



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

WEB RESOURCES >>>



Web-site of the Odesa regional organisation of the All-Ukrainian Organisation "Committee of Voters of Ukraine"



Web-site of the civic partnership "For Transparent Local Budgets!"



Web-site of the independent Internet media "IzbirKom"



Web-site of the civic campaign "Assessment of Local Councillors"



SOCIAL MEDIA >>>



Organisation's official account



The independent Internet media "IzbirKom"



The civic partnership "For Transparent Local Budgets!"



"Assessment of Local Councillors"



Centre for Public Investigations



Museum of Elections

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01 ABOUT US



Who We Are

The Odesa regional organisation of the All-Ukrainian public organisation «Committee of Voters of Ukraine», established in 1998, is an independent non-governmental organisation, a leader in the democratisation and protection and promotion of human rights.



Mission

To initiate and actively participate in positive changes in Ukraine, contribute to fair elections, the democratisation of authorities, promotion and protection of human rights and development of civil society institutions.



Geography of our activity

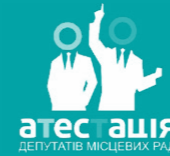
The organisation works in all regions of Ukraine through partner networks and the experts we engage.



Strategic areas of our activity:

- » Promotion of fair and transparent elections
- » Democratisation of governance and subjects of the political process
- » Integrity and efficiency of the budget process at the local level
- » Legal capacity of communities and protection of human rights
- » Development of media and public journalism

THE ORGANISATION'S STRATEGIC INITIATIVES



The organisation is the coordinator of



a member of



Regional partner of



THE STRUCTURE OF THE ORGANISATION

» The General Meeting is the organisation's supreme governing body.



» The Board consists of five people elected by the General Meeting.



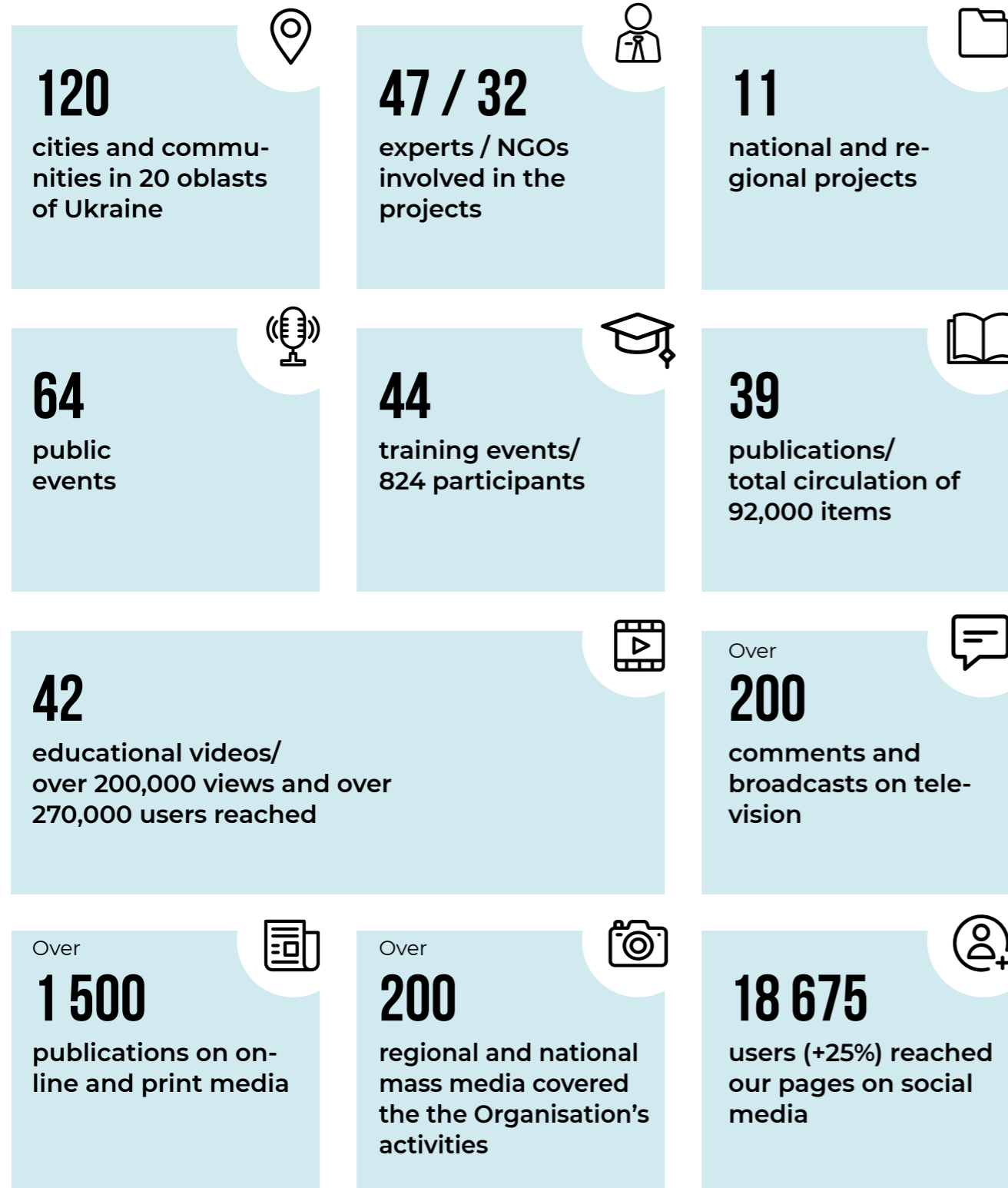
» The the organisation's staff comprises over 20 people.



» In addition, we engage more than 70 experts and up to 500 volunteers.



02 ODESA REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF THE ALL-UKRAINIAN NGO «COMMITTEE OF VOTERS OF UKRAINE» IN 2021

