



CENTRE FOR DEMOCRACY  
AND RULE OF LAW

# Annual report **2017**



**Taras Shevchenko**  
Director of the Centre  
for Democracy and  
Rule of Law

Four years after the Revolution of Dignity, Ukrainians are much more likely to trust in non-governmental organizations than in the government. According to the Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiative Foundation, 44% of Ukrainians trust NGOs fully or partially. At the same time, 16% of the population trusts in the President, Verkhovna Rada – 9%, and the courts – only 8.6%. Such results are a reflection of the perception of ordinary people of the benefits of the NGOs' activities and the reaction to constant corruption scandals in the authorities.

The Centre for Democracy and Rule of Law has also contributed to the civil society's overall achievement, working in three important sectors: rule of law, independent media, and civil society development. Judicial reform, the CHESNO Movement, Reanimation Package of Reforms, Open University of Reforms, Campaign "For Safe Roads", "Smoke Free Kyiv", the Independent Media Council, access to information, cooperation with the office of Ombudsman, creation and launch of public broadcasting, reform of communal and state newspapers, journalists and lawyers trainings, Open University of Reforms, Open Parliament – in each of these areas and themes we worked for civil society strengthening and changes in the state.

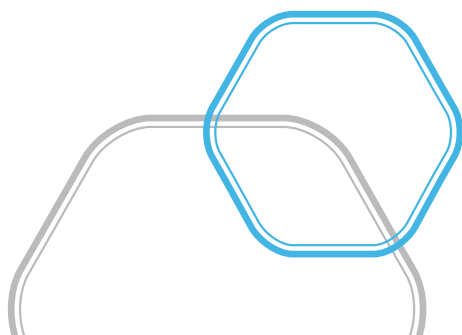
Ukrainian authorities, on the one hand, remain open to cooperation. On the other hand, the authorities began to resort to various attempts to pressure and discredit civil society. The criminal case against Vitaliy Shabunin, obstruction of investigative journalists of "Schemes" TV-program, searches and prosecutions of activists and journalists became a sad trend. Adopted in spring 2017 amendments to the law on the prevention of corruption in the electronic declaration of civil society activists brought to the international level the problem of governmental pressure on the public sector. The relationship between government and civil society remains a challenge for Ukraine in 2018.





## About us

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Centre for Democracy and Rule of Law (CEDEM) is a think-and-act tank, which has been working in the civil society sector of Ukraine since 2005 channelling its efforts for of civic platforms and movements, and building a legal state in Ukraine.

Our organization is the founder and active participant of such important initiatives as the CHESNO Movement, the Reanimation Package of Reforms, the Independent Media Council, Campaign "For Safe Roads", the International Media Law Summer School and the Open Parliament.







**The mission of CEDEM** is contributing to the development of the society of active and responsible citizens through:



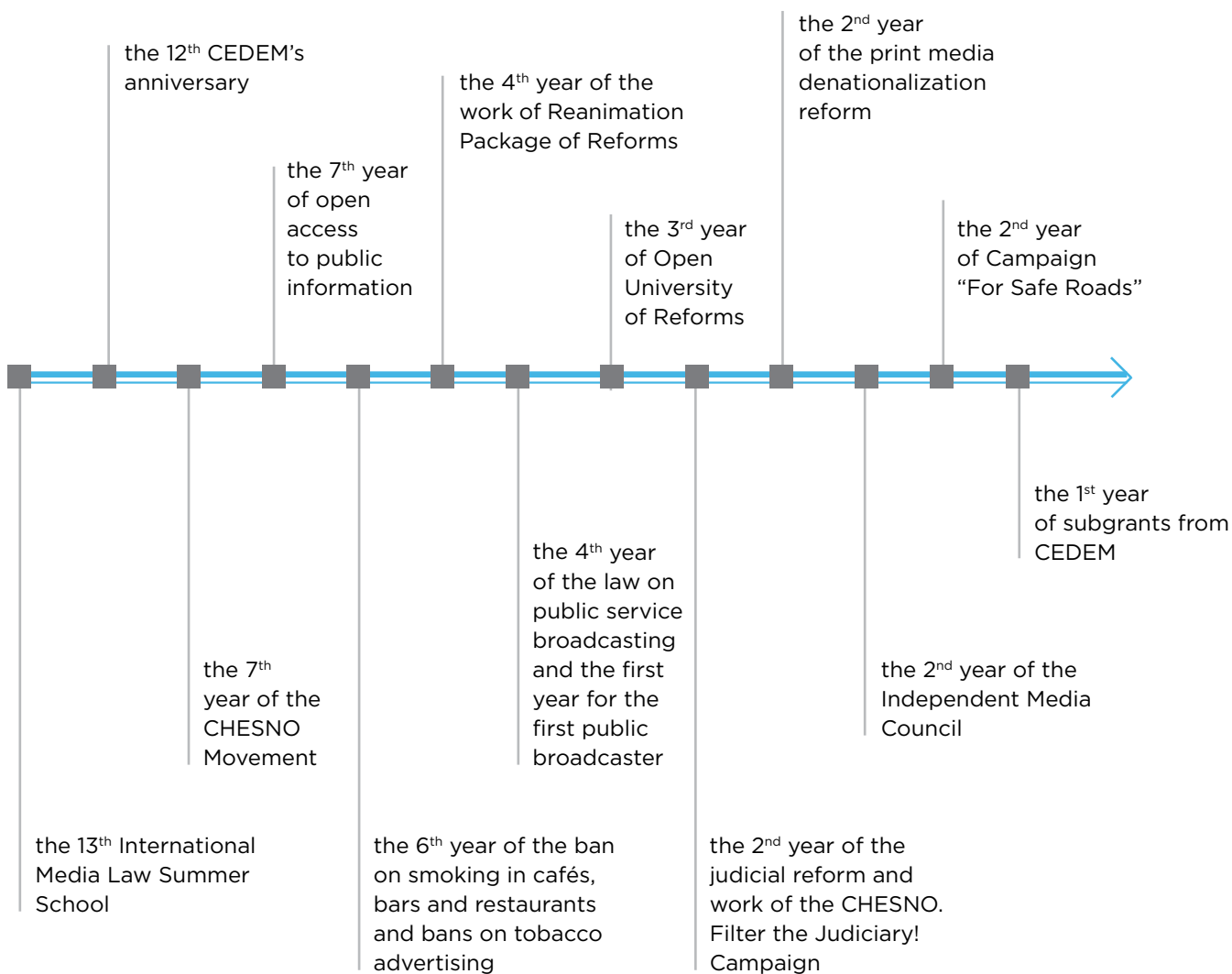
- support to civic initiatives;
- impartial and professional expertise;
- development and implementation of high quality law;
- education;
- protection of the freedom of speech;
- achieving accountability of the government;
- establishment of the rule of law.







