

**Helping Ukraine,
You Help Europe**

Transparent Ukraine

**Прозора
Україна**



**Strong Europe
Thanks to Values
It Can Share
with Others**

When the Iron Curtain disappeared 20 years ago the countries of Central and Eastern Europe started to believe that they would soon join the united Europe. One of the conditions they had to fulfill was to comply with democratic rules and values.

They are founded upon human rights.

The power of Europe has been built by the existing and aspiring member states that follow the same system of values. Ukraine is one of the latter. It is the country that is aware of the fact that democracy, which means authority based on broad participation of citizens who feel responsible for their country, is a warrant for stability and growth.



Is Ukraine ready for changes? A part of its citizens definitely is. The 'Proud Ukraine' project implemented by the Pylyp Orlyk Institute revealed the power of one of the main threats to democracy, i.e. corruption. One of the Ukrainian local government officials said that 'Corruption hinders growth by increasing expenditure and decreasing social trust for public organizations, it destroys principal ethical standards and, first of all, it violates the rule of justice.'

Corruption undermines the human rights. It seems to be the most serious disease fragile Ukrainian democracy is now facing.

Research shows that more than a half of Ukrainians tolerate this pathology, but more and more believe that instead of thinking 'That's what everybody does', people would rather say 'That's how it shouldn't be'.

Even before the 'Proud Ukraine' project the Pylyp Orlyk Institute had suggested that all local government's decisions were made according to transparent and comprehensible procedures and with due respect for local communities.

The Ukrainians declare that they would like to benefit from Polish experience.

Poland wants to help them.

The European Union can join the project.

Democratic Ukraine means stronger Europe.

Why Poland?

In 2005 the Foundation in Support of Local Democracy, Polish-American Freedom Foundation, Stefan Batory Foundation, the Centre of Civic Education and the World Bank supported by the Gazeta Wyborcza, one of the Polish leading dailies, implemented the action: 'Transparent Poland'. Numerous studies had proved that in many Polish local governments ethical relations between employees and their bosses were far from satisfying, that citizen- municipal office communication was ineffective, that at least part of the decisions made by local authorities was not clear enough for citizens to understand, that the self-governmental sector was infected with corruption and, finally, that there were plenty of conflicts of interests to be revealed. Such mode of operation certainly prevented local residents from participating in the life of their community. People simply did not believe that they could have a say in the decisions concerning themselves.

'Transparent Poland' was intended to restore public administration's credibility and to motivate local citizens to act. Nothing but common belief that everybody can affect a change of surrounding reality could make public opinion say "stop" to the unwelcome practices.



'Transparent Poland' introduced six principles of good rule by Andrzej Szeniewski and Grażyna Praweńska-Skrzypek:

- transparency (of decision-making and the organization's operation)
- no tolerance for corruption
- (social) participation
- predictability (of actions)
- professionalism (of officials)
- accountability (before a local community).

All the Polish local governments were invited to join. Project 'Transparent Poland' was realized thanks to cooperation with the following institutions:



The effects of the 'Transparent Poland' action

- 775 Polish local governments responded to the invitation (30%),
- Over 400 were given special participation certificates, which means that they met all the necessary requirements
- The process of local government improvement is still going on. Year after year the quality of governance is improving.



Jerzy Leszczyński, the secretary (administrator) of the Kołobrzeg County: The participation in the 'Transparent Poland' action was the effect of our search for an effective method to improve and sustain the quality of local administration. Our efforts were rewarded because in 2008 we were granted a certificate of 'transparency' renewed every two years. The certificate confirms successful and permanent implementation of the six principles of good rule in the Kołobrzeg County Office.



Ryszard Niemczuk, the secretary of the municipality of Trzebiatów: thanks to the 'Transparent Poland' action our municipal office has become more transparent for the citizens. They are well informed what the our municipality does – what its plans are, where the money comes from and what they are spent on. Polish experience has appeal to Ukraine people. Polish models



were used by non-governmental organisations with their leader – the Pylyp Orlik Institute of Democracy. Initially the activities were supported by the governments of Poland and Canada. At present the preliminary phase of the 'Transparent Ukraine' action is implemented with the support of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism and the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs under the Crossborder Partnership Programme.

