

MODEL FOR FINAL REPORT

Name of project:	“Enhancing the position of regional NGOs as players for reforming of food safety system aimed to combat corruption”
Activity number:	4000003262
Reporting period:	01.10.2019 – 31.08.2021
Organisation:	ANALYSIS CENTRE AUU PO
Date of report:	18.10.2021
Duration of project:	From 01.10.2019 to 31.08.2021

1. Context of activity/programme at the outset

The problem addressed by the project is corruption that happens during official state inspections in the agrarian sector and food industry and the need to strengthen public participation through NGOs in food safety control system in regions. Another problem addressed by the project is a lack of professional assistance for agrarian and food business for achieving compliance with food safety domestic legislation and international legal norms.

At the outset of project implementation Ukrainian national system of safety and quality of food products has been transforming dynamically with the aim to approach EU legislation. But domestic agrarian and food producers were usually unaware of both requirements of updated national legislation and EU regulations. Thus, activity of food business operators, conditions of production and parameters of food products were not in line with demands of reformed legislation in force. This situation provoked corruption during official inspections – being unaware of modern demands of legislation and state inspections rules business used to bribe inspectors.

To contribute to solving this problem we proposed:

- to develop educative materials on current situation with legislative demands on food safety, reformed system of state control, norms of EU legislation and international treaties signed by Ukraine,
- to establish a number of regional contact points and partners (NGOs and specialists) for communication with local agrarian and food business on food safety and state control issues,
- to prepare a number of trainers (local activists, NGO's representatives, high school teachers and students) for delivering education and consultation to business entities on issues of reformed state control system and international demands for food safety;

- to develop a number of instruments for supporting professional networking and communication among trainers, business and state officials on issues of fair production of food products, food safety and approaching international markets.

Information on the project aims and activities is available at:

<http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/992/>.

2. General objectives; target group

The purpose of the project is to strengthen the position of NGOs in regions of Ukraine as participants of food safety system reforming aimed to strengthen the rule of law and to combat corruption.

Final goals of the project are:

- to contribute to combat corruption due to raising awareness of agro and food business operators on reformed state control system, domestic legislation and international norms for food safety;
- to build a network of trainers/supervisors and public organizations delivering education and assisting food business operators in implementing requirements of national legislation, EU regulatory framework, international standards and best practices;
- to contribute to meet requirements of national and European legislation, international standards and best practices by agro and food business operators;
- to launch communication of profile civil organizations with state officials in Kyiv and regions on issues of safety and quality of food products.

The target groups of the project are: food producers, sectoral agro and food associations in Kyiv and regions, other profile NGOs in regions, officials of the Departments of Agro-Industrial Development (AIDD) of oblast state administrations, officials of the State Service of Ukraine on Food Safety and Consumer Protection (SFCS) and its regional divisions.

3. Planned activities

Information on project activities is available from <http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/993/>

Adjustments:

1. Initial stage:

- development of educative materials on requirements of national legislation in force, EU-UA Association Agreement provisions, EU regulatory framework, international standards and certification systems, procedures and parameters of state control, training and supervising activities among agrarian and food enterprises in regions;
- printing, publication at electronic resources and distribution of educational materials;
- elaboration of a circle of public organizations - project partners;

- development of cooperation with AIDD of oblast State Administrations and regional offices of SFCS aimed to diminish corruption during official inspections of agrarian and food enterprises and to ensure their sustainable development based on norms of legislation in force, EU regulatory framework, international standards;
- communication with regional agro and food enterprises included in the plan of state control on involving into project activities;
- development and pilot testing of professional communication system for trainers and supervisors in regions prepared under the frame of the project;
- development and pilot testing of the "Declaration Portal" for placing declarations of agrarian and food enterprises on compliance with national and international law, standards, certificates and getting consultations from experts and officers of SFCS;
- spreading information in the central and regional media on the objectives of the project and inviting target groups to cooperate.

2. Main stage - activity in 12 regions:

- training of NGOs and their experts in regions on delivering education to managers and specialists of agrarian and food enterprises, preparation of enterprises for state inspections, supervising development of processes and products of agrarian and food enterprises in order to ensure their sustainable development in compliance with legislation and international standards;
- composing teams of trainers in regions, development and implementation of tools for their professional communication;
- training for managers and specialists of selected enterprises on requirements of national legislation in force, EU regulatory framework, international certification systems and preparation of enterprises for next state inspection;
- strategic session for enterprises aimed to analyze experience and results of official audit, identify possibilities for further development of processes and products complying with national legislation, EU regulatory framework, international standards;
- development of supervision system for sustainable development of enterprises on the basis of national law, EU regulatory framework, international standards;
- spreading of information in regional media about project activities and results;
- enacting regional segments of the system for professional communication of trainers and supervisors formed under the framework of the project;
- spreading of information on aims and tasks of the "Declaration Portal", filling it with information from enterprises in the agrarian sector and the food industry of the region.

