



**LEGAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
NETWORK**



# 10 years of legal empowerment in Ukraine

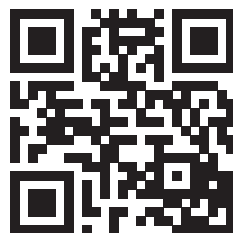
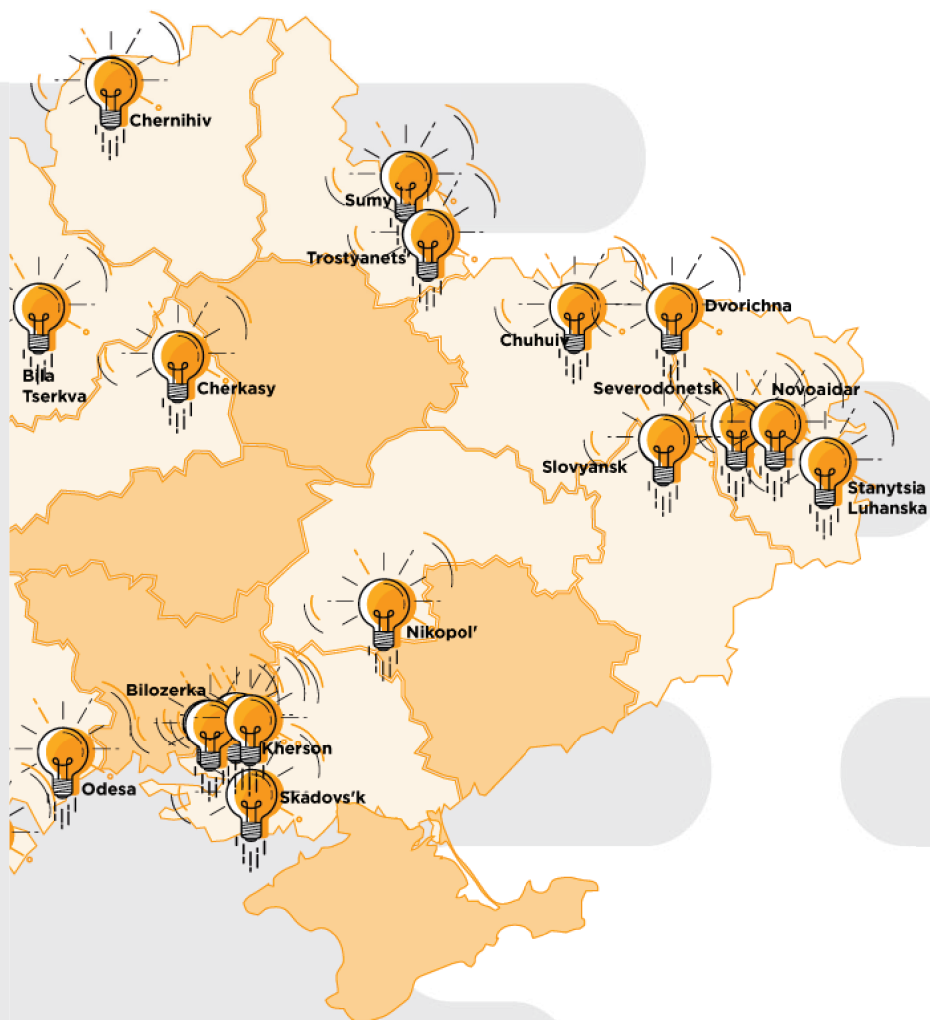


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**REPORT  
2018**



# LEGAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK OFFICES IN THE REGIONS OF UKRAINE



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**Video version  
of the report**





**Yevgen Poltenko**

Executive Director

**Natalia Bimbiraite**

Head of the Board



Dear friends, I am happy to present you the 2018 report of the Legal Development Network. It will tell you about 365 more days dedicated to strengthening legal capacity of communities and facilitating access to justice. These components of our lives are equally important as access to education, healthcare, opportunities for social and economic development.

Legal Development Network is one of the few national associations in Ukraine that concentrate their activities in the regions, in the most remote places of our country. We are convinced that civil society organizations that contribute to the establishment of the rule of law, can only be effective if their activities are supported by the public.

Working efficiently for us means to meet the needs of people, provide timely reports on systemic issues and respond to them by offering efficient solutions.

Focus on regional development. This is what distinguishes the activities of the Legal Development Network in 2018. This year confirmed our credo: the Network can only be powerful when it relies on strong member organizations.

As of now 24 organizations in 15 regions of Ukraine are united by our association. Our community has more than 100 lawyers and advocates, experienced human rights activists, managers, journalists.

Keeping in mind that professionalism and the person as our highest values, we all work to promote the interests of the individual and his rights to the epicentre of politics on both local and national levels. We know how to do it and we do everything for the people to learn how to solve their problems in the legal framework. This is the only way we can achieve the goal for Ukraine to become a country with the rule of law where justice prevails and the laws work equally for everyone regardless of their income is and where they come from. This can only be achieved in a country

with equal access to justice and the supremacy of the rule of law.

For us, the rule of law is not just a term, it's a way of life, the content of our work aimed mainly at empowerment of a person: forming a critical mass of people who know their rights, are capable and motivated to exercise them. We constantly direct our efforts to help people feel secure in their own country so that our youth becomes confident in their capabilities, in their future.

We not only declare professionalism, partnership, synergy, trust, commitment and impartiality to be our values, we confirm this on practice. This year we were able to initiate important mechanisms of network interaction: monitoring systems and ranking of results (and consequently social impact) of activities of our membership organizations. It is very valuable for us that monitoring of member organizations' work for its compliance with Network Standards has transformed from a purely internal process to transparent and open to the public procedure that involves external independent experts in organizational development.

The system of rating that first appeared this year, allows to objectively evaluate the specific contribution of each organization to the development of the Network. It is a tool that demonstrates the growth dynamics of each organization and the Network in general.

For the first time this year, the Legal Development Network has declared itself as a unifying force in the Ukrainian legal aid sector at the national level. This became possible due to the Memorandum on

cooperation between key providers of free legal aid. This essentially started the formation of a national coalition of the most capable actors in the legal aid ecosystem in Ukraine.

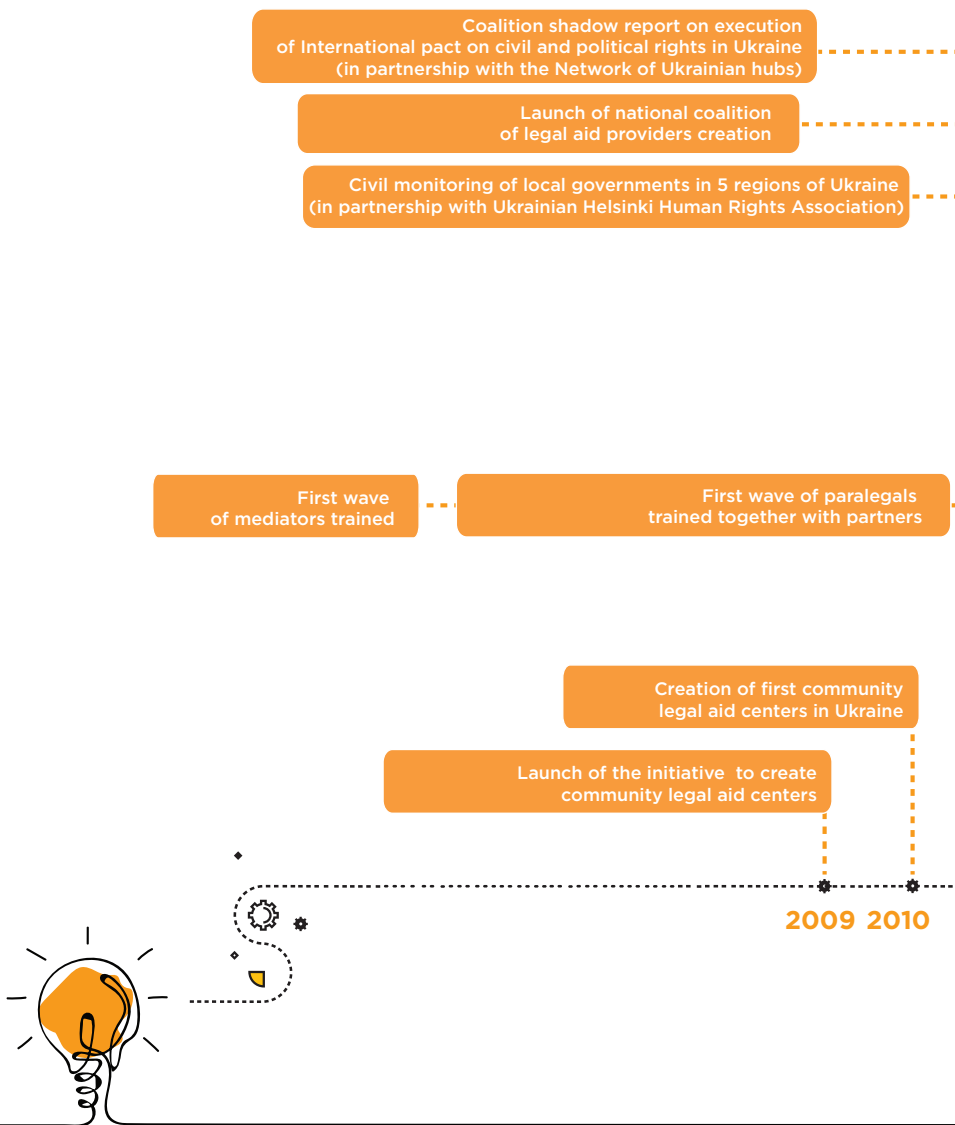
The Network's expert potential also

increased this year. It is confirmed by the public monitoring of local government based on the methodology of the Local Human Rights Index, conducted in collaboration with a powerful human rights partner - Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union (UHHRU) - in five regions of Ukraine. Participation in the work of the expert group on preparation and conducting research on legal problems and needs in the Ukrainian communities not only allowed to clarify the situation regarding the legal needs of the population and barriers that arise along the way to justice, but also to develop and test the tools that could later be used by the government, scientists, research agencies and legal aid providers.

