



THE ESTABLISHMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
OF THE LEGAL AID SYSTEM IN UKRAINE:
2011-2015

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Our legal aid team in Ukraine is grateful for the trust and partnership of our clients, lawyers, centers for legal information and consultations, public advice centers of the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union and other civil society organizations, especially those providing pro bono legal aid to socially vulnerable groups. We express our gratitude to the legal clinics of law schools, Ukrainian National Bar Association, Bar Council of Ukraine, Ukrainian Legal Aid Foundation, Ukrainian Bar Association, Association of Lawyers of Ukraine, Union of Advocates of Ukraine, Union of Lawyers of Ukraine, Bar Association of Legal Aid Providers, Centre of Policy and Legal Reform, Open Civic Platform on the development of the Ukrainian free legal aid system, Academy of Advocacy of Ukraine, Ukrainian Bar Association for Foreign Affairs, regional bar councils and boards, qualifications and disciplinary commissions of the bar, Hromadske Radio, Yurydychna Gazeta, Zakon i Biznes, Pravovy Tyzhden, Yuridicheskaya Praktika newspapers, Advokat and Ukrainsky Advokat journals, other mass media, Legal Space portal, President of Ukraine, Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, main regional departments of justice, other central and local government authorities, Judicial Reform Council, as well as the governments of Canada, the United States of America, the Kingdom of Denmark, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the French Republic, the Council of Europe Headquarters and Office in Ukraine, European Commission, OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, American Bar Association, Canadian Bureau for International Education, International Renaissance Foundation, Open Society Foundations and all others that are not mentioned here, but inspire, support and help us.



The right to legal aid is guaranteed in the Constitution of Ukraine adopted in 1996. However, the country has had no mechanism in place to exercise these rights for 15 years. The Law of Ukraine “On Free Legal Aid” adopted in 2011 laid a regulatory framework and established a free legal aid system.

Since January 1, 2013, free secondary legal aid has been provided in criminal proceedings, ensuring access to justice for about 70,000 suspects and convicts annually. This free secondary legal aid service is offered by regional centers operating in every Ukrainian region, including the city of Kyiv. They were in the limelight during the Revolution of Dignity when lawyers assigned by the centers defended activists of peaceful protests. At that time, free legal aid was perhaps the only government institution in the justice system to contain the pressure and ill-treatment of activists.

Since July 1, 2015, we have launched a new stage of the system’s development, opening 100 local centers for free secondary legal aid across Ukraine to provide full access to legal aid for categories of clients established by law, primarily, for representatives of vulnerable groups. Over the first year of the centers’ operation, 105,000 people sought legal advice in the centers, including about 21,000 who had lawyers assigned to defend their interests in court.

The centers collaborate with about 5,000 independent lawyers selected through open competitions to provide legal defense and to represent clients in courts.

This year, we will bring legal aid even closer to citizens by launching over 400 legal aid bureaus in towns and villages across Ukraine. These institutions will serve as access points to legal aid for people living in remote communities. Everyone will be able to receive legal information and advice, as well as access electronic services of the Ministry of Justice.

The legal aid system has ensured the constitutional right of Ukrainians to legal defense, provided equal opportunities for all to address their real-life situations by legal means, and created the environment to prevent violations and protect human rights.

Further development of the legal aid system is a priority of the Government’s Priority Action Plan of 2016, the Strategy of Judicial Sector Reforms and the National Strategy for Human Rights Protection.

I am confident that the legal aid system is one of the key and most successful components of justice system reforms in Ukraine.

*Pavlo Petrenko
Minister of Justice of Ukraine*



With Ukrainian and international partners support, we have successfully built the legal aid system over the last four years. The system provides access to justice for all people and promotes the rule of law in Ukraine. Our team unites almost 5,000 people across Ukraine: in the capital, big cities, small towns and remote villages. Lawyers and staff members of the free legal aid centers prove daily that respect for human rights and dignity are key and recognized values, and our services meet people's real needs.

The legal aid system is a crucial factor facilitating the shift from the Soviet-era model of redistributive justice to the European model of fair justice. For many years, Ukraine has had serious problems with torture, and the cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of detainees by law enforcement agencies. This resulted, in particular, in convictions of innocent people. Since the rollout of the system in 2013, our country has introduced public defense of criminal suspects and convicts. Now all detainees have early access to legal aid: every detainee may have a confidential meeting with a lawyer within two hours of detention and before the first interrogation, no matter where and when she or he was detained in Ukraine. According to human rights activists, this practice has reduced cruel treatment by 50 percent over the past three years. Provision of legal aid has considerably lowered the number of convictions for offences that people did not commit. The new Law of Ukraine "On Public Prosecution Service" adopted in 2014 has transferred legal representation powers from public prosecutors' offices to the legal aid system. These changes promote a refocusing of the justice system from a punitive nature to the provision of the right to defense and the adversarial principle.

Development of the legal aid system contributes greatly to other crucial reforms in the country, including decentralization where local communities receive more rights, obligations and resources. Success factors of this transformation include strengthening legal opportunities and the legal empowerment of local communities, including improving the legal awareness of citizens living in rural areas and small towns and broadening access to legal information and advice. Guaranteed by the legal aid system, this access lays a foundation for the prevention of corruption at the grassroots level, the broader engagement of territorial communities' members in local self-government and active economic life, eradication of paternalistic attitudes, and the promotion of the pre-trial settlement in civil and administrative disputes, by consequence serving to decrease strain on the judicial system (courts), reduce domestic violence and discrimination, and promote crime prevention, especially among minors.

The free legal aid system continues to develop, striving to meet today's challenges. I am proud of our team of professionals — legal aid system staff members and lawyers — who do everything they can to develop this next-generation organization committed to meeting the needs of the people and society. We continue to work to ensure that Ukrainians have equal access to justice and that they are able to address their real-life situations by legal means.

Andriy Vyshnevsky
Director of Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision

MISSION VISION VALUES



OUR MISSION

Protecting human rights by providing equal access to legal information and justice, and strengthening legal opportunities and the legal empowerment of vulnerable groups and local communities.

OUR VISION

People across Ukraine employ legal tools to address their day-to-day life challenges and enjoy equal access to justice.

A network of independent legal aid providers meets people's legal needs.

Local communities and the state recognise the importance and necessity of legal aid as a social guarantee, and provide sustainable funding for legal aid from national and local budgets.

OUR VALUES

HUMAN RIGHTS AND DIGNITY

Our work is grounded in a fundamental respect for human dignity and a commitment to create an environment where people have equal access to law and justice irrespective of their financial situation or level of social vulnerability.

We work in a team built on the principles of mutual respect and responsibility. We act with integrity, are client-centered, and strive to treat everyone equally.

We believe that peoples' quality of life is directly dependent upon how well individuals know their rights, and subsequently desire and are able to exercise these rights. We offer people tools to address their real-life situations by legal means as a way of countering the corruption that is embedded across today's society.

TRUST AND PARTNERSHIP

We value the trust that our clients and partners place in us.

People seek advice and help from those they trust. Public trust is a necessary condition for the development of the legal aid system.

The quality of services we offer depends upon the mutual trust that lies at the core of our partnership with communities, lawyers, civil society organizations and donors.

We are open to cooperation with all stakeholders and actively seek to develop partnership, in particular, at the level of local communities.

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

As a taxpayer-funded organisation, we are accountable to the public for everything we do. We welcome external independent evaluation of our work.

We regularly publish updates on all our events and expenses, in particular, information about the salary of all our employees, the distribution of cases among lawyers and their fees, statistical data on our performance and auditors' reports.

We hold open staffing competitions.

We support the PROZORRO electronic public procurement system. We started using it for all procurements exceeding UAH 3,000 four months prior to the requirement prescribed in legislation.

INDEPENDENCE

We are an independent element of the justice system. The Ministry of Justice does not interfere with our operations.

The decision to provide legal aid is made in accordance with the law without political or other influence.

We do not interfere with the activities of lawyers, and we respect their professional independence.

As a means of guaranteeing the quality of legal aid, we support open competition among legal aid providers.