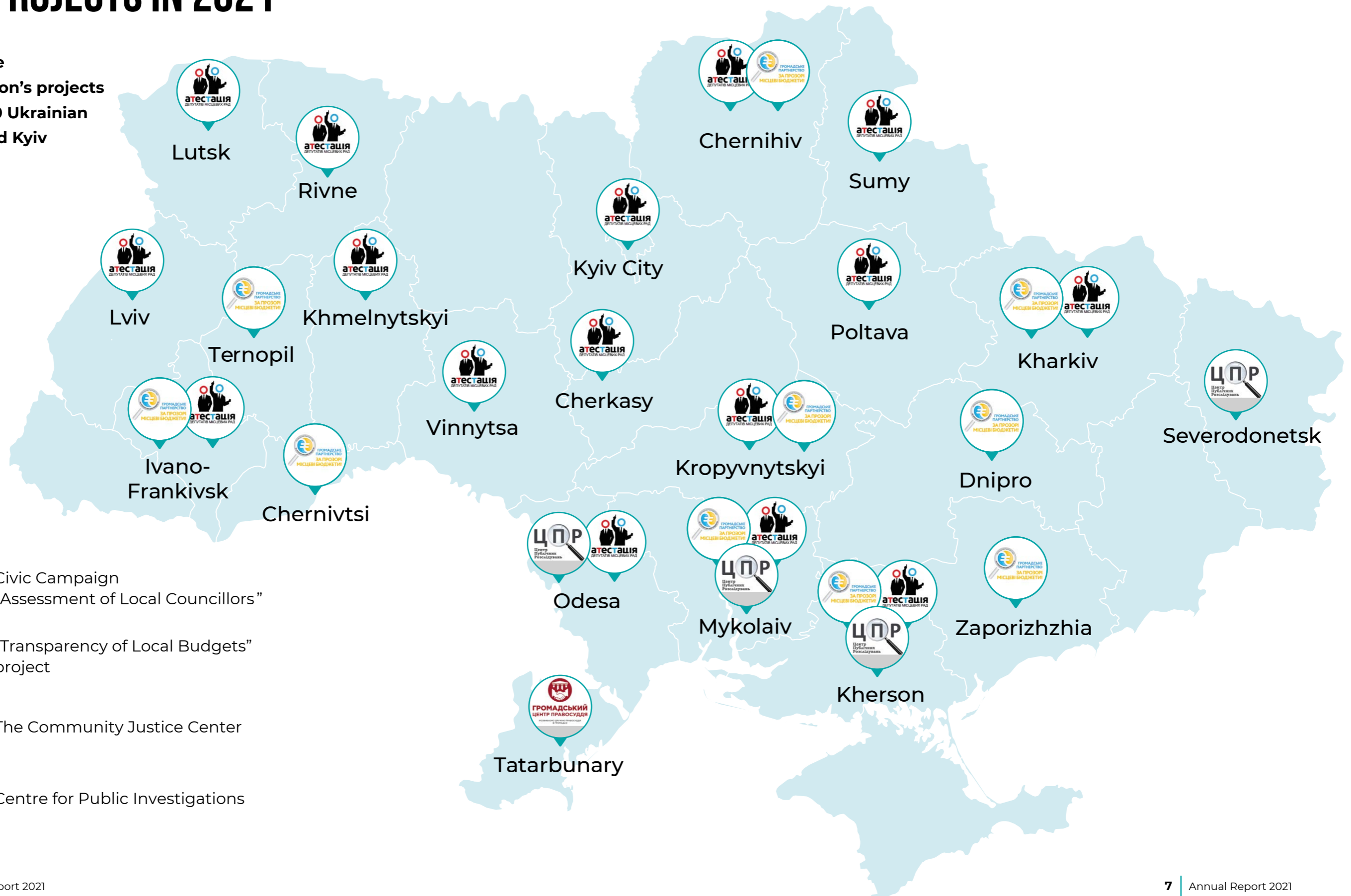


THE KEY EVENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- » we introduced a comprehensive initiative to strengthen social and economic opportunities for Roma women in the COVID-19 context;
- » five strategic court cases of the Public Justice Center have influenced local, regional and national policies on better access to justice;
- » we drafted and released a manual on hostile information operations on new media, were awarded by the National Union of Journalists in Ukraine (NUJU) as the best regional online publication, conducted a year-long campaign on social media monitoring in the region and defended the right of journalists to have free access to the Odesa Regional State Administration;
- » we boosted the capacity of the Public Partnership “For Transparent Local Budgets!” by implementing a new organisational structure, creating the Program Council and five areas of activity, and developing a fundraising strategy;
- » we institutionalised the Center for Public Investigations and engaged journalists from three oblasts of Ukraine to work on investigations;
- » we carried out strategic planning of the IzbirKom media holding for 2022-2024.
- » we launched a new cycle of «Assessment of local councillors»: more than 1,000 councillors of city councils of 15 regional centers and Kyiv. We improved their capacity to meet voters and communicate with them;
- » we updated the web platform at-testation.in.ua;
- » we increased the capacity of two teams of MPs in terms of engaging voters in the law-making process;
- » we created the Methodology for Evaluating the Transparency of Local Budgets 2.0. and carried out the Assessment of 100 communities in 10 oblasts;
- » the Community Justice Center has become an established model for the development of “friendly” people-centered justice in communities;
- » we ensured the development of 10 volunteer programs of the Public Justice Center, specifically Neighbourhood Watch and support for vulnerable groups;

03 GEOGRAPHY OF ORGANISATION'S PROJECTS IN 2021

In 2021, the Organisation's projects covered 20 Ukrainian oblasts and Kyiv



-  Civic Campaign
"Assessment of Local Councillors"
-  "Transparency of Local Budgets" project
-  The Community Justice Center
-  Centre for Public Investigations

04 FOCUS AREA >>>

THE DEMOCRATISATION OF GOVERNANCE AND ACTORS OF THE POLITICAL PROCESS

This focus area looks at assisting democratic reforms in society, developing representative institutions and strengthening the capabilities of actors of the political process in Ukraine.

