

REPORT

Central Election
Commission
Activities

CEC

2021

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2021

At the conclusion of 2020, the Central Election Commission prepared an inaugural public report on its activities. We continue this practice and report on the Commission's work in 2021.



“For the CEC, 2021 was a year of steady growth. We organized preparation and conduct of elections in four constituencies; we were engaged in strengthening cybersecurity, technological modernization and changes in legislation; in nearly three months, we adopted 40 bylaws to meet the requirements of the Law on the All-Ukrainian Referendum; in an effort to improve our communication strategy, we worked towards becoming more open and efficient; and, also received training and exchanged experience with foreign colleagues. “At such a shaky time for the whole world, we tried to firmly stand on our feet and confidently do our job. And, for that I am grateful to everyone involved. I thank state agencies, international partners and the public for cooperation; I thank my colleagues and all members of election commissions for their important contribution to the development of Ukrainian democracy. These are our common achievements!”

Oleh Didenko, Chairman of the CEC

10 achievements of the CEC 2021

Education Participation of the CEC members in the BookForum, development of excursions to the CEC and an internship program for students.

Technological Modernization: Approval of the concept of the Unified Automated Information and Analytical System of the Central Election Commission (CEC's UIAS) and implementing electronic document management system.

Strengthening Cyber Protection: Initial independent cybersecurity audit of information and telecommunication infrastructure.

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Online Conference: “**2020 Local Elections in Ukraine: Conclusions and Recommendations**”.

Elections 2021

- **Mid-term elections of Members of Parliament** in four constituencies; and,
- **Local elections** (elections of deputies in 222 local councils and 19 elections of village, settlement and city mayors).

New Law “**On the All-Ukrainian Referendum**”: Adoption of 40 bylaws and registration of 15 initiative groups.

Proposing Amendments to Legislation:

- Participation in working groups; and,
- Resolutions on legislative regulation of the topical issues.

Inclusiveness of Electoral Process: Proposing amendments to legislation on ensuring accessibility of elections for citizens' voting rights.

Improving the CEC's communication strategy and streamlining internal communication.

International Cooperation and Election Observation: Training and sharing experience.

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01 ELECTIONS

1. ELECTIONS

In 2021, in connection with termination MP mandates elected in single-member election districts, the CEC organized mid-term elections of MPs in accordance with the Law of Ukraine “On the Election of MPs of Ukraine”:

**On March 28,
2021**

in single-member election districts 50 (Donetsk oblast) and 87 (Ivano Frankivsk oblast);

**On October 31,
2021**

in single-member election districts 184 (Kherson oblast) and 197 (Cherkasy oblast).

Election District 50 (Donetsk oblast)



27 applications

for registration as MP candidates were received by the CEC



19 MP candidates

were registered by the CEC:

11 candidates

nominated by political parties;

8 candidates

self-nominated;

8 candidates

denied registration

CEC canceled registration of one candidate before the day of the election.

There were 18 candidates on the ballot:



6
women



12
men

To monitor the MP mid-term election on March 28, 2021 in District 50 (**Donetsk oblast**), there were:



Election District 87 (Ivano-Frankivsk oblast)



37 applications

for registration as Ukrainian MP candidates were received by the CEC.



15 MP candidates

were registered by the CEC:

9 candidates

nominated by political parties;

6 candidates

self-nominated;

22 candidates

were denied registration;

CEC canceled registration of **one candidate** before the day of the election.

There were 14 candidates on the ballot:



1
women



13
men

To monitor the MP mid-term election on March 28, 2021 in District 87 (**Ivano-Frankivsk oblast**), there were:



Election District 184 (Kherson oblast)



44 applications

for registration as MP candidates were received by the CEC.



19 MP candidates

were registered by the CEC:

13 candidates

nominated by political parties;

6 candidates

self-nominated;

25 candidates

were denied registration;

CEC canceled registration of **4 candidates** before the day of the election.

There were 15 candidates on the ballot:



3

women



12

men

To monitor the MP mid-term election on October 31, 2021, District 184 (**Kherson oblast**), there were:



Election District 197 (Cherkasy oblast)



30 applications

for registration as MP candidates were received by the CEC.



26 MP candidates

were registered by the Commission:

18 candidates

nominated by political parties;

8 candidates

self-nominated;

4 candidates

were denied registration;

CEC canceled registration of **one candidate** before the day of the election

Thus, there were 25 candidates on the ballot paper:



5

women



20

men

To monitor the MP mid-term election on October 31, 2021, in District 197 (**Cherkasy oblast**), there were registered

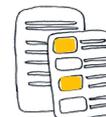


In total, in support of MP mid-term elections in 4 single-member election districts, **the Commission processed:**



138 applications

and appended documents on registering MP candidates;



79 applications

for registration of MP candidates' proxies;



37 NGO petitions

for permission to observe the electoral process; and,



47 submissions

political party candidate for District Election Commissions (DECs) and 49 replacement submissions for election commissioners.

1.1 Local Elections

In 2021, Territorial Election Commissions (TECs) organized repeat, mid-term and early elections of local council deputies and village, settlement and city mayors: The commissions called repeat, mid-term and early elections of deputies on **222** local councils and repeat or early elections of **19** village, settlement, city mayors.

The following were registered:

- 1046** candidates for **3 local councils** of territorial communities with than 10,000 or more voters;
- 1062** candidates for **184 local councils** of territorial communities with less than 10,000 voters; and,
- 80** candidates for city mayors in 9 communities.

407 deputies were elected. **18** on **187** local mayors were elected. **187** local councils were elected:

- 132** village;
- 47** settlement;
- 8** city councils.

А також **18 голів:**

- 8** city;
- 3** settlement;
- 7** village mayors.

In some communities, scheduled elections did not take place because there was not a registered candidate or there was a lack of funding to support the election process.

In observing local elections in 2021, the CEC:

- granted **30 permissions** to NGOs to observe elections;
- registered **186 official observers** from other countries and international organization;
- made changes to the composition of **134 TECs**
*particularly as a result of terminating TEC member authority. The CEC formed **10 new TECs**. The Enerhodar city TEC; the Vasylivskyi rayon, Zaporizhia oblast and the Chernivtsi city TECs; and, the Chernivtsi rayon, Chernivtsi oblast TECs were formed twice.
- the CEC appointed **530 new TEC members**.

TECs report to the CEC on administering local elections by sending information on paper and in electronic format through the State Voter Register maintenance bodies. More than 2,100 files were received from the TECs, content of those files was entered in the database of the IAS “Local Elections” and posted on the CEC’s official website.

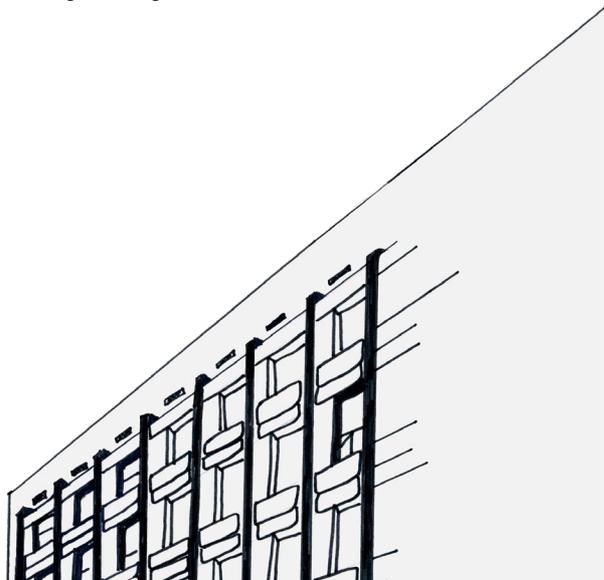
At the outset of 2021, CEC representatives, TEC members, Precinct Election Commission (PEC) members, NGO representatives and election experts analyzed the 2020 local elections.