We promote the development of a network of independent providers of legal information

INNOVATION AND COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

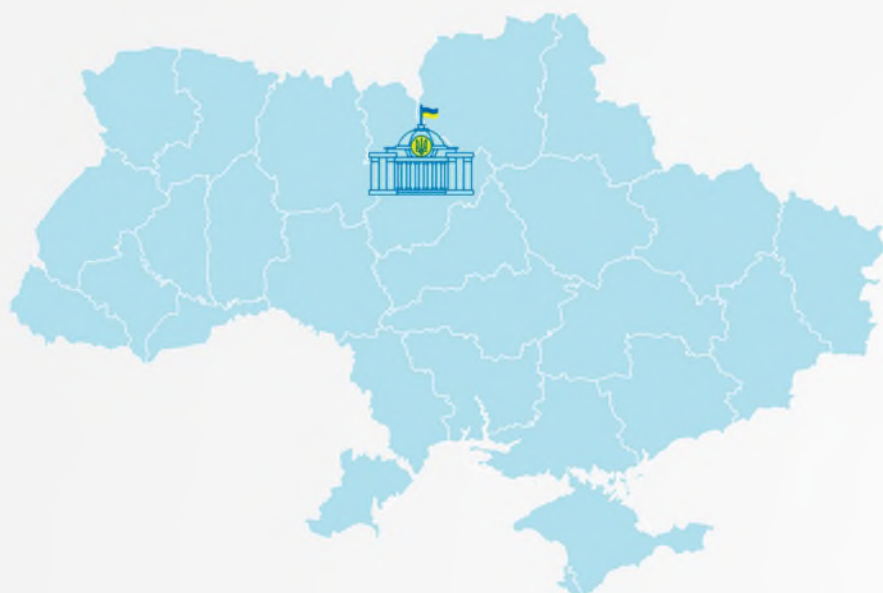
We are committed to continuous improvement in our work. We are sensitive to changes in our environment and quickly respond to them. We look for new and creative approaches to problem-solving. We strive to continuously learn through the sharing of experiences and best practices.

INFOGRAPHICS

2011 YEAR

INCEPTION

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK



The Law of Ukraine
“On Legal Aid” is adopted
by The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine
on June 2, 2011

HUMAN RESOURCE CAPACITY



0

Legal aid
system
employees



no data

Number of lawyers providing legal
aid with financial support
from the state budget



2 375

Number of legal aid cases
provided with financial support
from the state budget
(Criminal Procedures Code
effective since 1960)

FUNDING FROM THE STATE BUDGET

- Legal aid provision
- System management
- System development

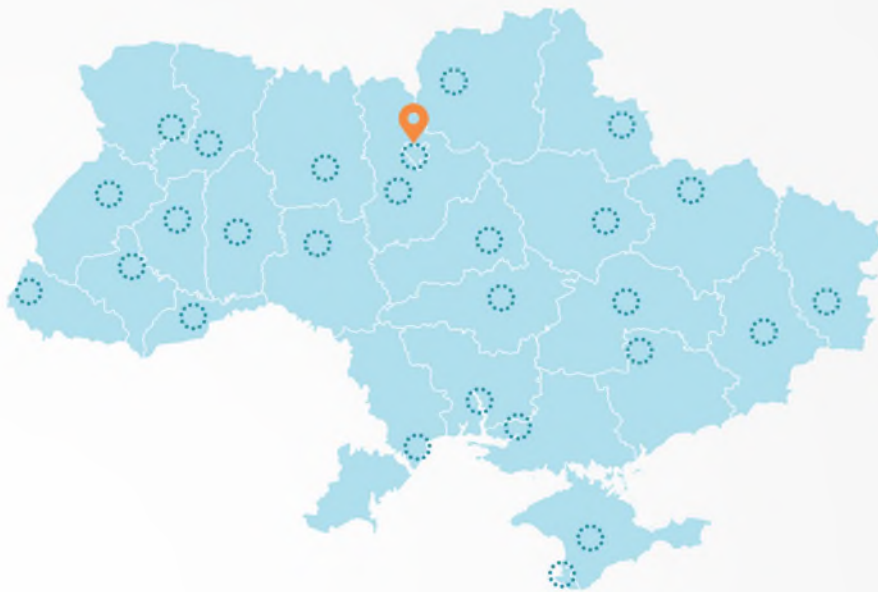
1 148

0

0

thousands UAH
6 000
5 000
4 000
3 000
2 000
1 000

INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE



Coordination Center
for Legal Aid Provision



Regional legal aid
centers established

HUMAN RESOURCE CAPACITY



125

Legal aid
system
employees



2 871

Applications from lawyers
to participate in the competition
to qualify for legal aid provision



2 544

Legal aid
lawyers
in the Registry

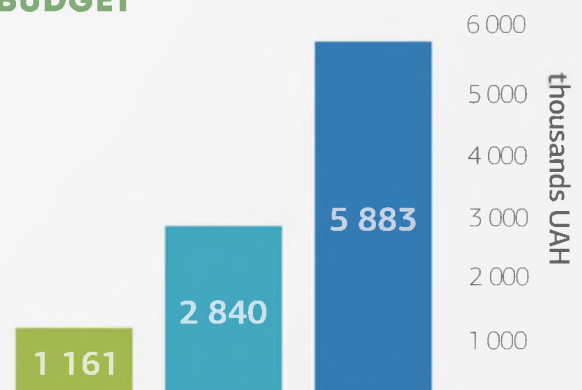


2 136

Number of legal aid cases
provided with financial support
from the state budget
(Criminal Procedures Code
effective since 1960)

FUNDING FROM THE STATE BUDGET

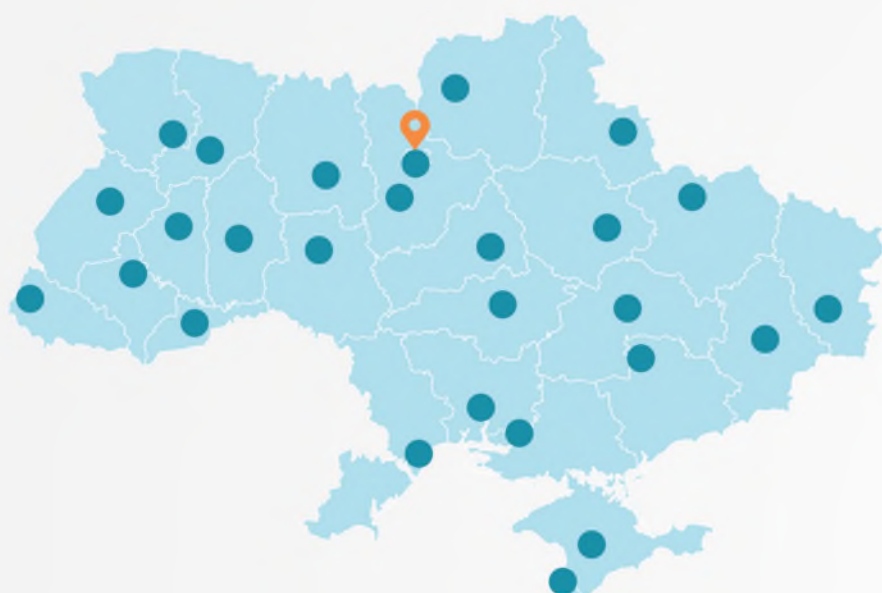
- Legal aid provision
- System management
- System development



2013 YEAR

DEVELOPMENT. ENSURING ACCESS

INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE



Coordination Center
for Legal Aid Provision



Regional legal aid centers
(providing services
since January 1st, 2013)

HUMAN RESOURCE CAPACITY



238

Legal aid
system
employees



1 037

Lawyers successfully
passed a competition
to provide legal aid



3 581

Qualified
legal aid lawyers
in the Registry



2 116

Contracts and
agreements
signed with lawyers



3

Learning events
for employees



70

Learning event
participants



77

Cascade trainings
for lawyers



1 203

Lawyers who participated
in trainings

LEGAL AID PROVISION

TO SUSPECTED AND ACCUSED PERSONS IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS,
TO DETAINED, ARRESTED AND CONVICTED INDIVIDUALS



22 433

Cases of legal aid provision to detained criminal suspects



9 957

Cases of legal aid provision to persons under administrative detention or arrest



44 305

Cases of defense by appointed legal aid lawyers



0

Legal aid provision to imprisoned persons (are not eligible for legal aid)

