

# REPORT



THE CENTRAL  
ELECTION  
COMMISSION

2023



**CEC**  
**2023**

**“The Commission  
dedicated significant  
effort in 2023 toward  
preparing for post-  
war elections after  
our victory.**

Everyone understands that  
the elections after our  
victory will be the most  
difficult in Ukraine’s history.



It will be difficult to ensure the right to vote for millions of internally displaced persons and Ukrainian out-of-country voters. We must deal with destroyed infrastructure, including 7,500 disabled and unusable polling stations, and outdated voter lists. Ukraine's postwar elections will receive global attention and it's crucial to administer them following the highest international standards to demonstrate our strong commitment to European integration. In 2023, the Commission continued its preparations for post-war elections by expanding on activities initiated in 2022. Winning the war does not end our struggle for freedom and democracy. We must continue to assert European values in post-war life, and one of the most essential tasks of post-war reconstruction will be winning the battle for democracy at the polls. The Central Election Commission worked in 2023 to prepare for upcoming challenges.”

**CEC Chair Oleh Didenko**

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Chapter **1**

**Preparing for  
Post-War Elections**



**/12**

Working Group 1.

**/16**

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Working Group 3.

**/22**

Implementation of European Legislative Acts (EU acquis).



# Preparing for Post-War Elections

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The war crimes committed by Russia have led to devastating consequences, including damage to critical infrastructure and forced displacement of citizens from their homes. As the elections approach, it is crucial to anticipate potential issues by reviewing electoral legislation and implementing systemic changes that promote the exercise of citizens' voting rights.

The Central Election Commission is optimistic that Ukraine will regain control over all its territory. The Commission is working tirelessly to develop the most efficient and practical solutions to conduct future elections according to the highest European and international practices and standards.

In 2022, the Commission initiated legislative recommendations for conducting post-war elections. The CEC worked closely with international institutions and civil society organizations to protect citizens' voting rights. The CEC approved the resulting provisions under **Resolution Number 102 on September 27, 2022**, and submitted to the Verkhovna Rada's Committee on Organization of State Power, Local Self-Government, Regional Development and Urban Planning for review and consideration when drafting laws. In December 2022, the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) conducted a technical assessment of Ukraine's capacity to organize voting abroad. IFES presented commissioners with a preliminary report that analyzed challenges and opportunities involved in administering out-of-country voting.

**In March 2023**, the Commission Chair ordered creation of **three working groups** addressing challenges related to organizing post-war elections. These task forces include members of the CEC and its Secretariat, Ukrainian Members of Parliament, representatives of state bodies, national civil society organizations and international organizations. The findings and other data will be used to tackle challenges facing future electoral processes in Ukraine.

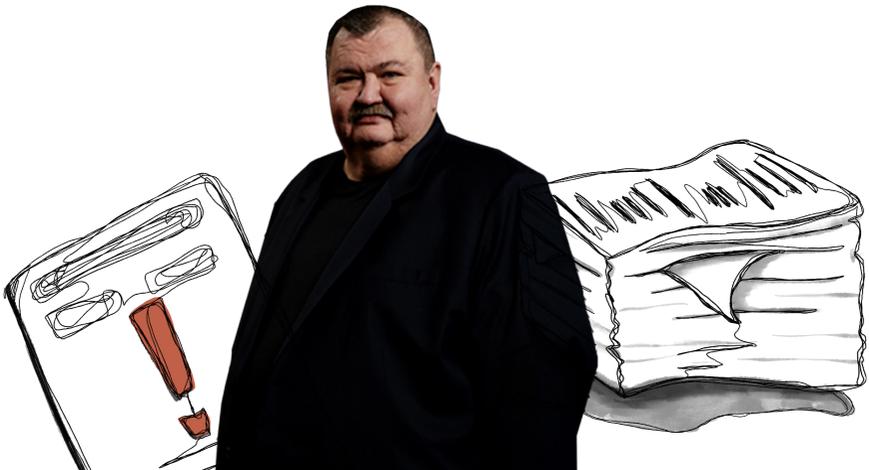


# /1

## Working Group to Develop an Action Plan for Organizing and Conducting Post-War Elections:

was created to determine a set of measures to ensure the conduct of elections after the termination or lifting of martial law in Ukraine. The working group's responsibilities include assessing actual and potential risks posed by the aftermath of Russia's large-scale armed aggression against Ukraine, affecting organization of post-war elections. Additionally, the working group will comprehensively analyze logistics and financing required for post-war elections.

**The working group was led by the Commission's Deputy Chair, Serhiy Dubovyk,** and involved Ukrainian MPs; government officials from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Defense, the Security Service of Ukraine, the Administration of the State Border Guard Service, the National Police, the State Emergency Service and the State Migration Service;



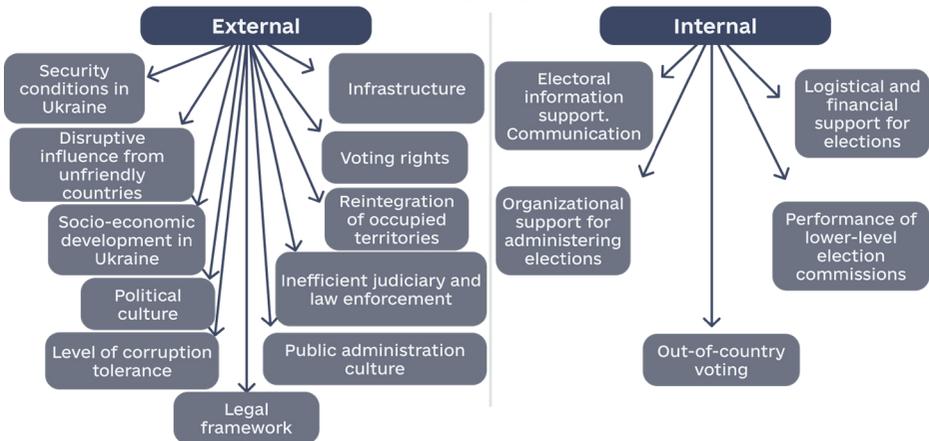
as well as representatives of international and civic organizations which included IFES and the joint IFES-CEC Training Center, Civil Network OPORA, the International Institute for Democracy and Elections/International IDEA and the Center for Political and Legal Reforms.

### **The working group:**

- determined the list of elections to be held under election law once martial law is terminated or lifted;
- compiled a list of material assets and services required for elections, determined printed materials that could be produced by election commissions at different levels and proposed alternative solutions for obtaining the material assets and services needed to organize post-war elections;
- outlined preliminary action plans for organizing and administering each type of election that will be conducted after termination of martial law in Ukraine, including organizational plans indicating all stages of electoral processes and procedures;
- compiled a list of cost items for organizing post-war elections by electoral legislation, indicating the entity responsible for each expenditure;
- estimated additional expenditures required to provide one Precinct Election Commission (PEC) with material assets and services to administer post-war elections in de-occupied territory. The working group estimated expenditures to provide one PEC with material assets and services, using a polling station in Zaporizhzhia Oblast as an example;

- developed a list of external stakeholders involved with the CEC and analyzed potential interactions with the Commission in organizing post-war elections;

## Risks



- considered issues related to procurement and contracting crucial for preparing and conducting post-war elections and drafted recommendations to amend the Law of Ukraine, “On Public Procurement”, to address specifics of the procurement process in elections and all-Ukrainian referenda;
- analyzed potential internal and external factors that may affect organization of post-war elections and performed a risk assessment to identify vulnerabilities and address potential negative scenarios in post-war election administration, including noncompliance with international standards for democratic elections and voting rights violations.