What we have already done

Over many months the Polish partner – the Foundation in Support of Local Democracy – and the Ukrainian Pylyp Orlik Institute of Democracy have been working together in order to convince the Ukrainians that the establishment of the ethical local government following democratic standards is a way to improve the quality of life as well as the **condition to forward the process of integrating Ukraine with the European Union.**

Our accomplishments:

2006

Project titled 'Transparent, Ethical and Effective. The development of Local Government in Ukraine' – implemented from June 1st to December 15th 2006 and financed by the governments of Poland and Canada under the Polish-Canadian Development Programme administered by the Education for Democracy Foundation.

2007

Project titled 'Transparent Ukraine – Leaders for Ethical Self-Government' was implemented from 1st of February to 31st of December 2007 and co-financed under the programme of the Polish-American Freedom Foundation called Regions in Transition (RITA) implemented by the Education for Democracy Foundation.

2008

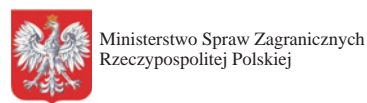
Project titled 'Transparent Ukraine. Building Effective and Ethical Self-Government in Ukraine' was implemented from 1st of June to 31st of December 2008 and co-financed by the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs under the 'Polish Assistance – 2008' contest.

2009

Project titled 'International Partnership for Transparent Ukraine' is being implemented (from 15th of June to 14th of December 2009). The project is financially supported by the Norwegian Financial Mechanism and the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs under the Crossborder Partnership Programme. The German partner is the Berlin-based organisation 'The European Exchange' (Europäischer Austausch gGmbH).

In all the regions of Ukraine 60 trained experts work for the action. The website www.prozora.org, the FSLD and the Pylyp Orlik Institute of Democracy have encouraged new partners to join the project:

- The Mayors' Club
- The Union of Ukrainian Cities
- The Lion's Society from Lvov
- Local media and regional journalists' associations



What still is to be done

"Transparent Ukraine is the action to build in Ukraine ethical and effective local government based on the European principles of good administration with the aim to improve the quality of services offered to citizens" – this is how the Ukrainian partner defined their mission.

What do we need to accomplish the mission?

Having finished the preliminary tasks the partners, and particularly the Ukrainian experts from the Pylyp Orlik Institute of Democracy, are ready to implement the pilot programme.

The programme draft was written in 2008 under the project titled 'Transparent Ukraine. Building Effective and Ethical Self-Government in Ukraine'. The pilot programme is to be implemented in 25 Ukrainian cities, one in each province. The cities taking part in the pilot programme will be:

- under the special assistance of experts (two regional experts trained in previous projects will be assigned to each city and supervised by task experts),
- supported with a series of training sessions held regionally (a two-day workshop for officials involved in the task implementation will be devoted to each of the six rules),
- additionally motivated by a study visit in those Polish cities that have successfully implemented the 'Transparent Poland' principles (partnership of such two cities would be most desirable),
- socially monitored as far as task implementation is concerned – currently non-governmental organisations are being prepared for this activity,
- linked with one another, with the experts and with the organisers via the website www.prozora.org,

The pilot programme will result in the implementation of the six rules in 25 Ukrainian cities. The additional effects will be:

- testing the implemented rules in practice and correcting them, if necessary,
- promoting the programme all over Ukraine and starting the discussion on ethical and effective self-government and, consequently, supporting the local government reform,
- developing a permanent programme of 'Transparent Ukraine'.

