

REPORT



2022

CENTRAL
ELECTION
COMMISSION

”

I will start with what I am clearly aware of: It is possible that this report would never have been written. We owe its existence to the Armed Forces of Ukraine, for it was the protection they provided that enabled us to function, work, and do everything we could to maintain the present and take care of Ukraine's democratic future.

“2022 was undoubtedly the most difficult in independent Ukraine's history. Difficult for the country and difficult for the Central Election Commission. Nevertheless, we, like other governmental and nongovernmental institutions and all Ukrainians, worked for Ukraine each and every day to the sound of exploding shells and with or without power. Indeed, much work lies ahead after victory: Elections that were scheduled this year and those planned for later dates in the liberated territories.

Our annual report covers the Central Election Commission's work and preparation for post-war elections during Ukraine's most challenging year.”

*CEC Chair,
Oleh Didenko*



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*The Commission's
work during the war.*

**BEGINNING OF THE FULL-
SCALE INVASION AND THE
COMMISSION'S APPEALS TO
THE WORLD TO DISCONTINUE
COOPERATION WITH russia AND
belarus**

On February 24, CEC representatives intended to participate in a webinar **“Protection of Democracy in Ukraine Is Protection of Democracy Worldwide.”** But it did not happen because early in that morning a full-scale attack was launched by Russia on democracy in Ukraine – an attack on global democratic values. Russia initiated an undeclared war against independent Ukraine.



With the roar of enemy aircraft and sounds of exploding missiles in the background, nearly all CEC employees got together in the premises of the CEC. Ukraine’s President declared martial law in our country which was immediately approved by the Verkhovna Rada. The Commission conducted an urgent meeting where it decided **to stop the electoral processes of all elections and the processes of initiation of all-Ukrainian referendums.**

Indeed, pursuant to Part One, Article 19 of the Law of Ukraine, “On the Legal Regime of Martial Law,” it is illegal to hold national and local elections and national and local referenda in martial law conditions. Article 20 of the Law of Ukraine, “On the All-Ukrainian Referendum” establishes restrictions on announcing and administering national referenda in the event of the imposition of martial law or state of emergency throughout the country or in local Ukrainian communities.



At that time, more than 100 electoral processes were in progress: Early and repeat local elections, the March 27, 2022 scheduled midterm parliamentary election in Single-Member District 206 and the process of initiating national referenda. A decision was made to temporarily suspend operation of the State Voter Register for the martial law period to protect the integrity of its database; protect personal data stored in that database; unauthorized access and use; and, ensure cyber protection.



In the early days of the full-scale invasion, the Commission began active international-level communication. It called on international organizations practicing democratic values and involved in administration of elections as well as election management bodies of other countries to:

Isolate russia and belarus from participating in specialized organizations;

Halt cooperation with election management bodies of russia and belarus;

Prevent membership of russia and belarus in international institutions until democracy in that country has been restored.

It was not long before the democratic world reacted. Poland was the first to respond. The State Election Commission of Poland announced it was terminating contacts with russian electoral institutions and that it decided “not to participate in the work of organizations which can incorporate bodies of states whose activities are grossly at odds with democratic values and violate human rights.”



In response to the Commission’s call, voting was organized in the Association of European Election Officials, the ACEEEO, without russian and belarusian EMBs. But, ACEEEO member countries did not vote to expel the EMBs of russia and belarus.



Ukraine’s CEC could not remain in the same organization as and tolerate the presence of undemocratic member countries. Ukraine’s CEC withdrew from the ACEEEO. The State Election Commission of Poland and the State Election Commission of Slovenia also announced their withdrawal from ACEEEO. They were followed by the State Election Commission Croatia and the Central Election Commission of Lithuania. These withdrawals led to the eventual dissolution of ACEEEO. Negotiations are underway regarding creation of a new pan-European association of EMBs. The Ukrainian CEC position is categorical: The new organization must not include EMBs of countries whose governments are openly undemocratic and violate fundamental norms of international law.

The Commission's
work during the war.

**russian RSEUDO-REFERENDUM AS
A GROSS ENCROACHMENT ON THE
WORLD DEMOCRATIC ORDER: CEC'S
REACTION**

After seizing Ukrainian territories, Russia immediately tried to legitimize these land-grabs through so-called referenda. Since the beginning of March 2022, there have been regular “news reports” about holding pseudo-referenda in temporarily occupied Ukrainian territory. The Russian aggressor needs this for “TV stories” justifying the bloody war in Ukraine.

The CEC responds to these reports by explaining that such pseudo-referenda are illegal and organizing and participating in them incurs criminal liability. The Commission calls on residents of temporarily occupied territories to not collaborate with the Russian state.

Meanwhile, the CEC receives inquiries from members of Territorial Election Commissions in territories occupied by Russian troops. The TECs are asked to suspend their further operations in connection with martial law and in view of the risks to the life and health of commissioners and their families.

The Russian invaders force TEC members to engage in illegal activities related to organizing and holding illegal referenda.

On **April 4, 2022**, the Commission established that in certain territories of Ukraine where Russian armed forces were posted **the powers and activities of the TEC and their members were suspended** for the martial law period because of the presence of a threat to public safety and order, the life and health of members of election commissions and the potential organization and administration of an illegal referendum or election by Russia.

