

REPOR 2017



REPORT OF THE LEGAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK FOR 2017

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Natalya Bimbirayte Chair of Board

Lead by example!

I am writing these lines with great joy and enthusiasm - indeed, despite all the difficulties that Ukraine faced in recent years, our Network has been established and strengthened. The developments of the last four years created new challenges and new opportunities that demanded quick response from the civil society, search for new tools for building confidence, expanding the circle of like-minded people and partners. We continue to evolve. We stay careful and not indifferent to human misfortune, flexible in finding effective legal solutions, creative and persistent in development and implementation of our dreams for respect for human dignity, justice, and the rule of law in Ukraine.

I admire people who helped Legal Development Network to become a prominent actor of the human rights movement in Ukraine: lawyers, attorneys, human rights defenders and journalists who over the years help people find a way out of difficult situations, believe in themselves and the force of law, benefactors who believe in us and who found an opportunity to support our initiatives, and a wonderful team of like-minded people, who - even in difficult moments - did not allow the thought to lay hands. Because the most important thing for each of us is human life, and human dignity is the highest value. We learn from ourselves and teach others how to not get lost in the misleading ideologies and fantasies of politicians, teaching people to address their problems in a legal way, together we learn perseverance and our own responsibility for the quality of life. We form a civil society that is always the main driver of change.

We change the world for better, we are open and always ready for cooperation!



Yevgen Poltenko Executive Director 1 billion people all over world face legal problems. Many of these problems are related to violence. Often, the survivors do not take any legal action to find solution, because they do not believe in a positive outcome. 70% of people who face legal problems do not find a solution that would satisfy them. And a significant number of those who come to a positive outcome do so outside formal legal system. Failure to address legal issues often results in poor health, relationships and loss of livelihood. Legal powerlessness causes alienation and anger, conflicts and new injustice. It is not surprising that people who cannot fully exercise their rights become a low-hanging fruit for demagogues and - more simply political swindlers at the elections. Access to justice is as important for sustainable development of society as access to water and nutrition, education and health care.

It has been almost a decade since in 2009, activists from eight human rights organizations united in an informal coalition. They were united by the idea of **legal empowerment**, or strengthening and expanding legal opportunities. These pioneers of empowerment in Ukraine believed that it is possible and necessary to strengthen the ability of all people to exercise their rights. It is about justice at basic level – that the law should not only stay in the codes or in the walls of the courtroom, but be accessible to and filled with real content for average people. To make people aware of their rights and be able to use them. And if the law does not meet the needs of people – to amend this law. The law cannot be a sacred cow. When the word 'law' and 'justice' do not have the same meaning, this law violates human rights, and it must be amended. The idea ofempowering people and communities to use the law to overcome poverty, inequality and injustice has become the cement of a union of human rights organizations that is currently known as the Legal Development Network.

We do not provide solutions to people's problems by our own. Our job is to give a fishing pole, not a fish. In cities and small towns, in the most remote villages, we raise people's awareness of their rights, we urge them not to ignore their problems, but to seek the truth. Each year, more than 30 thousand people come to our organizations for legal consultations. Often, basic legal information is sufficient. But also, there are quite many cases that people cannot handle by their own. When it comes to public interest, cases of power arbitrariness and when a person has no money to afford professional legal service, our lawyers accompany such cases in the courts. Over the past year, there were over 800 cases like this.

Apart from providing legal aid to people, our

activities allow us to analyze and generalize problems in communities and, thus, focus the decisions of local authorities to meeting real needs of people. They mitigate the level of conflict and help engage the entire community's potential for the development. Our law enforcement activities, reconciliation practices (mediation), leadership and community development programs, and creation of safe environment also contribute to community activism.

For sure, our efforts to protect human rights are not always welcomed and supported by those in power. People who know how to protect themselves are often uncomfortable for some local decision-makers (and not just at grass-roots level). These are the values that are critical in this unfavorable environment. The values that unite us in the Network are partnership, trust, impartiality, and priority of human rights.

As in previous years when the Legal Development Network was established, in 2017 we managed to achieve a lot to empower people, to improve the system of legal aid in Ukraine, and to expand access to justice. But all these accomplishments would have been impossible without the reliable and friendly support from our partners. Thanks to all of them for invaluable help and advice. We hope that our further journey towards a rule of-law state of equal opportunity will be no less fruitful and exciting.

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About the Network



Mission. Vision. Values

Legal Development Network is a coalition of NGOs that develop territorial communities through the provision of free legal aid.

The union began its formation in 2009 under the name of the Network of Centers of Legal Information and Consultation. At that time, eight organizations decided to unite their efforts to develop common approaches to providing legal aid in communities, generalizing typical appeals and standardizing their work. Since 2017, the Network unites 24 organizations in 14 regions of Ukraine. These organizations are the regional Network offices and provide basic legal information, accompany the most highprofile cases in the courts, actively cooperate with local self-government to address individual problems and protect public interests, implement alternative ways of conflict resolutions, develop communities and promote leadership.

Mission

We empower people legally, protect human rights and freedoms, and develop communities.

Vision

- Establishing the rule of law and sustainable development of communities in Ukraine.
- Everyone has the opportunity to receive legal aid at the office of the Network which is accessible physically or on the Internet.
- High level of legal responsibility of citizens who enjoy legal security and safety and know how to address their own and public problems.
- Each community can use local legal aid programs, local acts for launching public hearings and community initiatives.
- Each community can attract local budget to address community problems.