The three-day national online conference, “2020 Local Elections in Ukraine: Conclusions and Recommendations”, was organized to discuss and analyze organization of the 2020 local elections and to identify challenges encountered during the conduct of the elections. Shortcomings of national election legislation and ways to improve it were discussed. For the first time, the conference was administered online and attended by MPs, judges, CEC members, TEC and PEC members, NGO representatives, election experts and international community representatives.

The following election process issues were discussed: Candidate nomination and registration, elections in the pandemic, financing local elections, election campaigning, the work of election commissions, establishing election results and election dispute resolution. The conference resulted in short-term and long-term recommendations for future elections and the recommendations will be taken into account when drafting proposals to the Election Code.

Increasing Election Commissioner Professionalism

The CEC provided 240 TECs with consultative and methodological assistance in preparation for and conduct of repeat, mid-term and early elections of local council deputies and village, settlement and city mayors.



Within the framework of implementation of international technical assistance project, the following was conducted in 2021:



- Online trainings for **40 members of DEC**s for **election of MPs** in single-member election districts 50 (Donetsk oblast), 87 (Ivano-Frankivsk oblast), 184 (Kherson oblast) and 197 (Cherkasy oblast);

- Online trainings for **624 PEC** members for **election of MPs** in districts 20, 87, 184 and 197.

For DEC members in districts 184 and 197 and TECs organizing preparation and administration of the October 31, 2021 elections of village, settlement and city mayors, a two-day training titled, “Cyber Security: Hygiene and Awareness” was conducted.

Also, as part of assistance to election commissioners, a manual for DEC and PEC members administering MP mid-term and repeat elections was developed and distributed.



The Center for Electoral Process Participants Training Management at the CEC conducted pilot online training under the Training of Trainers program titled, “**Basics of Administering Elections and Adult Education,**” which increases knowledge

and improves trainer skills of participants who will be engaged in organization and administration of trainings for election commissioners and other electoral process participants. The training had direct participation of CEC representatives at all stages with the support of IFES.



2020

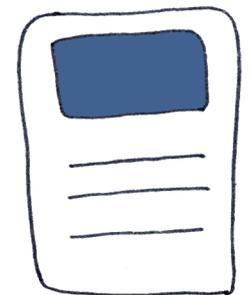
REFERENDUM

2. REFERENDUM

In 2021, the Law of Ukraine “**On the All-Ukrainian Referendum**” took effect and the Ukrainian people now have access to a mechanism for directly addressing important issues of national significance. Ukrainian citizens will now be able to express their will both directly and through elections. In all-Ukrainian referenda, citizens enjoy rights and guarantees similar to those they enjoy in electing candidates: Participate in voting (this right is held by all citizens who turned eighteen on election day and who are not legally incompetent in accordance with established procedure) and in the work of commissions on all-Ukrainian referenda.

The new Law provides for a significant authority for the CEC in preparing and holding an all-Ukrainian referendum. To comply with the requirements of that law, after less than four months of active work, the CEC adopted **40 bylaws** to establish document forms, approve protocols and clarify procedures.

The CEC’s other tasks prior to the referendum process include ensuring implementing measures to comply with the Law’s requirements, including participation in public meetings on initiatives to conduct an all-Ukrainian referendum, verification of registration documents of initiative groups’ registration documents and adopting relevant resolutions.





The CEC was represented at **29 public meetings** on initiatives to hold all-Ukrainian referenda;



Registration documents for **27 initiative groups** were verified;



15 initiative groups for an all-Ukrainian referendum were registered and, based on verification, 12 initiative groups were denied registration.

Processed:



3 petitions for permission to observe a referendum process;



33 reports on meetings of Ukrainian citizens on holding a publicly initiated all-Ukrainian referendum.

03

COURT CASES

3. COURT CASES

In 2021, courts considered numerous disputes related to the 2020 local elections, particularly appeals against the CEC's resolutions of August 8, 2020: Number 160 "On the First Elections of Deputies of Village, Settlement, City Councils of Territorial Communities and the Respective Village, Settlement and City Mayors on October 25, 2020" and Number 161 "On the Impossibility of Holding the First Elections of Deputies of Certain Village, Settlement and City Councils of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts and the Respective Village, Settlement and City Mayors on October 25, 2020."

In case Number 855/25/20, the Sixth Administrative Court of Appeals revoked, with its May 11, 2021 ruling, a December 8, 2020 decision of the District Administrative Court of Kyiv and delivered a new decision sustaining the plaintiff's claim seeking that the CEC's August 8, 2021 resolution Number 161 be declared unlawful and be revoked.

With its December 14, 2021 ruling the Supreme Court partially upheld the CEC's complaint against the appellate court's aforementioned decision. The May 11, 2021 ruling of the Sixth Administrative Court of Appeals was revoked and the case was remanded for a new hearing to the court of first instance. Notably, the court of cassation agreed with the CEC's arguments that the Commission does not have authority to inspect and assess the security situation in the Donbas territories to verify information from law enforcement bodies.

Also, in 2021, courts accepted the first claims concerning the CEC's authority in accordance with the **Law of Ukraine "On the All-Ukrainian Referendum."**

In particular, one of the decisions challenged in court was the Commission's June 11, 2021 resolution Number 230 "On Refusal to Register the Initiative Group for an All-Ukrainian Publicly Initiated Referendum Whose Registration Documents Were Received by the Central Election Commission on June 1, 2021 and Were Registered as Number 21-30-6782."

In case Number 640/17047/21, the August 11, 2021 decision of the District Administrative Court of Kyiv, upheld by the November 26, 2021 ruling of the Sixth Administrative Court of Appeals, satisfied the plaintiff's claims that the CEC's June 11, 2021 resolution Number 230 be declared unlawful and be revoked.

However, with its decisions of December 9, 2021, the Supreme Court initiated cassation proceedings based on the CEC's cassation complaint against the aforementioned court decisions and suspended execution of the August 11, 2021 decision of the District Administrative Court of Kyiv until the cassation proceedings are concluded.

Results of consideration of this case by the court of cassation will be crucial for formation of the CEC's practice on applying provisions of the Law of Ukraine "On the All-Ukrainian Referendum."

In 2021, the CEC was party to **129 lawsuits**, **40** of which are still pending. In **92 cases**, the CEC was the defendant; in one case, the plaintiff; and in **36 court cases**, the CEC was involved as a third party.

In 2021, **30 election-related** cases were considered as required by Article 273 of the Code of Administrative Proceedings; the final decisions in **21** of these cases dismissed electoral subjects' claims against the Commission; in one case, the claim was upheld; in **7 cases**, the claim was returned or left without consideration; and, in one case, proceedings were closed.

In **19 criminal cases** heard in courts, the CEC acts as the aggrieved party. In 2021, the CEC processed 1,273 court documents.

