2017 reminded me of cooking borsht: in state politics, as in borsht, the result is largely contingent on the ingredients you put in. Our two tours across Ukraine under the aegis of the ZminyTy national campaign and other projects provided ample proof that once you engage in efficient meaningful conversation and put in the effort to listen to local grassroots initiatives, you can change public opinion and debunk myths.

Obviously, we do not have the resources to extend our regional outreach projects to all regions and towns, so we did not even try to “heat up the ocean.” Nevertheless, we demonstrated that civil society organizations can and should extend their analytical projects beyond the governmental district on Pechersk hills in Kyiv, engaging local audiences and communities in decision-making on the state level. This is particularly relevant for the younger demographic that remains less engaged in reform initiatives. We have been looking for the right format to engage student audiences, and eventually found a model that allowed to spark their interest in democracy.

Our crucial accomplishment of 2017 was our qualitative level-up. A goal-oriented, intellectually invested team can achieve marvelous results, no matter how small it is!
The 25th anniversary of Ukraine’s independence will go down in history as the year when the European Union approved visa-free travel for Ukrainian citizens, and the Ukraine–European Union Association Agreement was ratified by all signatories. The successes in national politics proved more modest. Lawmakers had laid the foundations for the implementation of medical and education reforms, among others, yet the majority of Ukrainian citizens neither understand nor feel the progress.

Our agenda for 2017 included getting citizens engaged in the development of important national decisions in sectoral changes, improving equal access to politics, and introducing public control over public finance. The full-fledged policy cycle format has proved its value; moreover, we have established a trend for consulting the communities, and established cooperation with two ministries. To enhance our presence on the regional level and spark up an ongoing dialogue with communities beyond Kyiv, Centre UA has created a regional network.

Under the pressure from the public, the electoral reform was discussed in the Parliament for the first time in 3 years. To make the politics more transparent and accountable, we have jumpstarted several interesting awareness-raising campaigns and launched online instruments.

Irreversible systemic changes may still lie ahead, but we are on the right track to this strategic goal!
We promote the implementation of reforms through developing the full-fledged public policy cycle, guaranteeing higher quality of decisions and a better understanding of reforms.

We work in the “platform of platforms” format based on horizontal networks, approaching each project as an autonomous unit. Our united actions are geared towards achieving the shared goal: implementing irreversible democratic changes on all levels of governance.
Four teams work on implementing Centre UA’s strategic goals:

**CHESNO Civil Movement** is a public watchdog and expert / advocacy hub that has been safeguarding transparency and accountability of politicians and political parties.

**ZminyTy** is a two-stage national policy tour that gathered the suggestions of the country’s most active communities regarding the problems of healthcare, education and electoral reforms, implementing control over public finance expenditure, and public access to decision-making.

**CHITKO** is a project for controlling public finance.

**Strong Communities movement** is a platform facilitating stable democratic developments in the communities of Eastern Ukraine.
In 2017, Centre UA launched a national regional network to map all the best practices, start the ‘domino effect’ from our activities, and to support the Reanimation Package of Reforms coalitions in the regions.
We cofounded and coordinated the **CHESNO Movement**, the most influential Ukrainian watchdog initiative safeguarding transparency, accountability and accessibility of politicians and political parties.

We cofounded and actively participated in the **Reanimation Package of Reforms**, the largest advocacy coalition of leading public initiatives and experts.

We are members of the **Open Parliament network**.

After successfully advocating the open access to public information, we launched the **Access the Truth** online instrument, the largest open database of administrators of public information.

We were administrators of the most popular Facebook page **Euromaidan** in 2013–2014.

We organized the **Stop Censorship! Citizens for Free Countries international contest**, which was placed on the list of the 100 best information campaigns advocating freedom of speech worldwide, compiled by the UK Index Censorship organization.
The goal of this branch was to establish a precedent for implementing national reforms through the full-fledged cycle of developing state policies, including consultations with the stakeholders and taking their positions into account when drafting and adopting solutions. This format proved effective for forming interest groups and improving the quality of ministry-level policies. During the National ZminyTY tour, our team promoted the policy consultations approach among government representatives, and worked towards establishing a demand for it among those affected by new policies.