## Activities resulted in:

A risk assessment conducted to identify potential vulnerabilities affecting post-war elections.

Measures to mitigate the defined risks' impact on elections' preparation and administration.

Draft amendments to current legislation to regulate specific issues related to preparing and administering post-war elections.



## /2 Working Group to Establish Procedures for Updating Voter Data to Enable Post-War Elections:

was established to develop effective mechanisms for updating voters' personal information and create reliable and up-to-date voter lists for organizing national and local elections in Ukraine after termination of martial law.

**The working group was led by CEC Deputy Chair Vitalii Plukar** and involved Ukrainian MPs and government officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Reintegration, the State Migration Service and the Administration of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine. The Permanent Representative of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and representatives of international and civic organizations such as IFES, the Council of Europe in Ukraine, Civil Network OPORA, Group of Influence Civic Holding and the CHESNO Movement also participated.



From March through July 2023, the CEC conducted over **15 general and internal meetings** involving commissioners, secretariat staff and electoral experts.

Four subgroups in the working group were formed to study specific issues:

- **subgroup N°1** – developing mechanisms to update voter information of those registered on the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine as of 2014.;
- **subgroup N°2** – developing mechanisms to update information on voters who had to leave their homes due to the Russian full-scale armed aggression in temporarily occupied parts of Ukraine. This voter category includes individuals displaced within Ukraine (Internally Displaced Persons, or IDPs) and temporary refugees in other countries;
- **subgroup N°3 and N°4** – developing new approaches and methods to ensure compilation of voter lists; expanding options and procedures to amend voter lists, including election day; and, defining organizational measures to maintain the State Voter Register database, including specific procedures for active and passive voter registration.

**The working group analyzed and processed data along with recommendations from electoral experts to create a draft law regulating elections in Ukraine after termination of martial law. The group also suggested amendments to the existing Election Code, the Administrative Procedure Code and the Law of Ukraine, “On the State Register of Voters.”**

The working group proposed the following legislative measures to update voter information and ensure reliable and up-to-date voter lists for post-war elections:

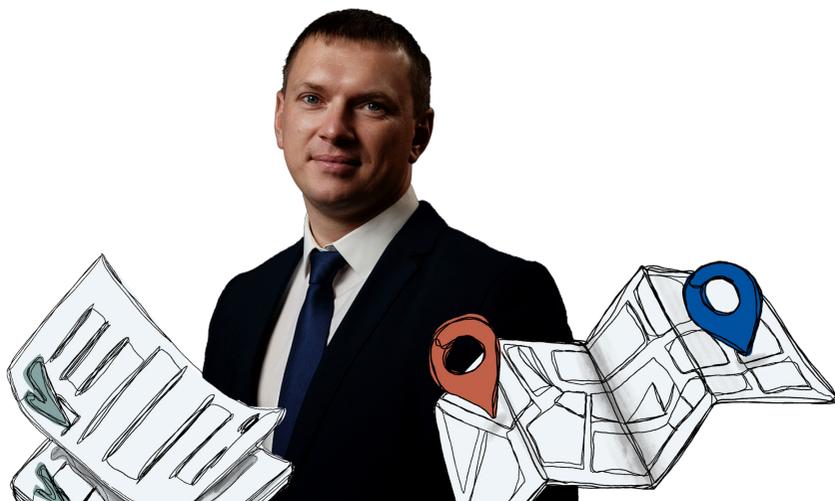
- citizens can apply for a temporary change of voting place without changing their official electoral address to participate in the first elections after the termination of martial law. However, this must be done before the beginning of the election process;
- foreign polling stations must provide active registration for out-of-country voters in the first post-war elections;
- special provisions will be implemented for a temporary change of voting place within the foreign electoral district without changing the voter's official electoral address;
- special arrangements will be made for military personnel to vote in elections at places of their temporary deployment throughout Ukraine.



### **13 Working Group to Develop Recommendations for Organizing Out-of-country Voting for Ukrainian Voters who are Residing or Staying Abroad on Election Day:**

a working group was established to develop methods and approaches to enable voting in the foreign electoral district after the termination of martial law in Ukraine and provide measures to enhance electoral rights by overseas voters.

**The working group was led by Commissioner Serhii Postivyi** and involved Ukrainian MPs and government officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Digital Transformation, the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, the Administration of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine and representatives of international and civic organizations (IFES, Council of Europe in Ukraine, Civil Network OPORA, Group of Influence Civic Holding and the Chesno Movement. Related organizations such as Ukrposhta JSC also participated.



**Four subgroups** were formed to study specific issues:

- **subgroup N°1** – developing recommendations to simplify electoral procedures and consider additional measures for increasing capacity at foreign polling stations;
- **subgroup N°2** – developing recommendations to introduce expanded personal voting at foreign polling stations for citizens residing or staying abroad on election day;
- **subgroup N°3** – developing recommendations to introduce postal voting for voters residing or staying abroad on election day;
- **subgroup N°4** – conducting a feasibility study on introducing electronic voting, or internet voting, for voters residing or staying abroad on election day.

The working group conducted a thorough analysis of international experience with regard to ensuring the right to vote for this type of election. Special at-

### Out-of-country voting

- A significant number of overseas voters
- Insufficient number of polling stations abroad in comparison to the number of overseas voters
- Complex electoral procedures that impact preparation and conduct of elections abroad
- Logistical challenges, including delivery issues due to absence of air traffic. Inability to deliver ballots promptly to Precinct Election Commissions in a foreign constituency
- The State Register of Voters lacks up-to-date information on overseas voters

tention was given to case studies on introducing remote voting, including postal and electronic, or internet voting. The subgroups developed and approved alternative options to ensure that Ukrainian citizens abroad can vote, considering the current situation of their mass migration which challenges electoral logistics and costs.

All proposed recommendations were based on analysis conducted by working group members within the framework of the subgroups with input of other stakeholders, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ukrposhta JSC and other Ukrainian and international organizations. The working group also considered conclusions of leading legal research institutions regarding necessary amendments to the Constitution of Ukraine to introduce early voting and ensure the principles of a free and secret ballot. Each subgroup created comparative tables to amend the Election Code and other laws of Ukraine and then presented approved recommendations.

Preparations for post-war elections are ongoing. Working groups' developments will be submitted to the Verkhovna Rada after discussion at the CEC.



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## Implementation of European Legislative Acts (EU acquis)

On June 23, 2022, European Union member states voted to support aspirations of the Ukrainian people towards European integration, granting Ukraine the status of a candidate country for accession to the EU.

This is the beginning of a long journey, which requires significant work, including reforms and harmonization of Ukrainian legislation with the EU acquis.

It is essential to note that democracy is a fundamental European value and, a crucial criterion for joining the EU.

European citizenship comes with specific democratic rights that member states must guarantee.

All citizens of EU member states are considered citizens of the EU. EU citizenship does not replace national citizenship, but complements it.

EU citizens have rights under European law, such as voting rights and running for office in local and national government and the European Parliament. Member states are required by law to ensure that citizens have these opportunities which national legislation must reflect.

The CEC, as an independent state body authorized to administer elections and referenda in Ukraine, ensure and protect constitutional electoral rights and the right to participate in referendums, joined the Ukrainian Government's effort to assess progress of implementing EU regulations.

The CEC responded to a letter from Olha Stefanishyna, Ukraine's Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, requesting the Commission's help in evaluating the progress of implementing EU legal acts in Ukraine. The CEC carefully analyzed certain legal acts to determine their compatibility with Ukrainian legislation:

**Council Directive 93/109/EC of December 6, 1993**, detailing arrangements whereby citizens of the EU residing in a member state of which they are not nationals may exercise the right to vote and stand as a candidate there in elections to the European Parliament;

**Council Directive 94/80/EC of December 19, 1994**, detailing arrangements for exercising the right to vote and standing as a candidate in municipal elections by citizens of the EU residing in a member state of which they are not nationals.