159

Cases receiving less sanction than those pleaded by the prosecution

733

Cases with lowered charges

477

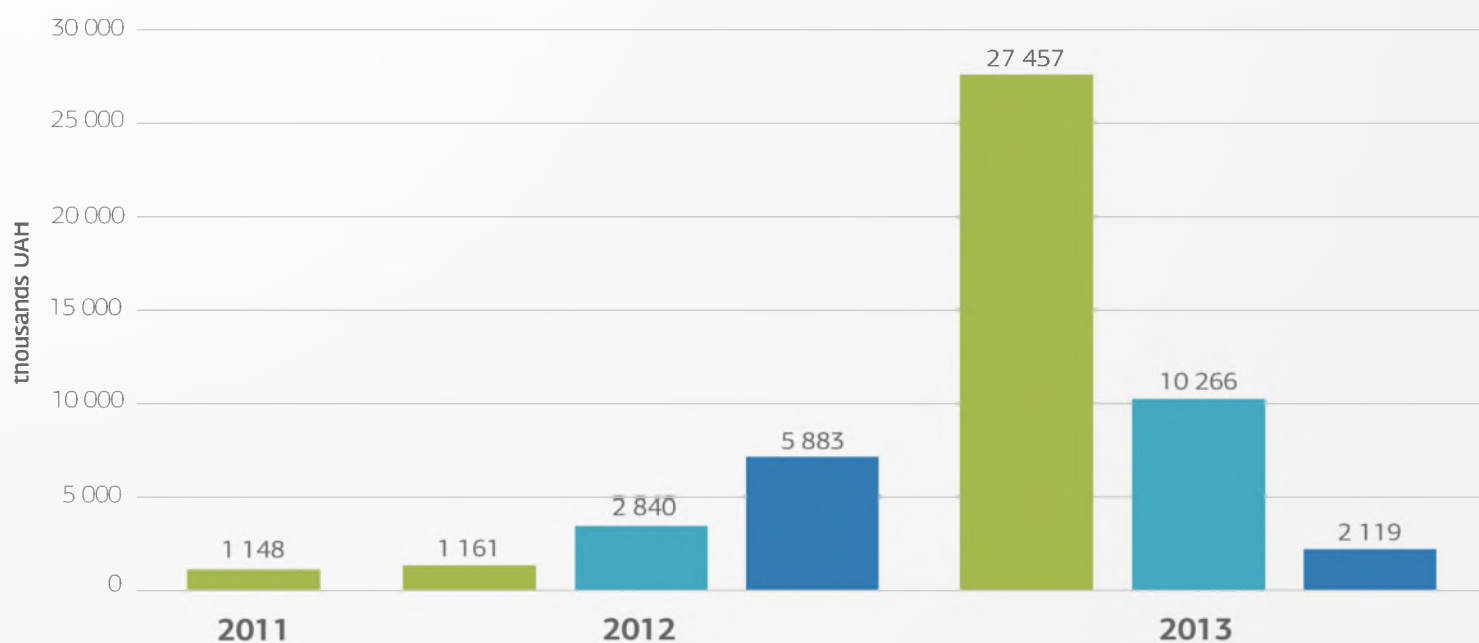
Closures of criminal proceedings

45

Verdicts of acquittal

FUNDING FROM THE STATE BUDGET

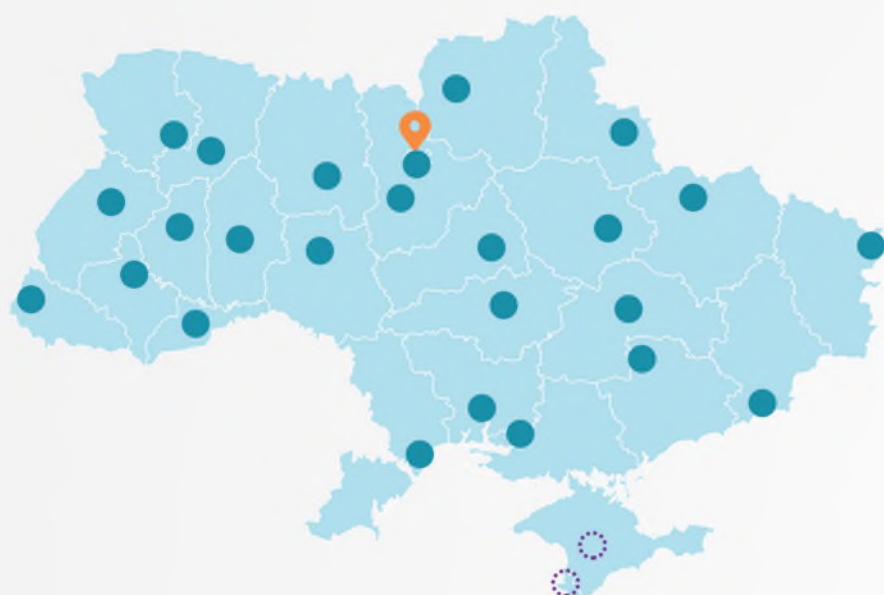
Legal aid provision System management System development



2014 YEAR

DEVELOPMENT. ENSURING QUALITY

INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE



Coordination Center
for Legal Aid Provision



Regional legal aid centers



Regional legal aid centers
which suspended their operations
due to the temporary annexation
of AR Crimea
and the city of Sevastopol

HUMAN RESOURCE CAPACITY



344

Legal aid
system
employees



631

Lawyers successfully
passed a competition
to provide legal aid



4 212

Legal aid
lawyers
in the Registry



2 072

Contracts and
agreements
signed with lawyers



6

Learning events
for employees



78

Learning event
participants



129

Cascade trainings
for lawyers



3 624

Lawyers who participated
in trainings

LEGAL AID PROVISION

TO SUSPECTED AND ACCUSED PERSONS IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS,
TO DETAINED, ARRESTED AND IMPRISONED INDIVIDUALS



18 021

Cases of legal aid
provision to detained
criminal suspects



7 708

Cases of legal aid
provision to persons under
administrative detention or arrest



41 679

Cases of defense
by appointed
legal aid lawyers



45

Legal aid provision
to imprisoned persons
(since October 25, 2014)

623 Cases receiving
less sanction than those
pleaded by the prosecution

760 Cases with
lowered charges

500 Cases with minimal
or less sanction
than provided by law

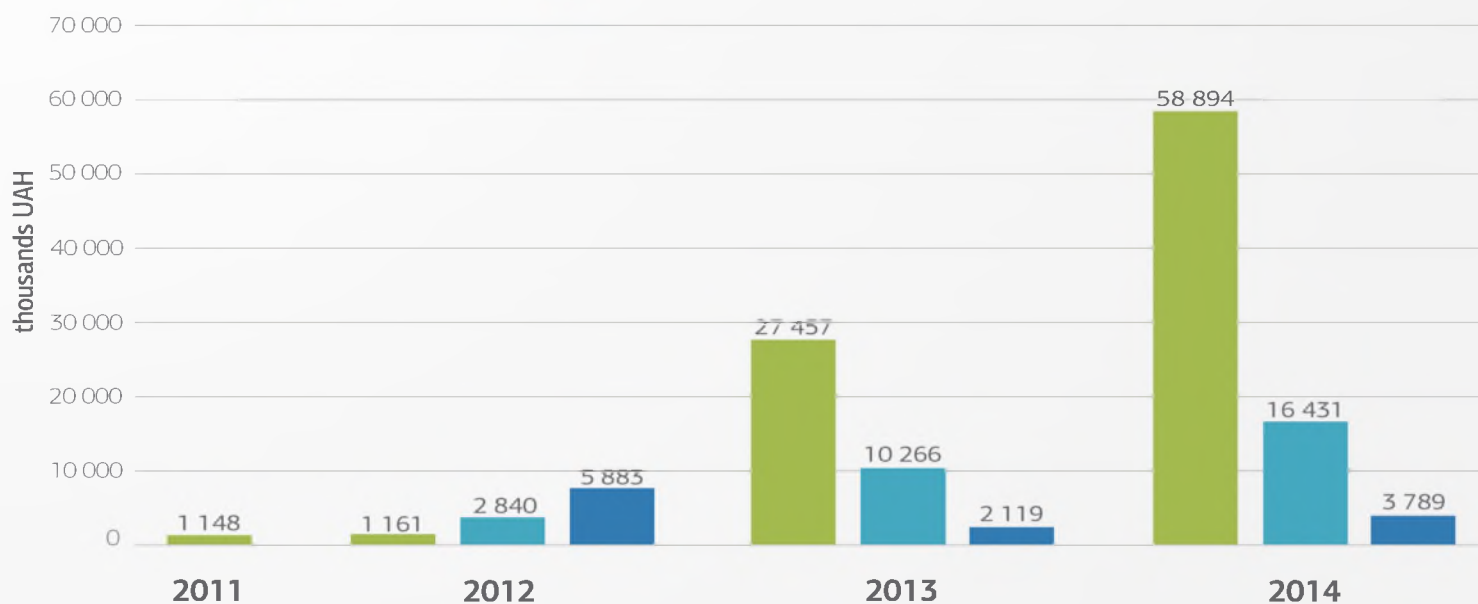
2 999 Releases from serving
punishments
with a period of probation