Values









Empowerment

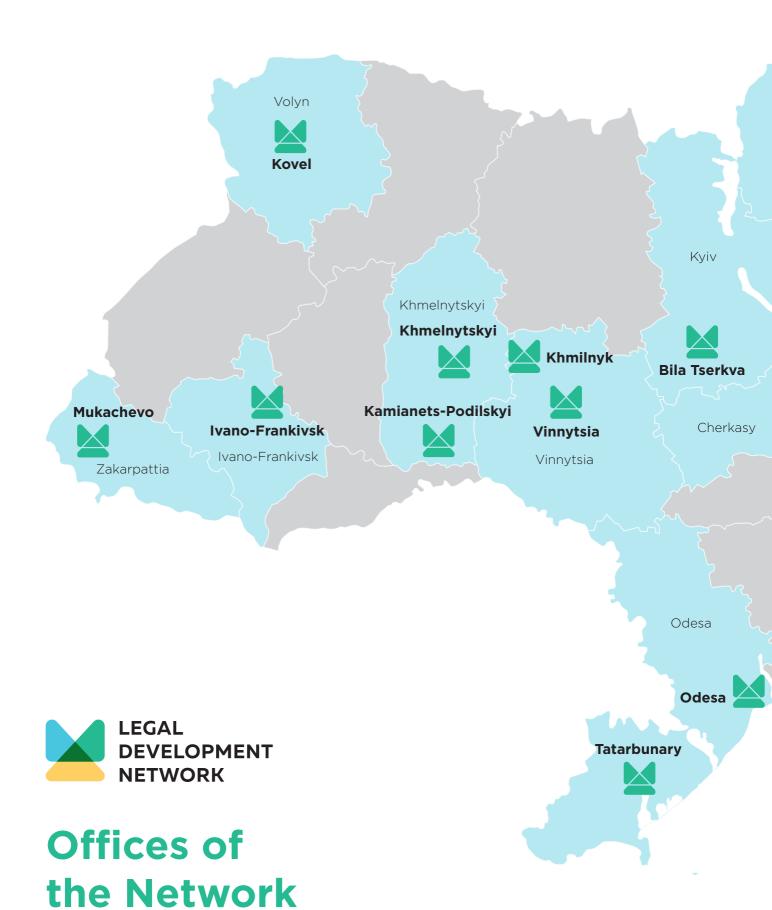
Partnership and synergy

Professionalism

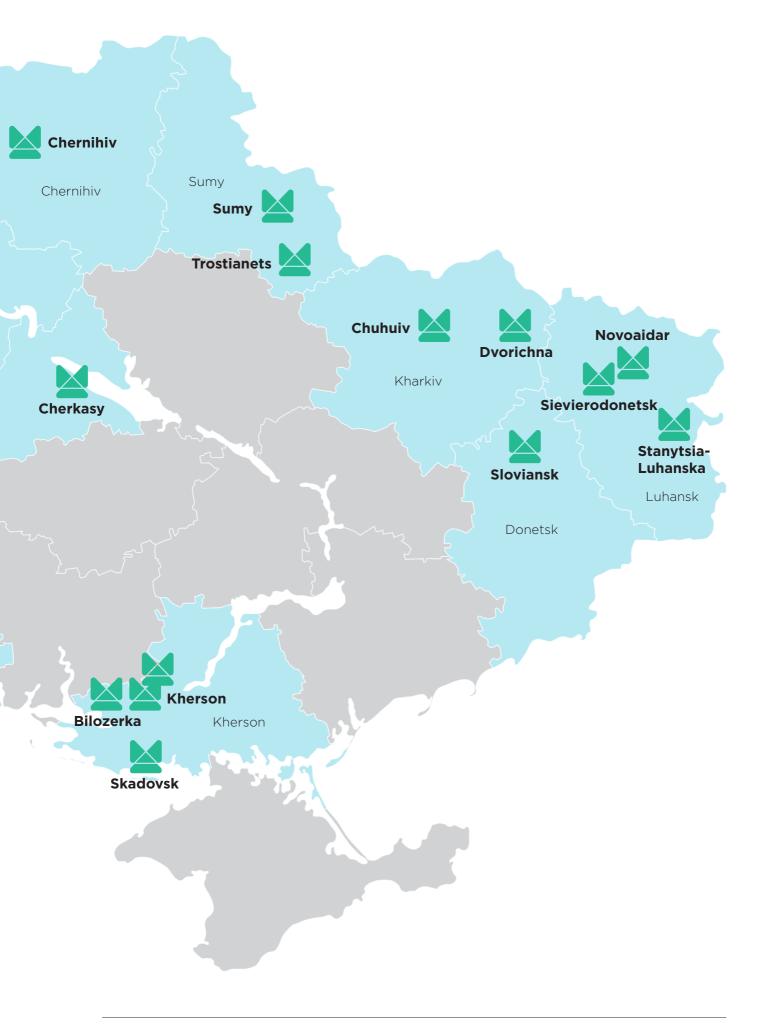
Trust

Equity and

impartiality



REPORT OF THE LEGAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK FOR 2017





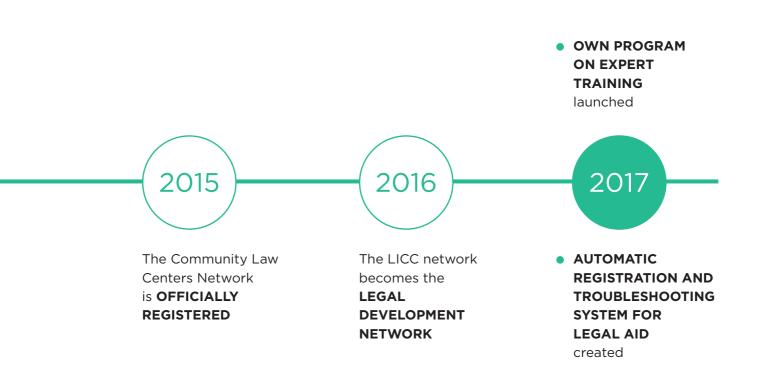
History of the Network



INITIATIVE «Legal empowerment of the poor» 15 CENTERS OF LEGAL INFORMATION AND CONSULTATIONS set up Centers are united in a **NON-FORMAL NETWORK**

Strategic directions





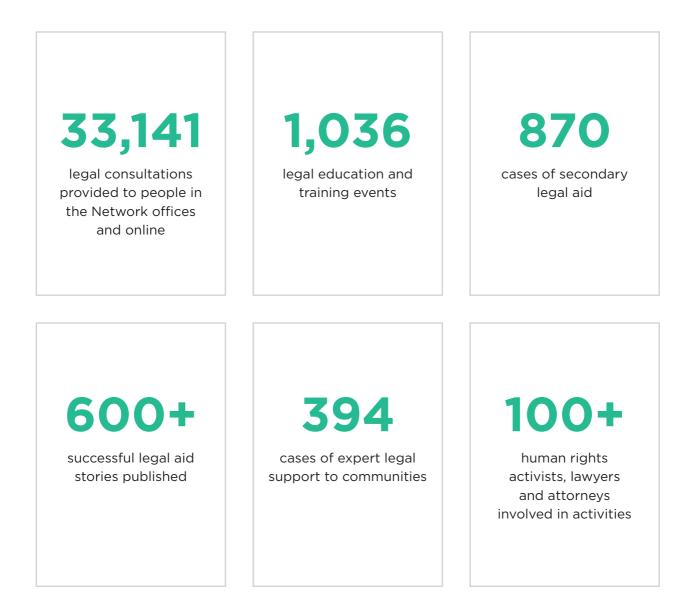
Manifesto

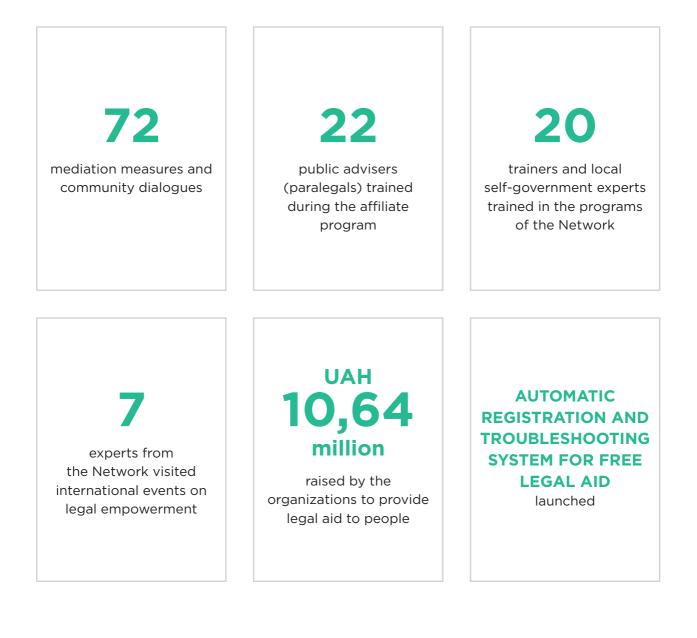
- We are Legal Development Network
- We believe in positive changes. We motivate people for conscious actions.
- Any change in the state starts with one person, so every person is important.
- We change the life of communities.
- Our associates and communities, we work in, are inspiring and encouraging us.
- We are ordinary people doing extraordinary things together.

- Our ideals are: respect for the human dignity, faith in the community dignity, and respect for the rule of law.
- We believe that a true democratic society is being formed in Ukraine.
- As we are full of energy and faith in the feasibility of changes in the society, we are the ones who will really change it!
- To achieve a better life together, join us!



Accomplishments in 2017







Legal empowerment

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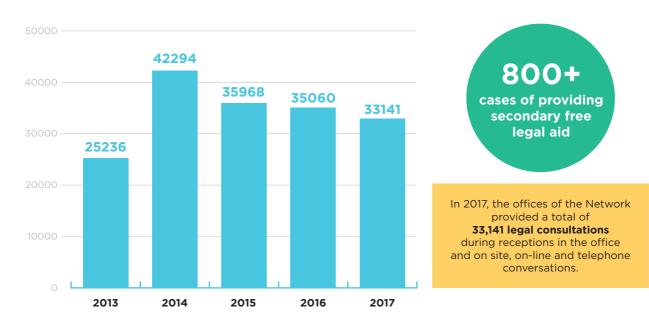


Legal empowerment is a strategic direction of the Network which involves creation of a critical mass of people who know their rights, able and motivated to protect and promote them.

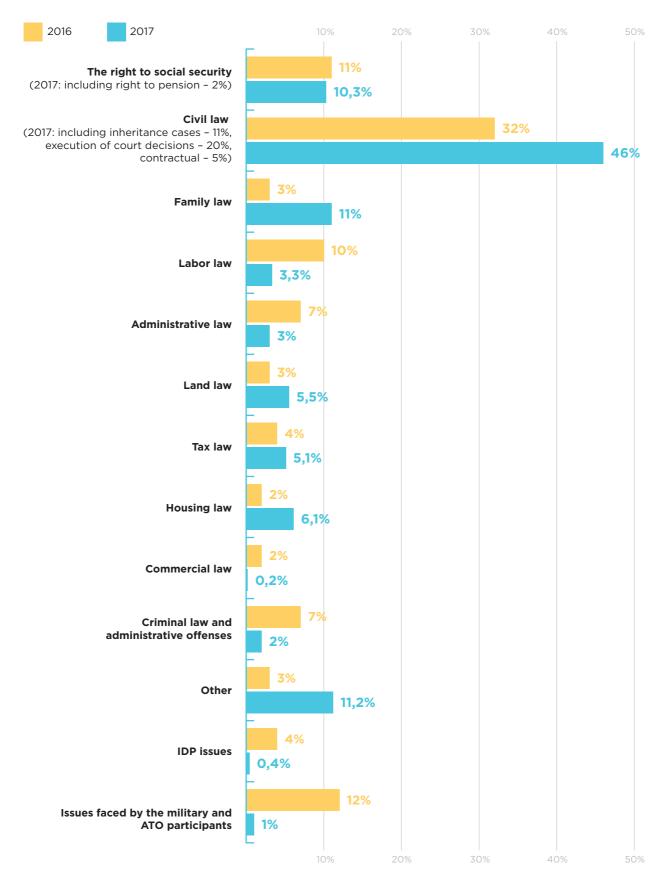
More than 3,000 people seek legal aid at the Network offices and through its online services monthly. Lawyers of the Network work with a wide range of legal issues, including land, labor, and social and family affairs. Much attention is paid to addressing the problems of internally displaced persons and participants of the Anti-terrorist operation.

