



Strasbourg, 23 November 2011

Opinion no. 651/2011

CDL-REF(2011)061

Engl. only

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW**  
**(VENICE COMMISSION)**

**LAW**

**ON PRINCIPLES OF THE STATE LANGUAGE**

**IN UKRAINE**



**Draft**  
**Submitted by**  
**people's deputies of Ukraine**  
**S.V. Kivalov**  
*(ID No. 28)*

**V.V. Kolesnichenko**  
*(ID No.174)*

LAW OF UKRAINE  
**“ON PRINCIPLES OF THE STATE LANGAUAGE POLICY”**

In accordance with the Constitution of Ukraine, Declaration of Nationality Rights, the Law of Ukraine “On Ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages”, etc.;

taking into consideration that, in compliance with the principles declared by the United Nations International Covenant on Civic and Political Rights and according to the spirit of the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, free use of languages in private and social life is an inseparable right of every individual;

stressing the value of strengthening the status of the state Ukrainian language as one of the crucial factors of national identity of the Ukrainian people and a guarantee of its national sovereignty;

proceeding from the assumption that only free development and equality of all national languages and high language culture forms the basis for mutual understanding, cultural mutual enrichment and consolidation of the society;

this Law determines principles of the state language policy in Ukraine.

Chapter I  
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. Definition of Terms

Terms used in this Law shall have the following meaning:

state language – a legislatively established language, which should be used by state government and documentation control bodies, by enterprises, state-owned institutions of education, science, culture, by sectors of communication and information, etc.;

linguistic group – a group of persons who resides in Ukraine and has a common native language;

linguistic minority – a group of persons who resides in Ukraine and has a common native language other than the state language, and that is numerically smaller than the rest of the population of the state;

regional language group – a group of persons who resides in a given region (settlement) and has a common native language;

region – a separate self-government administrative unit that may consist of Autonomous Republic of Crimea, oblast, rayon, city, township or village;

regional language, or language of minority – a language that is traditionally used within a given territory of the state by its citizens who form a group that is numerically smaller than the rest of the state population; and/or differs from (an) official language(s) of this state;

territory at which the regional language is used – a territory of one or several administrative units of Ukraine (Autonomous Republic of Crimea, oblast, rayon, city, township, village) where the regional language forms the means of communication for a number of people and justifies the conduct of various protective and promotional measures provided for in this Law.

native language – a first language mastered by an individual in his/her early childhood;

language of national minority – a language of minority that has a common ethnic origin.

## Article 2. Objectives of the State Language Policy

The state language policy in Ukraine is aimed at regulation of social relations in the area of comprehensive development and use of Ukrainian as a state language, use of regional languages or minority languages and other languages by the country's population, in the state, economic, political and civil life, interpersonal and international communication, protection of the constitutional rights of the Ukrainian citizens in this area, bringing up of a respectful attitude to national dignity of an individual, his/her language and culture, and consolidation of integrity of the Ukrainian society.

## Article 3. Right of Linguistic Self-Determination

1. Everyone shall have the right to freely determine the language he/she considers native, choose the language of communication, consider him/herself bi- or multi-lingual and change linguistic preferences.

2. Irrespective of ethnic origin, national and cultural self-identification, place of residence and religious convictions, everyone shall have the right to use freely any language in public and private life as well as to learn and support any language.

## Article 4. Legislation of Ukraine on Languages

1. Legislation of Ukraine on languages consists of the Constitution of Ukraine, Declaration of Nationality Rights, this Law, the Law of Ukraine "On Ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages", "On National Minorities", the Law of Ukraine "On Ratification of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Protection of National Minorities" and other

Laws of Ukraine as well as international treaties that regulate use of languages recognized by Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine as legally binding.

Foundations of the state language policy are determined by the Constitution of Ukraine, whereas the use of languages in Ukraine is regulated exclusively by this Law, which shall serve as a basis for other legislative acts to regulate the use of languages in various areas of social life.

2. In the event that an effective international treaty of Ukraine recognized as legally binding by Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine establishes other rules than those specified by the Ukrainian legislation on languages, norms with more favorable provisions in terms of human rights protection shall be applied.