3. Final stage

- final facilitation and activation of the system of professional communication of trainers and supervisors in the regions;

- final filling of the "Declaration Portal" with information from enterprises - project participants;
- spreading of information on tasks and functions of the "Declaration Portal" in central mass media and final press conference;
- analysis of the project results and final reporting

Planned implementation period:

Initial stage, 3 months

Main stage - Activity in 12 regions, 15 months

Final stage, 2 months

4. Activities carried out

Information on current activities of the project is available from the project news pages:

- for 2019 <http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1359/>;
- for 2020 <http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1360/>;
- for 2021 <http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1408/>.

Further information if different to planned activities or problems identified:

Initial stage:

- as far as materials for educative events were developed in electronic form initially (see attachments [here](#) and [here](#)) and educative programs were adapted to distant mode due to COVID19 quarantine and educative materials were included in programs of educative events directly (for [T2T training](#), for [T2B training](#), for [SS2B session](#)), the need to publish educative materials was postponed to the final stage of the project and then while the page 'Library' of the trainer's network www.kdk.net.ua had been developed, necessity in hard copies died out;
- it appeared just at first stages of project implementation and was confirmed completely during the next communication that the idea to create a Declaration Portal is not popular among business operators. They signalled that it is not possible to implement a huge number of legal demands in full scale thus declaration on partial compliance would lead to additional attention from corrupted state officials. At initial state it was proposed to postpone development of the Declaration Portal closer to the end of the Main stage but then [it appeared reasonable to replace](#) the Declaration Portal completely and develop possibility to declare fairness under the frame of fair producer's cluster (FairFood-Ukraine, www.ffu.net.ua);
- development of the [WEB-page of the project](#) was not planned initially, but it had been developed at the initial stage and used widely during project implementation.

Activity in regions:

- as far as COVID-19 quarantine made trips to regions impossible only two first trainings for key audiences (for representatives of regional trade chambers and heads of business associations) had been organised in Kyiv and next activity was shifted into virtual space and 'consecutive' work in regions was replaced by 'parallel' simultaneous participating of all target audiences (professionals from NGOs and high schools, representatives of business) for all types of public events (training for trainers T2T, training for business T2B, strategic sessions aimed to meet international demands SS2B);
- some trips to regions with the aim to meet with local trainer's communities had been planning till the summer 2021, but it appeared effective to hold meetings with trainer's community distantly as well;
- development of the national-wide professional trainer's network was not planned initially (only trainer's communities in 12 regions), but [accepting knowledges on modern networking](#) from AMD consulting company (The Netherlands) got possible [to create trainer's professional network KDK](#) (Компетентність долає корупцію);
- development of distant instruments aimed to support the trainer's activity was not planned initially as well, but shifting activity into the Internet and fast development of IT skills among project participants permitted the development of the IT instrument for trainer's community www.kdk.net.ua.
- in turn, development of a national-wide professional trainer's network and its IT support at www.kdk.net.ua were followed by development of [basic documents](#) and [registers](#) aimed to activate training and consulting markets in Ukraine and its regions.
- as well, moratorium to state control caused by COVID-19 quarantine influenced much of the key idea of the project on involvement of business into training on the eve of state control events – we were looking for other 'hot point' and implementation of HACCP appeared to be the right choice. Training programs, first of all of local trainers, were adapted to this situation and [additional analytic note](#) on what are differences in EU and Ukrainian demands for HACCP was created and presented;
- initial plans suggested involvement of regional coordinators, but it appeared that distant coordination from one centre is more effective and activity of regional coordinators was replaced by [activity of trainers in regions that trained local business](#) with financial support from the project;
- to be sure of effectiveness of training for trainers we proposed to participants of T2T training to fulfill some 'home work' (it was [included in the T2T program](#)) and then get certificates – it was not planned initially but by now we have 81 approved trainers;

Final stage:

- filling of the "Declaration Portal" with information from enterprises and spreading of information on tasks and functions of the "Declaration Portal" in central mass media and final press conference was substituted for inviting business to join cluster 'FairFood-Ukraine' www.ffu.net.ua by [signing the memorandum](#) (it better matches legislation on personal information), [presenting cluster of fair business](#)

[operators](#) distantly and [posting video](#) at the YouTube channel of Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Actual implementation period:

The contract suggests the implementation period from 01 October 2019 to 31 May 2021.