On July 15,

the CEC adopted a resolution approving its statement and asked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to bring the statement to the attention of countries and international organizations. Specifically, the CEC called on the international community to:

! Condemn Russian attempts to administer pseudo-referenda in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine;

✗ Not provide any form of support to pseudo-referenda organization;

✗ Not recognize any results of such “expressions of popular will”;

! Apply personal economic and other restrictive measures, or sanctions, against russian citizens involved in organizing activities related to preparing and holding pseudo-referenda; and,

! Step up political and diplomatic pressure on russia and provide clear signals that it will inevitably face negative consequences for an attempt to illegally change the internationally recognized borders of Ukraine.

The Commission appealed to the Security Service of Ukraine, the SBU, and the State Bureau of Investigation to prevent the organizing of illegal referenda and called on Ukrainian citizens living in the occupied territories to not participate in the pseudo-referenda.

Референдум:

- ✓ проводить ЦВК відповідно до закону
- ✓ з дотриманням міжнародних норм
- ✓ не у воєнний час

Демократія

Псевдореферендум:

- ✗ фальсифікований
- ✗ нелегітимний
- ✗ насильницький
- ✗ не визнається демократичним світом

кримінальна відповідальність, санкції

ЦВК

On September 6,

CEC Chair Didenko spoke at a briefing with international journalists organized by the Civil Network OPORA and the Anti-Corruption Action Center that condemned pseudo-referenda on Ukrainian territory.

«This is dangerous, because a picture of the world is being formed in which **one state can seize the territory of another state, organize terror against its citizens,** hiding behind democratic institutions, legitimizing the seizure with an alleged referendum»

«The actions taking place in the temporarily occupied territories **have nothing to do with the referendum.** There are requirements according to which, in accordance with Ukrainian legislation and international standards, a referendum is held»

«The pseudo-referendum of the russian federation is **a hidden encroachment on deep values,** it is the **destruction of the world order.** It is also a way of justifying war crimes and the war itself»

«By analogy with crimes against property, we have the **international robbery.** We are being robbed of territories with the use of violence. And they want to cover it up with the appearance of a referendum, actually a mention of a referendum»

Condemnation of these processes by the international community is important today, weapons are needed, sanctions are needed not only against russia as a state,

but also **against individuals who are trying to organize these referendums.**



A few weeks later, russia, violating international norms of the global legal system, organized an imitation of “popular will” in the temporarily-occupied parts of the Ukrainian territories of Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson.

The Commission immediately declared that visits by russian invaders armed with machine guns to people’s homes and sections of apartment buildings and “voting” without documents results “drawn” in advance have nothing in common with referenda in a democratic institution.



THE COMMISSION:

! Condemned illegal organization and administration of pseudo-referenda by russia on September 23-27, 2022, in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine;

! Emphasized that participation in the organization and administration of illegal referenda is a criminal offense;

! Called on the international community to condemn the actions of russia and its occupying administrations, not recognize results of pseudo-referenda and support quick termination of the occupation of Ukrainian territories by russia; and,

! Called on election management bodies in democratic countries and international organizations to stop cooperation with russia and its government organizations, terminate russia’s membership in international institutions and prevent participation of its citizens in election observation as international monitors.

The CEC adopted three resolutions substantiating invalidity of the pseudo-referenda.

For nine months, the Commission called on the world to not recognize results of the pseudo-expressions of popular will and apply personal economic and other restrictive measures, or sanctions, against russian citizens involved in organizing and administering the pseudo-referenda. The CEC proposed stepping up political and diplomatic pressure on russia and providing clear signals that it will face negative consequences for another attempt to illegally change the internationally recognized borders of Ukraine.

Diplomatic pressure from Ukrainian state and governmental organizations yielded immediate results. Within a month after the russian pseudo-referenda, Australia, the European Union, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the United States, Switzerland and Japan introduced more than 600 personal restrictions, the vast majority of which were administered against russian state дума members and russian central election commissioners involved in the pseudo-referenda administration in the temporarily occupied Ukrainian territories.

Meanwhile, the SBU announced collaboration suspicions against more than 50 officials for organizing “the expression of popular will.” The SBU warned there is no statute of limitations for crimes against the foundations of Ukraine’s national statehood and the guilty will be held accountable before the law.



DURING UKRAINIAN'S YEAR OF TRIAL, THE CEC ADOPTED NON- STANDARD DECISIONS:

A resolution **“On Certain Issues of the Activities during the Martial Law Period of the Territorial Election Commissions Engaged in Preparing and Conducting Local Elections,”** which suspended activities and authority of TECs and their members in certain territories of Ukraine occupied by russian forces for the martial law period;

A resolution on **the impossibility to call mid-term elections of MPs** because of martial law;

Not recognizing candidates on the electoral list of a political party prohibited by a court to field Verkhovna Rada candidates in the proportional party-list component of future parliamentary elections.; and,

Proposals for administering elections after the war. Post-war realities can significantly complicate organization and administration of voting. At present, the CEC mandate is to prepare for the country's most difficult voting after victory.



THE GREATEST CHALLENGES FOR FUTURE ELECTIONS ARE:

1.

Movement of millions of Ukrainians within the country and from abroad. For these voters, the right to vote and to be elected must be ensured.

2.