#### Article 5. Purposes and Principles of the State Language Policy

1. The state language policy of Ukraine is based on recognition and comprehensive development of Ukrainian as the state language and guarantee of free development of regional or minority languages, other languages, as well as the right to linguistic self-determination and preferences of every individual.

2. In pursuance of the state language policy Ukraine shall adhere to the following purposes and principles:

1) recognition of all the languages traditionally used at the territory of the state or within a certain geographical area as national wealth, and prevention of granting privileges or imposing restrictions based on language characteristics;

2) ensuring comprehensive development and functioning of Ukrainian as the state language in all areas of social life at the entire territory of the state, at the same time creating opportunities for parallel use of regional or minority languages on these areas and in those cases when it is justified;

3) facilitation of the use of regional or minority languages in verbal and writing form in education and the mass media, and creating opportunities for their use by state authorities and local self-government bodies, in judicial, economic and social activities, in conducting cultural events and in other areas of social life within the territories where such languages are used and taking into consideration conditions of every language;

4) maintenance and development of cultural links between various linguistic groups;

5) provision of conditions for learning Ukrainian as the state language, regional or minority languages, other languages, and teaching in those languages at state and municipal educational institutions of relevant levels, taking into consideration conditions of every language;

6) promotion of research in the area of language policies;

7) development of international exchange on aspects covered by this Law with regard to languages used in two or more states;

8) respect of a geographical area for spreading regional or minority languages to avoid obstacles to their development created by the existing or a new administrative structure;

9) application of the plurilingualism principle when every individual in the society has free command of several languages opposing to a situation when separate linguistic groups have command of only their own languages.

3. The state shall foster development of multilingualism, study languages of international communication, primarily official languages of the United Nations Organization, UNESCO and other international organizations.

#### Article 6. State Language of Ukraine

1. The state language of Ukraine is Ukrainian.

2. Ukrainian as the state language is mandatory for use at the whole territory of Ukraine in activities of legislative, executive and judicial authorities, in international treaties, in educational process at educational establishments in the scope and according to the procedure as specified thereof. The state shall promote the use of the state language in the mass media, science, culture and other areas of social life.

3. Mandatory use of the state language or promotion of its use in the areas of social life should not be interpreted as denying or diminishing the right to use regional or minority languages in a specified area or within territories of application.

4. Norms of the Ukrainian language shall be established in dictionaries of the Ukrainian language and the Ukrainian spelling rules. The Cabinet of Ministers shall determine the procedure of approbation and official publication of the Ukrainian language dictionaries and spelling rules as mandatory reference books for the use of the Ukrainian language. The state shall encourage the use of the literary form of Ukrainian in the mass media and other public areas.

5. None of the provisions in this Law shall be interpreted as aiming at narrowing the area of the state language use.

#### Article 7. Regional or Minority Languages in Ukraine

1. Principles of the language policy specified in Article 5 of this Law shall be applied to all regional or minority languages of Ukraine used within its territory.

2. In the context of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, the regional or minority languages of Ukraine covered with measures targeted at the use of regional or minority languages, which are provided by this Law are the following: Russian, Belarusian, Bulgarian, Armenian, Gagauz, Yiddish, Crimean Tatar, Moldavian, German, Modern Greek, Polish, Roma, Romanian, Slovak, Hungarian, Rusyn, Karaite and Crimean languages.

3. Each language specified in section two of this Article, shall be covered with measures targeted at the use of regional or minority languages as prescribed by this present Law on condition that a number of persons speaking a regional language and residing at the territory where this language is used comprises 10 and more percent of the total population.

In certain cases, taking into consideration specific situation, a decision of the local council may permit application of the specified measures to a language, the regional language group of which comprises less than 10 percent of the total population of a relevant area.

The right to initiate measures targeted at the use of regional or minority languages shall also belong to the residents of a territory that uses a particular language.

In the event of collecting signatures from more than 10 per cent of persons who reside at a particular territory, the local council should take a relevant decision within 30 days starting from a day when first signature sheets were received. Actions or omission of the local council may be appealable in the course of administrative legal proceedings.