235 Closures of
criminal proceedings

142 Verdicts
of acquittal

FUNDING FROM THE STATE BUDGET

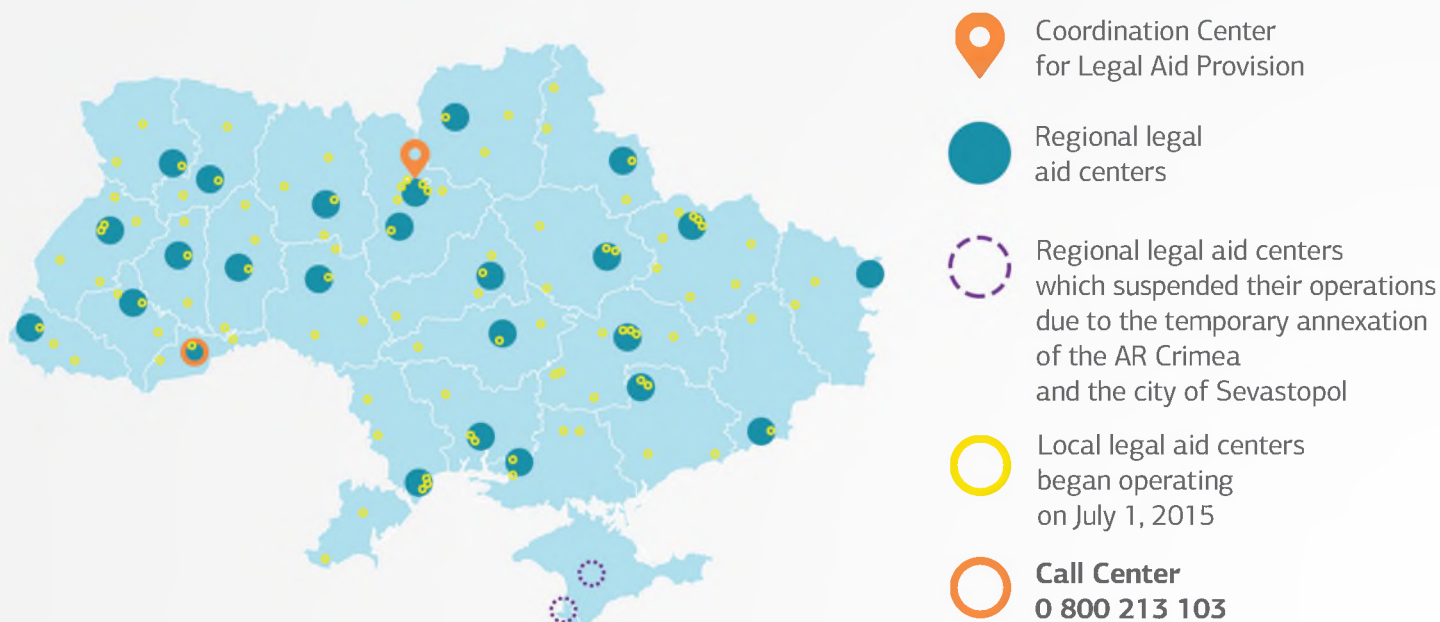
● Legal aid provision ● System management ● System development



2015 YEAR

DEVELOPMENT. INCREASING QUALITY

INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE



HUMAN RESOURCE CAPACITY



1 259

Legal aid system employees



865

Lawyers successfully passed a competition to provide legal aid



5 077

Legal aid lawyers in the Registry



2 729

Contracts and agreements signed with lawyers



19

Learning events for employees



1 334

Learning event participants



107

Cascade trainings for lawyers



2 555

Lawyers who participated in trainings

LEGAL AID PROVISION

TO SUSPECTED AND ACCUSED PERSONS IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS,
TO DETAINED, ARRESTED AND IMPRISONED INDIVIDUALS



17 012

Cases of legal aid
provision to detained
criminal suspects



11 351

Cases of legal aid
provision to persons under
administrative detention or arrest



45 580

Cases of defense
by appointed
legal aid lawyers



1 169

Legal aid provision
to imprisoned persons
(Since October 25, 2014)

1 445

Cases receiving
less sanction than those
pleaded by the prosecution

1 156

Cases with
lowered charges

2 417

Cases with minimal
or less sanction
than provided by law

6 840

Releases from serving
punishments
with a period of probation

274

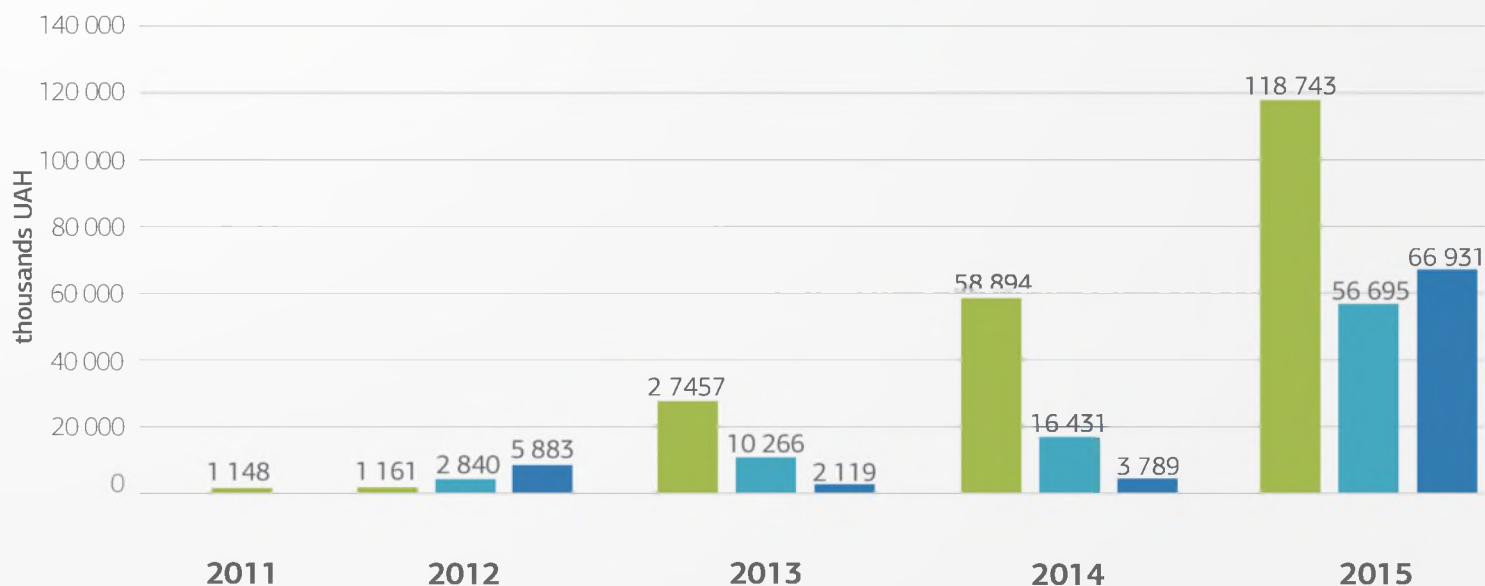
Closures of
criminal proceedings

193

Verdicts
of acquittal

FUNDING FROM THE STATE BUDGET

Legal aid provision System management System development



2015 YEAR

DEVELOPMENT. EXTENDING ACCESS

LEGAL AID PROVISION

IN CIVIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE CASES, AS WELL AS FOR CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF VICTIMS AND WITNESSES IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS



41 309

Legal aid applications



28 444

Individuals who received legal consultations from local legal aid center staff



8 911

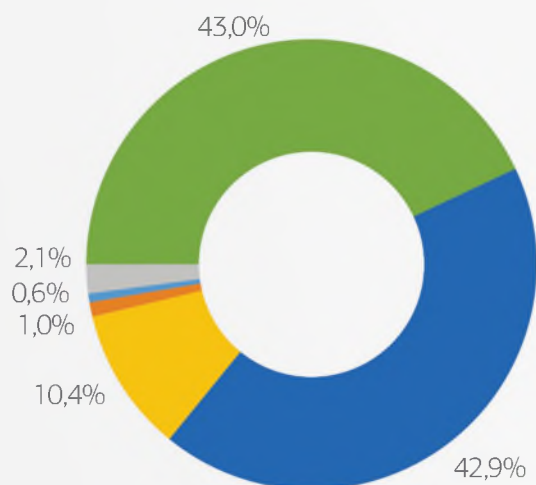
Decisions to provide representation in court



6 042

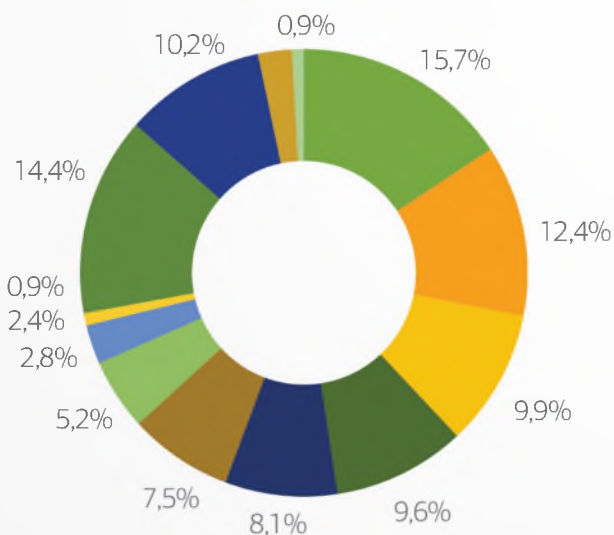
Persons referred to partner institutions and organizations for assistance

LEGAL AID CLIENTS
BY ELIGIBILITY CATEGORY



- Persons with disabilities
- Persons with low income
- War veterans
- Refugees
- Orphaned children
- Other categories

LEGAL AID APPLICATIONS
BY SUBJECT MATTER



- Social welfare
- Housing law
- Family law
- Inheritance law
- Land law
- Contract law
- Labour law
- Administrative law
- Medical law
- Other civil law matters
- Other fields of law
- Enforcement of court decisions
- Non-legal matters

