



## **PACE Strengthening the Parliamentary capacity to implement the Council of Europe standards and policies in Ukraine**

**1 January - 31 December 2017**

### **Summary**

The project was a 12 month action implemented by the PACE Parliamentary Project Support Division in collaboration with the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, with various PACE Committees and with relevant Council of Europe Departments. It constituted an inclusive part of the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine 2015-2017 and was in line with PACE recommendations regarding Ukraine.

National parliaments are essential to the effective implementation of international standards at national level and fulfil their duty to protect human rights through legislating, involvement in the ratification of international treaties, holding the executive to account, liaising with national and local institutions and fostering the creation of a democratic culture.

The project was foreseen in the Council of Europe Programme and Budget 2016-2017 and was listed among the priority actions, emphasising that the mission of the Parliamentary Assembly is to promote the development and the implementation of the highest standards of democracy, human rights and rule of law for the benefit of people. In the expected results it stated that "Parliaments of relevant member States have benefited from inter-parliamentary co-operation programmes implemented to respond to specific needs and priorities of the Council of Europe and national parliaments".

The planned activities were conducted with the participation of parliamentarians representing all political parties and from all Parliamentary Commissions and the staff from Ukraine, with active participation of thematic local NGOs and NHRI, aiming at promoting democracy, human rights, anti-discrimination and inter-institutional cooperation. The priorities of the project were to ensure the dialogue between parliamentarians and the civil society, as well as exchange of good practices between member States of the Council of Europe, peer-to-peer dialogue focused on specific thematic issues. All these activities aimed at promoting Council of Europe standards and at revising the legislative framework of Ukraine in the relevant thematic areas.

All activities within the project were strongly interrelated and employed a range of methods and approaches in order to achieve the overall objective of the action. A 12-month project focused specifically on empowering parliamentarians from Ukraine to address the need to improve the human rights approach, through a better understanding of the Council of Europe standards and policies, better supervision of the implementation of the ECHR judgments; combating gender discrimination, including domestic violence; capacity building in policy-making procedures; and improving the inter-institutional collaboration and consultations with the civil society.

### Calendar of the implemented activities:

Date	Activity	Venue
<b>20-21 April 2017</b>	Seminar for members of parliament on the existing parliamentary mechanisms and structures for the supervision of the execution of the ECHR judgments	Strasbourg
<b>30 May 2017</b>	Seminar for members of parliament on policy -making in conformity with the Council of Europe standards and policies	Kyiv
<b>1-2 June 2017</b>	Visit of members of Verkhovna Rada to Sweden aiming at exchanging of good practices regarding the policy-making	Stockholm
<b>6 - 7 July 2017</b>	Seminar for staff of the parliament on Council of Europe standards and policies	Strasbourg
<b>28 -29 September 2017</b>	Seminar on the development of national legislation protecting victims from domestic violence in compliance with the Istanbul Convention Consultative meeting between parliamentarians, and the civil society to discuss practical issues regarding the existing legislative framework and further needs assessment.	Budapest
<b>9 November 2017</b>	Seminar for staff on law-making in conformity with the Council of Europe standards and policies	Kyiv
<b>26 and 28 February 2018<sup>1</sup></b>	Consultative meeting on the status of administration of parliaments for members of the Verkhovna Rada	Kyiv

<sup>1</sup> Financed by the Action Plan for 2017 - extension