In this case a procedure for creating initiative groups and drafting signature sheets shall be outlined by the legislation on referenda.

4. Size of a regional language group in a particular area shall be established based on the data of the national census on linguistic composition of the population by administrative unit (Autonomous Republic of Crimea, oblast, rayon, city, township and village).

5. In order to establish belonging of natural persons to particular linguistic groups, questionnaires for the national census shall include a question to identify a person's native language and his/her belonging to a particular linguistic group.

6. (A) regional or minority language(s) that conforms to the requirements of section three of this Article, shall be used at a particular territory of Ukraine by local state administration, the government of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and by local self-government; it/they shall be used and taught by state and municipal educational institutions, and used in other areas of social life in the scope and according to the procedure prescribed by this Law.

7. At the territory where a regional or minority language is used, which conforms to the requirements of section three of this Article, measures for development, use and protection of this regional or minority language, which are prescribed by this Law, are mandatory for state and local authorities, local self-government bodies, associations of citizens, establishments, organizations, enterprises, their officials, state servants and citizens – subjects of entrepreneurial activity and natural persons.

8. Beyond the territory that uses a regional language, it can be used freely as prescribed by this Law.

9. None of the provisions of this Law on measures for development, use and protection of regional or minority languages shall be interpreted as creating obstacles for the use of the state language.

#### Article 8. Protection of Linguistic Rights and Freedoms of the Individual and the Citizen

1. Public humiliation or disrespect, deliberate distortion of the state language, regional or minority languages in official documents and texts, which

hinders and limits their use, violation of human rights and instigating feud on linguistic ground shall entail legal liability established by Article 161 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine.

2. Everyone shall have the right to protect his/her linguistic rights and freedoms from violation and infringement in any way not prohibited by the law.

3. Everyone shall have the right to protect his/her linguistic rights and lawful interest as well as linguistic rights and lawful interest of his/her children with appropriate state and judicial bodies, file appeals against decisions, actions or omission of the state and local self-government bodies, officials and public servants, legal or natural persons who violate linguistic rights and freedoms of the individual and the citizen.

4. Everyone shall have the right to refer to Verkhovna Rada Commissioner for Human Rights for protection of his/her linguistic rights and freedoms.

5. Everyone shall have the right, having used all national forms and means of legal protection, to refer to appropriate international judicial bodies or international organizations of which Ukraine is a member or participant, for protection of his/her linguistic rights and freedoms.

## Chapter II

### WORKING LANGUAGE OF STATE AND LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT BODIES, JUDICIARY, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ACTIVITY

#### Article 9. Language for Sessions of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

1. Sessions of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, its committees and commissions shall be conducted in the state language. The speaker may use other language. Translation of his/her speech shall be ensured by Verkhovna Rada Secretariat when necessary.

2. Drafts of laws and other normative acts shall be submitted for the consideration of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine in the state language.

#### Article 10. Language of Acts of State and Local Self-Government Bodies

1. Acts of the central state authorities shall be adopted in the state language and officially published in the state language, as well as in Russian and other regional or minority languages.

2. Acts of local state administrations and self-government bodies shall be adopted and published in the state language. At the territory where a regional or minority language(s) is/are used, which conforms to the requirements of section three of Article 8 of this Law, acts of local state administrations and self-government bodies shall be adopted in the state language or in the given regional or minority language(s) and shall be published officially in these languages.



Article 11. Language of Work, Documentation and Records of State  
Authorities and Local Self-Government Bodies

1. The main language of work, documentation and records of the state authorities and local self-government bodies shall be the state language. At the territory where (a) regional language(s) is/are used, which conforms to the requirements of section three of Article 8 of this Law, the given regional language(s) may be used in the work, documentation and records of the local state administrations and local self-government bodies. This/these regional language(s) may be used in correspondence of these bodies with the state bodies of higher level.

