



2016

annual report



Non-Governmental Organisation “European Dialogue”

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Foreword from the Chairman of the Board

Dear friends!

Almost twenty years of activity in the public sector of Ukraine - a great example for optimism and a strong argument to overcome despair in Ukrainian society.

It is really hard to stay independent from the government and continue serving the community. "European Dialogue" is one of the few NGOs that consistently adhere to this principle. Almost a hundred of international and national successfully implemented projects since 1998 have not become passive history of the organization, but the motivation to change for the better.

Our effort resulted in extension of goals and objectives and transformation into a think tank, which has happen over the past two years.

And that's what I want to talk about today. Because the speed of change, its quality and, most importantly, new products of the "European Dialogue" are very impressive.

You can familiarize yourself with these products by reading through this report. These analytical studies emerged due to effective interaction with local state administration, local self-government, NGOs, i.e. those institutions with which "European Dialogue" have a long history of cooperation.

It is important to notice that by becoming a think tank, "European dialogue" has not ceased to be a moderator of cross-border cooperation, strong proponent of social and educational initiatives for which it is renowned in the third sector.

Last year was fruitful and successful for the organization. However, nowadays success can only be measured by practical use of created analytics. In this regard, we are proud of "European Dialogue" and can only wish this professional team further success.

Oleh Yaskiv





About us

NGO “European Dialogue” was officially registered on May 12, 1998.

The idea to create an organization came from the need to support initiatives to strengthen tolerance and better understanding of European integration processes, establishing partnerships between civil society organizations both in Ukraine and abroad.

Mission of the organization

NGO “European Dialogue” is a competency center for system changes in sustainable regional development through community initiatives, establishing partnerships between communities, NGOs and local authorities.

Strategic areas

- Facilitation of regional development and community mobilization process;
- Promotion of good governance practices on the regional level;
- Development of organizational and analytical capabilities of NGOs.

Our team



Igor Kaspruk
Executive director



Oleksandr Sofiy
Head of the analytical group



Taras Baranetskyi
Analyst



Mykola Krat
Analyst



Oleksandra Tanska
Accountant



Ihor Shymkiv
Manager of organizational
development



Dmytro Posypanko
Communications manager

Members of the Board

Chairman of the Board



Doctor of Technical Science,
Director of Metropolitan Sheptytsky Information Resource Centre

Board Members:



ALINA KERNITSKA-BOYCHUK
Director of Southwestern Regional Office at
PZU Ukraine

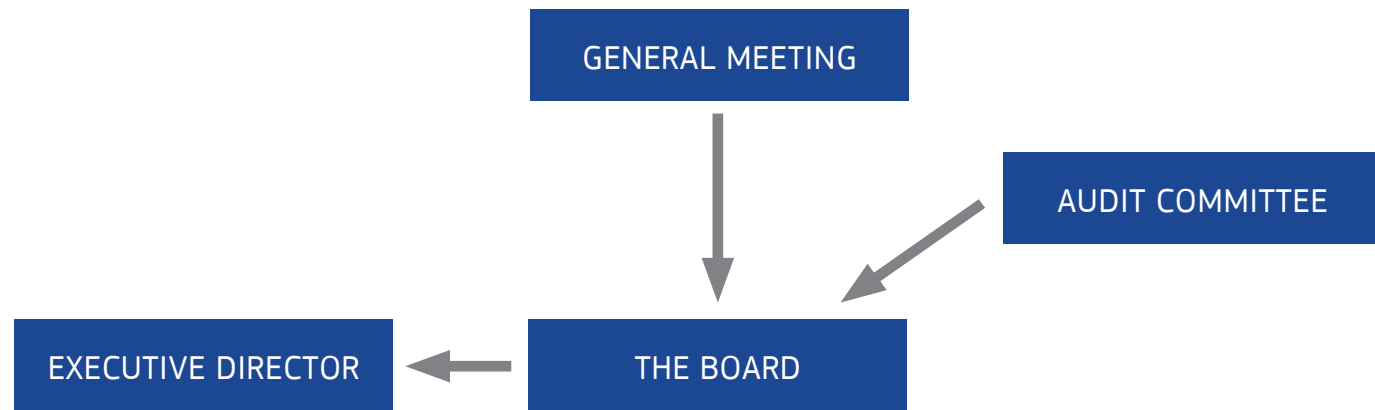


JARUNA KOVAL-SAVELYEVA
Journalist, head of the culture section
at "Lvivska gazeta"



