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**Ukraine National Initiatives to Enhance Reforms Activity
of the USAID Civic Oversight Project**

Semi-annual Performance Report

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Submitted by Pact, Inc.

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I. Executive Summary

Under Ukraine National Initiatives to Enhance Reforms (UNITER) project, Pact continues to support civil society in Ukraine with the goal **to increase citizen support for and participation in specific civil society activities**. Pact's activities lie within the larger USAID Civic Oversight Project that includes other activities aimed to improve organizational capacity of Ukrainian CSOs, establish favorable legislative environment for civil society sector as whole.

The objectives of UNITER include:

- **Objective 1: Effective, broad-based monitoring and advocacy campaigns implemented** – Pact works towards two broader themes of relevant policy areas important for Ukraine's path towards democratic development, social cohesion and economic modernization. These themes are:
 - Theme 1: European standards and values: The activities under this theme focus on promoting principles and values of respect for human dignity, liberty, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. The special focus under this theme is given to the support of people with disabilities.
 - Theme 2: Governmental accountability and anti-corruption: Uniter supported coalitions and partners address governmental accountability and anti-corruption at all levels of government, working to engage citizens throughout Ukraine in issues of national, sub-national and local governmental accountability and anti-corruption. Additionally under this theme Pact support civic initiatives to ensure inclusive constitutional reform process.
- **Objective 2: CSO Constituencies Expanded** – Pact emphasize the importance of reaching out to citizens, identifying citizen needs, educating citizenry and consulting on priorities, seeking citizen input and support, engaging in CSO advocacy efforts and representing citizen interests vis-a-vis local and national authorities.
- **Objective 3: Media Engagement and ICT Usage by CSOs Improved** – Pact sub-awards strengthen coalition and CSOs' ability to communicate more effectively with citizens and the media.
- **Special Objective: Sustainability Roadmap** – Pact conducts the sustainability roadmap feasibility study aimed to identify organization(s)/mechanisms to coordinate, facilitate and convene other organizations around issue-based initiatives, and build its capacity to administer advocacy and monitoring sub-grants to organizations that collaborate on issue-based initiatives.

II. Political Context and Civil Society Highlights

Ukrainian governance reforms have taken a swift and aggressive start in the aftermath of the “*Revolution of Dignity*” (hereinafter interchangeably referred also to as “*Euromaidan*”). Reforms in the first year of the new Ukraine concentrated primarily on macro-economic stabilization and addressing the challenges – in many ways crises – emanated from Russian and the separatist East’s aggressive violence. During the first half of FY16, Ukraine’s reforms took a slight turn towards longer-term institutional reforms. By establishing new key institutions addressing corruption, putting a key accent on meeting the conditionality of achieving visa-free European travel for Ukraine’s citizens and rolling out overarching national and sub-national reforms, Ukraine continues to progress slowly in its self-selected path towards a European Ukraine.

The reform agenda for 2016 was getting more focused on key priorities that lie around public service, judicial, anti-corruption, decentralization and economy¹. Two major reforms were rolled out and are at different stages concerning public management and administration. The October local elections saw the first life signals of the newly created “*Hromadas*” – Ukraine’s re-discovered grass-roots level self-governance unit – and the country’s parliament (the Rada) adopted a key legislation with an eye towards revitalizing the state’s vast armada of public servants.

While Ukraine’s economy is showing the first signs of stabilization of macroeconomic indicators², it continues to depend on foreign aid. Conditionality of the aid packages and various international partners are main catalyzers of the reform processes ensuring political will to overcome the oligarchic interests in policy process. The implementation of anti-corruption reform and launch of the electronic income declaration systems would have been undermined in the process, if not for EU visa liberalization processes. The economic deregulation and banking sector and tax reforms and anti-corruption reform are among the priorities for IMF loan package too. For ensuring further international support it is critical for Ukraine to make further progress in anti-corruption and rule of law.

Key Reforms achievements

Anti-corruption:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The registry for lustration is compiled, the lustration committee started analyzing the State Fiscal Service staff and courts• National Anticorruption Bureau (NABU) has started its full operations with over 150 criminal cases opened and 12 cases brought to court.• Specialized anti-corruption prosecutors’ office is established• National Agency for Prevention of Corruption is established and will be responsible for monitoring of public officials’ lifestyles and oversight of political party funding• Access to Public Information legislation is improved obliging agencies to open the data such as procurement data bases, registers of legal entities, and other public data• ProZorro electronic public procurement system developed and put into operation• Legislation framework for greater transparency was approved including opening of the registry of owners of property and vehicles, regulation on party finances, opening of the registry of corrupt officials, etc.
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¹ National Reforms Council, http://reforms.in.ua/sites/default/files/imce/2_nrc_presentation_ds.pdf

² <http://carnegieeurope.eu/2016/04/29/ukraine-s-indispensable-economic-reforms/ixsk>

Decentralization:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal framework for amalgamation of the communities is created and 800 villages amalgamated in 159 communities • Fiscal decentralization has started vesting additional budgeting authority to local government which resulted in increase in local budgets • Draft law on Constitutional amendments has past the first reading
Judicial:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justice Reform Sector Strategy until 2020 is designed and approved • Legislation On Ensuring the Right to Fair Trial provides mechanism for evaluation of qualifications of all judges, transparent rules for the formation of the High Council of Justice and the High Qualification Commission of Judges, improvement of the judges' selection process, strengthening the role of the Supreme Court • Set of draft laws is in the development that will implement the Strategy for Reform
Constitutional:	The Constitutional Commission has developed the amendments to the Constitution in regards of the decentralization, justice and human rights. The draft amendments for decentralization were voted in the Parliament. The draft amendments for decentralization and judicial reform received positive conclusions by Constitutional Court and Venice Commission. The lack of the constitutional majority in the Parliament is stopping the further progress on reform.

On October 25, 2015 Ukraine held local elections, which international observers found competitive and well organized, but where complexity of the new voting legislation and dominance of the oligarchic groups in the process undermined the process³. International and local observers and civil society demand for the electoral reform and development of the comprehensive Electoral Code, however there is lack of political will for introduction of the transparent rules of the games. While the national level government was fully replaced after Euromaidan events, until local elections of 2015 local government remained the same since 2010, which lead to the lack of confidence to the local elected officials. As the outcome of the local elections the Petro Poroshenko Block got the biggest support of voters in the regions, and parties like Samopomich and Batkivschyna has increased their support in the regions. The opposition block won strong positions in the Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhyya, Mykolaiv, Odessa and Donetsk government controlled territories.

The results of the local elections became a basis for revision of the Cabinet of Ministers composition and as the Prime Minister Yatsenyuk party ratings were in decline the negotiations on the new appointments were launched. While the first non-confidence vote in the Parliament on February 16, 2016 has failed, the coalition finally managed to find enough votes for the appointment of the President Poroshenko close ally Volodymyr Groisman. The current coalition in the Parliament remains weak as the Sampopomich and Yuliya Tymoshenko Batkivschyna has formally left the coalition. As the reform-minded ministers such as Natalia Jaresko or Aivaras Abromavicius are leaving the government Western partners became more concerned about the future pace of reforms. The lack of votes in the coalition will be likely obstacle for further constitutional reform or voting on critical legislations, and the pre-term parliamentary elections still remain possible.

Visa Liberalization Action Plan with the EU as one of its conditions contains adoption of antidiscrimination legislation based on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI). This provides a window of opportunity to bring the issues of LGBT rights protection to the spotlight in Ukraine. National human rights strategy adopted by the President in August 2015

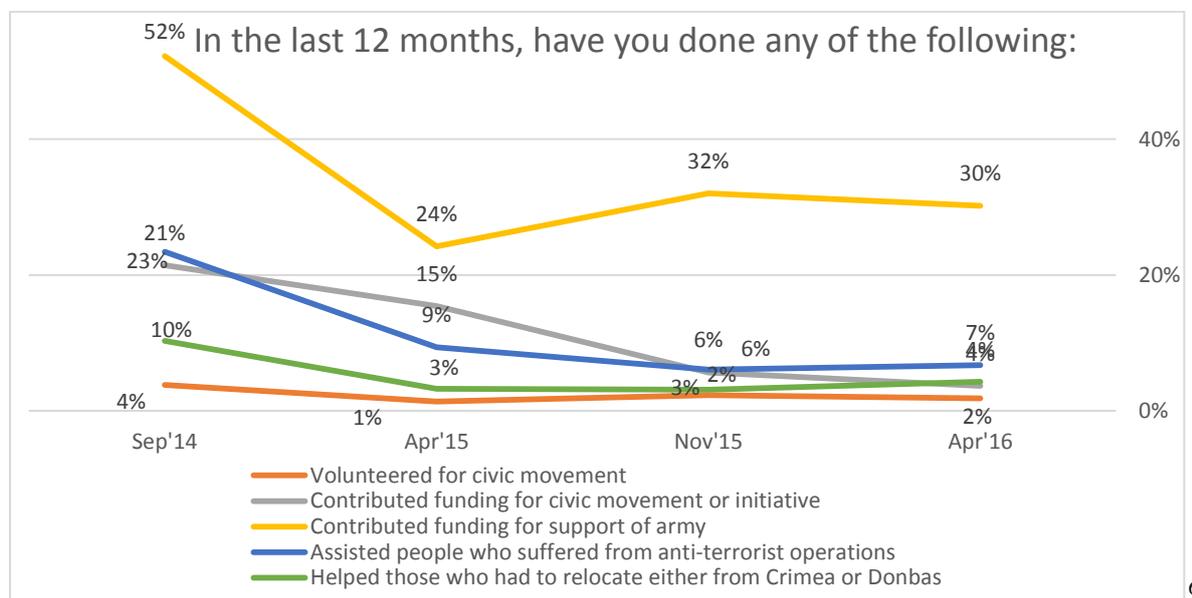
³ <http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/ukraine/223641?download=true>

contains sections on anti-discrimination. After a few voting attempts, on 12 November 2015 Verkhovna Rada adopted amendments to the Labor Code that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. However, moods of the general population remain far from being supportive towards LGBTI people. Thus, as of February 2016 sociological poll, conducted by KIIS and ordered by Nash Svit, only 4.3% of Ukrainian population feels positive or rather positive towards LGBT community. In the end-March the activists of Equality March in Lviv were attacked by local right-wing groups and did not find support from the wider population. This and many other cases of discrimination based on sexual orientation and sexual identity and at the same time attempts of approximation of Ukrainian legislation to the EU norms which condemns discrimination in any forms make advocacy of LGBT persons inclusion quite a challenging task in Ukraine.

State of civil society: mid-FY16 highlights

Despite the progress in many reform areas, citizens' perception on reforms remains negative. Only about the quarter of citizens have some optimism towards reform success but majority remain negative, and almost half of Ukrainians have not experienced any effect of reforms⁴. The disappointment of citizens leads to decrease in support of the current government and decreased trust in the institutions. The crisis with the government that resulted in the new Cabinet of Ministers headed by the new Prime Minister has contributed even further to the dissatisfaction with the pace of reforms. Ukrainians increasingly concerned that the country is heading in the wrong direction with its reforms directions.⁵

Most concerning is that citizens are mostly unaware of the reforms outcomes. Pact's regular citizen awareness, engagement and participation steadily demonstrate the gap between awareness v. desires, participation v. desires, and progress v. perception of progress.



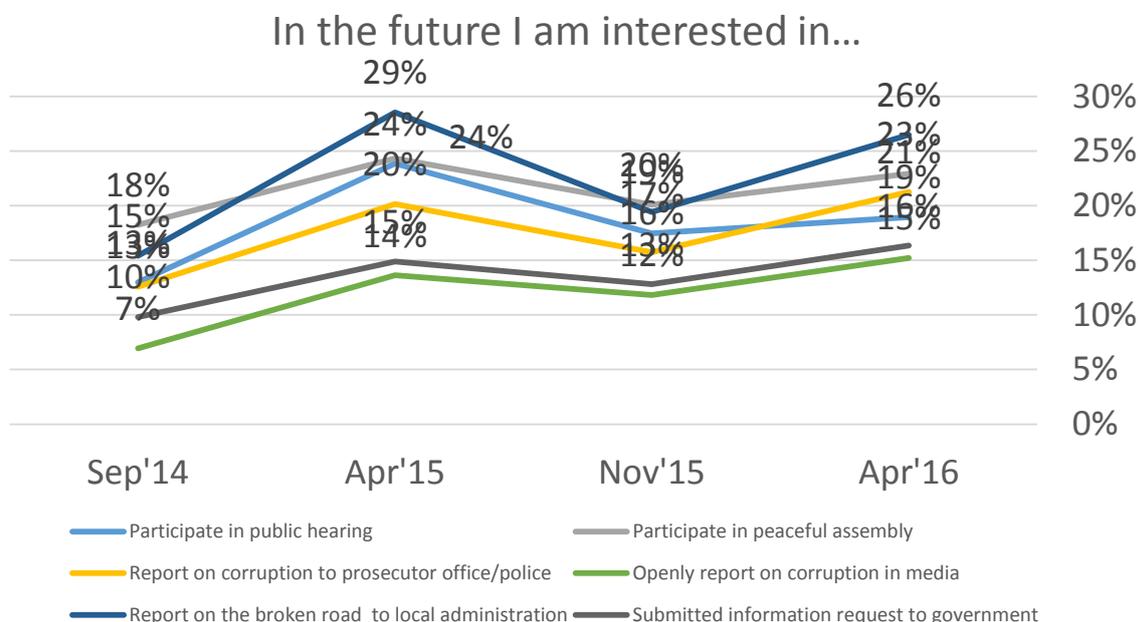
⁴ Under UNITER project, Pact has commissioned poll to GFK <http://www.uniter.org.ua/eng/press/public-polling-on-citizens-awareness-and-engagement-of-civil-society.html>

⁵ <http://ces.org.ua/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/ChathamHouse-vyshlinsky.pdf>

⁶ Here and below the charts are based on public opinion monitoring conducted regularly by Pact

While Ukrainians want to see progress in the anti-corruption reforms and improvements in their lives, they remain disengaged in the watchdog activities. The citizens' activism after Euromaidan is limited to the support of the immediate needs connected to the conflict such as assistance to the volunteers, help to IDPs and other related things⁷ and this engagement is declining with time. As Ukrainians are less engaged in the conflict related activities, their interest for more systemic engagement is growing. They are declaring their interest in the future to participate in public hearings, report on corruption or fight for their rights against the corrupt officials. Yet this declared readiness has not resulted in the real engagement, where 1 to 2 percent of citizens are engaging at such activities now.

The growing number of citizens interested in the civic activities is the base for NGOs engagement. With additional effort in civic education these Ukrainians may become a powerful movement for reforms implementation. While citizens remain unsatisfied with the pace of reforms they remain supporters of democratic transition, and have to be educated on how to practice their values in daily life. Civic education of the adult population should be one of the priorities for civil society to grow their base and ensure success of reforms.



Upon Pact's mid-year moment of stocktaking and learning of the UNITER activity, there are several new – predominantly positive(!) – trends emerging in the civil society arena. Discussed herewith are observations, concerning primarily Pact's UNITER partners, however, since these partners represent Ukraine's largest horizontal networks, issue-coalitions and – by and large – lead CSOs, *mutatis mutandis*, they are a snapshot reflection of CSO annual trends as of spring 2016.

Large national networks and coalitions continue to play a dominant role in the civil society discourse. Moreover, they are considered to be the strongest domestic forces of reform. They keep constant advocacy pressure on the Rada, the National Reform Council, the cabinet of the GoU and the Presidential Administration. They are loudly and visibly hold elected and appointed representatives of the government accountable. Networks such as the Reanimation

⁷ https://www.gfk.com/fileadmin/user_upload/dyna_content_import/2015-09-01_press_releases/data/ua/Documents/Presentations/report_vyshlisky.pdf

Package of Reforms (RPR), the CHESNO Movement, Initiative 11, the coalition led by OPORA, and others are the most prominent “ambassadors of change” in crucial reform areas ranging from constitutional reforms, through forceful anti-corruption advocacy, electoral reform, or judicial reforms. These networks/coalitions/lead CSOs day-by-day live up to their slogan to ensure the irreversibility of reforms in Ukraine.