The CEC reviewed the analysis provided by the EU-funded Pravo-Justice Project and submitted recommendations, comments and observations to the Ministries of Justice and Foreign Affairs.

The CEC reviewed the analysis provided by the EU-funded Pravo-Justice Project and submitted recommendations, comments and observations to the Ministries of Justice and Foreign Affairs.

**On September 25, 2023**, a roundtable discussion titled, **“Toward the European Union: Harmonization of Ukraine's Electoral Legislation with EU Law”**, was organized by the Verkhovna Rada Committee on the Organization of State Power, Local Self-Government, Regional Development and Urban Planning and the IFES Ukraine.

IFES presented the findings of their research on “EU Election Law and Ukraine’s Obligations” to roundtable participants. The event was attended by CEC members, its secretariat, Ukrainian MPs, state officials, representatives of domestic and international organizations and researchers.

“Adapting Ukrainian legislation, including electoral legislation, to the EU acquis is an extremely urgent and important task. We must preserve the tradition of holding democratic elections. Changes to the legislation will also become urgent even after joining the EU. After all, along with membership in the European Union, Ukraine will face a completely new type of elections – elections to the European Parliament. Therefore, it is quite reasonable to start the relevant analytical and legislative preparation right now,” the Chairperson of the CEC emphasized.

Fair, transparent, and democratic elections in Ukraine, including the European Parliament election, must comply with the highest international principles and standards. Elections should ensure voting rights of Ukrainian citizens and citizens of other EU member states. If achieved, it will prove that Ukraine is a full-fledged member of the European community.

This ambitious goal in the electoral and referendum processes could make Ukraine a regional democratic leader and a model for its neighbors and other countries seeking democratic governance.

**Let’s unite our efforts and press the button confidently**

**CONTINUE**





## Chapter 2

# The CEC's Activities in Numbers





**/28**

Resolutions of the Central Election Commission.

**/29**

Adopted, Processed, Provided.

**/31**

Court Proceedings.

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As of December 29, 2023, the CEC conducted **/40 meetings.**



**/83 meetings CEC resolutions** were adopted in 2023, including:

**/19 resolutions**

on replacing Territorial Election Commissioners (TEC) responsible for preparing and administering local elections;

**/9 resolutions**

on early termination of MPs' parliamentary authority, including:

**/4 resolutions**

on registration of MPs of Ukraine;

**/5 resolutions**

regarding calling elections after martial law is terminated.

# Processed

**/9422 incoming documents, including:**



**/21** parliamentary appeals



**/73** complaints



**/162** requests for access to public information



**/303** applications for replacing TEC members



**/883** requests from law enforcement agencies for information on Ukrainian citizens



**/2792** documents regarding the State Register of Voters



**/2377** TEC decisions regarding replacement of local council deputies



**/2808** documents regarding the CEC activities of the Central Election Commission

## Provided

Processing and submitting **/2850 outgoing documents.**



Over **/2000 consultations** to TECs administering local elections.

The Commission reviewed **/73 complaints:**

**/23** - were returned to the complainants without consideration because of failing to comply with legal requirements regarding the form and content of a complaint,

**/2** - were sustained,

**/4** - were left without consideration on the merits,

**/12** - were dismissed,

**/10** - were partially sustained,

**/22** - were answered in writing, including

**/12** - referred to law enforcement agencies.

# Court Proceedings

In 2023, **/2 resolutions** of the Commission answering complaints against the inaction of the Lokhvytsia City TEC in Myrhorod District of Poltava Region were appealed to the court.



Also, in 2023, the Commission was a claimant in **/1 commercial case** involving a dispute over the provider's failure to fulfill its obligations under a supply agreement. The court fully satisfied the Commission's claims to penalize the supplier.

In **/4 court proceedings**, the CEC was a third party with no interest in the dispute.

Regarding **/3 previous cases** involving the Commission, proceedings were terminated. In **/1 civil case**, the court sustained the prosecutor's claim to redress the Commission for a criminal offense.

The Commission is the injured party in **/15 criminal proceedings** pending before the courts.

In 2023, **/188** documents from judicial authorities were processed.



Chapter **3**

**State Registry  
of Voters**





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# /34

Restoration of the State Voter Register.

# /35

Comprehensive Information Security System  
within the AICS SRV.



On February 24, 2022, with the start of russia's large-scale armed aggression against Ukraine, the CEC adopted Resolution Number 61 to protect the overall integrity of the State Voter Register database and personal data stored in the Register database and ensure cyber protection. **The Automated Information and Communication System State Register of Voters (AICS SRV)** was suspended during martial law to prevent unauthorized access, illegal use, copying, distortion and data destruction of the Register. The suspension also meant that State Voter Register maintenance by Register bodies was temporarily halted.

The CEC was guided by the position of the competent authorities, particularly the Security Service of Ukraine, which expressed reservations about the possibility of resuming the functioning of the Register of voters due to cyber threats arising from russia's temporary occupation of certain territories of Ukraine.

In addition, the CEC's prudence in this matter was conditioned by the enemy's information campaigns against Ukraine, disinformation waves, and information and psychological operations (PSYOP) to use the Register's data to conduct pseudo-referendums/pseudo-elections to legitimise control over certain regions of Ukraine.

Starting in 2022, the CEC has been actively working on resuming the Register while acknowledging the specific challenges posed by russia's armed aggression against Ukraine. This includes potential migration and voter registration issues that may arise after the war. The Commission also considers how the Register will function under martial law and the possibility of cyber threats from russia.

## **The Commission has taken measures to restore the SRV operation:**

- ensuring the proper functioning of the Commission's information technology infrastructure, including AICS SRV, with a high level of cybersecurity and cyber defense. This has been achieved through a clear division of functions between the structural units of the Commission's secretariat in 2022;
- enhancing security of the AICS SRV by collaborating with the authorities, including the State Service of Special Communications. The Commission implemented advanced technologies and information protection methods for cybersecurity and cyber defense through 2022;
- in 2023, the Commission worked on developing a Comprehensive Information Security System within the AICS SRV;
- the Commission conducted several technological tests aimed at restoring functionality of the Registry's telecommunication network. During 2023, tests did not involve processing voters' personal data. The objective was establishing a robust and integrated information security system for the AICS SRV.

The Comprehensive Information Security System for the AICS SRV underwent tests and was awarded a certificate of conformity which confirms that the system meets requirements for technical information protection. The certificate was issued in early December 2023 and registered with the State Service of Special Communications.

- the Commission conducted consultations with representatives of the Administration of the State

Special Communications Service, the National Police and the Security Service of Ukraine. The agencies were part of the working group responsible for ensuring adequate cybersecurity and minimizing threats in the Unified Information and Analytical System Elections and the AICS SRV established by order Number 65 of the CEC Chairman on December 4, 2023.

After consultations, the working group decided the Register could be resumed without providing electronic services or public access. However, as of December 20, 2023, the security policy outlined in the Comprehensive Information Security Systems' design and operational documentation must be applied to the CEC's information and communication systems.

The CEC and the SRV administrator decided to restore the system's functionality. This decision will enable periodic updating of the Register database under the procedure established by the Law of Ukraine, "On the State Register of Voters", and **CEC Resolution Number 83 of December 22, 2023.**

However, the proposed partial reactivation of the AICS SRV, regarding periodic updating or refreshing of the Registry database, will not involve the Registry maintenance bodies in the territories seized by Russian occupiers or ongoing hostilities.