Further information if different to planned implementation period:

The start of the project was defined in the contract as October, 01, 2019. But the contract was signed finally only on October 16, 2019. So, the real project implementation period was supposed to be from October 20, 2019 to May 31, 2021, with an interim reporting period – from October 20, 2019 to April 20, 2020. But the economy of project costs caused by COVID-19 quarantine permitted prolonging the project activities till August 31, 2021.

5. Your assessment of the activities / programmes

Infographic on results of project implementation is available from

http://www.aau.org.ua/media/publications/1724/files/Results_2021_09_30_12_01_26_509440.pdf

Interim and final goals achieved:

Initial stage:

- the main goal of the Initial stage – to get well prepared for delivering of trainings for trainers (T2T), business (T2B) and strategic sessions (SS2B) at high professional level – had been achieved due to:

extensive participation in informative and educative events of other profile organisations:

<http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/997/>, <http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1012/>,
<http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1033/>, <http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1034/>,
<http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1122/>, <http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1124/>
<http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1125/>, <http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1126/>,
<http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1129/>,

gaining partnership with key profile stakeholders: [Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry](#), [heads and specialists of food business associations](#), [Export Promotion Office](#), [Global Harmonization Initiative](#), [USAID Competitive Economy Program](#), [National Economic University](#), [AgriTrade Ukraine Project](#), [PO “Green Dossier”](#).

- the goal of getting ready educative materials (24 kits, in fact unlimited amount due to posting educative materials at web resources) is achieved by development of a line of educative materials: programs for [T2T](#), [T2B](#), [SS2B](#) educative events (equipped with links to presentations, manuals and legal norms) and educative materials that were posted at the library of the Trainer’s network KDK:

[Права і обов'язки бізнесу при державних перевірках у сфері обігу продуктів харчування](#), [Права і обов'язки контролерів при державних перевірках у сфері обігу продуктів харчування](#), [Відповідальність за порушення законодавства про харчові продукти та корми](#), [Основи законодавства про державний контроль \(конспект для тренера\)](#), [Основи законодавства про державний контроль у сфері харчової безпеки \(конспект для тренера\)](#), [Вимоги щодо НАССР у сфері обігу продуктів харчування \(матеріали для тренінгу операторів ринку\)](#), [Гігієнічні вимоги до харчового виробництва \(матеріали для тренінгу операторів ринку\)](#), [Простежуваність, відповідність та відповідальність в країнах ЄС \(конспект для тренера\)](#), [Контроль за здоров'ям рослин в країнах ЄС \(конспект для тренера\)](#), [Контроль залишків пестицидів в країнах ЄС \(конспект для тренера\)](#), [Аналітична нотатка щодо сфери участі держави в запровадженні і контролі процедур, заснованих на принципах НАССР](#), [Посібник з тренерської майстерності](#);

Main stage:

- the goal to involve 63 NGOs (in fact 74) at national and regional level in cooperation on issues of modern requirements for safety and quality of food products is achieved by their participation in project events:

20 profile business associations (ГО «Гільдія ремісничих сироварів», Об'єднання підприємств хлібопекарної промисловості "Укрхлібпром", Українська зернова асоціація, Спілка молочних підприємств України, Асоціація "Тваринпром", Всеукраїнська асоціація пекарів, Асоціація "Виноградари та винороби України", Національна асоціація виробників м'яса та м'ясопродуктів "Укрм'ясо", ГС "Всеукраїнське громадське об'єднання "Спілка пасічників України", ГО "Козівники України", ГО "М'ясна гільдія", ГО Фумігаційна асоціація", Асоціація НАССР, ГС «Спільнота виробників та споживачів бобових в Україні», ГС «Насіннева асоціація України», ГС «Українська плодоовочева асоціація», ГС «Борошномели України», ГС «Українська асоціація виробників картоплі», ГС «Українська Асоціація виробників і дистриб'юторів ветеринарних препаратів та кормових добавок», ГС «Вівчарство та козівництво України»);

38 regional NGOs from 12 regions (Волинь: ГО "Асоціація захисту прав споживачів+", ГС "Спас", Суми: ГО "Органічна Україна. Північ", Спілка аграрних підприємств Сумської області, ГО "Агроексперт", ГО "Український освітній клуб", ГО «Органічне землеробство», Сумське міжрайонне об'єднання бджолярів, ГО «Студентська республіка, ГО «Академія альтернативних наук», ГО "Редакція газети "Сумщина", Хмельницький: ГО «Геркулес», ГО «Асоціація фермерських господарств», ГО «Асоціація Бджолярів», ГО «Подільське екологічне товариство», ГО Агенція комунікацій і розвитку "Аспект громади", ГО "Осередок змін", Тернопіль: ГО "ТО "Нівроку", ГО "Товариство Дружби Тернопіль-Тирасполь", Житомир: ГО "Агенція "GOODWILL", Донецьк: ГО «Відкрита Економіка», Київ: ГО «Ресторанна гільдія», КЗ КОР "Київський обласний молодіжний центр", ГО "Всеукраїнська асоціація з питань захисту прав