COUNCILLORS PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

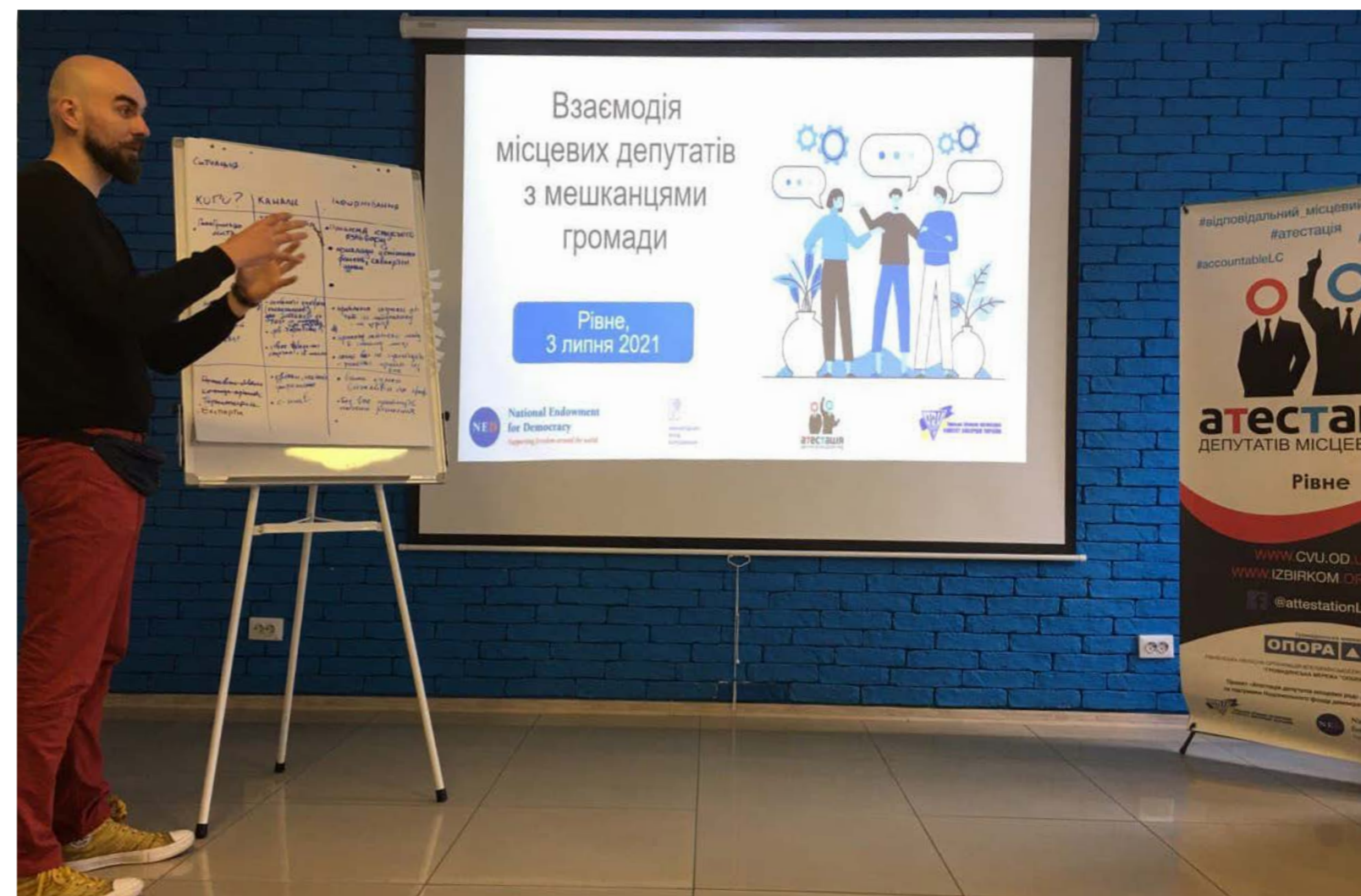
The public campaign «Councillors' Performance Assessment» aims at positive transparency level change, councillors' accountability and wider community awareness about elected officials' activity. The initiative was launched in Odesa in 2015 and had its geography expanded

twice: the campaign reached 8 oblasts in 2017 and reached Kyiv and 15 oblasts in 2018: Vinnytsia, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kropyvnytskyi, Lviv, Lutsk, Odesa, Mykolaiv, Poltava, Rivne, Sumy, Kharkiv, Kherson, Khmelnytskyi, Cherkasy, Chernihiv.

KEY COMPONENTS:

- » Launching a new «Councillors' Performance Assessment» cycle: more than 1000 councillors in 15 oblasts and Kyiv were elected in autumn 2020. Creation and filling of the Internet platform with newly elected councillors' profiles. Ensuring continuous monitoring of their activities by «the performance assessment» concept.
- » Implementing training on effective communication with the public for councillors and their assistants: reception of citizens, meetings with voters, councillors' interaction and reporting.

- » Increasing the ability of councillors covered by the initiative to be ready to meet their voters and communicate with them. Monitoring the public reception of the councillors covered by the initiative, preparing analytical reports and personal recommendations as well as new practical recommendations of meeting voters amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
- » Educating and informing people in 15 oblasts and the City of Kyiv about the councillors' activities and the possibilities of interaction with them. Holding 16 press conferences to present the reception monitoring results, creating online maps for cities with up-to-date and verified information featuring councillors' contacts, addresses and visiting hours. Development and dissemination of monitoring results publications and 3 videos with possibilities of interaction with councillors.
- » Implementing education activities for youth in the intellectual game format to raise awareness of the councillors' functions and activities.





"How to solve the city's problems together with councillors?"



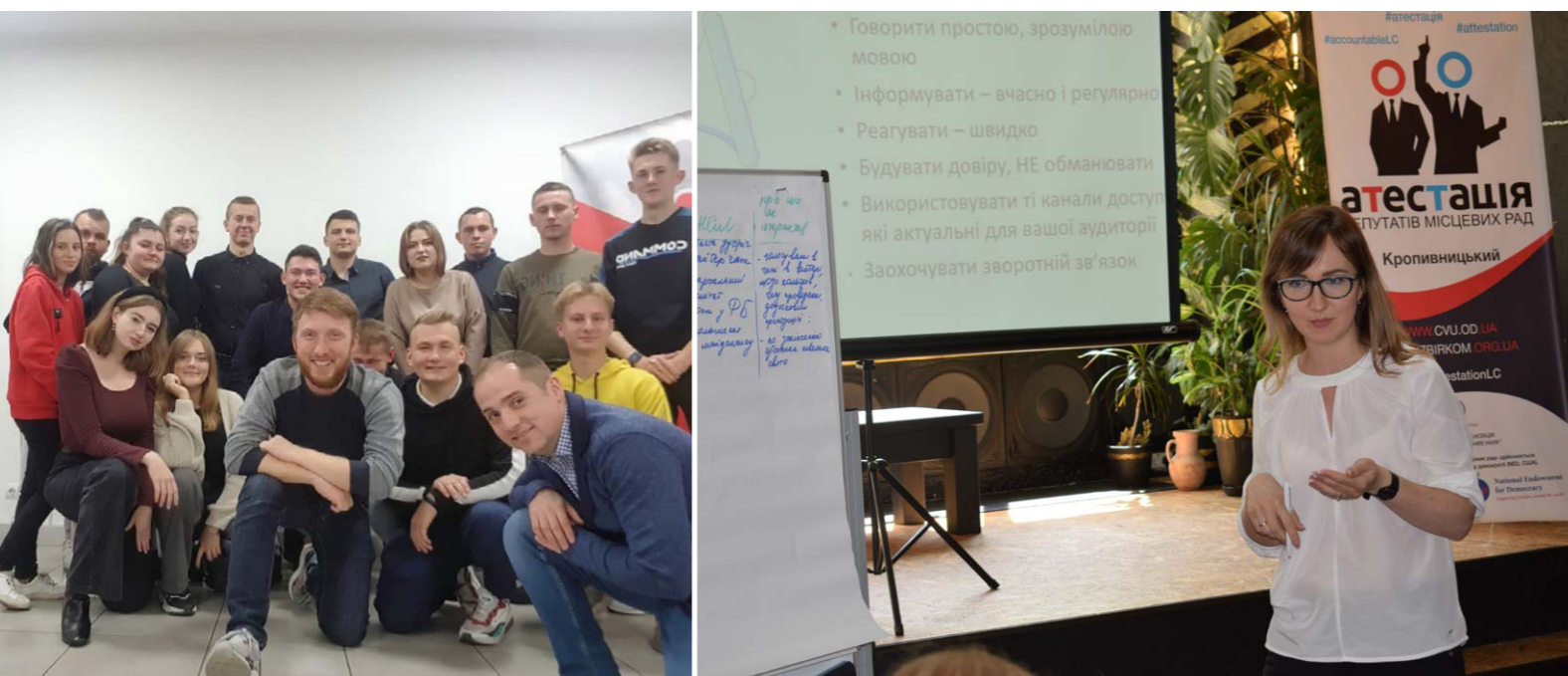
"How to find a councillor?"



