Dear Partners,

We are happy to share this monthly OSF Newsletter. Feel free to distribute it or recommend others to subscribe for our updates. To obtain regular information on the OSF activities please contact info@osf.org.ua.

For more information about our organization please visit www.osf.org.ua.

Sincerely, OSF team

OSF experts analyzed law-making by coalition MPs for the second 100 days term for the 8th convocation of Rada

The research results were published at the INSIDER. The study analyzed the draft laws, introduced by the MPs - members of the coalition, targeting the implementation of the Coalition Agreement, which enshrines the political promises of «Petro Poroshenko Block»,

«Narodnyy Front», «Samopomich», the Radical party, and «Batkivshchyna».

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For the first time ever, 15 Ukrainian local budgets were comprehensively assessed in terms of transparency, participation and integrity based on the OSF methodology

This initiative is implemented in collaboration with the Odessa organization of Committee of Voters of Ukraine in the frames of the «Civil Society and Media for Transparent Local Budgets» project, supported by the European Commission

and the Embassy of Finland in Ukraine. In June and July, OSF has provided consulting and expert support to 15 regional CSOs within civil initiative «For transparent local budgets.»

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Within a year none of the five priorities of Vitaliy Klytschko's program were implemented – OSF research results

Despite increasing transparency and publicity, Kyiv city authorities continuously simulate the real reforms implementation. KCSA departments run corruption schemes related to land management, urban planning and municipal

property. Such results were reported during the round table «The anniversary of the adoption of the program of the Kyiv mayor: assessing the progress in implementing reforms».

National Sports Complex «Olympiyskii» hosted the final of Ukrainian Brain-Ring Euroquiz Cup,

organized by the EU Delegation to Ukraine and the Open Society Foundation. David Stulik, press attache of the EU Delegation in Ukraine, Victoria Davydova, advisor to the Press Office of the EU Delegation, Lesya Shevchenko, the OSF President and Oksana Panasivska, the Director of Ukrainian Media E-school composed the jury. The final was held in the frame of the major European project «Euroquiz. Europe Starts with You» and the video competition «Being European», implemented by the OSF.

Parliamentary Expert Group (PEG) was launched

Open Society Foundation in cooperation with the Verkhovna Rada Committee on European Integration created a group of independent experts who provide opinions regarding MPs draft laws, and connection of these to Ukraine's obligations under the Association Agreement and other international treaties. OSF, having analyzed the parliamentary parties' activity for 15 years, now coordinates the activities of PEG.

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OSF was the first organization in Ukraine to prepare the training materials to help community

activists and initiative groups - the victims of illegal construction. OSF trainers (Ivan Sikora and Victor Gleba) presented this methodology during the **unique training in Kyiv. The training was designed to combat corruption, land fraud and illegal construction.** More than 30 civil society activists, bloggers and journalists now have the instruments to combat fraud at the local level. Participants of the training were selected on the competitive basis. During the training the following experts shared their experience, knowledge and skills: Olexander Dyadyuk, well-known lawyer, who won the case against construction in the Bilychanskyy wood («Bionics Hill»); Maryna Solovyova, lawyer, head of the 'St. Andews-Landcape Initiative' NGO; Halyna Yanchenko, city council member (Democratic Alliance), Center for Combating Corruption expert and Land Commission at Kyiv Council member. The idea of such training was proposed by local activists – members of «Return the billions to the local budgets» anti-corruption initiative back in March 2015.

The hearings on the Draft Kyiv Master Plan for 2025 cannot turn into an imitation of the true discussion

OSF has published an open address to the Deputy Mayor and Kyiv City Council Secretary Oleksiy Reznikov. We issued the practical suggestions to the agenda of the hearings on the draft city master plan scheduled for 28 August 2015. The Foundation has repeatedly drawn attention t**o the risks of corruption, embedded in Master Plan-2025 for Kyiv**, which actually aims to legalize the land fraud. Learn more

OSF hopes that the upcoming hearings will not turn into an imitation of the true discussion. Unfortunately, this was the case with the Kyiv draft budget discussion (initiated by the OSF in November 2014 and in January 2015).

The problem of illegal buildings in Kyiv is closely related to corruption

Ivan Sikora commented on the current state of the affairs in the program «Kyiv boxing ring with Renata Nazarova». Due to continuous OSF efforts, as well as those of our partner, the Reanimation package of reforms - Kyiv, the issue of the illegal construction was included in the agenda of the city government.

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How to measure the success of the fight against smuggling and corruption?

The promise to eliminate smuggling and corruption can turn into mere populism without a set of clear indicators to measure the results. Ivan Sikora spoke to the 'Holos Stolytsi' radio and commented on the promise of Roman Nasirov, the Head of the State Fiscal Service, to eliminate smuggling and corruption at customs within 100 days. «The impact of smuggling in terms of budget revenues increase is not obvious. The corruption predominantly results in the loss of rev- enues from customs duties in the budget. According to various estimates we are speaking of billions of hryvnias» - said Mr. Sikora.

Learn more

The draft anti-corruption program for Kyiv has to be completed in accordance with current legislation

We need clear and measurable per- formance indicators. Ivan Sikora spoke to **'Holos Kyeva'** radio on the draft anti-corruption program. In the expert's opinion, the program should take into account the prevention of corruption risks. For over a year the experts pro- vide Kyiv city authorities with the propo- sitions for the prevention and elimination of corruption risks. Previously, the Foun- dation initiated the preparation of the anticorruption program, and repeatedly addressed Mayor V. Klytschko on these matters.

The danger of a new law on local elections

Lesya Shevchenko's 'Novoye Vremya' blog.

Lesya Shevchenko assessed the new draft law on local elections for 'Novoye Vremya' blog. Long-promised «open lists» did not become truly opened. On June 18th Ukrainian Parliament adopted the first reading of one of several draft laws on local elections. While its discus- sion is still to follow, the foundation set up by the Parliament has its own «bro- ken bricks» and «black holes» in the new rules of the election game.

District 205 stressed the need for political reforms in Ukraine

Lesya Shevchenko's 'Novoye Vremya' blog.

The elections in 205th district exposed the dirty underside of Ukrainian politics. In the modern history of Ukraine this campaign will undoubtedly become the dirtiest. It demonstrated an amazing disregard of the will of the Ukrainian people. The political engineers of the two leading camps have used their entire arsenal of methods to influence the electorate. These were food packages, still fresh in the memory of citizens, titushkys and concerts to distract potential voters.

Read more

Moronity and courage of Parliament. Why did MPs approve foreign currency loans reassessment?

Lesya Shevchenko's Novoye Vremya' blog.

The third reading of the draft law on foreign currency loans reassessment using the old rates (most loans - UAH 5.05 or UAH 8 for the US dollar against the current UAH 22) revealed the problems in post-revolutionary Parliament.

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