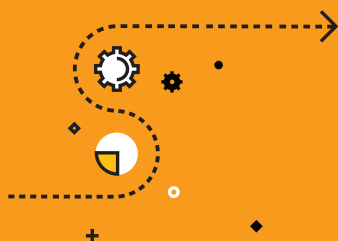
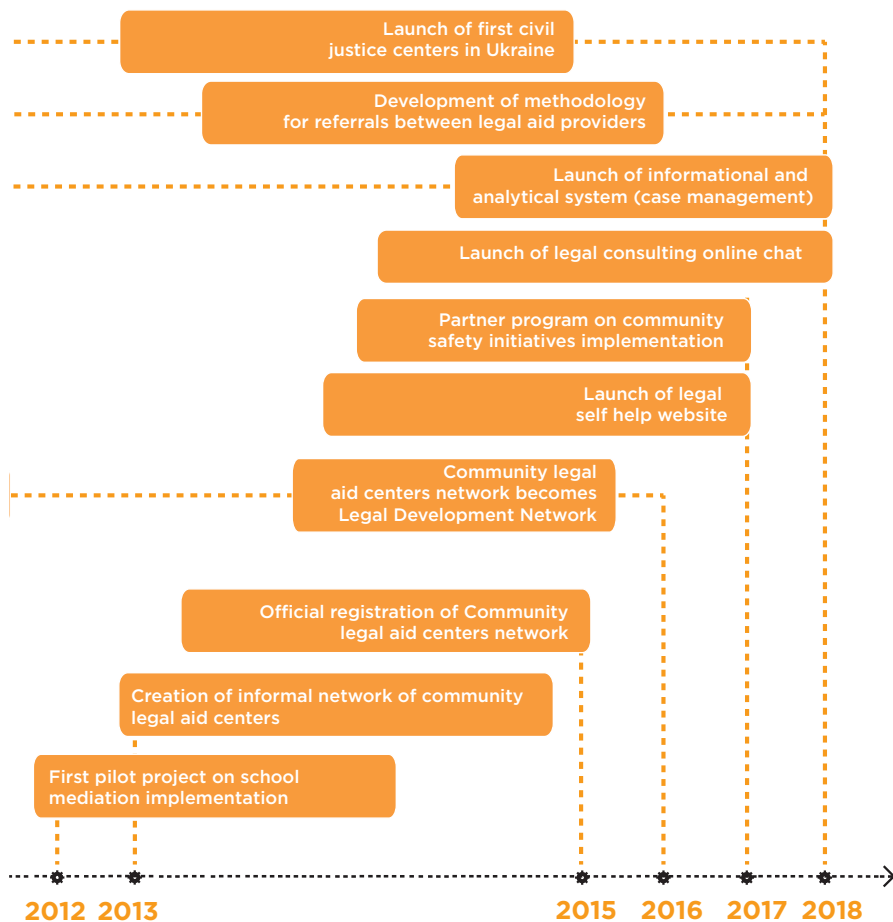
We also faced certain challenges in 2018 that we have to overcome in the future work. One of them is lack of stable funding: as in previous years, we rely on resources and technical support of the international donor community more than national or local government. It is also certain passivity of the communities: despite the broad possibilities for civil activities, a relatively small proportion of citizens are willing to take full advantage of these opportunities. Finally it is the lack of professionals - partly this problem is caused by the previous two, and it has the most critical importance for us, because people remain our most valuable asset.

All these challenges will require a lot of our efforts, changes and finding new ways and ideas. At the same time, by our example we urge everyone not to be afraid of these changes, to strive for them, to lead them and to inspire communities. We continue to work hard towards global changes and goals that we have set for ourselves – and we're always one step ahead!

Sincerely,  
*Natalia Bimbirawte, Head of the Board*  
*Yevgen Poltenko, Executive Director*

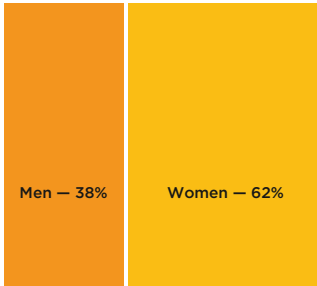


# STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT AND ACHIEVEMENTS

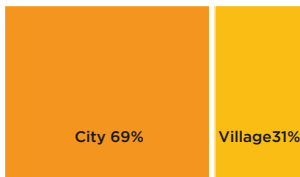


2009-2018

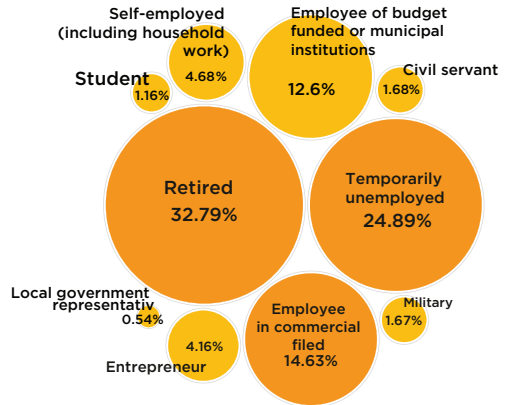
CLIENTS' GENDER



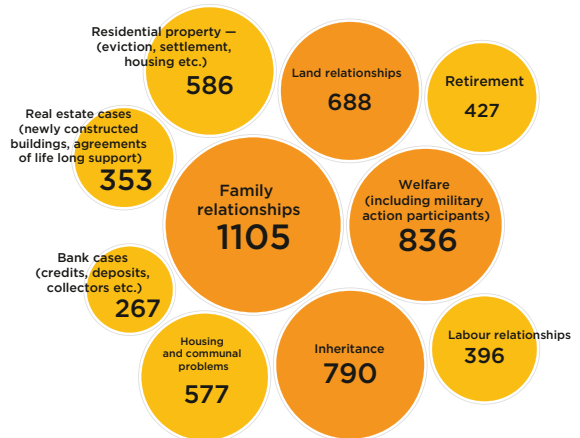
TYPE OF LOCALITY WHERE THE CLIENT RESIDES



CLIENTS' FIELDS OF ACTIVITY

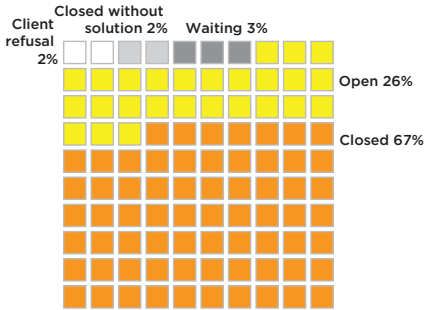


CATEGORY OF CASES

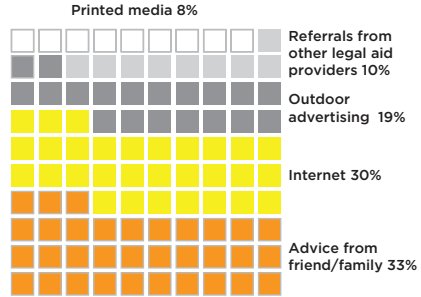


# STATUTORY ACTIVITIES

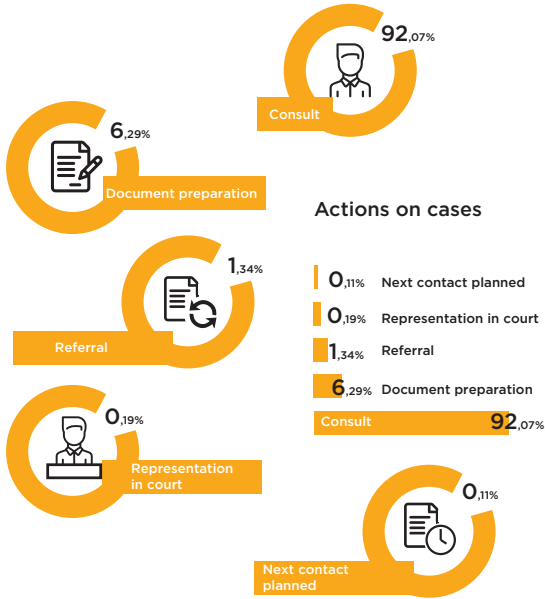
CASE STATUS

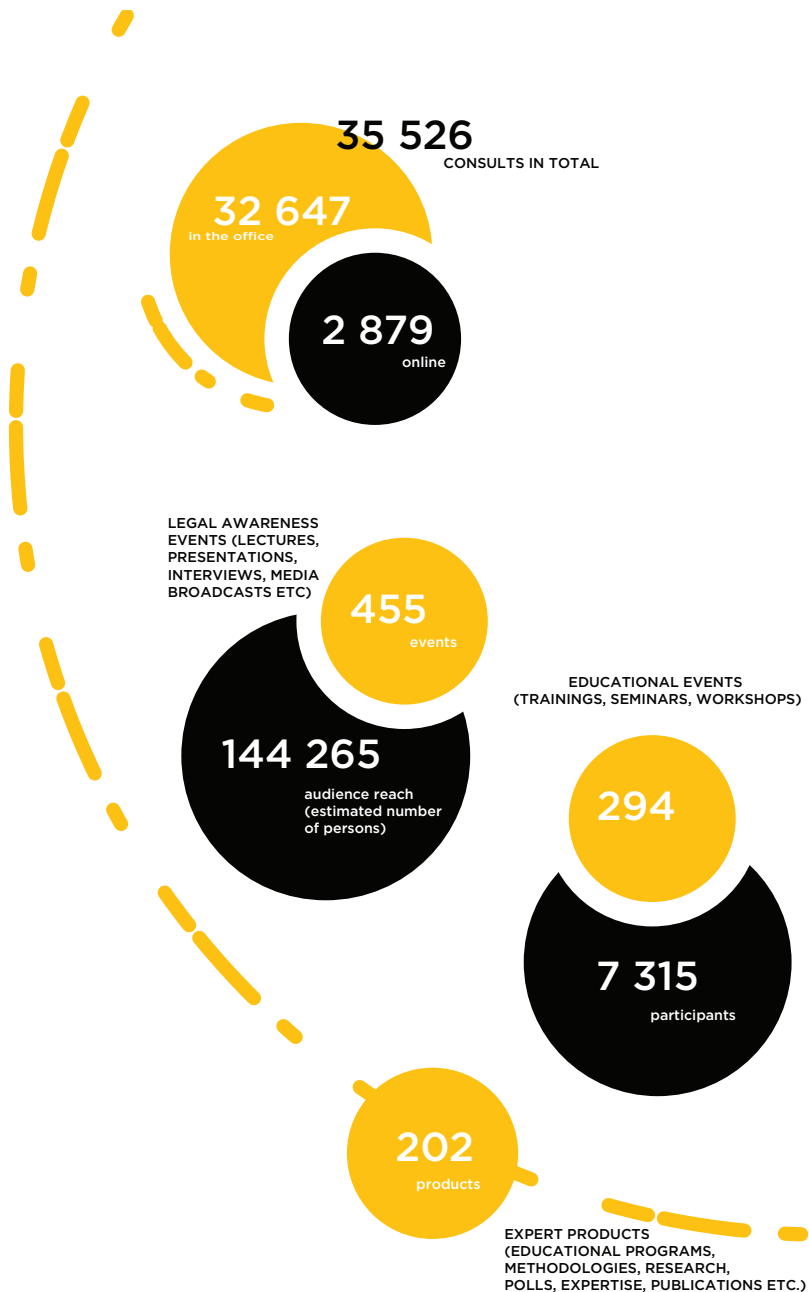


HOW THE CLIENT LEARNED ABOUT THE NETWORK



FLA — free legal aid  
 LGB — local government body  
 GB — government body









PUBLIC EVENTS  
(CONFERENCES, ROUND TABLES,  
FORUMS ETC.)



### Ihor Abramyuk

Chairman of the Supervisory Board (2019)

“The Network is so special because what you create is not just civil society but a professional civil society. It is important that you work above standards: you develop, enhance, and monitor their compliance”

**L**egal development network has strong member organizations. These organizations operate in different environments, different regional contexts, have different expert potential, different experiences and history. However, they are all united by the fact that they work in communities to develop them, to enhance the legal capacity of their residents. In 2018 the activities of the Network were largely focused on organizational development of member organizations. The activities in this direction showed positive results. We developed network tools for introduction of the monitoring and rating system of the Network's offices as well as implemented the system of motivation of regional coordinators.

In order to promote the uniform development of member organizations special attention is paid to support and development of the Institute of regional coordinators. In the end of 2016 the Board of the

Network decided to create the institute of regional coordinators to ensure the efficient coordination of activities and interaction of the offices between themselves and the Executive direction, to provide mentoring help in organisation of office work, consulting and mutual help.

