Tackling Corruption through eGovernance in Ukraine

Program Goal
To support Ukrainian citizens and the Government of Ukraine in reducing or eliminating corruption in key public administration functions and services, and build trust of Ukrainians in their government based on demonstrated transparency, accountability and improved services.

Open data is one of the best tools citizens can use to influence government decision-making. Our ministry works with the public and international donors to achieve sustainable development.

— Mykhailo Fedorov, Deputy Prime Minister, Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine

Since August 2016, Eurasia Foundation (EF) has implemented the Transparency and Accountability in Public Administration and Services (TAPAS) program in Ukraine. Funded by USAID and UK aid, TAPAS supports the Government of Ukraine to implement visible and successful reforms in public administration and services to greatly reduce or eliminate corruption. The six-year anti-corruption program promotes eGovernance reforms across three components: eProcurement, open data, and eServices.

EF leads a consortium of Ukrainian and British partners that provides technical assistance to enable the Ukrainian government to carry out eGovernance reforms and increase transparency. The consortium works closely with Ukraine’s Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Agriculture, Ministry of Digital Transformation, Ministry of Health, local governments and civil society across Ukraine.

Key Results to Date
eProcurement
• Migrated data from the Prozorro eProcurement platform, resulting in the transfer of 35 million files (total volume of +45 terabytes) from Amazon Web Services to a Kyiv-based data center, where the platform has been operating since March 2018.

• Between January 1, 2017 and July 31, 2020, the DOZORRO civic oversight network, comprised of 25 NGOs and more than 1,000 individual volunteers across Ukraine monitoring public procurement, identified 31,192 high-risk tenders. Of these, 30,266 high-risk tenders were brought to the attention of public purchasers and oversight authorities through formal complaints. Following their review, 4,518 high-risk tenders were deemed “wins,” that is, the tenders (totaling approximately $470 million) were cancelled or substantially amended by the public purchasers or illegal tender decisions were reversed.

• More than 500 procurement professionals have graduated from Kyiv School of Economics public procurement certificate programs, which were created with TAPAS support and launched in March 2017.

• Assisted in preparing Ukraine’s new Law on Public Procurement (PPL), which was adopted by Ukraine’s parliament in September 2019. The new law introduces several key changes that came into effect April 2020, including personal liability for officials—particularly heads of purchasing agencies—for violating the PPL and an improved appeals mechanism for businesses. The new law aims to harmonize Ukraine’s public procurement standards with European and international standards.
Open Data

• Drafted two packages of amendments to Decree No. 835 on open data publishing requirements. The amended decrees were adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers in December 2017 and April 2019, respectively. Together the amendments nearly tripled the number of data sets required to be published by state authorities from 301 to 900, and better regulate open data publishing procedures, data formats, and structures.

• Launched the government’s revamped Open Data Portal (data.gov.ua), which provides access to open data for a variety of purposes, including accountability, public oversight, innovation, business projects, and research.

• Launched the first-ever report on the economic value of open data for Ukraine. According to the research, in 2017, open data contributed between $173 million and $209 million to the Ukrainian economy through gains received by direct data users. These direct effects then create spillover into the wider economy, including the benefits of better services for consumers or time saved, which results in an additional $432 to $523 million (between 0.67 and 0.81 percent of the country’s overall GDP).

• Supported 10 municipalities to develop robust open data programs, two of which—Chernivtsi and Vinnytsia—have already launched their own open data portals. Three more participants—Kharkiv, Kropivnitskyi, and Ternopil—will launch their portals in the coming months.

• Implemented three cycles of the Open Data Challenge, the biggest IT competition in Ukraine for open data projects that provide solutions to problems affecting Ukrainian society. Launched 14 innovative services that draw upon open data sets.

eServices

• Prepared a comprehensive analysis of 23 key state eServices registries (databases) that are managed by 13 ministries and agencies. The first of its kind in Ukraine, the analysis showed significant overlap among state registries as well as substantial maintenance costs (approximately $750,000 per registry annually).

• Prepared the Interoperability Roadmap, a three-year policy document aimed at increasing interoperability among state registries and establishing an efficient business model for data exchange. The Roadmap was adopted as state policy by a Cabinet of Minister’s decree.

• Drafted the law “On Public Electronic Registries,” the first piece of legislation in Ukraine to comprehensively regulate electronic registries. The draft law was adopted by parliament in its first reading on October 31, 2019.

• In partnership with Ministry of Internal Affairs, launched the “Driver’s eCabinet” or online user account, which allows users to access a wide range of eServices, including: payment for administrative penalties, obtaining vehicle identification certificates, scheduling appointments at service centers, and ordering individual license plates. As of July 31, 2020, more than 1,000,000 Ukrainians have created Driver’s eCabinet accounts.

• As of July 31, 2020, launched 27 eServices, including: fire safety licenses, declaration of compliance with fire safety regulations; licenses for the sale, production and import of medicines; obtaining a permit for special water use; and construction licenses and permits.

• Completed software development and launched the Registry of Registries portal. Using Estonia’s renowned portal as a model, the Registry of Registries will register, process, analyze, and store information on the composition, content, location, and accessibility of Government of Ukraine’s electronic information resources.

ABOUT EURASIA FOUNDATION

Eurasia Foundation, an international nonprofit organization, works to engage citizens and empower communities to take responsibility for their own civic and economic prosperity. Founded in 1992, EF uses best practices in advocacy, institutional development, and cutting-edge online training and education tools to foster the next generation of leaders.