducted. | Users of admission reform have body to serve as venue to influence reform |
| 2.2b Strengthen Cooperation between MOESYS Public Council, HEIs, experts and Civil Society | USETI Alliance played a role of platform on the 2014 MOES Conditions on HEIs Admission. | Committee to assist MOES in development of education quality monitoring exists |
| Activity 2.3 Institutionalize key practices in implementing reformed legislative and regulatory policy foundations for fair access to higher education | | |
| 2.3a Build collaborative capacity for quality control by Policy Development Stakeholders | URU along with USETI Alliance continued analyzing data for validity study. | Reliability and validity is ensured through external review |
| 2.3b Facilitate implementation and compliance with new or reformed legislative and regulatory provisions | on demand basis. | Bylaws regulating equal access to higher education are accepted by state authorities |
| Area 3: Transforming support for testing into a proactive contemporary public expectation | | |
| Activity 3.1 Broaden public outreach competencies of teachers, testing organizers, and regional education officials on testing and HEI admissions issues | | |
| 3.1a Orient teachers as advocates for testing culture and fair access to higher education | to be conducted in Q4/Y2. | Teachers and administrators in secondary schools use basics of educational assessment in classroom |
| 3.1b Introduce UCEQA and RCEQA staff and regional education officials to advocacy techniques in public outreach | to be conducted in Q4/Y2. | UCEQA, RCEQAs and regional officials respond to new challenges in effectively |
| 3.1c Extend advocacy outreach to employers to promote fair access to higher education and testing-based HEI admissions | In Y2Q3 the fifth issue of Education&Business Bulletin was developed and electronically distributed. | Ukrainian employers are familiar with the latest development of reform to reach fair access to higher education |
| 3.1d Support secondary analysis of standardized external testing data focusing on the local level (Support secondary analysis of SET data) | In September USETI consultant Algirdas Zabulionis worked with UCEQA on regional UCEQA data analysis. | UCEQA and RCEQAs develop secondary analysis studies of standardized external testing. |
| Activity 3.2 Institutionalize monitoring of and reporting on testing and HEI admissions processes and issues | | |
| 3.2a Further develop public monitoring of test administration and university admissions | Conducted in June-July (SET monitoring) and July-August (HEIs admission monitoring). | Monitoring of SET administration and HEIs admission positively influence public support |
| 3.2b Integrate institutional non-GOU monitoring of the HEI admissions processes with GOU databases | Conducted in July-August of Y2. | Integrate institutional non-GOU monitoring of the HEI admissions processes with GOU databases |
| 3.2c Extend reporting on testing and HEI admissions processes and issues through electronic listserv and social media | In Y2Q3 three issues (July, August and September) of USETI Alliance bulletin were developed and electronically distributed. | Ukrainian educators are familiar with the latest development of reform to reach fair access to higher education |
| Activity 3.3 Monitor and integrate public and expert opinion on testing and fair access to higher education | | |
| 3.3.a Monitor media throughout project implementation | Media monitoring July-September was developed and distributed. | Stakeholders receive media monitoring regularly |
| 3.3.b Conduct annual poll on testing and access to higher education in Ukraine | to be conducted in Y2Q4. | National Polls on external testing and admissions public opinion |
| 3.3.c Conduct IV International Educational Assessment Conference | Completed in Y1. | Recommendations on implementing international standards to Ukrainian HE system developed according to IV International Conference EA-2013 |
| Activity 3.4 Building the Alliance | | |
| 3.4a Coordination meetings and outreach | In September the USETI Alliance partners meeting was conducted. | Alliance functioning is enhanced and membership and contributions are expanded |

Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Chart

| Expected Result | Performance Indicator | Methodology for Measurement | | | Baseline | Year 1 | Year 2 | | | | Year 3 | Target End of Y3 | Notes |
|---|--|---|---------------|--|----------|--------|--------|------------|------------|--|--------|------------------|---|
| | | Data Source | Collection | Responsible | | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Area 1: Strengthening institutional capacity of testing system elements and components | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Activity 1.1 Secure UCEQA capacity for item banking, test development and test structure/content quality assurance | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a. UCEQA psychometricians trained in using psychometric methods and applications; increased psychometric capacity | # of workshops in psychometrics | Workshops and consultant reports | quarterly | Area 1 leader & international consultants | - | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | 7 | During his visit in September consultant Iwa Mindadze assisted UCEQA with applied psychometrics. |