In 2017, the Network's organizations provided 33,141 consultations (offline + online).

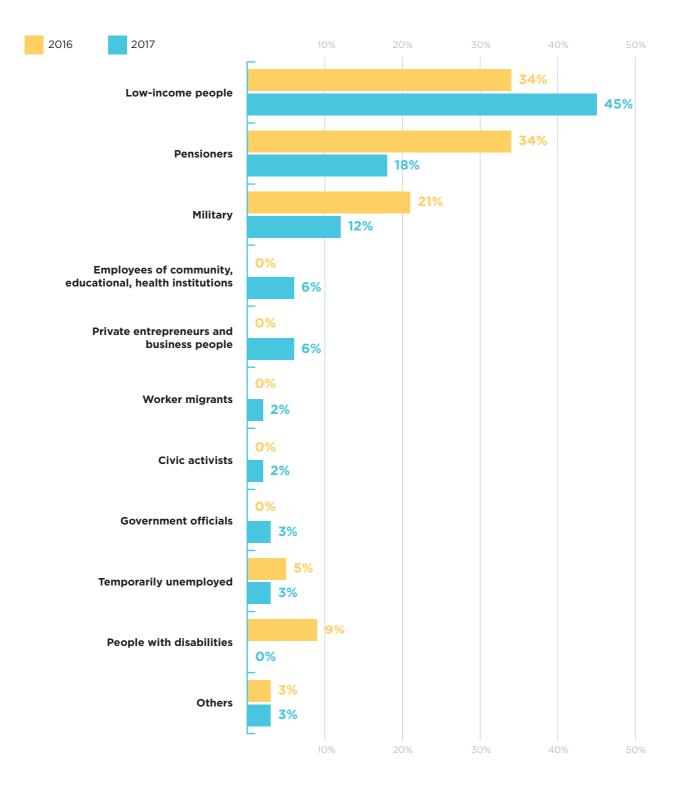
Legal aid



Issues brought to the Network



Groups of people who seek legal aid





CHECK MY LABOR RECORD BOOK, OR HOW A TRACTOR DRIVER PROVED IN COURT THAT HE IS NOT A MECHANIC

All his life, a man worked as a tractor driver. At the age of 55, he was going to get a retirement pension. However, when he came to a pension fund, it turned out that a different position was recorded in his labor record book for more than 10 years – he was registered as a mechanic. Thus, he was not eligible to a privileged (increased) pension. In Dvorichna Office of Legal Development Network (Kharkiv oblast), the man was told: it is only possible to prove that he worked as a tractor driver in court. **Vitalii Babyka**, head of the office, gathered a considerable evidence base and has made a positive court decision.

Viktor Cherniavskyi, who has worked as a tractor driver in local agricultural enterprises since 1992, contacted the Legal Development Network office at the NGO "Fund of Village Communities of Dvorichna region"

"A person who worked as a tractor driver (a machine operator) for 20 years and has at least 30 years of pensionable service has a right to a 'privileged pension," says Vitalii Babyka.

Thus, having calculated all his experience (more than 36 years, inclunding over 20 years as a tractor driver), the man decided to take advantage of the right to a privileged pension. However, the pension fund told him



Head of Dvorichna Office of Legal Development Network Vitalii Babyka and Viktor Cherniavskyi

that he could not do it, because a position of mechanic was recorded in his labor record book during 1992-2003. Since all these years a man worked as a tractor driver, he was frustrated to hear that from the pensions fund.

Friends advised Viktor to seek help from lawyers at the Dvorichna Office of Legal Development Network. Head of the office Vitalii Babyka assured the man that he can prove his right in court.

"The institutions (collective farms) where Viktor was employed were liquidated. All cases were transferred to the district archives. Thus, it was impossible to make corrections or clarifications," the lawyer explains. Therefore, the lawyer began to collect evidence and prepare an appeal to the court. Initially, the lawyer received an official decision of the pension fund on the refusal to award a privileged pension (before that, a man was only refused this pension orally). Then, he gathered the evidence base and prepared an administrative suit to court. Also, Vitalii Babyka represented Viktor Cherniavskyi's interests in court. According to the lawyer, it took four court hearings to prove the man's right to a privileged pension. After all, the pension fund filed a lawsuit against the claim.

Finally, the court supported the administrative suit in full and ordered the defendant to award Viktor Cherniavskyi a privileged pension. The pension fund agreed with the court decision and did not file an appeal. Thus, the decision came into force. Viktor will finally be able to receive a fairly earned pension.

What to do if you are trapped in a similar situation?

"I know many cases when a position of a mechanic is recorded in a labor record book instead of a tractor driver. Thus, a person is not eligible to a privileged pension. But many people don't believe that positive solution is possible. Sometimes they are aggrieved, too. Therefore, the vast majority of people do not want to go to court," highlights Viktor Cherniavskyi.

The head of Dvorichna Office of Legal Development Network Vitalii Babyka advises people who find themselves in a similar situation at least to seek legal advice. "Such an appeal won't take much time. Moreover, now there is the possibility to seek free legal aid. It will help you understand the perspective in your particular situation. Analysis of the case law suggests that if you choose the right way to protect violated rights and prove your case with proper evidence in this category of cases, it is very likely that court will make a decision in your favor," the lawyer concludes.



Reference to the court decision in the Unified State Register of Judgments: http://reyestr.court.gov.ua/Review/70023045



FULL VICTORY IN AN EMBLEMATIC CASE OF AN ILLEGALLY FIRED ATO PARTICIPANT

Serhii Shevchuk served in the ATO area on a contract when he learned that the leadership of the Main Department of Justice in Kherson oblast is about to dismiss him from the position of senior state enforcement officer at Ivanivskyi District Division of the State Bailiff Service. The reason was that he had the military contract.

By a decision of Kherson Regional Administrative Court on May 26, 2017, a suit prepared by the lawyer of the Legal Development Network's office **Serhii Plakhotniuk** on behalf of S. Shevchuk was completely satisfied.

The order of the Main Department of Justice # 143/1 on dismissal of S.Savchuk of February 14, 2017 was declared illegal and canceled. As a result, he was reinstated as a senior state enforcement officer at Ivanivskyi District Division of State Bailiff Service in Kherson oblast. In addition, the court ordered to recover the average earnings during the forced absenteeism in the amount of UAH 12,592.92 from the Main Department of Justice in favor of S. Shevchuk.



Serhii Shevchuk

The Main Department of Justice appealed this decision to the Court of Appeals. However, thanks to legal aid provided by the lawyer of Legal Development Network, the decision of the panel of judges of Odesa Administrative Court of Appeals of August 15, 2017 in case # 821/639/17 refused the appeal of the Main Department of Justice in Kherson oblast. Thus, the resolution of Kherson Regional Administrative Court of May 26, 2017 was left unchanged.



Thus, a lawsuit prepared by the lawyer Serhii Plakhotniuk was completely satisfied: despite the appeal, the illegally dismissed ATO participant was resumed at work and received compensation.

Lawyer Serhii Plakhotniuk Photo: legalspace.org

Awareness raising activities



Throughout 2017, staff of Legal Development Network offices conducted 489 legal awareness raising activities.

More than 10 thousand people were able to learn their rights and how to use them effectively.



Event of Tatarbunary office of Legal Development Network for children in the recreation camp of Emmanuil Charitable Foundation (Odesa oblast), July 19, 2017



Training "Anticorruption mechanisms in the amalgamated territorial communities," conducted by representatives of the NGO "Bilozerskyi center for regional development" and NGO "Regional analytical center" for Muzykivka territorial community (Kherson oblast), August 16-17, 2017

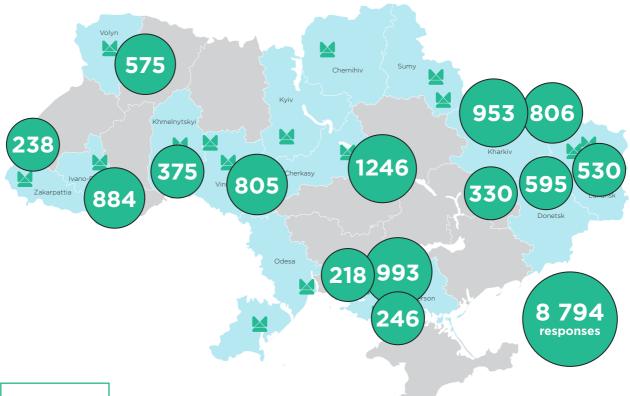
Legal aid online

Legal aid from Legal Development Network can be obtained both at the nearest office of the Network, but also on Legal Space portal, where the chat operates on weekdays from 10:00 to 16:00.

Also, the service is available on the website of the Legal Development Network.

