

RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

of the Council of Europe project
«Supporting the transparency,
inclusiveness and integrity
of electoral practice in Ukraine»

in 2020



ABOUT THE PROJECT

«Supporting the transparency, inclusiveness and integrity of electoral practice in Ukraine» is the Council of Europe's project, implemented within the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine 2018 – 2022.

The main goal of the project is to improve integrity, transparency and quality of electoral process, both nationally and locally.

THE PROJECT ACTIVITIES ARE INTENDED TO:

- ✓ raise the capacity of national authorities to organise elections in accordance with the European and international electoral standards
- ✓ promote the use of modern approaches and technologies in organisation and conduct of electoral process in accordance with the European electoral and human rights standards
- ✓ raise the political and legal culture of participants of electoral process, in particular, voters
- ✓ strengthen the capacity of women, young voters, national minorities to actively participate in political and public decision-making processes
- ✓ support domestic election observation in line with European good practices and standards

The Project activities during its Phase II, which is currently implemented, are aimed at:

- ✓ ensuring modernization and gender mainstreaming in the election management processes
- ✓ strengthening participation and inclusivity of political and electoral processes
- ✓ forming a more enabling environment for increased women participation in political and public life



RESEARCHES AND PUBLICATIONS

March 2020

1 «The use of electronic registers in the electoral process in Ukraine and ways of optimisation» describes:



- ✓ the current state and prospects of using electronic systems to ensure transparency and integrity of elections and referendums in Ukraine: the Unified Information and Analytical System (EIAS) «Elections» and the State Register of Voters electoral process
- ✓ the possibilities for their interoperability with other electronic state registers during organisation of the electoral process

2 «Digital technologies in elections: questions, lessons learned, perspectives»



- The advantages and problems of implementing the latest digital technologies in the electoral process were analyzed and revealed:
- ✓ Digital tools in the electoral process and how they can be used:
 - digital processes
 - biometry and blockchain
 - cloud computing and artificial intelligence

- ✓ Legal regulations of digital technologies in elections, and, in particular:
 - general overview of international legal framework for elections and for new technologies
 - the checklist that should be taken into account when developing national legislation on the use of new technologies in the electoral process

March 2020

3 «Elections. Digital technologies. Human Rights»



«Elections. Digital technologies. Human Rights» collects the Council of Europe documents that have been developed and adopted by various Council of Europe bodies and institutions and, in particular, contain the relevant standards, recommendations and guidelines necessary to ensure the right to free elections in the era of digital age and artificial intelligence.

The compendium currently includes 10 documents.

4 «Disinformation and electoral campaigns» (Ukrainian version)



The research answers the following questions:

- ✓ Have social media changed practices which are traditionally enforced during electoral campaigns and how?
- ✓ How does fake news impact the outcome of elections?
- ✓ What are the legal tools to counter fake news and how do they comply with the principle of freedom of expression?

5 «Participation of young women and girls from disadvantaged groups in political and public decision-making processes at local level»



The toolkit is designed for local authorities and civil society organisations and offers:

- ✓ a training programme that can be used as a model in communities in order to address the issues of participation of young women and girls from disadvantaged groups in public and political life
- ✓ practical tools, exercises, training methods and good practices from Ukraine and other countries on greater engagement of women and girls in public and political processes at local level



June 2020

6 «Vote outside the box» (Ukrainian version)



The toolkit is designed to enable Electoral Management Bodies to develop strategic approaches to raising awareness about electoral processes and building electoral knowledge amongst young people as potential first-time voters. The toolkit is relevant for:

- ✓ electoral management bodies
- ✓ ministries and agencies responsible for youth policy
- ✓ state and non-state entities dealing with electoral issues

November 2020

7 «Monitoring of media coverage of elections»



Monitoring of media coverage of elections conducted by civil society organisations promotes fairness, transparency and balance of the electoral process. The toolkit provides civil society organisations with detailed and practical guidelines on planning and implementing media monitoring during the electoral process and includes:

- ✓ description of the main stages of monitoring and necessary measures
- ✓ practical step-by-step instructions and tips for monitoring different types of media (TV, printed and online media, social media)

November 2020

8 «Local elections 2020: essentials plain and uncovered»



The brochure contains the key messages delivered during 8 webinars «Local elections 2020: essentials plain and uncovered». It focuses on novelties of the electoral legislation and some aspects of the legal framework for the 2020 local elections in Ukraine, namely:

- general overview of the electoral process during the local elections
- procedures for nomination and registration of candidates electoral systems in the local elections and their peculiarities
- election campaigning and offenses, related to it
- election dispute resolution and protection of electoral rights during the electoral process