споживачів "Споживча довіра", ГО "Продовольча безпека України", ВГО «Перша всеукраїнська сільськогосподарська дорадча служба», ГО «Інститут економіко-правових досліджень», Кропивницький: Мережа 'Euro City Family', Луганськ: Агенція регіонального розвитку Луганської області, НГО «Асоціація сільгосптоваровиробників Луганської області», НГО «Агенція регіонального розвитку Східного Донбасу», Запоріжжя: ГО "Офіс перспективного розвитку", ГО «Сила підприємців», Закарпаття: ГО "Карпатський центр", Миколаїв: ГО «Миколаївський прес-клуб», Полтава: ГО «Науково-дослідний центр «Незалежна експертиза», Рівне: ГО «Рівненська обласна спілка споживчих товариств», Чернігів «Сіверський інститут регіональних досліджень»);

16 regional trade chambers (Донецька, Кіровоградська, Луганська, Полтавська ТПП Кременчуцьке відділення, Рівненська, Сумська, Тернопільська, Харківська, Херсонська, Хмельницька, Чернігівська, Вінницька, Київська, Миколаївська, Одеська, Закарпатська);

- the goal to get 120 persons from 12 regions (in fact 259 from 23 regions) as trainers/consultants able to deliver training to business in regions has been achieved (lists of participants are available [here](#) for 06.02.2020, 24.02.2020, 10.03.2020, 08.04.2020, 15.04.2020, 29.04.2020, 17.09.2020),

information on T2T events:

<http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1135/>, <http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1144/>,
<http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1176/>, <http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1179/>,
<http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1190/>, <http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1195/>,
<http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1325/>

- the goal to train 240 business entities from 12 regions (in fact 461 trained by the project team and 2 432 trained by trainers certified under the frame of the project from 23 regions) to meet demands of national and EU legal norms had been achieved (lists of participants for B2B training are available [here](#) for 14.05.2020, 21.05.2020, 28.05.2020, 18.06.2020, for SS2B - for 07-08-2020 and [here](#)), information on participants for T2T and T2B events in regional aspect is available [here](#),

information on T2B trainings:

<http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1207/>, <http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1208/>,
<http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1217/>, <http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1267/>

information on T2B trainings of certified trainers:

<http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1277/>, <http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1278/>,
<http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1334/>, <http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1375/>,
<http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1376/>, <http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1382/>,
<http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1395/>, <http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1391/>,
<http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1405/>, <http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1406/>,
<http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1410/>, <http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1440/>,
<http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1441/>, <http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1458/>,

<http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1460/>, <http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1471/>,
<http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1485/>, <http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1486/>,
<http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1491/>, <http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1497/>,
<http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1528/>, <http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1548/>,
<http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1570/>, <http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1549/>,
<http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1709/>

information on SS2B events:

<http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1288/>, <http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1462/>,
<http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1472/>, <http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1500/>

- the goal to develop cooperation with AIDD of oblast State Administrations and regional offices of SFCS aimed to diminish corruption during official inspections of agrarian and food enterprises and to ensure their sustainable development is achieved by means of:

participation in [advisory event of the Ministry of Development Economy, Trade and Agriculture](#) on consumer rights and food safety protection and on the [development of non-governmental control system](#);

communication with officials of the State Regulatory Service and the State Food and Consumer Protection Service on the eve and during World Food Safety Day: [2020](#) and [2021](#);

[participation in efforts of civil society organizations](#) to save reformed State Food and Consumer Protection Service of Ukraine;

establishing of the [working group for food safety issues](#) at the Sumy state administration and [its further activity](#);

[election to the Public Council at the State Food and Consumer Protection Service](#) a number of KDK network participants and to [Public Councils at regional divisions of the State Regulatory Services](#) and next activities mentioned [here](#) and [here](#)) and to the [Council on SME development at the President of Ukraine](#);

communication with officials of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Agriculture and the State Food and Consumer Protection Service on draft law (in new version) of the Law of Ukraine on Basics of State Supervision (Control) (please, see [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#));

participation in the [National Dialog on Transformation of Food Systems](#);

participation of local AIDD and SFCS officials in training events (Хмельницька, Сумська, Чернігівська, Полтавська, Київська, Запорізька, Донецька області);

