

STRATEGY OF REANIMATION PACKAGE OF REFORMS

for 2018 - 2019 years

WHO WE ARE

Reanimation Package of Reforms (hereinafter referred to as RPR) is the largest coalition of NGOs and experts during the years of Ukraine's independence who have joined forces to work out a consolidated position of the expert community as to the reforms necessary for the country and their proper implementation.

Reanimation Package of Reforms was established in February 2014 during the Revolution of Dignity as a coalition of civic activists, experts, journalists and scholars and has become the key driver of reforms in the country. RPR experts developed the first Roadmap of Reforms for the Parliament of the VIII convocation and presented it in March 2014. In October 2014, leaders of political forces signed a memorandum of cooperation with RPR.

In October 2016, RPR presented the Roadmap of Reforms for 2016-2017 as an action plan for the Verkhovna Rada, the Cabinet of Ministers and other authorities for implementation of changes in 23 areas.

As of today, RPR functions as a coordination center for 83 leading Ukrainian NGOs and 22 expert groups that develop, advocate and monitor the implementation of reforms. During the four years since its establishment, joint actions of the coalition's participants contributed to the adoption of 125 progressive laws in the fields of combating corruption, public administration, judicial, electoral, economic and other key areas of reforms.

An important indicator of the institutional capacity of the coalition is the development of key cooperation rules and policies which all the participants comply with. For the purpose of coordination of effective cooperation of civic organizations, **the RPR Charter** was developed - the rules governing the activity of the platform itself, as well as the internal relations and governance between the coalition members. In accordance with the Charter, the coalition has a three-tier governance structure where the highest body is the RPR Assembly of NGOs attended by representatives of all 83 organizations-members of the coalition.

Each year, the Assembly elects the strategic management body - the RPR Council which consists of 12 reputable personalities. RPR Secretariat is an executive body which operates in the following areas: *advocacy, communication, international relations and regional cooperation*.

The RPR's strategy is updated every two years considering the state of reforms implementation and the challenges in the environment.

OUR MISSION IS

To support and advance reforms in order to build an independent, democratic, lawful, strong and authoritative Ukrainian state with a wealthy society and equal opportunities of each person for development and self-realization, as well as to promote the consolidation of Ukrainian civil society.

OUR VALUES

**Professionalism
Responsibility
Focus on the result
Respect for human rights
Patriotism
Tolerance
Political neutrality and non-affiliation with business**

ENVIRONMENT DESCRIPTION

INTERNAL FACTORS

Ukraine continues to move towards European integration and implementation of internal reforms.

Systemic transformations have begun in many spheres of life in the country that require further advancement. The most notable achievements of Ukraine in 2017 were the abolition of the visa regime with the EU, the launch of decentralization processes, public service broadcasting, commencement of reforms in the healthcare, education and pension systems, and a slight increase in the economy for the second year in a row. Beginning of implementation of the Association Agreement with the EU has led to a noticeable increase in Ukrainian exports.

Civil society continues to build capacity and influence the agenda and decision-making through active participation in selection committees, public and supervisory boards, working groups in parliamentary committees, and other expert forms of cooperation with the authorities. Due to such cooperation, the pressure from civil society and international partners, gradual changes take place, which are positively reflected in the positions of Ukraine in international ratings. Nevertheless, Ukraine's positions in the rankings remain low. In the Doing Business 2018 ranking, Ukraine has risen 4 positions and ranked 76th.

In terms of maintaining the rule of law, Ukraine has risen in the ranking compared to 2016, but is so far only the 77th out of 113 countries surveyed. According to the Corruption Perceptions Index (ranking by Transparency International), Ukraine is still at the bottom 131st position out of 176 countries in the survey.

There was a noticeable tendency to slow down of the pace of reforms and the general decline in reform potential caused primarily by the lack of efficiency of the authorities and the lack of political will to implement reforms. Unwillingness to tolerate further decrease in the level of their own lives for the sake of the ultimate success of reforms is reported by 67% of respondents of the study of the Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation. The frustration of society in the actions of the

authorities, the lack of their effective communication with society led to a further decline in trust in key state institutions and political forces.

With the approaching election period, society becomes vulnerable to populist slogans and ideas.

The authorities are exerting pressure on anti-corruption organizations and individual activists, both through public discreditation and physical influence. One of the manifestations of such pressure is the introduction of compulsory electronic declaration of income for anti-corruption activists and workers of anti-corruption organizations.

INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

The lack of apparent progress in the fight against corruption has become the reason for the cooling of Ukraine's relations with foreign partners and donors (in particular, the EU and the IMF). Ukraine has also faced complications in relations with neighboring countries that were traditionally considered friendly (with Poland and Hungary). One of the most significant negative external factors is the hybrid war with Russia in the East of Ukraine.

In the light of the processes of global geopolitical transformation, the deepening of the crisis in the EU and its key countries, as well as the unsatisfactory pace of implementation of Ukraine's priority reforms, now the interest in the "Ukrainian question" is much lower than in 2014. However, in 2017, a number of key decisions were adopted by the international community, which indicated further support to Ukraine - the UN General Assembly resolution on the human rights situation in Crimea, the EU decision on prolongation of the sanctions regime against Russia, the decision of the US Administration to grant Ukraine lethal defensive weapons (on a royalty-free basis). In 2017, the Free Trade Agreement between Canada and Ukraine entered into force. In March 2018, NATO officially acknowledged Ukraine's aspirations for membership and included the state in the list of "aspirant member status countries."

International partners continue to implement a wide range of projects in Ukraine, including those aimed at institutional support of civil society, and the diplomatic corps is actively involved in the process of promoting reforms. The level of trust of Ukrainian society in Western partners remains rather high.

In particular, according to a survey conducted by the "Democratic Initiatives" Foundation in cooperation with the sociological service of the Razumkov Centre, one of the two instances which Ukrainians are ready to entrust the fight against corruption are the experts from Western countries (41%).

In 2017, first time in six years period, Ukraine entered the world capital market. The step affirms investors' confidence in Ukraine, while reducing the government's need for international macro financial assistance.

At the same time, in the medium-term, macro-financial assistance will remain necessary to maintain Ukraine's economic stability, and hence the conditions for its delivery, related to concrete reform steps, remain among the effective instruments of influence.

VISION OF UKRAINE:

- Citizens know and can exercise their rights
- Citizens actively influence the management of state and local affairs through modern participatory mechanisms
- Transparent, open, accountable and effective government and parties
- Conditions for equal access to politics are created
- Media and non-governmental organizations are responsible
- Economic competition is integrity-driven
- Fair justice is ensured
- Populism is less perceived and not supported by the society
- Ukrainian society is consolidated and united

STRATEGIC TASKS:

- 1)** Formation and promotion of a public agenda for reforms, in particular by supporting dialogue with authorities, promoting positive perceptions and raising public support for reforms in Ukraine and among international partners.
- 2)** Facilitation of RPR member NGOs in the advocacy and communication of reforms (including international advocacy and communication).
- 3)** Development of a platform for expert discussions with the involvement of all stakeholders and coordination of efforts in the decision-making process in the field of public policy.
- 4)** Facilitation of public consolidation, development of participatory democracy, including on the ground (including the formation and development of regional coalitions), civic education and citizen engagement in the reform process.
- 5)** Formation of a favorable environment for public associations and protection of RPR organizations-members (including NGOs participating in regional coalitions and civic activists).
- 6)** Formation of interregional unity of the Ukrainian space within the sovereign territory of Ukraine.