## 2017 is...



# 6,5 *million*

UAH – the budget of subgrants for NGOs provided by CEDEM in 2017

# 12

**legal opinions** prepared for the Supervisory Board and the Board of the Public Broadcaster

# 2

**draft laws** developed and advocated with contributions from CEDEM's experts

# 120

**formal inquiries** to the state authorities on denationalization

# 659

**newspapers added** to the archive of the Municipal Press Hall platform

# 240

**consultations** on media law and access to information

# 70

pieces of **journalistic investigations**, that passed the legal expertise by CEDEM

# 10

**conclusions** by the Independent Media Council

# 144

**information administrators** covered by CEDEM monitoring

# 2

**court cases** won by the lawyers of the Fund of the Right for Information Protection

# 3

**online courses** launched on Prometheus platform on access to information prepared by the CEDEM's experts

# 653

**analytical notes** on candidates to the Supreme Court

# 821

**profiles of judges** as part of the CHESNO.Filter the Judiciary! Campaign

# 8

**student teams** at the Regional Media Law Moot Court Competition

# 19

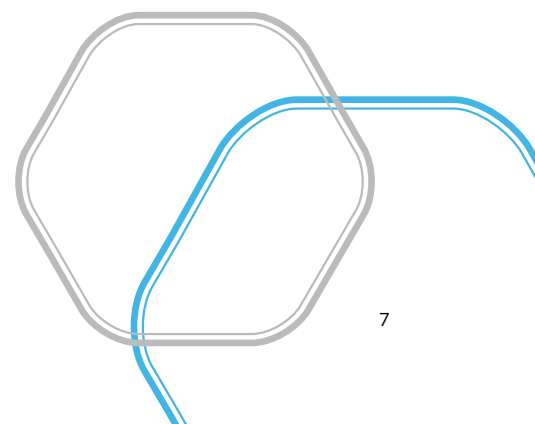
**draft laws** advocated for by the Reanimation Package of Reforms and approved by the Parliament

# 74

**members** of the Open University of Reforms

# 5 *million*

**views** of the social video "Buckle up' for the Campaign "For Safe Roads"





# JUDICIAL REFORM

## Judicial reform

Judicial reform and the changes that it caused for the judicial system were one of the hottest topics in 2017 for Ukraine and for the CEDEM team, who was working within the CHESNO. Filter the Judiciary! Campaign to bring about positive changes. The implementation of the new law on the judiciary and the status of judges as well as changes to the Constitution with regard to justice began with the formation of a new 'top' of the judicial system, qualification assessment and upgrading of the judiciary.

### Changes in the judiciary in 2017

- **New Supreme Court.** In 2017, a competition was held in the Supreme Court – the highest court in the judicial system. The Supreme Court of Ukraine and three higher courts were liquidated after the new court was formed.
- **Qualification Assessment of Judges.** Under the reform, each active judge must undergo a qualification assessment, as a result of which, the judge may continue to work in

the position and receive higher salary as prescribed by law. At the same time, failure to pass such a requalification means the termination of a judge's career. The reason for this may be, in particular, the inability to explain their own wealth.

- **The Public Integrity Council (PIC)** is an independent non-government body in the judiciary, created to assist the High Qualifications Commission of Judges (HQCJ) in conducting competitions and qualification assessments. Halyna Chyzhyk, coordinator of the Public Integrity Council is the CEDEM's representative in this body and provides organizational support to the PIC.
- **Upgrading the judiciary.** Lack of more than a third of judges throughout the country prompts for a system upgrade. In 2017, the HQCJ announced 600 vacancies. Judge assistants with a three-year experience who also, have undergone trainings at the school of judges, and lawyers with a five-year experience after a much longer 12-month training, may become new judges.



## CHESNO.Filter the Judiciary!



**CHESNO.Filter the Judiciary!** – a long-term campaign of public control aimed at activating the society in order to cleanse the courts of dishonest judges and establish fair justice in Ukraine. CHESNO.Filter the Judiciary! was launched in June 2016 and is implemented as part of the CHESNO Movement.

Implementing its goals, CHESNO.Filter the Judiciary!

- exercises public control and performs monitoring of competitions for judges;
- comprehensively verifies the integrity of the 'servants of Themis';
- helps to cleanse the system of dishonest judges;
- helps civil society institutes exercise control over the judges;
- develops the capacity on the ground.

### Database of the judges' profiles

In 2017, the **CHESNO movement**, within the **CHESNO.Filter the Judiciary! Campaign** launched a unique database of profiles of the Ukrainian judges. The profiles contain information available from open sources which is related to the career, questionable court decisions, real estate, family relations, engagement in corruption cases, and other data that make it possible to draw the conclusions about integrity of the judge.

**821 profiles of judges posted on the CHESNO.Filter the Judiciary! website**

Criteria for the integrity of judges:

- // non-participation in corruption or criminal offenses;
- // non-participation in the adoption of doubtful decisions;
- // the lifestyle of declared income and the transparency of the wealth;
- // non-participation in violation of human rights;
- // adherence to the rules of professional ethics.





## Competition to the Supreme Court

When the new law on the judiciary and the status of judges as well as changes to the Constitution with regard to justice have entered into force, the system's upgrade has started. The first step in this direction was the competition to the Supreme Court. Within the framework of the CHESNO.Filter the judiciary! Campaign, CEDEM channelled its efforts on not letting the dishonest candidates get to the new Supreme Court.

The CHESNO.Filter the Judiciary! team analysed and prepared analytical reports on all 653 candidates to the Supreme Court, which became the source of information for the Public Integrity Council and the High Qualifications Commission of Judges.

