



FOSTERING DEMOCRATIZATION



Catalysing a Data Revolution
through "Open by Default"

Hacking at Governance Change

Investing in Integrity at All Levels

Measuring Civic Literacy Across the Board

Summary of Core Publications:
Democratization

2.1

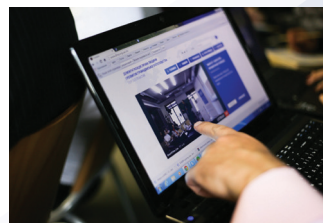
CATALYSING A DATA REVOLUTION THROUGH “OPEN BY DEFAULT”

“Will work for data” is not a joke, but rather an unofficial slogan of the first International Open Data Conference that was held in March 2015 in Kyiv to announce a new era in e-governance of Ukraine: one of open government data. But prior to this event and well after it, the tri-partite cooperation between government partners, civil society and DHRP served as a foundation for turning Ukraine into one of the countries in the open data club.



As early as the winter of 2013-2014, as public protests were raging in Kyiv and beyond, the capital's central square had a spot labelled “the IT tent”, which hosted lectures on digital technologies for more transparency and accountability and ran hackathons, literally in the middle of the street, under the tarpaulin. As transformations in the overall governance set-up of the country started taking shape, discussions sprang up in almost every policy area imaginable, including e-governance for more transparency and integrity, as well as for wider citizen participation in decision-making processes.

Riding this wave of opportunity, DHRP partnered with civil society and the newly formed National Agency on E-Governance to co-develop and ultimately effect the passage of the Law on Open Data (shaped as amendments to the already existing Law on Access to Public Information). Adopted in April 2015, the law did no less than revolutionize government transparency – not by working miracles overnight, but rather by laying the necessary legislative foundations for opening and publishing structured government data in a “one-stop-shop” location on the web: the national open data portal.



480 hacktivists and digital enthusiasts participating in consultations regarding open data regulation in Ukraine with DHRP support



first International Open Data Conference in Ukraine with **100** delegates from state institutions, civic activists and international experts



**Open data in Ukraine:
the digital revolution**

Law on Open Data in Ukraine adopted in April 2015



Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers mandated disclosure of **331** datasets



April 2014:
100 datasets open at data.gov.ua;



March 2017:
12,389 datasets and counting

February 2016:
Open Data Development Roadmap developed with DHRP support approved by the Government





41

tasks defined in five
key areas for open data
development

In order to better inform the policies on data publication and assess the capacities of government institutions to produce and deliver the datasets, DHRP, in partnership with the National Agency on E-Governance, launched a nation-wide study: the Open Data Readiness Assessment. The completed assessment helped inform elaboration and ultimate adoption of the Open Data Development Roadmap, which contains 41 tasks in five key areas for open data development to achieve sustained development in this area, including better data availability and quality, capacity-building of authorities to publish open data, boosting the role of open data in implementing state policy, providing regulatory support, and developing citizens' capabilities to interact with open data and build on its benefits.

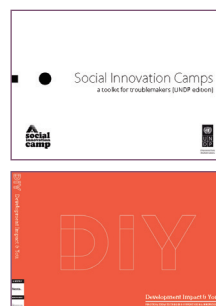
2.2

HACKING AT GOVERNANCE CHANGE

Counter to conventional wisdom, hacking into something is not always bad. In fact, when you collaboratively cut into a social issue or chip away at a pressing problem in a municipality with available data and IT skill, these can be “hacks for social good”. DHRP has capitalized on the traditions of social innovation and use of digital tools to enhance transparency and integrity at all levels of governance.

DHRP experts contributed extensively to the social innovation toolkits and how-to guides produced by its partners in the region of Europe and the CIS.

Two of the most prominent examples are the step-by-step manual for organising social innovation camps (<https://goo.gl/CvgcFT>) and a set of tools for stimulating change thinking at conferences, workshops and at innovation events (<https://goo.gl/24Ppfd>).



In September 2013, DHRP was the first development initiative in Ukraine to experiment with a new way of building ties between municipal authorities and their civil society counterparts. The “Smart City Municipal E-nnovation Lab” gathered seven teams composed of municipal authorities, civil society activists and IT specialists to produce prototypes (detailed visions) of government-community interaction tools.

These were selected out of 21 initial applicants. The winning proposal that was implemented in close collaboration between the Lviv municipality and its civil society counterparts envisaged collaborative design and deployment of a system of mapping and implementing the most popular initiatives by citizens in

collaboration with the local authorities. The “My Lviv My Initiative” web-resource became the forefather of the participatory budgeting initiative implemented in 2016 through support of other donors.