We also support the development of policy researches for 7 groups of the Reanimation Package of Reforms (RPR).
**Sectoral reforms**

> In cooperation with the Ministry of Healthcare of Ukraine and Oleksandr Iabchanka, the expert of the RPR medical group, we organized **92 public consultations** on healthcare reform in **63 cities**. **2,500 medical professionals**, representatives of the local authorities and patients civic associations joined the national policy-making process.

> We held **23 consultations** on the issues of the education system in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and the CEDOS think tank expert Iryna Kohut. **More than 900 education professionals**, representatives of the local authorities and experts joined the national policy-making process.

> Medical and education reforms were covered in **233 articles in regional media**.

**THE YEAR’S ACHIEVEMENTS**

- We created a precedent for engaging thousands of citizens in developing national healthcare and education policies.

- The Ministry of Healthcare of Ukraine took into account more than 15 suggestions of medical professionals when drafting changes to normative and legal documents.

- Relevant ministries will consider the results of the second part of the ZminyTY tour in the following year.
Control over public finance

> We developed a policy brief “On efficient planning of local budgets: the system of control” for professionals working with public funds on the regional level

> We held 22 public consultations in Ukrainian regional centers on enforcing efficient control over expenditure of decentralized finances, joined by 211 representatives of the departments of finance, economic development and internal audit of oblast state administrations, administrators and specialists from departments of finance of municipal executive institutions and raion state administrations, representatives of the State Treasury, State Audit Service, local authorities and public organizations

> We have produced a report summarizing the key problems and recommendations regarding the possible solutions thereto after public consultations with the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine

> We are compiling a green paper in ongoing consultations with the stakeholders in several regions

THE YEAR’S ACHIEVEMENTS

■ The Ministry of Finance of Ukraine has singled out the development of state finance control, a crucial element of public finance management, as a priority for 2018
Public Access to the Decision-Making Process

> We held **22 public consultations** in regional centers, as well as 2 consultations in Kyiv, to elaborate the mechanisms for engaging citizens in the decision-making process and advocating civic education. **222 participants** joined the discussions, including members of local councils, civic activists, members of public councils, members of local state administrations, advisory organs, consolidated territorial communities and Centers for the Development of Local Self-Governance.

> We are producing a green paper in ongoing consultations with the stakeholders in several regions.

THE YEAR’S ACHIEVEMENTS

- We engaged the key stakeholders on the national and regional levels in dialogue, and got them involved in formulating the foundational principles of the green paper.
Equal Access to Politics

> We published the green paper we have been working on in 2016

> We held 47 consultations in all regions of Ukraine while preparing the white paper

> We published the white paper that takes into account the positions of the stakeholders on the regional and local level

> We presented the white paper over the course of 23 public dialogues in all oblast centers, attended by 450 members of local councils, public activsts, MPs, and representatives of oblast and local branches of political parties

> We published 23 accounts of all public consultations, as well as 23 press releases, on the CHESNO website, summarizing the positions of all members of the dialogues on electoral reforms (before the voting on the Electoral Code in the first reading), and on the Electoral Code draft (after it was approved in the first reading)

THE YEAR’S ACHIEVEMENTS

Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine considered the problem of unequal access to politics during voting for the draft of the Electoral Code (bill № 3112-1) in the first reading. The bill conforms with most of the crucial suggestions outlined in the white paper developed over the course of public consultations on the national and regional level
 Чи є політична воля для змін?
Дискусійна панель.
The goal of this direction was to prompt Verkhovna Rada to adopt the electoral reform promised as part of the Coalition Agreement, including proportional electoral system with open regional lists at parliamentary elections. Towards this goal, we cooperated with experts and other organizations in the area to spearhead a large-scale media campaign and discussions with the interested parties on the importance of changing electoral rules.