# Chapter 4

## Inclusivness



**/40**

Project “Improving Voting Accessibility  
for People with Disabilities.”

**/41**

International Zero Project Conference 2023.

**/43**

Gender.



Inclusion is the Commission’s cross-cutting priority. Last year, the CEC Chair formed a task force to ensure that people with disabilities could exercise and protect their electoral rights. The goal is to eliminate barriers preventing citizens from exercising their right to vote, participate in referenda and involve as many stakeholders as possible in Ukraine’s electoral processes.

**In 2023, CEC Chair Oleh Didenko was appointed to the Barrier-Free Council by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.**



\*The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine established the Barrier-Free Council in April 2021 at the initiative of First Lady Olena Zelenska. Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal chairs the Council, an advisory body to the Cabinet of Ministers.

In 2023, the Commission initiated the CEC’s **headline project, “Improving Voting Accessibility for People with Disabilities.”** The project introduces smart accommodations at polling stations, helping people with disabilities vote without barriers.

Examples of reasonable accommodations and auxiliary measures that can assist voters with disabilities in completing their ballots include a Fresnel lens, magnifying glass, flat-print reader, online sign language translation services, headphones, an audio guide, Braille ballot overlays, audio and tactile devices. The Commission also suggests establishing barrier-free polling stations to ensure that all groups

of citizens can vote without any hindrance.



The Commission presented a project at a meeting of the Barrier-Free Council. The meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal, was held in Vinnytsia and attended by First Lady Zelenska. The project has been approved and is scheduled for implementation. An intergovernmental working group is currently working on developing relevant amendments to the legislation.



In 2023, Commissioner Serhii Posiviy attended the three-day **International Zero Project Conference** in Vienna, Austria.



\*Zero Project is a global and research-driven initiative to support implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The initiative has become an important platform for advocates for the rights of people with disabilities to improve their knowledge, professional communication and exchange of international best practices.

A panel discussion was held to emphasize the importance of accessible and inclusive electoral processes was addressed. Participants talked about how to ensure that people with disabilities have their voting rights protected. The accessibility of voting procedures has become a priority for many governments, alongside fairness and security.

During the panel discussion of inclusive electoral processes, innovative solutions were presented to ensure accessibility for people with disabilities. One of the solutions presented by Commissioner Postivyi was titled, “**Inclusive Informational and Educational Posters with QR Codes**” – the joint CEC-IFES Ukraine project implemented during the 2020 local elections.

By scanning the code with a smartphone, voters with hearing and visual impairments can receive all necessary information about voting procedures and liability for violation of election law in Ukrainian sign language in an audio format. The same technology was applied to posters explaining voting during the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on statistics, almost 6,000 voters with hearing and visual impairments have used this QR code

In 2022, this project received the International Human Rights **Zero Project Award**. The CEC and IFES Ukraine were declared laureates of the award for innovative practices in ensuring the accessibility of electoral processes for voters with disabilities and these voters’ active participation in political life.

The Zero Project focuses on creating innovative solutions to make living spaces barrier-free and promoting political participation of individuals with disabilities. The Project also introduces new information

and communication technologies. In 2022, 76 organizations and institutions worldwide were recognized as Zero Project winners for their contributions.

During the 2023 Zero Project Conference, **the CEC was presented with an esteemed international award.**

“The award from such a respected organization is a testimony of Ukraine’s high evaluation in the field of ensuring the voting rights of people with disabilities and marking the positive dynamics of our state towards the best world standards of democracy and equal rights of citizens,” emphasized Serhii Postivyi.

## Gender

- The CEC **joined WEM-International** during the International Association of Women in Electoral Management WEM-International’s Statutory Conference on November 8, 2023, in Prague, Czech Republic.

\*Women in Electoral Management-International, or WEM-International, is the only international association dedicated to promoting gender equality in electoral management bodies, or EMBs, at all levels. Founded in 2017 in Brussels, Belgium, WEM-International is an international nongovernmental, nonprofit organization that focuses on capacity building for women in EMBs, experience exchange and gender research. It aims to guarantee equal representation of women in EMBs and empower their participation in decision-making.



The CEC membership in WEM-International will enhance the exchange of experience and best practices among EMBs worldwide, particularly in gender equality. This membership will also increase women’s participation in the electoral process.

- **The Commission Chair attended the 7th Ukrainian Women’s Congress.**

With the slogan **“Women’s Leadership. Time for Recovery. Time to Rebuild,”** the event assembled over 50 speakers.

Commission Chairman Didenko and Ukrainian MPs participated in a panel discussion titled **“Women’s Participation in Ukrainian Politics and Decision-Making.”** During the discussion, Chairman Didenko discussed the importance of gender quotas in election lists. He emphasized that introducing gender quotas

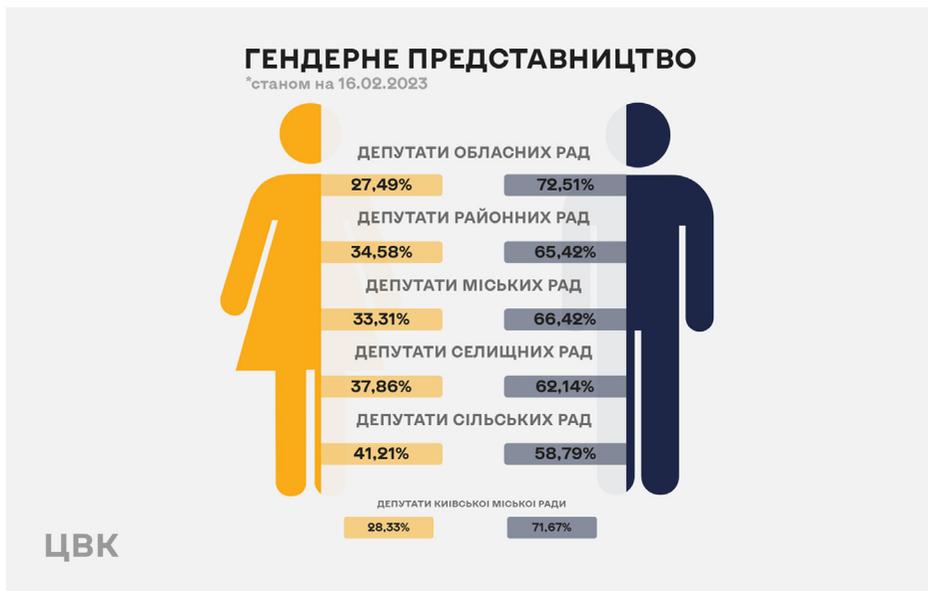
was a natural and necessary step toward achieving gender balance in the Verkhovna Rada.

He emphasized the importance of legislating the residency requirement and maintaining gender quotas.



- The CEC collaborated with IFES Ukraine to create **an infographic regarding gender of local council members at different levels.** This infographic was posted on the Commission’s Facebook page on February 27, 2023.

- The CEC and IFES Ukraine conducted a series of online webinars titled, **“Non-Discrimination, Inclusiveness, and Gender Equality as Crucial Components of Sustainable Democratic Governance and Post-war Reconstruction in Ukraine.”** Webinars for the CEC secretariat were held on Febru-



ary 9, 2023, April 20-21, 2023 and June 20-21, 2023. Another webinar was organized for TEC members on October 3, 2023.

- On November 16, 2023, CEC representatives participated in a strategic session titled, **“Supporting Democratic Post-War Elections in Ukraine.”** The session was organized with the support of the Council of Europe and focused on challenges and needs related to gender equality. The discussion also covered possible actions and measures that can be taken in the field.

