

ICPS newsletter[®]

ICPS: The inside scoop

Now Centre is finishing put together an informational brochure that tells about who we are, what we are contributing to the development of Ukrainian society, and what we can offer the public and private sector. This booklet summarizes everything about our history, activities, services and publications. Here is a short overview of this year's brochure

Who are we?

The International Center for Policy Studies (ICPS) is an independent Ukrainian analytical center. Our mission as a think-tank is to promote public policy instruments and practices so that the country can better carry out key reforms.

We were pioneers in disseminating public policy analysis procedures and organizing public dialog involving government, business and the public. Today, the Centre is one of the few organizations in Ukraine that is helping put into practice the public policy procedures needed to build democracy.

We work with central and local government agencies to demonstrate the need to analyze alternative strategic options and to look at the possible impact of each option. ICPS's government clients and partners include the Secretariat of the President, the Cabinet of Ministers, the National Bank of Ukraine, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Main Department of the Civil Service, the National Security Council, the State Property Fund, and other government institutions.

We also work actively with the private sector. One of our main objectives is to help companies develop the strategic decisions that will allow them to grow. The Center's economic research is popular among both domestic and foreign companies, ranging from banks to FMCG companies and service providers, including such companies as: Kyivstar GSM, UkrTelecom, XXI Century, Mriya Bank, Philip Morris, Japan Tobacco International, Bosch, Ericsson, Horizon Capital Advisors, McDonalds, Visa Cemea, VneshTorgBank.

ICPS has successfully implemented projects with its regular partners among international organizations like the European Commission, the World Bank,

the Canadian International Development Agency, the Swedish International Development Agency, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

ICPS has gained a reputation as one of the top think-tanks, not only in Ukraine, but in the entire world. Our regular publications offer an independent, objective opinion that is in demand in government, expert and international business circles. Ukrainian and other media regularly turn to ICPS specialists for independent comment on political and economic events in Ukraine. At present, highly qualified analysts are working on the ICPS team. Many of them have trained abroad and have hands-on experience applying public policy procedures. All ICPS staff speak several languages fluently.

What we do

ICPS works in those areas that are key to the development of a democratic Ukrainian state: economic policy, European and Euro-Atlantic integration, public administration reform, party platforms, defense and security policy, and social policy.

We undertake three main kinds of work in these areas:

- independent policy research;
- technical assistance to the Government and NGOs in instituting public policy methods;
- debates and public hearings on state policy.

Independent Policy Research

One of the main means of influence in a democratic society is independent research. Analytical reports make it possible for political leaders and officials to make better-quality decisions.

ICPS analytical results are regularly presented in our periodicals— Quarterly Predictions, Consumer Confidence, Economic Statistics, Political Commentary,

the ICPS Newsletter—and in various project reports.

TA to Government and NGOs

While working with the Government, ICPS helps civil servants gain an understanding of policy analysis, skills to hold consultations and dialog on policy-making with different interest groups and individuals, and the capacity to ensure analytical support during the policy-making process.

The technical assistance to the Government provided by ICPS is unique, as it is based on the understanding that the only possible way to learn is to go through the process of making policy papers independently.

One ICPS objective is to help NGOs coordinate their activities in such a way that they can influence policy and lobby using public policy tools. ICPS specialists set the field for substantive cooperation between the Government and third sector, so that NGOs can influence the substance of Government decisions at both the central and local levels.

Public policy debates

ICPS organizes and holds public debates on important socio-political issues, using public policy procedures and techniques. The goal of such debates is to identify the positions of various stakeholders on key issues in the area under discussion, the causes underlying problems, and the priority objectives that the Government needs to set to resolve them.