Activities of member organizations

(number of consultations provided through online chat in 2017)





Contacts of the offices: http://ldn.org.ua/office/

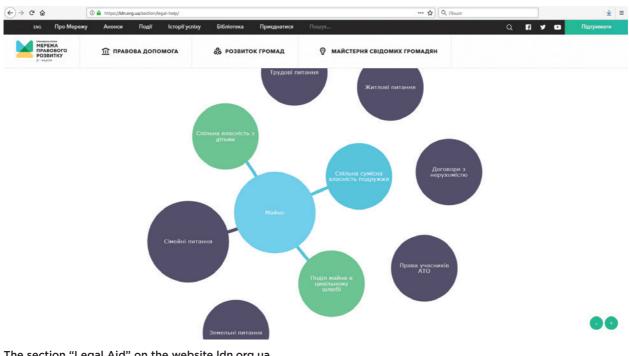


Legal Space portal: http://legalspace.org/ua/helper/onlinecons



Legal Development Network http://ldn.org.ua

In addition, the Network website allows visitors to independently find necessary legal information (sections "Legal Aid" and "Consultation"), to learn or download electronic versions of leaflets on current legal issues.



The section "Legal Aid" on the website Idn.org.ua



Legal Development Network Section "Legal Aid" https://ldn.org.ua/section/legal-help/



Legal Development Network Section "Consultations" https://ldn.org.ua/consultations/

To automate the registration and processing of requests for legal aid, a specialized CRM-system was developed and integrated in the work of the Legal Development Network offices. The system allows not only to quickly process and track progress of cases of legal aid seekers, but also to share successful practices, summarize and analyze sociodemographic data of the requesters, information on top priority legal problems that people face, etc.

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Automated system of the Network for registration and processing of requests of free legal aid seekers

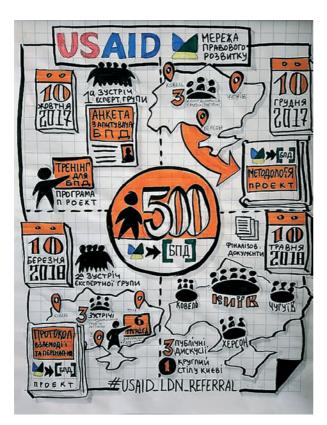
Establishing cooperation with other free legal aid providers

 Legal Development Network receives support of USAID New Justice Program to implement a project "Improving access to justice for vulnerable groups in the communities of Volyn, Kharkiv, and Kherson oblasts."

In accordance with current legislation of Ukraine, structural units of the state system of free legal aid may provide secondary legal aid to exclusively defined categories of the population. Those who apply for secondary legal aid and do not meet the established criteria often do not receive such aid or information on alternative options for receiving it, in particular, on the possibility of contacting other providers of free legal aid.

Civil society organizations that provide free legal aid and refer secondary legal aid seekers cannot properly monitor the quality of service provided to these seekers by the responsible structural unit of the state system of free legal aid. Often, people who contact free legal aid providers are asking for secondary legal aid, as they are not well-informed about the organizations that provide primary and secondary legal aid. People are nervous and don't believe that their legal problems can be addressed.

The goal of the project is to increase access to justice for vulnerable populations by establishing effective communication between providers of free legal aid and courts, monitoring the activities of the system of free legal aid in the communities of Volyn, Kharkiv and Kherson oblasts.



Infographic of the Legal Development Network referral project

Preliminary results of the project by the end of 2017:

- A total of 1,391 consultations were provided to free primary legal aid seekers, including 96 referrals to government providers.
- A draft questionnaire for the legal aid seeker has been approved and a referral training program has been developed.
- Six referral trainings were provided, 59 representatives of the state system of free legal aid and nongovernmental providers took part in them.



- Three regional coordination groups of free legal aid providers (Kherson, Volyn and Kharkiv oblasts) were established to develop proposals for the protocol of interaction and referral.
- Online template for monitoring referrals and feedback analysis from free legal aid seekers was produced.
- Leaflets with relevant contacts of free legal aid providers in Kharkiv, Kherson and Volyn oblasts were disseminated.







Trainings on referral in Kherson, Kovel (Volyn oblast) and Chuhuiv (Kharkiv oblast), November-December 2017

Legal aid to ATO participants

The Project "Strengthening legal capacity and psychosocial integration of ATO participants and their families at the community level" supported by the International Renaissance Foundation brought about the following results:

- A total of 921 consultations were provided to war veterans and servicemen in different regions of Ukraine.
- 30 mobile consultations were provided to ATO participants in military units, hospitals of veterans of war, and military commissariats.
- Ten one-day trainings in remote communities and in employment centers were carried out.
- School-trainings for ATO participants and members of their families, volunteers, public activists were delivered.



 A roadmap for ATO participants has been developed reflective of regional context. The Roadmap is available at Library section of Legal Development Network website (ldn.org.ua).





Roadmap for ATO participants https://ldn.org.ua/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/ Dorozhnya-karta-uchasnyka-ATO.pdf



Community empowerment

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Community empowerment is:

- Empowering communities by providing expert legal support;
- Communication platform for involving of all stakeholders;
- A generalized experience to create recommendations for problem prevention and resolution
- Developed practices of mediation and alternative ways of conflict resolution;
- Local targeted programs for providing free legal aid;
- Comprehensive approach to local problem solving.



Throughout 2017, human rights activists of Legal Development Network provided 394 expert legal consultations to support the communities.

With the adoption of certain legislative changes in late 2017 envisaged by the judicial reform, access to justice for the poor was significantly hampered. The court fees have increased significantly. Most of professional legal services became more expensive. In addition, courts are experiencing a drastic shortage of personnel. In some districts, a court has only one judge instead of five or six. It affects the quality and accessibility of justice. Mediation plays an important role in minimizing the consequences of these negative processes. Mediation is a handson tool that can be used in various ways – from peaceful resolution of civil issues and community issues to national reconciliation issues, ranging from children's communities to various groups of people, communities and territories. In 2017, the Network mediators conducted 72 mediations and dialogues.



NO-MAN'S LAND IS TO WORK FOR THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY

The land plots the owners of which have died and which nobody inherited can become the property of the community. However, essential evidence and a judicial decision are necessary to properly process it. A lawyer of Dvorichna Office of Legal Development Network **Vitalii Babyka** took up this difficult case. He helped the head of Lyman Druhyi village (Kharkiv oblast) to return over 10 hectares of land plots to the community.

Vitalii Babyka and village head **Mykola Kolomiytsev** discussed the issue of community budget replenishment at one of the mobile consultations in the village. The official said there were land plots in the village whose owners died and which nobody inherited.

"In this case, the village council has the right to recognize such a legacy as abandoned asset* and return it to the community," the lawyer explains.



From left to right: Lyman Druhyi village head Mykola Kolomiytsev, member of the NGO "Fund of village communities of Dvorichna region" Yuliia Ryabenko, head of Dvorichna office of Legal Development Network Vitalii Babyka

However, essential evidence and a judicial decision are necessary to properly process it. Also, Vitalii Babyka helped the village council collect all the necessary documents.

^{*} **Abandoned asset (bona vacancia)** – a concept in civil law which denotes the property of a deceased person which does not pass to his/her heirs. An asset may become abandoned if after the death of the testator there are no heirs, either in accordance with the law or the will, or if none of the heirs inherited the inheritance or all the heirs are deprived of inheritance by will.

The process of gathering the evidence was very rigorous:

- 1. First, the lawyer went to the district department of the State GeoCadaster to collect information on whether the dead persons had documents proving their ownership rights to land plots.
- 2. Then, he took death certificates from the department of state registration of acts of civil status.
- 3. After it, he prepared a petition to Dvorichna State Notary with the requirement to provide evidence that heirs are absent.
- 4. To find potential heirs, he announced in local newspaper that he was going to go to court.
- 5. When all the evidence was gathered, the lawyer prepared the draft applications to the court for the recognition of the inheritance as an abandoned asset.

Two applications have been submitted to Dvorichna District Court. On November 27, 2017, the court completely satisfied them. Abandoned assets, including the right to land plots with a total area ofmore than 10 hectares – was transferred to the territorial community.

"Obtaining the rights to these land plots will certainly contribute to increasing the revenue of the community budget, since as the owner, the community will be able to rent such land out through an auction. It *will significantly increase the rent rate,"* the village head believes.

The lawyer Vitalii Babyka said that they were drafting three similar applications to the court. However, it turned out that there were mistakes in the names of owners in property title. Therefore, it is first necessary to prove in the court that these documents really belong to the deceased persons, and only then apply to the court the respective land plots abandoned assets.



Reference to the court decision in the Unified State Register of Judgments: http://reyestr.court.gov.ua/Review/70553891 http://reyestr.court.gov.ua/Review/70553902



THANKS TO LAWYER'S HELP, KHERSON WILL HOST PUBLIC HEARINGS

Thanks to the competent actions of the lawyer of Kherson office of Legal Development Network, local activists have made the government to organize public hearings on a crucial issue of distribution of funds for repairs of the housing stock of the city of Kherson. Local activists asked Kherson office of the Network - that operates on the basis of Kherson regional organization of the Committee of Voters of Ukraine - to help draft a request to organize city public hearings and other documents. The agenda of public hearings was extremely important - it related to the distribution of funds for capital repairs of the city's housing stock.