"How are decisions made at the City Council?"



Online reception maps



SUMMARY OF THE 2021 RESULTS:



15
oblasts and the City of Kyiv



almost
1 000
councillors



16
online maps of councillor's reception offices



16
practical courses for more than 300 councillors and their assistants



more than
60
publications about the councillors' activities in 16 oblasts



11
quizzes for young people

“

2021 marks one year of newly elected councillors exercising their powers. So, the task is to maximise the interaction of the councillors with the citizens and provide information about the joint options for problem-solving

Ihor Luhovskyi

the head of "The democratisation of governance and actors of the political process"



EFFICIENT INTERACTION BETWEEN THE CITIZENS AND ODESA OBLAST MPS IS THE KEY TO DEMOCRATIC REPRESENTATION

We continued to promote Odesa oblast MPs' transparency in 2021. The main goal was to increase productive interaction between MPs from Odesa oblast and local interest groups at the constituency level.

KEY COMPONENTS:

- Selection and training on an effective mechanism for cooperation with councillors for solving problems for over 40 local stakeholders such as representatives of public organisations, trade unions, civil activists, councillors and local governments from two constituencies (the City of Izmail and Malinovskyi district, the City of Odesa).
- Arrangement and facilitating of meetings of representatives of interest group representatives with the MPs who agreed to participate in the project (Oleh Kolev, constituency 134 and Anatolii Urbanskii, constituency 143) to address constituencies' problems.
- The preparation and presentation of 4 appeals to MPs with problem-solving proposals suggested during the discussions.
- Increasing the ability of MPs to communicate with interest groups: conducting interviews with representatives of the two MPs' teams on existing practices of interaction with stakeholders in constituencies, preparing summaries of the most common problems each MP is approached by the public as well as a collection of cases from organisations dealing with similar issues.

ТИ І НАРОДНІ ДЕПУТАТИ

Як наші представники працюють із проблемами виборчого округу

ХТО ТАКІ НАРОДНІ ДЕПУТАТИ

Народні депутати – це обрані представники народу, уповноважені ним на здійснення владних повноважень.

Народні депутати здійснюють свої повноваження через роботу у Верховній Раді та взаємодію з жителями у виборчому окрузі.

У ВЕРХОВНІЙ РАДІ:	У ВИБОРЧОМУ ОКРУЗІ:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> бере участь у засіданнях парламенту; бере участь у роботі депутатських фракцій (груп); бере участь у роботі комітетів, тимчасових спеціальних комісій, тимчасових слідчих комісій; виконує доручення Верховної Ради України та її органів; бере участь у роботі над законопроектами, іншими актами; бере участь у парламентських слуханнях; звертається із депутатським запитом і депутатським зверненням. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> постійно підтримує зв'язки з виборцями; здійснює прийом виборців; проводить особисті зустрічі із виборцями; розглядає звернення виборців; євжеж заклада для реалізації пропозицій і законних вимог виборців; інформує виборців про свою депутатську діяльність.

Informing residents of Odesa oblast about the MPs' activities: providing the information about Odesa MPs, holding an online broadcast with an MP and a press conference on the results of MPs' activities after two years of work.

THE SUMMARY OF THE 2021 RESULTS:

- Two teams of MPs and over 40 civil activists improved their interoperability
- 4 appeals to councillors to address the issues in the constituencies
- A produced and distributed booklet and 2 videos on the powers of MPs
- Live with the MPs on the problems of his constituency

LIVE З НАРДЕПОМ

21 квітня, о 18:00 дивись на нашій сторінці

Є ЗАПИТАННЯ? Залиш коментар під постом

Що варто знати про свого народного депутата?

Олег Колєв 134 округ

Народні депутати – це сполучна ланка між парламентом і виборцями. Вони інформують виборців про роботу Верховної Ради, а Рада – що відбувається у виборчому окрузі від парламенту.

“Last year, we faced the problem of the inability of representatives of particular interest groups to properly formulate their request to the MPs for finding a solution to a problem. So, in 2021, we have focused our efforts not only on improving the capacity of MPs to interact with the citizens but also on enhancing the capacity of representatives of different groups in society to cooperate more effectively with the MPs' teams.”

Ihor Luhovskyi

the head of “The democratisation of governance and actors of the political process”



“Who are the MPs?”



“How can MPs solve problems in their constituency?”



The summary of two-years work of MPs representing Odesa Oblast

05 FOCUS AREA >>>

INTEGRITY AND THE BUDGET PROCESS EFFICIENCY AT THE LOCAL LEVEL



The Public Partnership «For Transparent Local Budgets!» is coordinated by the Odesa oblast organization of the all-Ukrainian NGO «Committee of Voters of Ukraine».

The Public Partnership «For Transparent Local Budgets!» is the first and only NGO network in Ukraine. This organization focuses on promoting integrity and transparency standards and budget process efficiency at the local level and ensuring public participation in it.



7 YEARS
together



20 NGOS
in 16 regions of Ukraine



37 CITIES
and 106 communities are
involved in cooperation



Over
30 EXPERTS

PARTNERSHIP OBJECTIVES:

- >> Higher transparency level of the budget process
- >> Higher participation level of the citizens and their larger participation in the budget process
- >> Local implementation of anti-corruption tools
- >> Improved efficiency of formation and use of local budgets
- >> Consideration of the needs and interests of communities in the budget process



Visit the
Partnership
site



Facebook



TRANSPARENCY OF LOCAL BUDGETS

The integrated initiative is implemented by the Public Partnership «For the Transparency of Local Budgets!» with the support of DOBRE and aims to improve the financial management transparency level, increase awareness, and engage the residents of USAID DOBRE partner communities in the budget process.