A significant opening awaits to bring to bear – potentially earthshattering – visible outcomes both from the larger governance perspective and from the narrower civil society perspective with The GoU’s ambitious decentralization plans. National civil society leaders, such as the Ukrainian Center for Independent Political Research (UCIPR) are already seizing the moment, demonstrating rapid adaptive and effective influencing capacities on the sub-national level. However, civil society initiatives on the grass-roots and rayon/oblast levels are playing more follower and leader roles as of now. On the sub-national level yet, a refreshing phenomenon started re-emerging: in select oblasts, intermediary support organizations – “hubs” in the 21st century vocabulary – are trying opening their wings with a longer-term goal to play a constructive convening and leadership role servicing both downwards to their immediate and indirect constituencies, as well as representing upwards vis-à-vis national governance and initiatives.

Civil society organizations – again, largely on the national level – are not only the cheerleaders of reforms but in many cases the ones to devise the commonly accepted policy options. An attestation to these efforts are policy options, government decisions in such areas of selection of lead anti-corruption public servants, reform – or rather, keep boiling pressure on – the prosecution leading to personnel changes. They also have themselves started a process of changing values, mainstreaming themes such as judicial reforms and the civil and political rights of LGBTQI people. This latter is a particularly novel and startling phenomenon given the deeply embedded “traditional” values in not only the wider public but in the CSO community itself. These new embryonic signs of change are yet to expand in the years to come.

Finally, Pact with its UNITER partners – although in the final year of UNITER – has begun two experimental interventions, both with the goal to reload civil society activism at the grass-roots level. The rationale of these so-far experiments are the reflection of Pact’s lessons from earlier phases of UNITER, most prominently of the Local Grants Program, which despite several rounds and different intervention points, have also resulted the least tangible outcomes and impact insofar as supporting the emergence of cutting-edge and influential local civil society was concerned.⁸

The aftermath of Euromaidan and most notably its feature of increased citizen participation and citizens’ interest in public life presented a context in which these experimental grass-roots interventions are operating.

One of these experiments build on Pact’s own motto of “local promise” and entails intensive field work of a handful of civil society leaders in Ukraine’s East. The Center UA project “Stronger Communities of Donetsk Region” is a quasi-social-anthropological experiment, wherein Center UA’s key personnel and local activists in the Donbass region act in concert. It is holistic approach from the side of Center UA, covering a multitude of aspects of local

⁸ Tisch, S., Green, A., and Lutsevych, O. Final Performance Evaluation of the Ukraine National Initiatives to Enhance Reforms (UNITER). USAID Ukraine and Social Impact. April, 2014, http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/pa00jztg.pdf

problems and issues in the Donetsk basin, as well as empowering local communities with the tools, ideas and approaches that CSOs and activists successfully employ in other parts of the country. Critically, the approach builds on one of UNITER's key approach; that is that instead of exerting advocacy pressure from the top-down, instead of lecturing and calling upon followers, a Kyiv-based CSO in sync with the heartbeat of citizens in this particular region.

And similarly, a fresh, albeit not entirely a novel effort, national NGOs have started making their first tractions in the area of civic education. Civic education as a concept is not foreign in the Ukrainian context, nor it is a revolutionary new concept on the global scale. Yet, given that it was always intended as a long-term investment in societies, we are learning more and more of the impact of the past two decades' efforts therein, both from Ukraine and from its Central European counterparts. The learning cycles assessing the last decade demonstrate that after the early years of the new Millennium, the last decade has passed without any strong initiatives by either CSOs or other actors to genuinely direct attention to early education of children and adult education about citizens' rights and responsibilities. In the past six months, some lead Ukrainian CSOs have decided to – instead of preaching to their natural and well-known choirs – begin extra-curricular civic education initiatives. Particularly UCIPR and the Media Law Institute (MLI, aka CEDEM) are the potential trend-setters in this regard. Both the social-anthropological experiment and these embryonic civic education efforts are yet to become more widespread, systematic and – importantly – become a habit of CSOs to open up to the general public, avoid local conduits but engage citizens directly.

III. Activities description

Objective 1: Effective, broad-based monitoring and advocacy campaigns implemented

Pact, primarily through sub-awards, will strengthen CSOs' role in advocating for citizen interests and monitoring government transparency and accountability. It will support civic monitoring and citizen engagement in watchdog initiatives at the national and local levels.

Theme 1: European standards and values:

Activity 1.1.1.a Sub-awards for European Standards and Values Advocacy and Monitoring

Arguably, UNITER's par-excellence national horizontal network coalition partner carries out the most comprehensive, visible and aggressive national advocacy push for European reforms in the country. Pact's sub-awardee partner, Centre UA plays a coordinating role of the **Reanimation Package of Reforms (RPR)**, overseeing advocacy and communication components of the coalition. **Overall goal of RPR is quite broad and includes systematic and consistent reforms advocacy, an establishment of the sustainable and constructive partnership between RPR and the Parliament, provision of public awareness and support of reform ideas, lobby of draft laws in accordance to Ukraine's Reforms Roadmap, developed by RPR during the immediate aftermath of the *Revolution of Dignity*.** The more rigorous purpose of the project is to promote democratic reform process strengthening CSOs' role in monitoring government transparency and accountability.

Association of RPR experts, non-governmental organizations and think tanks strongly cooperate and manage to influence on the Parliament agenda and decision-making process in Ukrainian politics. Within the reporting period, 16 draft laws initiated by RPR were adopted. Six of them were co-authored by the RPR experts, which are the following: **#2123a** Draft Law on Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine "On prevention and counteraction to political corruption"; **#2114** Draft Law "On State Bureau of Investigation"; **#2244a** Draft Law on Scientific and Technical Activities; **#2984** Draft Law on Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine regarding the empowerment of local governments and optimization of administrative services; **#2490** Draft Law on Civil Service.

All the adopted laws correspond to the strategy of deep democratic transformations in



Ukraine through reforms named the "[Roadmap of Reforms](#)". The majority of events were focused on advocacy of the civil service reform and the adoption of the democratic [draft law "On civil service" #2490](#), which takes into account the successful experience of similar reforms in European countries, distinguishes political and administrative positions and introduces competition for the positions of civil servants. Through such a powerful advocacy campaign, effective communication support and citizens activism on

this issue, the draft law was successfully adopted in December 2015. Besides, many RPR activities were implemented to raise awareness on anti-corruption, judicial, law enforcement, healthcare, tax, media reforms and engage active citizens to their advocacy. As a result, such

advocacy companies as Enhancement of transparency of financing of political parties ([the draft law on amendments to certain legislative acts of Ukraine on prevention and counteraction to political corruption №2123](#) was adopted in November 2015), Media denationalization ([draft law №1123 on the reform of state and municipal print media](#) was also adopted in November 2015), Establishment of the State Bureau of Investigation ([draft Law № 2114 "On State Bureau of Investigation"](#) was adopted in November 2015) succeed.

On November 27, 2015 RPR initiated a national forum "[Anniversary of the Coalition Agreement: an Action Plan or a Worthless Piece of Paper](#)", it was a critical discussion a year after the Coalition Agreement of the Parliament of the 8th convocation. The results of the Parliament's work were summarized; especial attention was drawn to the reforms where the process was slowed down by the political elites. High-level politicians and decision makers have participated in the discussion panels on the following priority areas for reform: "Changes to the Constitution, the basis for the country or the bone of contention?", "Reform of the civil service: the new officials for a new country", "Anti-corruption reform: Hand Washes Hand! How many more?" "Fiscal reform: what to do with a budget cow", "Reforms in the energy sector: how to unscrew the valve on the pipe changes?"

In December, 2015 RPR initiated another discussion dedicated to the [25th Anniversary of the Local Self-Government in Ukraine - High Time for Decentralization](#). MPs of Ukraine, members of the Constitutional Commission, members of the Government, experts, representatives of the civil society and local self-government bodies, members of the associations of the local self-government bodies, and media gathered together to develop common solutions on how the required legislation can be overcome to ensure the effective implementation of decentralization reform.

Overall, RPR organized during reporting period 5 press-conferences and 18 press-briefings, 10 round tables and 20 open expert discussions, 5 direct action events and 2 national forums were conducted within the reporting period. Media actively highlights the work of the coalition, for example, [Epravda](#), [Pravda](#), [LB.ua](#), [TV 24](#) etc. RPR's work were mentioned in media over 2 000 times, increasing coalition's visibility and brand recognition.

Apart from these, RPR continued its internal reform process striving for higher transparency and governance of the biggest civil society coalition. Following almost a year of internal work, RPR got its new governance structure and statutory framework substantially improved in line with the best NGO practices. As a result, the coalition got a new Charter and seen itself reloaded with 46 [reputable Ukrainian CSOs](#) bearing a solid experience and good reputation in various policy spheres. These organizations form the RPR supreme governing body – the Assembly of CSOs-participants – in charge of adopting statutory documents, RPR strategies and decide on the membership in RPR coalition. Assembly meets 2-3 times per year. On the 1st Assembly meeting of CSOs-participants elected [12 members](#) of the RPR Council, on a rating system basis. The latter shall handle strategic and financial management, approve policies and settle disputes. Now, the Council involves Igor Koliushko, Taras Shevchenko, Iryna Bekeshkina, Inna Borzylo, Viktor Taran, Vitaliy Shabunin, Oksana Nechyporenko, Oleksiy Khmara, Mikhailo Zhernakov, Glib Vyshlinsky, Oksana Velychko, and Mykola Vyhovsky. Council will have more



possibilities to ensure quality of work of RPR groups and experts. It is expected that these involvements would boost RPR's capacity as a major civil society platform, agenda-setter and policy-maker for the country.

The most urgent issues of today's Ukraine transitioning period are the population's poor awareness and understanding of the European integration, as well as lack of effective tools for the public to exercise their control over the government's fulfillment of undertaken commitments. To overcome this Pact continues to support the **Institute of World Policy**. In



the beginning of 2015, IWP has launched a project that aims to fill awareness gap of Ukrainians about advantages of the European integration reforms, and at the same time, strengthen awareness in the EU Member States about Ukraine's transformation. To fill the awareness gap IWP organizes public debates, holds media clubs and conducts surveys on perception of Ukrainian situation by the EU members. In particular, in October a lot of attention of media and international community was attracted by

the [public debate](#) titled "European Ukraine: Real Prospects, Real Problems" dedicated to Ukraine's progress in reforms and held in Vienna. This event attempted at engaging the Austrian expert community and policy makers in the Ukrainian affairs, and stimulating expert discussion on the role of Austria in post-Maidan Ukraine. Despite close economic cooperation, there is very little information about situation in Ukraine. Oleh Rybachuk, former Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine on EU Integration, Director of "Centre UA", and Vadym Miskyi, Expert of the Reanimation Package of Reforms provided comprehensive assessment of the reform process in Ukraine as well as current political situation. The IWP visit to Vienna helped to establish personal links and [lay ground for the further cooperation](#) with Austrian policy makers and prominent experts, who deal with the counties of post-soviet space.

To continue changing perception of Ukraine abroad, the NGO organized another [public debate](#) in Paris in December 2015, entitled "Reforms in Ukraine in the Context of Political and Security Challenges", where leading Ukrainian experts presented their assessments of the current political and security situation in Ukraine, progress in implementation of reforms, and the current status of the Minsk II agreement. Over 100 participants, proving a high interest of the French expert community in the Ukrainian issues, attended the event.





Moreover, IWP presented “a mirror survey” - [unique survey](#) on how the citizens of 8 EU member states perceive Ukraine, its European aspirations, and Russia-Ukraine conflict. The opinion poll had been conducted in Spain, Italy, Poland, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Sweden. The pool of associations with Ukraine is dominated by negative images. The three key associations are war, Russia and poverty. The majority of the respondents agree that Ukraine is at an armed conflict triggered by Russia, however, 53% believe that Ukraine is at civil war. 30% of the EU Citizens believe that Ukraine should be provided with EU membership in order to protect the country from further Russia’s

aggression. The IWP survey received extensive media coverage ([Segodnya](#), [Liga Novosti](#), [BBC Ukraine](#), [Ukrinform](#), [Europeyska Pravda](#)).

Institute of World Policy held an [official presentation](#) of the research “How Could the EU Accelerate Reforms in Ukraine. This policy brief is based on numerous interviews with state officials, IWP’s expert survey, and nationwide opinion poll. After the presentation, invited government officials, diplomats, and experts assessed the current level of the EU assistance to reforms in Ukraine, discussed the expectations of various stakeholders, and developed some recommendations for decision-makers. Media coverage underpins the importance of the research ([Ukrainian Pravda](#), [Unian](#), [24 TV](#), [Novyny](#)).

To achieve project objectives IWP regularly engages with media publishing blogs and comments of their experts in various mass channels ([BBC](#), [Glavcom](#), [Ukrainian Pravda](#)).

On 10 December, the IWP in collaboration with the Institute for International and Strategic Affairs (IRIS, France) [held a public debate entitled "Reforms in Ukraine in the Context of Political and Security Challenges"](#) in Paris. During the debate, the leading Ukrainian experts



presented their assessments of the current political and security situation in Ukraine, progress in reform implementation, and the current status of the Minsk II agreement.

Following that, public debates on Ukrainian-German Relations “[How ad hoc cooperation turn to priority one](#)” took place, where IWP experts presented their Policy paper on

bilateral relations between official Kyiv and Berlin.

On March 1-2 2016, the **Institute** has conducted [the fourth study visit of the 26 thought leaders from key EU member states](#) aimed at briefing prominent European experts about the domestic political and national security situation in Ukraine. As a result of discussions in Kyiv, a number of publications will be published in the EU media.

During two days, the delegation met with Ukrainian officials, politicians, public figures, and business representatives to get complete information about the political, economic and social situation in Ukraine. Members of the delegation were editors and journalists from influential EU media and well-known experts from the leading EU think tanks, many of whom provide consultations to their governments and the European Commission. There were representatives from France, Germany, Austria, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Greece, the Netherlands and Slovakia.

The majority of meetings were held in the “off the record” mode, that allowed addressing the most sensitive questions.



The sharpest issues of the discussions concerned anti-corruption measures of the government, Minsk negotiation process, the split between President and Prime Minister, possibility of the early parliamentary elections.

First Deputy Minister of the Interior

Affairs **Eka Zguladze** provided extensive observation of the reform of Law Enforcement system and creating National Police Forces. Deputy Head of President’s Administration of Ukraine **R. Pavlenko** and Head of the Department of European Integration **I. Zhovkva** shed the light on the process of decentralization, constitutional reform and adaptation to the European standards according to DCFTA. Deputy Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council **O. Lytvynenko** elaborated on military capacities of Ukraine and specific threats it faces from the Russian side. Ukraine’s envoy to the Trilateral Contact Group’s sub-working group on political issues in Minsk peace talks, **R. Bezsmertniy**, elaborated on the progress/regress of negotiations, gave the evaluation of the positions and conduct of so-called D/LPR representatives, described general situation in the territories currently uncontrolled by Ukraine.

In parallel with IWP, **Centre UA** has been focusing its activities on strengthening and popularization of the governance control mechanisms. At the end of the 2015, NGO accomplished its project “**Honest Local Councils**”. The main activities of this Project concentrated on three interconnected components: **CHESNO, Stronger Communities of Donetsk Region and Access to Truth campaigns**. The Project was implemented before, during and after local elections in Ukraine and focused on raising awareness on transparency and accountability of local government.



Specifically, on October 4, team members presented the work of the Centre UA on the festival of social innovations *Ucrazyans* supported by Pact. The events took place in [Zaporizhya](#) and [Chernivtsi](#). During the festival, the visitors had the possibility to know more about the work of Civic movement CHESNO, Access to the Truth project, International Contest “Stop Censorship! Citizens for free countries” and “Stronger Communities of Donetsk

Region”. In addition, representatives of the project conducted the series of workshops and master-classes in art-activism.

In addition, this month activists of Centre UA and RPR media group distributed [infographics](#) among the Members of Parliament with a call to adopt the **draft law #2913**. This bill widens the authority of the existing law “**On Access to public information**”. In support of the law draft, Centre UA prepared and published number of publications. Simultaneously, Centre UA presented [the new and improved](#) web site “**Access to the Truth**”. During the presentation Lesya Ganja, web-site’s Editor in chief demonstrated the updated design and new functions of the web site to more than 30 attendees -- journalists, civic activists, and representatives of donor community. The first article of the series [“Будинок зі зміями: унікальний і занедбаний”](#) has been published on the web-site Access to the Truth on November 5. The initiative’s aim was to reveal the true owners of the buildings and to draw the attention of the Kyiv community to the cases of corruption in estate sphere. The initiative has been supported by activists and a number of initiatives that work in the sphere of urbanism, e.g. “*Khmarochos*” in order to attract volunteers to work on the investigations and inform the wider community about this topic.