653

analytical notes about the candidates prepared within the CHESNO.Filter the Judiciary! Campaign

134

candidates received a negative conclusion from the Public Integrity Council

51

with a negative conclusion were eliminated from the competition after the interviews and plenary sessions

### As a result of the competition

120

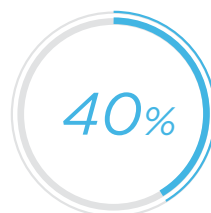
candidates were selected by the High Qualifications Commission of Judges

115

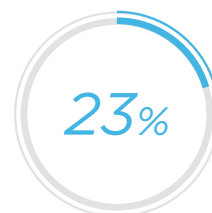
Supreme Court judges appointed

27

newly elected judges received negative conclusions from the PIC



of judges are representatives from the regions of Ukraine



are lawyers and scholars

## CHESNO.Filter the Judiciary! in the regions

CHESNO.Filter the Judiciary! has a network of regional coordinators in each region of Ukraine. 23 activists on the ground are campaigning, verifying the integrity of judges, checking the openness of the judiciary and educating the community.

### 23 regional coordinators representing CHESNO.Filter the Judiciary! in the regions

- conduct monitoring of the work of local courts;
- collect information about judges;
- represent the CHESNO.Filter the Judiciary! Campaign in the region.

In 2017, the coordinators monitored the openness of court hearings in appellate regional courts of Ukraine with regard to the observance of the right to access to court and the performance of photo/video recording of the sessions.

### Regional coordinators monitored:

# 315

court hearings

# 512

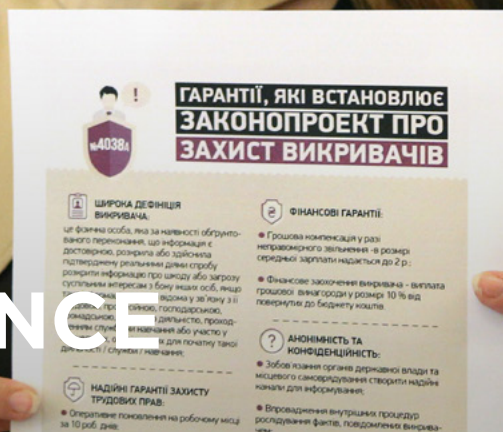
judges

As a result of monitoring of the openness and observance of the right to photo and video recording of the sessions, in only 3% of the cases the activists were denied recording of the meeting.





# GOOD GOVERNANCE



## CHESNO movement

The CHESNO movement founded back in 2011 aims to encourage a transparency, accountability and openness of government officials and a demand for quality politics among the citizens. CHESNO is a partnership of the Centre for Democracy and Rule of Law and Centre UA, which has made a significant progress towards the responsibility and openness of politicians. In the CHESNO public movement, the Centre for Democracy and Rule of Law provides legal support and reviews the materials before their release.

As a part of a legal support to the CHESNO movement in 2017, the CEDEM's lawyers:

verified

116

cases for the catalogue of persons featured in anti-corruption investigations;

provided

41

consultations

ensured legal proofreading for

32

documents

In 2016, Centre for Democracy and Rule of Law within the CHESNO.Filter the judiciary! Campaign launched its work on the judicial reform, in particular, forming the database of profiles of all active judges in Ukraine according to the principles and approaches developed by CHESNO and tested in 5 campaigns.

The CEDEM partner, Centre UA within the Movement presented an online platform “Political Memory”, designed to change the existing approach of the citizens to election of politicians and prevent election of the dishonest candidates. This resource accumulated the results of work done by the CHESNO team for six years, as well as the data from the Central Election Commission, Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, local councils, websites of political parties, National Agency on Corruption Prevention, campaign archives and other media data.

## Open Parliament

In 2017, Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada A. Parubii signed the Communication Strategy for the Verkhovna Rada for the 5-year period. Tetiana Semyletko, CEDEM's Director for Development, actively participated in the development of the text of the Verkhovna Rada's Communication Strategy and its promotion among the leadership of the Parliament and its committees under the "Open Parliament" initiative.



### Implementation of the strategy in the coming years will make it possible to:

- read public reports of people's deputies – about results of their work and expenditures;
- watch the meetings of all parliamentary committees online;
- use more advanced web portal of the Parliament customized to the needs of international audiences;
- make the Parliament's communication more coordinated, with a share of situational / urgent communications not exceeding 30%;
- reform parliamentary media and create a state-of-the-art press centre for journalists within the Parliament's premises.



### The changes envisaged by the strategy have already started:

// The CHESNO movement with the participation of the Centre has developed an online tool for publication of its reports in a uniform and user-friendly format. We, along with other non-governmental organizations, have proposed the structure for such reports;

// Electronic accreditation was made available through the Verkhovna Rada's website for parliamentary events for journalists who do not have a permanent accreditation card.



## Access to information

CEDEM experts as co-authors of the law on access to information, who advocated its approval, regularly examine the state of its implementation at the national and regional levels.

In 2017, the Centre, in close cooperation with the Secretariat of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, conducted an annual monitoring of the implementation of the Law “On Access to Public Information”. The obtained results allowed to analyze the state of implementation of the requirements of the law in dynamics, compared to the indicators of monitoring of previous years, as well as to make a complete picture of the fulfillment of the right to access information at the local level in 2017.



In each region, monitors visited regional administrations and regional councils, city councils of regional centers of all Ukraine's regions in order to see how an average person can exercise their right to access.

24

regions  
monitored

144

information administrators  
at the central and regional  
level were subject to  
monitoring

CEDEM monitors investigated the activities of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, the Presidential Administration, the Office of the General Prosecutor of Ukraine, the National Bank of Ukraine, the Administration of State Affairs, the Central Election Commission, the Security Service of Ukraine and 65 central executive authorities.

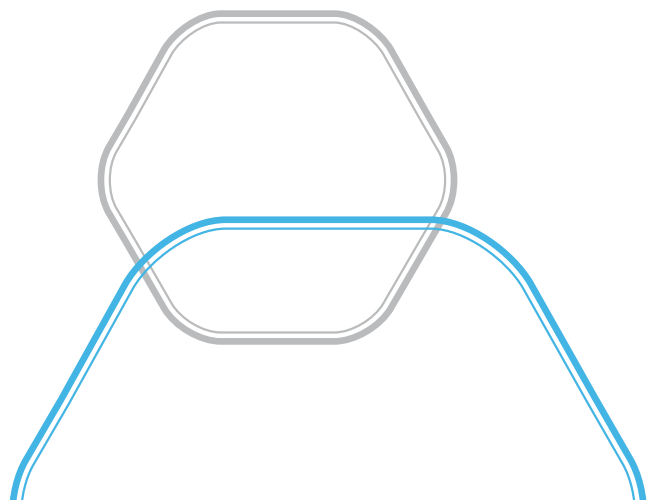
According to the results of monitoring, the CEDEM's experts have developed three expert opinions and two sets of recommendations for information administrators to provide access to public information, each printed in 2,000 copies and circulated among the administrators. The monitoring results were included into the annual report of the Ombudsman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.