2. The state shall guarantee provision of services to the visitors of the state and local self-government bodies in the state language and, at the territory where (a) regional language(s) is/are used, which conforms to the requirements of section three of Article 8 of this Law, this/these regional language(s) may be used. The requirement to exercise this guarantee shall be taken into account during recruitment of professional staff.

3. State servants and officials shall have command of the state language, shall communicate with the visitors in the state language and, at the territory where (a) regional language(s) is/are used, which conforms to the requirements of section three of Article 8 of this Law, with the visitors that use the regional language(s), in the given regional language(s). Persons that use (a) regional language(s) shall have the right to file verbal or written requests and receive answers to them in the given regional language(s).

4. Working language of conferences, meetings and other official gatherings conducted by the state authorities and local self-government bodies and civil society organizations shall be the state language. They may also use other languages in their activities. At the territory where (a) regional language(s) is/are used, which conforms to the requirements of section three of Article 8 of this Law, conferences, meetings and other official gatherings may use the given regional language. Appropriate translation shall be provided wherever necessary.

5. Texts of official announcements shall be drawn up in the state language. At the territory where (a) regional language(s) is/are used, which conforms to the requirements of section three of Article 8 of this Law, the local council may take a decision to permit dissemination of such texts translated into the regional or Russian language(s).

6. Names of the state authorities and local self-government bodies, citizen associations, companies, establishments and organizations, texts on their stamps, seals, letterheads and signs shall be drawn up in the state language. At the territory where (a) regional language(s) is/are used, which conforms the requirements of section three of Article 8 of this Law is used, taking into consideration specific conditions of the regional language, the local council may take a decision to permit drawing up such names and inscriptions in two languages – the state and the regional language(s).

## Article 12. Language of Documents for Elections and Referenda

1. Documents for the elections of the President of Ukraine, people's deputies of Ukraine, deputies of Verkhovna Rada of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, deputies and officials of local self-government bodies, documents of national and local referenda shall be drawn up in the state language. At the territory where (a) regional language(s) is/are used, which conforms to the requirements of section three of Article 8 of this Law, documents for elections of deputies of Verkhovna Rada of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, deputies and officials of local self-government bodies, which is decided by a territorial election commission, documents for local referenda, which is decided by a local council, can be also drafted in the given regional language(s).

2. Voting ballots shall be published in the state language. At the territory where (a) regional language(s) is/are used, which conforms to the requirements of section three of Article 8 of this Law, voting ballots for elections of deputies of Verkhovna Rada of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, deputies and officials of local self-government bodies, if so decided by a territorial election commission, may be also drawn up in the given regional language(s).

3. Voting ballots for the National or local referenda shall be published in the state language. At the territory where (a) regional language(s) is/are used, which conforms to the requirements of section three of Article 8 of this Law, if so decided by a local council, voting ballots for the National or local referenda may contain, along with the text printed in the state language, its translation into the given regional language.

4. Information posters of the presidential candidates, candidates for people's deputies of Ukraine, candidates for deputies of Verkhovna Rada of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, and for people's deputies and officials of local self-government bodies nominated by political parties, shall be published in the state language. Upon request of an appropriate subject of the election process, translation into the regional language(s) shall be displayed along with the text in the state language.

5. Campaign materials shall be drawn up in the state or in (a) regional language(s) at the discretion of a candidate, a political party or a local organization being a subject of the election process.

## Article 13. Language of Identification Documents or Personal Data

1. Passport of the citizen of Ukraine or a substituting document and personal data that it contains shall be drawn up in the state language and along with it, whatever is chosen by the citizen, in one of the regional or minority languages of Ukraine. This provision also covers other official documents that certify identity of the citizen of Ukraine or provide personal information (acts of civil status, documents issued by bureaus of civil registration, documents of education, employment record book, military service record card and other official documents), as well as documents that certify identity of foreign citizens or

persons without citizenship when it is supported with a written application of the citizen.

2. Documents of education obtained at educational establishments with a regional language of instruction, at the request of the person concerned, shall be drafted in both languages – the state and the regional language.