A CHRONOLOGY

2011. INCEPTION

June 2 – The Verkhovna Rada adopts the Law of Ukraine “On Legal Aid”

December 28 – The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopts Resolution No.1362, titled “On the approval of the competition procedure, terms and conditions, and qualification requirements of lawyers providing free secondary legal aid”

December 28 – The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopts Resolution No.1363, titled “On the approval of procedures to notify free secondary legal aid centers about detentions, administrative arrests or custodial measures”

2012. INSTITUTIONALIZATION

January 11 – The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopts Resolution No.8, titled “On the approval of the procedures and terms and conditions to contract lawyers providing free secondary legal aid on a permanent basis and lawyers providing free secondary legal aid on a temporary basis”

January 31 – A working group is created pursuant to the Ministry of Justice’s order No.86/7, titled “On the establishment of a working group to improve legislation on legal aid”. The working group consists of leaders of the: Bar Union of Ukraine, Ukrainian Bar Association, Association of Lawyers of Ukraine, Union of Lawyers of Ukraine, Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union, in addition to other NGOs and government authorities. During the year the working group holds three meetings (February 9-10, July 10 and December 6), which result in amendments to key regulatory acts relating to legal aid

April 13 – Ukraine adopts a new Criminal Procedure Code, establishing a sole mechanism for assigning defense lawyers to a case via free secondary legal aid centers

April 18 – The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopts Resolution No. 305, titled “On the payment of fees and the reimbursement of expenses of lawyers providing free secondary legal aid,” which effectively completes the construction of a regulatory framework for the legal aid system

April 23 – Ukraine presents its plans for rolling out the legal aid system at an event in Vienna, Austria, titled *Improving Access to Legal Aid: Experience and Best Practices*. As part of the 21st session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the event provides an overview of the experiences of governmental authorities and NGOs. An analysis of best practices is provided, reflecting the Draft United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems

May 22-26 – A Kyrgyzstan delegation headed by Justice Minister Almambet Shykmamatov visits Ukraine. Supported by International Renaissance Foundation, the visit seeks to explore practices in organizing the legal aid system. The delegation meets a future team of the Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision (CCLAP) to discuss implementation of the Law of Ukraine “On Legal Aid” and rollout of the legal aid system in Ukraine

June 1 – The first-ever competition for the selection of legal aid lawyers is held. As a result, 950 lawyers are entered into the Unified Register of Free Secondary Legal Aid Lawyers (the Unified Register of FSLA Lawyers)

June 6 – The Ukrainian Government establishes the Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision pursuant to the Cabinet’s Resolution No. 504

July 1 – The Ministry of Justice of Ukraine issues order No. 967/5, approving regulations on free secondary legal aid centers, and No. 968/5, which establishes 27 free secondary legal aid regional centers for suspects and convicts in criminal proceedings as well as persons subjected to administrative detention or arrest

July 5 – The Law of Ukraine “On the Bar and Lawyers’ Practice” is adopted. The legislation provides that lawyer self-regulation bodies be involved in the management of the free legal aid system, particularly in the selection of lawyers and the evaluation of the quality, completeness, and timeliness of their legal aid services

October 11 – The Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision, International Renaissance Foundation and Ukrainian Legal Aid Foundation sign a Memorandum of Cooperation to jointly promote best legal aid practices in Ukraine, foster international cooperation in sharing legal aid practices, provide joint training for legal aid lawyers and their staff, monitor the quality of legal aid, evaluate performance and effectiveness of the legal aid system, and raise awareness about the right to legal aid through outreach

October – November – The first legal aid regional training sessions are conducted for lawyers. Supported by the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine within the framework of the Promoting Ukrainian Legal Aid System Development project, the events bring together over 150 lawyers included in the Unified Register of FSLA Lawyers. Four training sessions take place: Donetsk (October 19), Simferopol (October 26), Odesa (November 9), and Lviv (November 29). The sessions cover the following topics: institutional principles of legal practice in Ukraine, the provision of free secondary legal aid, the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in a lawyer’s practice, and an introduction to the Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine

November 14-16, December 14-16 – Prior to the launch of legal aid in Ukraine, the first round of workshops for directors of regional free secondary legal aid centers is held. The workshops are organized by the Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision and

supported by the International Renaissance Foundation

December 10 – The second competition for the selection of legal aid lawyers is held. As a result, the Unified Register of FSLA Lawyers now contains 1,594 lawyers

December 13 – An international conference, *The Role and Institutionalization of Defense in the Context of Enforcement of the Law of Ukraine “On Legal Aid” and the new Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine* is organized and held by the Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision, in partnership with Ukrainian Legal Aid Foundation, International Renaissance Foundation and US Department of Justice. The conference provides an excellent opportunity for lawyers, representatives of Ukrainian government authorities, foreign embassies, professional associations, universities, newly appointed directors of free legal aid centers and international experts to share practices related to legal aid. Topics included: international standards of criminal defense, the role of defense in an adversarial system and the effect of early access to legal aid in criminal justice processes, the institutionalization and development strategy of the legal aid system in Ukraine, and cooperation between the bar and government as a success factor for public defense

December 24 – The Complex Informational Analytical System (CIAS) is developed and launched to support the provision of free secondary legal aid. It automates the majority of processes and procedures – such as the management of “requests” for legal aid from authorized agencies and human resources management (including contracting lawyers) – monitors the distribution of cases and workload among lawyers, and manages the reimbursement of their expenses, among other items

2013. DEVELOPMENT. ENSURING ACCESS

January 1 – Ukraine starts providing free secondary legal aid to people subjected to administrative detention, administrative arrest, individuals detained on suspicion of an offense and taken into custody, suspects and convicts for whom a defense lawyer was assigned by an investigator, public prosecutor, investigating judge or court

January 1 – The legal aid system’s 24/7 toll free telephone line (0-800-213-103) is launched; notably, the system provides notifications about detentions

February 13 – The State Targeted Program for Free Legal Aid Development for 2015-2017 is approved with projected financing of UAH 401,497,000. The program seeks to develop and implement a wide range of institutional, legal and economic measures to provide access to free legal aid to people who have a constitutional right to such aid and need it

April 1 – The third competition for the selection of legal aid lawyers takes place. As a result, 454 lawyers are added to the Unified Register of FSLA Lawyers

April 10 – August 2 – The Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision and the ABA Rule of Law Initiative hold a number of training sessions on effective criminal defense within the project *Strengthening the Bar*, a component of Criminal Procedure Code training courses for private-practice and legal aid lawyers. The trainings take place in Poltava, Dnipropetrovsk, Sumy, Kherson, Vinnytsia and Lutsk and bring together 270 legal aid lawyers. The event covers four topics: European Court case law on criminal proceedings principles; evidentiary issues affecting criminal defense attorneys; measures supporting the criminal process, appeals, and the action and inaction of investigators, public prosecutors and investigating judges; and aspects undisclosed investigations, detectives, and courtroom activities

April 14-21 – A Tajikistan delegation headed by First Deputy Justice Minister Abdumanon Kholikov visits Ukraine to learn about the Ukraine experience of enforcing the Law of Ukraine “On Free Legal Aid”. Supported by the International Renaissance Foundation, the visit includes meetings at the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision, and free secondary legal aid centers. Additional meetings with lawyers providing legal aid across Ukraine focus on the experience of establishing and developing the legal aid system in Ukraine

April 24-27 – The Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision is presented at the workshop *Quality Legal Aid: Introducing UN Principles and Standards of Access to Legal Aid in the Criminal Justice System* in Chisinau, Moldova. The event was held to build a platform for sharing practices related to national legal aid mechanisms and bringing the quality of such aid in line with international standards. At the workshop, Ukraine presents its practices of public criminal defense institutionalization

May 14-15 – At a regional round table held in Tbilisi, Georgia, the Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision presents the findings of Ukrainian surveys on improvement of access to legal aid for people in need. The event is organized by the Legal Aid Reformers Network (LARN). Attendees share practices and experiences in building legal aid systems, discuss the development of free legal aid systems in Georgia, Moldova, Bulgaria, Lithuania and Ukraine, and elaborate on regional level cooperation strategies

June 6-8 and July 5-6 – The first “training of trainers” sessions take place for 50 lawyers previously selected through an open competition across Ukraine. The events are part of a learning program implemented jointly with the Ukrainian Legal Aid Foundation and the Council of Europe project *Support to Criminal Justice Reform in Ukraine*. Their topics include The New Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine: Consideration and Application in Light of ECHR Standards, and, Actions of Defense Lawyers in Case Decisions To Impose, Extend, Cancel or Change Pre-Trial Restrictions

(August 8-9). The training sessions were the first step to launch a model of cascade training and methodology support for all lawyers providing free legal aid