***“Our annual monitoring has a powerful educational effect. The information administrators became better in setting up the work and starting to comply with the law that they used not to consider at all before. For example, they organize a place to work with information in the premises of the state authorities”,***

– says Tetiana Oleksiuk,  
CEDEM's deputy director.

**140** legal consultations as to the access to public information were provided by CEDEM in 2017, **10** detailed consultations were published on the organization's website.



This year, lawyers of the **Fund of the Right** for Information Protection, which was founded and coordinated by CEDEM since 2012, protected the right of citizens to know. The courts of Ukraine, with the assistance of the Fund, dispute the refusals by the administrators to provide information in response to inquiries.

**In 2017**

2

lawsuits won  
by the lawyers  
of the Fund

5

new cases were supported by the Fund  
that provided legal support to the citizens  
whose rights were violated

### **The Network of Defenders of the Right to Access Public Information**

The Network of Defenders of the Right to Access Public Information is a union of lawyers, attorneys, journalists and civic activists who defend the right to know. Within the framework of the Network, CEDEM enhances the level of knowledge as to the access to public information, provides written and oral consultations, and provides legal support in court cases in order to ensure the right to access information.

As of 2017,  
the Network has

186

activists in all regions of Ukraine



### **Online constructor for court claims**

CEDEM experts have developed and launched an online constructor for court claims. This is an interactive step-by-step tool that helps to create a lawsuit to challenge the failure of the administrator to provide information upon request. The constructor is in demand among citizens, as well as the judicial institutions that have posted it on their official websites.





# INDEPENDENT MEDIA

## Public Broadcasting

On **19 January 2017**, the National Public Broadcasting Company of Ukraine (NPBC) was registered, which became the official beginning of operation of the first public broadcaster in Ukraine.

The public broadcaster in Ukraine was launched after the adoption of the long-awaited Law “On Public Television and Radio Broadcasting of Ukraine” in 2014, with the CEDEM experts working on the project back in 2005. Launch of public broadcasting in Ukraine was one of the first activities of the Centre since its very beginning.

During the first year of operation, the public broadcaster got high-quality management in the central level, which was selected through the competition; later, it started to select managers and producers of its branches on the ground. The competition for the position of chairman of the board of the NPBC lasted four months. During this whole period, CEDEM was providing support to the Supervisory Board, and was also conducting an information campaign around the competition to attract as many candidates as possible.



The experts of the Centre became co-authors of the Regulations on the competition for the election of the Chairman and members of the Board of NPBC, which ensured the objectivity and impartiality of the election process. As a result, Zurab Alasaniia, who is well regarded in the media environment, won the competition among government-favoured candidates and headed the NPBC.

Director of the CEDEM, Taras Shevchenko in 2017 was a member of the NPBC’s Supervisory Board.

During the year, the Centre’s lawyers provided legal support to the Supervisory Board and the Board of the Public Broadcaster and prepared **12 legal opinions**.



**19 January  
2017**

the PJSC NPBC was officially registered, which marks the official launch of the second stage of the public service reform in Ukraine

**10 April  
2017**

Zurab Alasaniia was elected as the Chairman of the NPBC’s Executive Board

**5 May  
2017**

the full NPBC board was elected

**25 October  
2017**

Editorial Board of the Public Broadcaster of Ukraine elected

## Denationalisation of the press

2017 is the second year in the three-year period devoted to the denationalization of printed press. During these three years, all municipal and state newspapers must change the ownership and remove local and state authorities from their founders. Through these changes, newspapers will be able to switch to a model of financial self-sufficiency, to work in a competitive market and to increase the focus on readers' demands and preferences.

729

publishing companies throughout Ukraine should be reformed by the end of 2018

644  
85

municipal media

state-owned media

148

state-owned and municipal newspapers were reformed in 2016-2017

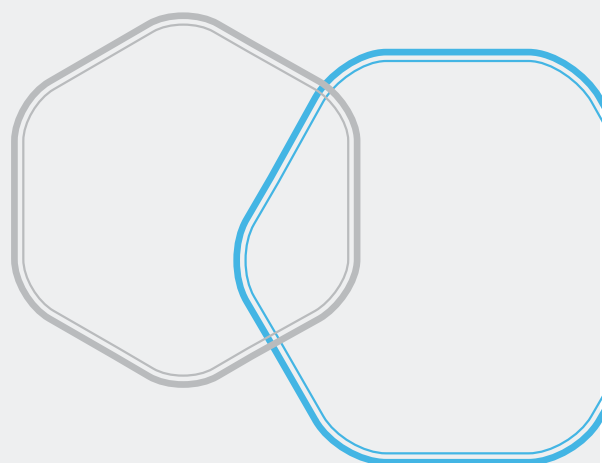
8 June 2017 – the Verkhovna Rada registered the Draft Law of Ukraine “On Amendments to the Law of Ukraine “On the Reform of State and Municipal Printed Media” №6560, developed together with the CEDEM’s experts.

CEDEM analyses the progress of the reform and advises the media to successfully complete denationalization.

## Municipal Press Hall

The Centre for Democracy and Rule of Law, in partnership with the Museum-Archive, created the Municipal Press Hall – an interactive online resource that collects data on all municipal print media that are subject to denationalization in Ukraine.

In general, 659 newspapers that are to be reformed by the end of 2018 make the Hall’s database, where everyone can see the individual card of the publisher, find out about its founders, the scope of coverage, the progress of reform, and even flip through and download a scanned copy.





## Audio-visual media

### More Ukrainian language on TV

On **23 May 2017**, the Law of Ukraine “On Amendments to Some Laws of Ukraine Related to the Language of Audio-Visual (Electronic) Mass Media” was adopted, co-authored by Igor Rozkladaj, a lawyer of the Centre.

The law has set a weekly quota for television programs and films in Ukrainian:



### European Broadcasting Standards

**14 December 2017** – the Draft Law of Ukraine “On Amendments to the Law of Ukraine “On Television and Radio Broadcasting” was registered in the Verkhovna Rada; it was developed together with the CEDEM.