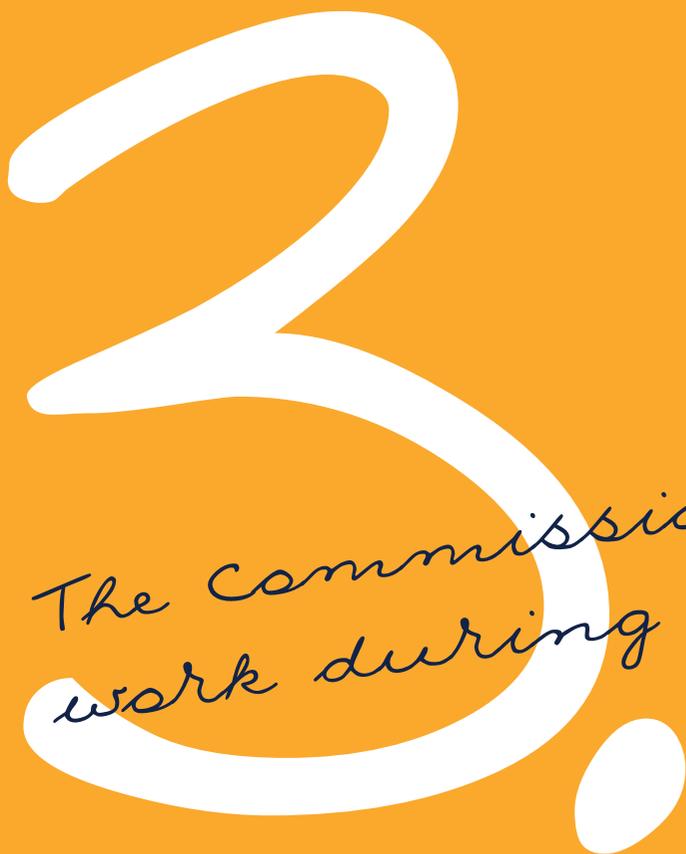
Destroyed voting infrastructure means absence of premises for operation of election commissions and conducting elections.

3.

Outdated voter registers in a significant number of territories. Regarding preparation for elections, Ukraine has different types of territories - those that are or were occupied and those are not and have not been occupied. Territories will require different timeframes for creating election conditions.

The CEC considers it prudent to start, at the level of a Verkhovna Rada committee, to conduct a broad discussion of post-war elections among all stakeholders including civil society representatives and international experts.

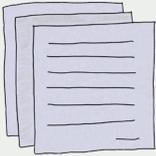
The CEC proposes a series of changes to election legislation.



*The Commission's
work during the war.*

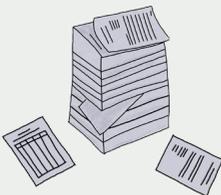
FIGURES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

DESPITE THE FULL-SCALE WAR, WORK IN THE COMMISSION CONTINUED WITHOUT INTERRUPTION.



As of **December 31, 2022, 4,105 documents** were received, reviewed and registered.

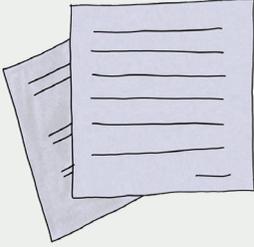
Before February 24, 2022, preparation for midterm parliamentary election Single-Member District 206 and local elections were underway. The Commission processed **141 documents** received from election participants during the period of preparation and administration of the March 27, 2022 midterm parliamentary election in Single-Member District 206 in the Chernihiv Oblast. **Seven hundred documents** were received from election participants during preparation and administration of early local elections in 2022 and **11 additional documents** were received related to administering a national referendum.



And, **1,247 outgoing documents** were registered; and 1,800 outgoing packages were formed and sent.

AND:

THE COMMISSION PROCESSED:

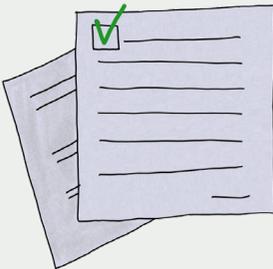


241 submissions from local branches of political parties nominating replacement candidates to Territorial Election Commissions;



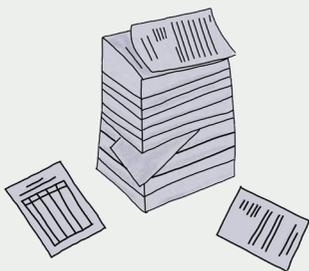
333 requests for information and **appeals** in form of applications and complaints;

THE COMMISSION PROVIDED FOR:



Processing **655 TEC decisions** regarding replacement of local council deputies within regions of Ukraine and information on local elections in accordance with the Procedure for Informing the Central Election Commission About the Course of the Electoral Process of Local Elections Approved by Central Election Commission Resolution Number 200 dated August 25, 2020;

THE COMMISSION REVIEWED:



40 complaints, 20 of which were returned to the complainants without consideration because of the complainants' failure to comply with legal requirements regarding form and content of a complaint. **Ten** were left without consideration on the merits, **two** were dismissed, **five** were withdrawn by the complainants and **three** were answered in writing. The aforementioned complaints were sent to the Commission by email without qualified electronic signature.

In 2022, the Commission **was a party to 45 court proceedings;** in **37**, the Commission was the respondent; in **eight**, it was a third party with no interest in the dispute.



