



# Education reform in Ukraine

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t h i n k t a n k

# Let's talk about

- Snapshot of the current education system in Ukraine
- Schools in the education reform: goal, obstacles and policy
- Universities in the education reform: achievements, mistakes and key problem
- Language article of the new Law on Education: Venice Commission and Reaction of the Ministry
- Q&A session



# Snapshot of the current education system in Ukraine

- 17 000 schools with 3,8 mln. pupils
- 11 years of school (4+5+2)
- High school graduates pass external testing in Ukrainian, Math/History and two more subjects which they choose
- 56% of high school graduates enter BA program in universities in the year of their graduation
- 184 universities with 1,2 mln. students (comparing to 106 in Germany with 1,7 mln. students)



# The major goal of the school reform is that graduates, apart from main hard and soft skills, should be able to

- Think critically and systematically
- Cooperate with other people
- Express their opinion orally and in writing
- Make a decision
- Logically justify a position
- Evaluate the risks
- Constructively manage emotions
- Solve problems
- Be creative
- Be initiative

Source: the Ministry of Education and Science



# Obstacles:

- The proportion of teachers aged over 55 years has almost doubled (from 11.8 to 21.8%), while the proportion of those under 30 years fell from 22.7 to 17.9% and the teachers aged 31-40 years decreased from 27.6 to 21.9%.
- Pedagogy at the universities recruits students with the lowest GPA marks.
- Almost half of teachers works in rural schools, despite that only 30% of pupils study there.



# The reform starts the new policy aiming to remove these obstacles and other as well

- The government already almost **doubled teachers' salaries** and is obliged to set starting teachers' salary as equal to three official minimum wages till 2023.
- The Ministry provide **additional payments** (20% of the wage) to those teachers, who will undergo through certification, which proves that the teacher is able to meet the demand of the reform
- The Ministry encourage local authorities to create **hub schools** in rural area as a part of new **12-years curriculum**. Small steps – small distance, big steps – big distance.



# From 11-years to 12-years curriculum

Elementary - 4 years, finished by the monitoring

Lower secondary - 5 years, finished by the external testing which tracks students into academic or vocational high school

Upper secondary – major change:

- Form 2 years to 3 years
- 50% of curriculum is elected by students
- Academic or vocational lyceums



# Questions without answers so far

- How to transform higher pedagogical education and make it more attractive?
- How to retrain more than 400 000 teachers?
- How to avoid education for testing?
- How to ensure that the reform will continue after elections?





# Higher education reform was launched in 2014

- Academic autonomy – more relevant and student-centered programs appeared
- Students choose their own trajectories – not less than 25% of curriculum is elected by them
- Voucher funding system – for the first time competitive funding allocation, because students decide, where to public money should flow



# Mistakes, which need to be fixed

- Rectors are elected on general elections
- Students often choose, what they don't really want to study
- The voucher do not correspond with actual costs of study
- University tend to keep on track even those students, who should be expelled, cause they get money for quantity not for quality
- National Quality Assurance Agency was blocked by political games



# But the biggest problem is the mistrust and misconduct in higher education

The very beginning of this mistrust rises from the funding system, where politicians tend to increase number of state-funded places in universities, despite the fact that there is no sufficient amount of public funding any more.



# It is very unpopular to declare cuts

When students asked:

*Do you support the reduction in the number of state-funded places the government allocates to universities every year, if such a reduction will lead to an improvement in the quality of the study programs?*