The document proposes a new version of this law called the “Law of Ukraine **On Audio-Visual Media Services**”, which will meet the European standards of broadcasting regulation.

New provisions of the draft law:

- two formats of content are introduced: linear (broadcasted continuously) and non-linear (transmitted upon the user’s request);
- increasing the efficiency of the National Council on Television and Radio Broadcasting through the improvement of sanctions for violations;
- the procedure for licensing channels is improved;
- non-commercial broadcasting for small groups (local communities and thematic groups);
- co-regulation of the market involving the market participants is introduced (development of rules for the protection of children, fighting the hate speech, etc.).



## Independent Media Council

The end of 2017 marked 2 years since the establishment of the Independent Media Council (IMC), an unbiased and professional body for self-regulation in the media sector, created at the CEDEM's initiative by 5 non-government organizations.

Over the past two years, the Independent Media Council has gained credibility in the media community and resolved disputes and conflicts in the sector upon the appeals from both individuals and authorities. So, the decisions of the Independent Media Council increasingly become the basis of the decisions of the regulator – the National Council on Television and Radio Broadcasting.

### In 2017:

**17** appeals for violations and media conflicts have been received;

**10** conclusions were provided;

**4** conclusions of the Council formed the basis for the decisions of the National Council of Ukraine on Television and Radio Broadcasting.

### Typical violations in 2017

- **Violation of children's rights.** In 2017, the National Council, in particular, on the basis of the decision of the Independent Media Council issued a warning to the Inter TV channel for violations found in the program "It is Everyone's Business", covering the story of a 12-year-old new mother.
- **Failure to comply with professional journalism standards in news broadcasts.** The NPBC's decision stated that NewsOne's piece on the alleged hearings on the corruption case in NBU by the US Congress deliberately aimed at misleading the audience.

The Independent Media Council, in its activities, does not only handle the disputes, but also performs an advisory role, developing recommendations for players in the media market. In 2018, the Council is working on developing recommendations for the testing of experts and a memorandum on media activities during elections.



## Freedom of speech

### Alternative Report on the State of Freedom of Speech in Ukraine for the United Nations

CEDEM, together with Article 19 and other partners, prepared an alternative report for the United Nations on the state of freedom of speech in Ukraine, which was presented in Geneva.

CEDEM's recommendations included:

- Extending guarantees for the protection of journalists;
- ensuring the independence and transparency of the media by reducing the state's influence and deconcentration;
- ensuring freedom of expression on the Internet without unlawful restrictions;
- proper implementation of legislation on access to information and independent and effective monitoring of the compliance;
- definition of protection mechanisms for whistle-blowers.

According to the results of the meetings held in Geneva in November 2017, 11 UN member states recommended Ukraine to strengthen the protection of journalists and freedom of expression.



### Recommendations for strengthening and promoting media freedom in Ukraine

The CEDEM's lawyer Igor Rozkladaj, together with Ukrainian and international experts, have developed Recommendations for the strengthening and promoting media freedom in Ukraine concerning:

- work of foreign journalists and media;
- work of journalists in the occupied territories;
- objective and accurate information about the conflict;
- content management in social networks;
- improvement of self-regulation;
- continuation of constructive dialogue with European institutions.





## Legal advice to journalists

# 100

consultations on media law issues were provided by CEDEM lawyers in 2017 to journalists, editors, public activists and government officials.

CEDEM is the legal partner of the Journalist Investigation Program “Schemes: Corruption in Detail”, a joint project of *Radio Liberty* and the TV channel “UA: First”.

# 70

pieces in journalistic investigations were supported with CEDEM’s legal expertise.

CEDEM provided support to journalists in **2 lawsuits** against the SCHEME program for **defamation** and in investigating one **case on hampering the journalistic activities**.





# EDUCATION

## International Media Law Summer School



For 13 consecutive years, in summer, the Centre for Democracy and Rule of Law gathers lawyers for the International Media Law Summer School – a three-week intensive training on legal and practical aspects of media regulation. Since 2005, more than 300 media lawyers from 10 countries have been trained in the school.

For three weeks, the participants listened to lectures from leading Ukrainian and foreign experts. In 2017, the topics of the school included various aspects of media law – television and advertising regulation, copyright issues, personal privacy and freedom of expression, as well as issues related to reforms and work of non-government organizations towards the changes within society.

### International Media Law Summer School in 2017

# 3

weeks of lectures  
and practical  
seminars

# 20

lecturers  
from 5  
countries

# 21

participants from Ukraine,  
Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan  
and Kazakhstan

# 2

round tables on the current  
issues of media law involving  
top sector professionals



## Price Media Law Moot Court Competition

For the second time in Ukraine, in a partnership with Oxford University, National University “Kyiv-Mohyla Academy” and Kyiv-Mohyla Moot Court Society, CEDEM held a regional round of the famous student competitions on media law – Price Media Law Moot Court Competition. That was a qualifying competition for the international round, which is annually held at Oxford University.

### Regional Round of Price Media Law Moot Court Competition

- 8 student teams
- 4 countries (Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia and Belarus)
- the team of students from the University of Latvia won the regional round of the competition
- Also, the teams from the University of Latvia, the Belarus State University and the team of the Taras Shevchenko National University and the “Kyiv-Mohyla Academy” National University were also selected and given the opportunity to go to Oxford and compete in media law in the spring 2018.

Every year, CEDEM provides financial support to fund the trip to Oxford for the best Ukrainian team. In the spring 2017, the team from the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy that won in the regional round of the competition, represented Ukraine among 44 teams from all around the world, reaching the Top 8.

IN 2017, director of the Centre Taras Shevchenko and Head of Educational Projects Alina Pravdychenko participated as judges at the international round of the competition in Oxford.



## Moot court on freedom of speech during the conflict

In the fall 2017, in Odesa, Dnipro, Lviv and Kharkiv, CEDEM, in partnership with the League of Students of the Ukrainian Bar Association, held four rounds of student competition on freedom of speech during the conflict. Law students acted as plaintiffs and defendants and presented their positions before the judges of the competition.



## Education for journalists

Every year, CEDEM conducts trainings, seminars and online courses on media law and related topics to improve the qualifications and increase legal awareness of journalists and educators from schools of journalism as well as public activists.