CEC members, secretariat representatives, state and government authorities, nongovernmental or-

ganizations, political parties and international partners reviewed results of a situation assessment study conducted by the Council of Europe. The study, titled “Gender Equality and Balanced Political Participation and Representation of Women and Men in Social and Political Processes in Ukraine in the Post-War Period: Challenges and Prospects,” was conducted in response to the consequences of russia’s full-scale war on Ukraine. Recommendations were presented on providing support for Ukrainian society to overcome both old and new challenges. Participants discussed challenges related to gender equality in socio-political processes, prioritized and categorized challenges and explored possible mechanisms to address them.





# Chapter 5

# Communication





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# /50

Communication Focused on Preparations  
for the Post-War Elections.

# /53

Published Materials on Official Website  
and in Social Media Accounts.

# /54

Social Media Accounts` Coverage.

During 2023, communication focused on preparations for the post-war elections, their importance, and the need to restore the State Voter Register. Additionally, there were discussions about the illegality of Russia's fake elections in Ukrainian territories. **Parliamentary elections were the most significant topic of discussion among Ukrainians and the international community.** The Chair and members of the Commission actively participated in events organized by the Commission, the Verkhovna Rada, civil society organizations and international partners. The aim was to address challenges of post-war elections in Ukraine and develop ways to overcome the negative impact of the war.

— The Verkhovna Rada's Committee on the Organization of State Power, Local Self-Government, Regional Development and Urban Planning, Civic Network OPO-RA and IFES, organized:

- a roundtable discussion on **“Voting of Ukrainian Citizens in the Context of Large-scale Migration Challenges”** attended by CEC members, MPs, government representatives, representatives of national and international organizations and academics.

They discussed ensuring voting rights for Ukrainian citizens displaced inside and outside the country and voting of military personnel;

- a roundtable discussion titled, **“Ensuring Political Rights of Citizens Abroad and Security Challenges for Participation in Political Life in the Postwar Period”** focused on out-of-country voting and the security challenges of holding postwar elections. The event was attended by three commissioners: Vitalii Plukar, Serhii Dubovyk, and Serhii Postivyi.

— The Civil Network OPO-RA organized a discussion on **media consumption and civic engagement of Ukrainians in Poland.** Commissioner Postivyi, a represent-

ed the CEC at the event.

Participants discussed challenges for the upcoming elections, including:

- availability and access to polling stations abroad;
- lack of information about voting;
- prospects for introducing alternative forms of voting such as electronic or postal voting;
- observation at polling stations;
- campaigning, etc.

IFES in Ukraine organized:

— an online discussion, **“Protecting Democracy in Ukraine - The Way Forward,”** involving electoral experts.

The online discussion focused on Ukraine’s needs and priorities for democratic reforms after the war’s conclusion.

Participants:

Oleh Didenko, CEC Chair;

Olga Aivazovska, Chair of the Board – Civil Network OPORA;

Peter Erben, Senior Global Advisor and Senior Director – IFES Ukraine;

Oleksandr Novikov, Head of the National Agency on Corruption Prevention (NACP);

— a discussion on the future of the electoral system in post-war Ukraine at the Kyiv School of Public Administration named for Serhii Nyzhnyi.

The speakers at this meeting were Mr. Oleh Didenko, the Chairperson of the Central Election Commission, Mr. Peter Erben, Senior Country Director, IFES Ukraine, Principal Advisor IFES, and Oleksandr Novikov, the Chairman of the National Agency on Corruption Prevention.

The group discussed challenges of postwar elections and the most appropriate electoral system for Ukraine.

— The Council of Europe’s Directorate General for Human Dignity, Equality and Governance; the Venice Commission secretariat; the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; and, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, organized the High-Level Dialogue II event in Kyiv, titled **“Good Democratic Governance in Ukraine: Achievements, Challenges and the Way Forward in the Post-War Period.”** The Commission’s delegation included Oleh Didenko and Serhii Postivyi.



The Dialogue was a continuation of last year’s event in Strasbourg.

Primary focus of this year’s meeting was discussing perspectives for implementing democratic governance reforms in Ukraine. The Dialogue’s objective was to reach a broad consensus among national stakeholders on improving the legal framework for multi-level governance and elections. Discussions considered European standards, good practices and Ukraine’s status as an EU candidate country.

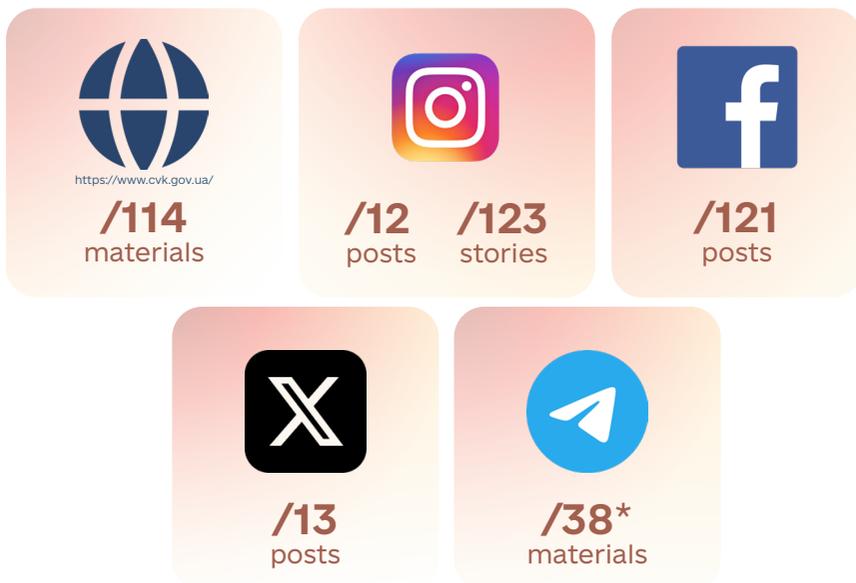
The CEC continued its successful practice of joint media projects.

The Commission published a column in **Ukrainska Pravda** titled **“Elections After the Victory: What Can Be Different.”**

The CEC and The Ukrainians online magazine collaborated on a project called **“Road to Elections,”** exploring post-conflict elections in different countries. The project sheds light on efforts of European countries to conduct elections under challenging conditions. Examples included:

- France in 1945,
- Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1996,
- Croatia in 1995,
- the United Kingdom in 2017,
- Ukraine in 2014.

The CEC regularly published materials on its official website and in its social media accounts:



\*In the summer of 2023, the Commission stopped using the Telegram channel for information security reasons.

To increase voter awareness about the need to amend electoral legislation for organization of post-war elections, the Commission published 50 materials on its official website and in social media. They covered the CEC Chair's participation in international events on post-war elections in Ukraine, experiences of conducting post-war elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, the CEC's working group activities addressing post-war election challenges and barrier-free voting.

The Commission's reports emphasized **the illegality of russia's fake elections in temporarily occupied Ukrainian territories** and called on the international community to stop cooperating with the russian election commission.

## Coverage:



posts

**/ 300 612**



posts

**/27 510**



stories

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Chapter **6**  
**International  
Cooperation**

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International Cooperation Focused on Ukraine's Preparations for Post-War Elections.

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Studying International Experience in Post-War Elections.

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Memorandums and Collaborations with International Partners.



The Commission uses the absence of elections due to martial law to strengthen international collaboration, establish partnerships, exchange knowledge and examine necessary conditions for conducting voting in countries where numerous Ukrainians have taken temporary refuge from the war. The Commission is collaborating with representatives of Ukrainian civil society to administer post-war elections abroad.

■ In March 2023, Commission Chairman Oleh Didenko participated in **an expert roundtable titled, “Protecting Elections”**, organized by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) in Stockholm. Chairman Didenko discussed the importance of safeguarding elections from external threats and highlighted the need to protect the electoral process from authoritarianism and dictatorship.