What we expect

The pilot programme will result in the permanent programme (sometimes called a mass action). Its purpose is to promote the idea of transparency in public life and to make the European standards the in-thing. If we succeed, the local governments will be more eager to apply for the transparency certificate and its renewal. We expect that the 125 Ukrainian cities and towns will join the action, at least the half of which will manage to complete the tasks. We are going to write a special handbook that will include instruction how to carry on in areas not covered by the action. We hope that as a result at least half a million Ukrainian citizens will learn about 'Transparent Ukraine'. In order to achieve this we need to start a national media campaign, the detailed agenda of which is just being developed taking into consideration specific character of the local media.

Supplementary and supporting projects

The pilot programme is of key importance to the programme, but it needs to be supported with several smaller supplementary projects. They include a currently developed one titled 'Transparent Ukraine – Media and Public Support' addressed to journalists and local government activists. Also, we intend to assess the effects of the projects we have implemented so far. The programme can be backed up by bilateral projects where the idea of transparency will bring together Ukrainian towns with Polish, or even EU ones.

Trilateral partnership for the positive effects of 'Transparent Ukraine'

Since the above mentioned programme is long and complex and because a new partner has been introduced, it seems necessary to establish effective partnership. Under this partnership the Foundation in Support of Local Democracy and the Pylyp Orlik Institute of Democracy will be responsible for the overall implementation of individual activities, while the German partner (the European Exchange) will deal with monitoring and evaluation of the programme elements. The German partner's assistance will improve the quality of the project results. Additionally, the German partner will contribute to the programme their experience in fighting corruption on the local level. They will also join the other partners in developing the rules of good practice.

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Europäischer Austausch
European Exchange

Why Europe

The present partners, i.e. the Foundation in Support for Local Democracy and the Pylyp Orlik Institute of Democracy decided that if 'Transparent Ukraine' is to be successfully continued, it needs to be supported by more partners from outside. That is why we invited the German foundation European Exchange.

But it is not enough. It seems impossible to carry on with such a dynamic programme basing solely on the capacity of the Ukrainian and Polish NGOs and one German foundation.

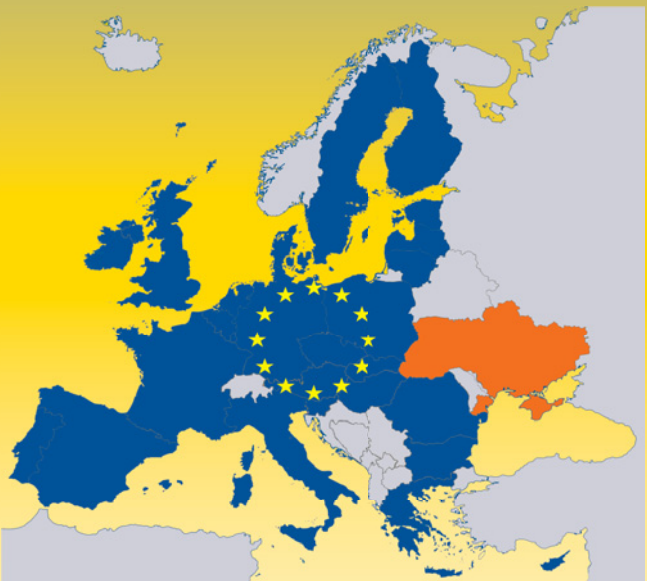
Broader support is necessary, otherwise 'Transparent Ukraine' will end up as a preliminary project rather than a nationwide programme. If help does not come quickly, the initial enthusiasm will burn out. Polish-American Freedom Foundation has already declared their will to collaborate.

Europe cannot lag behind.

Partnership and financial support of the European institutions are necessary

According to OECD research there are many common values on which ethical codes have been based in the course of administration reforms, both in the European Union states and in today Ukraine. Where they have formed the ground for the way in which public administration functions, the reality significantly changed. Where they have remained an empty word – nothing has changed.

The last eighteen years, since Ukraine declared independence, have not been quite beneficial for the Ukrainian local governments. Ukraine cannot afford further losses. We should not ignore the fact that it turns to the European Union in search for good solutions. Actually, it is the EU who cannot afford to turn a blind eye to such country as Ukraine where the transplanted European values will flourish in the foreseeable future for our good as well.



norway grants



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