Marina Sokolova
Initial Work and Advocacy Plan

THE PLACE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ACTORS AND PARLIAMENTS IN E-GOVERNANCE PROGRAMMING (ANALYSYS OF E-GOVERNACE IN BELARUS, UKRAINE AND LITHUANIA)

Aims and objectives for the fellowship year

The objectives of the project are to analyze the state of e-governance in Belarus, Ukraine and Lithuania and explore conditions and incentives for enhancing citizens' participation in e-gov programming; to develop policy recommendations addressing the participation of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in e-governance policy making, opportunities and risks of e-governance programming for parliaments.

OSI/CEU/Soros foundations/IPF alumni programs/projects that may serve as partners and expected benefits for those programs/projects.

Expected benefits:

- build upon experiences of these programs;
- establishing information sharing mechanisms;
- consultation to identify important opportunities to cooperate and overlaps became informed about effective models or approaches;
- help each other in identifying partners, advocacy organizations, experts and stakeholders.

More specifically:

1. <u>International center for policy studies</u> (Ukraine) focuses on promoting the concept of public policy and related processes as a guarantee of effective democracy in Ukraine and other post-soviet countries, on establishing procedures for substantive dialogue in Ukraine between representatives of the legislative and executive arms of government and the public.

Cooperation in research and policy studies on citizen participation issues, consultations

2. <u>Open society fund (Lithuania).</u> OSFL programs on information technology development, and civil society issues

Developing partnership and networked projects.

3. <u>E-Governance Academy (Tallinn).</u> E-Governance Academy mission is to train and advise leaders and stakeholders in using ICT to increase government efficiency and improve democratic processes with the aim of building open information society.

The study may contribute to a number of research areas of the Academy, i.e. civic engagement, electronic self-governance mechanisms, access to information in order to strengthen civil society.

4. <u>Internet and Information Policy Program (OSI)</u>. The program's current focus includes sponsoring initiatives that monitor Internet censorship, surveillance, and filtering

Cooperation in the analysis of legal framework for e-governance strategies

5. <u>Local government and public services reform initiative (OSI)</u>. Central task of the initiative – to develop democratic and effective government at sub-national levels.

The study may provide local and cross-country information policy expertise and will help to define and address specific Lithuanian, Ukrainian, Belarusian needs in local eGov projects, including civil engagement issues.

6. The East East Program: Partnership Beyond Borders (OSI) ssupports international exchanges that bring together civil society actors to share ideas, information, knowledge, experiences, and expertise and to support practical actions that result from that networking.

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The  study  may  provide  cross-country  information  policy
expertise  and  basis  for  partnership  networks  in  Ukraine,
Belarus and Lithuania.
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Final outcome of the project

I. Research paper *"The place of civil society actors and parliaments in eGov programming (analysis of e-governance strategies in Belarus, Ukraine and Lithuania)"*

1. Strategies
    1.1. Institutional structure
    1.2. History
    1.3. Motivations behind e-government programming, major participants and agenda setters
    1.4.Objectives and lines of work

2. Implementation
    2.1. The use of ICTs by the government to communicate with actors outside the governmnet
    2.2. Citizen's access to public information
    2.3.Analysis of the contents of national portals

3. CSO's participation in the design and implementation of e-gov initiatives
    3.1. Major focuses of CSOs initiatives in the sphere of ICT policies
    3.2. CSOs collaboration with governments
    3.3. Major implications of CSOs participation in the generation and implementation of e-gov policy

4. Opportunities and risks for parliaments
    4.1. Impact of new participatory mechanisms on parliaments activities

4.2.Impact of new participatory mechanisms on citizens' participation in agenda setting

4.3. Issues of accountability and transparency

5. Citizens participation and communicative eGov planning

II. A 20-page policy study *"Improving quality of eGov strategies in Belarus, Ukraine and Lithuania"*

(i)   public policy issues that are relevant to eGov;

(ii)   general understanding of the respective roles and responsibilities of governments, existing international organizations and other forums as well as the private sector and civil society from the three countries;

(iii)   key recommendations concerning public participation in eGov programming;

(iv)   policy steps for specific topics and priorities for each of the three countries.

III. A review *Belarusian government agencies online (a survey of web sites)*

IV. Policy analysis *"Comparative analysis of eGov strategies in UA, BY and LT"*

Briefing papers

-   on communicative planning approach to developing eGov strategies

-   on cross-border e-citizens partnership networks

V. Participation in workshops and meetings with OSI networking programs responsibles, stakeholders, governmnetal officials, citizen's initiatives and legal and technical experts.