In **five court cases**, a court of first instance dismissed claims against the Commission; in **two cases**, proceedings were terminated; and in **one case**, the claim was returned. The other court cases are pending.

One case was considered in 2022 regarding Article 273 of the Ukraine CAP. The claim against the Commission were dismissed.

In **18 criminal proceedings** pending before courts, the Commission is the injured party. In 2022, **115 documents** from judicial authorities were processed.

During 2022, the Commission conducted **39 meetings**; 26 of them by videoconference. **One hundred and twenty-two CEC resolutions** were adopted in 2022, including:

20

regarding organization of the Single-Member District **206 parliamentary** midterm election;

12

regarding replacement of MPs elected in the nationwide proportional party list component of the 2019 election whose mandates were terminated early;

15

regarding replacement of Territorial Election Commissioners responsible for preparing and administering local elections.

4
*The Commission's
work during the war.*

**CHANGES TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN OF
THE CENTRAL ELECTION COMMISSION
FOR 2020 - 2025 AND CREATION OF THE
TRAINING CENTER FOR ELECTORAL
PROCESS PARTICIPANTS**

In 2022, the Commission crossed the midway point for implementing the Strategic Plan of the Central Election Commission for 2020-2025. The Commission has successfully implemented planned activities as evidenced by positive reviews and awards.

The CEC was awarded the **International Human Rights Zero Project Award**. On **December 3, 2022**, the CEC and IFES Ukraine were declared laureates of the award for innovative practices in ensuring accessibility of electoral processes for voters with disabilities and these voters' active participation in political life. The award refers to a pilot project during the 2020 local elections and implementation of inclusive posters with QR codes for information and education. By scanning the code with a smartphone, voters with hearing and visual impairments are able to receive all necessary information about the electoral process in Ukrainian sign language and an audio format.

Rapid introduction of information technologies in the public sector, implementation of reforms, changes and improvements to Ukrainian electoral legislation – election and referendum law – and Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine prompted revision of the Strategic Plan and its update.

The Commission made changes to all five areas of the Strategic Plan: **Institutional capacity; quality and transparency; education; cooperation; and, technological modernization.** The greatest need for revision was in technological modernization because for ensuring accessibility, openness and transparency of electoral and referendum processes the legislation provides for use of automated information and analytical systems and introduction of electronic services in administering elections and referenda.

All of this cannot be implemented without building a new modern system that will function in line with the rules of information interaction and integration. Development and implementation of the Commission's information and analytical system is a larger-scale task than was envisaged by the Strategic Plan. Changes have been made to the Plan, taking into account the current security situation in Ukraine.

Although it is currently impossible to forecast the duration of martial law in Ukraine, the Commission works for the development of democracy and ensures readiness for elections which will be required to be called after the termination or cancellation of martial law in the country.

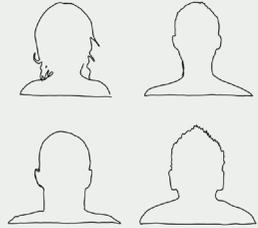


CREATION OF THE TRAINING CENTER FOR ELECTORAL PARTICIPANTS

PREHISTORY

Creation of, and support for the operation of the Training Center for Electoral Process Participants is articulated in the Strategic Plan. In 2016, the CEC and IFES launched the Training Management Center for Electoral Process Participants, also known as the Training Center. Over the past six years, due to resources and staff of the Training Center, with technical assistance from IFES, training and capacity building support was provided for Ukrainian election administrators and electoral stakeholders.

A total of **2,200 educational events** were conducted for 150,000 participants and the first-ever Ukrainian online education campaign was organized for thousands of election commissioners during the pandemic on the eve of elections. Within that period, international partners and election observation missions assessed the 2019 parliamentary and presidential elections in Ukraine and the 2020 local elections, describing them as demonstrating considerable progress towards achieving Ukraine’s democratic and European ambitions.



On January 14, 2022, the CEC decided to approve the Concept for the formation and operation of the Training Center for Electoral Process Participants and its establishment, as well as to approved the Regulation on the Center. However, due to the full-scale military aggression of the russia, the process of institutionalizing the Center is delayed.

The Training Center is designed to ensure the Commission fulfills its mandate to improve the legal culture and organize training of election commissioners and other participants in electoral and referendum processes.

The CEC will strive to make the Training Center the primary educational platform for organizing electoral and referendum processes and voter education. The Commission will ensure that, under its auspices, the Training Center continues to provide training at the highest professional level and render comprehensive support to election administrators and other stakeholders, while strengthening the CEC's overall capacity.

Unfortunately, due to the full-scale military aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine, it is currently impossible to start the practical activities of the Center. However, after our Victory, we will return to solving this issue.

T R A I N I N G O F F A C I L I T A T O R S

Due to russia's full-scale invasion, training and educational activities were suspended. However, a landmark offline event took place in November – a Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections, or **BRIDGE**. training session for facilitators, and group communications specialists. Participants included representatives of the Commission, international organizations, and specialists with experience in conducting training for election participants.

This event is being held in Ukraine for the second time. Previously, the pandemic caused by Covid-19 and later the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by Russia prevented the holding of such an event. However, in November 2022, a training session was held the purpose of which was to develop facilitation skills among participants and to understand the features of the application of the methodology for conducting **BRIDGE** training programs for election participants.