04

COMMISSION'S DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT

4. COMMISSION'S DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT

Станом на 31 грудня 2021 року Комісією опрацьовано:

- Incoming documents - **13,734**, the largest of which is the minutes of a public meeting on holding a publicly initiated all-Ukrainian referendum; it was received by the Commission on June 1, 2021 and contains **12,195 sheets**;
- Internal documents - **710**;
- Outgoing documents - **4 251**.

A total of 1,342 archive files were finalized for transfer to the archive department for temporary storage at the CEC, and 1,573 files for permanent storage.

As of December 31, 2021, **78 CEC meetings** were held, at which **496 resolutions** were adopted.

Election documents, or files, related to the election of MPs in 2017-2020 - **1,552** - were transferred for permanent storage to the Central State Archive of Higher Authorities and Government of Ukraine. The act of transfer and acceptance of documents for permanent storage is dated February 8, 2021.

Election documents, or files, related to local elections in 2019-2020 - **789** files and 2019-2020 documents related to activities of the Service of the State Voter Register Administrator - 183 files - were transferred for permanent storage to the Central State Archive of Higher Authorities and Government of Ukraine. The act of transfer and acceptance of documents for permanent storage is dated November 11, 2021.

Acceptance in accordance with established procedure of files from structural units of the CEC's Secretariat was provided for - **1 051 files**.

During 2021, the Commission received and considered:



462 appeals from citizens;



180 requests for public information;



18 appeals from local council deputies.



43 deputy appeals and deputy inquiries; and.

During 2021, the Commission received **119 complaints**,

↔ **42** - of which were returned to the complainants without consideration because of their failure to comply with requirements of the law regarding form and content of a complaint;

🚫 **10** - were left without consideration on the merits;

✗ **12** - were dismissed;

✓ **1** - was upheld;

± **3** - were partially upheld;

↕ **2** - were withdrawn by the complainants;

☑ replies were sent back to **49** that had been received by the CEO via email but had no qualified electronic signature.

05

STATE VOTER REGISTER

5. STATE VOTER REGISTER

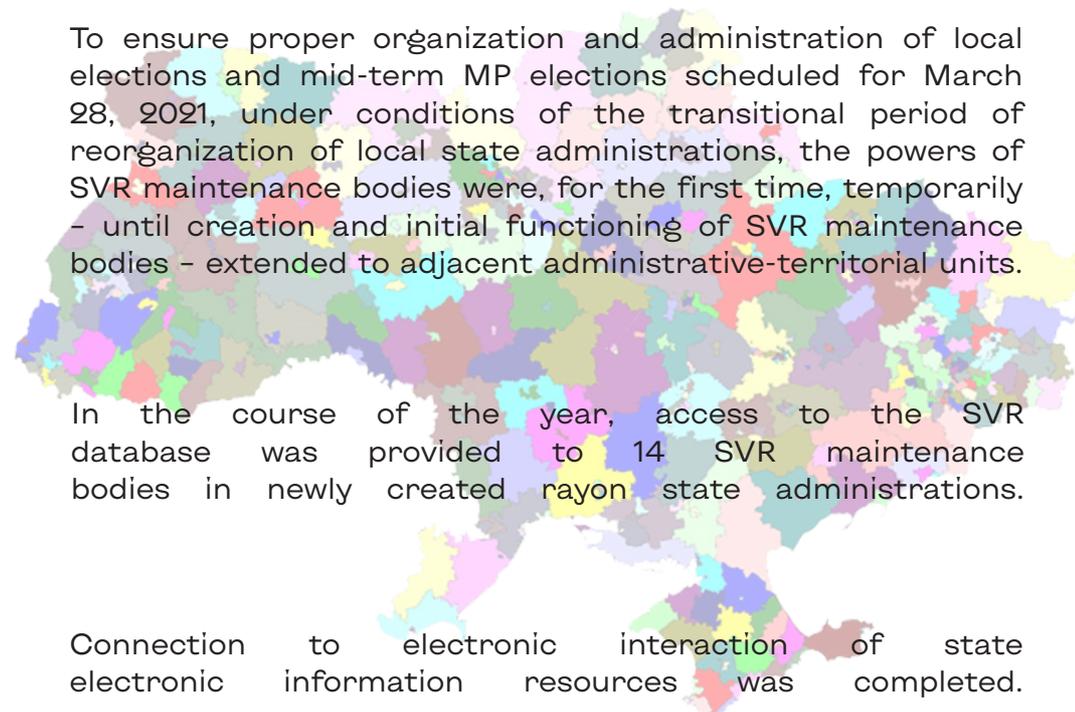
In connection with the change of the administrative-territorial structure in Ukraine and formation and reorganization of local state administrations, the State Voter Register (SVR) database was restructured and voter records were transferred to SVR maintenance bodies.

One-time transfer of SVR data for creating registers of territorial communities whose territorial and administrative centers are specified and approved by Cabinet of Ministers Resolution Numbers 707-730 of June 12, 2020, was completed. During 2021, such data was transferred to **1,127** communities which amounts to **76 percent** of their total number.

To ensure proper organization and administration of local elections and mid-term MP elections scheduled for March 28, 2021, under conditions of the transitional period of reorganization of local state administrations, the powers of SVR maintenance bodies were, for the first time, temporarily - until creation and initial functioning of SVR maintenance bodies - extended to adjacent administrative-territorial units.

In the course of the year, access to the SVR database was provided to 14 SVR maintenance bodies in newly created rayon state administrations.

Connection to electronic interaction of state electronic information resources was completed.



On the SVR's official portal, an electronic service enabling distribution of electronic data from periodic SVR database updates was created and implemented into trial operation, which resulted in a reduction of time and financial costs.

Electronic document record-keeping was initiated, with information on the assignment of new and changing existing postal addresses in localities, as well as documents substantiating changes to the list of election precincts established on a permanent basis.

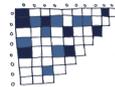


The overall figures for 2021:



43 908 787

Number of changes of voters' electoral addresses in connection with changes to the administrative-territorial structure of Ukraine