HALYNA LITVIN
Association of self-governments
"Euroregion Carpathians - Ukraine"

Members of the Board



VASYL POLUJKO
President of West-Ukrainian Resource
Center

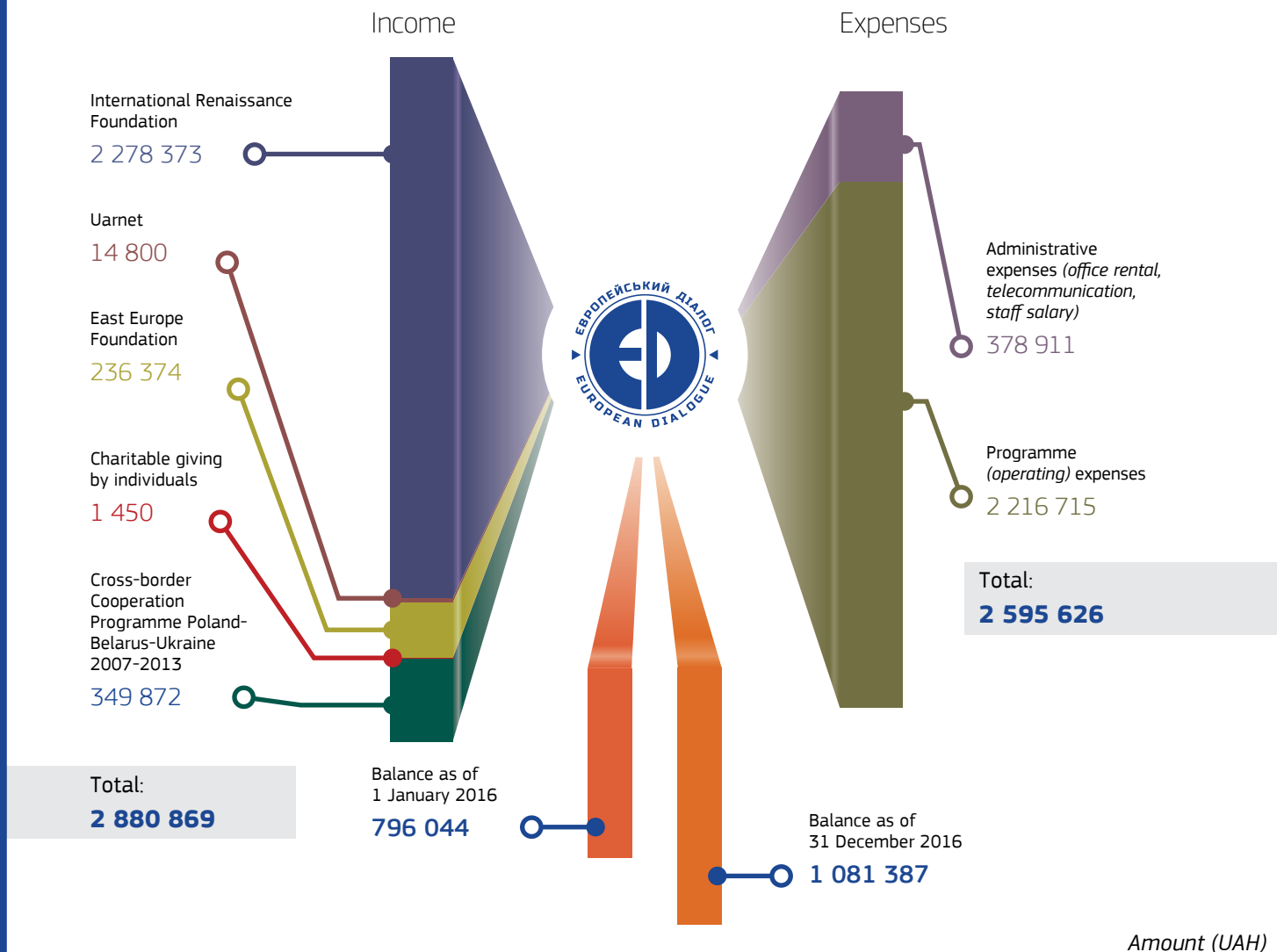


OLEG TURIY
Vice Rector for Program Development
at Ukrainian Catholic University



ANDRIY MATSELYUKH
Executive Director at Lviv Tourist Board

Budget 2016



Organizational development

In 2016, “European Dialogue” started an organizational capacity self-assessment process based on seven key criteria. Each criterion has a set of indicators that are measured in points, based on clearly defined objectives. The maximum total score for organizational development is 154 (in case the organization exceeds the target for each criterion). A total amount of points of all seven criteria allows assessing the level of overall organizational development and its dynamics, comparing with other organizations working in the same field.