- the goal to inform wide public on issues of food safety is achieved by:

arranging the press-conferences (before COVID-19 quarantine had been imposed): [06.02.2020](#) and [24.02.2020](#);

disseminating information through regional trade chambers:

<https://ucci.org.ua/press-center/ucci-news/tpp-ukrayini-dopomozhe-biznesu-pidgotuvatisia-do-perevirok-kontroliuuchimi-organami#.Xj2CRMm659s.facebook>,
<http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1178/>,
<http://lcci.lg.ua/882.html>, <http://lcci.lg.ua/877.html>,
<https://www.facebook.com/461338703891266/posts/3917875841570851/>,
<https://www.facebook.com/461338703891266/posts/3684076574950780/>,
<http://www.chamber.kr.ua/index.php/pro-palatu/k2/1929-tpp-ukrainy-dopomozhe-biznesu-pidhotuvatysia-do-perevirok-kontroliuuchymy-orhanamy>,
<http://www.chamber.kr.ua/index.php/pro-palatu/k2/1961-regionalnij-biznes-navchali-pravilam-vzaemodiji-z-kontrolyuyuchimi-organami-u-sferi-bezpechnosti-kharchovoji-produktsiji>,
<https://www.facebook.com/453899871307087/posts/3042178662479182/>,
<https://www.facebook.com/1632134847019989/posts/2708847069348756/>,
<https://www.facebook.com/1577329919254589/posts/2654035421584028/>,
<https://www.facebook.com/1577329919254589/posts/2587817588205812/>,
<https://www.facebook.com/kherson.tpp/posts/1494163950760001>,
<http://cci.sumy.ua/news/6/5946/>,
<https://www.facebook.com/1455397781420058/posts/2364011587225335/>,
<https://www.facebook.com/1455397781420058/posts/2323985484561279/>
<https://agrotimes.ua/agromarket/ponad-pivsotni-sertyfikovanyh-treneriv-gotuvatymut-mali-j-seredni-agropidpryyemstva-do-derzhavnyh-perevirok/>,
<http://cci.sumy.ua/news/6/6022/?fbclid=IwAR11Hk4d8XTXDp1XKIg4IdfcGxuI1112csx3j7xvPQr3nobqurSAANsCTEs>,
<https://www.facebook.com/307461449396817/posts/1861861223956824/?sfnsn=mo&extid=aQabh8FhVqDF4tKU>,
<https://www.facebook.com/307461449396817/posts/2012578988885046/>,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N17997-dnYc&t=23s>,
<https://youtu.be/XGFNmmOkXF4>

publishing articles in profile mass media:

<https://agrotimes.ua/agromarket/ponad-pivsotni-sertyfikovanyh-treneriv-gotuvatymut-mali-j-seredni-agropidpryyemstva-do-derzhavnyh-perevirok/>,
http://agroportal.ua/views/mnenie-eksperta/na-vnedrenie-nassr-u-predpriyatii-net-sredstv/?fbclid=IwAR1nBXFfoCn0hCLOUxM63o0aVVBUD3_jQdw8V3OUHKBLBQpQRx0kWCAnbLQ
<https://agrotimes.ua/opinion/shparynka-dlya-strymanogo-optymizmu-na-tli-adaptyvnogo-karantynu/>
<https://agrotimes.ua/opinion/revolyucziya-yaku-nihto-ne-pomityv/>
<https://agrotimes.ua/opinion/shparynka-dlya-strymanogo-optymizmu-na-tli-adaptyvnogo-karantynu/>

<https://agrotimes.ua/article/dobrochesnist-u-prioryteti/>

spreading information at public events:

<http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1126/>, <http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1257/>,
<http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1312/>, <http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1324/>,
<http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1396/>, <http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1484/>,
<http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1520/>, <http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1529/>,
<http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1396/>.

Final stage:

- the goal to activate the system of professional communication of trainers/consultants in regions is achieved by development of the professional trainer's network KDK ('Компетентність долає корупцію') and its distant tool www.kdk.net.ua, information on the network establishing and activity:

<http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1268/>, <http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1306/>,
<http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1335/>, <http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1370/>,
<http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1412/>, <http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1437/>,
<http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1461/>, <http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1515/>,
<http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1524/>, <http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1521/>,
<http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1535/>, <http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1543/>,
<http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1544/>, <http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1719/>,
<http://www.aau.org.ua/uk/publications/web/1723/>

- the goal to make it possible for food business operators to declare their fairness is achieved by development of a cluster of fair food business operators 'FairFood-Ukraine' and the IT instrument for its distant support www.ffu.net.ua.