In order to make corruption in Ukraine visible through collecting anticorruption investigations of the most reputable journalists, CHESNO with its partners from Media Law Institute launched a new tool – the [Catalogue of Anticorruption Investigations` Figures](#). It was presented to the public and media in December 2015. It contains information about the persons in power involved in corruption. CHESNO activists expect the Catalogue to become a source of information for the law-enforcement bodies.

On the International Day against Impunity (November 23) members of the working group called “**Group of September 16**” hold a meeting in order to discuss the issues of protection of journalists’ rights and freedom of speech in Ukraine. The meeting took place at Presidential Administration of Ukraine. During the session, representatives of the Ministry of International Affairs, the Prosecutor’s General Office of Ukraine reported on the process of investigation on violations of journalist’s rights.

In the framework of **Access to the Truth** project, two round tables “Information request. The rules of communication between the community and the power” took place in [Chernivtsi and Lviv on December 3-4](#). The purpose of these events was to inform citizens, local activists and journalists about the Law of Ukraine “On access to public information” and present the web-

site Access to the Truth. Among the attendees were representatives of the local city councils. During the discussion, activists described the main problems they face while sending information requests and had the possibility to discuss it with officials, who also attended the events.

In the framework of European Standards and Values monitoring and advocacy, Pact supports the project **“Human Rights for LGBT”** implemented by **AUCO “Fulcrum”** July 1, 2015 through June 1, 2016. The initiative is aimed at overcoming widespread homophobia and hate speech among the general population and increasing tolerance towards minorities (including LGBT community) through increased awareness of heterosexual population on LGBTI issues and increased openness of the LGBTI community.

The project comprises **big-scale communication campaign** targeted at a larger society, people with progressive attitude towards European values in order to enhance their awareness of the LGBT issues and increase tolerance towards sexual minorities. Aiming to boost project’s outreach, Fulcrum partnered Pro.Mova consulting firm to help the organization develop robust communication strategy for the campaign.



In the framework of the campaign Fulcrum releases quarterly **[Pride Ukraine magazine](#)** which touches upon the broad issues of human rights protection as well as advocacy of LGBT rights in Ukraine. The advocacy magazine is distributed in various public places, including restaurants, coffee-shops and libraries, and during civil society events. The magazine covers the interviews with the celebrities known for open

advocacy of LGBTI rights and equality such as Konchita Wurst, the winner of 2015 Eurovision, Svitlana Zhalishchuk, member of the Ukrainian parliament and journalist Anatolii Yarema.

Within the communication campaign Fulcrum developed **video programs “LGBT talk”** where the famous Ukrainian compere, journalist, interpreter and feminist Iryna Slavinska discusses human rights, equality, and LGBT issues with the guests of her studio. The first release of the program was featuring singer and civic activist Irena Karpa who, through her exemplary behavior, actively promotes the rights of the vulnerable, including people with disabilities and sexual minorities. Discussion with **[Irena Karpa](#)** touched upon the issues of perception of LGBTI people, equality, and human rights in Ukraine. The video is very popular and got over 3300 views on youtube as well as 275 views on LGBT Portal. LGBT talk with **[Maria Berlinska](#)** touched upon the crucial and timely issues of the involvement of LGBT people in ATO. **[Anatolii Yarema](#)**, a prominent journalist who made one of the first coming-outs in Ukraine raised the topics of countering discrimination and LGBT-censorship. LGBT talk with **[Ilyya Strongovskyi](#)**, Ukrainian designer and illustrator, creator of the brand “gay-banderivets” which brings together two seemingly opposing life-styles. 2 video-programs LGBT talk were planned to be released within UNITER award, Fulcrum produced 4 programs already.



Fulcrum quarterly releases [infographics](#) in order to present visual objective information and counter prejudices about LGBT community in Ukraine. This infographics inter alia, includes the so-called [“Dictionary of correct LGBT-terminology”](#) developed by Fulcrum in cooperation with the Institute of Mass Information to enlighten journalists and public figures about the usage of tolerant vocabulary in

covering LGBTI issues.

As part of their communication campaign, Fulcrum in cooperation with parent initiative TERGO engages hetero-sexual people, parents of the LGBT people, the closest to their children, to raise their voice for LGBT rights and inclusion. Fulcrum held two regional exhibitions in [Kharkiv](#) and [Kremenchuk](#) titled “Our Families” depicting personal stories of families with LGBTI children. The [documentary film](#) “Who is the Mom?” about the parents of homosexual children and how they perceive homosexuality of their loved ones.

To support and strengthen LGBTI community, Fulcrum holds regular community workshops titled [“Bla-Bla Café”](#) where members of the community learn about safe ways of safe coming-out, their rights and social integration techniques, as well as share their problems and concerns, experiences, life-hacks, and get a hand of support from other community members. The communication materials produced within the joint project with UNITER, supported advocacy activities of the organization on the national and the EU-level. Thus, Fulcrum was involved together with other partners in drafting and advocacy of National human rights strategy and amendments to the Labor Code that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. On the international arena Fulcrum held an active [communication campaign](#) devoted to Dutch referendum on EU-Ukraine and published analytical materials about LGBT rights in Ukraine on the EU sources, such as [EU observer](#).

Sub-Theme: support for people with disabilities:

Activity 1.1.2.a: Disability Advocacy Plan:

During FY15, Pact has developed a Disability Advocacy Plan for review and approval by USAID. The PWD Advocacy Plan presented and overview of the situation with rights of people with disabilities in Ukraine and outlines key developmental achievements and gaps. The plan also provided specific recommendations for the most efficient and effective strategies of supporting civil society work. Pursuant to the PWD Advocacy Plan, Pact interventions during FY16 focuses on mainstreaming PWD assistance in the larger Ukrainian civil society context from a human rights-based angle. As part of UNITER activity, civil society work is to focus on the following high-level objectives:

- Promote advocacy on the key issues;
- Ensure civic oversight on the implementation of the already existing policies;
- Raise awareness on the issues on special needs of people with disabilities through civic education and media campaigns.

Activity 1.1.2.b: PWD Advocacy Sub-awards:

On October 21, 2015 Pact [launched](#) a Call for Applications “Civil Society Initiatives to Promote the Rights of People with Disabilities” to support civic coalitions and initiatives in addressing disability issues through advocacy for promoting, protecting and ensuring social, economic and political inclusion of persons with disabilities in Ukraine. The objective of the call was to support civil society initiatives that:

- Support development of the wide sectoral horizontal networks and coalitions that engage civil society, media, business and other organizations and activists focusing on promoting rights of people with disabilities.
- Educate, communicate and mobilize the demand for policy implementation or change;
- Promote reform agenda that represents interests and needs of persons with disabilities;
- Promote legislative change for harmonization with EU standards;
- Promote legislative change to ensure non-discrimination of women with disabilities.

Pact received 34 applications from NGOs throughout Ukraine and following a two-stage selection process by the evaluation committee composed of Pact UNITER, Pact RESPOND, IFES, FAIR Justice Project and OECD/ACN representatives, Pact has awarded three sub-awards from this pool.

Human Rights Foundation (HRF) implements the project “Pilot Human Rights Advocacy Program of Internally Displaced People with Disabilities (IDPDs) in Ukraine”. In the framework of the current project, HRF works on enhancing capacities of IDPDs and their grass-root communities to effectively communicate and advocate their rights protection; mobilize their efforts in the relevant policy change and livelihood opportunities improvement. The project activities are targeting four Ukrainian regions including Vinnytsya, Kharkiv, Luhansk and Donetsk, which have the highest population density of IDPDs.



On February 25-28, 2016 HRF held Advocacy Training of Trainers in Vinnytsya: IDPDs improved their knowledge in advocacy and public campaigning/lobbying and socio-economic rights protection. This activity aimed at establishment of solid networking among project partners in 4 regions and development of tangible action plans for further advocacy campaigns by IDPD leaders at home regions. Several sessions of the ToT were conducted by representatives of the project partner organisations [Abilis Foundation](#) and [Threshold Foundation](#) (Finland): Kalle Könkkölä, Executive Officer of Disabled People’s International (DPI), Vice-President of the Finnish Disability Forum, Chair of the Abilis Foundation, and Lisa Murto, a lawyer from Threshold Foundation. As part of the ToT a round table on active advocacy was held for project participants and the media on engagement of IDPDs into local community life.

In March 2016 Human Rights Foundation together with local partners conducted 4 regional seminars in Kharkiv, Vinnytsya, Bilytske (Donetsk Oblast) and Severodonetsk (Luhansk Oblast). The topics of the regional seminars were selected based on the needs and specifics of project participants in the four regions, and included public engagement, overview of PWD rights, writing litigation appeals, social media advocacy, street action design, development of advocacy proposals and action plans, and advocacy opportunities for IDPDs at the local level. The seminars were followed by round tables on active advocacy for local authorities and IDPD activists and campaigners.

As part of the project, HRF partner in Vinnytsya NGO Harmonia held a street action dedicated to IDPDs integration in local communities. The street action was aimed at raising awareness about IDPDs with special needs in the city and called local residents and authorities to support their social inclusion in the new home.



NGO Initiative E+ implements the project “See the Hope” to advocate for social inclusion of visually impaired residents of Kyiv city and oblast in order to empower them as full-fledged members of the society, ensure their rights protection and introduce EU standards of inclusiveness in society. As part of this project, Initiative E+ works with direct project beneficiaries – visually impaired persons – to develop their skills needed to integrate into the modern globalized society. The project includes a needs assessment component aimed at identifying the key areas

of intervention of the local authorities for countering social exclusion of project targets. Initiative E+ collaborates with School of Social Work at Kyiv-Mohyla Academy on design and preparation of the needs assessment survey. Based on the needs assessment, Initiative E+ will develop recommendations for Kyiv City Hall for targeted improvement of city infrastructure promoting overarching integration of project beneficiaries into social, economic, and political life of the society. The project started in February with selection of participants for four types of trainings: Sensor Gadgets, Navigation with Cane, Computer Literacy and Running Club and procurement of the necessary training devices. The trainings are conducted on peer-to-peer basis by visually impaired trainers. In March E+ conducted the first round of trainings on computer literacy, sensor devices (smartphone and tablet use) and navigation with cane. Trainings of the Running Club have also started and are ongoing. The project actively and successfully involves business companies under Corporate Social Responsibility programs to provide technical and other assistance for the project: e.g. Kyivstar has already supplied free 3G internet access for sensor and computer literacy trainings, Microsoft provided free licensed Microsoft Office for computer literacy classes, and several sportswear companies – Saucony, New Balance and 2XU have committed to provide sports gear and wear for the Running Club.



NGO Donbass Democratic Development Agency implements the project "We are All Equal: Protection of Rights of IDPs with Disabilities in Donetsk Region". The action addresses social exclusion of IDPDs who regularly face the lack of therapeutic and infrastructure facilities, employment opportunities, and poor living conditions failing to meet their specific needs. With the aim of enhancing inclusiveness of IDPDs in the project target cities, Kramatorsk and Slovyansk (the highest density of IDP population), the project will advocate for local policy changes in IDPD rights protection as well as for introduction of inclusive urban architecture in project target cities. The project started on March 1, 2016 and is in its inception phase.

Theme 2: Governmental accountability and anti-corruption

Area 1 Support for Anti-corruption Reform

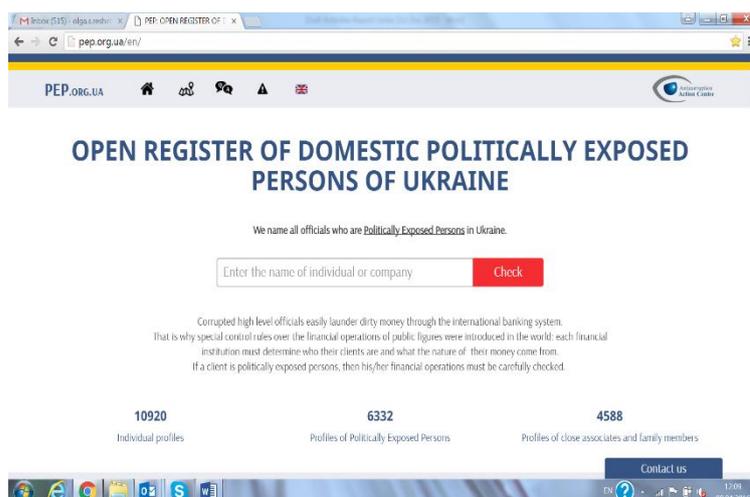
Pact promotes anti-corruption reform by strengthening citizens' role in advocacy, implementation and monitoring of the legislation. In FY16 Pact supports NGOs and coalitions – such as the Anti-Corruption Working Group of the Reform Package Reanimation coalition – that are working in anti-corruption reform through performance-based sub-award mechanisms, technical assistance and facilitated engagement of various stakeholders in the reform process.

Activity 1.2.1.a Sub-awards for Anti-corruption Advocacy and Monitoring

The **Anticorruption Action Centre** continues its fact-based civic control and advocacy for the adoption and implementation of anti-corruption reform in Ukraine. In October 2015, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted in the first reading three bills on tracing, arrest and management of the proceeds of corruption. They included bills [#2540a](#) which allows prosecutor to arrest property at the stage when there is no suspect and property is in the possession of the third (fake) natural or legal persons, bill [#2541a](#) concerning fake owners of criminal assets which broadens use of special confiscation of criminal assets to all intentional crimes, and bill [#3040](#), which envisages establishment of Asset Recovery Office. During the consideration of the above-mentioned bills, Members of the Parliament commented and criticized the bills in a way that distorted understanding of the real mechanisms foreseen in the draft bills. Hence, on October 30, 2015 the Anti-Corruption Action Centre, Deputy Minister of Justice, Anton Yanchuk, and Deputy Prosecutor General, Vitaliy Kasko held a [joint press-breakfast](#) for the journalists to clarify details of the improved mechanisms of tracing, arrest and management of the proceeds of corruption.

With respect to the establishment of the Asset Recovery Office, a long-term advocacy campaign was conducted by AntAC. The bill, passed in November, deprives the Agency from the power to manage seized property, as well as to sell and/or transfer it if needed. Consequently, AntAC continued the advocacy campaign, and in 18 February 2016, Verkhovna Rada passed a [Law #4054](#) on seizure and confiscation of proceeds of crime and a [Law #4056](#) on Asset Recovery Office, which were adopted to repair significant drawbacks introduced by Parliament in November 2015. With the newly adopted changes it will be possible to seize assets, which are likely proceeds of crime, at early stages of investigations, and even if they have been transferred to third parties. Simultaneously, the new laws provide strong guarantees for third parties to protect their constitutional property rights. In addition, parliament empowered the Asset Recovery Office with proper rights of management of seized and confiscated assets.

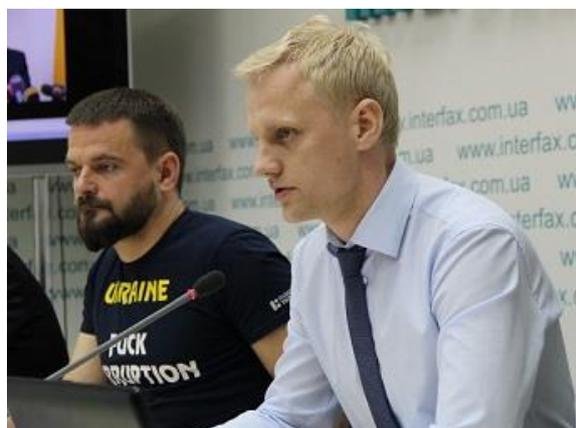
Since the official launch of the [PEPs](#) (public figures) database and its public presentations to banking employees, AntAc's team received informal requests from 4 banks about clarifying information on PEPs – thanks to the Database banking employees identified PEPs in their clients' systems. Database currently consists of 10 920 private individuals, 6,332 profiles of publicly exposed persons and 4,588 profiles of people closely associated with them. Currently AntAc integrates declarations of PEPs, which will facilitate monitoring of PEPs' incomes for journalists and other investigators. AntAC team continues to monitor key journalistic investigations on the presence of evidence for an association between officials - PEPs and other individuals.