Total points for criterion

Leadership: vision and governance [max 16]



Professionalism: research and management [max 28]



Policy impact [max 46]



Transparency / accountability [max 14]



Adaptability / connectivity [max 24]



Media visibility [max 18]

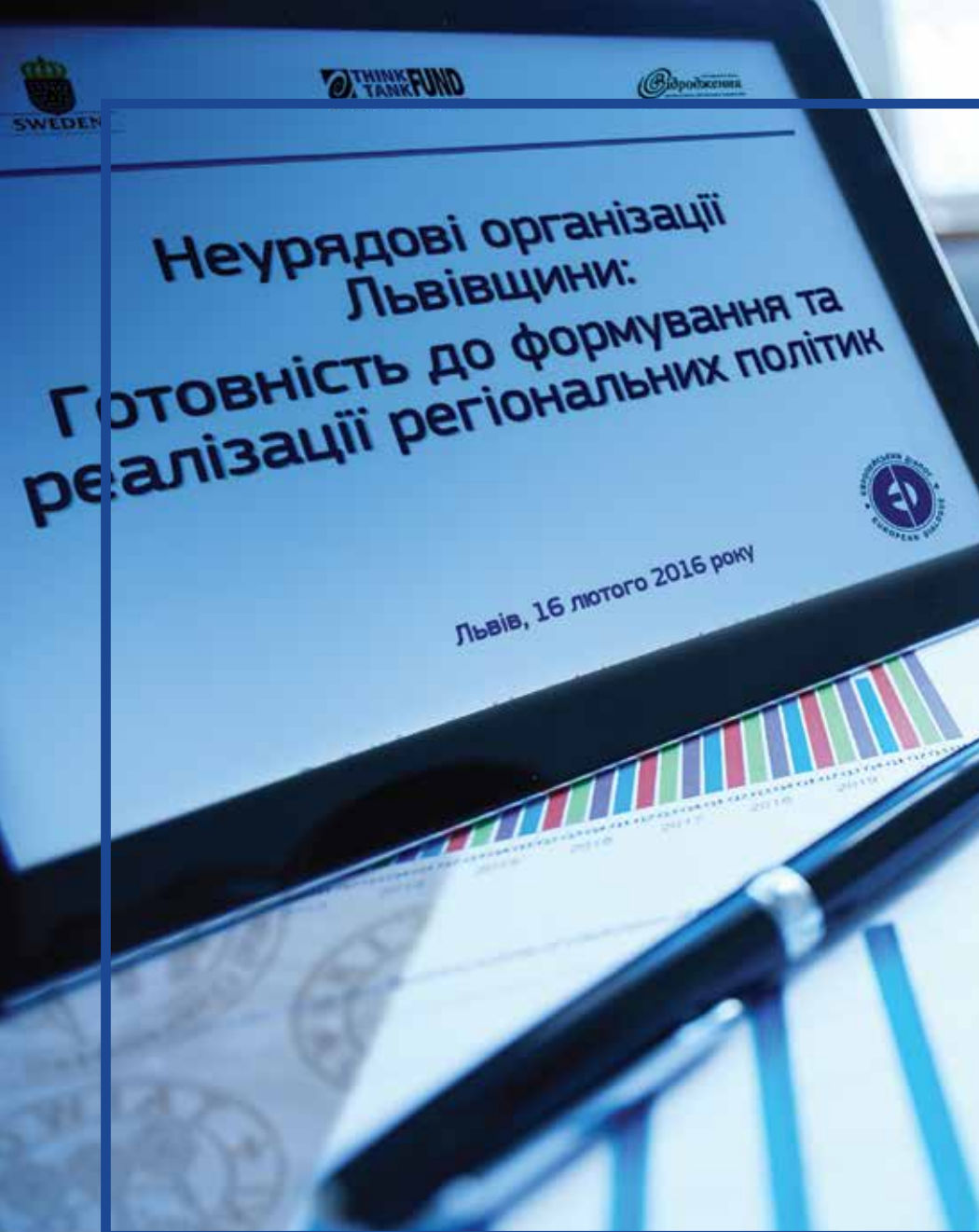


Sustainability [max 8]



Total [max 154]





Analytics

Analysis of support of local communities' policy as part of regional development policy in Lviv region

This study was made during the preparation of the Regional competition of local development micro-projects for 2016-2020. It has demonstrated the possibility of a systematic approach to regional development, in particular coordination of regional development programs, cooperation of local resources, including community resources and effectiveness of assessment and monitoring process.