26 759 733

Number of changes of voters' personal identification data



2 982 701

Number of processed updated data records



363 075

Number of voters who acquired the right to vote



793 574

Number of voters who lost the right to vote



73 347

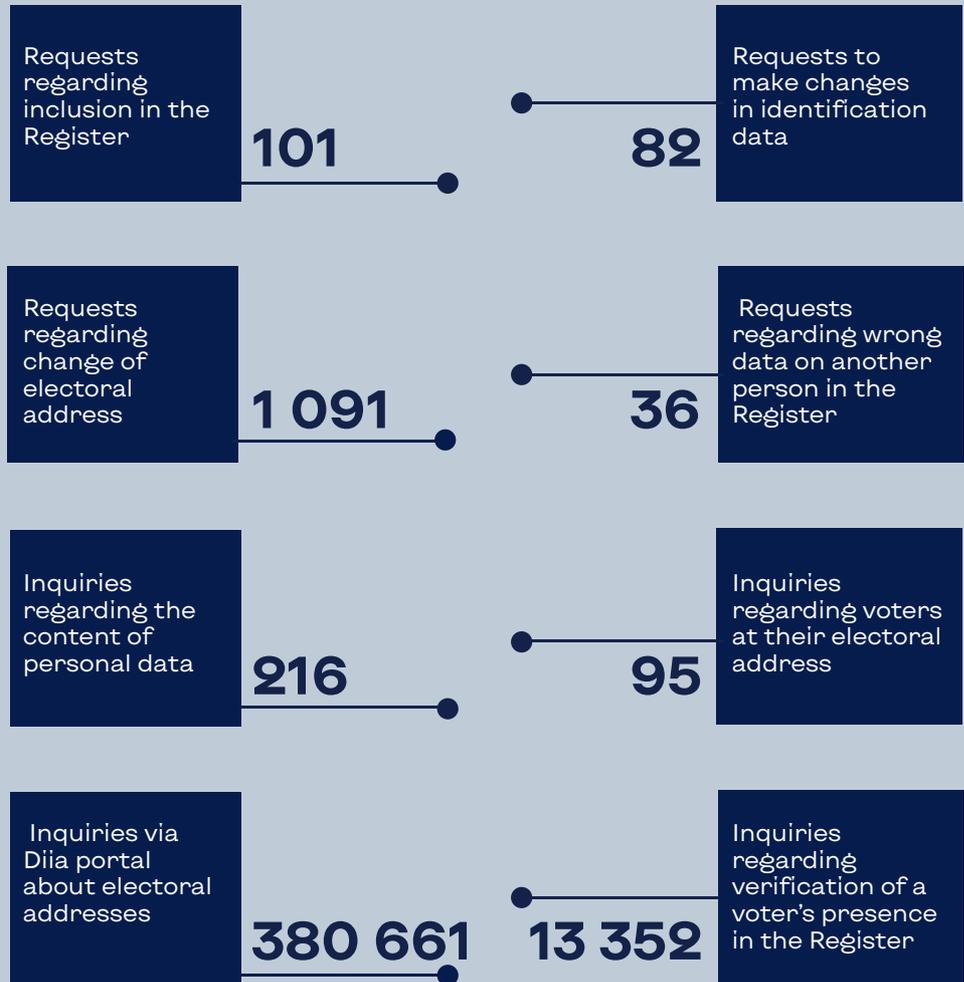
Number of new streets



2 047

Number of new buildings

Citizens used the SVR's electronic services to submit:



06

CYBERSECURITY

6.CYBERSECURITY

In 2021, the first independent audit of cybersecurity in the CEC's information and telecommunication infrastructure was conducted. External experts were involved - in particular, the **Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Project Coordinator in Ukraine and IFES**. The CEC expects to receive recommendations based on the audit's results to modernize its information technology structure, implement up-to-date measures to strengthen cybersecurity of the information systems and optimize the organizational structure.

CYBERATTACKS

Attempts to find vulnerabilities in the CEC's information systems, primarily in its website by scanning, were repeatedly detected and continues. All attempts failed and were promptly neutralized with the help of modern hardware and software ensuring cyber protection. Various cyberattacks are undertaken on a regular basis. The number of cyberattacks increases significantly during the CEC's preparation and conduct of elections.



From August 1, 2021 to the present, **405 transactions** to Internet resources with malicious content were blocked.



On average, about **5,000 spam letters**, phishing letters and letters with malicious content are removed each month.



For example, in the 90-day period from August 10 to November 8, 2021, almost half of the approximately **38,000 emails** received were spam and unwanted letters.

In 2021, the CEC participated in a grant competition with the United States Civilian Research and Development Foundation - CRDF Global - to increase the level of cybersecurity in state institutions and critical infrastructure enterprises.



The CEC's Project, **“Improving the Organization’s Information Security and Cybersecurity by Purchasing and Installing a Secure Email Server for Territorial Election Commissions”**, became one of the competition winners.

An agreement was concluded and a device for protecting the email server **FortiMail 200F** was provided at no expense. Work began on implementing a secure email server for TECs, TEC mailboxes were generated and FortiMail 200F was installed followed by configuration of DNS and cyber protection systems.



This made it possible to increase the fault tolerance of the CEC’s information systems, ensure a high level of information accessibility in these systems, implement modern hardware and software information protection, protect information during the interaction of the CEC’s information systems with the universally accessible Internet and counteract existing and new threats to the security of the CEC’s information systems.

07

CEC LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

7.CEC LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

To resolve the most pressing issues, the CEC addressed the Verkhovna Rada Committee on State Building, Local Governance, Regional and Urban Development:

Establishing criteria for holding elections

The CEC repeatedly addressed the Donetsk and Luhansk Oblast State Administrations and the Oblast Military Civil Administrations with a request for their opinion on the possibility to organize and conduct the first local elections in certain communities of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. Each time the answer was about the threat to life and health of citizens in those territories and the impossibility to hold elections. Unfortunately, citizens' voting rights remain unexercised.

The CEC addressed the Rada Committee with a proposal to improve legislative regulation of the procedure for resolving preparation and conduct of local elections in accordance with the provisions of the Election Code Electoral Code in certain territories and establishing criteria for adopting a decision (**CEC Resolution Number 229 dated June 11, 2021**).

As the CEC emphasized, in accordance with the laws of Ukraine the CEC is not authorized to determine whether it is possible to ensure proper security during the organization and administration of local elections in certain territories of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. The Supreme Court agreed with that conclusion, noting the CEC does not have the authority to inspect and assess the security situation in the territories and verify information received from law enforcement agencies.

Financing mid-term and repeat local elections

In some territorial communities, repeat and mid-term local elections have not been conducted yet because since funds have not been allocated from local budgets. Therefore, the CEC addressed the Verkhovna Rada Committee on State Building, Local Governance, Regional and Urban Development with a request to take measures towards **ensuring unconditional financing** from local budgets of mid-term and repeat elections of deputies of local councils and repeat elections of village, settlement and city mayors CEC Resolutions Number 396 dated October 6, 2021 and Number 430 dated October 22, 2021).

Determining early termination of authority of deputies of local councils

The CEC recorded several violations as TECs established results of the 2020 local elections and adopted the decision to recognize the next candidate in the territorial or unified multi-member electoral list of candidates from the local organization of a political party as having been elected to a local council. The CEC reviewed the activities of 17 TECs establishing results of local council deputies' elections and recognition of candidates elected to local councils. Such reviews resulted in early termination of the authority of 14 TECs. On 9 occasions, the CEC addressed the Verkhovna Rada Committee on State Building, Local Governance, Regional and Urban Development with a request to take measures toward legislative regulation early termination of the powers of a local council deputy, by adding additional grounds for

terminating powers: Revocation by a court or by the CEC of illegal decisions of a TEC recognizing a person as having been elected and registered as a deputy of the local council.

All-Ukrainian referendum

While working on bylaws to comply with requirements of the referendum law, it was determined to urgently regulate **initiative group's obligations to submit signature sheets and the protocol to the CEC on the results of signature collection** and electronic subscription data in support of the initiative for holding a publicly initiated all-Ukrainian referendum. The CEC's proposals, prepared in the form of a draft law **(the CEC's Resolution Number 234 dated June 29, 2021)**, were sent to the Verkhovna Rada for submittal as a bill. for consideration (Registration Number 5802 dated July 19, 2021). Based on results of analysis arising during preparation of bylaws in execution of the Law of Ukraine "On the All-Ukrainian Referendum," the CEC proposed to improve the **legal framework for implementation of the public will through administration of an All-Ukrainian referendum.**

Proposals on making changes to the Laws of Ukraine - "On the All-Ukrainian Referendum," "On the Central Election Commission" and "On Public Procurement" - as well as to the Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offenses and the Code of Administrative Proceedings were sent to the Verkhovna Rada Committee on State Building, Local Governance, Regional and Urban Development on November 15, 2021. If eventually adopted, the changes prepared by the CEC to the

“On the All-Ukrainian Referendum” law will make it possible to eliminate certain gaps and inconsistencies and strengthen rights of citizens to participate in an All-Ukrainian referendum.