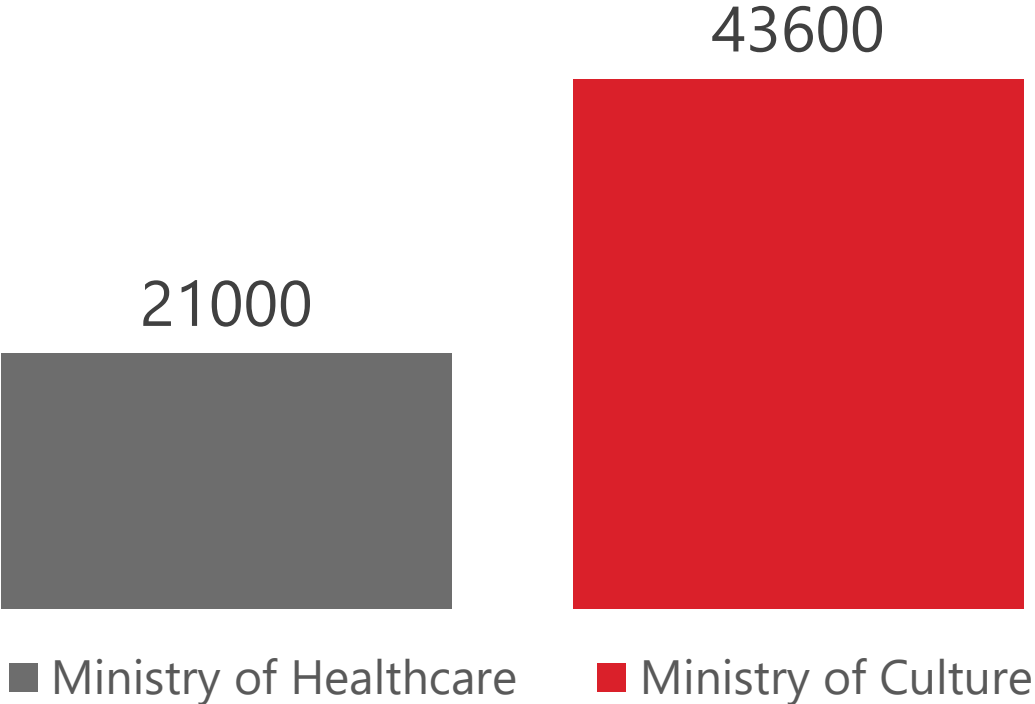
69% answered - NO

Source: CEDOS students national survey, 2016



# Funding does not correspond with actual costs

Annual public costs per one public-funded student, UAH

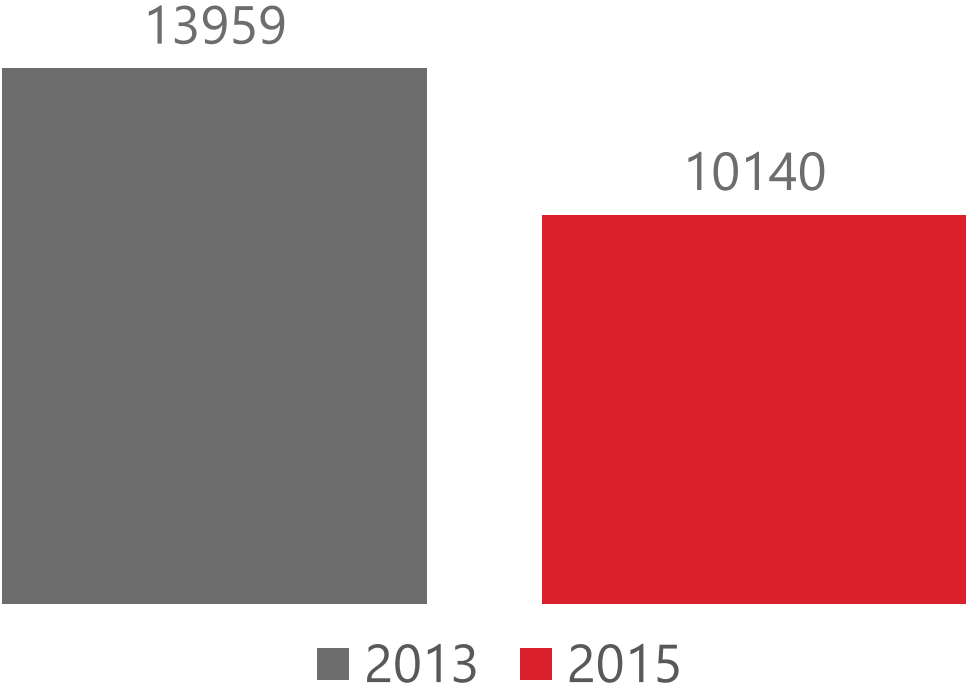


Source: Ministerial reports, 2014



# More places = less money per each

Annual public costs per one public-funded student without stipends, UAH, in 2013 prices



Source: Official Statistics and Gov. decrees



# More information on Education in Ukraine

Illustrated digest – 100 graphs with explanations describing Ukrainian education in international context

<http://bit.ly/EDUdigest>



# Language article in the new Law on Education

- Venice Commission sees no violations of the rights of EU languages national minorities
- VC recommends:
  - to continue ensuring a sufficient proportion of education in minority languages at the primary and secondary levels, in addition to the teaching of the state language;
  - to improve the quality of teaching of the Ukrainian language.
- At the same time VC worries about non-EU languages in particular Russian





# The Ministry addresses VC recommendations offering three tracks of implementation

- Vulnerable languages – all subjects in the minority language from till 11<sup>th</sup> (12<sup>th</sup>) grade. For instance, Crimean Tatars
- EU languages:
  - Polish, Slovak, Bulgarian – till 5<sup>th</sup> grade all subjects in the minority language. Increasing subjects taught in Ukrainian since 5<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Hungarian, Romanian – till 5<sup>th</sup> grade all subjects in the minority language. Moderate increasing of subjects taught in Ukrainian since 5<sup>th</sup> grade
- Russian – till 5<sup>th</sup> grade all subjects in the minority language. Learn all subjects in Ukrainian since 5<sup>th</sup> grade, because schools are the only place, where they practice Ukrainian

Source: the Ministry of Education and Science



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