Management of capable territorial communities. Polish experience

The study analyses the Polish experience of forming administrative apparatus on the lowest level of local self-government – gmina (municipality).

Data collected and systematized in the analysis can be used for further research on models of governance structure of the future capable territorial communities in Ukraine, and to serve as the basic information for anyone interested in the issues of local self-government reform.

NGO's of Lviv region: the willingness to form and implement regional policies

The study analyses the role of NGOs and think tanks in the formation and implementation of regional policies on the example of Lviv region. The analysis suggests that the scope of the studies of Lviv region NGOs are mainly focused on political issues, study of society / civil society, public control and almost no studies on current socio-political reforms, especially decentralization and regional development. The study also offering tools for enhancing the participation of NGOs in, decision making, including through cooperation with the authorities.

Evaluation of the local government reform in the Lviv region in 2015

The current system of local self-government and territorial organization of power in Ukraine does not meet the needs of society and does not contribute to building market economic relations. In recent years, there have been a number of attempts to modernize it – in 1998-2000, 2004-2006 and 2010-2011. The ideologists of the current reforms have taken into account most of the problems of previous attempts. However, during the reform implementation in 2015 in Lviv region, as in the

whole of Ukraine, a number of mistakes were made that can significantly affect the results of reform in the near future. The study analyses the main mistakes and proposes recommendations for effective implementation of reform.

The future of the districts of Ukraine: experience of Polish self-government at the powiat (county) level

The study analyses the administrative-territorial model used in Poland. In the analytical note the following issues were analysed:

- place of the powiat in the Polish system of local self-government, the division of functions between the province, powiat and gmina;
- the legal basis of powiat activity;
- the management structure in the powiat;
- powiat budget, its revenues and expenditures.

The concept of “broadband Internet access” in Ukraine

In the growth of globalization and development of new technologies, the Internet plays increasingly important role in the social life. Most new technologies are dependent on the availability of Internet resources and related services.

The study analyses the approaches to the definition of “broadband Internet access”, which is a key indicator of the level of public access to the Internet and the economic development as a whole.

Evaluating and selecting micro-projects in 2016 in the framework of Regional competition of local development micro-projects for 2016-2020

The study analyses the first stage (selection and evaluation) of the Regional competition of local development micro-projects – 2016, which recorded a significant excess of the value of applications (UAH 276,8 mln.) over proposed Program budget (UAH 35 mln.) Thus, offers recommendations to the Competition council on optimal distribution of additional funds allocated by Lviv Regional Council (UAH 16 mln.) according to priorities of the Competition.

Cross-border cooperation in Lviv region under conditions of state regional development policy reform

The study examines the role of cross-border cooperation in regional development policy of Lviv region, key

changes in the approach of forming and implementing the state policy of regional development in Ukraine, and the main factors influencing cross-border cooperation policy.

The study also contains targeted recommendations for the implementation of the new policy model in the years 2016-2017

The budgets of unified communities of Lviv region: challenges and opportunities

The reform of local self-government provides for transfer of a substantial part of powers and revenue base to the lowest (basic) level of local self-government. In 2015, 15 newly created unified communities of Lviv region were deemed "capable". The budgets of most unified communities of Lviv region are characterized by significant dependence on transfers from the state budget, and by the fact that costs of local administration and social infrastructure accounted for about 2/3 of all current expenditures. According to the findings, several recommendations on how to increase communities income and improve the efficiency of current expenditures.

National Fund for Regional Development: mechanism / procedure of the preparation and selection of projects of

regional development

The study analyses the state regional policy and role of National Fund for Regional Development, which is a financial instrument for implementation of the National Strategy of Regional Development of Ukraine. Fund activity in 2015-2016 has revealed problems that have been accumulated over the years, especially in the procedure of preparation and selection of projects for regional development. According to the conclusions of the study, were presented a number of targeted recommendations for optimizing the procedures of preparation and selection of projects for funding from the National Fund for Regional Development for the years 2017-2018.

Reform of Public Libraries Ukraine in the context of decentralization

The study analyses reform of the state library system in Ukraine, which is of strategic importance for the regional policy of the state. For the purpose of our analysis, we studied rural public libraries, as the reform of administrative-territorial structure and local self-government has the most significant impact on this type of libraries. The study found that the key actors of reform have no common vision of library system in Ukraine, therefore, it provides possible models of Ukrainian library system reform.



