



“Reforms for All - All for Reforms”

On the Road to Lugano: Decentralization

October 29, 2021

Online stream

Ukraine has made astounding progress in the implementation of decentralization – one of the foundational reforms launched after the Revolution of Dignity of 2014. The new administrative-territorial setup has been finalized with the local elections of 2020. Hromadas have received new responsibilities and a financial resource base. A new generation of local government leaders has emerged. Citizens can experience a new quality of service provision and greater opportunities for local decision-making. Still, while a number of unresolved issues for hromadas persist, a sustained reform process requires a concerted effort by all stakeholders: government, parliament, local self-government, private sector, civil society, academia and media. Only after agreeing on the common coordinate system, can we jointly define our next steps and commit to the further consolidation of the reforms.

The event is the first in a series of multi-stakeholder discussions “On the Road to Lugano” featuring important reform streams that will be highlighted at the 5th Ukraine Reform Conference in Lugano, Switzerland, on 4-5 July 2022. The discussion on decentralization aims at more effectively engaging actors from private sector, academia and local civil society in the reform discourse and implementation.

“Resources for Hromadas: Where to Find Them and How to Use Them Effectively”

It is exactly one year since Ukrainian hromadas have been fully amalgamated. Most newly merged hromadas still face an acute need for resources to address pressing issues of their development. While the demand for financial resources is always strongly articulated vis-a-vis the central government, it is essential also to look into hromadas’ own potential. The panel will address among others the topics of a just distribution of the PIT as a key financial source for hromadas, investment into human capital, as well as responsible and efficient land management.

“Hromadas and Business - the Power of Cooperation”

At the local level, hromadas and private sector have the greatest financial and organizational resources. At the same time, effective dialogue between them is lacking. The synergy of hromada-business cooperation can provide powerful additional opportunities in overcoming the development challenges that hromadas are facing. This panel will offer a platform for a candid discussion between local self-governments and business community. It will offer a multi-stakeholder assessment of the current situation in interaction between businesses and hromadas. It will present good practices of public-private partnership and will identify

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opportunities for expanding and amplifying the mechanisms for cooperation between private sector and hromadas.

“Civic Initiatives as a Driver of Hromada Development”

Engaging citizens in local development processes ensures hromadas cohesion and provides public support for development initiatives of local authorities. There is already a number of good practices in productive cooperation between local self-governments and civic initiatives or civil society organizations. These practices have not yet become as widespread as they should be. The panel will look into the key principles of good cooperation, will provide recommendations on the ways how to motivate civic engagement, and how to make local development and reform implementation at hromada level a genuinely collaborative and inclusive process.

PROGRAM

Time	Event
10.00 - 10.05	Introduction by the moderator <i>Larysa Hubina, TV host</i>
10.05 - 10.25	Welcoming speeches by the Prime Minister of Ukraine and the Vice President of Switzerland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Denys Shmyhal, Prime Minister of Ukraine</i> • <i>Ignazio Cassis, Vice President of Switzerland</i>
10.25 - 11.00	Hard Talk on Decentralization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Viachelav Nehoda, Deputy Minister for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine</i> • <i>Vitaliy Bezgin, Member of Parliament of Ukraine</i>
11.00 - 12.15	Panel Discussion: Resources for Hromadas: Where to Find Them and How to Use Them Effectively <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ella Libanova, Director of the Ptoukha Institute for Demography and Social Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine</i> • <i>Anatoliy Tkachuk, Science and Development Director of the Civil Society Institute</i> • <i>Volodymyr Zrazhevskyi, Head of Mezhova Territorial Hromada, Dnipropetrovsk oblast</i> • <i>Olena Kolesnikova, Deputy Director, Federation of Metallurgists of Ukraine</i> • <i>Dmytro Tuzhanskyi, Director of the Institute for Central European Strategy</i>
12.15 – 12.30	Coffee-break

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12.30 - 13.45	<p>Panel Discussion: Hromadas and Business - the Power of Cooperation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bohdan Kelichavyi, Head of Kopychyntsi Territorial Hromada, Ternopil oblast</i> • <i>Natalia Semeniuk, Head of Semenivka Territorial Hromada, Zhytomyr oblast</i> • <i>Svitlana Mozgova, Head of department for human resources, corporate social responsibility and communications, Astarta-Kyiv</i> • <i>Viacheslav Pokotylo, professor of management and economics, International Management Institute, member of the Supervisory Board of “Malyn paper factory – Weidmann”</i> • <i>Volodymyr Opryshko, founder of Serhiivka bakery and cheese production, Poltava oblast</i>
13.45 - 15.00	<p>Panel Discussion: Civic Initiatives as a Driver of Hromada Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Larysa Bilozir, Member of Parliament of Ukraine</i> • <i>Denys Korotenko, Head of Shyroke Territorial Hromada, Zaporizhzhia oblast</i> • <i>Valentyna Yakubiv, Vice-Rector of Science, Vasyl Stefanyk Precarpathian National University</i> • <i>Volodymyr Onyshchuk, Director of Koriukivka youth centre “KUB”, Chernihiv region</i> • <i>Lesia Holoyad, Head of Youth Media Centre, Head of Youth Council of Zboriv Territorial Hromada, Ternopil oblast</i> • <i>Anna Dembitska, Student of Ivan Franko Lviv National University</i>
15.00 - 15.15	<p>Conclusions and closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Anatolii Kutsevol, Deputy State Secretary of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine</i> • <i>Simon Pidoux, Ambassador for Ukraine Reform Conference 2022</i>