In 2014, as the after-shocks of the conflict in the east started spreading, and IT solutions were used to mitigate risks to the population or



inform their actions in crisis, the Programme partnered with the National Security and Defence Council to organise a hackathon focussed on human security and response to the emerging threats of conflict and displacement.

“For me the hackathon was not just an excellent opportunity to test my ideas, share them with civic activists like me and try out my skills. The issue of information and personal security is especially timely and urgent for Ukraine today and I am happy that I can contribute and be part of the solution”.

Alexander Rybak, National Human Security Hackathon participant

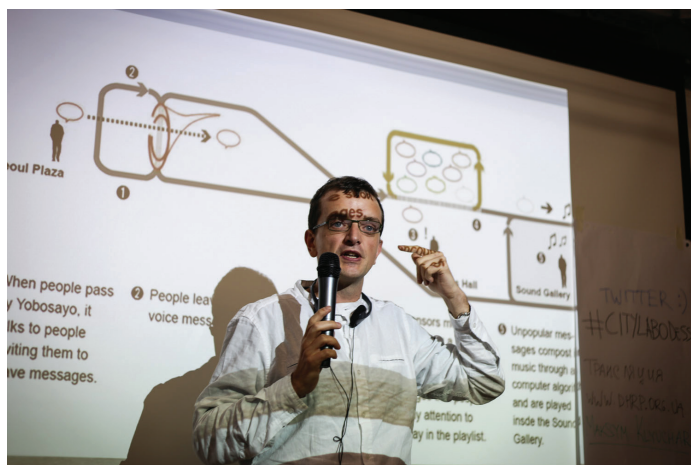
The solutions prototyped during the event included an anticorruption website that accumulates open-source data about the property and business interests of public officials and analyses the links among them, their relatives and friends to identify potential corruption risks; a mobile app that gathers information from government agencies and informs a user about threats ranging from military

action to natural and made-made disasters; a mobile app that maps dangerous spots and informs a user of potential threats and safety measures; and others.

Open budgeting was another experiment conducted by DHRP with wide-ranging success, and is currently expanding in the municipalities of the country.

In early 2014, the Programme rolled out its initiative of creating an easy-to-use software application that would allow for uploading the already existing budgeting data of a municipality onto a portal and receiving as an output an interactive diagram showing budget incomes and expenditures in maximum detail.

Having started its work in three municipalities of Ukraine (Ternopil, Zhytomyr and Ivano-Frankivsk), DHRP refrained from following the seemingly easier path of just crafting a ready-made solution and handing it over to the municipality.



The Programme organised a series of workshops for citizens and local activists

Instead, the Programme organised a series of workshops for citizens and local activists, also inviting representatives of the municipal accounting and budget offices to present their vision of a budget conceptualization and budget calendar (the latter to explain to citizens the stages of the annual budgeting process).

Based on citizen paper models and actual drawings, DHRP commissioned design of a software system that would be based on open-source solutions (unlike the expensive systems provided



as off-the-shelf proprietary solutions), and would work with the file formats used by the municipalities to report to the state authorities (including the Ministry of Finance).

The open budget tool was finalized in early 2015

The open budget tool was finalized in early 2015 and was ultimately transferred to a national-level think tank CSO, Eidos, which had an



ongoing project on sub-national budget transparency, for further expansion and upgrades.

As a result, as of 2017, there are

35

cities



3

oblasts



3

Oblast State
Administrations



using the Open Budget Portal
(www.openbudget.in.ua)

Supported by multiple development partners since its inception, the project has essentially taken on a life of its own and has been significantly enhanced by connection to other tools that have emerged in the country (including, for instance, the digital procurement system ProZorro).



2.3

INVESTING IN INTEGRITY AT ALL LEVELS

The recent years since the Revolution of Dignity in 2014 have brought issues of government transparency and integrity in the country to the fore as never before. At the same time, even prior to the disruptive winter of 2013-2014, foundations for better and more efficient anti-corruption institutions had already been conceived with proactive DHRP support.



Responding to legislative amendments introduced by the Ukrainian Parliament in 2013, DHRP capitalized on its collaboration with the Anti-Corruption Parliamentary Committee to develop an anti-corruption risk assessment of the draft laws initiated both by the Government and the MPs.

The DHRP-supported civic experts that comprised the civic advisory group for the Committee were able to plough through legislative drafts tabled and find possible corruption risks in **27% of the draft bills** assessed.

As the time approached to review progress on implementation of the OECD recommendations under the Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action plan, several leading anti-corruption organisations that would later form the nucleus of the Reanimation Package of Reforms group came together to discuss opportunities to influence the policy and institutional agenda with regard to corruption prevention and investigation. As there was little leeway for a major overhaul in late summer 2013, an idea emerged that was simple but new for the time.