Further information if they do not correspond to the problems identified/planning:

- the goal to involve NGOs in training activity on the issues of food safety and state inspections had appeared supplemented by involvement of 16 high schools from 12 regions –

Дніпровський Державний Аграрно-економічний Університет, Приазовський державний технічний університет, Поліський національний університет, Ужгородський національний університет, Навчально-науковий інститут енергетики (у складі НУБіП), Київський національний торгово-економічний університет, Національний університет харчових технологій, Київський Національний економічний університет ім. В.Гетьмана, Білоцерківський національний аграрний університет, Луганський національний університет імені Тараса Шевченка, Кременчуцький національний університет імені Михайла Остроградського, Сумський національний аграрний університет, Херсонський державний аграрно-економічний університет. Подільський державний

аграрно-технічний університет, Хмельницький кооперативний торгово-економічний інститут, Хмельницький Національний Університет;

- the goal to develop training materials had been contributed with:

development of [English versions of training programs](#);

development of [video version of the training for business T2B](#) and posting it at AgroOnline resource for free access of agrarian business;

including into T2B training programs and further spreading of information on the [‘Manual for Entrepreneurs’](#) prepared by USAID Competitive Economy Program;

development of the manual [‘Framework for Communication with State Controllers’](#) by Sumy trainers’ team;

- the goal to get prepared trainers from regions and NGOs was gained as well by:

consultation sessions after every T2T distant training ([09.04.2020](#), [16.04.2020](#), [30.04.2020](#));

launching certification process based on the individual homework, idea of certification got popular among participants of T2T trainings and by the end of the project we had [81 certified trainers](#);

proposition to trainers to develop their own training programs as products and [list it in special register](#) under the frame of trainers’ professional network KDK;

- the goal to develop cooperation with state agencies and their regional divisions as well was realized through establishing of [GR Committee](#) under the frame of trainers’ professional network KDK and the [Telegram group](#) for current communication;

- the goal to prepare business entities to state control events and meeting demands of international markets had been additionally contributed with:

consultation sessions after every T2B distant training;

T2B trainings had done by certified trainers (please, see list of links above);

development of environment for sustainable development of fair food business operators [www.ffu.net.ua](#);

- the goal to activate professional communication among trainers/supervisors had been achieved by tools that are additional to the project frame:

distant instrument aimed to activate professional activity and communication among trainers/consultants [www.kdk.net.ua](#);

[environment for communication](#) among trainers’ groups and profile communities;

- the goal to attract public attention to the issues of food safety, combating corruption and meeting demands of EU-UA agreement, to bring trainers' and food business operators' communities together was contributed with the next events that are additional to the frame of the project:

[World Food Safety Day 2021](#) (with presenting awards to certified trainers);

[International Anti-Corruption Day](#);

[KDK network constituent assembly](#);

[World Food Safety Day 2022](#) (with presenting the tool www.kdk.net.ua);

[Presentation of the cluster FairFood-Ukraine](#) and the tool www.ffu.net.ua;

- contribution of the project to the improvement of rule of law and good governance has been made by additional activities on:

[participation in efforts to protect the State Service of Ukraine on Food Safety and Consumer Protection](#) from unappropriated reforming;

development of analytical materials (please, see [here](#) and [here](#)) on the draft law on the basics of state control and next communication with the state officials ([here](#) and [here](#));

development of [analytical note on differences in HACCP](#) implementation in EU and Ukraine and [spreading information among trainers' community](#).

6. Have the overall goals been achieved?

Three short-term goals identified at the start of the project 1) to create a network of public organizations participating in reforming of the food products safety and quality system in the regions, 2) to build a network of trainers/supervisors capable to deliver education and facilitate efforts of the enterprises to put production processes and characteristics of products in a line with the requirements of legislation in force, EU regulatory framework and international standards, 3) to launch communication of civic organizations with public administration authorities in the regions on issues of safety and quality of food products have been achieved.

The medium- and long-term goals of reducing corruption during state inspections of agricultural and food enterprises, sustainable transition to situation while agricultural and food producers are meeting requirements of national and European legislation, international standards and best practices are contributed by establishing of trainers' community and equipping it with a tool for professional communication www.kdk.net.ua and enabling fair food business operators to implement domestic and international rules in effective way under the frame of the FairFood-Ukraine cluster www.ffu.net.ua.

Has the target group been reached?