October 2020

9 Study on young voters' awareness about electoral process and attitude towards elections

It was conducted in order to analyze the level of young voters' awareness about the electoral process and attitude towards elections in Ukraine, as well as about and to the online platform «CEC: prosvita», awareness-raising and educational materials developed within «CEC: prosvita»

12 FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

DNIPRO KYIV KRAMATORSK LUTSK ODESA CHERNIHIV

18-24 years old 25-30 years old

Based on the results of the focus group discussions, an analytical report was prepared on the motivation which leads young voters to participate and not to participate in elections, their awareness about the electoral process, as well as the level of their public and political engagement. Several communication channels were also analyzed with regard to their effectiveness/feasibility in order to further disseminate information about elections among young people.



December 2020

10 Guide on Article 3 of Protocol No. 1 to the European Convention on Human Rights — updated Ukrainian translation



The Guide on Article 3 of Protocol No. 1 to the European Convention on Human Rights is part of the series of Case-Law Guides published by the European Court of Human Rights (the Strasbourg Court). An updated version of this guide was prepared under the authority of the Jurisconsult of the European Court of Human Rights in order to:

- ✓ provide information to lawyers and legal practitioners on the main decisions and judgements of the Strasbourg Court
- ✓ provide an analysis and summing-up of the case-law on Article 3 of Protocol № 1 to the European Convention on Human Rights
- ✓ outline the key principles and the relevant precedents applied by the Strasbourg Court in deciding cases on the right to free elections

The research is ongoing

11 «Decentralization of Election Management Bodies: comparative overview of organizational framework and practice in Europe»

The main aim of the research is to provide an overview of existing practices of decentralized election management based on the European good practices and at developing recommendations for improving the model of election management system in Ukraine in the context of possible creation of regional and territorial representation offices of the Central Election Commission.



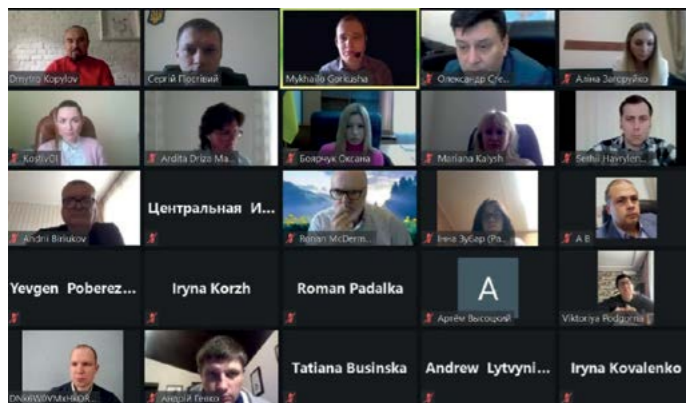


ACTIVITIES

26 May 2020

1 Presentation of the study «Digital technologies in elections: questions, lessons learned, perspectives»

The study was presented during an online meeting of the working group of the Central Election Commission on the introduction of the latest information technologies in the electoral process of the national and local elections. The results of the study were presented to the representatives of the Central Election Commission of Ukraine and the Central Election Commission of the Kyrgyz Republic, the State Register of Voters, Ukrainian MPs and to the representatives of the executive authorities in Ukraine who participated in the meeting.



The presentation provided an overview on:

- international standards and guidelines for the use of digital technologies in elections
- experience of using various digital solutions in European countries
- a list of issues that require regulation and need to be taken into account in the development and preparation of legislation on the use of digital technologies in the electoral process

18 – 20 August 2020

2 3-day webinar for the representatives of the Central Election Commission and the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine on awareness raising and engagement of young people in the electoral process



During the webinar, the representatives of the Central Election Commission and the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine:

- deepened their knowledge about different types of awareness-raising measures that can be used to involve young people in public and political life
- learned how to increase the effectiveness of such measures based on the analysis of information about the attitudes, values and views of young people towards elections and the electoral process

August – October 2020

3 Series of awareness raising infographics on various aspects of the 2020 local elections process

The development and production of infographics was carried out as part of a joint project of the Central Election Commission and the Council of Europe «CEC: prosvita» aimed at raising public awareness about electoral standards, procedures and processes. The developed infographics covered the following issues and topics:



- local elections calendar with key dates and deadlines
- formation and activities of election commissions
- electoral systems used at local elections
- voting procedures
- vote counting and establishing the election results

129 INFOGRAPHICS

1 063 323 VIEWS

ЦБК проsvita



December 2019 – 21 September 2020

4 Development and launching of interactive online training platform about elections «CEC: prosvita»

The online platform is a public educational and awareness raising platform about elections with online courses, informational and educational materials. More than 30 experts have been engaged in its development and production, particularly, experts in electoral legislation, creative industries, communication positioning and design.