The OECD peer-review mechanism did envisage a peer-review by foreign experts (much like to the GRECO mechanism). What it lacked was a clear and consolidated voice of civil society being heard at the official deliberations in front of other countries.



Consequently, a group of seven anti-corruption CSOs were joined by a team of renowned national independent experts to pick apart every recommendation received by Ukraine in the previous round, present a well-grounded civic position on that issue, and, finally, deliver a presentation at the assessment event itself, establishing the position of civil society regarding the status of anti-corruption legislation and institutions as of February 2014.

This exercise, at that time one of the largest coalitions to co-develop an analytical anti-corruption product, was one of the cornerstones for the sustained cooperation of the same CSOs and the predecessor of the wide coalition that would, in the summer and autumn of 2014, co-create the so-called *"anticorruption package of laws"* passed by the Parliament in October 2014.



Partially due to the lobbying of the group, OECD would open a dedicated anti-corruption project for the country. That would come later... At that point in time, heated discussions and initial collaborations were beginning to mould into what would later become the *"iron fist"* of civil society lobbying for creation of the National Anti-Corruption Bureau, the National Agency for Preventing Corruption, and making sure that the country has a first-of-its-kind law presenting the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (to be followed by the National Anti-Corruption Action Plan, elaborated with DHRP exclusive expert support).

Understanding that the mandate of the Programme was not solely to support national level think tanks and CSOs, but rather to activate the sub-national level and, even more importantly, linking the grassroots level to the reforms that were started in 2014 in the capital, DHRP decided to stimulate the *"a-ha moment"* with local activists and initiative groups in the wider area of transparency and integrity.

After the success in adoption of the foundational anti-corruption legislation, the time was ripe to both raise awareness among local activists about what was forthcoming, and to equip them with modest but crucial tools to initiate change in their communities.

In March 2015, the Programme launched the first *UNDP Anti-Corruption School*, offering exposure to the best practitioners in the arena of national transparency and integrity for young ambitious CSOs and newly-formed initiative groups. The top 30 applicants were given the opportunity not only to tap into knowledge and bounce their ideas off the more experienced sounding boards, but also to receive seed support to implement micro-initiatives regarding transparency and integrity upon successful graduation.

The top **30** applicants were given the opportunity to receive seed support to implement micro-initiatives

In less than half a year, these local change-agents could showcase notable results

having scrutinized **60** local policies to seek out corruption risks, initiating and seeing through **8** criminal cases to investigate possible irregularities in competitive procurements



saving close to USD **1.3 million**



by terminating **21** procurement contracts with fraud and collusion



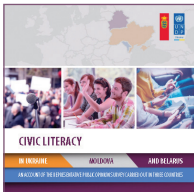
detecting **26** cases of illegal construction and stopping **2** of these



The tradition of the School lives on – with the Third Annual one up for launch in April 2017.

2.4 MEASURING CIVIC LITERACY ACROSS THE BOARD

Since independence, the CIS countries have been following different paths of socio-economic development. At the same time, all of them have taken steps to grant to their citizens (at least at the Constitutional and legislative level) their fair share of socio-economic and political rights, in addition to those recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. However, rights, like tools at the service of their user, may be used proactively, may be there in principle but never on demand or indeed may be totally unknown to the potential user.



The Civic Literacy Study is a unique snapshot, comprehensive and comparable across countries, of civic skills, attitudes and perceptions in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine. Please visit <https://goo.gl/sWBxK9> to have a closer look at how the countries' citizens scored in different aspects.



In order to assess the level of civic literacy, in other words the knowledge of rights and the competencies that make those rights operational, especially in the digital age of the global village, in partnership with



colleagues from Pact Inc. and East Europe Foundation the Programme supported a three-country baseline study entitled “Measuring civic literacy in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine”.

Throughout the study, the focus was how citizens understand the principles of interaction between themselves and the state, how they are involved in public life at the local and national level, and what





knowledge they need in this regard. In addition, the survey questions measured the prevalence of various values and attitudes concerning human rights, democratic governance and interaction between various communities in the country.

unique
three-country
snapshot

The unique three-country snapshot not only provides for better comparison of different cultures of civic engagement, but is a one-of-a-kind source of baseline data for subsequent interventions aimed at building citizen engagement to strengthen democratic governance and respect for human rights.