Public hearings are one of the most powerful mechanisms of participatory democracy, a dialogue between the government and the community. In addition, public hearings are the most common mechanism of local democracy in many democratic countries. It is expedient and worthwhile to conduct public hearings when local authorities have to make decisions that may result – or have already resulted – in social tensions or conflicts between the authorities and the community.

According to Article 13 of the Law of Ukraine "On Local Self-Government," the territorial community has the right to hold public hearings – to meet members of the respective council and officials of local selfgovernment, raise and discuss various ideas and make proposals on local issues that fall under competence of the local government. Public hearings are held at least once a year, and proposals at public hearings are subject to mandatory review by the local government.

The lawyer of the Network's office **Oleksandr Tokalenko** has drafted a request on conducting public hearings and other documents. He also regularly provided advice on gathering signatures to support this request.



"These activists are very experienced, and many legal relationships and processes in the city were initiated or terminated at their initiative. But in this case, it was necessary to produce the documents in a way that the city mayor could not find any reasons to refuse public hearings based on poorly completed request," the lawyer explains.

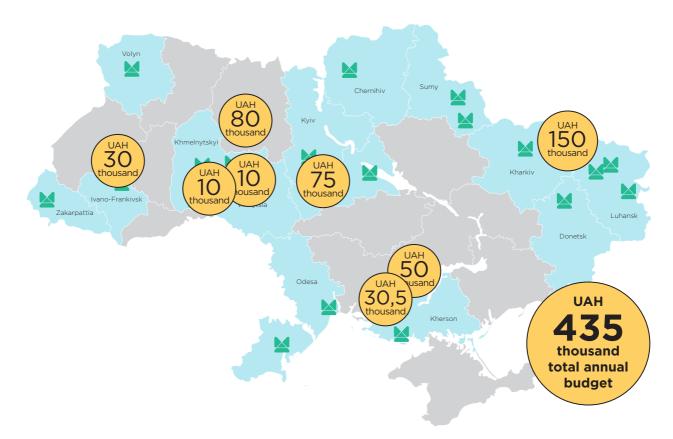
As a result, Kherson mayor ordered to organize public hearings on June 7, 2017 to discuss the list of housing stock items to be subject to capital repairment in 2017.

Local programs of free legal aid

Lawyers of Legal Development Network use their experience to provide assistance to communities in developing, planning and implementing targeted programs on providing free legal aid.

These programs aim to provide local communities with practical tools for addressing current community problems and strengthen legal capacity of territorial communities.

For example, the Network experts **Maksym Ilchyshen**, **Ihor Brynosh** and **Mykhailo Bardyn** jointly with the Coordinating Centre for Legal Aid Providing actively contributed to the working group that developed technical guidelines on key steps to produce and implement free legal aid programs. The types of targeted programs and their model structure were considered, the review of the regulatory framework was made, recommendations on the program planning timing were provided, analysis of common mistakes during their preparation was conducted. A model tool to prepare targeted programs on various topics was produced and disseminated. Models for providing free legal aid are being piloted in the regions. In particular, member organizations of Legal Development Network provided direct support to development and implementation of such programs in eight territorial communities in Ivano-Frankivsk, Khmelnytskyi, Vinnytsia, Kherson, Kharkiv and Kyiv oblasts.



Local programs on free legal aid



Technical guidelines available at: https://goo.gl/TGw2sh

Training program for paralegals

 Paralegals are persons who do not have legal education, but received special training on providing legal aid to local community members in the most typical issues.

The notion 'paralegal' is currently not wellknown in Ukraine, but in other countries paralegals provide 'emergency' legal aid in communities. While a paramedic provides first, emergency medical care, a paralegal also provides first aid – legal consultation, information and referral. They may be representatives of service organizations,



First graduates of a pilot training program for paralegals (December 2017) Photo of Coordinating Centre for Legal Aid Providing

local governments or executive authorities, as well as students of law schools who study in regional centers, but periodically visit their home communities where they can provide counseling. In addition, social workers and volunteers can take on the functions of paralegals quite successfully because they have communication skills with people in difficult circumstances. These could be also librarians, school law teachers and public opinion leaders. Actually, a paralegal can be a representative of any profession if s/ he has an opportunity to learn and desire to contribute to his/her community. The initiative to build a network of paralegals and their training is supported jointly by the Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision, International Renaissance Foundation, Legal Development Network and other human rights partners. In particular, the experts and trainers of Legal Development Network joined the development and implementation of a pilot training course comprising the three modules. A total of 22 paralegals have already completed this course.

Safe community

Shaping safe environment in communities is one of the priorities of Legal Development Network.

A safe community is not only about the rule of law and crime prevention, but also about infrastructure and land management, safe environment and health, ensuring human rights, inclusion and non-discrimination. Awareness of all key stakeholders (community, government, police, service, media, etc.) of the need for shared responsibility and interaction in this area is critical. Therefore, Legal Development Network together with partners from other organizations and with the support of International Renaissance Foundation provides assistance to the territorial communities in developing their security

initiatives and helps them address various challenges on their way, including:

- lack of interaction between key stakeholders and community needs analysis, misplaced priorities;
- lack of experts, expertise;
- ignorance, legal ignorance, misunderstanding of the reform process;
- social conflicts, non-inclusion of vulnerable groups.



Young participants of the security initiative from Bila Tserkva, Kyiv oblast Photo: Human Rights Information Centre

At the practical level, experts of Legal Development Network provide the following types of support:

- training, capacity building;
- analysis and summary of community problems, identification of challenges/threats;
- development and implementation of security strategies and action plans;
- advocacy of human rights, mechanisms of participation in decision-making;
- crime prevention ("neighbor guard," school mediation programs)

Community problem analysis

Supported by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Ukraine and the Center for Political and Legal Reforms.





Legal Development Network implemented the project "Strengthening the capacity of local self-government through monitoring of problems in communities and analyzing the effectiveness of Local Budget Policy in Volyn, Kharkiv and Vinnytsya oblasts."

The project encompassed three amalgamated territorial communities with a total population of 40,000 persons. An expert group developed community passports and conducted community-based focus groups, interviews and surveys. The collected and summarized information helped produce evidence-based proposals on the effective use of existing and potential community resources. These recommendations were discussed with all stakeholders in the communities and formed the basis for further joint action plans. Also, this experience was used by other organizations of the Network to support legal development in their respective regions.



Expert of Legal Development Network Vitalii Dorokh presents findings of the project in Tulchynka amalgamated territorial community (Vinnytsia oblast)



Findings of the research are available at: https://goo.gl/cJ6bhW

School resilience services

School statistics indicate that there has been a recent increase in the number of offenses committed by school children. The increase in violence among students emphasizes the need to look for effective ways to overcome it. The use of disciplinary methods for addressing interpersonal conflicts in schools is currently ineffective.

Mediation as a non-violent conflict resolution tool is actively being implemented in Ukrainian schools.

Since 2012, members of Legal Development Network have been involved in this process. They are working hard to promote and implement mediation in partner schools. As a result. school conciliation services were launched in 35 schools in Kherson, Kharkiv, Vinnytsia, Odesa and Volyn oblasts. covering more than 5,000 children. 42 trainers-facilitators and 230 childrenmediators have been trained by Legal `Development

Network experts. The introduction of resilience and mediation services in these schools proved effective. The experience of mediation and feedback from both parents and school administrations, mobilizing student youth to self-regulate conflicts between peers through non-violent means means that the process of integrating mediation in pilot schools is successful and important. It should be promoted and up-scaled in other schools.



Проет «Розвиток шличик служ порхознини прамех Мерсин правового розанткувпровадкуст (> 6 кіловраний центр регіоналичор орактку-у туплінерстві з членами Мерее правового розитку - ГО «Подільсьяні центр прав лодини», ГО «Перша», ГО «Перша», ГО эростання промау, ГО «Правозконній роксакої центу, ГО «Ферша», ГО «Крана», ГО «Крана», Дероўнанцики, ГО «Садовщика – мій рідний край», IPL(«Правовий простір» за финксової патомик Макаралонго бокути. В'аралоннія



Opening of school resilience service in Dvorichna, Kharkiv oblast, March 2017



Coordinating Meeting of Mediators in Dvorichna district, Kharkiv oblast, December 20, 2017





Institutional capacity of the Network



The institutional capacity of Legal
Development Network means
development of a coherent union of
civil society organizations that serve
the community interest.

This activity includes:

- Standardization and improvement of the quality of primary legal aid;
- Organizational development of the Network members;
- Developing the knowledge base and successful practices;
- Support to internal and external communications;
- Global partnership for empowerment.

Expert and trainer capacity building

With the support of International Renaissance Foundation





In 2017, Legal Development Network organized 26 networking events aimed at building organizational capacity of its member organizations, training their own trainers, mediators and experts in the field of local selfgovernment.

In particular, Legal Development Network delivered two training programs:

"Trainer development program" and **"School of local self-government experts,"** which included four two-day modules "Schools of local self-government experts" on May 12-13, 2017 (Kyiv), July 2-3, 2017 (Kharkiv), July 20-21, 2017 (Kyiv), and September 22-23, 2017 (Ivano-Frankivsk).