He believes that elections are an important indicator of a country’s political landscape. By analyzing the state of elections in a country, one can determine where that country is headed in the future.



During his visit to Stockholm, Chairman Didenko also met with representatives from the International IDEA.

Chairman Didenko held a briefing with representatives of EU

institutions in Brussels, focusing on post-war elections in Ukraine.

**Discussion revolved around defining and addressing challenges that may arise during administration of Ukrainian post-war elections.**

Several significant international meetings occurred in May.

Commission Chairman Didenko participated in a **parliamentary conference organized by the Parliamentary Assembly for the Council of Europe and the Swiss Parliament** with support from the Council of Europe.

The conference, **“Elections in Times of Crisis: Challenges and Opportunities”**, was held in Bern, Switzerland. This event assembled representatives of national parliaments, election management bodies, nongovernmental organizations and academics to discuss elections in times of crisis, including the impact of natural disasters, armed conflicts and the COVID-19 pandemic.



One session panel **focused on Ukraine’s preparations for post-war elections.**

Panel discussion covered appropriate timing and minimum conditions for holding national and local elections after lifting martial law, with consideration to security, the political environment, logistics and financial factors. Panelists discussed the need to establish standards for out-of-country voting and simplified procedures to ensure participation of internally displaced persons, including voter registration. They also discussed introducing alternative voting methods, considering the destruction caused to infrastructure from Russian attacks, including damage

to the electoral system. Experts emphasized the importance of carefully weighing the benefits and risks of using new technologies in the electoral process.

■ In the European Parliament, representatives from European election management bodies and other election experts discussed challenges surrounding Ukraine’s first post-war elections. A two-day parliamentary dialogue titled, **“Challenges and Needs for Organizing Voting Abroad for the Post-War Elections in Ukraine”**, took place in Brussels. The event was organized by International IDEA in collaboration with the European Parliament and supported Ukraine in identifying options for organizing voting abroad and facilitating further dialogue with authorities in host countries. The event included members of the European Parliament; representatives of election management bodies from more than 20 countries, primarily from the EU; international organizations; and Ukrainian civil society. The CEC was represented by Chairman Oleh Didenko, Secretary Olena Gataullina and Commissioners Serhii Positivyi and Volodymyr Perepelyuk.



During post-war elections in Ukraine, voting abroad poses the biggest organizational challenge. Ukrainian delegation representatives briefed attendees on the issue and discussed potential solutions.

During discussion, the group considered advantag-

es and disadvantages of various voting methods for voters abroad, such as postal, electronic and voting at polling stations. They also explored the possibility of increasing the number of polling stations abroad.

At the event, the CEC secured the help from the international community. The world pledged its support, promising to stand by Ukraine and assist in resolving the issues and challenges that arose from the post-war elections.

■ The Stockholm Security Forum included discussions on post-war elections in Ukraine



CEC member Andriy Yevstihnieiev participated in a panel discussion titled, **“Sustainable Democracy for the Successful Rebuilding of Ukraine”**. The event was organized by International IDEA. Presenters from Ukraine discussed various elements of

the parliament and executive branch, the importance of reforming the judiciary and the rule of law, the impact of the war on the electoral infrastructure and the status of voters. The expert discussions also covered implementation of recommendations necessary for Ukraine to attain EU candidate status, the state of democracy in Ukraine until February 2022 as measured by the International IDEA Global Democracy Indices and the overall situation in Ukraine.

■ The CEC, with IFES Ukraine assistance joined **the discussion on disinformation and election integrity**.

Commissioner Vitaliy Gren and staff member Yulia Dudnyk attended a meeting of the Regional Working



## Group on social media, disinformation and election integrity in Prague.

\*The Regional Working Group provides a stable platform for sharing experiences, developing skills and promoting best practices to counter disinformation and respond to crisis.

Commissioner Gren shared the positive experience of the Commission's use of social media for voter education and communication during the 2020 local elections. He also reported on challenges to engaging overseas voters, preparing for post-war elections and regulating social media in election campaigning.

With the support of IFES, Commissioners Viktoriia Hlushchenko and Pavlo Liubchenko participated in the OECD Global Forum, **“Anti-Corruption and Cohesion”**, in Paris.

Participants discussed political initiatives focusing on enhancing election integrity and combating corruption. The discussion was dedicated to Ukraine and its efforts to maintain its sovereignty and territorial integrity and uphold democratic principles, including Ukraine's efforts to fight government corruption.



Commissioner Serhii Postivyi recently participated in an international workshop titled, **“Cooperation in Election Cybersecurity”**, in Prague. IFES organized the workshop to develop national and regional strategies to safeguard election cybersecurity and ensure long-term integrity of electoral processes. The event assembled election management body representatives, partners in electoral technologies and other stakeholders.



In July 2023, Commissioner Andrii Yevstihnieiev and the Deputy Head of the Commission’s secretariat, Natalia Vadimova, participated in an international conference titled, **“Online Campaign Finance: Challenges and Solutions”**, in Chisinau, Moldova. The conference was organized by several institutions, including the Central Election Commission of Moldova, International IDEA, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe’s Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, IFES, the National Democratic Institute and the International Republican Institute.

Using social media and digital technologies in political advertising and election campaigning has pre-

sented new opportunities and challenges for all involved in the political and electoral processes. Online campaigning provides political parties and candidates convenient and quick access to their voters. However, some political actors' resort to illegal and harmful methods of online campaigning to gain an unfair advantage over their competitors and discussion was focused on addressing challenges in the field.

■ In October 2023, Commissioner Yevstihnieiev was invited by the IFES Regional Office for Europe to participate in the **“Electoral Challenges in the 21st Century”** colloquium organized by the French Constitutional Council and the Global Network for Electoral Justice in Paris.

Representatives from over 15 countries, including from the judiciary, electoral dispute resolution bodies, higher education institutions, government and election administration gathered to discuss and address major global challenges facing elections.

Participants discussed election campaigning on the internet, combating disinformation during elections and problems associated with political influence and judicial control over the electoral process.

■ In October 2023, **the Commission delegation visited Madrid to study Spain's experience conducting elections abroad. The delegation explored the feasibility of organizing voting for Ukrainian voters in Spain during post-war elections.** The visit was facilitated and supported by International IDEA.

Representatives from electoral and legal ministries in Spain have stated that their country allows opening of polling stations outside consulates and embassies,

which they have implemented for citizens in Latin America and other countries who reside in large numbers in Spain. As an example, 39 additional polling stations were opened for Bulgarian citizens during elections in that country. Spanish officials assured their Ukrainian counterparts they are willing to provide assistance to organize voting in Ukraine outside of embassies and consulates.

**During the visit to Madrid, Chairman Didenko and Commission members met with representatives from over 20 Ukrainian associations** representing most Ukrainians in Spain.

The delegation informed association representatives about the Commission’s work in organizing voting abroad and potential difficulties that could arise. Association representatives expressed their willingness to assist in organizing voting by providing venues and engaging people to work on electoral commissions. They also committed to widely disseminating information among Ukrainians about the procedure and specific aspects of post-war out-of-country voting.



— In November 2023, Commissioner Andriy Hevko attended the Council of Europe’s two-day international conference titled, **“Improving Electoral Processes and Elections: The Role of Training Centers for Electoral Processes.”**

Representatives from elec-

tion management bodies and electoral training centers from Council of Europe member countries, the Council of Europe's Venice Commission, and international nongovernmental organizations assembled to share their experiences and discuss the importance of training centers for electoral participants. They also talked about the impact of training on the electoral environment and development of a legal culture of electoral stakeholders.