On 26 February 2016 AntAC presented the database at the international conference organized by Austrian National Bank in Vienna. The organization believes, that the international banks are the primary target audience of the database, which is especially true for Austrian banks as some of the Ukrainian publicly exposed persons keep accounts there. In March the database was also presented to Ukrainian journalistic community.

AntAc admits a number of positive changes in the rules and procedures, as well as legislation, which regulate open access to a number of state registries. These changes were possible because of productive political dialogue with key stakeholders, led by AntAC team. In addition to non-public negotiations with the Ministry, MPs and media, AntAC initiated hearings in the Anticorruption Committee of Verhovna Rada, where Minister of Justice Pavlo Petrenko presented new search functions of the Registry of owners of immovable property. Later all functions were fully implemented in Business and Property registries. These changes gave birth to a new investigative genre and empowered civil society with a new tool for assessment of political integrity. For example, a new service – [helpus.watch](#) - was launched for the volunteers, who take part in assessment of new local prosecutors. Above all, these initiatives aimed to open information if the civil servants ownership.

On October 6, the law, which [opens information on land ownership](#), has come into force. The

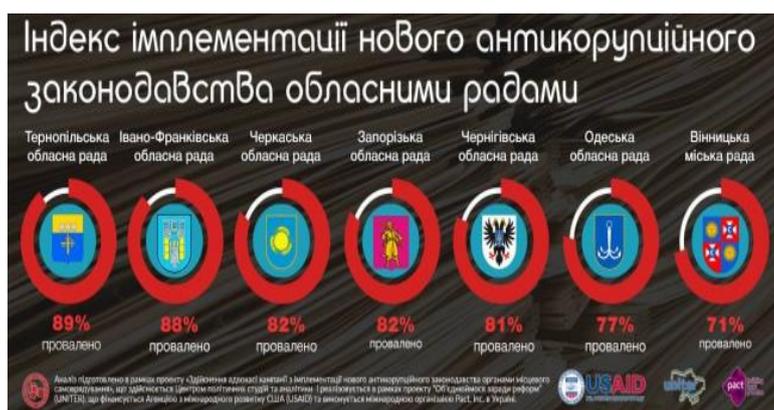


adoption of the law was lobbied by AntAC and partners in July 2015. Number of media investigations on the property and land ownership of high rank officials was published within the first week after the opening of the registry. They include investigation on the owners of the [prestigious houses](#) on Obolon waterfront including companies controlled by Medvedchuk and Yanukovich; [land donated](#) to 19-year-old son of the head of the airport "Boryspil", as well as [Kyiv real estate](#) of the leaders of Lugansk terrorists.

To ensure transparent procedure on forming of special Anti-corruption office for NABU AntAC conducted advocacy campaign. After a year of battle, on December 30, 2015 main Anti-Corruption Prosecutor [was chosen](#). Vitaliy Shabunin, Chairman of the Board of the Anti-Corruption Action Center and a Parliament's delegates to the Selection Commission comments: "... *The Anti-Corruption Action Center participated in drafting of the law on specialized prosecutor's office, lobbied regulations, which enable decent salaries and independence for the Specialized Prosecutor's Office, and blocked amendments of the BPP fraction that could create corruption risks in this body. We also participated in the Selection Committee formation, as well as in the process of selection itself. There still remains risk of appointment of Deputies who are dependent from the President and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.*"

During the reporting period, the **Centre for Political Studies and Analysis (CPSA)** continued supporting the work of civic oversight coalition "Transparent Councils" on the advocacy of incorporation of the norms of new anti-corruption legislation into the standing rules of local authorities of Odeska, Zaporizka, Ivano-Frankivska, Vinnytska and Chernihivska oblasts. In October, the Coalition continued receiving replies from the local authorities, to which they have previously sent the recommendations. The majority of the replies expressed the unwillingness to make changes to the standing rules before the local elections.

In order to ensure the compliance of the standing rules to recommendations after the local elections, the Coalition "Transparent Councils" in cooperation with the movement "Honestly" tracked the political parties, which would participate in them, for addressing them with the request to sign the Memoranda, thus pledging to advocate for inclusion of recommendations into standing rules after the elections. The activists got in touch with 260 regional and city centers of political parties and as a result, 115 Memoranda were signed.



In October the second stage of the advocacy campaign began, aimed at drawing the attention of journalists and the public to the problem of [non-compliance of legal acts of local government](#) with requirements of applicable anti-corruption laws. In order to ensure information pressure on political parties, press conferences were held in 16 cities of Ukraine, presenting the opportunities which will open for the citizens and journalists after adoption of new standing rules, the essential recommendations of the Coalition, which need to be taken into account, the lists of parties which have signed the Memoranda and the further plans of the Coalition. Also a series of topical articles was developed dedicated to the gender composition of the newly elected local councils, violation of rights of citizens to participate in council meetings, the right for getting access to all councils' decisions, including the projects of new standing rules, involvement of the members of the Coalition "Transparent Councils" in the working groups for development of draft standing rules of the councils, among other issues. In addition to the articles, a video was disseminated in social networks, motivating citizens to exercise their rights and thereby control the power.

In order to inform the public about the project activities, the members of the Coalition took part in a series of public events, presenting the methodology for analysis of legal acts and emphasizing the need for full transparency of work of local councils and adoption of proposed recommendations to standing rules. During all the events the infographics was disseminated, on the parties which have signed the Memoranda.

On 24 March 2016, the Coalition “Transparent Councils” held a [round-table](#) summarizing the results of the work of the Coalition so far.

The event united the members of the Coalition in all oblasts, the representatives of parties, which have signed the Memoranda and support the work of the Coalition, representatives of Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights and the representatives of the Association of Ukrainian Cities, Ukrainian Association of District and Regional Councils and Association of Small Cities of Ukraine. The results presented by the members of the Coalition demonstrate that, since the



beginning of the project, the level of transparency of local administrations has increased by 32% on average. In Vinnytska oblast, the level of implementation of anti-corruption norms into the standing rules has increased by 37%, in Chernihivska oblast – by 37%, in Odeska oblast – by 36%, in Ivano-Frankivska oblast – by 34% and in Zaporizka oblast – by 25%. Vinnytska Oblast Administration has become the leader for incorporation of anti-corruption norms as it included all proposed recommendations into new procedure rules. The project has particularly significant results for incorporation of the norms, relating to the law on access to public information. In particular, access to plenary sessions has increased by 53% for city administrations and by 71% for oblast administrations, the advanced publication of administrations’ decisions has increased by 55% for city administrations and by 43% for oblast administrations. Acknowledging, that there’s still a lot to be done, CPSA remarked that the project has created a good foundation for future work.

The project had a significant spill-over effect. Besides spreading the Coalitions’ activities to Cherkaska and Ternopilka oblasts, the Coalition receives requests for providing recommendations to administrations in other oblasts, so that they could improve their standing rules and become more transparent.

Transparency International Ukraine, together with the other members of the Coalition “Initiative 11”, developed the text of the [draft law](#) “On Protection of Whistleblowers and Information Disclosure in the public interest”, which covers the definition of a “whistleblower”, information disclosure channels, whistleblowers’ rights and guarantees of their protection, institutional mechanisms of whistleblowers’ rights protection, unified register of whistleblowers’ cases and provisions from other laws and regulations, concerning the establishment of a whistleblowers’ protection institution. The draft is currently being reviewed for conformity with the norms of Ukrainian legislation and is expected to be registered by the end of April 2016.

The visual information campaign continued and, during the reporting period a total of 652 billboards and city-lights were placed in major Ukrainian cities, depicting Ukrainian hryvnia bills with portraits of famous Ukrainian historical cultural leaders Taras Shevchenko, Lesia Ukrainka and Hryhoriy Skovoroda. This public service advertising has won the prestigious [Kakadu Awards](#) competition in the category 'Outdoor'. A [video on the necessity of whistleblowing](#) premiered in Multiplex Cinema on 1V, Chervonoarmiiska Street, Kyiv, on 8 October 2015. The video calls for acting and not just watching when witnessing corruption, urges to report corruption immediately and aims at fostering a positive attitude to whistleblowers. This video was broadcasted in 22 cinema halls of Multiplex Network throughout the country. In addition, this video was shown in the framework of the "Weekend of Best Public Service Advertising" at "Kinopanorama" cinema in Kyiv on 25-27 December 2015.



In November 2015, 2 videos (one for [women](#) and one for [men](#)) were developed, highlighting the necessity of voluntary whistleblowing and calling on not to keep silent about corruption. The videos were created taking into account gender sensitivity to the issue around bribery. The videos premiered on Hromaske TV and were broadcasted on 5 TV channels in January.

The videos contained references to the websites [xabardocs.org](#) and [anticorruption.in.ua](#), supported in the framework of the project, through which the whistleblowers can report about corruption. The resource [xabardocs.org](#) is specifically targeted at supporting the whistleblowers in the process of reporting corrupt practices; the website [anticorruption.in.ua](#) not only offers an opportunity for reporting corruption but also provides an option of consulting a lawyer and instructions on countering corruption in various particular instances in people's everyday life, such as medical treatment, obtaining birth and marriage certificates, property evaluation, among others. By the end of March, 128 legal consultations were provided through the website and 52 instructions for the whistleblowers were published. The most popular instructions shall become the basis for infographics in the last stage of the project.

Since October 231 people became whistleblowers through the online tools. Transparency International supported a number of whistleblowers' cases, creating pressure on the authorities for taking action:

- Pressure for taking action on the information, reported by the [judge of the Court of Appeal in Cherkasy region](#), who opposed the system and did not agree to pass illegal verdicts;
- Case of extortion by doctors of Romny Regional Hospital of Sumy region. Due to the support from Transparency International, the criminal case was opened;
- Case of illegal [land acquisition](#) by the people, having family ties with the prosecutor M. Ulmer. As a result of the activity of Transparency International, the intelligence was included into the Unified Registry of Pre-Court Investigations;
- Case of numerous instances of trading humanitarian assistance by the [Ukrainian Red Cross Society \(KCO URCS\)](#), reported by whistleblowers. As a result of a long-term pressure on law enforcement agencies by Transparency International and following

the internal audit, the Head of the organization, N. Guseva was dismissed. Later at the board meeting of KCO URCS the Head of Solomianska regional organization was also dismissed. At the same time the Head of the Pechersk regional organization filed a letter of resignation.

In order to draw more attention to importance of reporting on corruption and attract more public attention to available online tools for doing this, Transparency International together with Ukrainian State Enterprise of Posts (USEP) UkrPoshta, launched a campaign ‘Report the Most Painful Corruption Problem!’, asking people to report the most outrageous corruption case, known to them. The organization analyzed the information, received through Facebook, e-mail and website, and, on 9 December 2015, International Anti-Corruption Day, [top-10 most painful corruption cases](#) were sent to the authorities in a special envelope marked “Not for bribes”. The top 10 problems, identified by Ukrainians included corruption in educational institutions, land privatization and allocation, charitable contributions in hospitals, fees for free services, Corruption in the process of conscription to military commissariat, extra charges for obtaining international passports, corruption in housing and utilities services, corruption in courts and from the side of law enforcement officials, corruption while border crossing in the ATO Zone and corruption of tax authorities and customs.

In addition to continuous collection of information from whistleblowers and students about corruption in universities, a [Ukrainian Offline Forum of Students “Students against corruption: effective practices”](#) was held on 28 November 2015 at the National Pedagogical Drahomanov University in Kyiv. During the Forum, 37 students learnt about effective corruption disclosure practices and exchanged their own successful experience of fighting corruption in their own educational institutions across Ukraine. For example, the representatives of the students’ union of the Institute of Political Studies and Law of the National Pedagogical Dragomanov University, spoke about their successful cases. Student activists from the Bogomolets National Medical University spoke about total corruption in the university. A student from Zaporizhzhya National University shared his experience in making the problem of corruption in universities public via Internet and then negotiating the problem with the university administration.



On 21 October 2015 Transparency International Ukraine in cooperation with Zaporizhzhia regional NGO "People's protection" held the [second public discussion](#) in Zaporizhzhia on the means of corruption disclosure and opportunities for civil society to counteract corruption ‘How to effectively disclose corruption and jail a corrupt official?’. The public discussion consisted of two thematic blocks: an expert discussion on the aspects of new anticorruption legislation and opportunities for citizens with the participation of known national experts and a workshop session on corruption disclosure. On 26 January 2016 the [third public discussion](#) was held in Khmelnytskyi, focusing on new anti-corruption legislation and new possibilities for whistleblowers’ protection, whistleblowers’ cases and use of open state registers. Also, on 19 January 2016 Transparency International delivered a [free public webinar](#) on protection of

whistleblowers and ways to report corruption. Overall, 169 people took part in these educational events.

NGO “Nashi Groshi” works on maintenance and support of a website on which anticorruption investigations are published. In the framework of the project, supported by Pact UNITER, a network of public finances monitors and anti-corruption activists is maintained in the South Eastern oblasts of Ukraine, which produce journalism investigations of corruption cases in their regions. The website is one of the most popular anti-corruption news sources in the country, it has over 400 000 readers monthly.

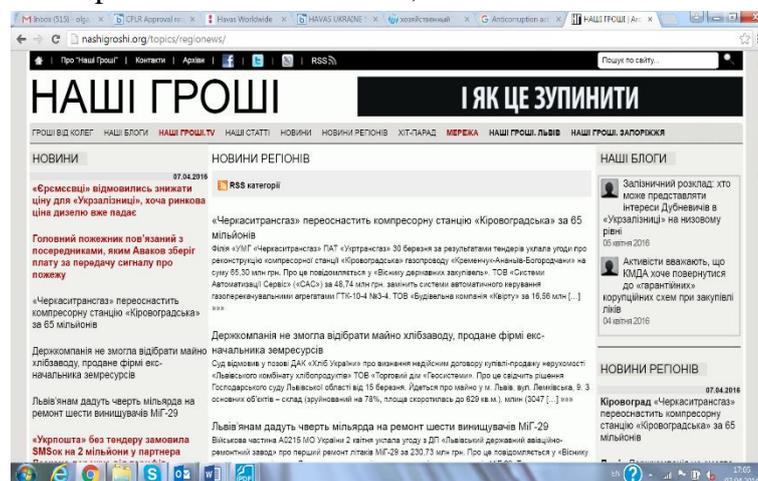
The regional coordinators are mentored by the representatives of the head office on a regular bases. They also receive intensive training in the issues related to investigative journalism and anti-corruption, including but not limited to collection of information and analysis of public procurement records, court decisions, work with various registers, communication with local decision-makers, law enforcement, cooperation with journalists and activists. In the reporting period, the trainings were provided to investigative journalists and local coordinators from Kirovohradska, Zaporizka, Khersonska oblasts and unoccupied territories of Donbas. Overall, during the reporting period over 350 news reports on corrupt practices were published as well as over 20 analytical articles.



During the period of anti-corruption monitoring 15 corruption schemes working in the regions were uncovered:

1. [Procurement frauds by “Kharkivoblenergo” joint stock company](#): the company, 65% shares of which are belonging to the state, has conducted 2 operations which could have allowed the management to steal 120 million hryvnias: purchase of 20 million in shares, the sale of which was prohibited by the regulator on the stock market and fake agreements with insurance agencies costing 100 million hryvnias. After the publication of the article by Nashi Groshi, the agreements with insurance agencies were cancelled and the court procedure was initiated by the company to appeal the legality of the purchase of shares.
2. [National park land plot parceling in Kharkivska oblast](#): according to the resolution of Zmiivska District State Administration, 28 land plots close to the national park were provided to the citizens having close relations to the head of administration. After the publication of the investigation, the resolution was cancelled by the head of Kharkiv Oblast State Administration.
3. [Sack of the local budget money on Kharkiv parking lots](#): although “Kharkivparkservice” is a municipal enterprise, which holds a monopoly for parking in the city, the money is collected by private entrepreneurs. As a result, the local budget is losing 17 million hryvnia per year.
4. [Conflict of interest in Zaporizhzhia airport](#): the ground handling services in Zaporizhzhia airport are monopolized by three firms, which are owned by the relatives of a former and acting directors of the airport. After the publication of the article, however, the representatives of the city administration decided that there are no grounds for regarding this case as corruption.