After each module, the participants completed homework in their communities. As a result of the program, 11 local self-government experts were certified and received basic knowledge and skills for practical activities in their communities.



Meeting of local self-government experts of Legal Development Network "Expert and legal support to communities: Challenges of 2018" within the framework of the Sixth Forum on Civil Society Organizational Development (Kyiv, November 2017)

At the meeting of local self-government experts of Legal Development Network **"Expert and legal support to communities: Challenges of 2018"** conducted during the Sixth Forum on Civil Society Organizational Development (November 2017) and featuring representatives of the Association of Amalgamated Territorial Communities, directions of activities of the Network experts in the communities were presented, and suggestions for further development of expert potential were made. Further capacity building of the Network members will be based on practical assessment and the needs of the communities in which the experts work.



Trainer Development Program. Zhdenievo, Zakarpattia oblast (September 2017)

Two four-day modules of **Trainer Development Program** helped build capacity of 11 certified trainers who not only participated in the training, but also conducted their own trainings on the problems relevant to their communities. Trainers and the Network experts are actively involved in community development activities, forums, regional roundtables, counseling and trainings both in Ukraine and abroad. Member organizations that had participated in the previous **trainings on mediation** took part in the workshop on mediation on December 4-5, 2017. The participants finalized interim training results and defined prospects of further development of this Network's activity. Based on the results, group of 5 experts was formed who are ready to continue practicing and studying to reach the level of trainers-mediators.



Seminar for mediators of Legal Development Network (Kyiv, December 2017)

Database of trainers and experts of Legal Development Network and a possibility to request trainings or consultations are available on LDN website: www.ldn.org.ua (sections "Community Development" and "Workshop of Responsible Citizens").



Legal Development Network Section "Community Development" https://ldn.org.ua/section/communities-development/

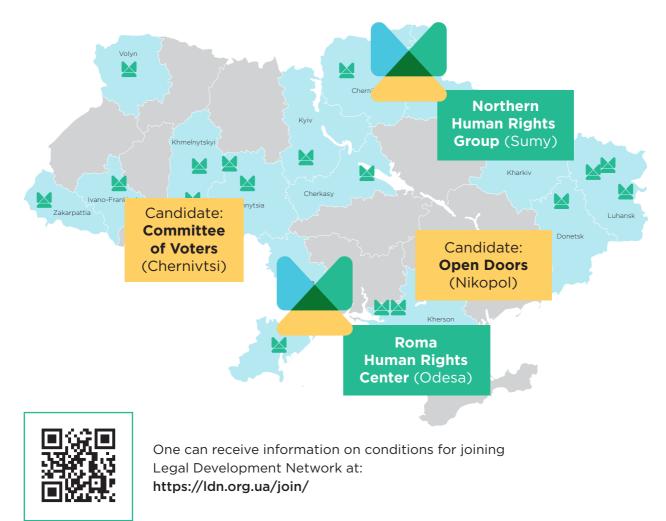


Legal Development Network Section "Workshop of Responsible Citizens" https://ldn.org.ua/section/citizens-workshop/

Organizational development of the Network members

In 2017, two new organizations joined the Network

This the NGO "Northern Human Rights Group" (Sumy) and the NGO "Roma Human Rights Center" (Odesa). Two more organizations are candidates to membership - the NGO "Open Doors" (Nikopol, Dnipropetrovsk oblast) and the NGO "Committee of Voters" (Chernivtsi).



New members

During the regional trainings for representatives of the Legal Development Network partner organizations (November 2016 – January 2017) the trainers of the first wave were able to practice their skills for the first time. In addition, regional coordinators of the Network were elected, and their functions were determined.



Southern Regional Training, Odesa (January 2017)



School of presentations and visualization of ideas, two modules: Kyiv (April 2017), Zakarpattia oblast (May 2017)

A total of 16 participants of the Network have acquired practical skills in creative data visualization and actively use them in their day-to-day activities.



Strengthening Organizational Capacity of NGOs, Chernihiv (July 2017)

13 participants of the Network have produced organizational development plans for their organizations.



Training on project management, October 24-25, 2017, Kyiv

Training was provided by Natalia Kozyr, a graduate of the training program of Legal Development Network. 18 participants mastered key project management tools (Kaizen, Kanban, Scrum).



Meeting of Human Rights Organizations "Legal Development Network: Results in 2017 – Plans for 2018" (Kyiv, December 2017)

Eight new and potential members of the Network received information on the standards and terms of joining the Network. A total of 28 participants of the Network participated in the session on updating the Strategic Plan of Legal Development Network for 2017-2019.

The Network standards and monitoring 2017

The first standards for the provision of primary legal aid in Ukraine – Standards of Legal Development Network – have been developed.

The Standards are a system of jointly developed and recognized core principles and rules of the Network as an association of NGOs whose mission is to support legal empowerment, protect human rights and freedoms, develop communities, promote professional and personal development of Network staff (offices) and increase their motivation.

Compliance with the Standards is mandatory for all Offices of the Network and is subject to ongoing monitoring. Standards define basic principles of the activities of member organizations of the Network, provision of legal aid, the Network activities. They also define basic principles of monitoring compliance with the Standards.

The document is regularly updated based on the experience of practical application and interaction with partners.



Compliance with the Standards is mandatory to all offices of the Network and is subject to ongoing monitoring. The monitoring visits that took place in the summer of 2017 allowed to:

- assess compliance with the Standards directly in each office;
- draft a report with conclusions on compliance, elaborate on the problems identified and recommendations for their solution;
- work out recommendations for improving the networking activities.

Offices visited by the monitoring groups





Monitoring of Podillia Legal League (Khmelnytskyi)



Monitoring visit to Kherson office of the Network

Internal and external communications

Information about the activities of Legal Development Network is regularly disseminated in accordance with the Communication Strategy:

- on the portal of Information Resource Center "Legal Space:" http://legalspace.org/ (over 2,000 visitors per day);
- on online resources of Legal Development Network website: www.ldn.org.ua,
- Facebook page: **facebook.com/legaldnetwork/** (over 5,000 followers), Twitter account: **@LDN.UA**, and YouTube channel of **LegalDevelopmentNetwork**,
- in local and national newspapers.

Information about the activities of member organizations is regularly published in TV and radio reports of regional and national channels.

The Network conducts monthly analysis of media activity of its members.



In 2017, more than 600 successful stories were published, 243 public events were held, reaching an audience of more than 500 thousand people.











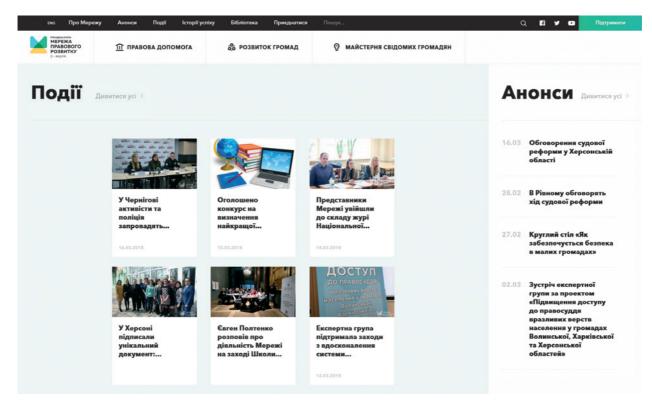
Presentation of Legal Development Network Report for 2016 (Kyiv Planetarium, June 2017)



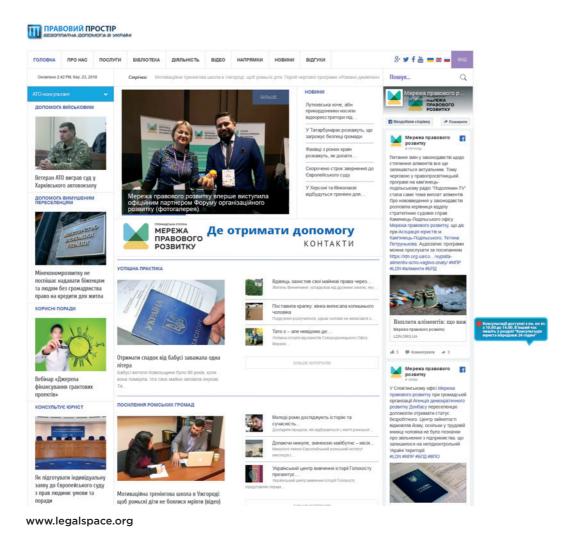
Working meeting on external and internal communication of Legal Development Network (Kyiv, November 2017)

Accounts of Legal Development Network on civil society platforms GURT, Hromadskyi Prostir hit more than 1,500 views.





www.ldn.org.ua



International cooperation

Participants of a study tour to the U.S. headed by the Chair of the Board **Olena Matviichuk** and Executive Director **Yevgen Poltenko** learned experience of alternative dispute resolution and opportunities of its introduction in Ukraine.