Civic knowledge

- ▶ There are significant gaps in awareness of state structure, legal frameworks, and citizens' rights and duties in all countries.
- ▶ On average, 1/3 of citizens cannot name any of their civic rights (35% UA, 32% MD and 36% BY).
- ▶ It is even harder for the respondents to identify their civic duties, because they have more expectations from the state than from themselves.
- ▶ The most "popular" civic duties included adherence to law and order (32% respondents in UA, 34% in MD, and 60% in BY), and paying taxes (21% in UA, 19% in MD, 40% in BY).



Civic behaviour

- ▶ More than half of respondents in the three countries participate in the life of the local community in some form (63% in UA, 62% in MD and 54% in BY).
- ▶ Respondents in all countries tend to assign responsibility for their employment, education, health and financial well-being to themselves rather than the government, and are quite pessimistic about their ability to exert any influence on life in their country (28% in MD believe they have influence vs. 8% in UA and 6% in BY).



Civic attitudes and beliefs

- ▶ Values considered most important in UA, MD, and BY are: respect for human life, human rights, social justice, and adherence to law.
- ▶ Despite the declared respect for human rights, some prejudice towards minorities is observed. The respondents in all countries would not tolerate living next to drug users, HIV-positive people, sexual minorities, and alcohol abusers. BY is more negative about living next to most marginalized groups; the majority in UA and MD believe that everyone should enjoy equal rights, while only 38% in UA and 21% in MD believe that citizens' rights and freedoms cannot be restricted under any circumstances.



Perspectives on civic education

- ▶ The share of respondents potentially interested in civic education is 47% in UA, 53% in MD, and 29% in BY.
- ▶ The top three areas for civic education are human rights, foreign languages, and entrepreneurship.
- ▶ The most in-demand practical skills are: mechanisms to protect one's own rights and interests, critical thinking, and starting and running one's own business.
- ▶ The preferred ways to receive knowledge and skills are online and attending the respective training programmes in person. Respondents in all three countries prioritize governmental training programmes and independent study.



2.5

SUMMARY OF CORE PUBLICATIONS: DEMOCRATIZATION

Ukraine's Progress in Fulfilling OECD Anti-Corruption Recommendations. Shadow Report on Progress

<https://goo.gl/BihqNj>

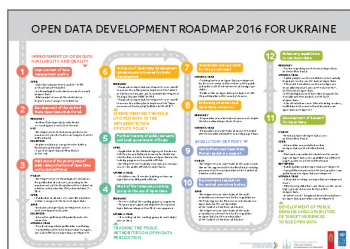


A publication produced by a coalition of DHRP-supported grantees to review the current (for 2013) status of Ukraine's anti-corruption efforts and compile the first-of-its-kind alternative civic report on the country's adherence to the recommendations issued through the OECD Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan. Collaboration on this action in 2013 helped solidify the civil society groups that in 2014 proactively partook in co-design of Ukraine's new anti-corruption legislation.

Open Data Readiness Assessment:

Ukraine / Open Data Development Roadmap for Ukraine

<https://goo.gl/gEbZ9c> and <https://goo.gl/lz7lPt>



As the supporter of open data legislation for Ukraine, DHRP did not stop at mere adoption of the law or assistance in drafting the subsidiary regulations. A comprehensive approach to open data for the country meant that a sound assessment of

existing opportunities and risks in implementing the open data policy would have to be identified prior to making policy moves. In this vein, DHRP supported application of the World Bank-designed "Open Data Readiness Assessment" methodology in Ukraine and helped create recommendations for development of the open data ecosystem in the country. The Roadmap adopted by the Government was the logical follow-up step to identification of opportunities and risks in the open data realm.

European Models of E-Governance for Ukraine

<https://goo.gl/ZDCnkb>

In the aftermath of the 2013-2014 governance transformations in Ukraine, one of the areas that saw significant impetus for development to ensure more transparency and efficiency was electronic governance. DHRP has assisted formation and initial start-up operations of the National Agency for E-Governance, and helped the initiation team tap into good practices of e-governance operations prior to development of state policies.



Infographic for the OGP National Consultations in 2014 / Midterm Self-Assessment Report on the 2014-2015 OGP National Action Plan / Open Parliament Initiative in Ukraine

<https://goo.gl/dlH7ra>, <https://goo.gl/BsWOvt>

and <https://goo.gl/OyChi5>



The three publications provide a compendium of materials that illustrate both the development of the Open Government Partnership initiative in Ukraine, as well as DHRP support thereof. The infographic illustrates data gathered throughout the OGP National Consultations in 2014 that were organised to revitalize Ukraine's participation in the international initiative after the Revolution of 2014.

The self-assessment report showcases the vision behind completion rates of the 2014-2015 National Action Plan. Finally, the Open Parliament Initiative that was started in Ukraine to make the legislature more open and accountable is one of the spin-offs of the OGP process in the country and is currently being implemented.



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