Regional coordinators were selected at regional conferences of the local organizations based on experience of the candidates in developing their own organizations, human rights activities and their authority among the organizations of the region. For the period of 2018 the institute of regional coordinators was significantly strengthened as a result of regular meetings, development and implementation of a training plan for advanced education, development of the activity plan for the year. It allowed to systematize the activities of coordinators towards the development of organizational



# REGIONAL FOCUS

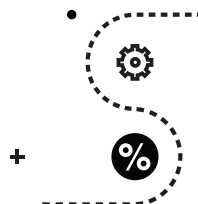


**Regional coordinators of the Legal Development Network (left to right):  
Olga Nastina, Viktoria Ilchyshena, Roman Lykhachov,  
Natalia Kulikova, Ella Petrenko**

capacity of the organizations in the regions.

Effective work of regional coordinators is crucial for full scale integration

of new member organisations of the Network. New organisations representing Nikopol (Dnipropetrovsk region) and Vyzhnytsia (Chernivtsi region) joined the Network in 2018.





**Olga Nastina**  
**Regional coordinator**

Chairman of NGO “Legal Unity”. PhD in Law. Volunteer of the NGO «Legal Hundred». Trainer on anti-discrimination standards, protection of human rights in the European Court of Human Rights, counteracting gender-based violence, public speaking.

**— What promising directions of the Legal Development Network work can you see in future?**

*“Today, member organizations of the Network in the regions have proved to be powerful providers of free legal aid. Decentralization in Ukraine has created new challenges for NGOs, and we have a great demand for expert support of newly created territorial communities: development of legal capacity and community empowerment, building smart organizational structure of local governments, providing high quality safety services. In my opinion, these directions are promising for the Network in the future”*

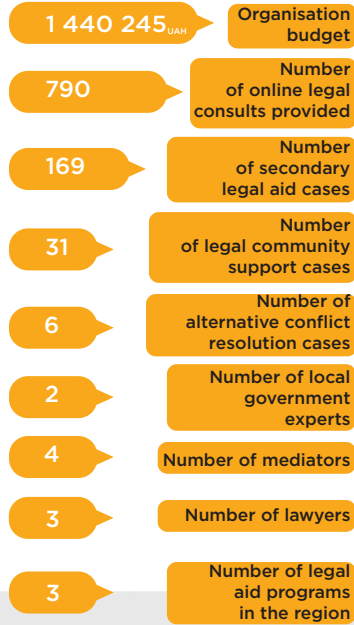


# CENTRAL REGION

**2**018 was very productive for the central region. We launched 11 school comprehension services, free legal aid program was approved in the Khmelnytskyi district for 2019-2020 with the total budget of 574 000 UAH.

Throughout the year, the organizations of the region actively cooperated with local governments and strategic partners.

Institutional development has increased in the region: we developed strategic documents and operational plans of member organizations activities



This year's challenges are typical for NGOs: insufficient resources and passive attitude of citizens in the solution of social problems. However, the representatives of the Network are very enthusiastic and willing to

work actively next year! An important component of the organizations' activities in the region is that the experts are constantly learning and developing their skills.

Success stories of our offices are not just pieces of information, stories or statistics. These are real people's lives, their problems and ways to solve them. It is an opportunity to tell others about the ways you can fight injustice and restore your rights. It motivates people to fight for their rights. Often success stories become algorithms for solving legal problems for other clients, and even local media reprint them to inspire their readers. So it is a kind of legal education.

### ACTIVE COMMUNITY FORCED THE OFFICIALS TO PROVIDE PUBLIC INFORMATION THROUGH THE COURT

Residents of the village of Brailiv in Zhmerynka district of Vinnytsia region sought to find out whether the local utility company had the right to increase the rates for its services. However it turned out to be not easy to get public information: representatives of the utility

company refused to provide it, and the village head actually supported it. Active community did not give up: they contacted the Vinnytsia office of the Legal Development Network and with the assistance of the lawyer Michael Bardin they sought justice through court.





## RETIRED MAN DID NOT AGREE WITH THE REDUCTION OF HIS PENSION SIZE AND DEFENDED HIS RIGHT IN COURT

The Pension Fund of Ukraine recalculated the pension size and the man from Vinnytsia received 5,000 UAH less than before. Former test pilot disagreed with this decision and proved that the law was on his side.



## PARENT OF DISABLED CHILD WAS FORCED TO PAY ALIMONY

The mother is raising her disabled son on her own. Due to the nature of the child's diagnosis, the woman cannot work because she is constantly caring for her son. Thus the two of them live solely on social payments that together amount to

less than the current «minimum». With the help of lawyers of Bila Tserkva office of the Legal Development Network the single mother managed to obtain alimony from the father, who has not lived with his family for over 20 years.





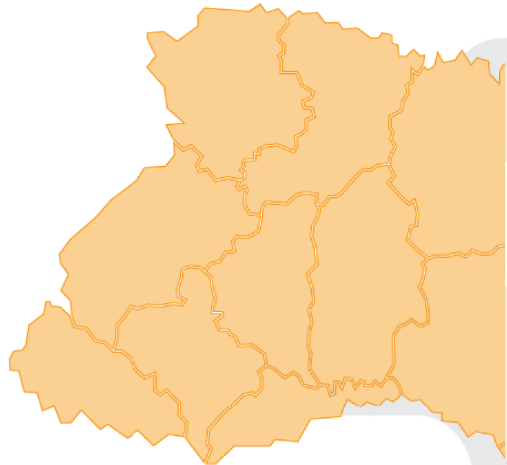
**Roman Lykhachov**  
**Regional coordinator**

Head of the NGO “Anti-corruption centers network”, expert of the NGO “Chuhuiv human rights protection group”. Initiator of numerous recommendations on improvement of legislation at both local and national levels.



**— In your opinion what are the strengths of the Legal Development Network compared to other NGO’s?**

*“At this point the Network is a union of regional level organisations. Numerous organisations are located in the zone of United forces operation. It is a certain challenge for us. From the other side, the Network’s member organisations won many strategic and resonant cases which shows the high qualification of lawyers and counsellors”*





# EASTERN REGION

In 2018 offices that form part of the Eastern region of the Legal Development Network activities concentrated their efforts on provision of free legal aid, consulting and strategic cases.

Strategic cases are important from the point of view of gaining legal practice and experience for the offices. Strategic cases are often aimed at conflict resolution in the community. They are interesting due to the

3 989 503<sup>UAH</sup>

Organisation budget

2 359

Number of online legal consults provided

251

Number of secondary legal aid cases

640

Number of legal community support cases

81

Number of alternative conflict resolution cases

2

Number of local government experts

3

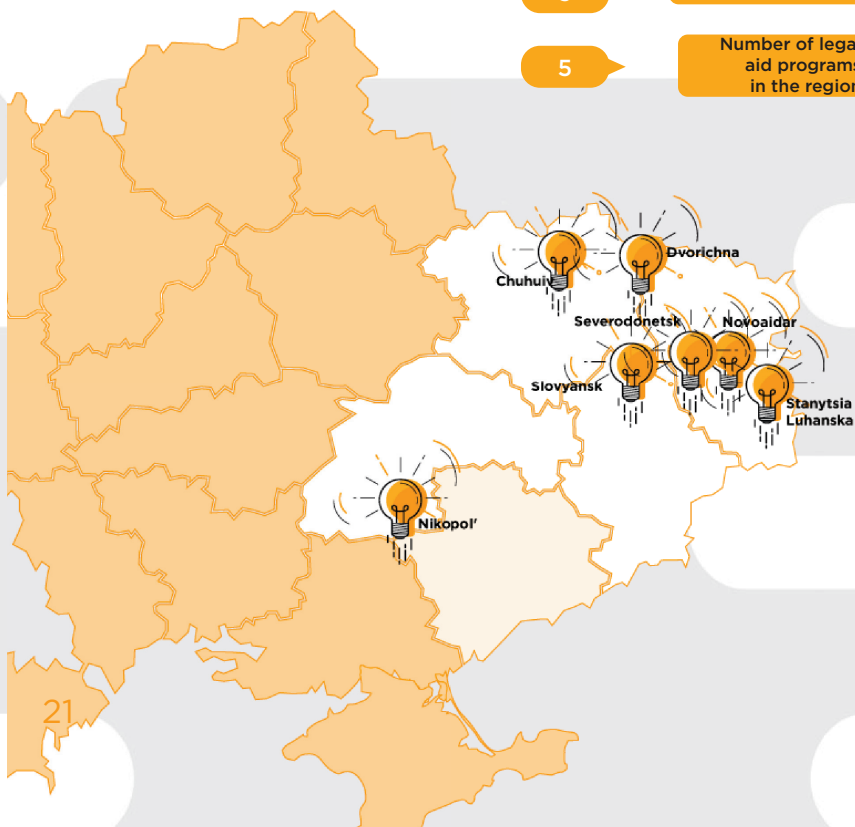
Number of mediators

3

Number of lawyers

5

Number of legal aid programs in the region



opportunity to solve the problem in a complex way which is important for the community, it is a valuable experience. Other category of strategic cases are those that create a certain precedent. So, having finished one case, the lawyers work out a mechanism that will help them solve similar cases in the future.

Organisations of the region faced substantial challenges this year - primarily due to the military actions.

Eastern offices constantly work in hard conditions connected to the Joint forces operations. The demarcation line attracts people with different life stories, and they often need assistance and qualified legal advice.

Offices mostly work without active cooperation from the local government - possibly due to the lack of communication. So local organizations are set up change this situation.

**Success stories help to form the belief that people can win the case in court and not to give up.**

### **SIX DAYS INSTEAD OF TWO MONTHS: THE UTILITY COMPANY EMPLOYEES DECIDED HOW LONG THE STRAY ANIMALS LIVE**

Instead of keeping the stray animals for two months as it is required by law, the utility company employees in Chuhuiv killed them after seven days. The owners didn't have enough time to find and take their pets back home. The

community of the city suffered budget losses. Roman Lykhachov, lawyer of the Chuhuiv office of Legal Development Network filed a lawsuit against the utility company and won the case.



## HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS CONSIDER THE COMPENSATION FOR “BALAKLIYA EXPLOSION” WRONGFULLY REDUCED

Military action participant who suffered from a sabotage explosion of ammunition in Balakliya, Kharkiv region, demanded compensation for material and moral damage in the amount of UAH 800,000. The court partly satisfied the claim. Human rights activists of the Legal Development Network Chuhuiv Office who represented the interests

of the victim in court, do not agree with this decision and prepare an appeal.



first part

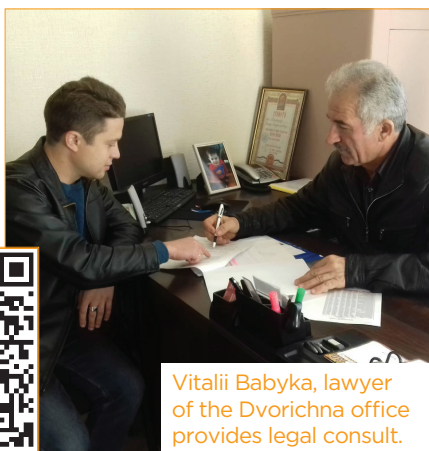


second part



## LOCAL BUDGET SAVED 15,000 UAH DUE TO COOPERATION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL WITH THE LAWYERS

Free legal aid provided to the local town council by Dvorichna office of Legal Development Network allowed to prevent budget losses in the amount of 15,000 UAH. In the arbitrary claim concerning gas payment debts the court sided with the local government.



Vitalii Babyka, lawyer of the Dvorichna office provides legal consult.