The Ukrainian delegation consisted of judges and key partners who are interested in introducing alternative dispute resolution in our country. The study tour culminated in a session to assess its results and plan further steps to launch alternative dispute resolution in Ukraine.



Study tour of delegation of the Network supported by USAID New Justice Program (U.S., June 2017)



Study tour of delegation of Legal Development Network to Georgia supported by the International Renaissance Foundation (June 2017)

During the week-long tour, representatives of Ukrainian NGOs and heads of amalgamated communities studied Georgian experience of community development through the prism of preventing conflicts in multicultural communities, protecting the rights of victims of war and conflicts, and strengthening the peacekeeping process.



On September 28-29, 2017, Regional Legal Aid Conference was held in Tbilisi, Georgia. Members of the Legal Aid Reformers Network and experts from Ukraine, Lithuania, Moldova, the United Kingdom, Sierra Leone, and Georgia discussed topics of independent legal aid, current problems and ways for development. Executive Director of Legal Development Network **Yevgen Poltenko** and Chair of Board **Olena Matviichuk** also took part in the event to present the Network experience.

On October 6-7, 2017, a workshop was conducted in Manila, Philippines, to produce arguments for the global expansion of access to justice, in particular in civil matters, and people's empowerment through analyzing their legal needs. Experts from the Philippines, Ukraine, Indonesia, the U.S., Nepal, the United Kingdom, Mongolia, South Africa, Australia, Kenya, Argentina, Mexico, and Colombia contributed to discussion. Legal Development Network was represented by its Executive Director **Yevgen Poltenko**.





Ukrainian delegation at the African Symposium on Governance, South Africa (October-November 2017)

On October 30 - November 3, 2017, an international symposium was organized in Johannesburg, the largest city in South Africa, to discuss urgent challenges of empowerment at the global level.



On November 24, 2017, Kyiv office of Legal Development Network hosted a delegation from Albania and presented the experience of Ukrainian NGOs on providing legal aid in Ukraine. Representatives of the delegation were especially interested in Network's activity on launching local free legal aid programs, the development of standards for administering the activities of the Network offices, establishing networks of non-governmental legal aid providers, and motivation for membership. One month later, in December 2017, one of the participants of the meeting, member of the Network Board **Petro Burlachenko** went to Tirana to deliver a training on the development of the institute of paralegals to Albanian colleagues.

Board Member Zoriana Khrystyna at the 4-day course on Leadership in Empowerment 2017 (December 2017, Budapest, Hungary).



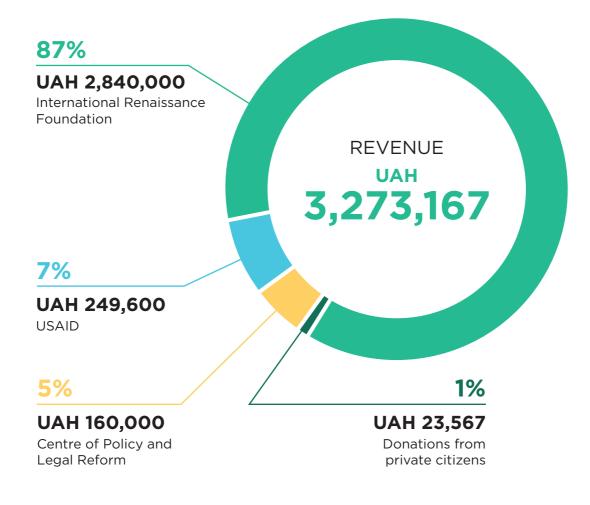


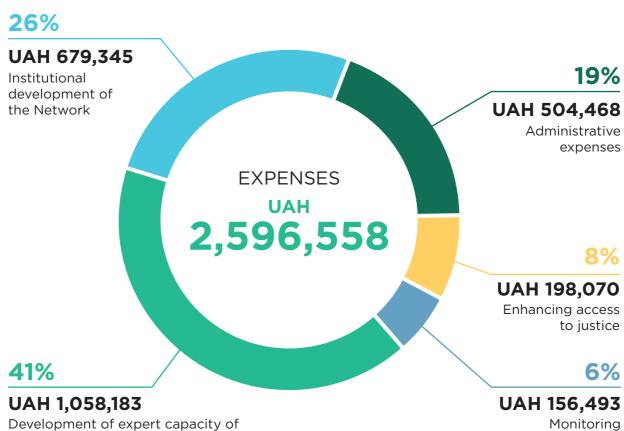
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Financial Report of Executive Board of Legal Development Network



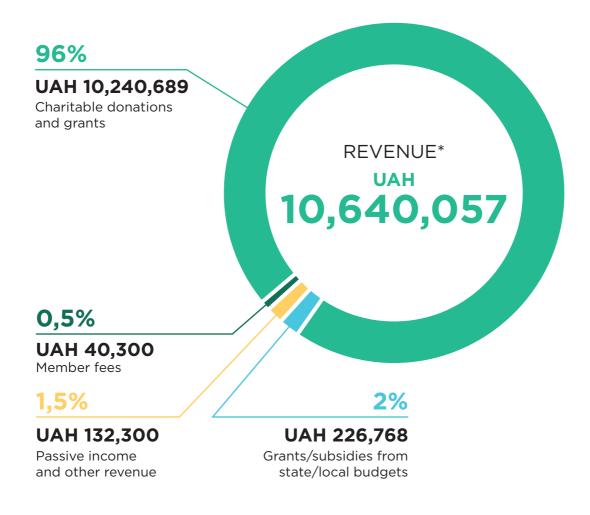


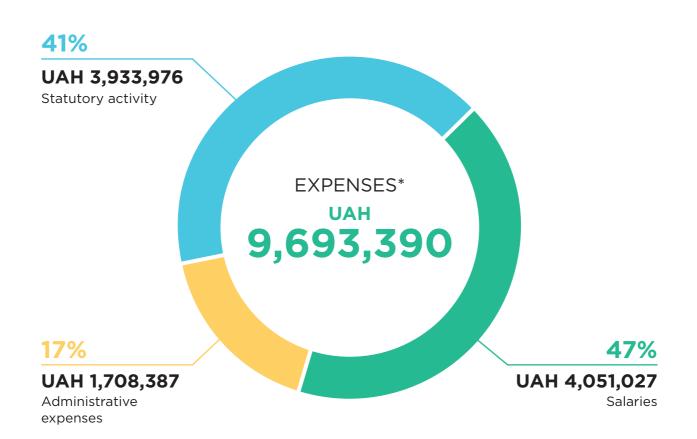
the Network members

community issues



Consolidated financial report of member organizations of Legal Development Network





* Considering revenues and expenses of Charitable Organization "Foundation of Charity and Health" (Kherson) under the programs of Ch.S. Mott International Foundation for institutional support to human rights organizations (revenues – UAH 1,181,250; expenses – UAH 1,201,677 UAH).



Legal Development Network: a Snapshot

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General Meeting

Composed of representatives of member organizations, each member has one vote, addresses all strategic issues, appoints members to the Board and the Steering Committee.



The Network unites 24 organizations



Steering Committee

Is accountable to the General Meeting, supervises the activities of the Board and the Executive Director, makes recommendations on optimizing their work, and publicly promotes the activities of the Network.



Larysa Denysenko Chair of Steering Committee



Roman Martynovski Member of Steering Committee



Oleksandr Pavlichenko Member of Steering Committee



Ihor Abramiuk Member of Steering Committee

Board

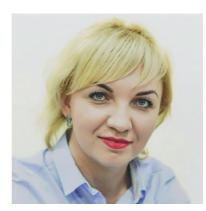
Is accountable to the General Meeting and the Steering Committee, is responsible for day-to-day management of the Network between the General Meeting sessions, officially represents the Network, appoints the Executive Director.



Natalya Bimbirayte Chair of Board



Petro Burlachenko Member of Board



Olena Matviichuk Member of Board (Chair of Board until October 2017)



Mykhailo Bardyn Member of Board



Maksym Ilchyshen Member of Board



Inna Malyshko Member of Board



Ihor Brynosh Member of Board



Andrii Misiats Member of Board



Zoriana Khrystyna Member of Board

Executive Board

Is accountable to the General Meeting, the Steering Committee and the Board, ensures execution of decisions of the governing bodies, coordinates and operates management of the Network activities.



Yevgen Poltenko Executive Director (CEO)



Olha Saukh Financial manager/accountant



Sergii Rybak Communications Manager



Liudmyla Savchenko Organizational Development Manager



Anastasia Reva Program assistant



Dmytro Zhukov System administrator



Olena Orlova Website editor

Regional coordinators

Foster interaction between the regional stakeholders, provide technical support and mentorship, support organizational development in the regions.



Natalia Kulikova Coordinator of Northern region



Maryna Lysych Coordinator of Central region



Ella Petrenko Coordinator of Southern region



Viktoria Ilchyshena Coordinator of Western region



Roman Lykhachov Coordinator of Eastern region

How to join/help

 Legal Development Network always welcomes capable organizations and active individuals who share our mission, vision and values and are ready to engage in their implementation.