■ In December 2023, Chairman Didenko led a delegation to Chisinau **to learn about organizing polls outside diplomatic and consular missions.** The study visit was organized by International IDEA. In 2010, Moldova

amended its laws to allow out-of-country polling stations to be arranged outside diplomatic and consular missions. During the meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Moldova, Ukrainian participants learned about the close cooperation between the Central Election Commission of Moldova and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in organizing out-of-country voting. The Ministry provides information on the number of voters abroad, negotiates agreements with foreign countries and ensures polling station development.



It is important to educate out-of-country voters about the voting rules and procedures. Coordinated efforts of various organizations increased voter turn-

out significantly during the last elections in Moldova. In 2020, more than 263,000 Moldovan citizens voted abroad, a significant increase compared to only 19,705 voters in 2010.

— In December 2023, International IDEA organized a three-day training event in Stockholm. The training was titled, **“Building Capacity for Election Risk Management: Technical Training and Consultations with the Central Election Commission on an Election Risk Management Tool.”** It was part of the International IDEA project aimed at helping Ukrainian electoral authorities develop a strategy for organizing the first post-war elections.



# Studying International Experience in Post-War Elections

As a component of the Council of Europe’s Action Plan for Ukraine 2023-2026, titled “Resilience, Recovery and Reconstruction,” a series of meetings between representatives of the Ukrainian Government, including the CEC and representatives of election management bodies from countries with experience in conducting the first elections in the post-war period. Participants from **Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia** shared their experiences.



**Eight meetings were held, seven online and one during the Commission’s study trip to Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina).**

CEC members and secretariat studied Bosnia and Herzegovina’s experience in organizing post-war elections for internally displaced persons and out-of-country voters. During the first post-war elections, the country encountered various challenges, including voter lists, vote counting, organizing out-of-country voting and security concerns on election day.



During the online meetings, Croatia representatives shared their experiences conducting elections in challenging circumstances, especially after the Croatian

War of Independence from 1991 to 1995 and following the 2020 earthquakes.

**The summarizing online presentation showcased analysis of election organizing experiences from post-war challenges to recent crises.**

— In July 2023, **the CEC and the Swedish Election Authority conducted an online meeting to share experiences in organizing elections.**

Swedish colleagues gave a detailed account of mobile polling stations and shared their knowledge and experience in implementing voting by mail. They also discussed lessons learned from organizing this method of voting.

## Memorandums

In 2023, the CEC signed two important memorandums.

### **1. Memorandum of Understanding with the Central Electoral Council of the Kingdom of Spain.**

The document focuses on cooperation in key areas, including:

- enhancing institutional capacity of election management bodies;
- ensuring protection of citizens' electoral rights;
- implementing cybersecurity and cyber defense measures;
- improving national legislation related to elections and referendums, etc.

Chairman Didenko emphasized the importance of strengthening cooperation between Ukraine and the EU, considering Ukraine's commitment to European

integration. He emphasized the need to learn from developed democracies and adopt best electoral practices.

“The Memorandum signing is a significant event with symbolic meaning. It sends the Commission and Ukrainian society an important message that our efforts are not in vain. It reminds us of our belonging in Europe and moving in the right direction with EU support. However, it also emphasizes we must fulfill all criteria and standards, including those concerning elections, to become an integral part of the European Union.”

## **2. Memorandum of Understanding with the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Moldova.**

The Memorandum outlines cooperation in several key areas related to elections, including:

- enhancing the institutional capacity of election management bodies;
- ensuring citizens’ electoral rights, particularly those of vulnerable groups, are protected;
- developing and implementing innovative technologies to improve the electoral process and ensure cyber security and defense;
- improving national legislation on elections and referenda;
- providing professional development to election and referendum stakeholders;
- organizing events to improve the legal culture and voter education;
- facilitating out-of-country voting.

## The CEC collaborates with international partners while seeking opportunities to establish new partnerships.

■ On May 9, **representatives of the Commission met with an IFES delegation headed by President and CEO Anthony Banbury.**

They discussed their cooperation, post-war elections and continued support for Ukraine in advancing democracy. IFES representatives commended the CEC for their professionalism, expertise, and progress in preparing for post-war elections.



■ On October 18, 2023, **the Chairperson of the Central Election Commission met with Mr. Maciej Janczak, Head of the Council of Europe Office in Ukraine,** who was appointed to this position on September 1, 2023. They discussed the Council of Europe's **Resilience, Recovery and Reconstruction Action Plan** for Ukraine from 2023 through 2026. They also talked

about the ongoing project, **“Support for Democratic Post-War Elections in Ukraine,”** implemented under this framework.



The CEC signed a Protocol of Understanding and Cooperation with the Council of Europe Office in Ukraine

as a part of the “Support for Democratic Post-War Elections in Ukraine” international technical assistance

project. The Council of Europe implements the project under the Resilience, Recovery and Rebuilding Action Plan for Ukraine from 2023 through 2026.

**In addition, during 2023:**

■ The CEC organized a meeting with representatives of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) represented by Deputy Head of the Election Section Ulvi Akhundlu and Election Adviser Kakha Inaishvili to discuss further cooperation between the Commission and ODIHR.

They discussed possible areas of cooperation, particularly international observation of post-war elections.

■ The CEC established contacts with and is now cooperating with International IDEA.

Chairman Didenko met with Kevin Casas-Zamora, Secretary General of International IDEA and Sam van der Staak, the Director of International IDEA Europe to discuss further collaboration. During the meeting, they expressed their readiness to support Ukraine's endeavors.

■ Commission members Andriy Yevstihnieiev and Andriy Hevko met with representatives of the American Conference of Subnational Election Officials for Election Transparency, or CAOESTE, to discuss the exchange of electoral practices.

\*CAOESTE is an organization uniting subnational election authorities, academics, and representatives of companies that develop election technology. CAOESTE's objective is to encourage dialogue and interaction amongst its members, providing an opportunity to exchange election experiences and information.

Participants discussed:

- trust in electoral institutions,
- postal voting,
- disinformation
- the role of social media in the electoral process, etc.

■ The CEC and DAI Global, LLC recently signed a Protocol on Cooperation within the “Cybersecurity of Ukraine’s Critical Infrastructure” project funded by the United States Agency for International Development. The Commission became an official recipient of the project which is focused on enhancing the resilience of the country’s critical infrastructure against cyberattacks. The project establishes a dependable partnership among primary stakeholders in public administration, the private sector, the educational sector and civil society to improve cybersecurity.

**It is crucial for the CEC to continue its systematic and consistent efforts to isolate russian and belarusian election management bodies from participating in international organizations.**

In 2023, Chairman Didenko once again appealed to the World Association of Electoral Bodies to expel the russian and belarusian CECs from the organization.

Chairman Didenko sent a letter requesting that the topic be added to the agenda of the next General Assembly meeting following discussions at the eleventh meeting of the A-WEB Executive Board in Colombia. In response to the Commission’s call, the issue was in-

cluded in the agenda of the General Assembly meeting scheduled for 2024.

The CEC has active international-level communication with election management bodies of partner countries, international organizations and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. The effort's objective is to prevent russian and belarusian election management bodies from participating in international electoral organizations.





Chapter **7**

**Responding to russia's  
Attempt to Undermine  
Democratic Institutions**

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## /78

The CEC's Resolution Emphasizing the Illegality of Organizing Elections by the russia in the Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine.

## /79

The CEC's Reaction to the Illegal Actions of the russian Authorities Regarding the Organization and Holding of Fake Elections in the Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine.