This is another step towards post-victory reconstruction of Ukraine, professionalizing those who will be involved in organizing, preparing and administering elections.





*The Commission's
work during the war.*

STATE VOTER REGISTER

On February 24, 2022, the CEC **suspended operation** of the Automated Information and Communication System **State Voter Register (AICS SVR)** for the martial law period to protect the overall integrity of the State Voter Register database; provide for protection of personal data stored in the Register database; protect the Register against unauthorized access, illegal use, copying, distortion and data destruction; and, ensure cyber protection.

SVR maintenance by Register bodies was also suspended for that period. The SVR administrator service organized work to protect the integrity of the Register's database, including its hardware and software.

REGISTER BEFORE THE WAR FIGURES.

Before February 24, 2022, AICS SVR took account of **122 submissions** regarding changes to the list of election precincts established on a permanent basis, which contain information on **582 changes** pertaining to **561 election precincts**.

Voter lists were prepared for **30 election precincts**.

General statistics **regarding operation of the AICS SVR** before martial law took effect in Ukraine are as follows:



287 924

Number of changes to voters' electoral addresses;



159 689

Number of changes to voters' personal identification data;



581 936

Number of processed entries of updated information;



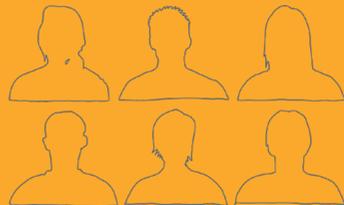
43 917

Number of processed orders to Register maintenance departments;



57 712

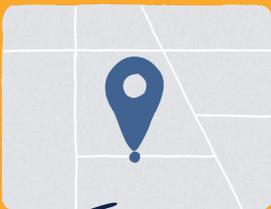
Number of newly enfranchised voters;



106 929

The number of voters who lost the right to vote:

Dead - **106 196**;
Citizenship of Ukraine terminated - **302**;
Declared incapacitated - **431**.



355

Number of new streets;



10 495

Number of new houses.

After 24 February

Activities of Register maintenance bodies and preservation of equipment transferred to them for ensuring Register operation were constantly monitored;

Information on problematic issues arising in the Register's maintenance and administration departments in the course of their operation was constantly collected and analyzed; and,

Consultative assistance regarding the Register maintenance bodies' operations under martial law was provided on a daily basis.



*The Commission's
work during the war.*

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

THE FOLLOWING EVENTS TOOK PLACE:

5

foreign visits by the Commission's leadership and employees of its Secretariat

Of particular interest was a visit to the United States for conducting meetings with international partners, seeking wider democratic support for Ukraine and assistance to the CEC through implementation of international technical assistance projects.

The Commission's members participated in the Third Meeting of the Regional Network on Electoral Justice of Europe and Eurasia in Skopje, North Macedonia and in the Second Symposium, **Foreign Influence on Democratic Institutions**, in Prague, The Czech Republic.

CEC representatives observed parliamentary elections in Latvia.

In Strasbourg, France, the Commission's delegation participated in the high-level multilateral dialogue, **"Good Democratic Governance in Ukraine: Achievements, Challenges and the Way Forward in the Post-War Period,"** the World Forum for Democracy and meetings with the leadership of the Council of Europe and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. The CEC was an important part of of Ukraine's parliamentary and government delegation led by the First Deputy Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada.



*Strasbourg,
2022*

THE FOLLOWING TOPICS WERE DISCUSSED:

How to develop good democratic governance in Ukraine in the post-war period?

How to ensure a gradual transition from military administration under martial law to civilian administration?

How to provide a democratic environment for elections and voting rights of citizens in post-war Ukraine?

The goal *of the multilateral dialogue*

is to reach consensus among Ukrainian national stakeholders on further actions to improve the legislative framework related to governance and elections in line with European standards and good practices.

The CEC spoke to:

Necessary conditions for holding post-war elections with a focus on security;

The large number of Ukrainian IDPs abroad; and,

Updating the Register and creating appropriate conditions for drafting and correcting voter lists.

10

online events with representatives of international organizations and EMBs from other countries

Before the full-scale invasion, within the framework of expanded cooperation with EMBs of foreign countries, Deputy CEC Chair Vitalii Plukar and CEC Secretary Olena Hataullina conducted an online meeting with representatives of the Election Authority of Sweden. Representatives of both EMBs discussed electoral systems and the status of election administration in their countries. Meeting participants shared their methods of countering cyberattacks and discussed ways to combat disinformation.

The Commission conducted:

Negotiations with countries' EMBs regarding prospects for establishing an Association of Election Management Bodies in Europe after the dissolution of ACEEEO; and,

Consultations with stakeholders on joining other specialized international organizations, particularly the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, or International IDEA.

The Chairman and Commission members regularly met with representatives of international organizations and top officials of diplomatic missions.

On March 28,

IFES President Tony Banbury arrived in Ukraine and met with CEC Chair Oleh Didenko. It was the first time that such a meeting was held in Ukraine. Mr. Banbury showed his support and commitment to promoting democracy in Ukraine. Mr. Didenko spoke about the Commission's work in wartime and discussed ways to provide support to the Commission in the present as well as after victory;



On June 10, Chair Didenko and OSCE Project Coordinator, Ambassador Henrik Villadsen, met;

And, regular meetings were conducted between Mr. Didenko and IFES Ukraine Country Director Peter Erben.

INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS



Within the framework of **six international technical assistance projects** jointly implemented by the CEC and international organizations, the planned results were achieved.

Together with IFES in Ukraine, in the framework of four international technical assistance projects, **“Ensuring Meaningful Engagement through Reform for Gender Equality”,** or EMERGE; **“Ukraine Responsive and Accountable Politics Program”,** or U-RAP - Component III»; **“Ukraine’s Advancement through Democratic Elections and Meaningful Engagement, or UADEM;** and, **“Advancing Disability Rights through Inclusive Law and Policy Development”,** the following was accomplished in 2022:

- 1.** The manual, **Training of Election Commission Members: Guidelines on Organizing and Conducting Trainings on Elections and Referendums** was prepared;
- 2.** Training was conducted for District Election Commission members for the scheduled March 27, 2022 parliamentary election in Single-Member District 206 in Chernihiv Oblast with a focus on organizing and preparation. The election included 12 candidates;
- 3.** The Commission shared best practices and experience in ensuring gender equality in electoral processes with international EMBs within the scope of activities of the International Association of Women in Electoral Management;
- 4.** On February 18, a roundtable titled, **“Legislative Support for Organization and Conduct of a Local Referendum in Ukraine”,** was organized to discuss the Draft Law, **“On the Local Referendum”** and the Venice Commission’s Draft Opinion on the Draft Law.

With **the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine** and within the framework of implementation of the international technical assistance project, **“Enhancing Cybersecurity and Transparency of Electoral Processes in Ukraine,”** the following was accomplished:

Updating software and content of the chat bot, “CEC on Elections”; and,

The Commission’s information and telecommunication systems and cybersecurity was assessed and recommendations were provided.

Together with **the Council of Europe’s Office in Ukraine** and within the framework of implementation of the international technical assistance project **“Supporting Transparency, Inclusiveness and Integrity of Electoral Practice in Ukraine”** (Phase III), the following results were achieved in 2022:

- 1.** An online presentation of the results of the research, **“Decentralization of Election Management Bodies: A Comparative Review of the Organizational Structure and Practice in Europe”**, for members and representatives of the CEC’s Secretariat;
- 2.** Fifty copies of 12 selected judgments of the European Court of Human Rights in electoral cases translated into the Ukrainian language were published;
- 3.** Analytical research was conducted on political parties functioning in Ukraine in the context of challenges of the war and post-war periods. The research is entitled, **“Functioning of Political Parties in Ukraine: Challenges of War and Post-War Prospects”**; and,
- 4.** Analytical research was conducted on challenges and prospects of balanced political participation and representation of women and men in the post-war period. The research is entitled, **“Gender Equality and Balanced Political Participation and Representation of Women and Men in the Sociopolitical Processes in Ukraine in the Post-War Period: Challenges and Prospects.”**

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events were implemented within the framework of the international technical assistance projects, “Ensuring Effective Participation of Citizens in the Implementation of Reforms for Gender Equality”; “Ukraine Responsive and Accountable Politics Program”, or U-RAP Component III; “Progress of Ukraine through Democratic Elections and Meaningful Participation”, or UADEM; and, “Promoting the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by Developing Inclusive Laws and Policies,” which are collectively implemented by the Commission and IFES.

10

events were conducted under the international technical assistance project, “Supporting Transparency, Inclusiveness and Integrity of Electoral Practice in Ukraine” Phase III, which is being implemented by the Commission with the Council of Europe’s Office in Ukraine.

7

events were implemented under the international technical assistance project “Enhancing Cybersecurity and Transparency of Electoral Processes in Ukraine,” which is being implemented by the Commission with the OSCE’s Project Coordinator in Ukraine.

3

international technical assistance **projects** were extended and submitted for registration.



*The Commission's
work during the war.*

COMMUNICATION

In 2021, the CEC focused on social media content analysis and strategic planning. In 2022, everything changed: What had been planned was replaced by anti-crisis communication. On February 24, 2022, russia’s full-scale military aggression against Ukraine began. And from that moment, there came a clear division into black and white. The phrase “not everything is so unambiguous” turned into a meme, because everything became more unambiguous than ever before. And, this applies to communication of all state bodies.

Restrained before the war, communication is now clear and steady, adhering to fixed and unchanging narratives and close to the people. What previously would have been perceived as impertinence today is a necessary component of conveying one’s position. And, without a position, there is no communication these days.

The Commission expressed its clear and firm position on all possible **platforms**:



THIS INCLUDES MATERIAL:

Based on results of CEC meetings about progress of organization and administration of midterm parliamentary elections, local elections and a publicly initiated all-Ukrainian referendum;

Based on results of participation of the CEC’s leadership and members in international meetings and political events;

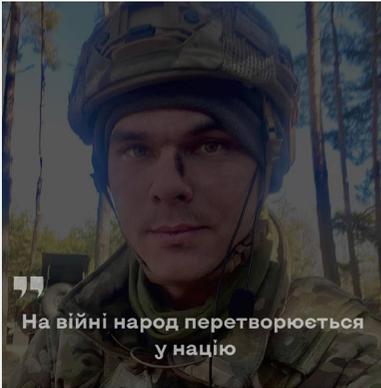
Regarding illegality of conducting pseudo-referenda in the temporarily occupied territories and the fraudulence of their results;

Regarding criminal liability for acting as a mercenary, collaborationism and liability for violations of international law related to the civilian population;

Dedicated to the Independence Day of Ukraine; and,

Dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the CEC.