**Viktoria Ilchyshena**  
**Regional coordinator**

Until 2016 she worked as a deputy chief of stage registration services in Kamyanets-Podilskyi Justice department. Since 2016 - Head of the Kamyanets-Podilskyi Office of Legal Development Network

**– Tell us how the Legal Development Network works.**

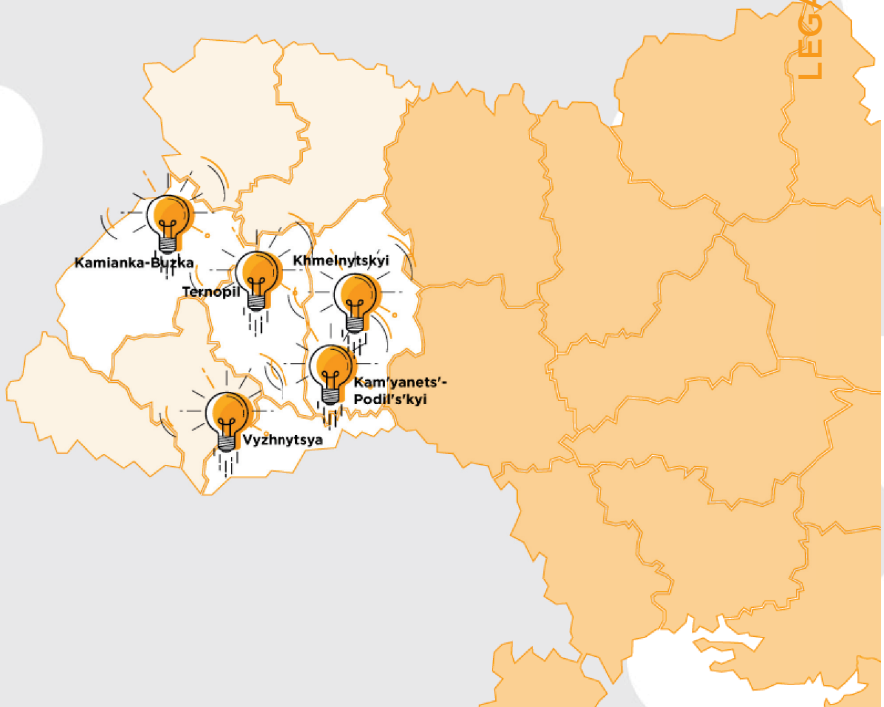
*“25 organisations are members of the Network that work according to the same standards. All offices provide free primary legal aid, some of them also provide secondary aid. It means that anyone from the city or district can turn to us for free legal aid”*



# WESTERN REGION

Throughout 2018 organisations of the Western region completed a significant amount of work. 10 school mediation services and City safety office were launched in Kamyanets-Podil'skyi. During this year organisations of the regions substantially increased their institutional potential, developed a number of strategies including communicational and advocate.

Organisations of the region are proud of their active cooperation with the government on local, district and regional levels. Also representatives of local organisations participate in civil councils at the national level.



The key challenge of this year was the absence of stable funding. Launch of the projects and closing of other projects makes it hard to plan the involvement of the employees. In the long-term perspective organisations of the

region expect more financial stability, primarily from business activities, profits from which would be used to carry out the statutory activity and implementation of social projects.

Success stories are examples of actual changes, it is the reality that people face every day. It indicates how our legislation functions and it is a great example for lawmakers. These stories allow to clarify where to concentrate our efforts.

### THE SUPREME COURT SIDED WITH THE RETIRED RELOCATED PERSON

Relocated person had her certificate of internally relocated person cancelled and her pension payments stopped because of accusations of crossing the state border of Ukraine. Her case went through courts of all levels in Ukraine. Finally in July 2018 the Supreme

Court made the final decision in the case which is very important for the formation of unified court practice. Roman Rachok, lawyer of the Khmelnytskyi Office of the Legal Development Network, represented the interests of the retired lady.







**HUMANITY AND LEGAL SUPPORT: FORMER HOMELESS PERSON STARTED NEW LIFE**

Miserable life in a metal hut instead of the shelter, random earnings. Such a marginal lifestyle was led by a person from Khmelnytskyi

region. It all changed when the person stepped into the Kamyanets-Podilskyi office of the Legal Development Network.

**PARTICIPANT OF THE DIGNITY REVOLUTION WILL RECEIVE THE DISABILITY PENSION IRRELEVANT OF THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYMENT YEARS**

Only one legal aid consult allowed the person from Chernivtsi region to solve his financial issues for her closest family member. Lawyers of Vyzhnytsia office of Legal Development Network clarified the rights of her son who was wounded during the Revolution of Dignity. From now on he will receive the disability pension.





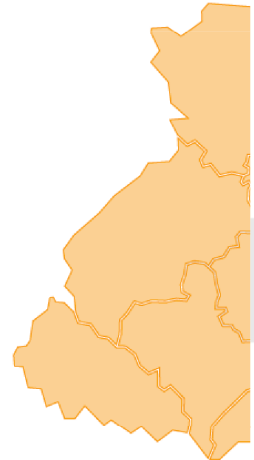
## **Ella Petrenko**

### **Regional coordinator**

Alumni of certified one-year program “NGO management” of Ukrainian Catholic University (2014). Deputy chief of Bilozerska district state administration civil council. Awarded with jubilee medal “Twenty years of Independence of Ukraine”

## **— What profit does membership in the Legal Development Network bring to the regional organisations?**

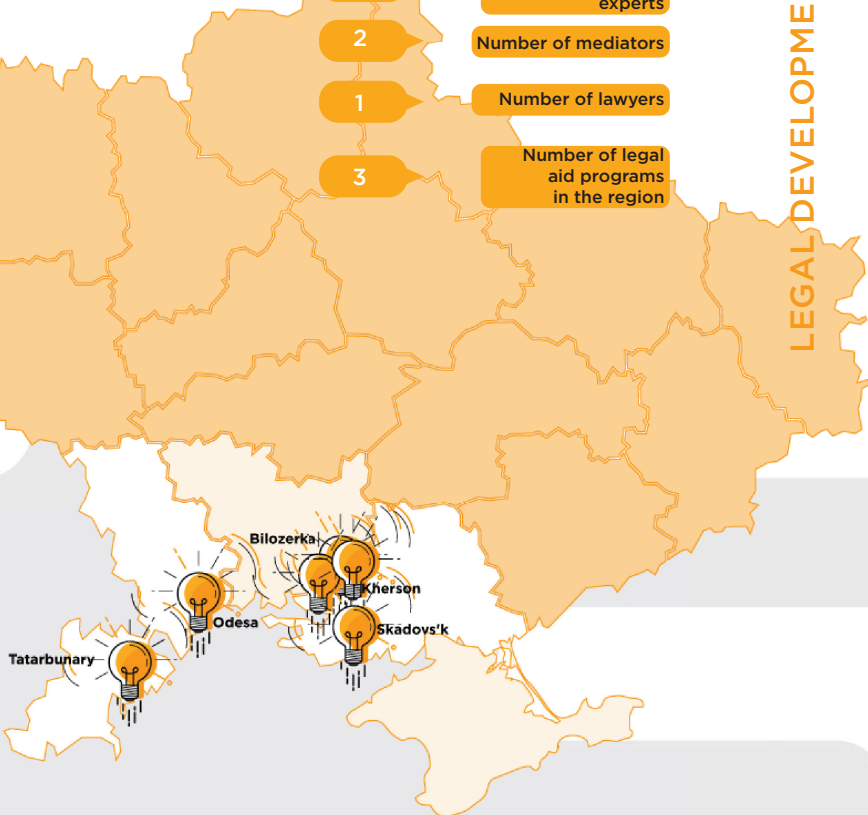
*“Legal Development Network is a close circle of like-minded people who share the same values. Thanks to the cooperation between member organisations numerous socially important projects were born and implemented. They solved crucial problems for people and the community in general. The Network gives the possibility for the regional organisations to grow and to strengthen their human and professional potential”*





# SOUTHERN REGION

**2**018 was full of challenges, achievements and victories. It is hard to name everything that was done, so it is better to concentrate on key achievements that regional organisations can be really proud of: implementation of free legal aid systems in 5 united territorial communities, approbation of legal needs research and analysis in village communities, provision of consults to the civil society organisations that partici-



pate in civil councils of different levels, creation of school comprehension services, publication of bullying prevention booklet, political school in Odessa etc.

2018 was full of challenges and achievements. Implementation of case-management electronic system has become a true challenge

for local organisations but as of now it has become fully functional and is working at 100%. More feedback and support from the citizens and local government also wouldn't go amiss. Local activists faced the problem of youth leaving the villages and small towns which caused lack of partners in local communities.

Success stories of our clients help to solve the problems for all Ukrainians who found themselves in the similar situations. It is proved by the statistics of clicks and shares. Articles with stories enjoy very high demand. It is a ready-to-use algorithm, call to action! Also it helps not only clients but also fellow lawyers who save time by having positive examples from practice.

### MILITARY ACTION PARTICIPANT STATUS: WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU'RE BEING IGNORED?

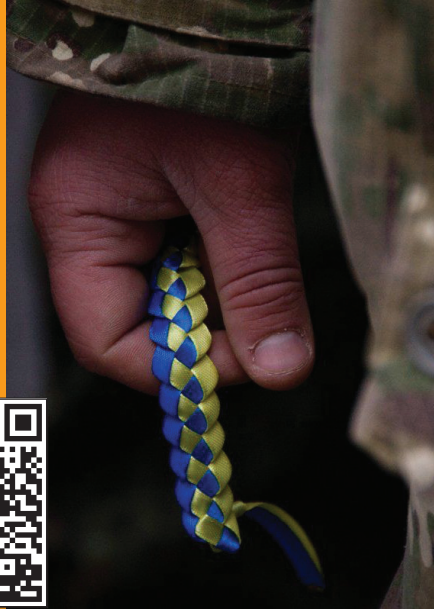
Former military man now living in Bilozerska district of Kherson region turned to the office of Legal

Development Network for help in obtaining the status of military action participant.



## TO THE MILITARY ACTION PARTICIPANT STATUS THROUGH DOUBLE OBSTACLES

It took about a year of efforts for the defendant of Ukraine to receive the military action participant status. First the reason for it was the unclear position of the military unit where he served and their refusal to provide necessary documents. Then there were unlawful claims of the military enlistment office. All these obstacles were overcome with the help of Kherson office of Legal Development Network.



## THE CHILD WAS ALLOWED TO TRAVEL ABROAD WITHOUT HIS FATHER'S PERMISSION



The woman told that she asked the father of her daughter to allow her to travel abroad to visit her grandparents but father refused without any reason. Vyacheslav Liakh, lawyer of the Bilozerka office of Legal Development Network, helped to resolve the situation.