KEY COMPONENTS:

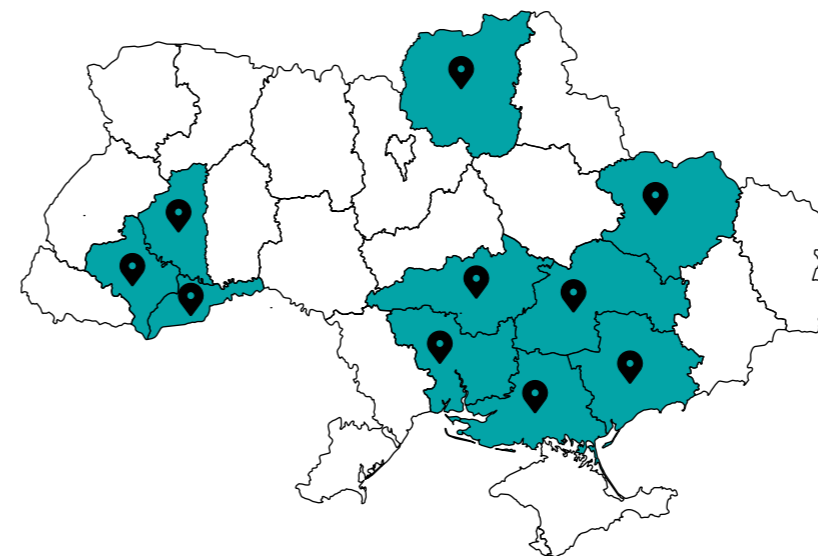
- » Training of 100 representatives of 25 communities on effective tools for budget transparency.
- » Preparation and dissemination of innovative format “Citizens budgets” that explains complex budgetary issues in plain language. It includes a booklet with visualised data that provides comprehensive and clear information on how a community receives and spends its budget, how the budget process takes place and how the public can participate.
- » Budget process transparency assessment in 100 communities of 10 regions using an innovative concept developed by the Partnership. Preparation of analytical reports and personal recommendations. The most comprehensive assessment of budget transparency in the country.
- » Active engagement of people to participate in the budget process through the campaign “Influence the budget of your community 2021!” Outdoors events in 25 communities with the dissemination of “Citizens budgets” and providing advice and explanations on local budgets as well as accumulating ideas from the citizens for community budgets 2022 and later handing them over further to local councils. The most large-scale short-term campaign to involve the citizens in the budget process in Ukraine.

SUMMARY OF 2021 RESULTS:

100 territorial communities

10 oblasts:

- » Dnipro
- » Запорізька
- » Chernihiv
- » Chernivtsi
- » Ivano-Frankivsk
- » Kirovohrad
- » Mykolaiv
- » Ternopil
- » Kharkiv
- » Kherson



25 “Citizens budgets” booklets with a total of 15 000 copies were prepared, printed and disseminated

Over **20** experts

100 analytical reports and recommendations

3 000 proposals in a budget

7 000 people involved



“Citizens budgets” helped us to collect about 200 proposals for the budget. Approximately 20% of them have been included in the community budget and some of them have been implemented using grant funds.

Tamila Zozylnska

the Deputy Head of the Prisivash community (Kherson oblast)

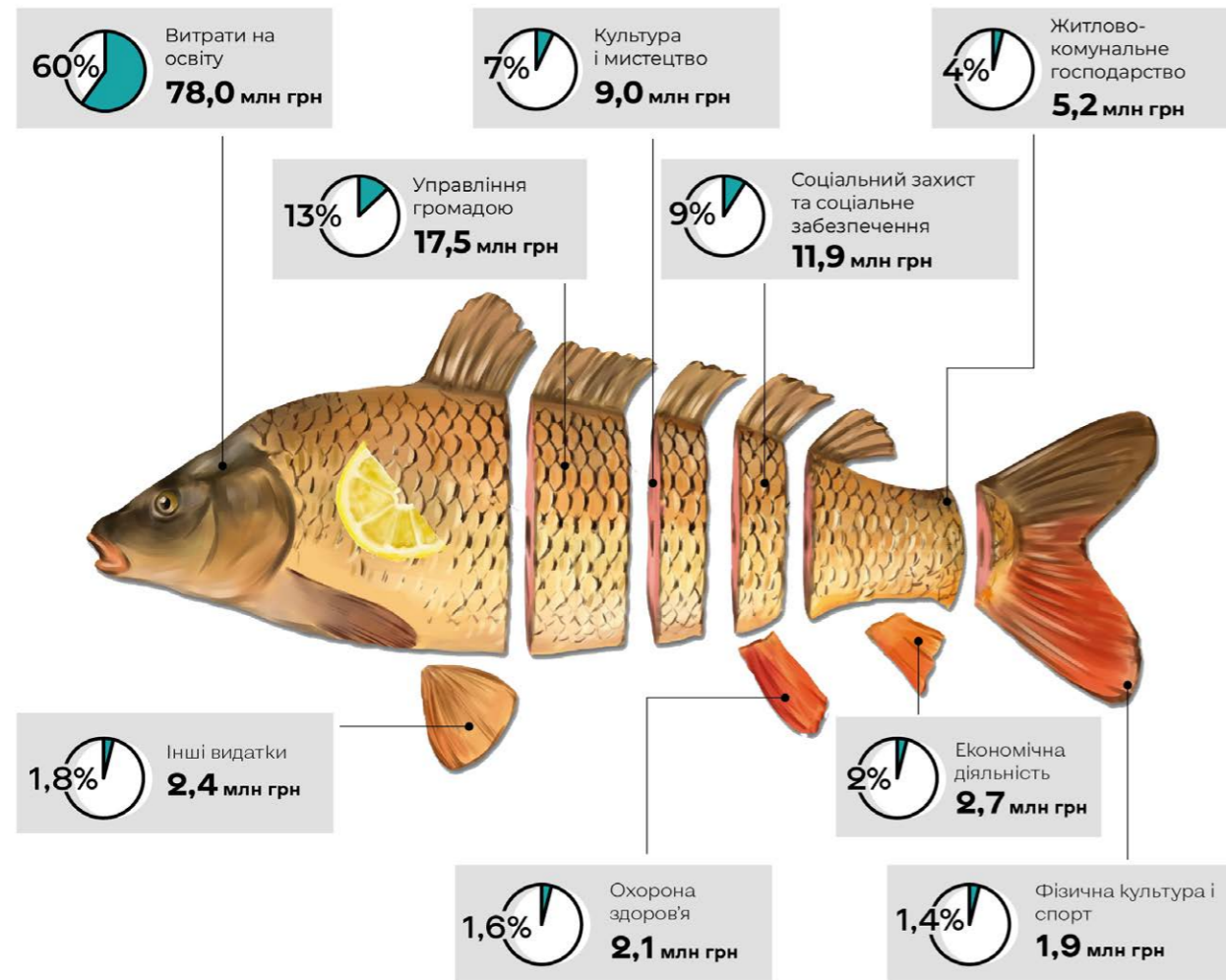


“Citizens budgets”



Transparency assessment of local budgets in Ukrainian communities

BUDGET EXPENSES IN KOROP



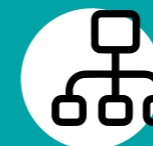
DEVELOPMENT OF THE PARTNERSHIP'S CAPABILITIES



created the Concept of Local Budget Transparency Assessment. 2.0



launched the analytical online platform «The territory of the community: honestly and expertly»



developed and approved a new organizational structure: created six areas of activity, formed a team and chose the focus coordinator, created the Partnership Program Board



developed a fundraising strategy

2021 became the year of rebooting and widening our opportunities of the Public Partnership «For transparent local budgets!». Despite the remote format, the Partnership team achieved a lot during the year:



Issues of "The territory of the community: honestly and expertly"



Public partnerships report of "For Transparency of Local Budgets!"