7.1 CEC Cooperation with Other State Bodies



Verkhovna Rada

■ CEC **members participated** in a meeting of the Working Group on Elaborating Comprehensive Changes to Election Legislation within the Committee of the Verkhovna Rada on State Building, Local Governance, Regional and Urban Development. There were 12 Working Group meetings – 11 ZOOM conferences, 1 public discussion, and 1 roundtable – and 10 meetings of the Committee focusing on electoral issues.

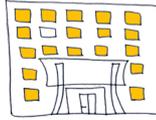
■ CEC representatives participated in discussing the draft law “On the Local Referendum” and receiving expert opinion from a Swiss expert. On May 19, 2021, the draft law on the local referendum was introduced in the Verkhovna Rada.

■ On February 17, 2021, the CEC leadership participated in a meeting of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on State Building, Local Governance, Regional and Urban Development. During the meeting, the Committee heard from representatives of government agencies on legislative regulation of the October 25, 2020 local elections and proposals for a comprehensive analysis of improving election legislation. The Committee also identified areas for improving the Election Code based on local election results in accordance with new election legislation.



NSDC

■ In January 2021, a Memorandum on Cooperation in Cybersecurity was concluded with the National Security and Defense Council. The Memorandum’s intent was to ensure coordinated and effective cooperation between the CEC and the National Cybersecurity Coordination Center. This interaction will be instrumental in speeding up responses to cyber threats, obtaining information from the Center on new cyber threats and responding to minimize risks of interference with the CEC’s automated systems.



National Agency for Corruption Prevention

■ On April 5, 2021, the CEC and the National Agency for Corruption Prevention signed a bilateral Memorandum on Interaction and Cooperation to enhance coordination, deepen cooperation and join efforts for ensuring compliance with requirements of election and anti-corruption legislation.

■ The CEC developed an Anti-Corruption Program for 2021-2023, which is aimed at introducing a set of additional measures to prevent, detect and combat corruption in CEC activities. Identification of corruption risks, their assessment, and establishment of underlying causes have been introduced and measures targeting the elimination and prevention of these risks were developed and are being implemented.



Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine

■ The CEC developed and submitted proposals to relevant Government Ministries on draft legal acts of the Cabinet of Ministers, including Procedure for Compensation of Damage Caused to the Life, Health, or Property of a Member of an Election Commission; a Commission for an All-Ukrainian Referendum; Procedure for Reimbursing Travel Expenses Related to Performance of Duties of a Member of a Commission for an All-Ukrainian Referendum; Procedure for Payment or Reimbursement of the Cost of Services

Provided to Election Commissions and Commissions for All-Ukrainian Referenda; and, Cabinet of Ministers Resolutions on the Size of Remuneration for Members of Election Commissions and Commissions for All-Ukrainian Referenda.



Ministry of Digital Transformation and Ministry for Communities and Territories Development

■ In 2021, CEC representatives worked with representatives of the Ministry of Digital Transformation on introducing electronic passports to Ukrainian citizens during an election process and with the Ministry of Digital Transformation and the Ministry for Communities and Territories Development on changes to legislation regulating a qualified electronic signature within the framework of election legislation.



Ministry of Internal Affairs

■ On October 27, 2021, on the eve of the October 31 mid-term election of MPs in Kherson and Kharkiv oblasts and the Kharkiv city mayor, the CEC's representatives participated in an election security monitoring event. During the meeting, the Ministry of Internal Affairs presented the Geoinformation Analytical Portal. This resource makes it possible to monitor the state of public safety from anywhere, obtain analytics on ensuring voting rights and remotely monitor the local situation during elections.

7.2 ELECTION FINANCING

Regarding election finance, the CEC actively cooperated with the Ministry of Finance and the State Treasury Service to control budget funds allocated to DECAs for preparation and administration of mid-term MP elections in election districts 50, 87, 184 and 197. The CEC worked with the State Audit Office to coordinate and approve procedures and recommendations on financing elections and referenda and remuneration of election commissioners and members of referendum commissions. The CEC also worked on controlling referendum funds with the National Bank of Ukraine, the Ministry of Finance and the National Agency for Prevention of Corruption.

08

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

8. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Regarding international cooperation, in 2021 there were:

- **18 online events;**
- **10 international trips** of CEC members and employees in its Secretariat;
- **11 face-to-face meetings of CEC leadership** with representatives of international organizations and leaders of diplomatic representative offices.

Proposals were prepared for expanding cooperation with **7 new election management bodies, or EMBs.**

List of events:

38
events

within the framework of technical assistance projects, “Ukraine Responsive and Accountable Politics Program” (URAP, Component III); “Ensuring Effective Participation of Citizens in Implementation of Reforms for Gender Equality,”; “Strengthening Legislative and Electoral Processes by Increasing Public Participation and Providing Technical Assistance” (ELECT); and, “Ukraine’s Advancement through Democratic Elections and Meaningful Engagement (UADEM),” which are being implemented by the CEC and IFES;

10
events

within the framework of international the technical assistance project, “Supporting the Transparency, Inclusiveness and Integrity of Electoral Practice in Ukraine,” which is being implemented by the CEC and the Council of Europe’s Office in Ukraine;

10
events

within the framework of the technical assistance project, “Enhancing Cybersecurity and Transparency of Election Processes in Ukraine,” which is being implemented by the CEC and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Project Coordinator in Ukraine.



Observer accreditation was issued to:

32 official observers

from **2 international NGOs** at mid-term MP elections;

51 foreign observers

from **4 international organizations** at the 2021 local elections;

4 observers

from **one international organization** for monitoring the collection of signatures in support of publicly initiated All-Ukrainian referenda and their verification.

A study visit to the United States was prepared and administered. During the visit, CEC representatives learned about U.S. best practices in administering electoral processes, established contacts with international partners in democratic governance, and studied technology in electoral processes, cybersecurity, voter registration, voting practices, countering misinformation and foreign interference, resolving election disputes and remote voting. Meetings were held with experts from U.S. government agencies, international organizations and



think tanks. The CEC presented the Ukrainian experience, declared its readiness to act as experts on electoral issues on the international stage and to promote democratic values in underdeveloped democracies.



In 2021, meetings were conducted with a delegation of the World Congress of Ukrainians in Ukraine and the Ukrainian Congressional Committee of America in Ukraine to present the Final Report on Local Elections Observation from October 2020 with the Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) to discuss recommendations provided by ODIHR based on election results.



Most important online events included:

- a symposium of the Association of European Election Officials (ACEEEO) on youth participation in electoral processes;
- an international virtual observation program for Indian parliamentary elections in April 2021;
- a meeting of the European Committee on Democracy and Governance of the Council of Europe on information technology in the electoral process;
- a webinar on implementing technology in electoral processes and a two-stage training program to increase competence in administering elections focused on promoting political finance transparency, organized by the Association of World Election Bodies, or A-WEB.