We published 71 articles on the problem of electoral reform in Ukraine under the aegis of Vybor Vybor (Choose Your Election) Project (34 news articles, 29 longreads, 8 op-eds)
> We co-organized a national advocacy campaign demanding the electoral reform, supported by approximately 7,000 persons

> We held more than 150 advocacy meetings with MPs, leaders of political parties, international partners and experts

> We held 46 meetings with 620 representatives of the small and medium business and civic organizations in all oblast centers of Ukraine in order to inform and mobilize active citizens in support of the electoral reform

> We outlined the electoral reform to students over the course of 76 interactive lectures at universities in all oblasts of Ukraine

> We held 44 press coffees on the issue of electoral reform, attended by 380 journalists

> We actively participated in national and regional media events covered in 170 articles

THE YEAR’S ACHIEVEMENTS

- As of December 2017, public support for changing electoral laws to the proportional system with open regional lists was at 34.5% (according to Razumkov Center)

- For the first time in 3 years, the electoral reform was discussed in the Parliament
The direction’s goal was to ensure that Ukrainian citizens would be able to make an informed decision when voting for their representatives in elected government institutions, and to control them between the elections. The quality of Parliament, oblast, local, raion and village councils is contingent on informed and rational voting. Electoral choice should be informed not by overweening political propaganda, but rather by the integrity and financial transparency of candidates and their parties. Over the course of the year, we have been informing Ukrainian citizens about the obligations and policies of their MPs, analyzing e-declarations and party financial reports, and shining the light on the politicians charged in corruption cases, embroiled in “proxy voting,” or known to skip parliamentary sessions.
Institutionalization of Political Memory

> We launched the Political Memory resource, an online database of all political parties and politicians that ever ran for parliament, oblast or local councils since the first elections after Ukraine gained independence. At present, the platform compiles information on more than 90,000 politicians, 290 political parties, and 78 electoral blocs. The database collates data from the Central Election Commission, Verkhovna Rada, local councils, party websites, National Agency on Corruption Prevention, electoral campaign archives of Istorychna Pravda [Historical Truth], and media archives.

> We launched a special joint project with the Ukrajinska Pravda [Ukrainian Truth] news website, publishing 10 analytical overviews of Verkhovna Rada committees, and 5 overviews of various political parties (For Life, Fatherland, Agrarian Party, Radical Party, Justice).

> We held a presentation of the Political Memory database for 150 journalists, activists and interested citizens, as well as representatives of 16 political parties, during The Hub for Party Innovations ran by our partners, The IDEA and the Ukrainian School of Political Studies.

THE YEAR’S ACHIEVEMENTS

- Since its launch, the Political Memory platform had more than 90,000 visitors, whereas our analytical materials garnered more than 100,000 views (media monitoring by the CHESNO Movement).

- We launched a series of publications on the activities of our political actors intended as cheat sheets for voters, detailing the history and development of the most popular parties.

- We launched a series of publications on MPs that had criminal cases opened against them.
PRESENTATION
OF THE POLITICAL MEMORY
ONLINE DATABASE
Established public monitoring of party finance

- We published 20 analytical articles and 5 investigative pieces monitoring political finance

- We published 3 investigative pieces verifying parties’ expenses on media and outdoor advertising

- We updated the Party Gold website, an instrument for visualizing parties’ reports collating digitized data of 20 parties

- We presented the Party Gold website at political finance workshops to 300 party activists from the regions

- We launched the AdBusters mobile app for monitoring outdoor advertising and political propaganda

- We launched an online test raising awareness of party reporting

THE YEAR’S ACHIEVEMENTS

- We improved the quality of party reports: parties submit their reports as digital spreadsheets, party members respond to our publications and increase their financial transparency

- We are developing an electronic report form for the parties in conjunction with the National Agency on Corruption Prevention and our international partners

- Two of our team members joined the Public Council affiliated with the National Agency on Corruption Prevention

- Our investigations resulted in two criminal cases concerning violations in party funding
Monitoring MPs’ personal integrity

We published 678 articles on the integrity of various MPs, including 239 in leading Ukrainian news venues.