| b. UCEQA skilled at carrying out pilot tests within live tests | UCEQA uses live tests for carrying out pilot tests | Consultant reports | quarterly | Area 1 leader & international consultants | No | No | No | No | No | | | Yes | During his visit in May Consultant Zarko Vukmirovic assisted UCEQA with item piloting system. |
| c. UCEQA calibrated item bank developed and works properly | Item Bank software procured and installed | Procurement of software | Annually | Area 1 leader & international consultants | No | No | No | In process | In process | | | Yes | During his visit in May Consultant Zarko Vukmirovic assisted UCEQA with calibrated item bank. USETI Alliance began work on the second stage of UCEQA IB software development. |
| | # of workshops in usage of IB software | Workshops and consultant reports | Quarterly | | - | - | - | - | - | | | 2 | UCEQA will need to be trained in newly developed software. |
| d. UCEQA introduces audio component into the MFL tests | # of workshops MFL item & test development | Training and consultant reports | Semi-annually | Area 1 leader & international consultants | - | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | | | 7 | In December consultant Mike Fast worked with UCEQA MFL specialists. |
| | UCEQA introduces audio component into the MFL tests | Report | Annually | | No | No | No | No | No | | | Yes | |
| e. Advanced item development techniques are used in SET | # of workshops in advanced item development techniques | Consultant reports | semi-annual | Area 1 leader & international consultants | - | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | | | 6 | During his visit in September consultant Algirdas Zabulionis advised UCEQA on advanced item development techniques. |
| f. UCEQA received recommendations for special need test development based on international experience | Tests for more categories of tests takers with special needs are offered | Training and consultant reports | semi-annual | Area 1 leader & international consultants | No | No | No | No | No | | | Yes | UCEQA needs to extend availability for special needs categories to take SET |
| Activity 1.2 Establish UCEQA capacity for ancillary testing mechanisms and applications | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a. The General Ability Test piloted on the experimental basis | # of workshops, conferences, RTs, etc. | Reports on roundtables, conference, workshops | Quarterly | Area 1 leader & international consultants | - | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | | | 10 | During the USETI Alliance Partners Meeting the GAT was discussed. |
| | HEIs use GAT for admission purposes on an experimental basis | Reports | Semi-annually | Area 1 leader & international consultants Area 2 leader | No | No | No | No | No | | | Yes | |

| Expected Result | Performance Indicator | Methodology for Measurement | | | Baseline | Year 1 | Year 2 | | | | Year 3 | Target End of Y3 | Notes |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|---------------|--|----------|---------|---------|-----------|---------|----|--------|------------------|--|
| | | Data Source | Collection | Responsible | | | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| b. UCEQA is capable to develop multi-level test on advanced level | # of workshops on multi-level test development | Consultant reports | Semi-annually | Area 1 leader & international consultants | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | | 4 | During his visit in September consultant Algirdas Zabulionis assisted UCEQA with multi-level subject tests development. |
| c. HEIs begin using a standardized toolkit for bachelor students in additional disciplines as an academic experiment | Concept developed | ELPEG meetings, Consultants reports | Semi-annually | Area 1 leader & international consultants Area 2 Leader | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | In Y2Q3 USETI continued to discuss development of summative assessment for IT-Bachelors. |
| | a standardized instrument for bachelor students as an academic experiment is used by HEI(s) | Report | Annually | | No | No | No | No | No | | | Yes | |
| Activity 1.3 Enhance UCEQA staff development capacity | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a. Support of MA Program on Educational Measurement at the Dragomanov National Pedagogical University | # of guest lectures by USETI Consultants and UCEQA staff | UCEQA/ Consultants reports | Semi-annually | Area 1 leader & international consultants | - | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | | | 18 | In August USETI Alliance supported seven representatives of UCEQA/RCEQAs to study at the Master Program. |