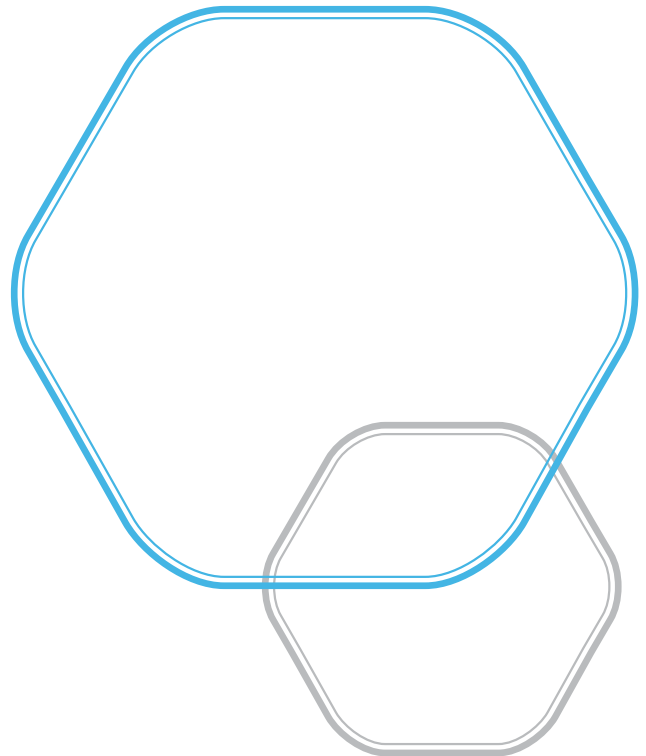
### Media education in 2017

#### Offline

- **Training for teachers of the schools of journalism in 13 universities**
- **Training for journalists-investigators of leading media on the relevant issues of media law**

#### Online

- **Distant Course “Media Law for Journalists”**  
The journalists learned about the special aspects of the Ukrainian media law, the peculiarities of protecting journalists’ sources, special aspects of work in the Internet, the standards of freedom of speech and the practice of the European Court of Human Rights.
- **Distant Course “Courts and Media”**  
The course helped reporters gain basic knowledge about the structure of the judicial system, the powers of courts in considering certain categories of cases, the procedure for consideration of various cases by courts of different instances, the rights and obligations of participants in the process, etc.
- **Distant Course “Copyright for Journalists”**  
During the training, journalists learned what to do when the article was reprinted without the author’s permission, how to make a proper reference to someone else’s material, whether you can use videos from YouTube, etc.
- **Distant Course “Access to Information”**  
Participants of the course learned about the peculiarities of the information at the disposal of the authorities, learned to formulate information inquiries correctly and to challenge unlawful refusals to provide information.



## Training for NGO activists

The Ukrainian experience in advocacy for reforms is becoming a good case study for other countries. In the spring 2017, CEDEM, with the support of the Prague Civil Society Centre, organized an educational trip to Ukraine for 30 public activists from Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. During the 5-day workshop, the activists learned about the mechanisms of implementing reforms in Ukraine, the work of the public sector and adopted the best practices of the RPR.





## Online courses on access to information

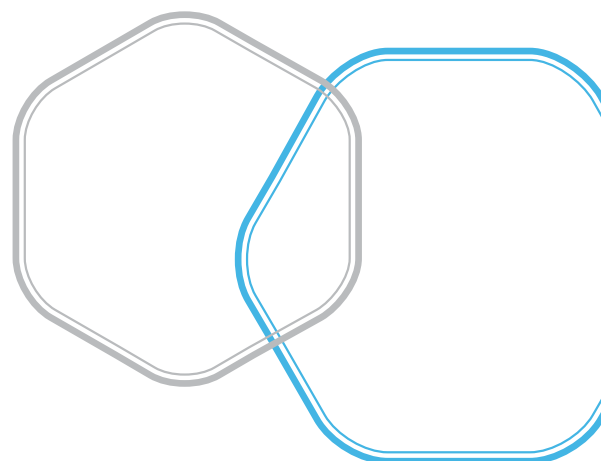


In 2017, lawyers of the Centre Tetiana Oleksiiuk, Vita Volodovska and Igor Rozkladaj developed three online courses on access to information based on the Prometheus educational platform in cooperation with the Ombudsman Office of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.

Online courses at the Prometheus platform from CEDEM experts

- “Access to public information: from A to Z” (12 lectures)
- “Access to public information for public activists” (9 lectures)
- “Access to public information for administrators” (9 lectures)

Each of the courses is aimed to cover a separate audience, in particular, for citizens who do not possess special knowledge in the field of access to public information, but wish to receive it, as well as civil society activists, journalists, civil servants and direct information managers.



## Open University of Reforms

The Open University of Reforms is a joint educational project of the Centre for Democracy and Rule of Law and the Reanimation Package of Reforms, which aims to educate active youth for implementing social projects and reforming the country.



### Open University of Reforms is

2

enrolments  
per year

3

months of study: March-May,  
October-December

30

students and  
5-10 non-matriculating students  
per enrolment

100+

hours of internship in  
NGOs – members of the  
Reanimation Package  
of Reforms

18-26

age  
of the audience



### Lecturers of Open University of Reforms

- leading experts in the field of reforms
- NGO activists
- politicians
- famous journalists, bloggers, columnists, opinion leaders
- trainers from the business sector

The curriculum of the Open University of Reforms aims to improve the students' knowledge of reforms as well as their practical skills in reforming and mastering the mechanisms of work in the public sector. OUR generates and develops key professional competencies of a social activist. The subject of each enrolment is adapted to current and priority RPR reforms for the current year.



## Open University of Reforms 2017 in figures

2

enrolments

428

applications

61

students

13

non-matriculating  
students

24

teaching  
sessions

18

additional classes  
on weekdays

89

experts involved  
in the teaching

4

open  
lectures

4

mini-projects  
implemented  
by students

108

trainee vacancies from  
52 RPR's organizations

6000+

hours of internship  
in 33 RPR's  
organizations

of graduates were  
employed in the non-  
government sector



of graduates were  
employed in public  
service





# CIVIL SOCIETY

## Reanimation Package of Reforms



**The Reanimation Package of Reforms (RPR)** is the largest and the most powerful coalition of civil society organisations and experts of Ukraine joining efforts after the Euromaidan for the sake of promoting and implementing reforms in Ukraine. RPR acts as a coordination centre for **83 civil society organisations** and **22 expert groups** that develop, promote and monitor the implementation of reforms. For four years of work, with the RPR's advocacy and communication support 123 laws were adopted.

