

Stakeholders/Partners

Ministry of Justice
Ministry of Health
Ministry of Family, Youth and Sport
Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Cabinet of Ministers
Verkhovna Rada
Office of the Ombudsperson
National Television/Radio Broadcasting Council
All-Ukrainian Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS
Ukrainian National Union of Journalists
United Nations in Ukraine, including

- UNDP
- UNICEF
- UNFPA
- UNHCR
- UNAIDS
- UNIFEM
- IOM
- ILO
- UNV

USAID
European Commission
Department for International Development (UK)
Global Fund against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
Swedish International Development Cooperation
Canadian International Development Agency
Swiss Development Cooperation
Embassy of the Netherlands
Embassy of Japan
International Renaissance Foundation

Additional Information

United Nations in Ukraine
<http://www.un.org.ua>

CIVICUS Civil Society Index: Ukraine
<http://www.civicus.org>

Council of Europe
<https://wcd.coe.int>

“Civil Society Organizations in Ukraine”,
Counterpart Creative Center
<http://ccc.kiev.ua>

Freedom House Nations in Transit: Ukraine 2007
<http://www.freedomhouse.org>

Transparency International
<http://www.transparency.org>

UCAN – Ukrainian Citizen Action Network (USAID)
<http://www.ucan-isc.org.ua/eng>

UN Volunteers programme
<http://www.unvolunteers.org/>

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www.un.org.ua



United Nations in Ukraine

Analytical Brief

Civil Society Development in Ukraine

November 2007

International Context

- Ukraine is regarded among international organizations as having the freest and most vibrant civil society among CIS countries.
- Levels of civil society development in Ukraine approximate the levels of new EU member states.
- Ukraine meets most of the standards in the Council of Europe's "Recommendations to member states on the legal status of non-governmental organizations in Europe" (adopted 10 October 2007).

Ukrainian Context

- There is room for further development of civil society in Ukraine. Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Ukraine will require a more robust civil society, particularly in advocacy, protection of people's rights and supporting government provision of social services.
- Civil society organizations are still developing the necessary capacities to partner with national and local authorities to address gaps in social service delivery.
- Volunteerism is strong in Ukraine on an individual basis, although still an under-utilized resource in civil society organizations. By engaging more volunteers, civil society organizations will have greater potential to make a difference.
- The private sector is increasingly engaging in social services provision.

Key Issues

- Civil society has limited means to participate in governance processes in Ukraine. There is no formal mechanism to engage civil society in dialogue and policy-making processes.
- Few civil society organizations have the capacity to competently and constructively contribute to government policy-making processes.
- The "know-how" for establishing a civil society organization is strong, but there are serious deficiencies in capacities to sustain strong and active civil society organizations: limited skills for human resource management, financial management and fundraising.
- Ukrainian legislation restricts the ability of civil society organizations to raise money. Current legislation does not meet EU standards for tax-exempt status and non-profit income generation.
- Fundraising is a critical issue. The long term financial sustainability of some Ukrainian civil society organizations is in doubt. Surveys show that the majority (68% in 2003) of Ukrainian civil society organizations are dependant on international grants.
- Public participation in civil society shows signs of stagnating. Citizen apathy toward civil society is an increasing risk.

The Way Forward

- Improve public understanding of civil society's role in Ukraine. The vital role of civil society in a democracy (i.e. increasing accountability of government, addressing gaps in social service provision) is not well understood by the public. In order for Ukrainian civil society to fulfill its potential, ordinary Ukrainians must be sensitized to the value and importance of civil society to Ukraine's sustainable development.
- Develop capacities of civil society organizations to manage volunteer human resources and finances. Many civil society organizations have strong capacity to develop mission statements and strategic plans. However, civil society leaders must also enhance their ability to raise funds from domestic sources and effectively manage their organizations.
- Engage civil society in policy making processes and improve the legal environment for civil society organizations. Specifically, changes in legislation are required to provide tax-exempt status and enable non-profit fundraising for civil society organizations. Government must also establish formal procedures for engaging civil society in policy-making processes.
- Improve the perception of volunteerism in public, private and non-governmental sectors. Public awareness of the value of volunteers and the positive impact they can make on society needs to be improved. Citizens need to better understand the skills and benefits volunteers can receive.