| b. UCEQA staff members introduced to American and European best practices in educational measurement/management | # of Study Tours | Study tour trips reports | Semi-annually | Area 1 leader & international consultants | - | 2 | 5 | 5 | 5 | | | 4 | In Y2Q1 three study tours were conducted - to U.K., the Netherlands and Poland. |
| Area 2: Establishing legislative and regulatory policy foundations for fair and objective university admission policy practices | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Activity 2.1 Facilitate new Law on Higher Education | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a. New Higher Education Law passed securing testing and HEI autonomy | Legislation securing testing and HEI autonomy is adopted | VR voting report | Annually | Area 2 leader | Stage 1 | Stage 3 | Stage 3 | Stage 3/4 | Stage 4 | | | Stage 4 | Stage 1 – Interested groups propose that legislation is needed on this issue; Stage 2 – Issue is introduced in the relevant legislative committee; Stage 3 – Legislation is drafted by relevant committee; Stage 4 – Legislation is debated by the legislature. |
| b. New Law on Education passed securing educational quality monitoring system | Legislation securing educational quality monitoring system is adopted | VR voting report | Annually | Area 2 leader | | Stage 1 | Stage 2 | Stage 3 | Stage 3 | | | Stage 4 | Stage 1 – Interested groups propose that legislation is needed on this issue; Stage 2 – Issue is introduced in the relevant legislative committee; Stage 3 – Legislation is drafted by relevant committee; Stage 4 – Legislation is debated by the legislature. |
| Activity 2.2 Solidify reformed regulatory policy foundations for fair access to higher education | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a. Users of admission reform have body to serve as venue to influence reform | Committee to influence admissions reform serves as a venue to influence admission | Minutes of Committee's meeting | Semi-annually | Area 2 leader | No | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | | | Yes | In September a meeting on development of 2015 MOES Conditions on Admission conducted. |

| Expected Result | Performance Indicator | Methodology for Measurement | | | Baseline | Year 1 | Year 2 | | | | Year 3 | Target End of Y3 | Notes |
|---|---|--------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|----------|--------|--------|------------|------------|----|--------|------------------|---|
| | | Data Source | Collection | Responsible | | | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | reform | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| b. Committee to assist MOES in development of education quality monitoring established and functioning | Committee to assist MOES in development of education quality monitoring makes recommendations regularly | Minutes of Committee's meeting | Semi-annually | Area 2 leader | No | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | | | Yes | USETI Alliance played a role of platform on the 2014 MOES Conditions on HEIs Admission. In September a meeting on development of 2015 MOES Conditions on Admission conducted. |
| Activity 2.3 Institutionalize key practices in implementing reformed legislative and regulatory policy foundations for fair access to higher education | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a. Reliability and validity is ensured through external review | # of validity studies | Study | Annually | URU & Area 2 leader | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | | | 5 | URU along with USETI Alliance continued analyzing data for validity study. |
| b. Covered persons and institutions comply with legislative and regulatory provisions on equal access to higher education | # of recommendations on new regulations accepting equal access to higher education | Minutes of ELPEG meetings | Semi-annually | Area 2 leader | - | - | - | - | - | | | On demand | In July-September a series of ad hoc meetings on legislative improvements on education conducted. |
| Area 3: Transforming support for testing into a proactive contemporary public expectation | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Activity 3.1 Broaden public outreach competencies of teachers, testing organizers, and regional education officials on testing and HEI admissions issues | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a. Teachers and administrators in secondary schools use basics of educational assessment in classroom | # of seminars with teachers and administrators of secondary school | Seminars reports | Quarterly | Area 1 leader, DPD | - | 12 | 14 | 14 | 14 | | | 22 | In Y2Q1 two guest lectures for Hrinchenko University were conducted by USETI Alliance representatives. |