5. [Corrupt tender in the port of Kherson](#): the winner of the tender for purchase of a bucket loader for the Sea Trade Port of Kherson and the firms' only competitor at the tender procedure were at different times owned by the same person. As a result of the publication of the article, the new director of the port cancelled the tender.
6. [Illegal land acquisition in Kirovohrad](#): the land in the center of Kirovohrad was allocated by to the company owned by Tabalov family, among the members of which are a deputy mayor and a former MP.
7. [Kharkiv City Administration sold real estate to Kernes's partner at half price](#): Kharkiv City Administration sold real estate to an organization, the head of which is a partner of Gennadiy Kernes, at half price of the real estate needing structural repairs in the neighborhood. The case is currently been reviewed by the deputies.
8. [Violation of procurement procedures in Kharkiv universities](#): the case of the majority Kharkiv universities which did not hold tenders for procurement of construction services. After the publication of the article, the criminal proceedings were initiated by Kharkiv police.
9. [Cheap sale of land and property to the relatives of the members of Kirovohrad City Administration](#): before the autumn elections, Kirovohrad City Administration was selling land and property. Often it was sold to the relatives of the members of the administration, at times, at rates 20 times below the real market price.
10. [Violation of procurement procedures by Kharkiv University of Internal Affairs](#): the winner of the tender for provision of fuel briquettes to Kharkiv University of Internal Affairs not only overpriced his services by 20%, but was also a co-owner of a competing firm in the tender procedure. As a result of the publication of the article, the tender was cancelled.
11. [Conflict of interest in the tender in Kirovohrad](#): the investigation of Nashi Groshi revealed that the owners of the firms, participating in the tender of a municipal enterprise "Dnipro-Kirovohrad" for purchase of water cleaning chemicals were related to each other. As a result of the publication of the article, the director of the enterprise announced, that the tender was postponed until thorough check of the participants.
12. [Fake competition between participants of the tender for building underpasses in Kharkiv](#): the investigation of Nashi Groshi revealed that participants of the tender of municipal enterprise "Pidzemne misto" for building underpasses can be closely related. The Anti-Monopoly Committee of Kharkiv oblast has opened a relevant investigation.
13. [Selective purchase of coal by the educators from Kherson](#): the municipal institution "Financial General Service Group for Educational Establishments" has selected a winner of the tender for coal purchase with a dubious reputation and offering a higher price than its competitor.
14. [Mistakes in the declarations of public servants and MPs](#): the monitors of Nashi Groshi found mistakes in 15 declaration of civil servants and MPs. After the publication of the articles, some of the mistakes were corrected by their owners.



15. [Corruption in Kharkiv subway](#): municipal enterprise “Kharkiv metropolitan” has violated procurement procedures by contracting a firm of Gennadiy Kerner’s deputy for fire alarm services instead of selecting another proposal which was four times cheaper. Anti-Corruption Action Centre is appealing the tender procedure based on the publication by Nashi Groshi.

To provide methodological and legal support to the anti-corruption activists – with participation of lead UNITER partners, including **Center UA, MLI, AntAC, and TI Ukraine** – form the **coalition of Initiative11**, with the goal [to define and refine those efficient legal guarantees, which are expected to protect whistleblowers in Ukraine.](#)



As Ombudsman office expressed its readiness to contribute to elaborating relevant **Draft Law, the Media Law Institute (MLI)** team prepared and provided the research on the foreign law and practice in area of whistleblower protection to Ombudsperson Representative for considering and analyzing.

In order to include the viable mechanism of legal protection of whistleblowers into the Bill, members of Initiative 11 convened several working meetings with stakeholders concerned by the matter.

For supporting the Bill registration in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and wider, MLI team got a finalized advocacy plan of the Bill including the PR-steps to handle.

With a view to raise awareness on the whistleblowers and their stories, MLI released a series of case-study posts on “How a whistleblower would be protected be there a comprehensive law on Whistleblower Protection in Ukraine”, published on FB page of the [Initiative 11](#).

Besides, in order to make corruption in Ukraine visible through collecting anti-corruption investigations of the most reputable journalists, MLI with its partners within the Movement CHESNO launched a new tool – the [Catalogue of Anticorruption Investigations’ Figures](#). It was presented to the public and media in December 2015. It contains information about the persons in power involved in corruption. CHESNO activists expect the Catalogue to become a source of information for the law-enforcement bodies.

Activity 1.2.1.b: Sub-award to conduct national anti-corruption household survey

The anti-corruption household survey is USAID’s own strategic polling to provide time series data on corruption perception and experiences in Ukraine. The survey followed a standard questionnaire developed by USAID during managing its Millennium Challenge Corporation threshold project in 2008-2009. One of the survey’s uniqueness and main characteristics is that – unlike the standard sample size of approximately 2,000 respondents – it is representative of all of Ukraine’s oblasts, thanks to its large (over 10,000 respondents) sample size.

This polling Pact conducted with the assistance of the Kyiv Institute of International Sociology not only gave another in-depth insight to the state of affairs in transparency and corruption in Ukraine, it has also directly complemented the GoU and UNITER civil society partners' national advocacy efforts to jointly address the endemic problems of bribery and favoritism.

By gauging Ukrainians' experience and perception of corruption in the country, the survey is the base of a joint GoU – Ukrainian CSO nationwide national civic education and media campaigning to push reforms further in most problematic policy and/or geographic areas.

For [the recent wave of the survey](#), KIIS partnered with an international strategic polling and campaign design organization Lake Research Partners (*hereinafter referred to as LRP*) to assist KIIS in the capacity of the technical assistance provider and in particular to conduct the following:

- Review the questionnaire design;
- Assist sample design;
- Strengthen data analysis after the data is collected;
- Develop messages for communication and assist in communicating results to the international audiences

KIIS, after receiving strategic communication advice from LRP, communicated the results of the survey to the public across Ukraine. But first, [Pact, the GoU's Reform Council, several international players and civil society partners organized one of Ukraine's largest anti-corruption forum](#) in Kyiv in mid-November, 2015. The event hosted the highest levels of the GoU, par excellence anti-corruption thinkers, activists, and attracted the attention of virtually the entire country. **It was [the largest anti-corruption conference in Ukraine](#)**, bringing together 900+ guests to discuss most pertinent aspects of Ukraine's "second front" – the fight against corruption. The conference became a discussion panel for looking beyond the new legislation and emerging institutions into actual preventive and investigative work.

In addition, as part of nation-wide roll-out, KIIS organized central press-conference in Kyiv where study results was presented to major stakeholders (parliament and government members, civil society, experts, media, and all interested public). As well, KIIS organized press-conferences in regional centers of Ukraine (Lviv, Odessa, Kharkiv, Uzhgorod) where general and the region-specific data were presented to the major local stakeholders (regional / local government members, civil society, experts, and media). Finally, KIIS produced a variety of publications and public appearances – each with eye towards awareness raising and raising citizens interest in direct participation and engagement against corrupt practices.

Activity 1.2.1.c: Workshops for targeted technical training to sub-recipients

In order to strengthen their research and data collection capacities for robust and impactful program design, Pact's technical assistance in FY16 meant a set of intensive training workshops to its partners on Applied Political-Economy Analysis. **On 17-18 February 2016 Pact hosted a [training in Applied Political Economy Analysis \(APEA\)](#)** for its partners and grantees. The training was conducted by Pact's Global Governance Director, [Marc Cassidy](#), who spearheads the development of Pact's APEA manual, training materials and is mainstreaming the methodology across program sectors. Marc is Pact's "APEA guru", a recognized advisor to USAID's APEA efforts as well.

Designed to serve the Pact value of local solutions, the APEA approach is a methodology for conducting contextual analysis at the project-level. Following an introductory overview of APEA methodology of “thinking and working politically and doing development differently”, Pact workshop participants practiced at developing their own research scopes of work (SOWs), and presented them for trainers’ and colleagues’ feedback. Pact partners were encouraged to integrate the APEA approach into their programmatic activities in order to further empower pro-reform movement for the better future of Ukraine.

APEA training participant, **Yegor Poliakov**, an editor of Anticorruption Data Catalogue at **Centre UA|CHESNO Movement**, shared his opinion about the training and how it was useful for his and the organization’s work:

“Back at Centre UA we have explained to the team what APEA is and how we can use it. There is high probability that at least two elements of APEA – finding the right questions and stakeholder analysis – will become a regular part of planning and brainstorming at Centre UA. The best thing about APEA is that it constantly keeps focus on core questions. Another important aspect is that APEA makes you scale everything from a level of a problem to stakeholders and resources. As for the training itself, it was a well-organized, pleasant and useful meeting: helpful skills gained, new likeable people found.”

And while Marc in Kyiv, Pact conducted negotiations with [VoxUkraine](#) for signing a service contract about utilization of Pact’s APEA to examine how national (Kyiv) and subnational (regions) civil society groups engage in anti-corruption (AC) reforms in Ukraine. The **chief goal** of this initiative is to provide an evidence base for further support strategies to national and subnational CSOs engaged in AC reforms. VoxUkraine’s researchers also participated in the February training Pact hosted for its partners and grantees.



In spring 2016 VoxUkraine will undertake interviews with governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in selected regions and Kiev; carry out Focus Group activities as well as conduct Network Analysis for APEA to show linkages between CSOs on AC reform activities.

Area 2 Support for Constitutional Reform:

Activity 1.2.2.a: Constitutional Reform Sub-awards

During the reporting period, Pact signed the agreement with the **Centre of Policy and Legal Reform (CPLR)** for the project “Strengthening the role of civil society in constitution-building through conducting the informational campaign”. The project aims at raising the gravitas of the Constitution, increasing the public awareness about the essence of the Constitution and necessary constitutional changes. In November-December 2015, the project team, in consultation with experts in PR and communication, has developed a branding identity of the campaign: the name “**ConstitutiON**”, logo, with a blue key and a slogan “*Costitution is a Key to the Country’s Success*”. The subsequently developed Communication Strategy included the analysis of the target audience of the campaign, identification of key messages, preferences for information channels and presenting opinion leaders as well an action plan for the activities of the campaign.

The campaign was [presented](#) to the donor and journalists’ community at MediaHub on 22 January 2015, Ukraine’s Unity Day. The goal of the presentation was to enlist the support of the national media and international community for the campaign. The panelists spoke about the role of civil society in monitoring of the constitutional reform, of



unification of efforts with the media for highlighting the achievements of the reform: Experts Ihor Koliushko and Volodymyr Shapoval presented the content of the changes to the Constitution with respect to the power triangle, the draft of which is being developed in the framework of the project; Ihor Koliushko also spoke briefly on the constitutional changes in the sphere of decentralization, while Roman Kuibida outlined the main aspects of the reform in the judiciary. Communication experts Tatiana Pechonchyk and Artem Sokolenko presented the communication strategies and talked about the press conferences and trainings, envisioned in the framework of the project and highlighted the opportunities for cooperation and synergy of efforts.



and decentralization. After each press conference, the experts take part in the TV-shows on local TV channels, they record 3-4 shows on average in each city, explaining the proposed

In order to explain the constitutional changes to the public in the regions, the project team is organizing press conferences in the regions with constitutional law experts. To date, the press conferences were held in Zhytomyr, Odesa, Lviv, Kharkiv, Khmelnytskyi, Chernihiv, Poltava, Vinnytsia, Lutsk, Rivne and Cherkasy. The press conferences focused on the changes in the spheres of justice

changes to the Constitution, speaking about the goals of the campaign and necessity to study the Constitution.

Apart from the regional TV shows and articles, developed by press conference participants, the experts of the project take part in at least 1 TV show on the national TV per month, speaking about the campaign and importance of the Constitution in the life of each citizen. The regular analytical notes are also developed by the project team in English and Ukrainian for dissemination among the international organization, embassies, CSOs and authorities, highlighting the current progress in the sphere of the constitutional reform.

On 25 February 2016 Centre of Policy and Legal Reform has conducted a [training for regional journalists](#) on the content of the constitutional reform and best practices of its coverage. The event was held in Reanimation Package of Reforms Office. Overall, 20 journalists from 15 regions took part in the training. The agenda of the training “Constitutional Reform: Current Pressing Issues” consisted of theoretical sessions on the Constitution as a social contract, decentralization and reform in the judiciary as well as Q&A sessions for each topic. Apart from the theoretical sessions, there were also two practical sessions on blogging about the Constitution and methods of coverage of constitutional processes. During the practical sessions, the issues of sources selection and verification were also covered. The event concluded with a simulation of a press briefing with the experts.

After the press briefing each expert nominated the best question from the journalists to receive an award – T-shirt with the logo of “ConstitutiON” information campaign. Volodymyr Moroz from Ternopil newspaper RIA+ won a competition, as he gained 2 points – asked 2 questions, nominated by different experts.

With a goal of engaging the younger generation into thinking about the Constitution, CPLR has organized a [student essay competition](#) “Where am I and where is Constitution?”. The competition has ended on 15 March 2016 and currently the jury is selecting the winners. Overall, 32 essays have been submitted for the competition from the students of 20 universities from different regions of Ukraine. The jury consists of prominent experts in constitutional reform and includes Ihor Koliushko, Mykola Khavroniuk, Dmytro Kalmykov, Roman Kuibida, Oleksandr Banchuk and Yulia Kyrychenko. The essays are being evaluated against the following criteria: lack of plagiarism, innovation (creativity), persuasiveness and sufficient argumentation, references to foreign sources (except for Russian ones), language (consistency and clarity of presentation, lack of grammatical errors).

In order to provide more detailed information about the progress of the constitutional reform and inform both national NGO and international expert community about the new developments in constitution-building process, CPLR produces regular [analytical briefs](#) in English and Ukrainian providing detailed information on all current developments in the sphere of the constitutional reform. The briefs are placed on CPLR and RPR websites and sent to the offices of international organizations, embassies and other relevant stakeholders.

CPLR experts are actively contributing to development of the projects of amendments to the Constitution of Ukraine. In the framework of the project a group of prominent experts: S. Holovaty, I. Koliushko, M. Koziubra, Y. Kyrychenko and V. Shapoval is working on the draft law on the reform of the form of governance. The project of the draft law is expected to be finalized in the beginning of April.

Activity 1.2.2.b: Workshops for targeted technical training to sub-recipients

Pact's most prominent direct capacity development to the Constitutional sub-awardee cohort, led by CPLR, is Pact's linking HAVAS – an international public relations company – to help effective Constitutional reform communication. Pact held two workshops in its and CPLR's office with HAVAS and RPR's Constitutional Reform working group in order to jointly devise a targeted citizen awareness campaign all throughout Ukraine. The campaign features a variety of people engagement mechanisms, including concerts, essay competitions and a new social network platform.

Area 3 Elections

Activity 1.2.3.a: Elections Sub-awards

Mercifully – for the stability of governance and, importantly!, for the focus on reforms, rather than political infighting – the first half of FY16 did not bring about snap national elections in the country. This is not to say that the FY did not feature milestone political events to date. A general local level elections were held and indeed a major government crisis, including of an unsuccessful vote of no-confidence motion about the GoU in the RADA on 16 February 2016.

Undoubtedly, the most prominent electoral event of the FY was Ukraine's local council elections, featuring many of the newly established "Hromadas" – Ukraine's new territorial grass-roots level governance. Pact included in the multi-year/multi-purpose national advocacy awards several electoral process related activities. As well, in the fall of 2015, Pact issued an open call for sub-national civil society partners to address urgent voter education needs emanating in the run up to the October 2016 Ukrainian local elections.

In frames of campaign "*Honest Spring - Responsible Autumn*", **Center UA and the CHESNO Movement** launched the all-Ukrainian tour to reveal the facts of non-attendance of sessions and commissions by members of local city and district councils (so-called "skippers"). Using the right of access to public information and the duty of members of local councils to attend sessions and commissions of local city councils, CHESNO requested the data regarding local MPs attendance from the apparatuses of Local City Councils. CHESNO analyzed [2967 incumbents according to attendance criteria](#) and held the 10 press-conferences in [Zaporizhya](#), [Mykolaiv](#), [Uzhorod](#), [Rivne](#), [Kharkiv](#), [Chernihiv](#), [Poltava](#), [Ternopil](#), [Cherkasy](#), [Odessa](#), presented the results of analysis and encouraged citizens to vote smart.