06 FOCUS AREA >>>

LEGAL CAPACITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION OF COMMUNITIES

This organization promotes and protects human rights values, contributes to the development of the human-centric judicial system and enhances the ability of communities to respond to legal challenges.

DEVELOPMENT OF “FRIENDLY” JUDICIAL ECOSYSTEM IN COMMUNITY

The Community Justice Centre is a multi-functional hub, located in the town of Tatarbunary, Odesa oblast. It develops:

- >> affordable, high-quality, and inclusive legal, administrative and social services;
- >> the judicial system, focused on an individual and their needs before, during and after a trial;
- >> alternative dispute resolution;
- >> citizens’ capacity to deal with legal issues and advocate human rights.



Video about the Community Justice Center



SUMMARY OF THE 2021 RESULTS:



The Centre supported 10 local public initiatives that develop social cohesion (a neighbourhood watch, Roma activists, and a community of police veterans)



11 successful mediations for groups and individuals including COVID-19 pandemic conflicts.



during the Retro Auto Festival, organized jointly with the local councillors, over 1000 people joined the educational events to increase security trust to the police on the road.



the training of 54 local law enforcers and officials improved the counteraction to various forms of discrimination, in particular, the investigation of hate crimes.



The research into community legal needs resulted in the development of 6 local solutions (in particular in the area of enhancing security and protection of vulnerable groups)



10 cases focusing on issues of access to justice have been studied and reviewed (a case about the “grey zones” of justice for children from closed institutions resonated)



the experience of developing community-based people-centred justice has been shared through an inter-regional discussion with community justice sector representatives and the justice sector from 4 regions of Ukraine.



SUPPORTING VULNERABLE WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The initiative improves access to justice and socio-economic rights of women and girls from vulnerable groups and works in three areas to:

- » identify problems of discrimination against women at the community level and strategically protect their rights;
- » provide support to different forms of women's activism aimed at increasing 'self-determination';
- » strengthen the capacity and participation of local authorities and community members in supporting equal rights for women and girls.



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http://www.cvu.od.ua



Video and photo report on the retro car festival to promote road safety



Results of a cross-regional discussion on "How to develop friendly justice in the community"



These days, communities lack a common vision, capacity, and coordination to develop human-centred justice. These needs can be effectively met by the format of the Community Justice Centre, which is being successfully implemented in the Odesa region and looks at being fulfilled in other regions of Ukraine



Leonid Semenko
the head of the Community Justice Centre



Video tips "How can women protect themselves from domestic violence during the COVID-19 pandemic?"

SUMMARY OF THE 2021 RESULTS:



4 videos/posters series with legal advice on women's access to health services, protecting labour rights and countering domestic violence amid the COVID-19 pandemic reached more than 18,000 social media users.



We investigated the issues of women's shelters/centres and developed a roadmap of services for their female clients.



We processed 15 applications from 4 regions of Ukraine and selected three communities to prepare gender passports and recommendations for the implementation of gender equality in the COVID-19 context.



Yulia Lisova
a lawyer and project manager of the organisation

“

Primarily, we help women and girls from different marginalised and discriminated groups. We also engage local officials/law-enforcement officers and influence the local regulations for gender equality, engagement, and inclusion.



EQUAL LABOUR RIGHTS FOR ROMA WOMEN AMID

COVID-19



Public services guide for Roma women

The initiative is implemented jointly with the Roma NGO «Bakhtalo» and contributes to strengthening the labour opportunities and socio-economic potential of Roma women and girls in the territorial communities of the south of the Odessa region.

SUMMARY OF THE 2021 RESULTS:



A weekly Evening Computer School for Roma women was opened at the Tatarbuniar Agricultural Vocational School.



We trained 15 Roma women and girls in fundamentals of financial and information literacy;



the community helped to more than 20 low-income Roma families prepare for the winter period (they were provided with firewood and warm clothes for children and women).

“

Our work helps overcome stereotypes about Roma women and promote the integration of the Roma community into the territorial communities' life. For example, we help a Roma woman called Lucia make her dream come true: to finish school, become a hair stylist, and open her own beauty salon.



Olga Karay
the head of the Roma NGO «Bakhtalo»

07 FOCUS AREA >>>

DEVELOPMENT OF MEDIA AND PUBLIC JOURNALISM

The Organisation systematically works on promoting independent media, media literacy, and public journalism. The goal of working in this area is to enhance the socially important role of the media in democratic processes in Ukraine and to improve citizens' access to quality information to resist negative external influences and support European integration.



“CENTER FOR PUBLIC INVESTIGATIONS” INITIATIVE

In 2021, the Organisation initiated the expansion of the Center for Public Investigations (CPI).

As a project's part, we launched an interregional campaign to boost the local potential for journalistic and public investigations, the institutionalisation of the Odesa Center for Public Investigations, and the creation of an interregional partnership with three regions of the South and East of Ukraine (Luhansk, Mykolaiv, and Kherson oblasts).