In March, the CEC started a social media rubric on Russia's war crimes called, "Rules of Life," in which stories were posted about the Commission's employees who joined the ranks of the Armed Forces and colleagues who became volunteers.



AUDIENCE OF THE POSTED MATERIALS



103 514
posts

29 287
stories



167 904
audience reached

40 097
page visits



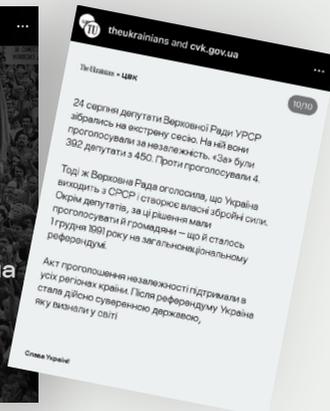
46 311

Audience reached by Telegram posts

Despite difficulties and obstacles, the CEC focused on implementing educational projects in cooperation with the news media. We started a personal opinion column in the Internet publication *Ukrainska Pravda*.

One project was the multimedia project, **“Chosen/Achieved by the People”** which was created together with the Ukrainian media outlet, *The Ukrainians*. Our goal was to deepen knowledge of current and future voters about democracy in Ukraine through choice and responsibility as exemplified by Ukraine declaring its independence in 1991.

Using texts, photographs, video and audio recordings, the CEC showed those who chose independence for Ukraine; their vital interests; their beliefs; and, how they fought and what they struggled for. These are five stories of Ukrainians speaking about their choice.



OVERALL METRICS OF THE SPECIAL PROJECT

1898

users visited the website and interacted with it (listened to audio recordings, scrolled text and watched videos).

100+

users visited the website more than once.

13 minutes

A visitor viewed the website an average of

25 300

Interaction with posts.

103 000

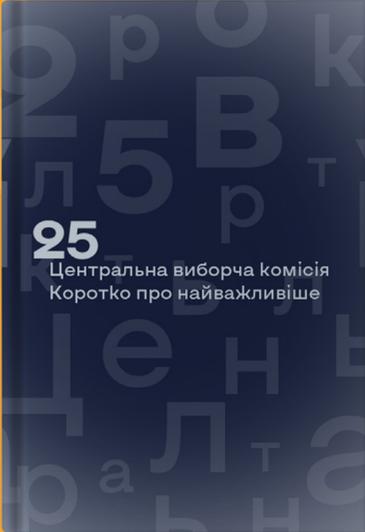
Social media coverage.

Within the framework of celebrating the 25th anniversary of the CEC, with “The Village” under the rubric **“Where Do I Work?”**, we presented the story of the CEC’s construction and its high-profile personalities: The Commission’s employees, who shared their memories of working and living in the building located at 1 Lesya Ukrainka Square.

We wanted to show what “goes on behind the scenes” of the state body and tell personal stories of people responsible for elections and referenda in Ukraine.



To communicate about 25 years of the CEC, we created an illustrated brochure in which we tried to show simply and clearly how the Commission started its work and what it is like today. This is the most concise account of the Commission’s history, work, major achievements and challenges.

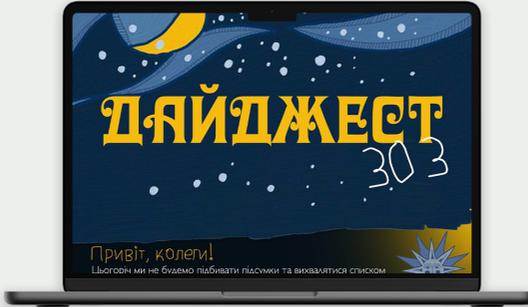


CEC merchandise was developed during the year. We created templates for hoodies, shopper bags, chargers and stationery. We made several variants of certain items for testing and then improved models. The CEC’s merchandise will not only become an element of its corporate culture. We want to spread our global messages and ideas through clothing, highlighting the importance of each person’s vote and choice. Its owners do not stay “outside politics” and they have never acted on the principle, “my vote decides nothing.”



INTERNAL COMMUNICATION

To support Commission employee morale, the CEC prepared and distributed internal digests. In 2022, there were eight.

