

RESULTS SUMMARY

Reducing corruption in Ukraine

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PROJECT

<i>Title:</i>	Ukraine EUACI - PHASE II
<i>Partner:</i>	EU
<i>Country:</i>	Ukraine
<i>Period:</i>	2017-2025

CHANGE

Since 2019, Danish support to the EUACI has contributed to reducing corruption in Ukraine through the delivery of verdicts in 240 criminal proceedings against 340 individuals through the High Anti-Corruption Court of Ukraine (HACC). This has ensured that corrupt high-ranking officials who were previously untouchable, such as members of parliament and government, judges and CEOs of state-owned enterprises, now have been brought to court and held accountable for their actions. The work of the Court also has a preventive impact.

CONTEXT

Corruption among high-level officials is widespread in Ukraine, yet its full extent remains unmeasured. Surveys show it is the second biggest public concern after Russia's aggression. When corruption goes unpunished, it erodes trust in institutions and normalises misconduct, weakening governance and democracy. Ukraine has improved on Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index, rising from 144th place before the 2014 Revolution of Dignity to 105th today. However, sustained efforts are needed to turn perception into concrete legal action. Supporting the HACC through EUACI is key to ensuring accountability and strengthening the rule of law.

CONTRIBUTION

Through the HACC, EUACI has contributed to reducing corruption in Ukraine by providing expertise and technical assistance in human resource development, IT, court security, infrastructure, and strategic communications. More recently, the EUACI has been actively involved in strengthening HACC's institutional capacity and advocating for an increase in the number of judges. In 2024, the EUACI supported the selection process of new HACC judges and the work of the Public Council of International Experts involved in the selection process.

IMAGES



HACC premises. Photo: HACC website.



Conference "5 years of HACC: from idea to capacity", 5 September 2024, Kyiv. Photo: EUACI

[See next page for more details](#) →

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACTIVITIES

The primary function of the High Anti-Corruption Court of Ukraine is to serve as a specialised judicial institution dedicated to addressing and adjudicating cases of high-level corruption. The court has played a pivotal role in Ukraine's anti-corruption framework, focusing on prosecuting and trying corruption offenses involving high-ranking officials. Since 2019, the court's activities have been structured around ensuring judicial independence and efficiency. The court has been operating independently, aiming to contribute to the broader efforts in Ukraine to combat systemic corruption and enhance public trust in the justice system by ensuring fair and impartial proceedings in cases of significant corruption allegations. HACC judges have undergone a rigorous selection process and have participated in professional training sessions to meet the highest standards of independence, impartiality, and professionalism. The HACC has ensured openness by publishing court decisions, broadcasting court hearings, and engaging with civil society to foster trust in the judicial process.

LESSONS

Lessons learned from the implementation period include the critical role of international support in establishing the HACC. The safeguards ensuring judicial independence - particularly the involvement of international experts in judge selection and integrity checks - have proven effective in building trust in the Court. Civil society organisations have played a key role in monitoring court decisions, reinforcing fairness and accountability. However, challenges remain. While the Court delivers important results, it has lacked a proactive communication strategy, which the EUACI is helping to strengthen. Additionally, budget constraints and inadequate premises are becoming increasingly critical issues, though they fall outside the EUACI's scope. Addressing these lessons will be essential to further enhancing the Court's effectiveness and long-term sustainability.

EVIDENCE

The claim that EUACI-supported efforts, including Danish contributions, have helped reduce high-level corruption in Ukraine is supported by tangible results from the HACC. Since its establishment in 2019, the Court has delivered 240 verdicts, including 77 in 2024 alone, ensuring accountability for high-ranking officials. Key factors in achieving these results include the independent selection of judges, integrity checks, and capacity-building efforts - all areas where EUACI has played a critical role. The EUACI has also strengthened HACC's communication strategy, helping the Court become more transparent and visible to the public, reinforcing its legitimacy. While the preventive impact of the Court is difficult to measure directly, research underscores its significance in shaping norms and deterring corruption (see <https://www.u4.no/publications/launching-an-effective-anti-corruption-court>). Transparency International's monitoring further validates the Court's effectiveness (https://ti-ukraine.org/en/ti_tag/antykorsud-en/).

DOMAINS

<i>Development strategy priorities:</i>	Democracy and Human Rights
<i>Changes in the lives of people facing poverty, marginalisation, or vulnerability</i>	X
<i>Changes in laws, policies and practices that affect people's rights</i>	X
<i>Changes in the capacity of organisations and communities to support rights</i>	X
<i>Changes in partnerships and collaborations that support people's rights</i>	-
<i>Changes in participation of groups facing poverty, marginalisation, or vulnerability</i>	-
<i>Changes in local leadership of development and humanitarian work</i>	-