In introducing changes in Ukraine, RPR is advocating for the adoption of amendments to legislation and their implementation; communication of reforms; international communication and advocacy.

*The Centre for Democracy and Rule of Law since the very beginning of the coalition has been a member of the Reformation Package of Reforms and provided institutional, financial and organizational support to the coalition.*

Director of the Centre Taras Shevchenko is the co-chairman of the RPR Council, which is the strategic management body of the coalition.

CEDEM's experts participate in five groups. The most active work is being done in the media group with Igor Rozkladaj as the chief expert, and Vita Volodovska as a manager.



## RPR in 2017

83

participating  
NGOs

22

expert  
groups

360

experts

19

draft laws advocated  
for adoption by the  
Verkhovna Rada in 2017

The trend for RPR in 2017 was the work in the regions to promote the establishment and functioning of local initiatives (coalitions), implementation and monitoring of reforms on the ground.

By creating 14 regional coalitions, the RPR has brought together activists from all over Ukraine to the Civil Assembly Forum: SMARTreforms.

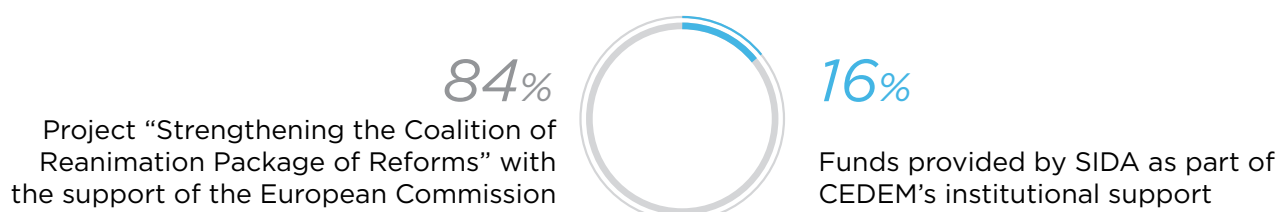
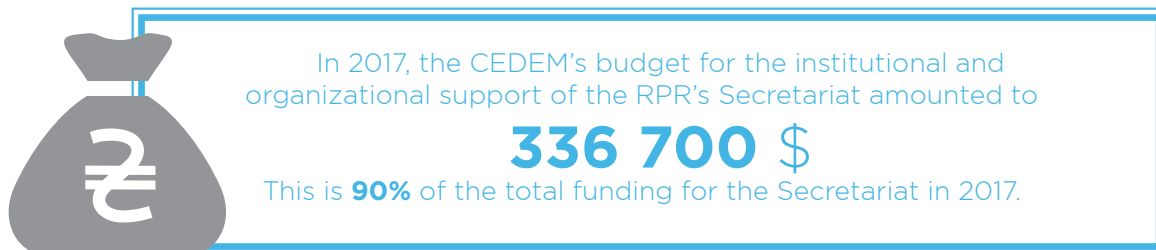
450 representatives of local coalitions, international partners, RPR experts and journalists gathered for the Civil Assembly: SMARTreforms.



## Secretariat of the Reanimation Package of Reforms

RPR Secretariat is the executive body with key functions in general coordination of the coalition, providing the assistance to NGOs and experts in advocacy, communication, development of international relations and regional activities, training and event management.

The Secretariat's activities are mainly funded by the grant administered by the Centre for Democracy and Rule of Law. By administering the grant from the European Commission, CEDEM is responsible for the Secretariat's proper work and financial stability in satisfying the coalition's needs for advocacy and communication of reforms.



## CEDEM's subgrants for NGOs

In 2017, the Centre for Democracy and Rule of Law launched a subgrant program for non-government sector in Ukraine. With twelve-year experience of receiving and administering large grants for its own activities and for the support of the Secretariat of the Reanimation Package of Reforms, the Centre became the donor itself supporting the number of organizations in Kyiv and regions.

During the year, CEDEM conducted 4 sub-grant competitions, where the independent expert commission selected the best projects from the NGOs – members of the Reanimation Package of Reforms.



4

subgrants

17

winning projects

65

project applications

### CEDEM's subgrants

- Projects are aimed at advocacy, implementation and communication of reforms, as well as public control over the launch of new institutions
- Implementation of projects covers 17 regions of Ukraine.





## The success of subgranted NGOs

### Anti-tobacco campaign

**NGO “Life”** – for funds received from CEDEM – conducted an advocacy campaign in support of the draft law aimed at the ratification of the Protocol on the Elimination of illicit trade in tobacco products, reaching the support of the Ministry of Health and a number of MPs.

### Electronic declaration

**NGO “Anticorruption Headquarter”** has developed the application “Declaration bot” in Facebook messenger and Telegram. The bot was developed based on the results of in-depth interviews with the declarants and became an effective tool for helping to fill out electronic declarations for more than 700,000 citizens.

### Reform of election legislation

Thanks to the support, the **Ukrainian Center for Independent Political Research** conducted an expert review of legislative initiatives aimed at reforming the parliamentary election system.

### Reform of the electricity market

Within the framework of the project implemented by the **NGO “Greencubator”**, it became possible to advocate for the amendments to the law on the market of electric energy, which essentially created the possibility of attracting small players to the market.

### Decentralization

**Association for Community Self-organization Assistance** channelled their efforts to promote sustainable development in four local communities newly established in 2017 that united Luhansk and Odesa regions, analysing the regulations in amalgamated territorial communities and developing guidelines and successful models for these communities.

### Public finances

**NGO “Bohuslavska Sich”** together with **NGO “Life”** have developed a methodology for evaluating city programs and advocating for the adoption of the Budget Rules and Regulations on the basis of this methodology. The project is implemented by the RPR’s Bohuslavska Coalition at the district level, and the methodology is planned to be presented to the partners from the RPR coalition in the regions for the further roll-out.

## Campaign “For Safe Roads”



Advocacy Campaign “For Safe Roads” is aimed at reducing mortality and injuries on the Ukrainian roads. The Campaign was initiated by CEDEM in 2016 in partnership with the “Vizion Zero” CSO, the Association of Cyclists in Kyiv, the Autoacademy of Driver’s Skills and unites international and Ukrainian experts, legislative and executive authorities.