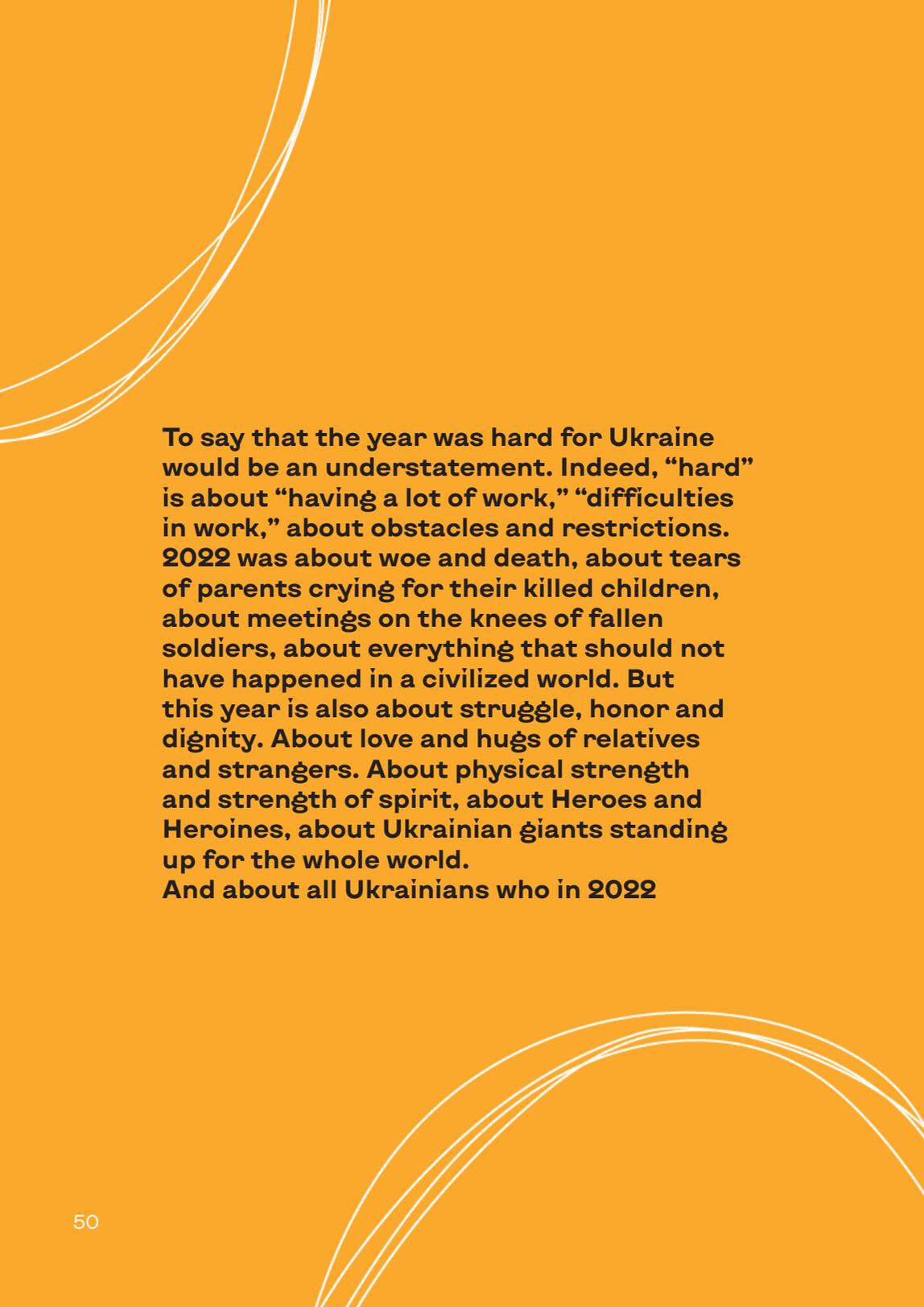


Considerable attention was focused on supporting the Commission's employees who defend Ukraine as members of the Armed Forces. A separate section was created, which from the first days of the full-scale invasion was responsible for covering needs of colleagues in combat. Through concerted efforts, CEC provides its fighters with everything they need.



The CEC supports our colleagues in the army, provides them with prompt information of the CEC's activities, shouts at the top of our lungs about russia's war crimes and calls on the world to halt cooperation with russia and belarus.

We work for our victory and communicate what we will do after victory.



To say that the year was hard for Ukraine would be an understatement. Indeed, “hard” is about “having a lot of work,” “difficulties in work,” about obstacles and restrictions. 2022 was about woe and death, about tears of parents crying for their killed children, about meetings on the knees of fallen soldiers, about everything that should not have happened in a civilized world. But this year is also about struggle, honor and dignity. About love and hugs of relatives and strangers. About physical strength and strength of spirit, about Heroes and Heroines, about Ukrainian giants standing up for the whole world. And about all Ukrainians who in 2022

FOUGHT,



VOLUNTEERED,

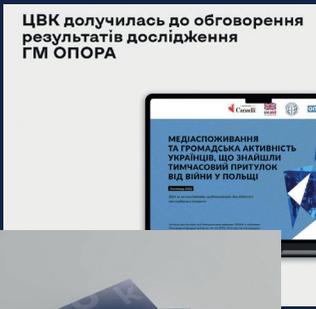


JOKED,



WORKED,

BUILT THE FUTURE.



Не коли, а як:

ЦВК про можливі зміни під час наступних виборів

Перші вибори після перемоги. Що ЦВК пропонує?

- Додаткові виборчі дільниці в Україні та за кордоном**
*тимчасово, під час проведення засталоформованих виборів
- Обмеження для спостереження за виборами**
*лише про осіб, які мають доступ до інформації про виборчі результати
- Організація і проведення виборів у тимчасових спорудах**
*на місцях, де немає постійних виборчих дільниць
- Безумовне фінансування місцевих виборів місцевою радою**
*кожна місцева влада використовує власні кошти, і гарантує фінансування виборів на місці



IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING, And for the sake of everything that lies ahead of us.

CEC

2022

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