June 14-15 – The first two-day joint workshop Government-Guaranteed Defense: Analysis of Practices and Further Development is held for the team of the Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision and directors of regional free secondary legal aid centers. The event is organized in Bakhchisaray by the Coordination Center and Ukrainian Legal Aid Foundation as part of the EU project Access to Justice through Free Legal Aid and High Quality Standards of Human Rights Protection in Ukraine

July 1 – A right to legal aid awareness campaign is launched in cooperation with the Ukrainian Legal Aid Foundation. Over a one-year period, a number of posters, stickers, booklets, and leaflets are published and distributed, including social video clips. The clips feature the mother of a 19 year-old student, Igor Indyla, who died in a detention cell, and Vitaly Kajira, who served a sentence for a murder he did not commit. Supported by the USAID's FAIR Justice Project, a series of booklets on legal aid is published, such as: "Detention on Suspicion of a Criminal Offense" (39,000 copies); "Types of Pre-Trial Restrictions in Criminal Proceedings" (39,000 copies); "What is a Plea Agreement and What are Its Implications?" (39,000 copies); and, "Right to Legal Aid in Criminal Proceedings" (90,000 copies). An additional 72,000 booklets on legal aid is published, such as: "Detention on Suspicion of a Criminal Offense" (39,000 copies); "Types of Pre-Trial Restrictions in Criminal Proceedings" (39,000 copies); "What is a Plea Agreement and What are Its Implications?" (39,000 copies); and, "Right to Legal Aid in Criminal Proceedings" (90,000 copies). An additional 72,000 booklets of "Right to Legal Aid in Criminal Proceedings" are printed with the support of Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union. The USAID FAIR Justice Project and French Embassy to Ukraine support the publication of 23,500 posters, featuring information about legal aid, a "hotline", and 60,000 stickers advertising the "hotline's" phone number. Two promo videos featuring information about legal aid provision and the hotline telephone number are broadcast 59,673 times by national and local TV channels (over August 2013 - December 2014 period)

July 23 – A national round table, *Assuring Quality of Legal Aid in Criminal Cases*, is organized by the Ukrainian National Bar Association, Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union, Ukrainian Legal Aid Foundation and International Renaissance Foundation, with support from the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine and Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision. Operating like a pilot project, the event evaluates the quality of legal aid provision. Participants agree to speed up the development of the quality standards of free secondary legal aid provision in cooperation with the broader bar community, acting under the guidance of the Ukrainian National Bar Association, and agree on procedures to approve standards

September 11 – November 8 – The first wave of cascade trainings for legal aid lawyers take place at regional level. The sessions focus on "Actions of defense lawyers

where a person is detained on suspicion of a criminal offense” and “Actions of Defense Lawyers in case decisions made to impose, extend, cancel or change pre-trial restrictions”

September 19 – Upon a motion by the Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision, 45 trainer lawyers receive certificates which allow them to organize and/or conduct trainings for lawyers (trainings wherein lawyers may obtain “qualification upgrades”) on the topics of “Actions of defense lawyers where a person is detained on suspicion of a criminal offense” and “Actions of defense lawyers in case decisions made to impose, extend, cancel or change pre-trial restrictions” (decision No. 5 of the Expert Council under the Ukrainian National Bar Association)

September 27 – The Bar Council of Ukraine adopts a decision to officially recognize activities organized by the Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision for lawyers as “qualification upgrade” activities (according to the Procedure of Qualification Upgrade for Lawyers of Ukraine) and to allow the Coordination Center to issue its own series of certificates regarding participation of lawyers in such activities (amended Procedure of Qualification Upgrade for Lawyers of Ukraine approved by decision No. 219 of the Bar Council of Ukraine)

November 1 – The fourth competition for the selection of legal aid lawyers is held. As a result, 603 lawyers are added to the Unified Register of FSLA Lawyers

November 19 – The Ukrainian National Bar Association and Ministry of Justice of Ukraine sign a Memorandum of Cooperation in the area of legal aid provision. The parties set the following priority areas of cooperation: information exchange; respect for guarantees of lawyer’s practice and protection of lawyer’s professional rights; development, approval and implementation of quality standards for free legal aid provision; monitoring and evaluation of quality of legal aid provision by lawyers; and training of lawyers

December 1-30 – Legal aid lawyers are appointed as defense lawyers to the “Bankova Prisoners” and other Euromaidan activists. The lawyers’ commitment to defend the activists wins public recognition, a historic first for legal aid lawyers and the legal aid system

December 10 – The Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights and the Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision sign a Memorandum of Cooperation. In response to Euromaidan-related challenges, the parties join efforts to prevent violations of human rights and freedoms, particularly the right to legal aid

December 17 – The Bar Council of Ukraine approves the “Quality Standards for free secondary legal aid in criminal proceedings” (decision No. 267)

During December – Lawyers providing legal aid were appointed as defense lawyers of

the “Bankova prisoners” and other activists of Euromaidan. Their commitment to defend the activists was recognized by public first time in legal aid system history

2014. DEVELOPMENT. ENSURING QUALITY

January – February – Lawyers providing legal aid become defense lawyers of the Revolution of Dignity activists. In total, 277 detained protesters (two thirds of all detainees of whom regional free secondary legal aid centers were notified) receive the defense from legal aid lawyers

February 25 – The Ministry of Justice of Ukraine issues order No. 386/5, approving the quality standards of free secondary legal aid provision in criminal proceedings that were previously approved by the Bar Council of Ukraine (decision No. 267)

February 28 – The Open Civic Platform on Development of the Ukrainian Legal Aid System is created as a joint endeavor of community leaders, human rights activists, and experts in human rights, rule of law and criminal justice. The initiative seeks to support the development of the legal aid system in Ukraine and exercise the public control over the system’s activity

February 1-3 and March 1-2 – Supported by the ABA Rule of Law Initiative, two “training of trainers” sessions are held, focusing on actions of defense lawyers in court proceedings

March 1 – Under the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ukrainian National Bar Association and the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, regional free secondary legal aid centers establish legal aid quality units and introduce positions of quality managers

March 9 – April 26 – A wave of cascade trainings take place in regions where legal aid lawyers are providing services. The sessions focus on actions of defense lawyers in criminal proceedings

April 10 – Representatives from the Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision participate in the roundtable, *The System of Government-Guaranteed Legal Aid in Kyrgyzstan: Achievements, Challenges and Fundamental Issues of Reforms*, in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The representatives share their experiences in developing and managing the legal aid system in Ukraine and discuss its role in the justice system, along with future prospects. Issues discussed at the event also include: key achievements and challenges facing Kyrgyzstan in its implementation of its Law “On Government-Guaranteed Legal Aid in the Republic of Kyrgyzstan” in 2011-2014, and a comparative analysis of international legal aid provision standards

April 21 – The fifth competition for the selection of legal aid lawyers is held. As a result, 308 lawyers are added to the Unified Register of FSLA Lawyers (списку центрів з надання БВПД) прийняли захист від адвокатів за рахунок держави

May 12 – The Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision presents about the Ukrainian experience in ensuring early access to legal aid, and its role in protecting human rights, at the session *Access to Justice and Human Rights Protection at Pre-Trial Stages: The Launch of a New Handbook of Early Access to Legal Aid*, at the 23rd session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna, Austria

May 17-19 and June 21-22 – Two “training of trainers” sessions are held on topics including: defense lawyer’s actions in criminal proceedings, appeals, the actions or inaction of investigators, public prosecutors and investigating judges, and the review of court decisions. The trainings are co-organized by the Council of Europe, Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision and Ukrainian Legal Aid Foundation

June 7-10 – The first “introduction” workshop takes place for quality managers from regional free secondary legal aid centers. Organized by the Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision and supported by the International Renaissance Foundation and Ukrainian Legal Aid Foundation, the event seeks to develop a “road map” for quality standards implementation — an action plan for quality managers to introduce quality standards in second quarter of 2014

June 24-26 – The Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision presents on the Ukrainian experience in providing financial support to the legal aid system in Ukraine at an International Conference on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems, held in Johannesburg, South Africa. The event covers the overview of the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems; international practices in meeting needs in legal aid in criminal justice; international legal aid training programs; key principles and efficiency models in legal aid systems, assurance of high quality legal aid in criminal proceedings, early access to legal aid in criminal cases for suspects and convicts; and ensuring access to legal aid in civil cases

June 7 (and August 22 and September 11) – The Ministry of Justice of Ukraine holds the first three internal financial audits of the legal aid system. The Ministry audits the Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision and regional free secondary legal aid centers, in the city of Kyiv and the Kyiv Oblast, respectively. Reports on audit results were published on the Coordination Center website

June 23 – The All-Ukrainian Bar Association of Legal Aid Providers (BALAP) is registered. The newly established NGO unites over 2,000 lawyers across Ukraine

June 25 – July 31 – A cycle of cascade trainings take place in regions wherein legal aid lawyers are operating. The sessions focus on defense lawyers’ actions in criminal

proceedings, appeals, the action or inaction of investigators, public prosecutors and investigating judges, and reviews of court decisions

