

**JOINT ACTION PLAN**  
**for the implementation of an international assistance project**

**Project title:** Strengthening Defense Advocacy in Ukraine

**Authority:** Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Ukraine Regarding Humanitarian and Technical Economic Cooperation of 7 May, 1992;

Letter of Agreement on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Sector Assistance between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Ukraine of March 13, 2015

**Donor:** U.S. Government through the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, U.S. Department of State

**Beneficiary/Recipient:** Coordination Center for Providing Legal Aid at the Ministry of Justice.

**Implementer(s):** INL Section of the Embassy of the United States to Ukraine; International Development Law Organization (IDLO).

**Project implementation period:** October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016 with possible extension until September 30, 2018

**Approximate project amount:** USD 1 million with possible extension up to 3 million upon availability of funds and agreement between the Donor and the Beneficiary

**Goal:** The goal of the project is to improve capacities of the Ukrainian defense lawyers to successfully defend their clients in criminal cases by providing capacity-building support to defense attorneys and to Ukrainian NGOs supporting the Free Legal Aid system.

**Project description:** The project will comprise activities jointly undertaken by the Coordination Center for Providing Legal Aid at the Ministry of Justice, IDLO and the INL Section of the US Embassy to Ukraine that will include but are not limited to the following:

- 1) establishing Regional Resource Platforms (RRPs) to support distance and online learning, train-the-trainer and in-class seminars, and other opportunities for continuing education of secondary free legal aid lawyers, free legal aid centers staff, private defense advocates, local NGO providing legal counseling, and other legal professionals;
- 2) providing RRPs with necessary equipment;
- 3) through a grants program that support the development of free legal aid NGOs across Ukraine; and,
- 4) by conducting other activities to build the efficiency and capacity of the secondary free legal aid system to provide quality defense services.

To ensure effective cooperation within this project, the Donor, the Implementer(s) and the Beneficiary/Recipient, and key experts involved in the project will regularly meet to coordinate activities under the project.

For the purpose of project implementation, the Donor may engage other organizations or institutions as additional project implementers in coordination with the Beneficiary/Recipient.

The Beneficiary/Recipient of the project will provide all reasonable support to the Donor and the Implementer(s) in their project implementation activity, including but not limited to the following:

- 1) assigning appropriate representatives of the Beneficiary/Recipient to jointly work with the Donor and Implementer(s) on specific project objectives in timely manner;
- 2) ensuring the participation of the Beneficiary/Recipient's representatives in training and other project activities;
- 3) providing necessary facilities, available equipment, and other supplies to support the implementation of project objectives as appropriate;
- 4) informing the Donor regarding activities with other technical assistance players to ensure efficient use of resources and avoid duplication of efforts;
- 5) ensuring proper use and maintenance of equipment and other technical assistance provided as well as proper record keeping as required by Ukrainian legislation;

**Evaluation, monitoring, and performance indicators:** The Donor and the Beneficiary/Recipient of the project will periodically evaluate the effectiveness of the project. The main outcome of the project is improved ability of the Ukrainian defense lawyers successfully defend their clients in criminal cases. In particular, success of the project will be measured by increase in access provided to free legal aid lawyers to technological tools and training to support their practice and improve their professional skills; by increased capacities of free legal aid NGOs in providing services to local communities, and by sustainable operations of the RRP in conducting in class and online training activities for legal professionals.

The Beneficiary/Recipient shall have provided RRP with premises which belong to the Beneficiary/Recipient by the end of 2016.

The Beneficiary/Recipient will provide the Donor with the necessary statistical and other information on each stage of the reform – in the manner consistent with the existing legislation – for the project evaluation purposes.

For the Donor



Christopher Smith  
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U.S. Embassy to Ukraine

For the Beneficiary/Recipient:



Andriy Vyshnevskyy  
Director of Coordination Center for Providing  
Legal Aid  
Ministry of Justice of Ukraine