#### Article 14. Language of Judiciary

1. Judicial proceedings in Ukraine in civil, commercial, administrative and criminal cases shall be conducted in the state language. At the territory where (a) regional language(s) is/are used, which conforms to the requirements of section three of Article 8 of this Law, when agreed between the parties, judicial proceedings can be conducted in the given regional language(s).

2. Professional judges should have a command of the state language. At the territory where (a) regional language(s) is/are used, which conforms to the requirements of section three of Article 8 of this Law, the state shall guarantee an opportunity to conduct legal proceedings in the given regional language(s). The requirement to ensure this guarantee shall be taken into account during recruitment of judges.

3. Parties to the trial shall submit written legal documents and evidence to the court in the state language. At the territory where (a) regional language(s) is/are used, which conforms to the requirements of section three of Article 8 of this Law, it shall be permitted to submit written legal documents and evidence to the court in the given regional language(s) with translation, if needed, into the state language, without the need to incur extra expenses for the parties.

4. Persons involved in the court case shall have the right to verbal procedural actions (make statements, give testimony and explanations, file requests and complaints, ask questions, etc.) in the native language or other language of command, using services of a translator in the manner prescribed by the procedural legislation. At the territory where (a) regional language(s) is/are used, which conforms to the requirements of section three of Article 8 of this Law, services of regional or minority language(s) translators when they are necessary, shall be provided without involving additional expenses for these persons.

5. Investigation and court documents shall be drawn up in the state language.

6. Pursuant to procedural legislation, investigation and court documents shall be provided to persons involved in the case (person charged with a criminal offence) in the state language or translation into the native language or other language of command of the person concerned.

#### Article 15. Language of Prejudicial Inquiry, Interrogation and Public Prosecutor's Supervision

Acts of prejudicial inquiry, interrogation and public prosecutor's supervision shall be drawn up in Ukraine in the state language. Alongside with the state language, the parties to prejudicial inquiry, interrogation and public prosecutor's supervision may use regional, minority and other languages of Ukraine. Each

person shall have the right to be immediately informed in a language comprehensible to him/her on motives of the arrest or the detention, as well as on the nature and the reasons of accusations against him/her and protect him/herself using this language, if necessary, with a free assistance of a translator.

#### Article 16. Language of Notary Records

Notary records in Ukraine shall be drawn up in the state language. If a person requiring services of a notary has no command of the state language, texts of the documents in question shall be translated by a notary or a translator at request of the person concerned into a language of his/her command.

#### Article 17. Language of Legal Assistance

The lawyer shall provide legal assistance to legal and natural persons in the state or other language acceptable for the client.

#### Article 18. Language of Economic and Social Activity

1. The state language shall be the main language of economic and social activity of state enterprises, establishments and organizations. Russian and other regional or minority languages can also be freely used.

2. In economic and social activity of the associations of citizens, private enterprises, establishments, organizations and citizens – subjects of entrepreneurial activity and natural persons, the state language, regional or minority languages and other languages can also be freely used.

3. It shall be forbidden for enterprises, establishments and organizations, irrespective of the form of ownership, to adopt any internal rules preventing or restricting communication of the employees in the state, Russian and other regional or minority languages. Enterprises can also use other languages in their activity.

#### Article 19. Language of International Treaties of Ukraine

The language of international treaties of Ukraine, as well as agreements between enterprises, establishments and organization of Ukraine with enterprises, establishments and organization of other countries, shall be the state language and the language of the other party (parties), unless the treaty provides otherwise.

### Chapter III

## LANGUAGE OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND CULTURE

#### Article 20. Language of Education

1. A free choice of the language of education is an integral right of the citizens of Ukraine ensured by this Law on condition of mandatory acquisition of a

command of the state language sufficient for the individual's integration into the Ukrainian community.

2. The citizens of Ukraine shall have a guarantee for the right to obtain education in the state language, regional or minority languages. This right is ensured through the network of both state and municipal children's preschool institutions, general secondary and out-of-school, vocational and higher educational institutions with Ukrainian or other language of instruction, which is set up according to the citizens' needs in compliance with the legislation of Ukraine on education.

