



Almost a year ago, namely on February 17, 2016, parliamentary hearings were held at the Parliament of Ukraine, on the following issues: "Status with observation of rights of internally displaced persons and citizens of Ukraine, residing in temporary occupied territory of Ukraine and in temporary uncontrolled territory in the zone of anti-terrorist operation".

Level of attending the hearings by elected officials was crucially low. But the absence of the tops of Government at the event saddened even more: only deputy ministers of justice and social policy were delegated, who were brought before the hall of the Verkhovna Rada, filled to capacity by internally displaced persons and defenders.

At that time some very emotional and touching speeches of people, who survived the horrors of displacement, and those who specially came to the event from the so-called "gray zone" took place at the session hall of the Parliament.

According to the results of hearing, held on March 31, 2016, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine gave the majority (229) of votes for the approval of these Recommendations.

Among others, the text of the approved document contained the following instructions to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine:

- to develop and approve the state program that will include the provisions regarding:
 - self-reliance and self-employment of persons, residing in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions;
 - prevention, diagnosis and treatment of infectious diseases, including viral hepatitis, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDs in the area of anti-terrorist operation;
 - the strategy of the state information policy towards citizens, who reside in temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine, and in the territory, which is temporarily uncontrolled by the Ukrainian authorities in the area of anti-terrorist operation;
 - the support and national-patriotic education of children and youth, residing in the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine, and in the territory, which is temporarily uncontrolled by the Ukrainian authorities in the area of anti-terrorist operation;
 - the educational and humanitarian policy in respect of temporarily occupied territory and in the territory, which is temporarily uncontrolled by the Ukrainian authorities in the area of anti-terrorist operation;
- to ensure the creation of conditions and provide financial support for the further implementation of distance education for children, residing in the controlled territory in the area of anti-terrorist operation and in the territory, which is temporarily uncontrolled by the Ukrainian authorities;





➤ to ensure simplification of the procedure for obtaining a passport for children, residing in the territory, which is temporarily uncontrolled by the Ukrainian authorities, reducing the term of issuance of such document and so on.

The Government was ignoring the above recommendation for quite a long time. So, for example, on July 6, 2016 an extended meeting of the Committee of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on Human Rights, National Minorities and International Relations was held, to be informed by the representatives of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on the implementation of Recommendations. At the extended meeting the Government was represented by deputy ministers of social policy and temporarily occupied territories and IDPs. As a result of their reporting and after the speech of defenders, at the end of the meeting the Chairman of the Committee summarized that the work of the Government on implementation of these recommendations can not be deemed satisfactory and called for a special meeting of the National Security and Defense Council, dedicated to protecting the rights and freedoms of the IDPs and citizens who remain on temporary uncontrolled territories of Ukraine.¹

But finally, on January 11, 2017, the Government by its Resolution No. 8 approved the Action Plan, aimed at realization of certain principles of internal policy regarding certain districts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, where public authorities temporarily do not exercise their authority (hereinafter - the Action Plan), by which for the first time from the beginning of the armed conflict in the eastern Ukraine, a clear (though not comprehensive) plan of Government actions for the re-integration of the Ukrainian population, forced to live in isolation from their country has been defined.

The Action Plan is a brief document in the form of a table, which identifies 14 targets, at the achievement of which it is aimed, 17 targets, set by the Government to implement those objectives, 35 actions, through which it is planned to achieve defined objectives, as well as the deadlines and executors of relevant actions.

The plan executors shall be ministries, other central executive authorities, as well as Donetsk and Luhansk Regional State Administrations. These authorities must report to the Ministry on temporarily occupied territories and internally displaced persons (hereinafter - MinTOT) on the implementation of the Action Plan on quarterly basis. The MinTOT, in its turn, must submit to the Cabinet of Ministers a summary report on the implementation of the Action Plan annually before April, 1.