The updated Catalogue of Individuals that are Subjects of Anti-Corruption Investigations collates data on 473 cases concerning 133 acting MPs.

We developed an online form for MP reports and presented it to the Verkhovna Rada speaker, and to representatives of the Apparatus of Verkhovna Rada.

THE YEAR’S ACHIEVEMENTS

- 16% of Ukrainian citizens are familiar with the results of CHESNO Movement activities, including its monitoring of the MPs’ attendance of parliament sessions, and the cases of proxy voting (media monitoring commissioned by CHESNO).

- In December 2017, the number of “ghost voters” in the 8th convocation has exceeded 100, marking a new low. We will not let this shameful fact slide during the upcoming parliamentary elections.
Monitoring the integrity of local politicians

> We launched #CHESNOzvit: a national campaign of public reporting for local-level politicians. The mayors of Khmelnytskyi and Chernivtsi had made their reports live in the new format

> We developed a methodology for monitoring the financial integrity of local MPs, and a methodology for establishing the opposition index in local and oblast councils

> We published 41 articles with an express analysis of declarations submitted by members of local councils, 25 articles with an in-depth analysis of their assets and obligations, and 8 investigative pieces

> 6 activists of our organization taught 1,476 local MPs and officials to fill out e-declarations

> We analyzed the activities of 10 city councils, 9 oblast councils, and 3 village councils

> We established the opposition level of councilors in 7 town councils and 8 oblast councils

> We developed a methodology for monitoring the activity of local council members

> The presentations of our findings from monitoring local councilors and mayors of 15 communities of Donetsk, Luhansk and Dnipropetrovsk Oblasts were attended by 190 persons

> 50 representatives of local self-governance established cooperation with the public in Donetsk, Luhansk and Dnipropetrovsk Oblasts

> > >
We launched the You Have the Right to Know awareness-raising campaign publicizing the decisions adopted at local council sessions, the procedural component of their plenary meetings, voting results, and the differences between drafts and adopted resolutions.

THE YEAR’S ACHIEVEMENTS

- Publications on monitoring e-declarations of local councilors garnered more than 11,000,000 views (media monitoring by CHESNO Movement)
- We established systemic monitoring of the activities of 38 local councils
- 16 communities started to release their projects and texts of adopted resolutions, as well as voting protocols, in the statutorily required timeframe
- Two full checks of e-declarations of local council members were initiated after our requests, and the public prosecution office started criminal proceedings against one councilor
- Three councilors were subject to administrative penalty for not submitting their e-declarations, and one was subject to criminal penalty
4. COMMUNITIES

Empowering the Communities

This branch seeks to empower citizens to unite in order to solve pressing problems in their communities, and to show them efficient mechanisms for engaging in the development and adoption of decisions on the local level.
Promoting the idea of monitoring the activities of local council members and city mayors in more communities

> The websites of Kyiv region, Vinnytsia region, and Irpin region communities function successfully; we have also launched a website for communities of the Kharkiv region

> Volunteers have published 670 pieces on community websites, which garnered 600,000 visitors

> We held 7 workshops on in-depth monitoring of e-declarations for activists in the regions

> We published an instruction on ensuring the accountability of officials hiding their assets

> We held three workshops on civic journalism for regional journalists

THE YEAR’S ACHIEVEMENTS

■ We extended our monitoring to 12 more cities

■ Centre UA, in conjunction with People in Need and the DIY (ACT!) National network of watchdog centres, conducted monitoring in Vinnytsia, Kramatorsk, Mariupol, Ternopil and Zaporizhia in September 2016 – September 2017
Instruments and practices for engaging the citizens in developing and adopting resolutions

> We developed the Analysis of the Efficiency of Local Self-Government methodology.