On October 23, the final pre-election press conference was held. Regional team presented a renewed CHESNO website on [local elections](#) and updated information ([infographics](#)) on skippers in Rivne town council the press conference were attended by 12 journalists and representatives of NGO OPORA and Committee of Voters of Ukraine. After the event, three skippers [called into question](#) the presented results. On October 26, Vitalii Prymak took part in a [joint press conference](#) organized by CHESNO, OPORA and CVU. A 20-minute social [TV-program](#) "An Honest Autumn-2015" was aired on Rivne regional TV on October 22. It promoted the idea of the importance of local elections and conscious political choice. Between October 6 and October 15 regional team distributed 10 thousands "Nahiba nam deputat" ("Local MP: User Guide") flyers. In 20-24 of October, five thousands flyers were distributed at the info spot.

In January-March 2016, CHESNO activists have monitored performance of the local council members – 100 days of work by the deputies of Kyiv City Council – results of which were

[released](#) with qualitative and quantitative indicators for the civil society. This helped to raise the issue of expected performance of the local deputies, their adherence to the procedure rules, their liaisons, and concerns raised in appeals they submit to various state agencies.

In line with decentralization processes and with the purpose of increasing transparency and accountability of local government before and after local elections in October 2015, **Pact has supported four (out of 25 applicants) local NGOs to conduct pre- and post-election local campaigns, selected through an open competition.**

An information campaign *“Elections-Democracy-Ukraine”* aimed at *formation of democratic consciousness among the population of Donetsk and Lugansk regions* was implemented by *Donetsk Regional Organization of All-Ukrainian Public Organization “Committee of Voters of Ukraine”*. The importance of a democratic society for a stable and peaceful development of Donbass and Ukraine was emphasized within the campaign. Devoted to citizen participation in the local elections, the communication was based on the messages such as the contrasts like peace – war, democracy – chaos, fear – freedom, life-death, that could make inhabitants more aware what they are choosing as well as promote positive image of free and peaceful Ukraine.

In order to reach out to the diverse audiences, the organization managed to apply various channels and means of communication, namely:

- 2 editions of **the printed newspaper “Donbas Speaks”** were produced on the eve and after the first round of 2015 local election. CVU-Donetsk managed to distribute 150 000 copies of the newspaper throughout the liberated territories of Donetsk and Luhansk region (in comparison to the 100 000 copies planned).
- [5 types](#) of big boards were developed and 200 units in total placed in freed territories of Donetsk and Luhansk region.
- [2 videos](#) describing the election procedures and the benefits of effective democracies were developed and placed on the local channels and Internet media of Donetsk and Luhansk region;
- 10 Internet motivators (motivational cards) calling citizens of Donetsk region to participate in the election disseminated in the social networks and news portals;
- the organization used creative and memorable way to encourage local residents to go to the polls and use their constitutional right to vote in the local election designing and drawing [big graffiti](#) in the city of Mariupol in Donetsk region. The graffiti with a young girl, wearing national clothes called citizens to go to the polls as it will help secure our future.

CVU Donetsk performed very well in terms of mobilizing as partners local authorities who supported the organization with placing the social ads and local PR-companies who provided



assistance in developing best ideas and messages for the big boards. Thanks the UNITER-funded project CVU-Donetsk developed reliable partnerships for the future initiatives, including analytical center “Fabric of thoughts “Donbass”.

Given the voting turnout in Donbas, project was successful. Whereas at the

beginning of the project, the media and the local population the forecasted voter turnout to not more than 30%, significant change by the end of the project was for example, in Oleksandrovskiy and Konstantinovskiy district of Donetsk region where turnout exceeded 50%. In the majority of other cities and districts of the region it equaled 40% in the Luhansk region voter turnout exceeded 40% in seven of the 11 districts.

NGO “Public Service of Legal Assistance”

Over two months, NGO “Public Service of Legal Assistance” managed to deploy a broad information campaign titled “Your Voice Is Decisive!”, which covered 12 major towns of Donbas — Severodonetsk, Lysychansk, Rubizhne, Kreminna, Novoaidar, Svatove, Starobilsk, Slaviansk, Kramatorsk, Druzhkivka, Oleksandrivka, and Krasnyi Lyman. The project comprised successful media campaign in the local media and visual agitation campaign by means of billboards and city light boxes in these towns as well as citizen voter education and consultations.

In the framework of the project, UNITER grantee managed to mobilize **8 agitation teams** consisting of 5 members each (40 persons in total). The work of the teams was to provide voter consultations, record violations during the local election process and to distribute awareness raising materials about voting procedures. The voters’ **“hotline”** was established within the project aimed to protect voter’s rights, explaining the procedures of voting and registration for IDPs, recording facts of violations or bribery during local elections in Luhansk region. The calls were processed by qualified lawyers.

UNITER partner held **3 press-clubs**: “Elections on Donbas: Perspectives and Challenges”, “Analysis of Violations of Electoral Legislation and Readiness of Election Commissions on Donbas”, and “Results of Elections on Donbas: Public Opinion” for local journalists.

On the election day the **press center “Elections Online”** was functioning for monitoring and informing mass media of the course of elections in Luhansk and Donetsk regions. Over 50 short-term observers worked on election day at polling station commissions and immediately reported about violations and the course of the voting process to the press center. On October 25, the press center worked round the clock and the activists participated in teleconferences involving different oblasts of Ukraine and briefings organized for local media, as well as monitored the voting process in Luhansk oblast.



Owing to the project, the NGO managed to raise awareness among voters and motivated over 100,000 voters in Donbas using various communication tools to come to the elections. The number of voters was reached owing to distribution of 3,000 information materials,

allocation of 12 bill boards and 12 city light boxes, as well as holding of meetings with local residents of 12 biggest cities of Donbas.

NGO **“Committee of the Future. Solidarity and Responsibility”** implemented project **“YOUth Vote”** focused on increasing the level of civil and political participation of **young people** and attracting at least 42% of young people 18 -25 years old to participate in local elections in Melitopol, Zaporizhska oblast. Visual advertising, with an emphasis on its simplicity, catchiness and relevance to the appointed age group, was the main lever of influence of the project. Billboards, stretched posters with messages such as **“Change yourself and your country”** were seen by approximately **230,000 people** during the campaign. People.ua organization artists popularized the idea of the project by drawing [illustrations on concrete fences](#) in the downtown of the city. Informational [posters](#) and advertisements of the further activities of the project were stretched in all local universities, schools, colleges and hotels of the city reaching out directly to the main target audience as well as were disseminated through most popular social media publics of Melitopol. Two weeks before the elections in the social network VK we have launched the campaign with a [social video](#), which we have promoted in largest social network communities and also held the giveaway on it. The prizes were given to some random users from Melitopol, who posted this video on their feed in VKontakte. Social video has soon become popular as a result of viral advertising the audience of young people interested in the project was maximize. The video on YouTube had over 3,500 views.

The campaign included **outdoor events** so important to get the young generation involved into the project issues. The bike ride held within the campaign in September, on the City Day gathered together young activists of the city. The cyclists were wearing a t-shirts with the logo of the project and a call for participation in the elections, and the flags of both Ukraine and the city of Melitopol were attached to the bikes. The bike ride brought together in total 250 participants.

Project organizers held an unprecedented event, an [informal meeting](#) in the local Melitopol club which was attended by three candidates for city mayor and about 120 representatives of the city youth. The aim of this meeting was to establish a platform for dialogue between political leaders and the younger generation, inform the mayor candidates about the needs of the youth and raise awareness of the young people about the candidates for mayors for their more informed vote in the election. Beside that the project organized an [interactive platform](#) in order to put thought-provoking questions and foster the discussion among the young generation of Melitopol about why they go or not go to the polls.



In consequence to the project, voting turnout in Melitopol in the latest local elections among the project target groups (voters 18-25 years old) was over 22% higher than in 2010 (68.2% in 2015 to 45.5% in 2010), according to the data provided by sociological service of Melitopol State Pedagogical University.

The project **“Bukovyna: Strong communities – Responsible Authorities”** implemented by NGO **“Lab for Democratic**

Transformations” took place in the period between September 1st and December 31st. The aim of the campaign was to encourage local politicians to transparency, accountability and informative political discussion, and voters - to make a conscious choice based on measurable indicators of politicians' integrity.

First of all, the project included the campaign on involving local deputies’ into **public reporting** about their work. In framework of the campaign 22 reports of the local deputies were released based on a template developed by the NGO. Also, 11 short **video clips** were created with deputies’ reports and spread them on the Internet. With the aim at promoting equal gender participation in elections, “Lab for Democratic Transformations” developed 4 video-reports with female deputies and 7 video-reports with male deputies. After collecting reports, 4 analytical materials were published based on deputies' reports and CHESNO movement surveys.

As a result of the campaign, voters of Bukovyna and Chernivtsi have received reports about work of local council members which for most of council members, became the first public reporting. Due to the input of the NGO public reporting of local councils' deputies became a **media-trend** during electoral campaign. We have collected 11 media publications and 1 invitation, based on our products and materials.

Secondly, the project covered 11 biggest communities of Chernivtsi oblast with **discussion events**, spreading printed materials and conducting the anti-bribery sticker-campaign. During our road show the campaign visited 11 towns of the region - Vyzhnytsia, Hertsa, Hlyboka, Zastavna, Kelmentsi, Kitsman, Novoselytsia, Putyla, Sokyriany, Storozhynets, Khotyn. In each town public discussion were conducted with civic activists, candidates and journalists, where discussed current electoral campaigns, bribery of votes, standards of good deputy in local and regional council and problems/possibilities of particular communities. 182 participants took part in the meetings, of them 105 males and 77 females.

ЯК СПІВПРАЦЮВАТИ З ДЕПУТАТОМ?

- Доручення депутатів.**
 На загальних зборах громадян за місцем проживання Ви можете дати депутатові місцевої ради доручення. Доручення виборців депутатів місцевої ради має бути підтримане більшістю учасників зборів.
- Депутатське звернення.**
 Ви можете звернутись до свого депутата, а він у свою чергу, зробить депутатське звернення.
- Депутатський запит.**
 Ви можете домовитись з депутатом про те, що він сформує та винесе на пленарне засідання місцевої ради депутатський запит. Депутатський запит - це підтримана радою вимога депутата місцевої ради.
- Депутатське запитання.**
 Завдяки депутатському запитанню Ви маєте змогу одержати інформацію або роз'яснення з тієї чи іншої проблеми.

Друк: ПП Продав І.В. Тираж: 4000 прим. Замовник: ГО "Лабораторія демократичних трансформацій". Відповідальний за випуск: Куран А.

In addition, 40,000 **leaflets** “*The Traffic Light for candidates’ promises*” were created and disseminated during the road show to voters and 50,000 newspapers were disseminated (among them 10,000 were translated in Romanian language for areas of compact residence of Romanian speaking population). In leaflets we have put the analysis of typical candidates’ promises and their compliance to real deputy's competencies. The newspapers covered analytical information on collected deputies reports, analysis of council members from the CHESNO Movement, new responsibilities of local authorities according to decentralization, mechanisms of interaction with members of local councils. In visited towns and Chernivtsi City, we have disseminated 15000 anti-bribery stickers.

Thirdly, the campaign paid considerable attention to the political dialogue with candidates and newly elected deputies about their openness and accountability as well as cooperation with the community for further development of Chernivtsi. During the electoral campaign, the NGO signed *memorandums* of integrity and accountability with 50 local candidates from different political parties. In addition, we signed memorandums with 4 candidates to mayor of city, one of them became a new mayor of Chernivtsi - Kaspruk Oleksiy. Through signing the memorandums we will also promoted equal gender participation in elections: 9 woman candidates and 41 man candidates took part.

Also, we have initiated the on-[air TV-debates](#) among political parties, which run for the city council. The debates will be held on the regional public television “Bukovyna” – this activity was not planned in the project but became a successful way to gather in one place all the political actors to talk about their programs, financial transparency and communication with the community and development of the city. 19 of 20 parties that run to the City Council have participated in the debates. TV-debates were held on-air in the evening prime time on October 21 and 22 on pre-elections Wednesday and Thursday. In addition, the [Interactive Map](#) of the challenges and opportunities of Chernivtsi have combined progressive ideas for development of Chernivtsi and can become a guide for the next convocation of the City Council, and for our NGO in advocacy.

The *Forum* about the future of Chernivtsi with local authorities, activists and public became the first attempt of open discussion about needs of the city and problems of local government. Gathering together more than hundred activists, journalists, domestic and invited experts, newly elected deputies to talk about the future of Chernivtsi development, the Forum became the most significant project even as well as the largest civic event of the year in Chernivtsi.

Thanks to the efforts of Lab for Democratic Transformations team, voters in the biggest communities of the Chernivtsi region have received tools, were ready for a more objective assessment of candidates, and became less tolerant to votes bribery during local elections. In addition, awareness of voters about decentralization and mechanisms for better cooperation with the future members of local councils was raised. In addition, the project helped to involve candidates into political dialogue, and journalists, voters, activists and politicians of Chernivtsi have got a platform for informative discussions about the future of city and local authorities during the debates and other events.

Objective 2: CSO Constituencies Expanded

Activity 2.1: Sub-grant to support civic education

At the beginning of the FY, Pact planned to remain at service to Hromadske.TV in order to continue producing its popular weekly civic education comedy show the *Michael Schur Show*. For the main character of the show continues to serve in the Ukraine Army, the production of the show is on hold. Meanwhile, UNITER’s available sub-award pool shrank due to demand for other themes, the civic education sub-award is unlikely to receive funding during FY16 anymore.

Meanwhile, several of Pact’s sub-awardee partners have launched crucial civic education activities on the sub-national level. Prominently, Center UA’s “Stronger Communities of Donetsk Region (SDCR) and the Media Law Institute’s “*Regional Lab of Active Citizens*” are a testimony to Ukraine’s strong, Kyiv-based civil society organization’s aggressively

expanding national civic education effort and national network building. Civic education of UNITER partners are also a testimony to adaptive and influencing capacities thanks to the partners' holistic thinking, putting key reform areas, such as elections, European standards, and anti-corruption in the loci of their non-curricular civic education efforts.



As part of transparency actions Centre UA continues the investigation of MPs' work from Donbas in aspects of the VR (Verkhovna Rada) attendance and voting on laws important for community (having [social](#) and [political](#) nature, concerning [external affairs](#) and [directly Donbas](#)). The “**Stronger Communities of Donetsk Region**” (SCDR) team developed a voter's manual on how not to be hooked on manipulation of candidates' agitation projects and educational leaflets that allow voter to understand competencies of local councils.

SCDR has initiated an investigation on transparency and fairness of electoral process in Donetsk region. There was a number of publications about use of administrative resource and illegal agitation in Donetsk region during local celebrations in [Druzhkivka](#), [Slovyansk](#), [Krasnoarmiysk](#) and [Kramatorsk](#). Two trainings in Sloviansk were conducted on [transparency control of political process](#) and fair [elections](#). Activists got new skills of public control over new electoral system, knowledge about technologies that are used for frauds and manipulations during the election and how to counter them.

The team also organized a local forum in [Slovyansk](#) on 17th October, where more than 80 public figures, journalists and representatives of the political parties in the Donetsk region discussed the upcoming local elections and their joint actions for fair elections.

During the election days the activists performed [civil control on polling stations in Kryvyi Rih](#). They also consulted community about election results protection. Control of election process also [continued in Girnyk town, where activists took part in checking](#) the list of elected deputies by local territorial election commission. That prevented of gaining the status of local deputy by those people who has not received necessary number of votes. In addition, that gave opportunity to become local deputies to people who had that right.

Despite obstacles [\(direct interference of a certain political set on November 26\)](#), the [movement's activists also managed to hold debates in Krasnoarmiysk on November 27](#) before repeat of local elections that took place on November 29. Most of political representatives participated in the debates. Local TV-channel was airing it that it was the first experience for the city and it definitely promoted democracy for the run of elections.

Together with NGO “Ukrainian Center for Social Data”, the movement's activists were [making simultaneous vote counting at runoff elections in Mariupol and Krasnoarmiysk on November 29](#). An [ad-hoc room](#) was working in Krasnoarmiysk where public observers and political representatives could give a signal to journalists about violations. That contributed to more transparent and legitimate election process. We even managed to bring up a question about violations at one of polling stations in Krasnoarmiysk and to recognize elections having no legal force there.

