



EIPA Briefing Note on Benefits for Ukrainian Citizens - Overview EU-Ukraine Association Agreement 2011

Benefits for Ukrainian citizens

Why co-ordination of the Government efforts for European integration is needed?

Strong and effective nation EU policy is in the best interests of Ukraine – Government, citizens, non-governmental organizations and businesses. Effective representation of Ukraine's national interests requires capacity continuously to formulate and adjust Ukraine's EU policy, taking into account interests at various levels of the Government and groups outside the Government. The co-ordination is also needed to follow if implementation commitments are undertaken and to take relevant action, when needed.

How are priorities for European integration implementation settled?

The EU and Ukraine have agreed on the Association Agenda to prepare for the future implementation of the Association Agreement. Both sides agreed that the Association Agenda is applicable in its entirety. The Association Agenda prepares for and facilitates the entry into force the Association Agreement. It ensures that both the EU and Ukraine are able to enjoy the full benefits of the full Association Agreement as it is ratified.

The priorities agreed in the Association Agenda will complement the responsibilities of the EU and Ukraine to implement in full the provisions of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement once it enters into force. A list of 78 priorities was selected for actions from the Association Agenda at the first meeting of the EU and Ukraine's Joint Committee. These priorities highlight areas where particular emphasis should be placed jointly by the EU and Ukraine.

How the European integration is organized in the Government?

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) is in the forefront of direct relations with the EU and its institutions. It is deeply involved in any formal contacts between the EU and Ukraine including the negotiations on the new Association Agreement.

The Ministry of Justice has the responsibility for the coordination of legal harmonization of the national and the EU legislation. It is in charge of the legal compliance analysis for draft laws. It also takes care of reviewing that the draft legislation reflects EU related obligations.

The **Ministry of the Economy** is responsible for managing Foreign Technical assistance that goes in support to the national development and the European integration.

The European Integration Department at the Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers is charged with provision of the technical support to European integration co-ordination. The European Integration Department prepares documents for the Government putting forward draft positions and proposals for decisions in the Government.

The EIPA Project supports Ukrainian Government to develop the mechanism for closer European Cooperation and good governance.

The material presented in the brochure is the opinion of the experts only.
The project is funded by the UK Government's Strategic Programme Fund



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The **Main Department for Civil Service** is responsible for European integration related human resource development in the Government institutions.

The line ministries ensure that the European integration related activities are implemented in the sectors of ministries' competence.

All these institutions co-ordinate their particular functions with other line ministries, organize work with the non-governmental sector and are also involved in the preparation of the **EU - Ukraine Cooperation Council and Committee**, which monitors and agrees plans for the process, and contribute to the negotiations on the new Association Agreement with the European Union.

Further information on the Association Agreement can be found at: www.nrdevelopment.com/eipa.html