> We analyzed the activities of 16 local councils according to the above-mentioned methodology, which resulted in 64 pieces in regional media, 16 roundtable discussions and 64 appeals to local councils in Donetsk, Luhansk and Dnipropetrovsk Oblasts requesting that they rectify the discovered issues.

> Under the aegis of Efficient City clubs, we published more than 100 articles and gave 20 interviews on the achievements and prospects of the project.

> We submitted requests for creating oversight councils at public utility providers to 16 local councils.

> In conjunction with local communities of Donetsk, Luhansk and Dnipropetrovsk Oblasts, we presented maps of local problems and solutions in Kyiv and Kramatorsk.

> We developed and launched the interactive map of municipal property in Ternopil.

> We developed the Instruments of Cooperation Between the Authorities and the Community manual.

> We developed and launched 16 Efficient City clubs in Donetsk, Luhansk, Poltava and Dnipropetrovsk Oblasts: in cooperation with local communities, we defined local problems, formed analytical memos and developed potential solutions.

> We developed the Paper on Municipal Practices based on successful cases of communities in Vinnytsia region, Kramatorsk, Mariupol, Zaporizhia and Ternopil.
THE YEAR’S ACHIEVEMENTS

■ Approximately 100,000 persons were acquainted with the activities of the Efficient City project

■ Approximately 30,000 persons were introduced to the methodology for analyzing the authorities’ activities, and to the instruments for cooperation between the authorities and communities (according to media monitoring by the Strong Communities Movement)

■ Authorities in 13 cities in Donetsk, Luhansk and Dnipropetrovsk Oblasts adopted resolutions on instruments for cooperation between the authorities and communities

■ Bakhmut Municipal Council established an advisory organ which included civic activists, started to upload reports of public utility providers to its website, and allowed to submit requests for information through its official website

■ Mariupol City Council launched a new official website which took into account all suggestions and criticisms provided by the community

■ Rubizhne City Council started to release its financial reports

■ Kurakhove City Council started to release drafts and adopted resolutions

■ Novohrodivka City Council relaunched its electronic petitions service

■ The town of Ukrainsk initiated budget hearings

■ Sidewalks in Rubizhne are being made accessible to people with disabilities
Systemic publications on opinion leaders, and engaging them in politics

> We published materials on success stories about communities solving local problems in Lviv, Uzhhorod, Illintsi, Drohobych, Trostianets, Mariupol, Chasovyi Iar, and Lyman

> We created 4 videos motivating citizens to create coalitions to solve local problems

> We extended the experience of solving local problems to Novopskov and Mariupol communities

> We developed and released a manual on solving common local problems

THE YEAR’S ACHIEVEMENTS

■ Approximately 15,000 persons were introduced to successful cases of communities solving local problems in Lviv, Uzhhorod, Illintsi, Drohobych, Trostianets, Mariupol, Chasovyi Iar, and Lyman (according to media monitoring by the Strong Communities Movement)
5. ACCESS

Access to public information

In November 2017, Centre UA has transferred the rights to the platform Access to the Truth (a communication hub dedicated to access to public information) to its partners from the civic organization Human Rights Platform. As before, the resource is hosted by the Ukrainian Truth website.

2014

■ In conjunction with the Ukrainian Truth website, we have developed Access to the Truth online resource. This database of public information owners has no parallels in Ukraine.

■ In cooperation with our partners, we successfully advocated the problem of gap between Ukrainian information legislation and European standards, which allowed Ukrainian citizens to fully realize their right to access public information.

■ In conjunction with Hromadske.tv and prominent Ukrainian journalists, we raised awareness of the resource, and brought up its visitor count.

■ In cooperation with the Institute of Media Law, we won in a court case against the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, ensuring citizens access to parliamentary public hearings.

■ We shot a documentary anthology film Open Access, which was screened throughout the country and subsequently garnered 140,000 views online. The film was also presented at the London Frontline media club, at the One World International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival in Prague and Brussels, and at the Ukrainian festival in Montreal.
Originally conceived and launched as a service resource, **Access to the Truth** was reimagined as an information and service resource, allowing to conduct and publish investigative materials based on requests for information.

