

## **PRINCIPLES**

### **OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY FOR PROVIDING EFFICIENT COMMUNICATION BETWEEN LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND ETHNIC COMMUNITIES**

Protecting the rights of national minorities, promoting the preservation of their identity, ensuring an adequate level of cultural services, while ensuring the full integration of ethnic communities into Ukrainian society are among the main challenges facing Ukraine, which is undergoing a period of intense reform affecting all spheres of public policy. An analysis of the current situation in the field of respect for the rights of national minorities in the country indicates some of the state's achievements in this area.

Civic institutions active in the field of representation of interests and protection of the rights of national minorities are sufficiently developed and active. The considerable potential for cooperation between the authorities and NGOs of national minorities is evident, however, which remains unrealized due to a number of reasons, the most important of which is the lack of good communication and the ineffective first and foremost informational and organizational interaction of all levels of government, national minorities, non-governmental organizations representing national minorities or active in the protection of their rights and needs, and the media).

Establishing effective communication and cooperation between the authorities, civil society and the mass media in the field of protection of national minorities enables to unleash the unrealized potential in this field to achieve a new, more complete and deeper level of protection of the rights of national minorities and to meet their needs. In this context, there is an obvious need to prepare and implement a strategy for ensuring effective communication and interaction between authorities and ethnic communities, which at the same time must be based on principles that ensure respect for human rights, compliance with the law, and ensure high degree of achievement of concrete successful results, realization of concrete practical tasks. The principles are:

**1. Respect and protection of human and citizen's rights and freedoms, which are defined by the legislation of Ukraine, including in the field of protection and protection of the rights of national minorities.**

The development, implementation and realization of a strategy for ensuring effective communication between authorities and ethnic communities shall be in accordance with the legislation of Ukraine, in particular the Constitution of Ukraine, the Law of Ukraine "On National Minorities in Ukraine", the Law of Ukraine "On Ratification of the European Charter for Regional Languages or Languages Minorities", other

legislative acts of Ukraine regulating the sphere of protection of the rights of national minorities in Ukraine.

## **2. The principles set out in international legal instruments in the field of the protection of the rights of national minorities.**

Namely: the [Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities \(FCNM\)](#), the [European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages \(ECRML\)](#) of the Council of Europe (CoE), as well as the OSCE guidelines, including the [The Ljubljana Guidelines on Integration of Diverse Societies](#) developed by the High Commissioner for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) for National Minorities<sup>1</sup>.

## **3. The principle of openness.**

The approaches and methods applied, as well as the results obtained from the preparation, implementation and realization of communication mechanisms and procedures between communities and authorities aimed at improving the status of national minorities, enhancing the protection of their rights, preserving and developing their identity. They are open, accessible, and freely distributed to stakeholders, in particular government and non-governmental organizations representing national minorities, both in Ukraine and abroad.

## **4. The principle of subsidiarity.**

The tasks defined and performed by the authorities in cooperation with civil society and the media should be consistent with their level of competence and authority. The strategy contains tasks and goals that are relevant to the level of competence of the authorities of the level (amalgamated gromada, oblast, state) at which such a strategy is implemented. At the same time, in the event of higher level tasks, the issue of the need to solve them may be raised before the authorities of the appropriate level (for example, drafting and submitting proposals to amend legislation).

## **5. Target audience targeting.**

The target audience is the national minorities, and the purpose is to further advance their rights and needs, and to create better conditions for preserving their national identity. However, despite the fact that the target audience targeted by the strategy's efforts is clearly defined, it is acceptable to involve other social groups engaged in one or another activity aimed at preserving ethnic diversity in the various stages of the strategy's implementation within a particular region or the entire state.

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<sup>1</sup> Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM) (see <https://www.coe.int/en/web/minorities>); European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (see <https://www.coe.int/en/web/european-charter-regional-or-minority-languages>); Jarmo Lainio (2019): European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages: New technologies, new social media and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages - Report for the Committee of Experts, Strasbourg: Council of Europe: see <https://rm.coe.int/new-media-report-web-en/168098dd88>); Tallinn Guidelines on National Minorities and the Media in the Digital Age & Explanatory Note (2019) The Hague: OSCE (see: <https://www.osce.org/hcnm/tallinn-guidelines>); Ljubljana Recommendations on Integration of Diverse Societies & Explanatory Note (2012) The Hague: OSCE (see: <https://www.osce.org/hcnm/ljubljana-guidelines>).

## **6. The principle of inclusion (involvement and participation).**

Issues relating to national minorities cannot be resolved without the participation of national minorities themselves in the decision-making process and without their opinion. This applies not only to the tasks that are to be accomplished within the framework of the strategy's implementation, but also to the process of development, approval and implementation of the strategic document.

## **7. The principle of effective communication.**

An integral part of the strategy and one of its goals is to establish an appropriate information interaction between all parties involved (government, NGOs, the media), which will not only facilitate effective communication, but will also enable specific arrangements to be reached in such communication regarding realistic achievable tasks that the strategy should contain, as well as ways of solving them.

## **8. The principle of cooperation.**

Good and fair cooperation between all stakeholders is aimed at achieving common, agreed, important for all parties goals, namely: establishing effective communication, fulfilling agreed, defined according to the limits of each party's competence, real steps in the assessment of the situation, solving problems and satisfaction the needs of national minorities are the key to the successful use of those potentials and opportunities that are achievable but remain unfulfilled.

## **9. The principle of effectiveness.**

The strategy contains real, achievable stages of implementation. The tasks at each stage contain indicators of their implementation.

## **10. The principle of synergy. Initiative.**

The protection of the rights of national minorities, the real satisfaction of their ethno-cultural and linguistic needs, the preservation and further development of identity along with comprehensive integration into Ukrainian society is an extremely important task for both national minorities, the Ukrainian state and the entire Ukrainian society. Successful completion of the stated task will allow each stakeholder to achieve their goals, but these goals are largely the same, they are common.

The Ukrainian state, as well as national minorities, is extremely interested in the successful integration of national minorities into Ukrainian society, since it promotes social stability, strengthens the state, reduces the risk of separatism. For national minorities, this goal is especially interesting because it enables them to be fully realized in society.

Maintaining ethnic identity is extremely important, perhaps the main goal of the national minority as a social group. However, the same goal is pursued by the state, since preserving the national identity of national minorities preserves the ethno-cultural diversity and culturally enriches the entire Ukrainian people.

However, the **attainment of these goals, common or similar, is not possible without the proper initiative and efforts of all stakeholders (authorities of all levels, national minorities, public organizations representing national minorities or acting in the field of protecting their rights and ensuring their needs).**

Initiative, active and responsible cooperation of all parties in achieving the set goals creates conditions for **synergistic effect**, achievement of higher goals, fulfillment of more complex tasks, which in the usual, established format of the existing interaction previously were unattainable for each individual party and for all parties in general.