

## Promotion of European Standards in the Ukrainian Media Environment



**Project Budget:**  
€1.21 million

**Duration:**  
August 2008 – April 2010

**Funded by:**  
• European Union (90%)  
• Council of Europe (10%)

**Country of Implementation:**  
Ukraine

**Project is implemented by:**  
Council of Europe

**Key Project Partner and Beneficiary:**  
National Commission for Freedom of Speech and Development of the Information Sector

### Project's Objectives and Tasks:

#### Overall objective:

To raise standards of journalism with a view to increase Ukrainian public's awareness of political and social developments in Ukraine and provide an ongoing support to the process of enhancing the legislative framework for the media.

The project will focus on raising professional standards in the media. To this end, the project will help enhance the legislative framework for the media, will aim at advancing ethical standards in the journalism profession and will support the ongoing dialogue between the media, civil society and the state administration at the regional level. This will, in turn, result in recommendations on enhancing co-operation at the national level.

#### Expected Results:

- Media legislation is developed in line with European norms and standards;
- The legal framework and institutional capacity of a Public Service Broadcaster is developed and a draft Digital Broadcasting Strategy for Ukraine produced;
- Journalists and editorial staff develop professional working methods on the basis of best practices in Europe;
- Enhanced understanding of ethics among media professionals and information about corruption in the sector promoted;
- Progress towards the establishment of a self-regulatory mechanism of oversight for the media sector made;
- Improvements in the mechanisms for cooperation and dialogue between journalists, civil society representatives and state officials.

#### Project's Achievements to date:

- 6 pilot regions of Ukraine – Chernivtsi, Rivne, Donetsk, Sumy, Cherkasy and Kherson oblasts – were selected for the Project's component "support to the ongoing dialogue between the media, civil society and the state administration at the regional level": monthly joint meetings of the so-called "dialogue groups" were organized in each pilot region;
- Seminar on the transition to digital broadcasting – the first in the cycle of project events on the development of a coordinated plan for the transition to digital television in Ukraine aimed at assisting the major Ukrainian parties to the process to get more information about technical and economic solutions for digitalization produced by other European countries (the Netherlands and Bosnia and Herzegovina) organized in December 2008;
- Seminar on the implementation of the European Convention on Transfrontier Television in Ukraine' conducted in March 2009;
- Expert seminar on best practices with regard to the regulation of foreign channels on a country's cable networks conducted in March 2009;
- Conference on Ukrainian Journalism: Search for Answers to Time Challenges conducted in April 2004;
- Round table on Media and Coverage of Election Campaigns: European Standards conducted in May 2009;
- Conference on Possible Solutions for Signal Distribution of Local TV and Radio Companies conducted in April 2009.

*"The fulfilment of standards that have been developed over the years within the framework of the Council of Europe has always been essential in the European aspirations of Ukraine. We welcome the efforts made by Ukraine to safeguard and promote freedom of expression and information in accordance with the Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights and the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights."*

*Ake Peterson, Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe for the Coordination of Cooperation Programmes with Ukraine*

### Project's Objectives and Tasks:

#### Overall objective:

To contribute to the prevention and control of corruption so that it no longer undermines the confidence of the public in the political and judicial system, democracy, the rule of law and economic and social development in Ukraine.

#### Project's purpose:

- To improve the strategic and institutional framework against corruption in Ukraine;
- To enhance capacities for the prevention of corruption;
- To strengthen the anti-corruption legal framework and effective and impartial enforcement of the criminal legislation on corruption.

#### Expected results:

- Anti-corruption strategy and action plan available;
- Effective monitoring, coordination and management of anti-corruption measures ensured;
- Proposals available for the creation of a body or bodies for the prevention of corruption;
- Anti-corruption concerns incorporated into the process of public administration reform;
- Risks of corruption reduced in the judiciary, the prosecution and the police;
- Conflicts of interest reduced in the political process;
- Draft laws available to improve the prevention and control of corruption in accordance with the Criminal and Civil Law Conventions of the Council of Europe, the UN Convention against corruption and other relevant international legal instruments;
- Law enforcement officials and judges trained and specialised in the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of corruption offences.

#### Project's Achievements to date:

Following the adoption by Verkhovna Rada, on 15 July 2009 the President of Ukraine signed the Law on the Principles of Prevention and Counteraction of Corruption, the Law on the Responsibility of Legal Persons for Corruption Offences introducing the legal responsibility of companies for corrupt activities by their authorized persons and the Law on Amending Certain Legal Acts Regarding Responsibility for Corruption Offences aimed at introducing stricter penalties for corrupt offences – an "Anti-Corruption package of laws".

Adoption of the anti-corruption package is considered an important step forward in the reform of the national anti-corruption legislation and further improvement of country's compliance with the relevant European and international standards. Once enacted, the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption of the Council of Europe and UN Convention against Corruption will enter into force.

The UPAC project has continuously supported the Verkhovna Rada in preparation of the laws and largely contributed to their compliance with the relevant international instruments and standards. In particular, the project provided a series of detailed expert opinions on each of three draft laws in 2006 and 2008. The last opinion prepared by Mr Drago Kos, Chairman of the Council of Europe Group of States Against Corruption (GRECO), highly praised the package of laws and in particular, the Draft Law on the Principles of Prevention and Counteraction of Corruption. However, the expert recommended further improvements of the two other documents.

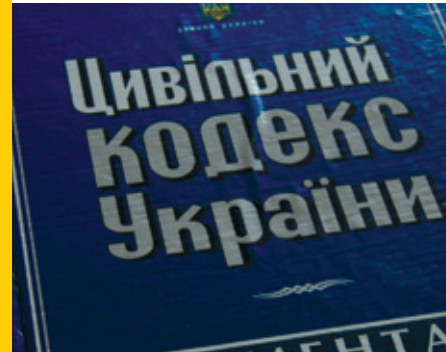
The project regularly took part in a series of working meetings of the Committee on Combating Organised Crime and Corruption of the Verkhovna Rada to discuss the finalisation of the Anti-corruption package for the 2nd reading in the Verkhovna Rada.

Within the framework of the UPAC project a strong political support for adoption of the anti-corruption package of laws has been provided. Namely, prior to the approval of these laws by Verkhovna Rada, Mr Drago Kos has visited Ukraine and held meetings with the Ukrainian President, Prime Minister and Minister of Justice. Following his visit Mr Kos strongly supported the adoption of the laws stressing that the 'Government of Ukraine had once again demonstrated its devotion to the matter of prevention of corruption by proposing the Parliament a package of anti-corruption draft laws.'

#### Other achievements:

- National Handbook on Public Ethics at Local Level was elaborated and published;
- A pilot project aimed at reviewing and strengthening integrity in five municipalities was implemented;
- A model Code of Ethics and model Regulations for the Ethics Committees at the level of local authorities were elaborated;
- The Project supported Ukraine in the preparation of the 3rd GRECO Evaluation Round focusing on incriminations of corruption and transparency of political funding.
- Study tours to European countries were organized for officials from the Ministry of Justice, Office of the Prosecutor General, the Civil Service Department and other project beneficiary institutions with aim of learning from good practices about the effective monitoring, coordination and management of anti-corruption measures.

## Support to good governance: Project against corruption in Ukraine (UPAC)



**Project Budget:**  
€1.75 million

**Duration:**  
June 2006 – December 2009

**Funded by:**  
• European Union (85%)  
• Council of Europe (15%)

**Country of Implementation:**  
Ukraine

**Project is implemented by:**  
Council of Europe

**Key Project Partners and Beneficiaries:**  
• National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine  
• Ministry of Justice of Ukraine