July 1 – The “Quality Standards for free secondary legal aid provision in criminal proceedings” come into effect. A road map for quality managers is approved, specifying their key functions, objectives, and action plan for improving the quality of legal aid

July 5 – The Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision and Canadian Bureau for International Education sign a Memorandum of Understanding to implement the Ukrainian-Canadian project “Quality and Accessible Legal Aid in Ukraine” (QALA) in 2014 – 2018. The QALA project goal is to increase equitable access to justice for men and women across Ukraine (in particular, individuals from marginalized groups) by providing support to the development of the legal aid system and raising awareness about the right to legal aid

September 1 – On its website, the Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision starts to publish weekly updates about case distribution (number of orders issued to lawyers) and payment of fees to all lawyers providing legal aid

September 11 – *The Legal Aid Digest* – covering the legal aid system in Ukraine – publishes its first newsletter. This monthly publication is designed to inform about developments in the system, implementation of the public policy in the field, the professional achievements of lawyers, and successful management practices of legal aid centers and stakeholders of the system

September 13-15 and September 27-28 – Two “training of trainers” sessions are held, focusing on defense lawyer’s actions in agreement-based criminal proceedings, defense lawyer’s actions to take particular measures ensuring access to proper medical assistance. The events are co-organized by the Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision, the ABA Rule of Law Initiative, EU Project “Support to Justice Sector Reforms in Ukraine” and Ukrainian Legal Aid Foundation

September 19 – The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopts resolution No.465 “On payment of fees and reimbursement of expenses of lawyers providing free secondary legal aid”. The document substitutes the Cabinet’s resolution No.325 (dd. April 18, 2012), introducing additional rewards for lawyers depending on effectiveness of the defense and regulate payment of fees for legal aid provision in civil and administrative cases

September 30 – A report is printed on the first-year performance of the legal aid system, providing an evaluation by independent experts from the Ukrainian Legal Aid Foundation, International Renaissance Foundation and Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union

October 14 – Ukraine adopts the Law “On Public Prosecution Service,” introducing concepts of legal aid and amending the Law of Ukraine “On Free Legal Aid”. In particular,

the amendments include the introduction of the legal aid system, headed by the Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision; provision of free secondary legal aid to convicts sentenced to restriction or deprivation of liberty; the delegation of powers to represent individuals in courts from public prosecutor's offices to free secondary legal aid centers; approval of a notification mechanism allowing detainees to contact their family members and relatives; and continued legal aid to all detainees and suspects subjected to pre-trial custody as long as these persons are in such roles

October 23-24 – A working meeting of quality managers takes place in Chyhyryn (Cherkasy Oblast) to discuss the operation of the quality management system during the first months and its future development. The event is supported by International Renaissance Foundation, the ABA Rule of Law Initiative, Ukrainian Legal Aid Foundation, and the Quality and Accessible Legal Aid in Ukraine (QALA) project funded by the Canadian Government

October 2-25 – A cycle of cascade trainings take place across regions where legal aid attorneys are operating. The sessions focus on defense lawyers' actions in agreement-based criminal proceedings as well as their actions to ensure access to proper medical assistance. Supported by the International Renaissance Foundation, the events are co-organized by the Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision and regional legal aid centers, in collaboration with the Ukrainian Legal Aid Foundation and within the framework of the project *Ensuring Access to Medical Assistance for Detainees Kept in Institutions of the Penal System*

November 6 – The sixth competition for selection of legal aid lawyers is held. As a result, 323 lawyers are added to the Unified Register of FSLA Lawyers

December 12-13 – Kyiv hosts an international conference titled *Legal Aid Quality* that brings together key players of the national criminal justice system and leading international experts from Canada, the United States, and Europe. The delegates discuss ways to improve legal aid quality and cooperation aimed at ensuring access to fair trial and sharing practices. During the conference, the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights and the Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision sign amendments to their Memorandum of Cooperation regarding future joint actions to prevent violations of human rights and violations, and in particular, violations of rights to free secondary legal aid. The event was co-organized by the Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision and supported by International Renaissance Foundation, Ukrainian Legal Aid Foundation, ABA Rule of Law Initiative, the Council of Europe's *Support to the Criminal Justice Reform in Ukraine* project, Quality and Accessible Legal Aid in Ukraine (QALA) project, funded by the Canadian Government, and Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine

During December – Financial management and control of the legal aid system is audited by independent Ukrainian and international auditors as part of a pilot project implemented by the National Academy for Finance and Economics of the Dutch Ministry

of Finance, jointly with the State Audit Service of Ukraine. Experts identify risks of the legal aid system functions and provide risk mitigation recommendations. The Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision is recognized by the Dutch and Ukrainian auditors as a leader of effective financial management in Ukraine's public sector. The Center shares its risk management practices with Ukrainian ministries and other executive authorities at the workshop *Introducing Management Accountability in Government Authorities of Ukraine*, held on December 19

December 31 – The Ministry of Justice of Ukraine issues order No. 287/7 to approve the “Action Plan to develop the legal aid system”. The plan provides for the establishment of 100 local free secondary legal aid centers in 2015 that ensure legal aid provision in civil and administrative cases, effective July 1, 2015

2015. DEVELOPMENT. INCREASING QUALITY AND EXTENDING ACCESS

February 11-12 – A workshop is held on strategies to build the legal aid system's capacity. Supported by the Quality and Accessible Legal Aid in Ukraine (QALA) project funded by the Canadian Government, the event gathers senior management of regional legal aid centers and the Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision

March 3 – The Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision creates a unit of internal financial control, staffed with highly skilled auditors to strengthen management practices in the legal aid system. During the first year, internal audits were conducted in seven regional legal aid centers, with audit reports published on the website of the Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision

March 10 – The Ministry of Justice issues order No. 329/5 “On amendments to regulations of free secondary legal aid centers”, which specifies key objectives, segregates functions between regional and local legal aid centers, and introduces a three-tier management system to run the legal aid system. Order No. 331/5 is also issued, titled “Development of the free secondary legal aid system” to establish 100 local legal aid centers across Ukraine so as to ensure access to legal aid for all groups outlined in the Law of Ukraine “On Free Legal Aid”, for victims and witnesses in criminal proceeding, and additionally for legal aid provision in civil and administrative cases. The legislation was drafted with the support from the Quality and Accessible Legal Aid in Ukraine (QALA) project funded by the Canadian Government

March 19 – The first episode of the *Justice DNA* radio program airs on Hromadske Radio. *Justice DNA* details various aspects of legal aid provision in Ukraine. The program seeks to raise people's awareness about their right to legal aid. 39 episodes featuring legal aid provision in criminal and civil cases are broadcast over a year. The program was created

with support from the Quality and Accessible Legal Aid in Ukraine (QALA) project, funded by the Canadian Government

April 1-3 – The Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision delivers a presentation at a meeting held in Vienna, Austria, to develop a Model Act on Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems. Ukraine shares its experience regarding the 5th chapter of the Model Act — status and responsibilities of management bodies in the legal aid system — based on operations of the Coordination Center

April 9 – The seventh competition for selection of legal aid lawyers is held. As a result, 372 lawyers are added in the Unified Register of FSLA Lawyers

April 12-19 – The senior management of the Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision attends the 13th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Doha, Qatar, as part of Ukrainian delegation headed by Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to the State of Qatar, Yevhen Mykytenko. The event focuses on integration of crime prevention and criminal justice into the wider UN agenda to address social and economic challenges and to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels. On April 15, Ukrainian delegates participate in a workshop held within Congress, dedicated to guiding principles of development of legal aid laws. CCLAP representatives present Ukrainian experiences in building the legal aid system. Due to the participation of the Ukrainian delegation in the Congress, legal aid issues were included in the UN priorities formulated in the Doha Declaration. Through the initiative of the Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision, the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine and the Coordination Center have worked on a draft declaration for several months, with support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, to introduce amendments relating to legal aid to the final Doha Declaration. The statement proposed by Ukraine and included into the document calls on member states “to review and reform legal aid policies for extending access to effective legal aid in criminal proceedings for those without sufficient means or when the interests of justice so require, including, when necessary, through the development of national plans in this area, and to build capacity to provide and ensure access to effective legal aid in all matters and in all its forms, taking into account the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems”

April 30 – An open competition is completed to select the first 67 directors of newly established local legal aid centers. The competition is conducted under the aegis of the Open Civic Platform on Development of the Ukrainian Legal Aid System and with methodological and organizational support from the Quality and Accessible Legal Aid in Ukraine (QALA) project funded by the Canadian Government

May 16-18 and May 30-31 – Two “training of trainers” sessions are co-organized by the Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision, Ukrainian Legal Aid Foundation, ABA Rule of Law Initiative and All-Ukrainian Bar Association of Legal Aid Providers. They focus on

defense lawyer's actions involving the classification of particular criminal offences and defense lawyer's actions in criminal proceedings requiring forensic examination