What services ICPS can offer

ICPS provides policy analysis services to the Government of Ukraine, political organizations, private business, NGOs, and the press, and trains these groups in public policy methods. The experience ICPS specialists have gained in these various areas helps the Center's clients make strategic decisions based on an understanding of all stakeholder opinions and an analysis with independent conclusions and recommendations.

for the Government:

- training in the basics of public policy, that is: developing the knowledge to analyze policy; transferring the know-how for holding policy-making consultations and dialog with different interest groups and communities, and providing analytical support for state policy-making;
- analytical briefs on public policy, analysis of options and recommendations on public policy in a specific area;
- expert evaluations of legislation, regulations and other administrative acts.
- for local governments:
- organizing, coordinating and monitoring cooperation with NGOs;
- developing analytical documents on municipal politics according to international models and standards;
- developing methodological and other underpinnings for local government decision-making;
- running workshops on public policy, communication strategy strategic planning, policy-making, and public policy analysis for local governments;
- providing expert evaluations of legislation, regulations and other administrative decisions by and regarding local governments.

for political parties:

- developing platforms;
- evaluating and comparing platforms;
- drafting legislative initiatives;
- expert evaluations of legislation, regulations and other administrative documents;
- running workshops on how to generate policy analysis, holding consultations and dialog on policy-making with different interest groups and voters, and providing analytical support when drafting public documents;
- running workshops on communication strategy.

for business:

- short- and long-term forecasts for Ukraine's economy and its various components;
- trend analysis and forecasts for various sectors and regions;
- impact analysis of legislation and the business environment;

- analysis of state policy options and recommendations for policy in specific sectors;
- ongoing analytical support of decision-making processes;
- proposals for legislative initiatives;
- expert commentary on various social, political and economic issues;
- presentations, briefings, and consultations on economic issues.

for the media:

- quarterly macroeconomic forecasts.
- expert comment on different social, political and economic matters.
- expert analysis and articles on various social, political and economic issues.
- research on consumer confidence.

for NGOs:

- organizing, coordinating and monitoring projects;
- evaluating NGO projects and activities;
- training in public policy fundamentals;
- drafting analytical documents relating to programs for urban and community development.

Public policy debates

One very popular service among our clients is holding public hearings on socio-economic, political and humanitarian issues. ICPS organizes these hearings and runs them using public policy procedures and approaches.

Our periodicals

ICPS helps companies to better understand the economic situation in Ukraine and to make more effective decisions. We do research on external factors and risks that affect the business climate in Ukraine. We also analyze the macroeconomic environment and government policy on an ongoing basis. Our periodicals offer an independent view of those processes that have the greatest impact on economic and political affairs in Ukraine.

Quarterly Predictions

Quarterly Predictions contains a comprehensive analysis of current economic trends with detailed, rolling three-year forecasts for Ukraine's economy. This publication includes overviews of the main sectors of the economy, accompanied by an analysis of government policies and their impact on

it. To predict economic trends, ICPS uses a full-range methodology that combines outlooks in separate sectors to provide a consolidated macroeconomic forecast. The process of forecasting includes assessments of growth in various sectors by ICPS economists and econometric calculations of the macroeconomic outlook on the basis of these evaluations.

Economic Statistics

Economic Statistics is a monthly bulletin of key socio-economic indicators for Ukraine. This publication provides current data and is presented in such a way that you can quickly track any important indicator for the last few years. The current year is tracked on a quarterly basis, while the current quarter is provided in month-by-month detail. All indicators are organized by area. The sources of data include government agencies responsible for official statistics in specific sectors: Derzhkomstat, the state statistics committee, the National Bank of Ukraine, and the State Treasury. This bulletin also includes the Consumer Confidence Index (CCI) and the Index of Inflationary Expectations (IIE), which are key indicators of trends on the consumer market.

Consumer Confidence

Consumer Confidence is a bimonthly survey of consumer households for their opinions about the current economic situation and their own financial standing. The Consumer Confidence Index is the main indicator used around the world to determine trends on consumer markets. The CCI is also used by many companies who sell consumer goods and services to make business development plans. This bimonthly report offers not only a description of changes to various indices, but also an analysis of the main factors behind changes in the attitudes of Ukrainian consumers to the current economic situation and its prospects.

The ICPS Newsletter

The *ICPS Newsletter* is a weekly bulletin with articles on current research, projects, and events at ICPS. ■

For more information, you can contact ICPS Newsletter Editor Olha L'vova by phone at (38044) 484-4400 or via e-mail at olvova@icps.kiev.ua.

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Articles may be reprinted with ICPS consent.

The International Centre for Policy Studies is an independent research organization whose mandate is to promote the introduction of public policy concepts and practices in Ukraine. This is achieved by increasing the know-how of key government officials for policy choices, formulation and debate, and the awareness of the public-at-large of the benefits of policy.

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