We defended the right to information in courts and with the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, lodging more than **20 complaints**, 16 of which were satisfied (the owners submitted the requested information). The case of **Natalia Patrikeeva** (a journalist of Access) against **Lvivelektrotrans Public Utilities Company** is currently being heard in original jurisdiction, whereas the case of **Lesia Hanzha**, our editor-in-chief, was transferred to the **European Court of Human Rights**.

We launched the **Legal Commentary** project in collaboration with lawyers from partner organizations.

We supported the initiative **For Court Cases** on Access, created to offset the legal fees for journalists and activists in cases related to access to public information.

- **27 000** requests at the website
- **9 850** registered users
- **12 000** followers at our Facebook page
- **11 000** requests through Access to the Truth service in 2017

We realized the project **Houses** for finding the owners of buildings recognized as historical landmarks in Kyiv.

We hosted dozens of trainings for journalists and activists.

We systematically responded to all threats, defending access to information and the reform of public broadcasting.

We informed the public about threats to the launch of public broadcasting in Ukraine.
6. LIST OF ALL CENTRE UA PROJECTS

2009
CENTRE UA IS FOUNDED
PUBLIC EXPERT COUNCIL
“NEW CITIZEN” PUBLIC CAMPAIGN

2010
VLADOMETER – THE BIGGEST DATABASE OF POLITICANS’ PROMISES IN UKRAIN

2011
CIVIC MOVEMENT CHESNO
1ST INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION “STOP CENSORSHIP! CITIZENS FOR FREE COUNTRIES”

2012
“Filter the Radal!” Campaign

2013
FACEBOOK–MEDIA “EUROMAYDAN”

2014
All–Ukrainian tour of the documentary movie “Open access”
YoUkraine initiative – your country in Europe

CENTRE UA PROJECTS

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

2023

6. LIST OF ALL CENTRE UA PROJECTS
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<tr>
<th><strong>2014</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>STRONG COMMUNITIES OF DONETSK REGION</strong></td>
<td><strong>#MEDIAHUB</strong></td>
<td><strong>CHITKO PROJECT</strong></td>
<td><strong>LAUNCHED A NATIONAL REGIONAL NETWORK</strong></td>
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<td><strong>REANIMATION PACKAGE OF REFORMS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>“DIY” NETWORK OF WATCHDOG CENTERS</strong></td>
<td><strong>ALL-Ukrainian TOUR “ZMINYTY”</strong></td>
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<td>Presidential and Parliamentary Elections campaign</td>
<td>“Fair spring – responsible autumn” campaign, “Follow the money”</td>
<td>“CHESNO about the by-elections” and “Parties’ Gold” campaigns, “Political memmory”</td>
<td>#CHESNOzvit, Special project “Vybor Vybor”</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd International competition “Stop censorship! Citizens for free countries”</td>
<td>3dr International competition “Stop censorship! Citizens for free countries”</td>
<td>4th International competition “Stop censorship! Citizens for free countries”</td>
<td>“Access to the Truth” has been transferred to the civic organization “Human Rights Platform”</td>
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<td>“Acces to the truth” website launch</td>
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<td>“Stronger together” campaign</td>
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WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE FOR THE SUPPORT PROVIDED BY OUR PARTNERS, WHICH ALLOWED US TO SUCCEED IN ACHIEVING OUR ESTABLISHED GOALS.
Results for 2017 with a report of the independent external audit will be published in March 2018.

Structure of expenses in 2017 by funding source

TOTAL SPENT

$1,018,414

Omidyar Network Fund, Inc.

$460,784
PARTNERS
CENTRE OF UNITED ACTIONS: INTERACTION FOR CHANGE
Kyiv, 4/8 Pavlenka-Omelianovycha Street
centreua.org
facebook.com/CentreUA.org