| b. UCEQA, RCEQAs and regional officials respond to new challenges in a quick and proper ways | # of seminars | Seminars reports | Semi-annually | Pro.Mova, DPD | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | 5 | UCEQA/RCEQAs suffer from insufficient communications with the target groups |
| c. Ukrainian employers are familiar with the latest development of reform to reach fair access to higher education | # of Education & Business Bulletin | Bulletin | Quarterly | Alliance Dev't Advisor | - | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | | | 11 | In June of Y2 the fifth issue of the Education & Business Bulletin was developed and electronically distributed. |
| d. UCEQA and RCEQAs develop secondary analysis studies of standardized external testing | # of studies | Reports | Semi-annually | Area 1 leader, UCEQA | - | - | - | In process | In process | | | 5 | In September USETI consultant Algirdas Zabulionis worked with UCEQA on regional UCEQA data analysis. |
| Activity 3.2 Further develop public monitoring of test administration and university admissions | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a. Monitoring of SET administration and HEIs admission positively influence public support | # of trainings for monitoring of test administrations | Training report | Annually | OPORA, DPD | - | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | | | 3 | Conducted in Y2Q2 |
| | Public monitoring of test administration procedures conducted properly | Monitoring reports | Annually | OPORA | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | | 3 | Conducted in Y2Q3-4. |

| Expected Result | Performance Indicator | Methodology for Measurement | | | Baseline | Year 1 | Year 2 | | | | Year 3 | Target End of Y3 | Notes |
|--|--|--|---------------|---|----------|--------|--------|-----|-----|----|--------|------------------|---|
| | | Data Source | Collection | Responsible | | | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | # of trainings for Admissions Committee monitoring | Training reports | Annually | OPORA, IRF | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | | 3 | Conducted in Y2Q3. |
| | Admission campaigns' monitoring conducted properly | Monitoring reports | Annually | OPORA | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | | 3 | Conducted in Y2Q3. |
| b. Integrate institutional non-GOU monitoring of the HEI admissions processes with GOU databases | # of data actualizations with SSDBE per day during HEIs admission campaign | Konkurs administrator reports | Annually | CEP, Area 2 leader | - | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | | | 6 | During the 2014 HEIs admission campaign Konkurs System was actualized four times per day. |
| | Functionality of Konkurs System allows test-taker to recommend the optimal HEIs/specialization to enter according to their priorities identified | Konkurs administrator reports | Annually | CEP, Area 2 leader | No | No | No | No | No | | | Yes | The possibility of automatic recommendations for HEIs applicants will make the competition more organized |
| c. Ukrainian educators are familiar with the latest development of reform to reach fair access to higher education | # of USETI Alliance Bulletin | Bulletin | Quarterly | Area 3 leader | - | 7 | 10 | 13 | 16 | | | 31 | Three bulletin issues (for July, August and September) were developed and distributed during Y2Q3. |
| | # of Timo published | Timo journals | Monthly | TIMO Foundation - Publishing House "Fakt" | - | 12 | 15 | 18 | 21 | | | 36 | TIMO Journal publishes regularly. |
| Activity 3.3 Monitor and integrate public and expert opinion on testing and fair access to higher education | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a. Stakeholders receive media monitoring regularly | # of media monitoring and analysis | Reports on media monitoring & Analysis | Quarterly | Area 3 leader | - | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | | | 11 | The quarterly media monitoring for the period July-September was developed and distributed. |
| b. National Polls on external testing and admissions public opinion | # of National Polls conducted and analyzed | Reports | Annually | DIF | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | 3 | To be conducted in Y2Q4. |
| c. Recommendations on implementing international standards to Ukrainian HE system developed according to IV International Conference EA-2013 | The Conference was conducted and recommendations on implementing standards were introduced | Conference report | Annually | Area 1 leader, UCEQA, URU, NAPSU | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | | | Yes | Conducted on October of Y1. |
| Activity 3.4 Building the Alliance | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a. Alliance functioning is enhanced and membership and contributions are expanded | # of meetings | Meetings reports | Semi-annually | Alliance Dev't Advisor, PD | - | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | | | 11 | The Alliance meeting was conducted in September of Y2. |