CEC representatives participated in the 30th conference of the Association of European Election Officials and its General Assembly meeting in Bucharest, Romania, where primary subjects were youth participation in the electoral process and financing campaigns and political parties.

09

INCLUSIVENESS

9. INCLUSIVENESS

Providing inclusiveness continues to be an important area of CEC activity. It is a cross-cutting theme of the CEC's Strategic Plan for 2020-2025. Inclusiveness is among the CEC's guiding principles in implementing its strategy.

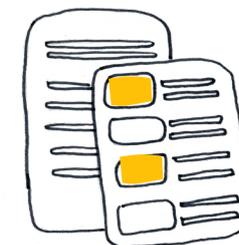


“The Commission promotes the removal of obstacles to the exercise of citizens' voting rights and their right to participate in referenda and engagement of the widest possible range of stakeholders in the electoral process in Ukraine.”

In 2021:

The CEC organized and conducted a meeting with representatives of local executive and self-government bodies on ensuring accessibility of voting and election commission premises. It was attended by more than 150 persons, including representatives of territorial communities and rayon and oblast state administrations.

The Working Group on Ensuring the Exercise and Protection of Voting Rights of Persons with Disabilities - established in 2020 - developed proposals for amending legislation on providing voters with reasonable accommodation.



9.1 Gender



“The Commission recognizes the importance of adhering to and advancing the principle of gender equality not only within the Commission, but in the electoral process as a whole.”

In 2021, the CEC actively addressed gender-related election issues:

01 Introduced a gender subsection on the CEC website in the sections, “2019 Early Elections of MPs” and “2021 Local Elections”;

02 Published gender analysis on its website. With IFES, it analyzed and visualized compliance with gender balance at 2020 local elections; and,

03

Organized and conducted 2 online seminars “Nondiscrimination, Inclusiveness and Gender Equality” for the CEC Secretariat.

CEC representatives participated in:

A focus group study on developing the IFES manual, “Men as Allies”;

The fourth scientific and practical conference, “Protection of Electoral Rights by Administrative Courts in Ukraine”, organized by the Supreme Court in cooperation with the Council of Europe and other national and international partners. At the conference, research results titled. “Review of Case Law in Resolving Disputes about Compliance with Gender Quota during the 2020 Local Elections” were presented and discussed;

Implementation of events provided by the workplan of the international technical assistance project, “Supporting the Transparency, Inclusiveness and Integrity of Electoral Practice in Ukraine,” which is administered by the Council of Europe’s Office in Ukraine and the CEC. Council of Europe documents titled “Gender Equality, Balanced Political Participation and Representation”, were prepared and translated for publication.

Organization and administration of an online seminar titled, “Gender Quality and Application of Gender Quota in Local Elections”, for 70 members of oblast and rayon TECs. The seminar focus was TEC compliance to provisions of the Election Code on registration of deputy candidates included in lists of political parties’ local organizations;



10

TECHNOLOGICAL MODERNIZATION

10. TECHNOLOGICAL MODERNIZATION

The CEC Strategic Plan for 2020-2025 clearly states the Commission's readiness to develop and modernize its activities using the latest technologies.



In connection with changes to electoral systems, new and existing functions of election commissions at different levels are determined and expanded as are the rights of electoral and referendum subjects. A need has risen in creating and implementing tools for automation and information support of CEC activities, its regional and territorial representation (if it is created), lower-level election commissions and referendum commissions. Establishing the CEC's Unified Automated Information and Analytical System and introducing information technologies in election and referendum commissions will increase information transparency and accessibility on election and referendum processes; improve the performance of election and referendum commissions which ensures completeness, relevance and reliability of information on election and referendum processes; and, accelerates election and referendum commission vote-counting protocols and voting results.

Based on the experience of administering the 2020 local elections, the CEC and the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine designed and developed an application, “Documents Designer for Local Elections”, targeted at improving the quality of documents submitted to election commissions by political parties, candidates and observers. The program provides the opportunity to create, complete and test 56 different CEC-approved election forms. The application will help reduce errors and inaccuracies in documents of electoral process participants. Feedback from political parties and individual candidates that participated in local elections will be taken into account by the CEC as it develops the automated information system, “Electronic Services”, as a component of the CEC’s Unified Automated Information and Analytical System.



Equipment for simultaneous interpretation of the CEC’s meetings has been installed with the possibility of online broadcasting of the translation via the CEC’s conference system, Bosch Dicientis.

Another important development was introducing an **electronic document management system**, or EDMS. This is one of the CEC’s joint projects with the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine titled, “Enhancing Cybersecurity and Transparency of Election Processes in Ukraine.” Certain CEC documents are already fully or partially processed by EDMS tools and CEC Secretariat were trained to work in this system. In 2022, the CEC plans to fully switch to processing all documents in the EDMS.

e-doc

11

COMMUNICATION

11. COMMUNICATION

In 2021, the most important development in communication is that, for the first time in the CEC's history, work was performed towards developing the CEC's communication strategy. This resulted in a practical guide for CEC communications. The strategy improves the CEC's communication capabilities and create a unique and recognizable communication style. And, for the first time in CEC history, an internal communication strategy is being developed.

In 2021, the CEC devoted attention to developing cultural and educational events, including CEC participation in them.

For the first time, CEC members Olena Hataullina and Serhii Postivyi participated in the country's primary cultural festival, **BookForum (Publishers' Forum)**, in the panel **discussion, "Culture of Choice: How We Choose."** The other speakers on the panel were Yuriy Andrukhovych (Ukrainian poet, novelist, translator and essayist), Viktoriya Amelina (writer and author of books for adults and children) and Andriy Bondar (Ukrainian poet, publicist and translator). It was moderated by Andriy Kulikov (journalist and Chairman of the Board of Public Radio). Discussion participants focused on important issues of the culture of choice, conscious choice and importance of participation in elections. They discussed choice as an opportunity and challenge and elections as a process, not just an event.

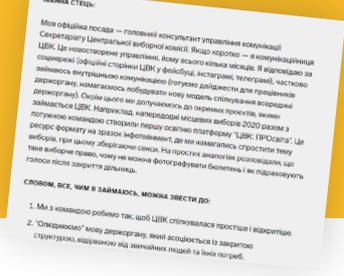


For the first time, the CEC participated in an event which promotes citizens' involvement and awareness about voting rights and elections and legal culture and awareness.

The CEC's communications experts participated in the panel discussion, "State Communications: UnWRITTEN Rules" (at the Lviv BookForum), along with other government communications professionals.



Materials about the CEC's communications were written by Bazilik Media:



Instagram



total coverage of posts on a page



times CEC stories were viewed

In 2021, a **Telegram channel was created**, announcing meetings and their results. The CEC also used this platform to distribute electoral analytical materials.

We conducted an analysis of audience interest in CEC content on its social media channels.

11.1 Social networks

While 2020 was a breakthrough year in external communications, 2021 the focused on content analysis in social networks as well as strategic planning. In addition to creating content, communication channels were analyzed and their effectiveness for different target audiences was determined.

Facebook



total coverage of publications



interactions



responses



total coverage

Most popular information blocks on the CEC's platforms include:

- Election information;
- Clarifications of the Law "On the All-Ukrainian Referendum"; and,
- Information and entertainment content.