If you represent an organization:

- Read the presentation on how new members can join and the Statutes of Legal Development Network (available at section "Join" (<u>https://ldn.org.ua/join/</u>) and "Documents" of the website (<u>https://ldn.org.ua/documents/</u>)
- Contact us any way convenient to you, using the contact information of the Network (<u>https://ldn.org.ua/contacts/</u>)

If you want to join as a volunteer:

 Contact the nearest office of Legal Development Network any way convenient to you (<u>https://ldn.org.ua/office/</u>)

Donations welcome at:

Recipient: NGO "Legal Development Network" EDRPOU code: 40038548 Account number: 26001055513523 MFO: 303440 Bank: PJSC CB "Privatbank" Reference of payment: Donation for the exercise of statutory activities. No VAT.



Join: https://ldn.org.ua/join/



Support: https://ldn.org.ua/pidtrymaty/

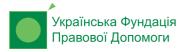
Acknowledgement to donors and partners

Over the years, Legal Development Network has achieved a lot to empower people, to improve legal aid system in Ukraine, and to increase access to justice. But it would not have been possible without the support of our partners. We are grateful for their invaluable help. We hope that our further journey towards a ruleof-law state of equal opportunities will be no less fruitful and exciting.















Координаційний центр з надання правової допомогі





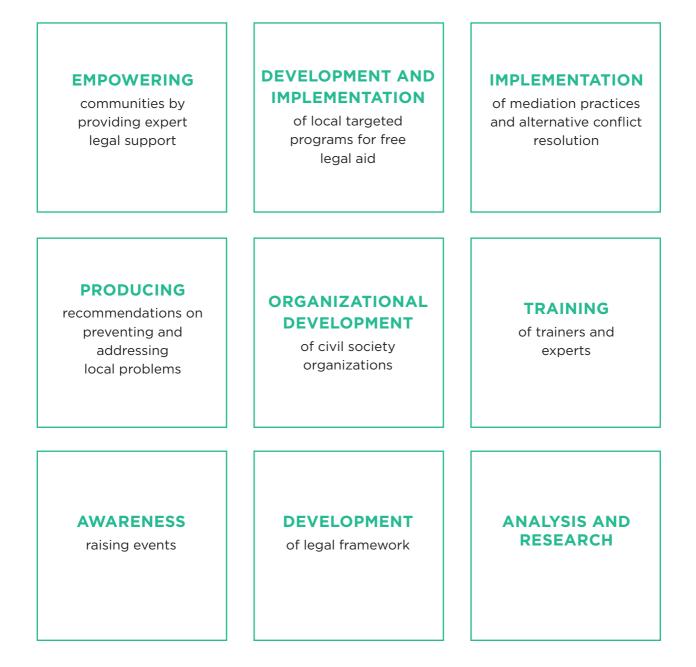


Kingdom of the Netherlands





Our services and products



Contacts of the Network offices



Agency for Democratic Development of Donbas

Sloviansk 47 Universytetska St. Phone: +380 63 516 53 61

Opening hours: Tuesday, Thursday – from 10:00-16:00

NGO "Bilozerka Center for Regional Development"

75000, Kherson oblast, Bilozirka 86-A Svobody St. Phone: +380 95 087 48 60

Opening hours: Monday to Friday - from 8:00-16:00



Association of Lawyers of Kamianets-Podilskyi

32300, Khmelnytskyi oblast, Kamianets-Podilskyi 44 Pushkinska St. Phone: +380 96 338 67 57

Opening hours: Monday to Friday – from 10:00-17:00 (lunch break from 13:00-14:00)



NGO "Public platform"

Sievierodonetsk, Luhansk oblast 7 Kurchatova St., 1st floor Phone: +380 99 257 52 87

Opening hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday – from 10:00-16:00



Bila Tserkva NGO "Legal Unity"

Bila Tserkva, Kyiv oblast 55 Levanevskoho St. Phone: +380 96 702 37 47

Opening hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday – from 9:00-13:00, Tuesday, Thursday – from 14:00-18:00



NGO "Informational Resource Center "Pravovyi Prostir"

Kherson 2 Borysa Mozolevskoho St, off. 6 Phone: +380 99 468 38 48 E-mail: kherson2@ldn.org.ua

Opening hours: Monday to Friday – from 9:00-17:00 (lunch break from 12:00-13:00)

ПРАВА

NGO "Roma Human Rights Center"

Odesa 1 Oleksandra Kutuzakia St. Phone: +380 48 703 94 54 E-mail: odroma@ukr.net

Opening hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday from 10:00-17:00



18000, Cherkasy 44 Smilianska St., off. 315 Phone: +380 63 505 02 15 E-mail: cherkasy@ldn.org.ua

Opening hours: Monday to Friday – from 9:30-17:00 (lunch break from 13:00-14:00)



NGO "Skadovsk Is My Native Land"

Skadovsk 63 Haharina St., off. 4 (legal address – 106 Popovycha St., Skadovsk) Phone: +380 95 876 43 39

Opening hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday from 09:00-15:00

NGO "Legal Information and Advice Center "Law"

42600, Sumy oblast, Trostianets 58-A Blahovishchenska St. Phone: +380 99 000 98 32

Opening hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 9:00-13:00

NGO "Public Service of Legal Aid"

93500, Novoaidar 2 Nezalezhnosti St. Phone: +380 99 064 96 54

Opening hours: Monday, Thursday - from 9:00 -17:00

NGO "Northern Human Rights Group"

Sumy 2 Bielinskoho St., off. 4 Phone: +380 95 931 11 10 E-mail: goppg@i.ua

Opening hours: Monday, Wednesday – from 9:00-16:00 (admission without pre-appointment); Thursday – by appointment; Tuesday – working with documents; Saturday, Sunday – weekend



Public organization "Podillia Legal League"

29013, Khmelnytskyi city 1 Pushkina lane Phone: +380 38 272 01 95

Opening hours: Monday to Friday – from 9:00-18:00 (lunch break – from 13:00-14: 00) Appointments – Monday, Wednesday, Friday – from 9:00-13:00



NGO "Stanislav Human Rights Group"

Ivano-Frankivsk 2 Harkushi St., off. 40 Phone: +380 34 273 13 31

Opening hours: Monday - from 9:00-12:00 Wednesday - from 13:00-17:00 Friday - from 9:00-12:00



NGO "Fund of Village Communities of Dvorichna region"

Kharkiv oblast, Dvorichna 12 35-oi Hvardiiskoi Dyvizii St. Phone: +380 66 792 31 77 E-mail: dvorichna@ldn.org.ua



Podillia Center for Human Rights

21050, Vinnytsia 52 Soborna St., 2nd floor Phone: +380 67 777 74 81

Opening hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 10:00-16:00



NGO "Center for the Growth of the Communities"

45000, Kovel 12 Hrushevskoho St. Phone: +380 33 527 39 92

Opening hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday – from 10:00-16:00 (break from 13:00-14:00)



Human Rights Development Foundation

89600, Mukachevo 17/12 Kyryla ta Mefodia Sq. Phone: +380 99 249 64 60

Opening hours: Monday, Wednesday - from 10:00-13:00

Stanytsia-Luhanska Center for Legal Information and Legal Aid

Luhansk oblast 26 Tsentralna St. Phone: +380 66 540 05 27 E-mail: ipc.stanica@gmail.com

Opening hours: Tuesday – from 12:00-16:00 Thursday – from 9:00-15:00 in the premises of the central library Thursday – from 13:00-16:00 in the premises of the central children's library Friday – from 9:00-13:00 in the building of the Library of the House of Culture of Railway Staff (Stanytsia 2)



Tatarbunary office of Legal Development Network of Odesa Regional Organization of the NGO "Committee of Voters of Ukraine"

Odesa oblast, Tatarbunary 50 Tsentralna St. Phone: +380 48 716 40 18 E-mail: odesakvu@ukr.net

Opening hours: Monday to Friday - from 9:00-16:00



Kherson Regional Organization of the Committee of Voters of Ukraine

73036, Kherson 1 Prydniprovskyi Uzviz, off. 8 Phone: +380 55 234 44 26

Opening hours: Thursday - from 9:00-16:00



Chernihiv Public Committee for the Protection of Human Rights

14000, Chernihiv 57/1 Honcha St. Phone: +380 46 261 25 32

Opening hours: Monday to Friday - from 10:00-17:00



Khmilnyk District NGO "Law"

22000, Vinnytsia oblast, Khmilnyk 12 Svobody Ave. District House of Culture Phone: + 380 96 029 67 81

Opening hours: Monday to Friday – from 9:00-16:00 (lunch break from 13:00-14:00) Saturday, Sunday – closed on weekend



NGO "Chuhuiv Human Rights Protection Group"

63503, Kharkiv oblast, Chuhuiv 16-A Muzeina St. Phone: +380 97 179 38 22 E-mail: chuhuiv@ldn.org.ua

Opening hours: Monday - from 9:00-11:00 Friday - from 14:00-16:00



LEAD BY EXAMPLE!

LEGAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

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