

Round Table Debate (DRAFT)

UKRAINE'S DECENTRALIZATION PROCESS

26 February 2019, 13:00 – 14:30

Venue: EastWest Institute, Rue de Trèves 59, 1000 Brussels

Decentralization and reforms on local self-governance are by far the single most important transformative steps within Ukraine on her way towards a democratic and liberal nation state. By turning the old soviet top-down approach in the areas of decision making, funding and economic development around, Ukraine opens its huge potential in natural and human resources towards a common goal: sustainable development of merged communities as the powerbase for Ukraine's political, economic and social progress. Many obstacles still have to be overcome. Amongst others, the country struggles with a depleted and underdeveloped countryside, the remains of a soviet-style administration. A war in the east of the country makes it impossible to even pass a constitutional amendment for a decentralized state-structure in Parliament.

Still, against these odds, Ukraine has achieved tremendous results in the implementation of administrative and financial reforms. This process is expected to be finalized in 2020. Today, more than 70 percent of Ukraine's population already lives in merged communities or bigger cities. What are the lessons learnt from three years of decentralization? What further assistance can the European Union offer on Ukraine's way to local self-governance reforms? These and other questions will be discussed with Ukrainian experts on local government.

We cordially invite you to discuss these topics with us.

Conference language: English and Ukrainian (with interpretation)

Registration until 25 February 2019 at: <https://goo.gl/forms/f4VhU3RyDaNf26jV2>

Programme (DRAFT)

- 13:00 Registration and Light Lunch
- 13:30 Welcome and Introduction
H.E. Dr. Wolfgang KLAPPER
Vice President, Director of the Regional Security Program and Head of EastWest Institute's Brussels Center

Dr. Markus EHM
Director, Brussels Office of the Hanns Seidel Foundation
- 13:40 Keynote Speech
Hennadii ZUBKO
Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine, Minister of Regional Development, Building and Housing and Communal Services of Ukraine
- 14:00 Spotlight on Ukraine's Decentralization Process
Sergeij TSHERNOW
Chairman of the Regional Parliament of Charkiv, President of the Ukrainian Association of Local Parliaments

Jana LYTVYNOVA
Mayor of the City Starobelsk
- 14:15 Discussion
Members of the Ukrainian Delegation

Olivier BAUMARD
Project Officer, Council of European Municipalities and Regions
- 14:40 Q&A
Moderation
Daniel SEIBERLING
Resident Representative for Ukraine, Republic of Moldova and Romania
- 15:00 Coffee Reception

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