### Directions of advocacy in 2017

- reducing the speed of the road traffic
- introduction of automatic recording of traffic rules’ violations
- promotion of the use of safety belts
- reducing distraction on mobile phones and gadgets while driving



### Sociology of “For Safe Roads”

*\*the results of the survey conducted by CEDEM and Vizion Zero CSO within “For Safe Roads” Campaign*



of drivers  
use safety belts



of drivers in big cities are at any  
moment getting distracted by  
mobile phones while driving

### First results

**With the launch of the Campaign, road safety in 2017 became a pressing issue, and the CEDEM’s activities in this area increased importance of the issue and actualized the need to resolve the existing problems in this sphere.**

In 2017, the Government approved changes to the traffic regulations for reducing the maximum permitted speed in the urban area to 50 km/h, which was one of the requirements of the “For Safe Roads” Campaign.

The video “Buckle up” made as part of the “For Safe Roads” Campaign by “Dyvovyzhni” NGO in partnership with CEDEM and Vizion Zero, promotes the use of seat belts among drivers and passengers.

**4,3** million  
views

on TV channels “TRK Ukraina”,  
“UA: First”, “UA: First Digital”,  
“UA: Crimea” and 27 branches  
of the PJSC NPBC

**800** thousand  
views

on screens in Uber cars

**136** thousand  
views

in Facebook

## Smoke-free Kyiv

After the legislative ban on tobacco advertising, which was advocated by CEDEM, one of the last channels to promote cigarettes were the sales locations. For several years, the Centre has been working with its partners to fight for a complete ban on the placement of cigarette packs at points of sale.

On 17 April 2017, thanks to public efforts, the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Health Issues approved draft law No. 4030a. The document was developed by the Centre for Democracy and Rule of Law, in partnership with the Coalition “For Tobacco-Free Ukraine”.

The main rule of the 4030a draft law is the total prohibition of the visible placement of cigarettes at the points of sale. Cigarettes should be placed in special boxes, behind closed doors or rollers in such a way that they cannot be seen from the outside or inside the premises where they are sold.

### Tobacco lobby and conflict of interest

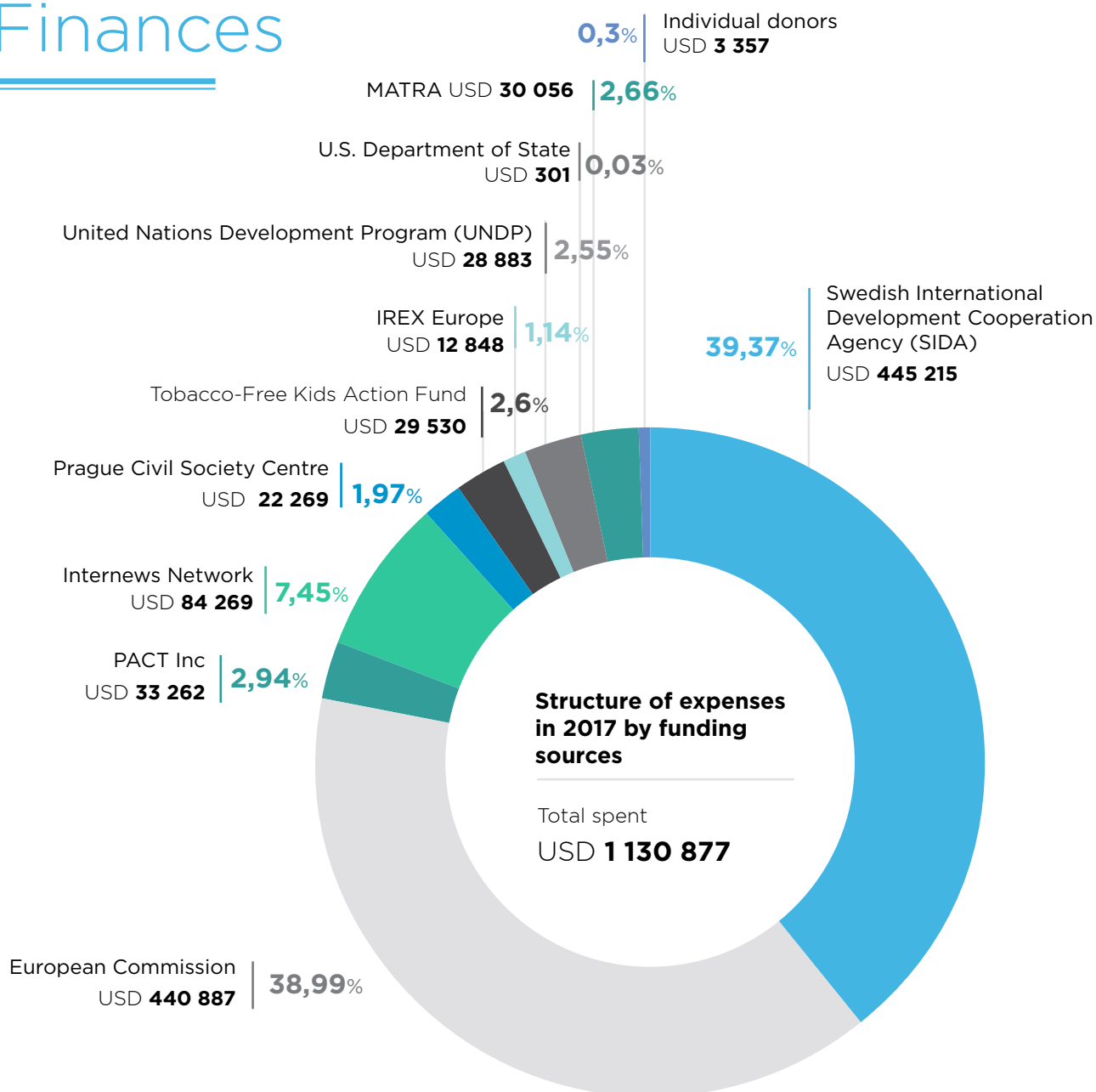
The CEDEM's experts participated in the investigation of a potential conflict of interests of high-level officials with organizations that actively promote legislative initiatives and regulations that are favourable to tobacco companies. The study was conducted by Transparency International Ukraine, together with its partners.

According to the results of the study, the experts emphasized the need to strengthen control over violations of anti-tobacco legislation, counteracting the conflict of interests in this area, and ensure the state's interaction with tobacco companies as openly as possible.





# Finances



“The financial statements of the NGO Centre for Democracy and Rule of Law accurately represent, in all material aspects, the financial position of the organization as of 31 December 2017, its financial results and cash flows for the year” – Audit Company “MK Audit”.

## Our donors





## Contact

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