

Democracy and Governance
Assessment

Ukraine

Final draft submitted September 24, 2010

Approach and Methodology

- The first review to be completed under revised Strategic Assessment Framework
- Fieldwork in-country June 20 – July 9
- Kyiv + excursions to the west (Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv), east (Donetsk, Kharkiv), south (Crimea)
- 120 interviews
 - Central and local executive officials, legislators, political parties, NGOs, media personnel, academics and think-tank analysts, public intellectuals, judges, lawyers, non-U.S. donors

Assessment Team

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Scenario

- Constriction of political competition and openness ...
- even while undertaking some worthwhile and overdue reforms.
- Reason to believe that hard-won democratic freedoms are at risk.
- Set against backdrop of a failed democratic breakthrough after Orange revolution.
- Backsliding real, though tentative and incomplete.

Challenges to Democratic Governance

- Consensus
- Rule of law
- Competition
- Inclusion
- Administrative accountability and effectiveness

Potential drivers of reform?

- Legal system
- Legislature
- Executive
- Electoral institutions and political parties
- Local governments
- Business elite
- Media
- Civil society
- International community

Democracy and Governance Objective

Advance Ukraine's political development and its integration into Euro-Atlantic institutions by encouraging responsible contestation, including transparency and accountability, monitoring with broad dissemination, and support for appropriate government institutional reforms or actions.

Two-Part Development Hypothesis

(1) *By supporting extra-governmental actors and democratic procedures (like media, watchdog NGOs, and political contestation), the threat of neo-authoritarianism and the closing of political space will be mitigated, a robust political competition will be retained, and democratic processes will be preserved;* (2) *and by supporting appropriate government measures and reforms and the democratic procedures for adopting them, Ukraine's stalled governance reforms will be energized and moved forward.*