On the **CEC's YouTube channel**, 105 broadcasts of Commission meetings were published.

25 928

number of views

Official website

During the year, **440 materials** were published on the CEC official website, including information reports, CEC meetings news releases, CEC meetings reports, conferences reports, CEC discussions and roundtable reports with participation of the CEC Chairman and members.

In 2021, the Chairman and CEC members provided more than **30 interviews and comments** on election and referendum processes.

11.2 Internal communications

“Internal communications” is new for the CEC. In 2021, considerable attention was focused on improving the culture of business ethics:

- Joint sports trainings and running races;



- Identification of opinion leaders and their meetings to discuss important electoral topics; and,
- Regular mailings of internal digests and collective viewing of Ukrainian films.

For the first time, the CEC joined the annual tradition of Ukrainian **Radio known as Radio Dictation of National Unity.**



19

WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

12. WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

An important area to which the CEC has been paying considerable attention is young people's involvement in socially important processes and it was not limited to social media. In 2021, CEC representatives initiated participation in social and cultural events of interest to young voters.

■ **On November 26, 2021, an excursion to the CEC for political science students** from Borys Hrinchenko Kyiv University took place. During the event, students from grades 1-3 were introduced to CEC history and learned about the Commission's work in the election and inter-election periods. Students saw unique archival photos and video materials from the December 1, 1991 All-Ukrainian referendum and the inaugural election of the President of Ukraine. At the event's conclusion, students asked questions about matters of concern to them and left their feedback, which will be taken into account when improving the CEC excursion program for youth. The most active students agreed to become CEC ambassadors on social networks, participate in the CEC's educational projects and promote the importance of choice and elections.



Within the framework of the CEC's joint project with IFES, university students of from different regions of Ukraine received three-month internship at the CEC. The objective is to engage young people in political life.



The CEC joined the All-Ukrainian presentation of students' civic action projects, **“DEMvision: Learn, Create, Change”**, as juror. The event was part of the IFES course on civic education known as “Democracy: From Theory to Practice.”

CEC participated in the live broadcast, “DemTalk: Behind the Scenes of Choice. What Does your Vote Decide?”, where students asked questions about elections. The event took place within the framework of IFES's civic education course “Democracy: From Theory to Practice.”

CEC members participated in development of an IFES-commissioned civic education course for vocational institutions. Students are told about the role of government and its citizens in a democracy; human rights and implementing mechanisms; interaction of government agencies and political parties; and, the role of civil society as a mediator between government and citizens for achieving collective goals.

The year concluded with an Instagram survey. With the support of IFES, the CEC developed an Instagram filter title, “What Was your 2021 Like?” It was entertaining content designed to reach as many users as possible - particularly young people - and promote elections.



13

FINANCIAL COMPONENT

13. FINANCIAL COMPONENT

In 2021, the CEC financed preparation and administration of the mid-term MP elections in election districts 50, 87, 184 and 197.

The CEC also provided financing of early local elections scheduled for October 31, 2021.

Name according to departmental and program classifications of State Budget expenses and crediting	Budget allocations, thousands of UAH	Subventions allocated from the State Budget to local budgets, thousands of UAH	Cash expenses, thousands of UAH	Remaining balance, thousands of UAH
 Administering MP elections	42 701,50		37 906,1	4 795,4
 Subvention from the state budget to local budgets for administering elections of local council deputies and village, settlement and city mayors	94 006,70	40 632,8	34 729,0	5 903,8



53 373,9 thousand UAH
the unallocated



10 699,2 thousand UAH
unused

funds in the budgets list above were returned at the conclusion of the budget year to the State Budget.

Oversight of MP Candidates' Electoral Funds in Single-member Election Districts

In accordance with election legislation, the CEC **publishes reports** on receipt and use of resources of the election funds of MP candidates in single-member election districts.

At the MP mid-term election on **March 28, 2021** in Election District 50, the CEC published on its official website **16 intermediate** and **14 final** financial reports on receipt and use of resources in candidates' electoral funds while 19 candidates were registered in the election district.

In Election District 87 on March 28, 2021 the CEC published on its official website **8 mid-term** and **9 final** financial reports on receipt and use of resources of candidates' electoral funds while 15 candidates were registered in the election district.

The reports were published in PDF format.

At the MP mid-term election on March 28, 2021:

the CEC Issued warnings for violation of the deadline for opening electoral fund accounts:



6 MP candidates registered in Election District 50; and,



6 MP candidates registered in Election District 87;

the CEC Issued warnings for violation of deadlines in submitting financial reports to DEC's :



4 MP candidates registered in Election District 50; and,



7 MP candidates registered in Election District 87;

the CEC issued warnings for violation of deadlines in submitting to DEC's final financial reports on receipt and use of electoral fund resources:



7 MP candidates registered in Election District 50; and,



6 MP candidates registered in Election District 87.

At the MP mid-term election in Election District 184 on October 31, 2021, the CEC published on its official website 11 mid-term (6 in PDF format and 5 in open data format) and 10 final (6 in PDF format and 5 in open data format) financial reports on receipt and use of resources of the candidates' electoral funds while 19 were registered in the election district.

At the MP mid-term Election District 197 October 31, 2021, the CEC published on its official website 16 mid-term (16 in PDF format and 11 in open data format) and 17 final (in PDF format) financial reports on receipt and use of resources of the candidates' electoral funds while 26 were registered in the election district.

At the MP mid-term election on October 31, 2021, the CEC:

issued warnings of the deadline for opening electoral fund accounts, to:



4 MP candidates registered in Election District 184; and,



10 MP candidates registered in Election District 197;

issued warnings for violation of the deadlines for submitting to DEC's mid-term financial reports on receipt and use of resources committed by administrators of current accounts of candidates' electoral funds **to:**



4 MP candidates registered in Election District 184; and,



9 MP candidates registered in Election District 197;

issued warnings for violation of deadlines for submitting to DEC's of final financial reports on receipt and use of resources committed by administrators of current accounts of candidates' electoral funds **to:**