Control of elections in the regions finished in Sviatohirsk, where re-run elections took place on December 27. The movement's representative had an [active fight for the right to control the process](#). During November-December, five trainings were organized by SCDR:

- One for newly [elected deputies of Donetsk region local councils was held in Kyiv on November 21-22](#). Twenty deputies from more than five cities of the region took part in it.
- [Four one-day trainings were organized in Slovyansk, Kramatorsk, Krasnoarmiysk and Mariupol on December 23-26](#). They were attended by 140 public activists from different communities of Donetsk region: Krasnyi Lyman, Bakhmut (fka Artemivsk), Slovyansk, Kramatorsk, Dzerzhynsk, Kostiantynivka, Druzhkivka, Selidovo, Vuhledar, Novohrodivka, Krasnoarmiysk, Dymyrov, Dobropillia, Pershotravnevyi district and Mariupol.

Participants were introduced to coalition work, making the influence on government, and how to fight corruption. Especially for the training, SCDR elaborated a manual "[How to control local authorities](#)".

Media Law Institute (MLI) [in its activities](#) addresses the issues of large-scale corruption in Ukraine and strengthening the role of civic oversight. With this aim, MLI intends to ensure extensive education of civic activists from Ukraine's region on the anticorruption legal and campaign tools by holding the [Regional Lab of Active Citizens \(the Lab\)](#) with an outreach across 15 cities of Ukraine: *Chernivtsi, Dnipropetrovs'k, Kharkiv, Khmelnytskyi, Kirovograd, Lviv, Mykolayiv, Severodonetsk, Odesa, Poltava, Rivne, Sumy, Ternopil, Vinnytsya, Zaporizhzhya, Zhytomyr*. Starting from the December 2015 over [400 local activists from 20 different regions completed the Module 1](#) and thus got an up-to-date instruction on the anticorruption mechanisms – combined with a solid awareness of the most efficient civic actions – that might help them in curbing corruptive practices in their home cities. As the Module 2 also started (March), 30 trainers of the Lab, who are spreading their knowledge in the regions, again boosted their capacity by gaining some new competencies at a three-day workshop in Kyiv.



MLI prepared a unified *curriculum* for the local trainings (educational agenda and materials for training based on the presentations and material provided by the Kyiv's trainers on the three-days Module 1), which included the following main topics:

- The definition and types of corruption. Methods for preventing corruption. Anticorruption bodies and relevant legislation;
- Presentation of anticorruption tools;

- Access to information as an effective monitoring tool for authorities. Workshop: “How to compile the request for information to the local authorities; how to avoid common mistakes, etc.”
- Presentation of the platform “Dostup do Pravdy” as an online tool for the access to public information.
- Presentation of the public registers that use of registers in anticorruption activities. Workshop: “Practical exercise to find and analyze some information in the certain registers.”
- Presentation of the most successful and flagship civic movements and initiatives in Ukraine, such as the Reanimation Package of Reforms, CHESNO movement, the Civil Network “OPORA”, and the Network of Defenders of Access to Public Information, anticorruption campaign “Chysti Vyshi” (Clean Higher Education Establishments).

As a result, owing to this educational program, 413 local participants from 16 regions of Ukraine: acquired a thorough understanding of the anticorruption legislation and efficient anti-corruption campaigns; got equipped with the necessary practical tools in the area of access to public information; mastered the use of public registers in anticorruption activities.



The Second Educational Module of the Lab was delivered on 11-13 March 2016. By completing Module 2, regional trainers have acquired new skills to counteract corruption. They have learnt the know-how and tools on: how to detect corruption schemes in public procurement locally and the ways to appeal against them; to counteract corruption in electric supply and public utilities and amenities; how to analyze the declarations of the

deputies and public officials; how to successfully launch an anticorruption campaign and conduct journalistic investigation; and how to distinguish corruptive practices in mass media, as the pre-paid “jeans” materials without any custom label.

The anticorruption activists had an opportunity to listen to well-known experts and civil society activities, among them are: lawyer of NGO “Anticorruption Action Center” **Serhiy Mytkalyk**; experts of civil network OPORA **Tetiana Boyko** and **Oleksandr Horlushko**; expert of Transparency International Ukraine **Dmytro Yakymchuk**; cofounder of Kantseliarska Sotnia **Dmytro Chaplinsky**; chief editor of the project “Nashi Groshi” **Oleksiy Shalayskiy**; investigative journalist of the programme “Schemes” (“Skhemy”) **Maksym Savchuk**; manager of anticorruption campaign “Chysti Vyshi” **Mariia Symonova**; development director of the Media Law Institute **Tetiana Semiletko**; executive director of the NGO Center UA and member of the Reanimation Package of Reforms Board **Inna Borzylo**.

The knowledge and skills attained during these days of [Module II, the trainers of Lab of Active Citizens](#) will spread among other motivated activists in cities, towns and villages during the next 16 regional trainings, which are scheduled for April 2016.

Through the Educational Modules, the regional activists got acquainted with the tools used by the most successful and flagship civic movements and initiatives in Ukraine, such as the Reanimation Package of Reforms, the movement CHESNO, the Civil Network “OPORA”, and the Network of Defenders of Access to Public Information, anticorruption campaign “Chysti Vyshi. A lot of activists expressed their interest in joining activity of these movements/coalitions. For gathering information about the persons interesting in the activities of above-mentioned movements/coalitions/organization, MLI team collected this information via [Google-form](#) and received the database of 99 persons.



On a regular basis, MLI team ensures that CHESNO activists and Lab participants from all over Ukraine avoid defamation and other legal risks, by providing legal consultations and proofreading of the CHESNO materials.

MLI team also started a “Success Stories” section of the Lab activists on its FB page, thereby, encouraging the anticorruption activity by the Lab alumni, as they are

sharing personal results of their applying the acquired knowledge and tools with the public.

Activity 2.2: Strategic polling

Strategic polls are utilized as one of Pact’s most acclaimed capacity development and programming design tool. The polls Pact regularly conducts helps assess citizens’ awareness and engagement in the reform process, provides a monitoring and learning tool for the UNITER activity and – critically – a data set analyzed in partnership with UNITER partners.

The survey “*Public opinion survey to assess the changes in citizen’s awareness of civil society and their activities*” is a collaborative effort of Pact and its contractor – selected through a competitive process – [GfK Ukraine](#).

In the first half of the FY, the survey was conducted during October-November, around local elections. The survey followed the standard methodology: 2000 residents of Ukraine (excluding Crimea and non-government controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts). However, this time, Pact has designed three innovative complementary parts to it:

- a set of ten focus group discussions – held in December 2015 – conducted among what the standard survey classifies “*current activists*” and “*potential activists*”;
- a set of values questions adapted from the Pew Research Center’s World Values survey; and
- by oversampling NGO representatives, additional almost 500 interviews conducted with representatives of NGOs working in the areas of citizen mobilization/advocacy/civic or voter education.

Together with the standard survey, these complementary, additional in-depth data provide a wealth of information to Pact and partners in assessing, learning, and identifying

intervention mechanisms, gaps and openings in increasing citizen engagement in Ukraine's governance.

Activity 2.3: Technical Assistance – Mentoring:

On Saturday third of October, Pact together with partners organised in [Chernivsian open-air festival of social initiatives “uCRAZYans”](#).

It was the third festival of such kind organised in Ukraine, previous two festivals were carried



out in Zaporizhzhya and Kyiv and proved its effectiveness in involving citizens into civil society initiatives. Through interactive stands of social projects, their creative presentations and lectures on the festival Pact together with partners promoted active participation in civic life. Twenty national and local social projects, including Pact's long-term partners such as Centre UA, Reanimation Package of Reforms, Vilna Hata, presented their work to approximately 1 000 citizens.

Participants had an opportunity to learn how responsible citizens' actions lead to a measurable improvements in communities wellbeing and individual lives. Initiatives encouraged locals to join either existing projects or create new ideas. Local initiative - **Rosa Collective**, a young cultural initiative based in Chernivtsi, presented their project “Temporary visibility” about abandoned spaces in the city and suggested to citizens to draw their ideas on what to build instead of neglected places. **Bike Info Centre**, the project of “Bukovyna Regional Development Agency”, together with the uCRAZYans' guests discussed bicycle routes and made plasticine bikes with children. Talaka, a Belarus guest-headliner of Ucrazyans festival, is a non-commercial online platform, where authors post their ideas and find like-minded team. In Chernivtsi the co-founder of Talaka platform, Ivan Vedenin, offered to citizens to write on the blackboard their complaints, suggestions, ideas and projects how to improve the city. The event attracted a lot of attention of various local media channels (such as [Chernivsi TV](#), [New TV of Old City](#), [Chernowitz](#), [The Chernivci Time](#), [Chernovsi Television Channel](#) etc.).



During June-September 2015, NGO **Garage Gang** organised three art-hackathons “**Cultural City Code**” in Kyiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Ivano-Frankivsk. As a result, 11 winning teams were selected for further mentorship program. Winning teams received creative **vouchers valued 10,000 UAH (400 USD) for every project and are used during October 2015 – January 2016 for working with mentors to amplify their projects**, technical development and project management, communication strategy development and implementation. For example, Urbanavts - student urban festival, which focuses on involving student community

to the problem of public space development - has worked with an experienced lawyer who provided consultations on NGO registration, norms of working as official organization, rights and duties of its members in negotiations with other parts involved. Three projects from Dnipropetrovsk and four from Ivano-Frankivsk use creative vouchers to involve professionals in the fields of design (Ecospot initiative, Time for the city), expert consultancies (Black spots of Dnipropetrovsk, Open Theater, Co-working for mothers, Crowd-hunting.), communication strategy development (City Virtual Guide).

The [TeslaCamp 2015](#) implemented by NGO “Greencubator” comprised an energy innovations conference, hackathon and festival TelsaCamp in Kyiv. TeslaCamp is aimed at creating the environment for energy, climate-friendly business in Ukraine, promoting the topic in the media, developing the support network for green innovations in key cities of Ukraine, launching initiative groups and projects (technological, communication, behavioral) that will change the energy sector in Ukraine.



Over 170+ participants took part in TeslaCamp. Among them were representatives of Greencubator’s network and startups teams from different cities of Ukraine – Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Lviv, Slovyansk, Ternopil, Vinnytsia, Zaporizhzhia and others. TeslaCamp’s innovative format – a combination of keynotes, panel discussions, electric cars test-drive, Demo Day and hackathon enabled networking among entrepreneurs, energy businesses, energy and IT geeks, investors into green startup movement, government, municipalities, local

governments and communities. Content, created at TeslaCamp will be further shared with a wider audience in the form of video lectures.

Objective 3: Media Engagement and ICT Usage by CSOs Improved

Activity 3.1: Incorporating media and ICT tools in sub-grants

Pact encourages all its grantees to use media and new technologies in their advocacy and monitoring campaigns. Within the reporting period, the following grantees have developed and/or used ICT tools in their activities:

- AntAC has developed and launched a beta-version of [PEPs database](#). The database currently consists of 10,920 private individuals, 6,332 profiles of publicly exposed persons and 4,588 profiles of people closely associated with them. Despite the fact, that the beta version has been launched only recently, both Ukrainian and international banks have requested to use it for their daily operations. After the presentation of the database in the end of February, it has on average 20,000 unique users per month;
- TI Ukraine is using two web portals for encouraging people to report corruption: [anticorruption.in.ua](#) and [xabardocs.org](#). While “xabardocs” mainly offers the whistleblowers an opportunity to report corruption safely and anonymously, anticorruption.in.ua publishes news about fighting corruption in Ukraine, instructions for potential whistleblowers and for Ukrainian citizens, helping them to avoid

corruption in everyday life. It also has a function of consulting a lawyer and reporting corruption online. The resources are used by 2050 people per month;

- CPSA has been actively using Facebook groups for informing the public about the work of the Coalition “Transparent Councils”. The Facebook groups have become a popular social network in 5 oblasts, with 3 of the groups (in [Vinnytska](#), [Zaporizhka](#) and [Ivano-Frankivska](#) oblasts) having over 37,000 readers;
- [Nashi Groshi](#) remains to be one of the most popular online media in Ukraine, publishing 3-4 news reports and articles about corruption schemes and monitoring of public procurement daily. The website is visited by over 400,000 people per month.

Objective 3: Media Engagement and ICT Usage by CSOs Improved

Activity 3.1: Incorporating media and ICT tools in sub-grants

Pact’s partners have designed and produced several important ICT tools under their UNITER activities. These are discussed under the relevant sections of Objective 1 and 2. Partners ICT output, *inter alia*, include:

- An influential new tool to assist investigators and Ukrainian banking sector ensuring oversight of financial transactions of *Politically Exposed Persons*.
- Several new platforms informing/educating/engaging citizens in anti-corruption activities. [Ukr.aw](#), [xabardocs.org](#), or [anticorruption.in.ua](#) are major sources of anti-corruption activities.
- Anti-corruption partners, launched the [Anti-Corruption Research and Education Center \(ACREC\)](#) a new center with the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and rolled out its first online course to those interested in learning about anti-corruption.



Activity 3.2: Technical Assistance – Mentoring

Under the sub-grant award **Initiative E+** received funding to purchase equipment and devices for computer literacy, sensor devices and GPS navigation trainings to be used by visually impaired trainees. This will enable them, as direct project beneficiaries, to become active users of modern communication technologies and tools. The grantee created a Facebook page for the project

<https://www.facebook.com/%D0%91%D0%B0%D1%87%D1%83-%D0%BD%D0%B0%D0%B4%D1%96%D1%8E-See-the-Hope-666303700139174/?fref=photo>

and is actively using GoogleDocs to collect and share project information between project participants and with Pact. The project includes mass-media involvement – development and broadcasting of media content covering project related issues. NGO Initiative E+ will cooperate with PR agency News Front, as well as the top media outlets such as 1+1, ICTV, 112,

Hromadske TV, KyivPost, Novoe Vremya, Ukrainska Pravda to publicize project activities

and news. The first video news was shot and broadcast by ICTV Channel on 23 March 2016 <http://fakty.ictv.ua/ua/index/view-media/id/127063>.

Human Rights Foundation and its partner NGOs in the four project regions use HRF's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/human.rights.foundation.ukraine/?fref=ts> to communicate and share project news. Severodonetsk Agency for Community Development set up an Instagram account for the project <https://www.instagram.com/vplsarg/>. HRF has started training and mentoring project participants in making viral videos as ICT component of the advocacy and awareness raising initiatives.

Special Objective: Sustainability Roadmap

Activity 3.1.1.a: Sustainability Roadmap:

Under UNITER special objective to develop a Sustainability Roadmap for continued home-grown advocacy coordination and grant-making, Pact undertook design of the Sustainability Roadmap. Within this task we conduct a feasibility study that looks into existing local mechanisms for support of advocacy, assess their strength and weaknesses, and suggest ways forward in regards of this objective. This feasibility study on a legacy advocacy mechanism was aimed to determine the suitability of key Ukrainian civil society actors to further support advocacy efforts to foster reform in Ukraine after the Pact-administered UNITER program ends in September 2016.

The *main purpose* of this task was to provide recommendations on how to proceed with developing local mechanism(s) that will a) coordinate national-level advocacy; b) conduct advocacy and monitoring sub-granting to Ukrainian civil society beyond the life of UNITER project.

The specific objectives included:

- Review of international lessons of sustainability mechanisms, especially those of the Central European countries, which went through political and economic transition, and have graduated from the international donors funding
- Assessment of strengths and weaknesses of existing Ukrainian organizations and coalitions for playing the role of both horizontal coordination and direct sub-granting;
- Assessment of feasibility of establishing a new entity that would encourage, build capacity of, and sponsor important advocacy and monitoring initiatives in the country;
- Providing recommendations to Pact and USAID for developing the Sustainability Roadmap.

To conduct the feasibility study Pact issued a Terms of Reference to recruit an external consultant. Among 4 proposals received in response to Terms of Reference, Pact selected ***Kristie Evenson***, a researcher with extensive expertise in USAID as well as non-USAID evaluations of effectiveness of civil society and democratization interventions in conflict sensitive, state building and transition contexts. Importantly, one of ***Kristie's key credentials includes her standing academic and practitioner advice to USAID's CSO Sustainability Index for Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia.***

During fall 2015 and winter 2016, having conducted basic desk research, Pact's consultant collected data from representatives of major Ukrainian CSOs applying key informant

interviews method. The interviewees included major donor organizations, government, civil society organizations and coalitions (UNITER partners Centre UA, Reanimation Package of Reforms, ISAR Ednannia, CCC Creative Centre among others), and businesses.