KEY FIGURES AND RESULTS-2021:

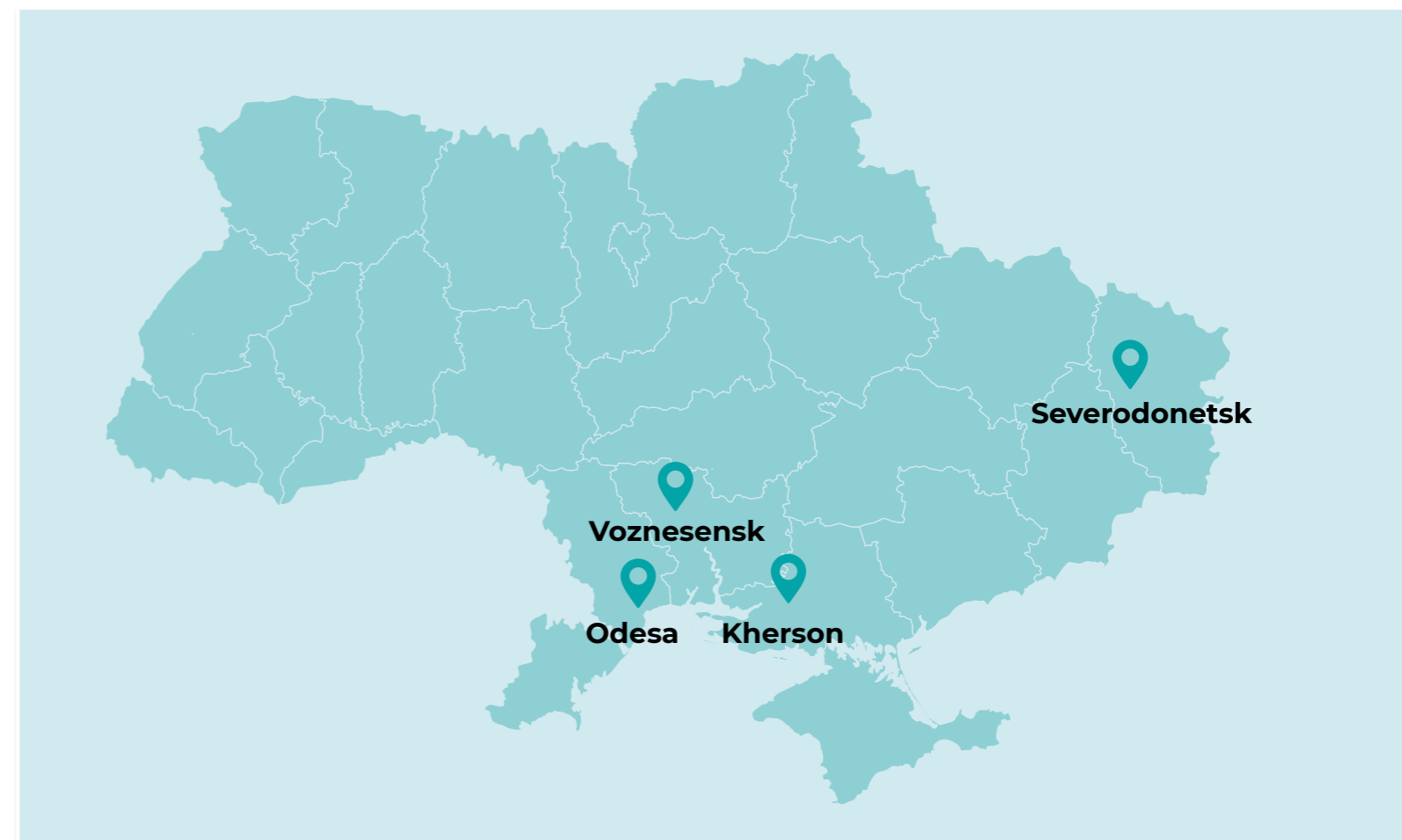
- >> The CPI activities were expanded to 3 new regions. We received 6 applications and selected three areas from among them:

Voznesensk

Severodonetsk

Kherson

Odesa



- >> CPI is registered as a separate public organisation.
- >> 2 three-day training sessions were held. Based on the training sessions' results, 10 journalistic investigations were prepared and published. All investigations, carried out within the framework of the project, are published on at least three platforms: the website of the Center for Social Development, the IzbirKom website, and the partner website.

The hard copies of four investigations were also distributed in the regions where the project was implemented. The total audience of the materials produced directly within the framework of the CPI work amounted to over 250,000 readers.

THE RESULTS OF JOURNALISTIC INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED AS A PART OF THE CENTER FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

After we released the investigation on the state-owned enterprise «Konyarstvo Ukrainy», the State Audit Service published the results of enterprise’s business audit and revision of specific issues of the enterprise’s financial and economic activity. The control measures materials carried out at the state-owned enterprise «Konyarstvo Ukrainy» were handed over to the Office of the Prosecutor General to be included in the materials of the criminal proceedings.

Another investigation, carried out within the CPI framework, resulted in the Anti-Raiding Office addressing the issues at the state-owned enterprise «Zori nad Bugom» (Voznesensk), and the employees – alleged participants in criminal schemes – resigned. In addition, after the publication of another investigation in the same city, the contract with the developers of the so-called «Voznesensk Citizen Card» was terminated, as the investigation authors had reasonable doubts regarding the transparency and effectiveness of this product and its implementation.

As a result of the investigation within the framework of the CPI, in Rubizhne (Luhansk Region), as of early 2022, law enforcement bodies planned to look at the allocation of finances for the UAH57-million-worth park.

2 three-day training sessions were held as scheduled

12 experts and journalists were involved

10 investigations were published

78 news items were prepared and published

1 special issue of the newspaper was printed and distributed



MEDIA OF OUR OWN

Our outlet became an internship base for students from higher education institutions in Kyiv, Odesa, and Vinnytsia.



WE PREPARED AND PUBLISHED:

6 050 materials

reaching and gaining: **487** thousand users

6 newspapers/total circulation 52,000

1 076 thousand views

THE NUMBER OF FOLLOWERS ON SOCIAL MEDIA



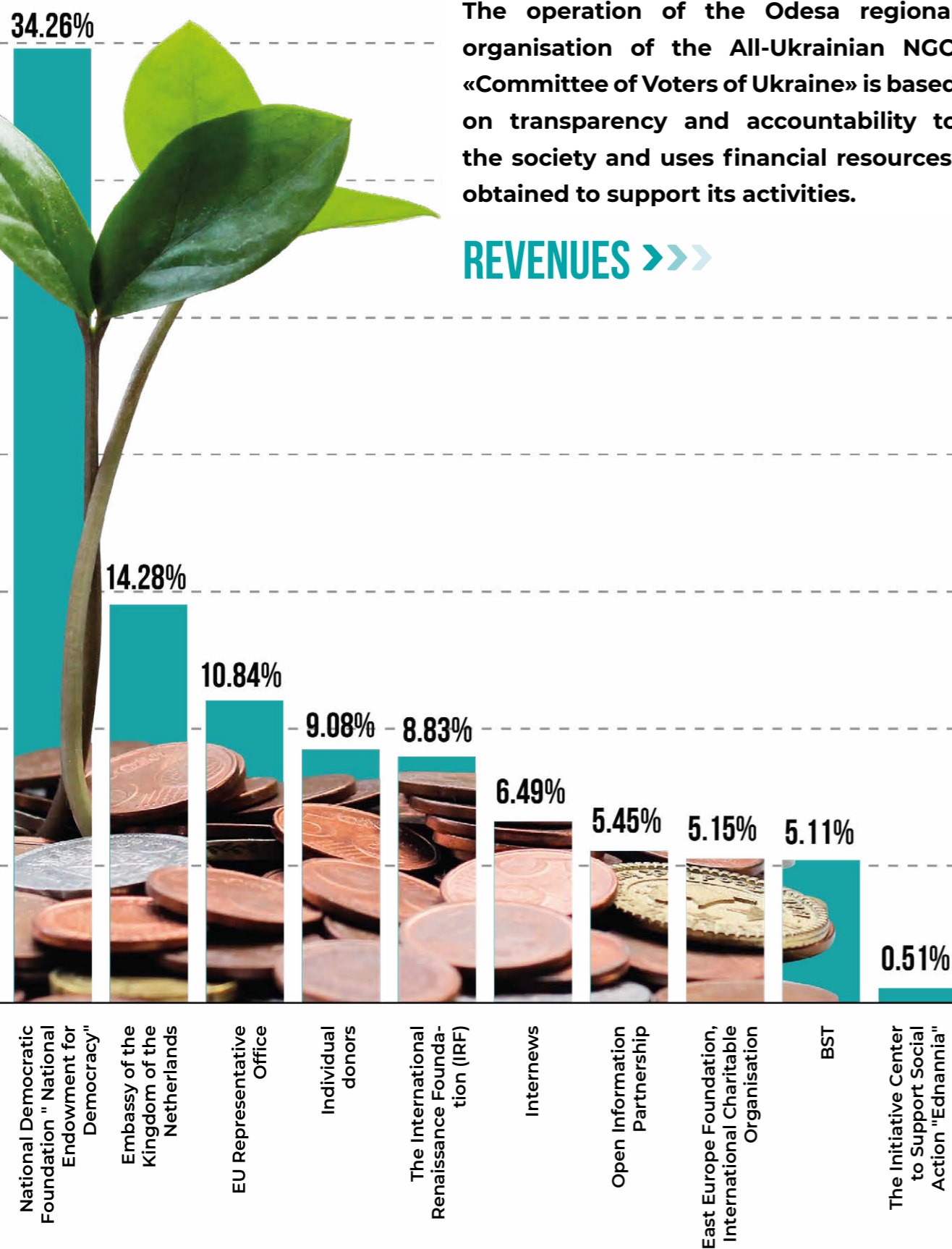
We issued the Manual on countering hostile information operations (propaganda, disinformation, fakes).

We launched the work on automating media monitoring. The editors initiated the creation of their own crawler to increase the consistency of work with the analysis of the region’s media and social networks.

08 FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2021

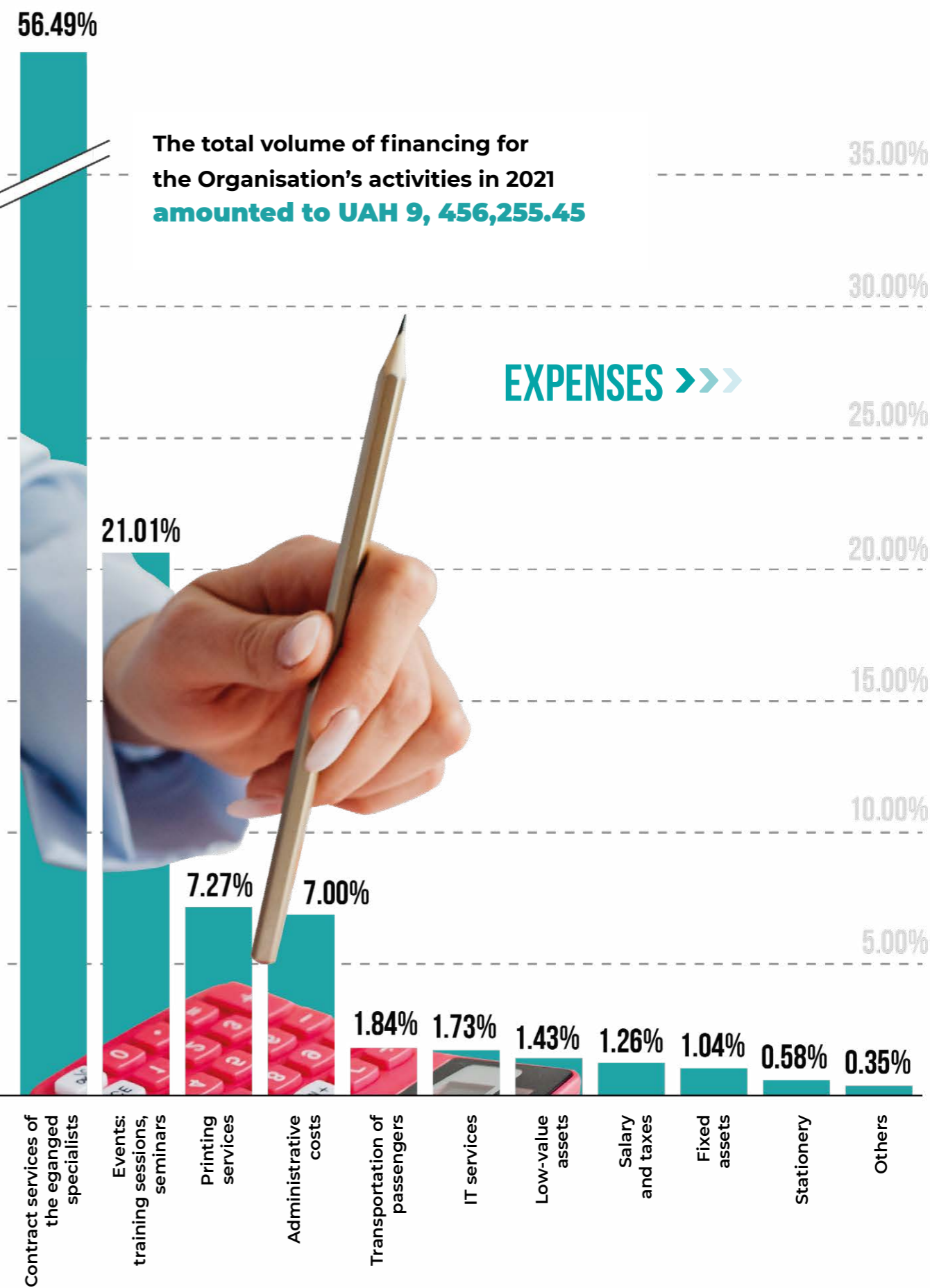
The operation of the Odesa regional organisation of the All-Ukrainian NGO «Committee of Voters of Ukraine» is based on transparency and accountability to the society and uses financial resources, obtained to support its activities.

REVENUES >>>



The total volume of financing for the Organisation's activities in 2021 amounted to UAH 9, 456,255.45

EXPENSES >>>



09 DONORS AND PARTNERS

DONORS >>>



PARTNERS >>>