During May – Financial management and control of the legal aid system is audited by independent Ukrainian and international auditors as part of the second pilot project implemented by the National Academy for Finance and Economics of the Dutch Ministry of Finance, jointly with the State Audit Service of Ukraine. The audits analyze and evaluate financial management and control in the three-tier management model of the legal aid system. They also identify and measure risks related to the model of legal aid provision. Experts prepare recommendations and re-evaluate previously identified risks in the light of the system's continued institutional development. The auditors' opinion emphasizes the consistency and holistic approach of measures taken by Ukraine to build the legal aid system

May 20 – The development of legal aid is recognized as a priority and included into the Ukraine Judiciary Reform Strategy of 2015-2020, approved by the President's Decree No. 276/2015

June 5 – The Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision and ABA Rule of Law Initiative sign a Memorandum of Cooperation to strengthen the capacity and competence of lawyers to represent clients in the new criminal justice system

June 20-21 – With the support of the Quality and Accessible Legal Aid in Ukraine (QALA) project funded by the Canadian Government, the first joint workshop for management of the legal aid system takes place just before local legal aid centers begin operation. The event brings together directors of regional free secondary legal aid centers, directors and acting directors of local legal aid centers, as well as the Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision management team

June 23 – Public tenders are held to buy 231 multifunction devices to support operations of legal aid centers. As a result, UAH 700,872.40 are saved from the budgeted procurement amount (11%)

June 24 – In support of the legal aid Complex Information and Analysis System (CIAS) development, a public tender is held to buy and connect automatic IP stations, IP telephones, automated workstations, and network equipment to the integrated system. As a result, UAH 3,079,170.86 is saved from the budgeted procurement amount (18%)

June 30 – An open competition is completed to select “integrators” — heads of specialized units of newly established local legal aid centers. The integrators' goal is to build relations with legal aid providers at the community-level and local self-government bodies. The competition is conducted with support from the International Renaissance Foundation, Ukrainian Legal Aid Foundation and with methodological support from the Quality and Accessible Legal Aid in Ukraine project funded by the Canadian Government

June 2 to July 11 – A wave of cascade trainings take place in regions for lawyers engaged to provide legal aid. The sessions focus on defense lawyer's actions in case of classification of particular criminal offences and defense lawyer's actions in criminal proceedings requiring forensic examination. Upon completion, lawyers receive advanced training certificates. The sessions are co-organized by regional free secondary legal aid centers, the Ukrainian Bar Association of Legal Aid Providers, ABA Rule of Law Initiative, and Ukrainian Legal Aid Foundation, and supported by the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs operating under umbrella of the United States Department of State

August 25 – The development of legal aid is recognized as a priority and included into National Strategy of Human Rights Protection approved by the President's Decree No. 501/2015

September 1 – The Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision and the INL Section of the US Embassy to Ukraine approve a joint action plan to implement an international assistance project, *Strengthening the Capacity of Defense Lawyers in Ukraine*. The initiative seeks to enhance capacities and competences of Ukrainian lawyers to be successful in representing clients in criminal proceedings by assisting in building capacity of Ukrainian lawyers and NGOs which support the Ukrainian legal aid system. The cooperation also includes a provision for the support to launch five interregional resource and communications platforms

September 1 – Supported by the ABA Rule of Law Initiative, an *Introduction to Legal Aid* distance learning course is developed and launched for staff of the legal aid system, lawyers and all others interested in legal aid provision in Ukraine

September 1 – Ukraine launches a broad outreach effort to spread the message about local legal aid centers across Ukraine. The campaign includes media events on regional and national levels, outdoor awareness actions, dedicated videos broadcasted by national and regional TV channels, and booklets and leaflets about legal aid in civil and administrative cases that are prepared, printed and distributed with the support of the Quality and Accessible Legal Aid in Ukraine (QALA) project funded by Canadian Government

September 7-9 – The first seminar for “integrators” of local legal aid centers takes place. The seminar includes such activities as lectures, instructions and discussions of key issues — building a partnership network on a community-level and integration of primary and secondary legal aid to ensure access to legal aid for everyone in need in a timely and efficient way. The event is organized by the Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision in cooperation with Ukrainian Legal Aid Foundation, and it is supported by the International Renaissance Foundation

September 25-27 – The first training for “front-line managers” of local legal aid centers and heads of free secondary legal aid management units in regional legal aid centers is conducted to upgrade their skills in building effective communications, overcoming communications barriers, managing relations with challenging clients, stress management, etc. The event is organized with support of the Quality and Accessible Legal Aid in Ukraine (QALA) project funded by the Canadian Government, in partnership with International Renaissance Foundation

October 1 – Regular publication of personal data about the remuneration of staff members of the Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision, as well as regional and local legal aid centers, is initiated

October 3 – A 24/7 national legal aid contact center (0-800-213-103) is launched in Chernivtsi, aimed at offering consultations on any aspect of legal aid provision in Ukraine and to receive notices about detentions

October 20 – The eighth competition for selection of legal aid lawyers is held. As a result, 493 lawyers are added to the Unified Register of FSLA Lawyers

October 2-4 and October 18-19 – Two “training of trainers” sessions are co-organized by the Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision, ABA Rule of Law Initiative, Ukrainian Bar Association of Legal Aid Providers and the Quality and Accessible Legal Aid in Ukraine (QALA) project funded by Canadian Government. The events focus on defense in criminal proceedings relating to: offenses against national security and military offenses, criminal drug trafficking charge, and undisclosed investigative (detective) actions

October 23 – November 29 – A wave of cascade trainings take place in regions where lawyers are providing free secondary legal aid. The sessions focus on defense in: criminal proceedings relating to offenses against national security and military offenses, criminal drug trafficking charges, and undisclosed investigative (detective) actions. The events are co-organized by the Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision, ABA Rule of Law Initiative, Ukrainian Bar Association of Legal Aid Providers, and regional free secondary legal aid centers

November 19 – The Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision and regional legal aid centers receive computers, office software and multimedia devices worth over UAH 1.4 million in total for organization of training for lawyers. This assistance is provided for free within the framework of cooperation with the Council of Europe project *Support to the Criminal Justice Reform in Ukraine*, funded by the Danish Government

November 27 – The Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision presents about the Ukrainian experience in development and implementation of legal aid quality standards at a Kazakhstan bar forum titled *Promoting the Rule of Law: The Balance Between the Prosecution and Defense*, held in Almaty

November 30 – The Quality and Accessible Legal Aid in Ukraine (QALA) project and International Renaissance Foundation support 36 grant projects for integration of primary and secondary legal aid at the community-level across Ukraine

December 10-12 – With support from the Quality and Accessible Legal Aid in Ukraine (QALA) project funded by the Canadian Government and the International Renaissance Foundation, the second joint workshop took place for the legal aid system management team. The event is organized to summarize and analyze the legal aid system's operation during the last six months since the launch of local legal aid centers, and to plan for 2016. Participants include the directors of regional and local legal aid centers, senior managers and representatives of the Coordination Center for Legal Aid Provision

December 14-15 – A workshop focused on legal aid provision to domestic violence victims is held for quality managers of the regional legal aid centers. The event is organized by the Quality and Accessible Legal Aid in Ukraine (QALA) project funded by Canadian Government, with participation of experts from Women's Perspectives NGO

December 25 – The Ministry of Justice of Ukraine issues order No. 2748/5, to approve an action plan for reforms of territorial units of Ministry of justice and development of the legal aid system through liquidation of rayon justice departments and establishment of legal aid bureaus

NEXT STEPS

1. Opening over 400 legal aid bureaus across Ukraine aimed at:
 - raising communities' legal awareness
 - providing legal consultations and advice
 - ensuring access to secondary legal aid
 - providing secondary legal aid (other than defense)
 - ensuring access to e-services of the Ministry of Justice
2. Opening five interregional legal awareness, resource and communications platforms in Kyiv, Dnipro, Lviv, Odesa and Kharkiv
3. Increasing the number of “categories” eligible for secondary legal aid, particularly individuals who: have just applied for the status of an anti-terrorist operation participant (ATO participant) or are an internally displaced person; or, are low-income individuals with a total average monthly income not exceeding two minimum subsistence allowances established by law
4. Extending access to legal aid through the development of mobile and remote legal aid access points network
5. Increasing the fees of legal aid lawyers
6. Development and implementation of quality standards for legal aid provision in civil and administrative cases
7. Hosting the international *Community Legal Empowerment* conference in Kharkiv
8. Upgrading legal aid complex information and analysis system
9. Implementing a pilot project to accept and issue documents related to civil society organizations' registration by local legal aid centers
10. Conducting an independent assessment of the secondary legal aid system in Ukraine in the light of Council of Europe standards and case law of the European Court of Human Rights
11. Launching performance efficiency audits of legal aid centers
12. Building mechanisms to prevent corruption in the legal aid system
13. Launching a pilot operation for a mixed-model of legal aid provision in criminal cases, which considers the examples of the US and British public defender systems



QUALITY AND ACCESSIBLE
LEGAL AID IN UKRAINE PROJECT

Canada 