Lviv region Perspective plan 2.0

At the beginning of September 2016 Lviv Regional State Administration submitted a draft Perspective plan to the Lviv Regional Council, which provides for the creation of 85 unified communities. This new plan was submitted as an amendment to the previous Perspective plan, approved in 2015, and provides for the changes in 17 districts and the city of Lviv.

Study is based on analysis of capacity and availability indicators and according to them several recommendations were made concerning 4 districts of Lviv region for the draft amendments to the Perspective plan.

Regional competition of community initiatives: the need for change

The study analyses the results of implementing Programme of Regional competition of local development micro-projects in 2016, which allowed us to formulate the appropriate conclusions and recommendations for the Lviv Regional Council on the need for changes in the Programme for 2017. And subsequently put the new edition to the vote at the next session of Lviv Regional Council.





Public events

1. NGO's of Lviv region: Are they prepared to develop and implement regional policies? Round table. Lviv, 16 February
2. Tools of e-democracy for NGO's. Expert study presentation. Lviv, 4 March
3. Development of cross-border cooperation: global challenges and tasks. Panel session. Lviv, 18 April
4. Rural libraries in the context of decentralization. Debates. Lviv, 22 June
5. Cross-border cooperation in Lviv region under reform of regional development state policy. Analytical study presentation. Truskavets, Local Development Forum, 25 June
6. The intermediate results of the unified communities: budgetary aspects. Debates. Lviv, 27 July
7. Improvement of Regional Competition of Community Initiatives - 2017. Debates. Sambir, 13 October
8. Community development planning in 2017: sources of income. Seminar. Lviv, 2 November
9. Legal regulation of cross-border cooperation. Panel session. Lviv, XVI International Economic Forum, 4 November
10. Budgeting of unified communities of Lviv region in 2017. Seminar. Lviv, 9 November
11. The system of electronic data processing in local councils. Seminar. Lviv, 30 November
12. Roadmap for reforms of unified communities of Lviv region. Presentation of the project results. Lviv, 10 December
13. Secondary education reform in partnership with local government. Public hearings. Lviv, 10 December

Cooperation with authorities

During 2016 representatives of the “European Dialogue” were included in a number of advisory bodies that operate under the executive branch and local government bodies, namely:

- The Public council of the State agency for e-government;
- Regional commission for assessment and conducting of preliminary competitive selection of investment programs and regional development projects that can be implemented through the National Fund for Regional Development in Lviv region;
- Interagency coordinating committee for the reform of local self-government and administrative-territorial structure of Ukraine and territorial organization of power in Lviv region;
- Competition council of Regional competition of local development micro-projects;
- Scientific and technical council for Informatization and e-government of the Lviv Regional State Administration;
- Coordination council for development of civil society under the Lviv Regional State Administration;

- Expert committee of Regional competition of local development micro-projects;
- Expert committee of Program to improve competitiveness of Lviv region
- Lviv regional branch of the All-Ukrainian association of village and town councils.

In addition, the “European Dialogue” actively involved in the development of strategic regional documents:

- Lviv region development strategy by 2020;
- Implementation Plan of the Lviv region development strategy for 2016-2018;
- Changes to the draft Perspective plan of formation of capable local communities of Lviv region;
- Regional competition of local development micro-projects for 2016-2020;
- Education development program of Lviv region for 2017-2020.





Educational activities

In 2016 “European Dialogue” continued to actively engage in educational activities.

Thus, in April-May together with the Agency of Regional Development and European Integration, a series of seminars on involvement of international technical assistance were held for representatives of district state administrations and local unified territorial communities of Lviv region.

In April, the training was held on the preparation of plans for socio-economic development of unified territorial communities of Sambir district which aimed to obtain subsidies from the state budget to build up their infrastructure.

In August, “European Dialogue” together with the Community development agency of Bogorodchany district, Lviv and Ivano-Frankivsk regional offices of the All-Ukrainian association of village and town heads organized train-

ing and a workshop for village and town heads from Lviv and Ivano-Frankivsk regions.

In September-October we conducted a series of trainings for representatives of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Ukraine on the preparation and management of international technical assistance projects.

In addition, in the first half of 2016, three students were completing their internship at “European dialogue”: Sofia Sakalosh, Natalia Dziadyk and Margaryta Velebnyk. This internship concluded in a public discussion: “Tools of e-democracy as a way of attracting young people to interact with a government”. Representatives of the student community, youth NGOs, teaching staff of Lviv University and local authorities participated in this event, which was organized by our interns at the Faculty of International Relations of Lviv University.