Since the Action Plan concerns the work with the residents of temporarily uncontrolled territories and the activities, stipulated thereby, can be qualified in different ways by different actors,

¹ <https://www.facebook.com/kompravlud/posts/1233428680024980>





clause 2 of the Resolution stipulates that the authorities should carry out the tasks of the Action Plan in compliance with the legislation requirements regarding countering the financing of terrorism and prevention of actions, aimed at changing the borders or territorial integrity of Ukraine; as well as prevent and avoid any actions, aimed at legitimizing of illegal armed groups or terrorist organizations, that stay on temporary uncontrolled territories, or actions that could be interpreted as a direct or indirect establishment of contacts with the representatives of illegal armed groups or terrorist organizations.

The above mentioned means that during the implementation of the Action Plan, the authorities may interact only with the civil population, that was not able to leave temporarily uncontrolled territories and remain to reside there. Without contacting the representatives of illegal armed groups, of which some social activists began notifying so actively on the Internet.²

Thus, the Government identified the achievement of 14 goals as the basis for the implementation of certain principles of the state internal policy regarding temporary uncontrolled territories:

1. Strengthening the fight against corruption and shadow economy activities;
2. Development of the internal market, increasing its efficiency and improvement of the state regulation mechanism;
3. Creating favorable conditions for entrepreneurship development, reducing pressure on business by regulatory authorities;
4. Ensuring the rights and freedoms of citizens, guaranteed by the Constitution of Ukraine, through the implementation of European standards of social protection, improving the quality of social services;
5. Improving the system of administrative (management) and social services to the consumers of such services;
6. Improving social protection of children, strengthening of family, which is to be spiritually and physically healthy, and socially prosperous;
7. Preventing the originating of indebtedness in wages at the enterprises, institutions and organizations of all forms of ownership;
8. The implementation of the language policy based on the norms of national and international law, ensuring comprehensive development and functioning of the Ukrainian language in all spheres of social life throughout the whole territory of Ukraine, guaranteeing of free development, the use and protection of Russian and other languages of national minorities;
9. Creating proper conditions for increasing of the educational potential of Ukraine,

² see <http://kozak.co.ua/index.php/politika/3051-v-merezhi-shkval> or <https://goo.gl/JbTUDa>





ensuring equal citizens' access to qualitative education, regardless of their place of residence, economic situation and financial capacity;

10. Promoting cultural development of the Ukrainian citizens, creating conditions for realization of creative potential of an individual and the society, ensuring equal opportunities for all citizens of Ukraine in meeting their cultural and spiritual needs;

11. Restoration of full-fledged dialogue between representatives of different social and ethnic groups, cultures and religions. Ensuring creation of the conditions for the formation of a tolerant society, guaranteeing freedom of conscience and religion;

12. Ensuring media freedom and free access to public information, creation conditions for the development of information technologies and information society, broad integration and public access to the world information space;

13. Effective implementation of the state target programs of treatment of the most widespread diseases, hazardous to human health and life;

14. Improving of the state policy in the field of physical culture and sports, promoting popularization and dissemination of healthy lifestyles, organization of meaningful leisure.

If we analyze the objectives and activities of the Plan, we get the following picture.

So, the first goal in the fight against corruption and shadow economy is actually related to strengthening of Ukrainian entry/exit checkpoints (hereinafter - the EECP), operating at the contact line, in particular, a training on anti-corruption legislation among military and law enforcement bodies personnel, equipping the EECP with video surveillance systems, as well as improvement of the procedures for intersection of the contact line at the EECP.

Regarding the improvement of the state regulation of domestic market, it is about the settlement of the specifics of economic activities in uncontrolled territory, as well as arranging the required number of logistics centers near the EECP, where Ukrainian citizens, who were forced to remain in uncontrolled territories often make purchases.

Achieving the goal of creating favorable conditions for entrepreneurship development, reducing pressure on business by the controlling bodies, means the creation through adoption of relevant legislative regulations, of the opportunities for entrepreneurs, who remained in uncontrolled territories, to file tax and accounting reports in Ukraine, which should ensure additional revenues to the Ukrainian budget and the budget of the Pension fund of Ukraine, and will become the basis for resolving with possible payment of pensions to citizens of Ukraine, who remain in uncontrolled territories.

