



Kyiv, 09 January 2018



Figure of the month: With the latest local elections there are now 15 districts ("Rayons"), where 100% of the territory is covered by newly amalgamated hromadas, 111 Rayons where more than 50 % (but not 100%) are covered and 199 Rayons where up to 50% of the territory is covered by at least one new hromada. Put differently almost two-third of Rayons are at least party taken over by newly amalgamated hromadas.

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Summary

- An innovation enabled by "ULEAD with Europe": Ukraine's first mobile centre of administrative services opened in Slavuta/Khmelnyskyi Oblast on 30 November 2017.
- President Pororchenko, Speaker of Parliament Parubiy, Prime Minister Hroisman, and the Head of the European Union Delegation to Ukraine Mingarelli addressing the 2nd All Ukrainian meeting of Amalgamated Hromadas in Kyiv on 4th December 2017.
- II Polish-Ukrainian Forum of Local Self-Government "Hromada. Effective Development. Investments" held in Kharkiv from 23-24 November 2017.
- The Academy of Ukrainian Press with the support of U-Lead with Europe conducted the first three- day-training courses for regional and local journalists.
- Constituent local elections hold in 51 new hromadas on 24 December 2017.
- Amendment of civil service law turns heads of District level and Oblast level into political appointments.
- Budget 2018 – less subventions for new amalgamated hromadas, more of funds which are allocated by Members of Parliament.
- Draft law 6466 which would have enabled larger cities to become part of the amalgamation process failed in second reading.
- New draft law registered for voting, aiming for the facilitation of amalgamation of hromadas.

EU support to the Decentralisation reform

1. **[An innovation enabled by "ULEAD with Europe": Ukraine's first mobile centre of administrative services opened in Slavuta/Khmelnyskyi oblast on 30 November 2017.](#)** With U-LEAD, the EU provides also support to set up new centres of administrative services (so called TSNAPs) in amalgamated hromadas. As some of newly amalgamated hromadas are covering a larger territory with dispersed settlements, innovative solutions are required to ensure equal access for all citizens. As for the hromada Slavuta, the implementing agency, SKL designed an innovation for Ukraine – a mobile TSNA, a minibus equipped with all technology to visit regularly small villages in the periphery of Slavuta and to provide all administrative service to citizens in remote areas.
2. **President Pororchenko, Speaker of Parliament Parubiy, Prime Minister Hroisman, and the Head of the European Union Delegation to Ukraine Mingarelli addressed the 2nd All Ukrainian meeting of Amalgamated Hromadas in Kyiv on 4th December 2017.** Co-funded by ULEAD with Europe the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine organized the 2nd Forum of Amalgamated Hromadas. About 900 participants attended the Forum: heads and deputy heads of Amalgamated Hromadas, representatives of central executive authorities, international technical assistance projects, national and international experts, to present and discuss best practise in local economic development.
3. **II Polish-Ukrainian Forum of Local Self-Government "Hromada. Effective Development. Investments" held in Kharkiv from 23-24 November 2017.** Supported by ULEAD (Local Government Development Centre Kharkiv) the region of Kharkiv invited for the second time to a conference on local self-governance. Around 400

participants from Poland and seven Ukrainian regions, including local self-government and amalgamated territorial communities' representatives, experts, entrepreneurs, and diplomats attended the event. The focus of the event was on improvement of business climate improvement at local level.

4. **Supported by ULEAD with Europe the Academy of Ukrainian Press started to train regional and local journalists on the decentralisation reform.** The decentralisation reform is triggering substantial changes at local level. However the nature of these changes is complex and sometimes difficult to communicate. To improve journalists' understanding of the reform, the Academy of Ukrainian Press provides regularly three-day training courses for journalists from the regions.
5. **Constituent local elections hold in 51 new hromadas on 24 December 2017.** This election brought the number of newly amalgamated hromadas to 665. No large scale violations have been reported by OPORA. There is not yet a final analysis of the aggregated performance of different parties available. The party "Batkivshchyna", led by Yulia Tymoshenko, claims to have the biggest share in local council members, while the presidential party "Solidarnost" claims to have won the largest number of heads of new hromadas.
6. **Amendment of civil service law turns heads of District level and Oblast level into political appointments.** The Ukrainian Parliament adopted on 9th Nov 2017 a new law reversing previous reform legislation on appointments of heads and their deputies of Rayons- and Oblasts administrations. After the reform in 2015 these posts were subject to a selection according to professional experiences and part of the civil service, not allowed to pursue at the same time political functions. With the amendment adopted, professional experience is not any more necessary prerequisite for those posts and simultaneous political activities possible. Within four days after submission to the plenum this draft law was adopted in second reading and signed by the president - an exceptionally short time. Contrary to normal procedure no public consultations took place. Voting was 234 in favour which included full support by two opposition parties, "People's Will" and "Revival".
7. **Budget 2018 – less subventions for new amalgamated hromadas, more of funds which are allocated by Members of Parliament.** The budget for 2018 was adopted on 7th December 2017 (earlier than in the last years). Overall fiscal framework conditions did not change for local governments. However, the subsidies for newly amalgamated hromadas were increased by only 26% from 1.5 (in 2017) to 1.9 Billion Hryvnas (in 2018) while the number of hromads have almost doubled from 366 in 2017 to 665 in 2018. At the same time the Budget Committee – against the proposal of the government – succeed in setting up another 5 Billion Hryvnas fund for socio-economic development of certain territories, allowing for the allocation of state funds on a non-rule based, arbitrary fashion to local governments, managed by Members of the Budget Committee of the Ukrainian Parliament.
8. **Draft law 6466 which would have enabled larger cities to become part of the amalgamation process failed in second reading.** In a surprise movement, the Members of Ukrainian Parliament affiliated with the party of the mayor of Kyiv, Klitchko, refused to support this draft law at last minute. The reason for this move is subject to speculation, as this draft laws had been lobbied for quite a while by the this party.
9. **New draft law registered for voting, aiming for the facilitation of amalgamation of hromadas.** End of 2017 a group pf MPs registered a draft law which would reorganize the amalgamation process. Main change: Oblast councils, which have currently the possibility to block the amalgamation process, would be removed from the procedure.

Further readings:

DESPRO Newsletter –November 2017 edition, see [here](#)

DOBRE Newsletter – December edition, see [here](#)