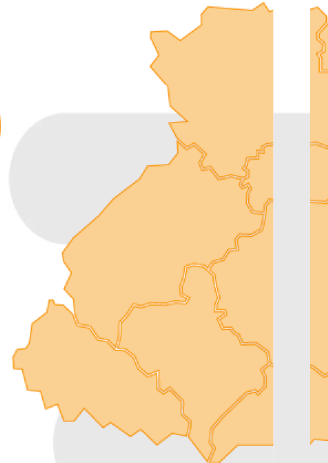


**Nataliya Kulikova**  
**Regional coordinator**

Lawyer, founder and coordinator of Chernihiv city civil organisation “Law clinic “Bona Mente”. Participated in the international internship (2013) in the USA “Public Interest Law and Pro Bono Legal Services in the US” and learning program “Development, monitoring and evaluation of the National Strategy on human rights and its implementation” (Sweden, 2017)

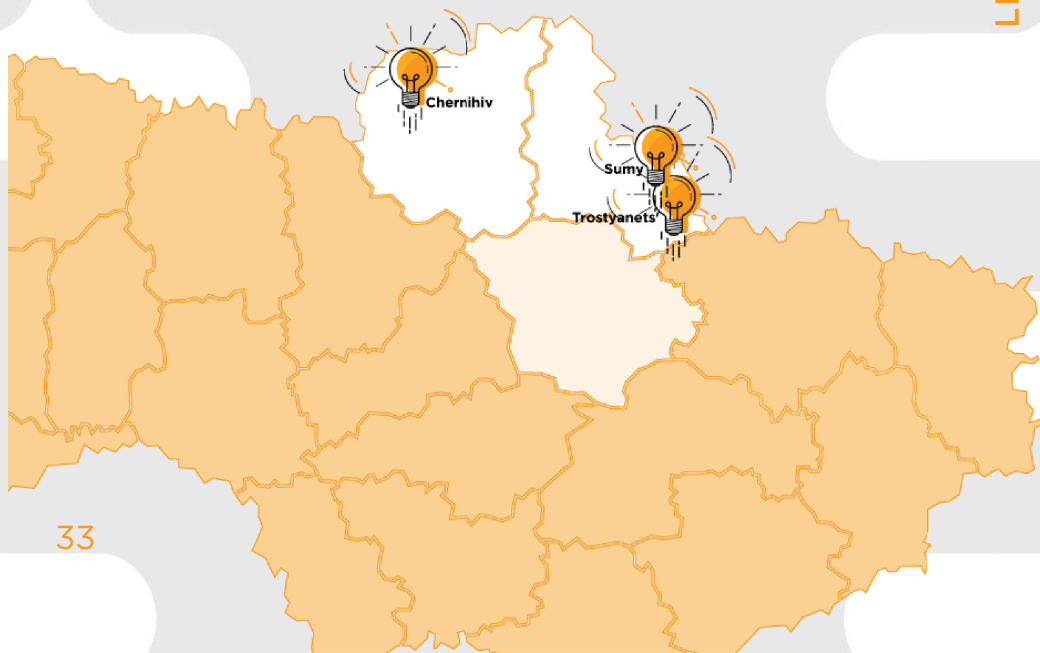
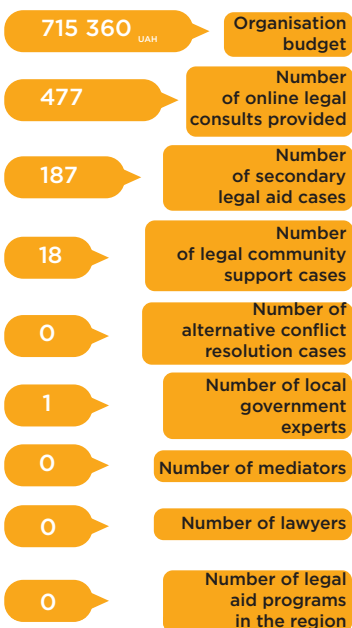
**— What is Legal Development Network?**

*“Legal Development Network is a public union that gathers together many organisations from all over Ukraine. We united to provide help to those who need it. We have known each other for quite some time and we have been working together since 2009”*



# NORTHERN REGION

**2**018 in the Northern region was a year of organisational development and search for new opportunities. The organisations significantly increased their level in the rating within the Network and passed the monitoring successfully. The personnel of the organisations was strengthened by 10 new employees. Due to external communications we also improved our rating among potential partners. Regional organisations actively collaborated with local government bodies, National police in Chernihiv and Sumy region, completed the “Local human rights index” study.



Workforce flow in the local government offices was a significant challenge for the organisations of the region this year. It complicated development of stable partnerships and planning. Despite

the active organisational development, local activists feel the need in institutional setting of their priorities including sustainable development strategies for organisations.

Success stories bring the clients closer to the offices of the Network because people can relate to the stories they read, turn for help or solve their problems on their own. The stories also give opportunities to conduct legal awareness work, to teach the clients to protect their rights and show how important human rights are.

### TRUE FATHER “CORRECTED” THE FALSE BIRTH CERTIFICATE OF HIS DAUGHTER

In order to stop the document fraud and establish his parenting rights the person from Chernihiv region had to turn to the social services and to the lawyers from free

legal aid providers. Iryna Biriuk from Chernihiv office of Legal Development Network helped to win the case in court.



## INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSON GOT HELP IN LEGITIMIZING HIS FATHER'S DEATH

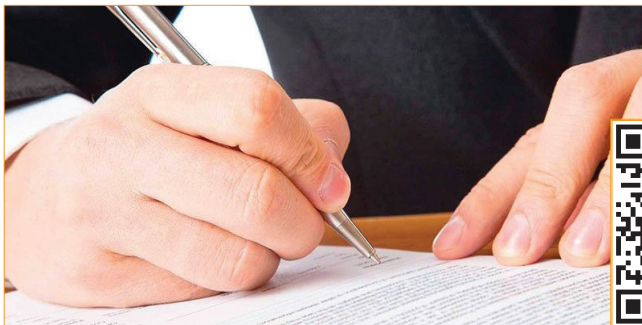
Internally displaced person from Luhansk region turned to Sumy office of Legal Development Network asking for help with the documents. He said that his father died on the territory that is currently not under control of Ukraine. The family received the death certificate in the so called "LPR" republic that is not valid in Ukraine.



## SON ESTABLISHED THROUGH COURT THE FACT OF HIS MOTHER'S DEATH ON THE TEM- PORARILY OCCUPIED TERRITORY

The woman died on the territory that is temporarily not controlled by Ukraine. It meant that her family had only the documents proving her death that are not valid on the territory of Ukraine, so they couldn't receive financial help for the burial

and the rest of her pension. Lawyers of the Sumy office of Legal Development Network say that such problems are very widespread and provide one of the successful algorithms to solve them.





**A**s paralegals, we fight against injustice every day on the front lines. We feel the pain, anger and loss of those who we help.

Thanks to our partners who are always by our side when global threats arise, who we can rely on and share our success our struggle becomes a lot easier.

Several times I took part in national and international conferences organized by the International Renaissance Foundation, the Coordination Center for Free Legal Aid, the Ukrainian Legal Aid Foundation and the Legal Development Network. Returning from Canada, I knew that there were differences between our legal systems, but I discovered that there was also much in common. Thanks to my participation in these conferences, I expanded my own vision, discovered new strategies. I hope that I have been

able to contribute to the common legal aid experience.

Justice for everyone is a difficult goal. Politics and profit often cause conflicts. In the struggle for power our least protected citizens are forgotten. But the way we treat the most vulnerable ones is the indicator of the civil society viability. The growing network of public advisers, law clubs «Pravokator» are already working with vulnerable groups while continuing to look for best practices for efficient service delivery on the community level.

It is the combination of empowerment and opportunities, partnerships, professionalism and accountability that exemplify the work of the Legal Development Network. Thank you for inviting me to participate in your work.

I think that our ties, strengthened at the conferences, will continue to



# FEEDBACK FROM CANADA





motivate and inspire all the participants when we move forward in our pursuit to impartial justice.

*Nan Normand  
Licenced paralegal,  
Canada*



+



# INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE NETWORK

## POWER IN UNITY OF THE LEGAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

One of the Legal Development Network strategic goals is to build a coordinated sustainable union of non-governmental organizations acting in the interest of the community.

The institutional capacity building of the Network is going in three directions:

- platform for mutual learning and exchange of experience;
- well-established system of internal and external communication;
- financial stability.

The Network is a union of independent organizations that have voluntarily united in order to achieve common goals and to realize common mission.

Today, these civil society organizations in different regions of Ukraine systematically shape legal culture of a person and society according to the common standards. Joining the Network allows to increase the resources of each individual organization and the Network as a whole.

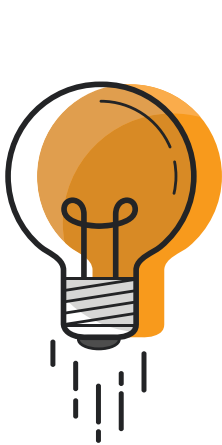
The Network is a union of professionals who share common values, who took the responsibility to promote legal development of a person, community, and government.

The Network provides an opportunity for everyone to grow professionally, to find the potential for self-realization and to attract more supporters all over Ukraine.

Throughout 2018 the Network paid significant attention to the establishment of external and internal communication systems. We launched an on-line chat for legal consults on our website and a feedback module for people asking for legal aid. Almost all member organisations were involved in support of this service on volunteer basis. Overall, the audience covered by the Network's news reached over 770,000 people (compared to 150,000 the previous year). Network's website audience has grown by 14 times. The Network was among the winners of the 5th National Competition for Public Reports in 2017. English-language materials about the work of

the Network are published on international resources, which facilitates spreading of information on the specifics of legal system development in Ukraine to the foreign audience, as well as establishing relations of the Network with international partners.

The implementation of network projects allows to strengthen the expert capacity of the Network and to move towards financial sustainability. Total amount of resources attracted to all member organizations in 2018 reached almost UAH 17 million, while in 2017 this figure did not exceed UAH 11 million. The network has also taken first practical steps towards developing its fund-raising strategy focused on developing additional sources of profit, in particular through building the capacity to provide paid services, developing strategic partnerships with local government and the private sector. In 2018 the Network conducted its first independent external financial review.



### **Roman Romanov**

Program Director “Human Rights and Justice”,  
International Renaissance Foundation

“Legal Development Network for the International Renaissance Foundation is particularly valuable because of the jointly acquired transformational experience of changing the format of local NGO activities in response to new threats and opportunities. Building systemic relationships with local communities; developing innovative and effective tools for assessing the performance of member organisations; building consensus on common values, objectives and mechanisms of cooperation; finding balance between independence and accountability, finally focusing on the needs of consumers of legal services - these are just some of the achievements of the Network, which distinguish it from the diverse range of public activity in Ukraine”

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Member of the Supervisory Board



**Iryna Fedorovych**  
Member of the Supervisory Board



**Roman Martynovskyi**  
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of the Central region



**Roman Lykhachov**  
Coordinator  
of the Eastern region



**Natalia Kulikova**  
Coordinator  
of the Northern region



**Ella Petrenko**  
Coordinator  
of the Southern region



**Victoria Ilchysheva**  
Coordinator  
of the Western region

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORATE



**Yevgen Poltenko**  
Executive Director



**Olga Saukh**  
Financial Manager/Accountant



**Denys Hubashov**  
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**Anastasia Reva**  
Program Assistant



**Liudmyla Savchenko**  
Organisational  
Development Manager



**Olena Orlova**  
Website Editor



**Damir Lukyanenko**  
System Administrator

# ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE NETWORK

In 2018, the Network's activities focused largely on the organizational development of member organisations, strengthening the sustainability of organizational structures and harmonizing key components of the organizations' work (environment, mission, culture, structure etc.), their willingness to face the challenges of the future.