The implementation of European standards of social protection, improving the quality of





social services will include the provision of citizens, residing in uncontrolled territories, with a range of services in controlled territory, including: psychological, social and educational, social and medical, legal, informational social services, employment services; as well as support in the delivery of humanitarian supplies to uncontrolled territories from the controlled part of Ukraine.

Among other things, one of the goals of the Action Plan is to improve the system of administrative services, that means to enable creation of administrative services centers (or their branches) near the EECF, where people residing in uncontrolled territories would be able to receive a child's birth certificate, register marriage, obtain passport of a citizen of Ukraine.

As for children's rights protection, this sphere includes a broad advocacy work regarding the protection of children from participating in military operations and armed conflicts, encouraging to educational work among children, their parents, other legal representatives; and facilitating displacement of orphans and children without parental care from uncontrolled territories; and reunification of families, separated due to conflict; and exercising patronage over children, who due to armed conflict, remain in difficult life circumstances.

The Government also plans to work towards preventing the origination of indebtedness in wages to employees of PJSC "Ukrzaliznytsia", NEC "Ukrenergo" and other enterprises, ensuring functioning of controlled objects of these enterprises, located in uncontrolled territories.

The implementation of the state language policy will realize in observing the principles of independence and autonomy of the mass media, broadcasting in the state and other languages (including Russian), as well as the promotion of creation and distribution of audio and audiovisual works, and printed materials in different languages.

Education has an important role in the Action plan. Thus, the Government planned to create through adoption of legislative regulations the conditions enabling children residing in uncontrolled territories to receive Ukrainian education certificates, as well as relevant methodological support of the remote education of such children.

Attention is also paid to cultural sphere. The actions include cultural and artistic events involving citizens from uncontrolled territories, in particular exhibitions, presentations, concerts, performances, circus performances and more (provided observing the security requirements), as well as the distribution of books, audio works and films of Ukrainian authors to uncontrolled territories.

It is also planned to involve Ukrainian citizens, residing in uncontrolled territories to sport competitions, games, sport days.

Moreover, the authorities are responsible to implement the so-called "public diplomacy" in order to maintain a constant dialogue directly between different groups of citizens residing on both sides of the contact line, which will include among other things, both distribution of social advertising,





videos, aimed at building tolerant society; and cooperation with trade unions of enterprises, the employees of which ensure operation of their controlled facilities, located in uncontrolled territories; and the involvement of youth and women into the civil movement through programs that promote their role as peacemaker; and the organization of a dialogue between the state and religious organizations on the issue of practical implementation of principles of patience and tolerance of others.

The Action plan also provides for ensuring freedom of mass media through establishing radio stations, television towers, signal transmitters for the purpose of distribution of their broadcast signal on uncontrolled territories; distribution of printed media at the EECP; provision of the EECP with access to high-speed mobile Internet (3G) with equipment of Wi-Fi-zones (points).

An important element of the Action Plan is also the planned actions related to training mass media in working with sensitive conflict issues and observing the standards of journalistic ethics.

Government's attention shall also be directed to decreasing the rate of sickness in TB and HIV/AIDS infection among citizens, and prevention of their spread. Assistance to persons, residing in uncontrolled territory, in obtaining of medical and other aids, medicinal products, medicines for treatment of TB, diabetes mellitus and HIV/AIDS infection, with the help of international humanitarian organizations.

Thus, practically the whole Plan consists of tasks and events, which by their nature are designed for developing a dialog in the Ukrainian society and are aimed to create a framework for successful and rapid reintegration of residents of temporarily uncontrolled territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions after completion of antiterrorist operation in the part of the Ukrainian society, residing in controlled territories based on knowledge, patience, tolerance and non-discrimination.