The [study](#) looked at both current talent and context and at experiences from Central and Eastern European legacy efforts in order to propose a road map for how to best support a broad array of advocacy efforts in Ukraine. ‘Competency and passion’ considerations for six of the most promising actors found no actor that is both currently interested and suitable to be considered a serious candidate for the legacy mechanism.

Furthermore, the study found that design of such a mechanism is not appropriate given the current context of civil society development in Ukraine and the political context. The dramatic happenings in the past years since the “Revolution of Dignity” are encouraging for further sector development and cooperation and for the sector to be better engaged in the reform process, but these processes are still fragile and in need of time to further development and further international presence to support this development.

IV. Mandatory Factors

Gender

Following the Gender Mainstreaming workshop held for Pact partners in September 2015, Pact partners and grantees undertook integration of the gender mainstreaming approach to their own activities. In addition, Pact’s Gender Advisor, Lauren Serpe’s scope of her annual visit to Ukraine includes, besides her main routine data quality assessment (RDQA) task, check-in with grantees to assess and guide further their gender mainstreaming efforts.

Pact from its own side introduce a Pact’s pre-award gender assessment tool as part of its standard pre-award assessment procedure and incorporated gender component into the standard proposal form.

Pact included the following Standard Provision in all sub-grant agreements awarded under the PWD Call for Applications:

“14.6. USAID requires that all activities the Agency supports fully address gender considerations, ensuring that both men and women benefit from USAID support and that gender awareness is built in component of project activities. The Recipient is required to report on how it mainstreams gender in its everyday activities. At minimum grantee is required to collect disaggregated data and carry-on assessments of how the issues that they are working on effecting both genders. In addition, grantee should consider how they ensure that the policy recommendations are gender sensitive and empower equal participation in advocacy and monitoring. The reporting on gender mainstreaming and integration will be incorporated in narrative reporting forms”.

Pact partners integrate gender in the following way:

Center of Political Studies and Analysis:

The law on local election adopted by Verkhovna Rada in July 2015, contains the clause on gender quota in the list of candidates in the local elections. In the frame of “Transparent

Councils” coalition supported by UNITER, CPSA payed special attention to gender issues in monitoring of local authorities and conducted analysis of how national gender equality provisions are incorporated into the rules and procedures of local self-government bodies in 5 regions (Odesa, Zaporizhzhya, Ivano-Frankivsk, Vinnytsya, Chernihiv). Among the major points under analysis were provisions that reflect the state gender policy; commitment to gender equality in authority (in the distribution of posts of heads of departments, heads of commissions, etc.); of provisions governing free and easy access to the authority of women with children; commitment to gender balance in the coverage of Deputies/local government employees in the public media; provisions on compliance with gender equality in the calculation of salaries and bonuses; gender composition of the newly elected local councils; how lists and programs of political parties comply with gender legislation. The findings show that not all local authorities are familiar with the requirements of gender integration let alone are ready to follow gender integration requirements. Awareness raising measures are still to be conducted among local government representatives regarding the ensuring gender equality on the local level.

Based on the analysis and with the aim to ensure gender equality in the local government, CPSA provided recommendations to the local authorities on how to integrate gender-specific issues into the rules their work is conducted upon. Representatives of the Coalition "Transparent Councils" advised members of regional organizations of political parties, civil servants and politicians on the need to spread the practice of respect for gender equality and provided recommendations developed.

Robust analysis of gender indicators was conducted in Odessa region. In the city of Kotovsk, Odesa region, a new program on gender equality for 2016-2020 years began to be developed. Draft decision with recommendations taken into account is published on the website of the council. The deputies of Odesa City Council are speaking up in favor of feasibility of such practice. Media in the region for the first time paid sufficient attention to this issue - an interview is published in news materials with representatives of the Coalition "Transparent Councils". Material about gender equality in Odessa local councils can be accessed [here](#).

Centre UA:

Following the USAID Gender Sensitivity Assessment of the organization, Centre UA held a follow-up discussion and a training on gender issue with project and communication managers being present on 24 September 2015. In addition, the Organization joined some external, as well as implemented a number of internal gender initiatives outside the scope of its immediate projects activity, particularly:

- in March 2015, together with NGO Institute of Mass Information (IMI) organized a **public discussion** on the topic of successful women and a brain-storm session for journalists and activists to produce project ideas that can overcome stereotypes about women in the Ukrainian media.
- in the Fall Center UA together with NGO IMI organized a **discussion** on the problems of women in the Ukrainian Army and Special Force Units of the **Ministry of Interior Affairs**.
- In 2015, Center UA officially supported the organization of **Kiev Pride 2015**.

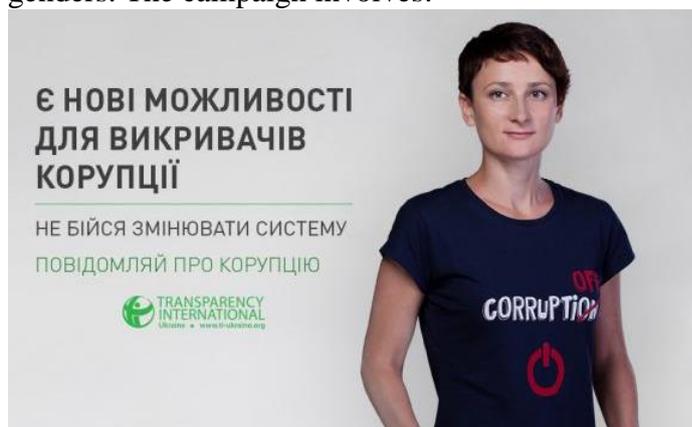
In the framework of the CHESNO campaign, among other indicators were included:

- **Increased employment of women** in the project (44% of the staff are the women; 43% of the regional activists involved to the CHESNO campaign are woman);
- **Level of participation of women in decision-making** on project activities (all female

staff has the full rights to vote at general meetings);

- Consideration of the *gender distribution* in the preparation of [analytical articles](#) on the issue of introducing the quota for elections to local and central government bodies
- CHESNO experts conducted [the training](#) at the Academy of Women Leadership in Kiev for about 30 women aged 25 to 45 years from different regions of Ukraine to to develop the potential of female leaders.

Transparency International Ukraine incorporates gender mainstreaming into organization's activities in the framework of UNITER funding, in particular social campaign "They would not stay silent" was implemented featuring males and a female characters. In order to emphasize gender equality refer to the moral authorities of the Ukrainian nation and the possibility to become whistleblowers "He / She would not stay silent" refers to both genders. The campaign involves:



- 2 gender-oriented 15-second video-clips "They would not stay silent" were released with [female main character](#) and [male character](#) resembling moral authorities. The characters have different call-to-action, a woman is called not to be afraid to report about corruption (as they might be more afraid of the negative consequences of whistleblowing and that they won't be taken seriously) while men are

called not to hesitate to report because men might tend to self-justify themselves in not doing so.

Nashi Groshi:

Following the Gender Mainstreaming Workshop conducted by Pact for its partners, ***Nashi Groshi*** had been actively integrating gender component into its activity. Throughout October-December 2015 Nashi Groshi continued its regular [research](#) on gender characteristics of the individuals involved in corruption schemes. Thus, Nashi Groshi calculates *the ratio* of males to females who were involved in acts of corruption. In the second research on gender not only ownership of the corrupted enterprises is uncovered but also beneficiaries of the corruption schemes are presented. Overall, 200 information messages were analyzed and 30 cases with suspicions of corruption or with corruption selected, proved by the court. In these cases we analyzed founders and chief officers of 38 companies. The survey revealed that 26% of the chief executive officers were women. At the same time women were cofounders (beneficiaries) of 53% of the companies. But only in half of these companies (52%) women have majority shareholding or have shares equal to those of male cofounders. Only 28% of the analyzed companies are under full control of women.

In addition, on its web-site, which allows citizens to report about corruption, there are 2 gender oriented posters with different motivations.

AUCO Fulcrum in all its communication products applies gender-sensitive language and feminitives. In its video-products the organization uses gender balance between male and female speakers. Fulcrum produced [postal stamps with slogans "Love is my right"](#) with male



and female couples which will be spread across the whole Ukraine speaking about the idea of equality. The similar images are used for T-Shirts that have same-sex couples of both genders.

Gender equality integration of the **Human Rights Foundation** include:

- Gender equality and women's empowerment is a principle focus of HRF programming in 2016-2017;
- promotion of gender specific actions in the areas of governance, employment and socio-economic

activities, education, gender-based violence;

- HRF implemented an innovative project (donor- USA embassy-2013); to prevent violence in male dominated work-places. The project unfolded its urgency and innovation.
- special focus is given to enhancing equality between men and women during armed conflicts in the East of Ukraine, and fragile regions of peace- Lugansk/Donetsk.
- before taking any project actions, HRF researches surveys and analyzes gender issues within the scope of targeted population.
- Before project implementation started, HRF answered the following gender questions:
 - Are equal opportunities applied in the mobilization and management of human resources?
 - Are relevant stakeholders for gender issues included in the project course?
 - Do men and women among IDPDs equally benefit from the results achieved through the project?
 - What lessons have been learnt regarding the gender perspective of the project?

Initiative E+:

Trainings and other project activities are organized based on the non-discrimination concept. The direct beneficiaries are chosen based on the principle of gender parity, i.e. equal opportunities for male and female representatives for participation in the project. Women are additionally encouraged to participate in all courses. For the guided running course Initiative E+ will buy 10 sets of uniform – there will be an option to choose between man's and woman's clothes\sneakers.

Donbass Democratic Development Agency:

Much attention through the project was paid to gender equality, in particular special section of the target program and the advocacy initiatives are dedicated to this topic. The issues of gender equality (access of women with disabilities to healthcare, gender discrimination) are included into the information campaigns within the project and into public activities, during which the participants discussed the problems and perspectives of integration of different target groups such as men, women, boys and girls. Owing to adopted target programs, the issue of gender equality was on the agenda of local governments and public in the cities the project was active in.

Disability

The UNITER project assists disabled people organizations (DPOs) and CSOs engaged in disability issues through advocacy and monitoring. This support is manifested in FY16 by issuing a targeted Call for Applications and awarding several PWD-oriented CSO advocacy

and service sub-grants. (Please refer to the above discussion under Objective 1, Sub-Theme: support for people with disabilities.)

Sustainability

The UNITER project stresses the sustainability of advocacy and monitoring through the identification and cultivation of organization(s)/mechanisms that have:

1) Credibility and standing to coordinate, facilitate and convene other organizations around issue-based initiatives:

- Pact's sub-awards to horizontal networks that increase citizen support for and participation in reform-focused civil society activities include several negotiated awards based on the networks' identified policy goals and coordinated division of responsibilities among the network members. Pact awards these sub-grants based on the partners' exclusive capacity to carry out the task as specified by the network.
- The sub-awards Pact signs with partners place key emphasis on products developed under the sub-awards that have a lifespan beyond the award period.
- Pact mentors each sub-awardee to network them together with counterpart CSOs, international donors and technical implementing agencies.
- Pact mentors each sub-award recipient on cutting-edge tools of citizen engagement and activism to sustain citizen support to specific civil society initiatives.
- Pact mentors each sub-award recipient on tools of crowdfunding as a mechanism to galvanize citizen support and engagement in monetary terms to specific civil society initiatives.

2) Capacity to administer advocacy and monitoring sub-grants to organizations that collaborate on issue-based initiatives. (See above under Special Objective: Sustainability Roadmap.)

V. Other Factors

Capacity Building

The UNITER project at its present and last phase is not primarily an organizational capacity-building activity. This said, it does include some limited capacity support that is directly related to the effective implementation of advocacy and monitoring initiatives. (See discussion on targeted capacity development activities under each Objective, and in particular under Objective 1 and Special Objective.)

International Networks and Linkages

Via the sub-awards and technical assistance activities described under each objective, Pact facilitate closer collaboration of Ukrainian CSOs with their European counterparts for their further integration of Ukrainian civil society in the broader network of European and Eastern Partnership countries. Networking and joint activities of UNITER-sponsored CSO sub-awards are part and parcel in particular IWP's project, which includes European-wide advocacy, hosting prominent European thought leaders in Ukraine, conducting targeted polls in key European Union Member States, and – in conjunction with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine (MFA) – hosting the annual international conference commemorating Europe Day with topnotch international guest and speakers. Traditionally, IWP-MFA conference is scheduled for the beginning of the 2nd half of FY16. (Please refer to the

detailed discussion of IWP’s UNITER project under Activity 1.1.1.a Sub-awards for European Standards and Values.)

VI. Other Activities

Coordination

On October 21, 2015 Pact [launched](#) a Call for Applications “Civil Society Initiatives to Promote the Rights of People with Disabilities” to support civic coalitions and initiatives in addressing disability issues through advocacy for promoting, protecting and ensuring social, economic and political inclusion of persons with disabilities in Ukraine (Activity 1.1.2.b). Pact received 34 applications from NGOs throughout Ukraine and following a two-stage selection process by the evaluation committee composed of Pact UNITER, Pact RESPOND, IFES, FAIR Justice Project and OECD/ACN representatives, Pact has awarded three sub-awards from this pool.

For further Technical Assistance – Mentoring (Activity 2.3), Pact also teamed up with My New Police project implemented by IREX (<https://www.irex.org/projects/my-new-police-%E2%80%93-ukraine>) to involve PWD sub-grantees in the activities under this initiative. This project supports police reform implementation, in particular, by providing opportunities for different communities to meet their police officers, learn about their work, background, and see how both of them can cooperate to ensure safety and better services. People with special needs as vulnerable groups may require patrol police assistance in some cases more than others. They need to know that patrol police can now be of help and police needs to know how they can help.

Pact grantees *Human Rights Foundation, Initiative E+ and Donbass Democratic Development Agency* work with IDPDs and visually impaired persons and can join in and benefit from the project activities, in particular public information and engagement events and public communications campaign that are aimed at building positive bridge of trust and cooperation between citizens and the new patrol police. These Pact grantees already held or will be holding a lot of events involving people with special needs (trainings, round tables, street actions), and IREX will join up with police officers to meet people during these events. Besides, IREX has a nationwide network of partner libraries which will serve as hubs for information events and community meetings. In June My New Police rolls out to Slovyansk and Kramatorsk, project localities of Donets Democratic Development Agency, and the grantee is particularly interested in joint events.

Critically, Pact continues to play an active and constructive role in the larger international civil society coordination efforts. Pact provided a handful of presentations, shared data and findings as well as its learning materials with this frequent coordination cohort, hosted by USAID DRG and the relevant department of the EU Delegation in Ukraine.

As well, Pact plays a lead coordination role in two, smaller, thematically-focused donor coordination groups: a cohort of donors, who are the main institutional funders of the Reanimation of Reform Package network and the specific donor coordination group supporting the civil and political rights of LGBTQI in Ukraine. In both coordination groups, one of Pact’s primary role and input is channeling the thoughts and desires, political position

and advocacy goals, as well as financial and capacity needs of Pact relevant partners – not only limited to Pact’s direct awardees, but the entire issue-coalitions.

Monitoring and evaluation

In FY16, Pact will conclude its routine Data Quality Assessment (RDQA) in order to control for the result of Pact’s efforts in improving its monitoring and evaluation tools’ data quality standards for validity, reliability, timeliness, precision and integrity. The UNITER project’s Gender and M&E Advisor Lauren Serpe is scheduled to visit Ukraine at the beginning of the 2nd half of FY16; her scope of work specifically includes the routine data quality assessment; particularly this time with those UNITER partners, who did not go through RDQA during Lauren’s previous visit to Kyiv in FY15.

Pact polls during the FY are targeted to assess the awareness of the citizens of the work of CSOs and the performance of their advocacy efforts. Pact so far focused its polling questions to explore in more details citizens expectations for reforms, demand for constitutional reform, and assess implementation of the anti-corruption reforms. To date, Pact has organized three major briefing to interested UNITER partners presenting the fresh polling data to jointly strategize home-grown programming approaches.

VII. Enclosures

- *Call for Application for civil society initiatives during expected local elections*
- *Call for Applications: Civil Society Initiatives to Promote the Rights of People with Disabilities*
- *Public opinion survey to assess the changes in citizen’s awareness of civil society and their activities, February 2016*
- *Sustainability Roadmap - UNITER Feasibility Study on a Legacy Mechanism in Ukraine*