There have been some positive results in this area. Network tools have been worked out to improve the system of monitoring the compliance with standards and to introduce the rating of Network offices, also the system of motivation for regional coordinators has been developed. Third monitoring of the Network's offices was conducted in



Початок нового моніторингово циклу 2019 року

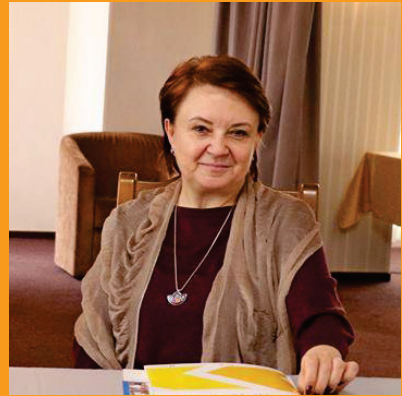
“The organizational development process is an important step forward with many consequences. A step that not only helps organizations gain financial and expert support, but can also be a powerful driver of change within the organization and help to take it to the next level of development”

2018 with an updated methodology and tools. Involvement of external independent experts in organizational development was a novelty of the monitoring in 2018. It allowed to evaluate the state of the Network's offices organizational development more objectively and impartially, identify gaps and problems in the work of organizations, identify the list of tools that can be used to address them, and develop organizational development plans, taking into account the recommendations of experts and under their mentorship.

Implementation of organizational development plans is one of the important indicators of organizations' activity.

Considering the experience of monitoring in 2018, the Network Standards related to monitoring have been amended.

In the direction of geographical expansion, the Network implemented plans of integration of Nikopol (Dnipropetrovsk region) and Vyzhnytsya (Chernivtsi region) offices of the Network to adapt their work to the criteria of the Network.



### **Valentyna Poltavets**

Executive Director  
of the Association of United  
Territorial Communities  
of Ukraine

“On March 28th 2018 the Association of United Territorial Communities of Ukraine signed a Memorandum on Cooperation with the Legal Development Network.

Working together in 2018 has enabled both organizations to work more efficiently to achieve their goals, exploring community issues and working out ways to address them. The Association's and Network's cooperation was aimed at promoting safe environment in communities, implementing local free legal aid programs and providing communities with expert legal support.

Thank you for your work and we look forward to the further fruitful cooperation!”

Standards compliance monitoring, rating according to the performance indicators of the current work and methodology of their implementation have become main priorities of the Network's activities. Over the course of 2018, we have developed our own system of rating and motivation for member organizations, which has the potential to set a precedent for the system of assessing effectiveness and motivation of member organizations. We conducted a hands-on piloting of the system, which was able to objectively determine the achievements of each organization: both the strengths that it can continue to rely on, and the weaknesses

that need further improvement. It has a positive impact on organizations. Thus, if the average rating as of Q2 2018 was 57%, as of Q4 2018 it was already 63%. The relative difference between the lowest and the highest marks is 44%. Through the course of project implementation 3 organizations, who were in the exclusion zone according to their data, showed a significant increase in their performance. According to the latest results, only 1 organization out of 25 is at risk of exclusion. In addition, the rating system allows to calculate the motivation of regional coordinators objectively, based on actual results of work.

**2018 monitoring cycle**





## Legal Development Network: Average general % in the spheres of organisational development 2018



2018 | 2019

Reports of monitoring groups with recommendations and comments of the organisations

Monitoring visits to the organisations

October

November

December

January

Kyiv, 27-28.09.

Introductory briefing of monitoring groups

Organisation self-evaluation analysis

Detailed schedules of monitoring visits

Preparation of organisational development plans

# ESTABLISHING REFERRALS BETWEEN PROVIDERS OF LEGAL AID

**T**hroughout 2017–2018 the Legal Development Network implemented the project “Increasing access to justice for vulnerable groups in the communities of Volhyn, Kharkiv and Kherison regions”. Within the project in cooperation with state free legal aid system and non-governmental legal aid providers we have come up with practical suggestions for establishing an effective referral system between free legal aid providers, including methodology and redirec-

tion protocol. These developments made it possible to lay the groundwork for further standardization of the primary free legal aid provision and automation of information exchange between providers. In particular, signing the Memorandum on cooperation between key suppliers of legal aid on the initiative of the Legal Development Network and adherence of new organization to its implementation on June 16, 2018 started the formation of a national coalition of legal aid providers.

**Project implementation period:** September 2017 - April 2018

**Donor:** USAID “New Justice” Program



## NETWORK PROJECTS

Contractors:	Partners:
<p>NGO «Community Growth Center» (Kovel Office)</p> <p>Chuhuiv Human Rights Group (Chuhuiv Office)</p> <p>Bilozerka Regional Development Center (Bilozerka Office)</p> <p>Kherson Regional Organization of the Committee of Voters of Ukraine (Kherson Office — CVU)</p> <p>NGO «Legal Space» (Kherson Office — Legal Space)</p> <p>NGO «Skadovsk — my native land» (Skadovsk Office)</p>	<p>Legal Aid Coordination Center</p> <p>Directorate for Human Rights, access to justice and legal awareness of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine</p> <p>Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union</p> <p>Ukrainian Legal Aid Foundation</p> <p>Association of Legal Clinics of Ukraine</p> <p>Charity Foundation “Right to Defense”</p> <p>NGO “Legal Hundred”</p>



## WHAT PROBLEM DID THE PROJECT SOLVE?

Today, over 8 million people in Ukraine face the need to protect their rights and need legal help. Only 800,000 (that is, only 10%) in the past year asked for such assistance from the state free legal aid system.

Often those who applied for secondary legal aid to the state system do not meet the established criteria, do not receive assistance or information on alternative options for receiving it, including the possibility of turning to other legal aid providers. And those citizens who turn to other providers may

seek secondary legal assistance because they are not informed enough which organizations provide secondary or primary legal assistance. People are stressed and don't believe that their legal issues can be solved.

The aim of the project was to increase access to justice for vulnerable population groups by establishing effective communication between providers of free legal aid in communities, monitoring of the activities of free legal aid system in communities of Volhyn, Kharkiv and Kherson regions.



Coordination meeting of project experts in Volhyn region



Training for free legal aid providers in Kharkiv region

In order to achieve the project goal during September 2017 - April 2018 in three regions located respectively in the West, South and East of the country, we conducted monitoring of the quality of the redirection of legal aid applicants' requests from NGO providers to the state legal aid system. Coordination groups from representatives of local non-governmental free legal aid providers and state legal aid system have been formed in each project implementation region to coordinate this activity.

To collect the necessary information members of the Legal Development Network, through the provision of primary legal assistance to the requesters (more than 2800 consultations were provided in total), redirected the requesters to the state free legal aid system and subsequently received

**Referral** is a way of interaction between free legal aid providers to maximize quality and satisfaction of the needs of legal aid requesters, to ensure access to justice. If the free legal aid provider is unable to fully respond to the request (lack of information, resources, competencies etc.), the requester is referred to a partner provider who has the relevant information, resources and competence.

#### Basic principles of referrals:

- Providing assistance with minimal costs of time, money and effort;
- Encouraging the person to solve a problem in a legal way;
- Providing legal assistance that meets the real needs of the individual.

#### Adhering to these principles is supposed to result in setting up the system of referrals that would:

- meet the real needs of people;
- ensure capability of free legal aid providers (competent staff, good practices and approaches to delivering free legal aid, adaptability to change and continuous self-improvement);
- guarantee close interaction between free legal aid providers.

feedback from them on the services provided to them. More than 200 people in total were referred.

In order to standardize the activities of free legal aid providers and to develop proposals for establishing referral system, the project expert team drafted the following documents:

- questionnaire of the free legal aid requester;
- methodology for monitoring of referrals;
- protocol of interaction between free legal aid providers in case of referrals;
- sample memorandum between free legal aid providers regarding

the organization of interaction in case of referrals.

Final working meeting of the expert group with the participation of representatives of a wide range of stakeholders (state free legal aid system leaders, representatives of non-governmental providers of free legal aid, Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, international development organizations) allowed to systematize and generalize the project development and to plan further actions for their implementation.



Yevgen Poltenko, ED of the Legal Development Network, moderates the expert meeting of free legal aid providers

### PROJECT MEMBERS' RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Sign a memorandum on joint actions on provision of free legal aid between the main providers.
- Create regional communication venues for free legal aid providers (in the format of coordination groups / councils / clusters), where joint activities would be systematically coordinated (at least once a quarter). Including: updating data on local free legal aid providers, monitoring quality of services provided by all organisations of the region.
- Initiate joint work of all stakeholders to develop common standards for the provision of primary legal aid, advocate for changes in

the Law of Ukraine “On free legal aid” (to ensure the right of the person to choose alternative options for obtaining free legal aid in case of failure or impossibility of a state system to provide such assistance), organize interaction of the referral databases between all free legal aid providers (in compliance with the confidentiality of the personal data of the legal aid requesters in full compliance with the Law of Ukraine “On personal data protection”).

- Create an electronic card of legal aid requester by analogy with a patient’s electronic medical card as a universal tool for registering all the details of the case in order to simplify the procedure of providing legal assistance and increase the client’s trust in the legal aid providers.
- Develop a memo on interaction with the designated lawyer for the requesters of the secondary legal aid, which will specify the client’s rights and obligations, the procedure for his / her interaction with the lawyer.



### **Oleksiy Boniuk**

Director of Coordination  
Center on legal aid provision

“In Ukraine there is a possibility for successful functioning and development of non-governmental free legal aid providers. Joint work can lead to development of an effective legal aid model. Signing of the Memorandum is only the beginning, which nevertheless paves the way for the development of common standards for provision of legal assistance and its regulation”



More  
information  
about the  
project

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT MONITORING – LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS INDEX

Providers:	Partners:
<p>“Chuhuiv Human Rights Group” (Chuhuiv Office)</p> <p>“Stanislav Human Rights Group” (Ivano-Frankivsk Office)</p> <p>“Chernihiv civil human rights committee” (Chernihiv Office)</p> <p>“Lawyers Association of Kamyanets-Podilskyi” (Kamyanets-Podilskyi Office)</p>	<p>Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Group</p>

**Period of project implementation:** May-November 2018  
**Donor:** USAID “New Justice” Program



## NETWORK PROJECTS



## WHAT PROBLEM DID THE PROJECT SOLVE

**E**mpowerment of communities is constantly increasing. But not all local authorities understand the priority of human rights in their activities. Quite often access to justice, human rights issues are backsliding, giving way to lighting, road repairs, landscaping, etc.

The project was aimed to improve partnerships in the field of human rights protection, taking into account the needs of vulnerable groups in the communities, in particular between representatives of local government bodies and the judiciary, human rights community and public organizations.



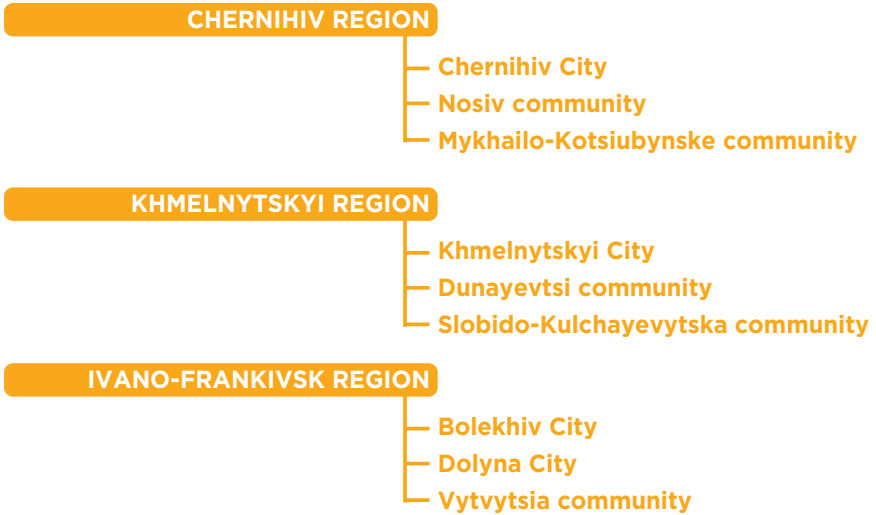
Conducting experiment. Oksana Osarchuk, Network monitor, conducts monitoring of a hospital based on the Local Human Rights Index methodology.