Our publications



Management of capable territorial communities. Polish experience



Cross-border cooperation in Lviv region under reform of state policy of regional development



Reform of Public Libraries Ukraine in the context of decentralization



The future of the districts of Ukraine: experience of Polish self-government at the powiat (county) level



National Fund for Regional Development: mechanism / procedure of the preparation and selection of projects of regional development



Roadmap for reforms of unified communities of Lviv region



International activities

In 2015, NGO “European Dialogue” became a member of the Ukrainian Think Tank’s Liaison Office in Brussels.

23 leading Ukrainian experts - representatives of partners and members of the Ukrainian Think Tank’s Liaison Office visited Brussels from 28 February to 2 March 2016. One of these experts was an analyst of “European Dialogue” – Oleksandr Hyrych.

During 2016 two international study visits to Slovakia and Georgia were arranged, in which experts of “European Dialogue” had the opportunity to establish contacts for future cooperation with local leading think tanks.

From 29 September to 1 October 2016 Eastern Europe Initiatives Congress were held in Lublin (Poland). NGO “European Dialogue” become involved in preparation of the Congress by taking part in organization of several panel discussions: “Role of Poland in the process of decentralization on local level of self-governance in Ukraine”, “Social

strength of cities - how to take advantage of capacity of the people in building municipal governments in Ukraine”, “Polish third sector acting for the development of civil society in the Eastern Partnership states” and “Voluntary unification of communities in Ukraine: a brake for decentralization process?”

On 25 October in Kiev took place the official start of the program “De-

centralization Offering Better Results And Efficiency” (DOBRE) with a budget of \$50 mln., funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID). NGO “European Dialogue” also became a participant of this program and in cooperation with the Foundation of Local Democracy (Poland) is implementing it on the territory of Ternopil and Ivano-Frankivsk regions.



Interactions with mass media

In 2016, “European Dialogue” has reached a new level of cooperation with local media.

For instance, our analysts regularly update their own blogs on the most popular local online newspapers: **zaxid.net**, **galinfo.com.ua** and **dyvys.info**.

On 15 March, expert discussion on analytical study of our analyst, Taras Baranetskyi: “Evaluation of the local government reform in the Lviv region in 2015”, were held in the press center of the “Gal-info” Information Agency.

On 18 March, Oleksandr Sofiy and Taras Baranetskyi presented the abovementioned analytical study for the media in the Press Club of NGO “European Dialogue”.

On 21 March, at the invitation of the Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine, Oleksandr Sofiy, the head of “European Dialogue” analytical group, conducted training for journalists from Lviv and Lviv region on “Decentralization reform in Ukraine: Lviv region context”.

On 6 May, at the invitation of the Center for Information Studies “Me-

ridian” (in the framework of an independent Ukrainian-Russian platform “East-West”) Oleksandr Sofiy held a meeting with eight Russian journalists and bloggers from Kostroma, Syktyvkar and Yoshkar-Ola, during which he explained them the meaning of reform of local self-government and administrative-territorial structure in Ukraine.

On 13 July, “European Dialogue” organized a press tour to Novokalynivka unified urban community in Sambir district for Lviv media representatives. During a visit, journalists had the opportunity to examine the first objects that Novokalynivka community was able to reconstruct thanks to financial decentralization process and local government reform.

In addition, analysts of “European Dialogue” regularly participate as experts in socio-political TV programs “**Faction**” and “**Right to choose**” on “**Pershyy Zachidnyi**” TV channel and our communications manager Dmytro Posypanko became presenter of these programs.





Our partners



Ukrainian Think Tank's Liaison Office in Brussels



Lviv Regional Council



Lviv Regional State Administration



Podkarpackie Voivodeship



Foundation in Support of Local Democracy



School of Leaders



Union of the Associations „Forum of Lublin non-governmental organisations”



Rzeszów Regional Development Agency



Association „Poland - East Cooperation Centre”



NGO “Podolian agency for regional development”



Sustainable Development Fund “Stara Volyn”



Civil Society Institute



Solidarity Fund PL Kyiv



Lviv Regional Training Center



Lviv Regional Institute of Postgraduate Pedagogical Education



NGO “Center “Women's Perspectives”



Kyiv Chamber of Commerce and Industry



ISP “Uarnet” Information



Agency “Dyvys.info”



TV channel “Pershyi Zachidnyi”