Initial plans for reaching the target groups had been exceeded for food producers (the plan is 12 regions and 240 enterprises, real involvement is 21 regions and 2 893 business entities), sectoral agro and food associations (planning number is 15, number of real participants – 20), NGOs in regions (the plan is 48 organizations, number of actual participants including regional trade chambers is 54). At the same time the number of regions where local state officials were reached was 7 instead of 12 as it was planned. It is the result of imposing moratorium for state control events during COVID19 quarantine and losing interest from SME business to communicate with local state officials on the state control issues.

Conclusions as regards the skills of the implementing body:

The project team is composed of professionals: coordinator on education Serhiy Shcherbyna is Fulbright program alumni, coordinator on business Pavlo Koval and coordinator of the project Larisa Starikova lead well-known profile agrarian NGOs and are known personally as high level specialists in Ukraine, coordinator on regions Lyubov Nestyrenko is professional manager and communicator, adviser to the head of the Trade Chamber of Ukraine and an elected member of Expert-Consultation Council at State Regulatory Service. High professional level of trainers and organisation of events [is marked by participants](#) of training events.

The project team has been paying attention to improving their professional skills. At the initial stage the project team participated in [workshop on good regulatory practices](#) of USDA and Bridges program. Larisa Starikova and Serhiy Scherbyna participated in trainings of the Institute of European Politic (Berlin) on modern training skills (please see [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)) and development of professional networks (please see info [here](#) and [here](#)). Larisa Starikova and Pavlo Koval [studied the experience of non-governmental control](#) for the food industry during their trip to Germany. They visited QS headquarter in Bonn and then implemented gained knowledge into educational materials for trainers and business. Participation in [‘NGO-online’ forum](#) helped to develop the terms of references for IT tools [www.kdk.net.ua](#) and [www.ffu.net.ua](#). Contracting the best IT specialists enabled fast realisation of TOR for both professional networks announced during T2T and T2B training.

Project team was oriented toward accepting knowledge and information from partner organizations and projects. Communication with key specialist of the MDF consulting company [Sam Boering](#) and [Prof. Dr Hub Lelieveld](#), the President of Global Harmonization Initiative, [participation in the presentation](#) ‘Main credit for agrarian sector of Ukraine from European Investment Bank’, [high level expert consultations](#) on human rights in business contributed to sustainability of project results. Participation in the workshop on using of the [‘Manual for Entrepreneurs’](#) developed by USAID Competitive Economy Program, in the webinar of EU ASKFOOD alliance [‘A cross-disciplinary perspective to promote a sustainable food system’](#), in the webinars [‘Food Safety Standards’](#) and [‘US Food Safety Regulations’](#) of Penn State Department of Food Science, in the workshop [‘From farm to Fork’](#) of the Institute of European Politic,

in meeting with EU ambassadors [on the Green Deal context](#) had contributed to knowledge and skills of the team members.

Finally, in September 2021, three members of trainer's network KDK Olexandr Homan (Sumy), Nadyia Boyko (Zakarpattya) and Larisa Starikova (Kyiv) were certified as the ambassadors of the Global Harmonization Initiative (GHI) and experts of the Global Incident Alert Network of GHI.

Further comments on the above conclusions:

COVID19 quarantine influenced not only project activities schedule but the whole concept of the project. At the same time, the project goal to strengthen the position of NGOs in regions of Ukraine as participants of food safety system reforming aimed to strengthen the rule of law and to combat corruption remained fixed. The main impacts of the quarantine are: shifting project training activity into virtual space, banishing hardcopies for educative and information materials, refusing of trips to regions and arranging off-line press-conferences, losing interest of business to get trainings on the eve of regular state control events and shifting it to HACCP issues that has appeared subjected to irregular state control, diminishing the interest to build communication with local state control units at the permanent base and at the institutional level.

Strong sides of COVID19 quarantine are easier involvement of participants and work with regions in distant mode that permitted to overcome initial project's goals essentially, raising effectiveness of communication due to shifting into virtual space, fast development of skills of the project team and project participants for distant communication, accepting of modern IT tools and it using for achieving the project goal to establish communities of trainers and fair food business. Development of two interactive distant IT systems for communication of trainers and profile business www.kdk.net.ua and www.ffu.net.ua would be barely possible in the usual situation.

Suggestions for the future/lessons learned:

- legal environment: Legislation for official state control and state food control has been harmonized during 2016-2019 in general. But the sphere of normative acts issued by state agencies has remained unreformed (the most remarkable example is the order of Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food [N 590 of October 1, 2012](#) on HACCP implementation). In fact, deepening of euro integration process in food safety sphere was stopped after the law '[On state control on compliance with the law on food, feed, products of animal origin and animal welfare](#)' had been passed. Moreover, right now state agencies are trying to turn the process of harmonization back, implementing principles and basic norms for the state control that are not in line with European ones (draft new version of the state control [N 5837 of August 5, 2021](#) has been submitted to the parliament by The Cabinet of Ministers).