Through methodological and expert support from our partner — Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union — Legal Development Network had an opportunity to carry out public monitoring of respect for human rights by local authorities using the innovative tools of the Local Human Rights Index.

Local Human Rights Index was established to support and effectively develop the decentralization reform in Ukraine. The criterion of effectiveness is development based on the priority of human rights in all spheres of its relations with the state. More about the methodology: [hro.org.ua](http://hro.org.ua)



## PROJECT WAS IMPLEMENTED IN THE FOLLOWING TERRITORIAL COMMUNITIES



It is important to understand that monitoring results are not ratings for cities. It doesn't compare Chernihiv with Nosivka or Mykhaylo-Kotsubinsky. First of all, it is a unique opportunity to compare Chernihiv in 2018 and, for example, Chernihiv in 2020. All the value of the Local Human Rights Index is in its systematic use. High scores show green light for investors, give additional political points for community leadership. And the low ones are signals to unite the efforts of the residents, to involve external partners to jointly solve

problems, to correctly determine the priorities of the territorial development. Monitoring results obtained in 2018 are the starting point. Monitoring teams worked hard and passed the initiative to the local government. Now it is up to them to determine whether these developments and recommendations will be integrated into local policy, and whether the Local Human Rights Index methodology will transform the decision-making culture from «manual mode» to the culture of decisions based on the facts and real needs of people.



There is currently a number of problems and barriers at the local level which prevent citizens from exercising their rights that they have by law. Lack of benefits' financing from the budget, selectivity, bureaucracy in the sphere of socio-economic rights, formalism, lack of quality standards, defencelessness in protecting children's rights and ensuring non-discrimination.

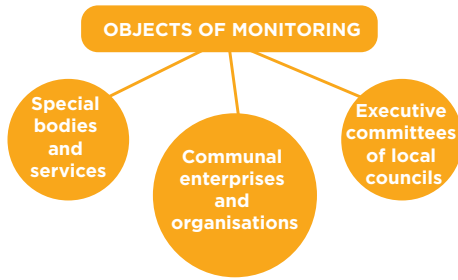
In remote settlements (especially mountain areas), where the project was implemented, there was a significant lack of lawyers, the police rarely visited the place. It means that the inhabitants of these territories have much less access to public information and much less opportunities to protect their rights in comparison with the people living in large cities.

There are also many non-individual issues that are relevant to the entire

community and require expert legal support. Local government bodies are not always able to involve a lawyer in advising on certain issues of community life. Often they have a hard time in addressing the issues of good governance and management of joint ownership of the united territorial community, including recreational areas. Effectively addressing these issues is critical to the well-being of all community residents.



Public discussion of the report on the results of the research in Chernihiv



MONITORING WAS CONDUCTED THROUGH



Questionnaires among officials



Document analysis



Visual observations



Media publications analysis



Communication with local activists and informal leaders

**ADDITIONAL STAGE OF COURT PRACTICE ANALYSIS AND LOCAL POLICIES AND PROGRAMS PROVIDED:**

- analysis of court practice by experts in human rights observance by local self-government bodies in the settlements of the project activity in order to identify the main reasons for the appeal of the citizens / communities to court;
- exploring best practices of implementing local policies and programs to address human rights and needs of vulnerable population groups, identify potential weaknesses in such policies and practices for further improvement;
- research on how citizen participate in local policy-making is ensured and how human rights protection mechanisms are implemented and used in local government activities in the



Monitoring visit to local government bodies in Khmelnytskyi

context of community needs;

- identification of best practices and flaws in the field of respect for human rights by officials / local government bodies (TOP-10 best practices and TOP-10 violations).

**In addition, as a part of finalizing project results:**

- Recommendations were developed for local governments to improve local policies and programs in respect of human rights;
- Recommendations were developed to address the identified problems in internal procedures to improve human rights protection activities, taking into account the needs of vulnerable population groups, and strengthened cooperation between civil society organizations and local authorities;
- Proposals were made on the ways to increase public participation in monitoring the activities of local government in the field of human rights.



**Andriy Podorvan**

Head of Chernihiv city council press-service

“It is very good that civic activists have evaluated human rights in the Chernihiv community. Monitoring data will be taken into account by the directorate and city council departments, each in their own area of work. Besides, the analysis data can be used in preparation of city programs related to human rights. Having ready to use analytics makes the task easier for program developers”



More information about the project

# IMPLEMENTATION OF MEDIATION IN SCHOOLS

Providers:	Partners:
<p>“Bilozerka center for regional development” (Bilozerka Office)</p> <p>“Podilsky center for human rights” (Vinnytsya Office)</p> <p>NGO “Pravo” (Khmelnyskyi Office)</p> <p>“Center for community growth” (Kovel Office)</p> <p>“Roma human rights center” (Odesa Office)</p> <p>“Dvorichna village community foundation” (Dvorichna Office)</p> <p>“Skadovsk — my native land” (Skadovsk Office)</p> <p>NGO “Legal space” (Kherson Office — Legal space)</p>	<p>NGO “Institute for Peace and Understanding”</p> <p>NGO “La Strada — Ukraine”</p> <p>National Association of Mediators of Ukraine</p> <p>NGO “Engineers of understanding”</p>

**Period of project implementation:** 2017-2018

**Donor:** International Renaissance Foundation



## NETWORK PROJECTS

## WHAT PROBLEM DID THE PROJECT SOLVE

**S**chool statistics show that lately there has been an increase in the number of offences committed by schoolchildren. Every now and then information about fights, harassment of children at school, moral abuse comes up. Everyone is affected by this situation: the victim, the persecutors, and the observers. According to a 2016 UNICEF survey, more than 80% of children aged 11 to 17 years faced bullying in educational institutions, 24% of children were victims of bullying, and 48% did not tell anyone about these cases.

The increase in violence, in particular in such aggravated forms as student bullying, forced us to look for effective ways of overcoming it. The use of disciplinary methods of resolving interpersonal conflicts in schools is ineffective. Therefore, mediation as a non-violent method of conflict resolution has been actively implemented in Ukrainian schools.

Schools need to active prevention policies of all forms of violence, clear mechanisms for responding to acts of violence and abuse, create and

provide free access to extracurricular activities that promote health, safety and development of vital competences, provide psychological counselling and support. Creation and operation of school comprehension services is aimed to address these issues. School Reconciliation Services (hereinafter referred to as SRS) is school space where specially trained mediators help their peers resolve conflicts based on the principles of a restorative approach.

Since 2016, the implementation of restorative practices has become one of the priority areas of the Legal Development Network, so we provided training for the employees of the offices of the Network and partner educational institutions with the support of the Renaissance Foundation on strengthening legal capacity of vulnerable population groups and introducing mediation.



IN THIS PERIOD LEGAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK DID THE FOLLOWING

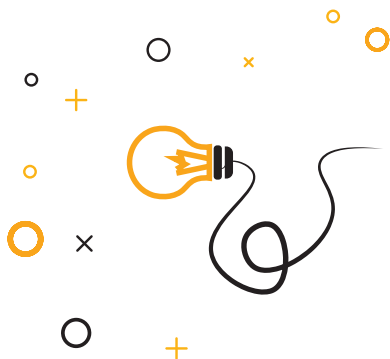
-  Established communication and information exchange between offices and school reconciliation services in 5 regions, about 139 people participated in coordination meetings.
-  Created blogs and Facebook pages for school reconciliation services.
-  Printed “School reconciliation services mediator notebook” for mediators.
-  Prepared 42 own trainers-facilitators of the course.
-  Trained 250 mediators from students and teachers.
-  Involved about 6,000 children in 38 educational institutions in the activities of school reconciliation services.
-  Currently about 38 school reconciliation services operate in partnership with the offices of the Legal Development Network in Bilozerka (Kherson region, 6 services), Dvorichna (Kharkiv region, 3 services), Skadovsk (Kherson region, 8 services), Khmilnyk (Vinnytsia region, 8 services), Kovel (Volyn region, 5 services), Turbiv and Lypovtsi (Vinnytsia region, 8 services).
-  Launched annual competition “Best school reconciliation service». 18 applications were registered for participation. Video of mediators were posted on the Legal Development Network’s Youtube channel.
-  First Interregional School Mediation Best Practice Forum was held in Kyiv on June 20, 2018, with almost 200 participants from 6 regions of Ukraine and representatives of partners: NGO “La Strada-Ukraine”, National Association of Mediators of Ukraine, “Engineers of Understanding”, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education and Science, International Renaissance Foundation and others. Forum announced the competition winners and awarded the best services.





## RESULTS OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES:

- Reducing the level of conflict and aggression in schools where the SRSs operate.
- Ongoing awareness-raising and preventive work among students — promotional work, presentations, publications.
- Circles of values conducted among the students of the junior and senior classes increased the level of trust and unity in classes.
- Children-mediators liked exercises with lots of movement and were happy to do them for elementary students.
- First mediation was successfully conducted in schools.
- Local free legal aid programs in several districts and cities received funds from the budget for the implementation of SRSs, promotion of mediation in schools at the local level.



## Networking

Collaboration with NGOs — members of the Legal Development Network is very important for the newly created SRSs. Schools are key players and helpers of the Network's offices in the process of developing safe communities and law enforcement. The Network is a platform for sharing experience and innovative practices, methodological and resource support and collaboration, a bridge between educational institutions and communities.



## Viktoriya Kucherenko

Coordinator of SRS «Open Hearts» of Skadovsk Secondary School № 2

“Since February 2017, we have begun operation of the school service. In the beginning of the school year we presented the SCS and began training classes called «Circles». Circles help to establish relationships that teach students to respond differently to offences and conflicts over time. When we began our joint work the atmosphere in our group had a collective, cohesive character that began to unite students with shared values and opened up opportunities for finding solutions. Belief in collective strength began to grow, students learned to understand the values of each classmate

and not to ridicule the situation, but rather to support and respond to the problem. When you hear a person speak from the bottom of their heart, you feel like you meet them for the first time, that they are not the people you knew before. In the circle you quickly start to share the spirit of open discussion, teaching children an important skill - peacemaking. The feedback from the youngest members of the circle was incredibly warm and sincere. They were very pleased to share their experiences with their parents and were open to each other”.