The main purpose of the interactive digital platform is to provide general and specific information on voting rights and voting procedures, electoral systems and processes on an ongoing basis. The platform is designed to motivate and encourage voters to learn in an «edutainment» format (a combination of educational and entertaining content).

The target audience of the platform is first-time voters, students, politicians, other participants involved in the election process, as well as all voters in general.

11 000 000 VIEWS 30 EXPERTS

2103 REGISTERED USERS 2 ONLINE-COURSES

3060 SUBSCRIBERS TO THE YOUTUBE CHANNEL

21 September 2020

5 Launch of interactive online course «Elections in simple terms»

This interactive online course is designed to tell about the history of elections, the basic principles and electoral standards, about different types of electoral systems and procedures in Ukraine and other countries.

28 MODULES 5638 LECTURES PASSED IN TWO MONTHS

14 October 2020

6 Launch of interactive online course on «Local elections for voters»

This interactive online course was designed for voters on the eve of the 2020 local elections in Ukraine so as to provide voters with basic information about the electoral systems and procedures used in local elections and explain how their vote would affect the results of elections.

129 802 VIEWS

12 EDUCATIONAL VIDEOS & MODULES

The peculiarity of the courses is learning via chatting. Everyone can learn interesting facts about elections and electoral procedures by easy and simple chatting with Danylo Halytskyi, Pylyp Orlyk, Hryhorii Skovoroda, Regent of Kyivan Rus Olga, members of election commissions and other voters.

7– 23 September 2020

7 8 webinars «Local elections 2020: essentials plain and uncovered»



They were held with a goal to inform as many different stakeholders and participants of the electoral process as possible about:

- the main stages of the electoral process and its key deadlines
- organisation of the electoral process and the system of election commissions at the local elections, their hierarchy and powers
- local self-governance bodies to which the elections were held
- nomination and registration of candidates to local councils and for the positions of village, settlement and city mayors
- electoral systems to be used at the local elections and the way to determine winners of the local elections
- media coverage of the electoral process
- election campaigning, campaign financing and reporting
- election dispute resolution and protection of electoral rights during the electoral process

17 455 VIEWS

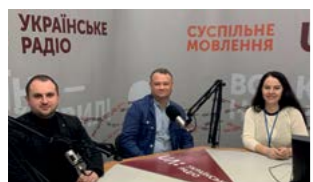




23 September – 5 November 2020

8 10 radio programmes about 2020 local elections aired during «Today. This Afternoon» programme on UA: Ukrainian Radio

The broadcasted episodes were aimed at informing voters about the main aspects and procedures of the 2020 local elections, as well as getting radio listeners acquainted with online courses on «CEC: prosvita» platform and promoting them among citizens.



Members of the Central Election Commission, the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, «Civil Network «OPORA» and independent electoral experts became the guests of the radio episodes.

1 553 900 RADIO LISTENERS

9 – 10 December 2020

9 V Forum «Efficient local self-government as a background of democratic and rule-of-law state»

On 9 December 2020, during the discussion «Local Elections 2020: Monitoring and Recommendations for Ukraine», the forum's participants discussed the results of the monitoring of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, the results of domestic observation, as well as results of the media monitoring of the local elections supported by the Council of Europe.



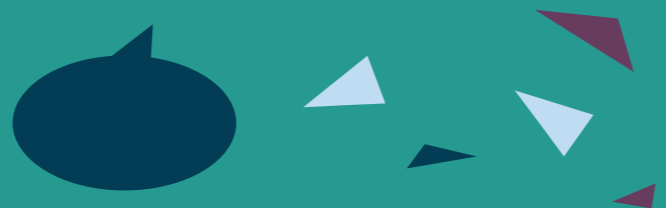
400 PARTICIPANTS **2300** VIEWS



10 December 2020

10 Strategic session devoted to the results of the development and launching of online awareness-raising and educational platform about elections «CEC: prosvita»

In the course of the event, the participants discussed the achievements and lessons learned out of the launch of the online platform and interactive online courses, as well as defined ideas and suggestions for further development, content creation and promotion of the online platform. In particular, participants designed a vision and strategic goals, as well as developed concrete tasks that would contribute to their achievement.



INTERVIEWS WITH PARTNERS

Interview with the CEC Chair **OLEH DIDENKO**



Interview with the CEC member **ANDRII HEVKO**

