

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The USAID RADA: Next Generation Program is a five-year initiative (2021-2026) implemented by Internews-Ukraine and financed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The Program's main goal is to help the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to be a modern, efficient, and open institution for the benefit of Ukraine's democratic development.

### PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

1. Improve constituent participation in legislative processes and engagement between MPs and their constituents
2. Strengthen the VRU's legislative and analytical capacity
3. Introduce technological and innovative solutions into the Parliament's work ("digital transformation") and communication

*Program implementation is made possible by the generous support of the American people through USAID. The contents do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.*

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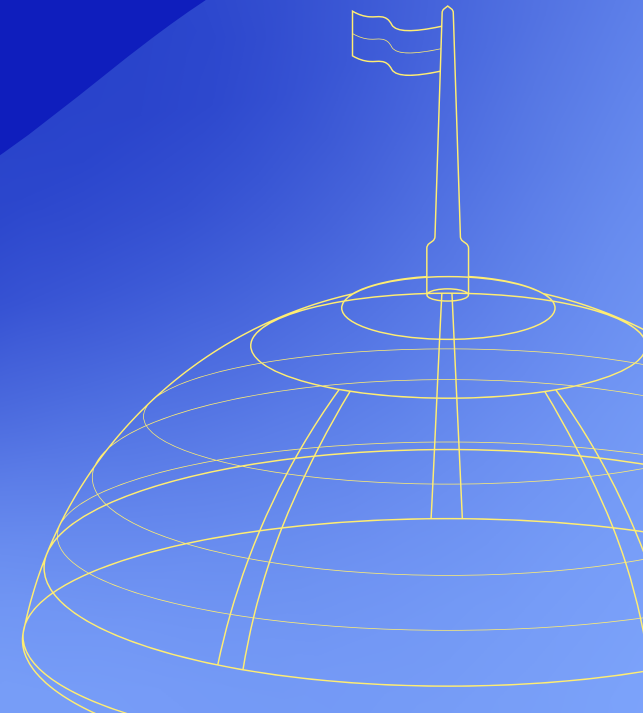


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## USAID RADA: NEXT GENERATION PROGRAM

## STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITIES OF THE VERKHOVNA RADA'S COMMITTEES



## OUR MISSION

The USAID RADA: Next Generation Program strengthens and develops capacities of the committees of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (VRU) to:

- 1 strengthen work by experts on draft laws
- 2 strengthen the Parliament's oversight capacities using the best experience of the world's parliaments
- 3 promote transparency in the parliament and a better understanding by citizens of the legislative process and opportunities for participation in how their government's decisions get made

Requests to comprehensively improve procedures and approaches in the work of parliamentary committees come from:

- Ukrainian citizens who seek to strengthen the democratic foundations of government institutions<sup>1</sup>;
- the European Union: more than a third of the recommendations of the Mission of the European Parliament regarding the internal reform of the VRU concern the work of parliamentary committees<sup>2</sup>;
- VRU leadership, which continues to prioritize parliamentary reform even despite the current security challenges<sup>3</sup>.



<sup>1</sup> NDI poll: 95% Ukrainians see effective democratic development in Ukraine as essential

<sup>2</sup> Rada Resolution "On Measures to Implement Recommendations on Internal Reform and Increasing the Institutional Capacity of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine".

<sup>3</sup> VRU First Deputy Speaker O. Kornienko: "We will continue to pursue the parliamentary reform in light of challenges posed by martial law"

In this regard, the USAID RADA: Next Generation Program, while taking into account the best practices of foreign parliaments, is developing innovative models and practices for the operation of VRU committees. The Program will test these practices in so-called "model" committees, which after successful approval will be part of the standard parliamentary procedures of all committees.

In May 2022, all VRU committees received an offer to join the initiative. After conducting interviews with committees willing to cooperate, the Program selected those to receive wider support in strengthening their own institutional capacity in 2022-23, in particular:

1. [The Committee on Energy, Housing and Utilities Services](#);
2. [The Committee on Social Policy and Protection of Veterans' Rights](#);
3. [The Committee on State Building, Local Governance, and Regional and Urban Development](#);
4. [The Committee on Legal Policy](#)<sup>4</sup>.

Cooperation with the committees is based on the Memorandum with the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and Program work plans with model committees.

## PROGRAM PARTNERS WORKING WITH COMMITTEES INCLUDE:

 **WFD** Westminster Foundation for Democracy (United Kingdom)

 **Center of Policy and Legal Reform (Ukraine)**


*They provide analytical support, gather national and international experts to conduct research and study best practices, and develop the effectiveness of committees to implement oversight.*


<sup>4</sup> Joined the project in October 2022 (receives expert and analytical support)


## The Model Committee initiative:


- conducts a functional analysis of the activity of the secretariat of the committee and provides recommendations for improvement;
- provides expert support in strengthening committee legislative functions and preparation of analytical materials;
- helps engage stakeholders and build partnerships with national and international donors, civil society, and other key actors;
- trains committee secretariat staff on policy analysis, oversight, and alignment of national legislation to EU law;
- offers an advanced methodology for committees to carry out their main functions;
- strengthens committees' communication capacities, helps develop branding strategies, and provides advice on covering committee activities;
- supports the implementation of oversight, in particular using the experience of developed democracies to analyze how legislation is applied.

## In 2022 the Program:

 supported committees in analyzing ten legislative initiatives and, in particular, in the development of compliance tables with EU acts in the field of labor legislation;

 together with committee secretariats, launched the first stage of analyzing the application of legislation and evaluating its effectiveness (post-legislative scrutiny) for three laws<sup>5</sup>;

 supported the holding of three on-site committee meetings, hearings, and public consultations;

 conducted a functional analysis of the work of two committees and an analysis of social media communications for three committees, and prepared reports and recommendations based on the results.

<sup>5</sup> "On energy efficiency", "On amendments to some legislative acts of Ukraine regarding the improvement of legal regulation of remote work, work at home and work with flexible working hours," "On cooperation of territorial communities."