5 MP candidates registered in Election District 184; and,

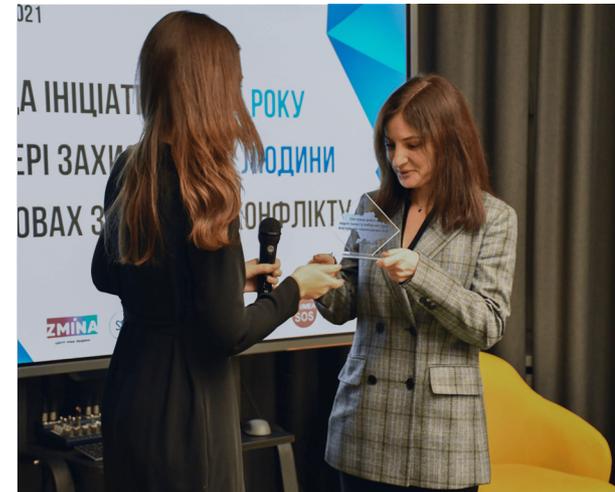


8 MP candidates registered in Election District 197.

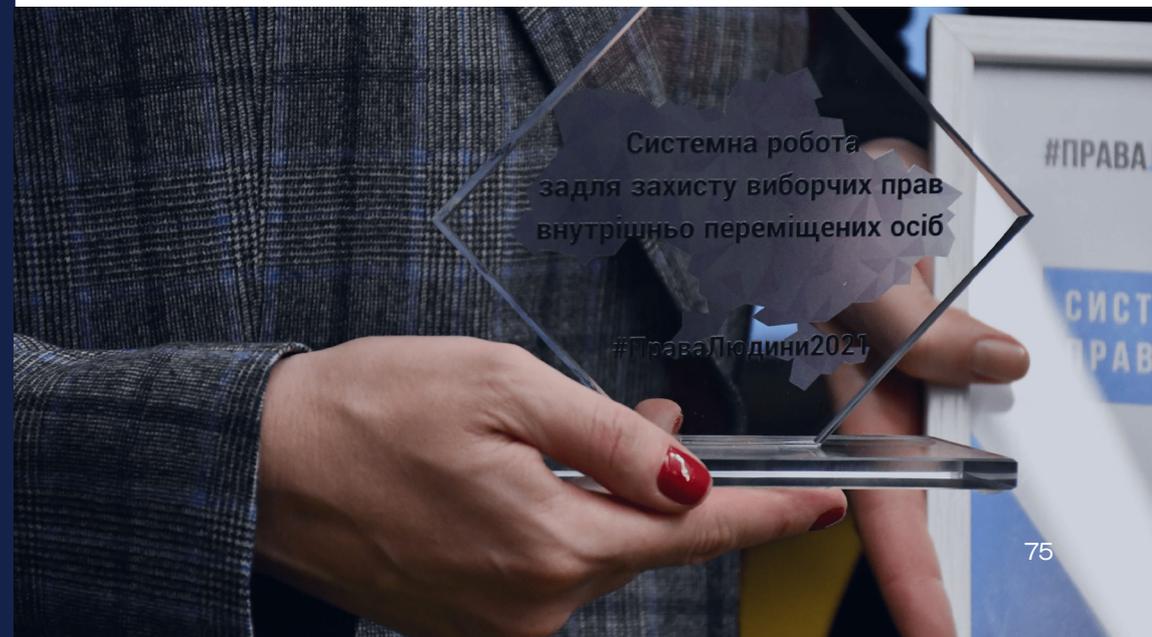
14 PRIZES

14. PRIZES

On December 9, on the eve of International Human Rights Day, the CEC participated in the event, **“Drivers of Change: Best War Victims Protection Initiatives of 2021.”** The event was organized for the first time by the Coalition of Nongovernmental Organizations for the Protection of Victims of Armed Conflict.



Awards were presented for best human rights initiatives – projects organized by various government agencies in 2021. The CEC received the award in the category, “Systematic Work to Protect Voting Rights of Internally Displaced Persons.”





Maria Krasnenko, an attorney for the “Public Holding ‘GROUP OF INFLUENCE”, said: “The CEC knows better than anyone that every vote is important and every vote has influence. The prize awarded to the CEC symbolizes systematic work and readiness to actively promote adoption, implementation and sustainability of the procedure for changing the election address. We are grateful for the work done and look forward to common changes in the interests of further ensuring individual rights. We are confident that changes are possible and we are doing our best to ensure that they take place in synergy.” CEC Secretary Olena Hataullina noted: “It is very pleasant to be praised so highly for the work of the Commission and to receive the award from the hands of none other than NGO representatives. I would like to emphasize the active role of field-specific NGOs in advocacy for issues pertaining to protection of voting rights. Ensuring the exercise of voting rights of the citizens of Ukraine and protection of those rights are always a priority in the activities of the Central Election Commission.”

The CEC’s Secretariat won third place in the National Agency of Ukraine for Civil Service Best Practices in Personnel Management competition. The CEC award is in the category “Best Practice of Involving Young People in Public Service.”



“Working with people is one of the hardest and at the same time most interesting activities,” said Tetyana Usachova, Head of the Personnel Department of the CEC Secretariat. “Especially working with young people. Our civil service is becoming more progressive and open. And, in the main, it is because of the youth. Therefore, it is particularly pleasant to receive the award in this category. And our plans are not to stop, to actively move on and become even better.”

Other Awards Received in 2021



18 employees
Note of Acknowledgement from the Prime Minister of Ukraine;



6 employees
Certificates from the Verkhovna Rada;



13 employees
Certificates of Merit from the Cabinet of Ministers;



2 employees
Certificates of Merit from the Verkhovna Rada.



6 employees
Gifts from the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada;



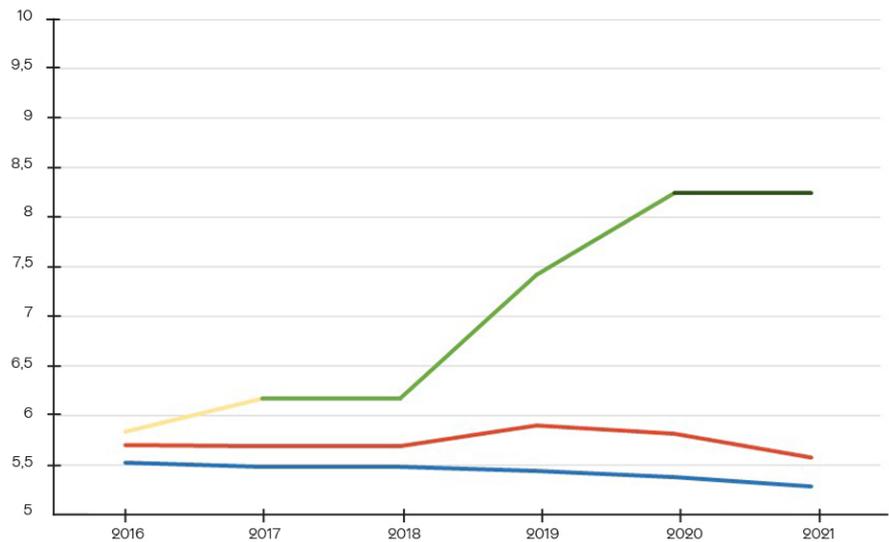
Honorary Title “Honored Economist of Ukraine” – **Natalia Ivanivna Vadimova.**



Medal “For Work and Prowess” – **Olha Oleksiyivna Kyryan**

This is what 2021 was like for the CEC - positive growth of Ukraine's reputation in general and the CEC in particular.

In recent years there was a significant increase in the level of electoral process and pluralism in Ukraine. Every year, the Economist Intelligence Unit publishes an annual rating - **the Democracy Index**.



Global Democracy Index Democracy Index in Ukraine Electoral process and pluralism in Ukraine
 Hybrid regimes
 Flawed democracies
 Full democracies

*The Economist

In the category, Electoral Process and Pluralism, Ukraine received 8.25 out of the maximum 10 points for the second consecutive year.



Scores in the range of 8-10 are typical for a full-fledged democracy; and, according to that index, Ukraine is among the most democratic countries in the world. This shows that Ukraine and the CEC are on the right track. The CEC continues to work on changes to the Election Code and issuing bylaws as required by the Law On the All-Ukrainian Referendum adopted in 2021.

And, the CEC is confidently moving forward.



In 2022, the CEC will focus on:

- Further strengthening the CEC's institutional capacity (implementation of the CEC's Unified Automated Information and Analytical System concept and e-services);
- Ensuring operation of the Center for Electoral Process Participants Training; and,
- Providing greater openness, transparency and efficiency in external communication.

To be continued!