"I have a right!", Kyiv

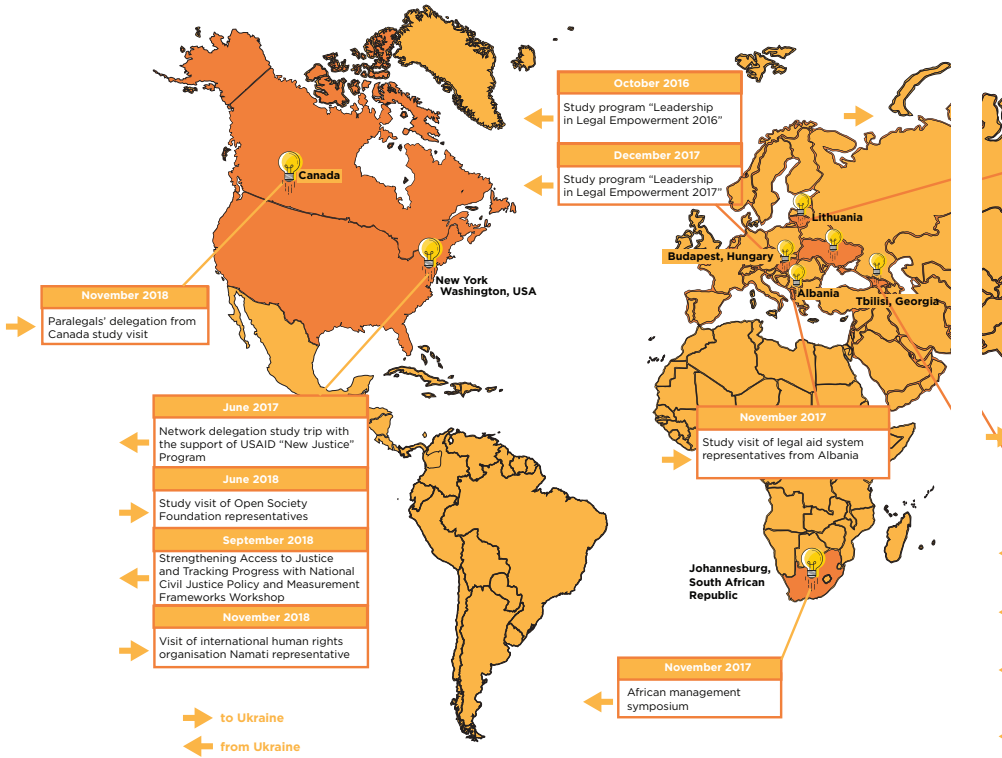
## Danylo Schogol

9<sup>th</sup> grade student of Daryivka secondary school (Bilozerka district, Kherson region), mediator of SRS "Peacemaking"

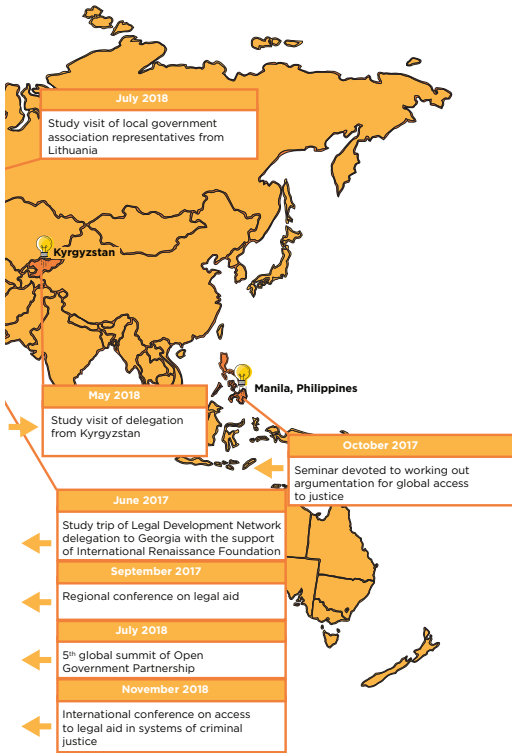
"Fights rarely occur at our school, because we teach students to resolve conflicts peacefully. But help of mediators is still needed. A conflict arose between the students of our school. First, the students of 4th grade got into a fight. It was very strange that they came to us on their own! But the mediators didn't get lost, we told the conflicting parties about the principles and rules of conduct during mediation. As it later turned out, the guys had a fight and the conflict started to pick

up, but they turned to us on time. We found the way to resolve the conflict, its participants signed an agreement and decided to come to us in a week to tell us how they were fulfilled"





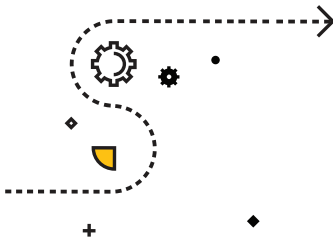
# INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION 2016-2018



## Olena Ursu

United Nations Development Program in Ukraine

“We are working with the Legal Development Network through a network of sub-national civil society centers supported by UNDP. We work to resolve the issue of human rights protection in Ukraine in the context of international governmental obligations. Throughout this period, the Network has proven itself as a union of professionals working together as a team, coordinating their lawyers and analysts from different parts of Ukraine, as well as uniting and strengthening the voices of civil society. The results of this collaboration have been used for international human rights advocacy and taken into account by UN bodies”



## LEGAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK WEBSITE POSSIBILITIES

**F**irst of all, the Network's website is a portal of current topics of the legal environment. We create materials and step-by-step instructions for people to make their lives easier. The site user can get free legal help online during the week, from 10.00 to 16.00 in the online chat, or get

a personal consult with lawyers in their nearest office. For frequent questions, we've created an online guide in the Legal Aid section. It works as a drop-down list. You choose a topic, such as «Land Issues». Next — «Land Disputes» — «Settlement of Land Disputes» — and go to the page with detailed

**770 000**

audience reach



**111**

mentions in media



# TECHNOLOGIES AND COMMUNICATIONS

recommendations for resolving the issue.

For easy site navigation, we have a search function. After the request, the user can select one of the sections of the site: «Consultations», «Success Stories» and «Events».

We plan to install a distribution feature for search links for user convenience. The site has a map with LDN offices. The user can find contacts, addresses of the Network’s offices and turn to them for advice.

**10**

public events



**4**

publications  
in international resources



**11**

signed  
memorandums



“We are constantly working to improve the system and we plan to scale it. We focus on aspects of staff effective performance, including the quality of legal advice, input and and processing of citizen data. We will also expand the functionality of the system’s statistical reports by introducing more detailed collection of information from the regions of the country”



## ONLINE CHAT

Online chat was created for timely reaction to legal requests from the citizens. You can use the chat on Legal Development Network website.

The service is easy to use both for the person asking the question and for the lawyer who answers it.

Questions received from the clients after working hours are automatically redirected to a special mailbox where lawyers continue to communicate with the citizens. The average daily response rate is 3 to 5 requests. Average duration of a user online visit — 15 minutes.

**3**

international events



**12**

communication strategies developed by the Network member organisations





## CASE-MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

**L**egal development network case-management system allows to register all visits to the Network's offices both online and in person, in the offices. It is the first system in Ukraine, implemented by the civil society organisation. The system allows to keep track of the detailed statistics and to use it in your further work.

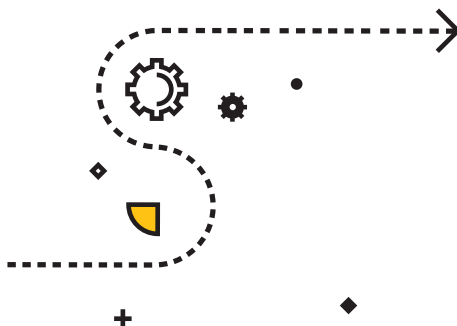
over **54 000**

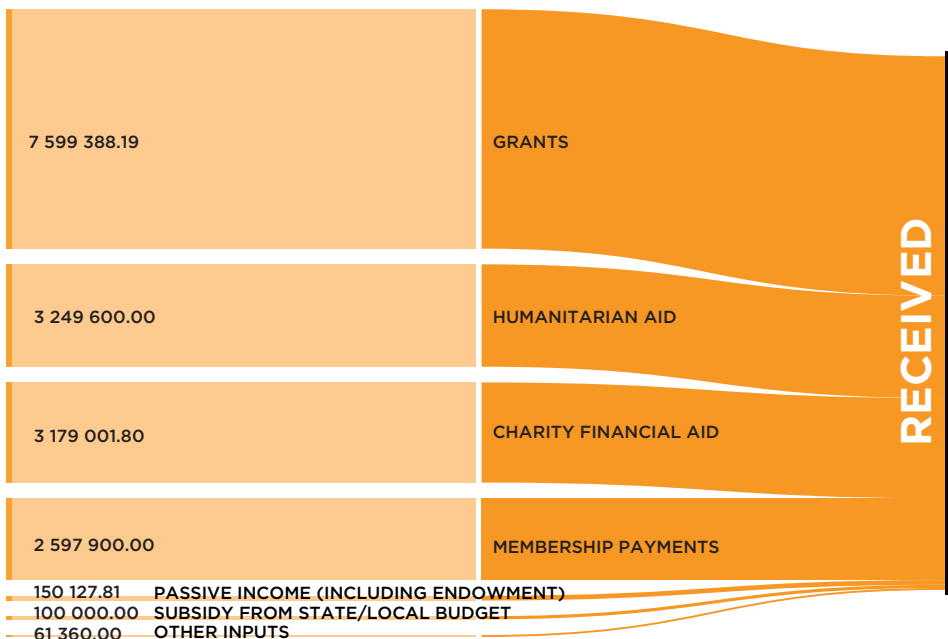
website  
visitors in 2018



over **6500**

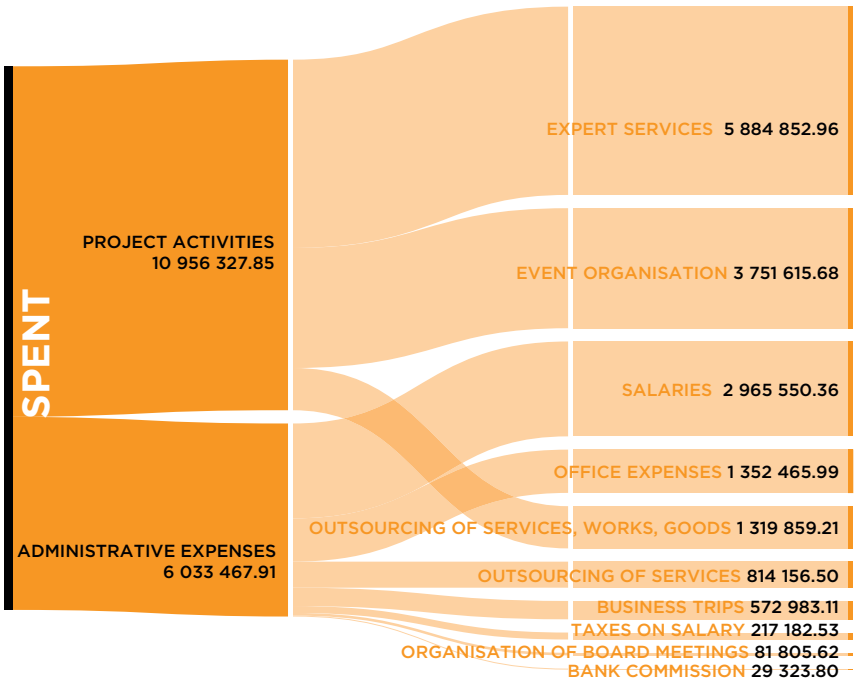
subscribers on Facebook  
by the end of 2018





**RECEIVED: 16 937 377.80 UAH**

# FINANCIAL REPORTING



**SPENT: 16 989 795.7 UAH**

In 2018 Legal Development Network successfully passed the external independent audit by "Audit firm "Marinchenko and partners"

**T**he power of the Legal Development Network lies not only in our regional organizations, their expert potential and desire to act actively, to work and change their communities.

The power of the Legal Development Network lies not only in the institutional, organizational capacity, approved policies and procedures that provide a solid foundation for our daily work.

First of all, the power of the Legal Development Network lies in the people. The people around us, who stand by our side when we change communities every day, we change the country with the power of our strong partnership.

Therefore, we would like to sincerely thank our partners: people who live in the communities where we work and sincerely support our activities; non-governmental organizations, who share the common cause with us and stand with us in important moments; government and local authorities who are ready for change, listen to reasonable criticism and friendly advice, and of course, international organizations who believe in our ability to change the country, and provided financial and expert support that made our appearance possible in 2009.

*Sincerely,  
Legal Development Network team*