We were trying to explain that discrepancies in EU and Ukrainian legislation for state control create additional barriers for Ukrainian export (last attempt had been done at a meeting of the Committee on Eurointegration of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on October 12, 2021). But we are not sure that to be heard. Even the strong position of the project team at EU-UA association official public bodies (Pavlo Koval is the member of Advisory Group, Larisa Starikova – of Ukrainian Side of the Civil Society Platform) does not permit to achieve the positive result as well. So, support and help on behalf of the Netherlands Embassy, the Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine and other European partners aimed to deep harmonized of EU-UA legislation and spread it to the area of the state agencies acts would be in place;

- non-governmental control: Development of arbitrary control on food safety is the cardinal way to combat corruption. By now, the sphere of voluntary certification according to international standards and good practices is well developed within world food markets but is full of problems in Ukraine. National certification system sticks to the state orbit and has not been reformed in an eligible way since the beginning of the 1990s. We tried to make contribution to development of the non-governmental compliance indication system in Ukraine including this issue into training programs for all formats (training to trainers T2T, training to business T2B, strategic session for business SS2B). As well, we arranged a strong partnership with the German [AgriTrade Ukraine project](#) and its experts, who identified the problem of [lacking quality infrastructure in Ukraine](#) as the biggest obstacle for development of food export.

But now our project is over, AgriTrade project is finishing as well. And we do not know of any other players or efforts to develop the arbitrary system of market compliance in the food industry. So, a situation with further development of arbitrary control in Ukraine looks unsustainable. From the perspective of combating corruption according to the UN Sustainable Development Goal 16.5, implementation of DCFTA the issue of development of arbitrary compliance approving system looks as a priority that needs more attention from the Netherlands Embassy, the Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine and other donors. By now this issue is not possible to solve on behalf of Ukrainian internal resources;

- trainers' community: From the very beginning of the composing trainers' community, we were trying to develop the true free market of training and consulting on food safety control issues in Ukraine. Right now, such a market exists rather in an informal form that does not guarantee the quality of service. At the same time, the market segment of trainings available from the state officials is unreasonably large. Moreover, the state officials try to withdraw freelanced trainers and independent training companies from the market at all.

At the face of such a situation development of trainers' community and empowering it with the practical tools like possibility to establish permanent and temporary units for cooperation, possibility to arrange partnership for development of products and projects, to defend rights for intellectual property, to

concentrate communication in different social networks in one place, to manifest the level of knowledge and skills looks as a strong answer. The IT tool www.kdk.net.ua aimed to support activities of trainers and the trainers' community multiplies the efforts to develop training and consultation markets in all parts of Ukraine and stimulates synergy.

The project has contributed to enlarging the number of agents of changes and participants in reforming and eligible functioning of the food safety system in the regions of Ukraine. Development of financial and economic mechanisms for training and consulting activity gives the background for steady development of food operators introducing modern requirements for food products and processes. At the same time, the capacity of the training's market right now is not sufficient for financing trainers' network KDK headquarter and current support of the communication tool www.kdk.net.ua. The project with donor's support aimed to develop a free market of training, internal financial mechanisms for the trainers' professional network KDK and the tool www.kdk.net.ua is of great need. It is a factor of stability of the food sphere reforming on a larger scale.

- fair business community. As it was mentioned above, combating corruption is the most effective through the development of a non-governmental system for the approval of compliance with the law in force, national and international standards and good practices. The ways of doing fair business are: getting information at training, receiving consultation from specialists at the spot, acquainting with international non-governmental rules and systems, obtaining audits from independent certification bodies. And all these is possible only if supplemented with investments for modernisation of assets and spreading information on how to find information on modern demands, propositions on training, consultation and audit, financial services.

We have made an attempt to put together instruments to meet all these needs under the frame of the cluster of fair food operators FairFood-Ukraine and the tool for its distant support www.ffu.net.ua. As well, cluster conjunction multiplies the efforts to strengthen the community of fair food business and stimulates synergy for development of eligible food products and modern food market, the market of training, information and financial services.

Right now, fair business in Ukraine is in a weak position in comparison with unfair one. And to foster development of the fair business community, to bring the cluster FairFood-Ukraine alive, including its training and consultation segment, by means of donors' support and especially attracting funds for business from European Investment Bank under the frame of Agri-Food Value Chain Project would be of great help for Ukraine.

ANALYSIS CENTRE AUU PO

Larisa Starikova,
heard of the board