On June 15, 2023, the russian Central Election Commission passed four resolutions to schedule fake “local elections” on September 10 in the temporarily occupied parts of the Ukrainian territories of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia. On the same day, “by-elections to the State Duma of the russian federation” were scheduled in an illegally formed electoral district in Simferopol.

On July 7, 2023, **the Commission adopted a resolution emphasizing the illegality of organizing elections by the russia in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.** As the election management body in Ukraine, the CEC stressed that decisions made by the russian Central Election Commission were a violation of Ukrainian and international laws and clear evidence of criminal actions of the russian political leadership. The attempt to organize and hold an election in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine is a continuation of russia’s cynical encroachment on Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity as established by Ukraine’s Constitution. Any elections in these territories, called by russia outside its jurisdiction, violate Ukraine’s sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity and are illegitimate.

**The Commission condemned illegal actions** and decisions taken by the State Duma, the President, the russian Central Election Commission and its occupation administration, **regarding planning and execution of false elections in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine or any other elections administered by russia in captured Ukrainian regions.** The CEC stressed that any efforts by russian authorities and their officials or with their assistance to plan and execute false elections on the territory of sovereign independent Ukraine are illegitimate, and their outcomes will have no legal implications.

**The Commission called on other nations and their election management bodies as well as international organizations to condemn the actions and decisions** of the State Duma, the President, the Russian Central Election Commission and Russia's occupation administrations to organize elections, **not recognize their results and the authority** of the illegally formed occupation authorities and **stop cooperating with the Russian CEC**. The Ukrainian CEC called for contributing toward the conclusion of occupation by **intensifying Russia's international isolation and recommended strengthening personal, economic, and other restrictive measures and sanctions against Russian citizens** involved in organizing activities related to preparing and holding fake elections.

On September 10, the day of so-called "elections" in occupied Ukraine, **the Commission once again called on the international community to condemn Russian actions and not to recognize polling outcomes**. Holding such "events" is a crime; and, all involved must be held politically and legally accountable.



# Chapter 8

## Youth Engagement





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Contest of Creative Works.

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Internship at the CEC.



## Contest of Creative Works.

The Commission, in partnership with IFES, recently organized an All-Ukrainian competition, **“ELECTIONS AFTER THE WAR”**, for students and graduates of IFES higher education programs, Democracy: From Theory to Practice and Election Dispute Resolution. The competition engages young people in analyzing challenges of organizing elections in post-war Ukraine. Participants were encouraged to study theory and practice of electoral law in Ukraine and to learn the foreign experience in organizing elections.



Winners:

in the Academic Paper category: “Elections in Post-war Ukraine” by Maria Kolotylo.;

in the Essay category: “Postwar Democracy in Ukraine” by Natalia Mandebura and “Local Elections in Certain Districts of Donetsk and Luhansk Regions” by Kyrylo Matiukha.

## — Meeting with Students at the CEC.

A meeting was conducted with university students who drafted the Law “On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine on Improving the Electoral Process,” which would introduce electronic voting.

## — Internship at the CEC.

As a collaborative effort with IFES, four students from universities across Ukraine completed a three-month internship at the Commission.



**Yaryna Brateiko joined the CEC’s communications team, with a focus on developing content and future media projects.**

“I admire events targeting young people, providing invaluable experiences that allow for a deeper understanding of the country, government agencies, and personal skills and aspirations,” Yaryna said.



**Danylo Dudin prepared materials for the commissioners’ international business trips.**

«As a political science student, I found it extremely important, interesting, and useful to prepare analytical briefs on elections worldwide and be involved in the relevant paperwork related to the commissioners’ business trips. I find the routine rather encouraging due to requiring maximum attention to details. I can advise to make every effort to join the CEC because it’s really worth it,” said Danylo.



**Anastasia Rudyk researched educational and awareness initiatives for conducting elections and referendums worldwide.**

“It is crucial for students to get relevant working experiences, particularly with the government agencies. My internship made me to dispel the myth about rigid, monotonous, and conservative state agencies. Instead, the CEC values creativity, open-mindedness, diversity, and the ability to face any challenges,” Anastasia said.

These students were assigned to different departments, including:

- Legal Department;
- Department of Advisory and Methodological Support;
- Communications Department;
- International Cooperation Department.

The primary objective of the internship program is

to encourage and involve young people in Ukraine's political activities.

## DEMvision.

The CEC traditionally participated in the national presentation of DEMvision student civic action projects.



\*The event was organized as part of the IFES civic education course, Democracy: From Theory to Practice.

Commissioner Pavlo Liubchenko was also a member of the jury.

“Evaluating the best student works on democracy-related topics helps us better understand how to work with young people, their level of activity and their political involvement. All project topics were relevant and students demonstrated sincere interest and motivation in implementing their ideas.”





# Volunteer Commission Activities

In 2023, the CEC supported our colleagues in the military by organizing collections and raffles within our team.

We aimed to cover their needs and to boost their morale. One of our team members, Yulia Dudnyk, Head of the Commission's Document Management and Meeting Support Department, organized a prize draw to raise funds for our mobilized colleagues. The winner of the draw received a hand-embroidered dress on Vyshyvanka Day.



Funds raised were used to support our fellow defenders and we held several such drawings throughout the year.

We received two acknowledgments from Armed Forces brigades.

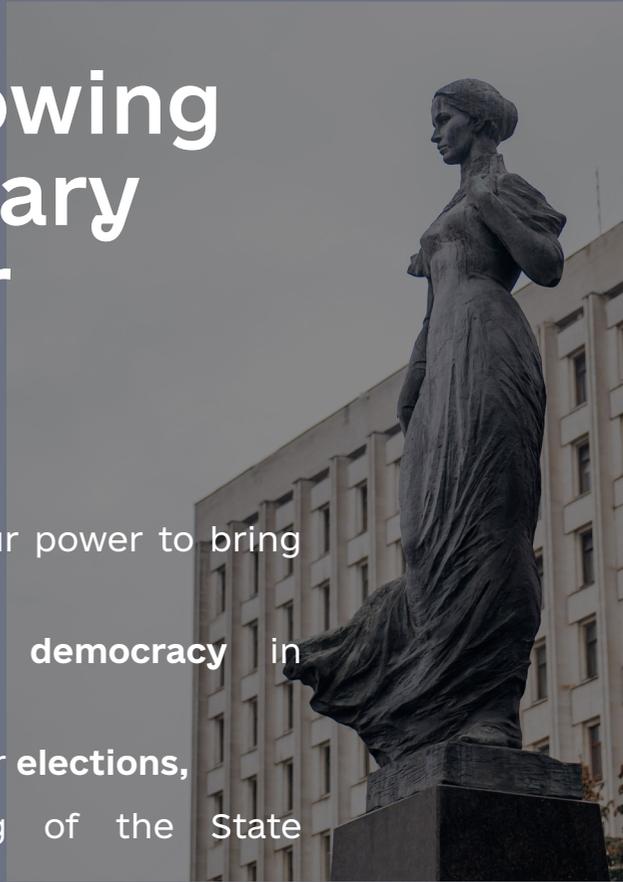


We will continue to work together to provide our defenders with everything they need.



# The following are primary plans for 2024:

- / do everything in our power to bring **Victory** closer,
- / continue building **democracy** in Ukraine,
- / prepare for post-war **elections**,
- / complete updating of the State **Register** of Voters,
- / build **international** cooperation and promote partnerships
- / strengthen **cybersecurity** and technological support of the Commission,
- / implement **inclusive** projects,
- / continue to ensure **the sovereign right** of the Ukrainian people to express their will.



And support **Ukraine's defense forces** to secure our contribution towards the future of the country.

Because thanks to them,  
to be continued...



**CEC**  
**2023**



CEC  
2023

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