3. The needs of the citizens for a language of education shall be established in a mandatory manner based on requests about language of education submitted by pupils (in case of minors, by their parents or persons that substitute them), students entering both state and municipal educational institutions, and, if needed, at any appropriate stage of education.

4. In the manner prescribed by the law, state and municipal educational institutions shall establish special classes and groups with a language of instruction other than the language of instruction at the educational institution in general, if a number of appropriate requests from pupils (in case of minors, from their parents or persons that substitute them) and students is sufficient, in compliance with the legislation of Ukraine on education.

5. In order to support numerically insignificant language groups, in the manner prescribed by the law criteria for the formation of small educational establishments, classes and groups shall be adopted, and conditions for their functioning shall be provided.

6. Language of education at private educational establishments of all educational levels shall be defined by the founders (owners) of these establishments.

7. The study of the state language and one of the regional or minority languages shall be ensured at all the establishments of general secondary education. The scope of regional or minority languages shall be established by local councils, pursuant to the legislation on education and taking into consideration the prevalence of this language at a given territory.

8. State and municipal educational institutions with regional languages of instruction shall teach the subjects in regional languages (except the Ukrainian language and literature that shall be taught in Ukrainian).

9. Tests for external evaluation of education quality shall be compiled in the state language. If requested by a person, the tests shall be translated into a regional or minority language (except for the Ukrainian language and literature tests).

10. Interviews or other forms of control, if they are required for entry of educational institutions, shall be conducted in the state language or the language of instruction at the given institution at the request of the applicant.

11. The state shall ensure training of teaching staff for educational establishments with regional or minority languages of instruction and provide methodological support to such kind of training.

12. Educational establishments can form classes and groups with foreign languages of instruction.

#### Article 21. Language of Science

The citizens of Ukraine shall have a guaranteed right of free use of the state language, regional or minority languages and other languages in the field of scientific activity. The state shall facilitate creation of an appropriate language infrastructure that enables use the state language, regional or minority languages and other languages, including foreign languages in scientific activity, reading scientific literature in these languages, conducting scientific events, publishing findings of research and scientific papers, as well as performing other similar activities. Research findings shall be presented in the state language, regional or minority languages and other languages as may be chosen by authors of research works.

Periodic scientific publications that are published in the state language, may present the summary of selected research results in regional or minority languages and other languages. Periodic scientific publications that are published in regional or minority languages and other languages, shall present the summary of main research results in the state language.

#### Article 22. Language of Information Technology

1. The main languages of information technology in Ukraine are Ukrainian, Russian and English. Computer systems and their software used by state authorities and local self-government bodies, state enterprises, institutions and establishments shall be provided with tools necessary to process texts in the Ukrainian, Russian and English languages. Other languages may be freely used in state computer systems and their software.

2. The language of private computer systems and their software shall be determined by their owners.

#### Article 23. Language of Culture

1. Emphasizing importance of inter-cultural dialogue and multilingualism, the state shall encourage development of various forms of cultural life in the Ukrainian language, guarantee free use of regional or minority languages in the field of culture as well as non-interference in creative activities of cultural workers, and ensure realization of rights and cultural interests of all linguistic groups in Ukraine.

2. Aimed at raising awareness among the citizens of Ukraine of cultural accomplishments of other nations, translations of fiction, political, scientific and other literature shall be made available in the Ukrainian language, regional or minority and other languages.

3. Announcements during concerts and other cultural events carried out by persons belonging to different linguistic groups, and performances of foreign

artists may be conducted in the state language, regional or minority and other languages at the discretion of the event facilitators.

4. Production of foreign film copies for distribution and demonstration in movie theatres, public commercial video and home video in Ukraine shall be carried out in the original language or with provision of dubbing, vocalization or subtitles in the state language or regional or minority languages at the request of distributors, facilitators of demonstration with due regard for linguistic needs of the consumers.

#### Chapter IV LANGUAGE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

##### Article 24. Language of Mass Media and Published Products

1. Everyone shall have a guaranteed right to consume mass media products in any language. Respecting the principle of independence and autonomy of mass media outlets, this right shall be ensured by means of creating conditions for distribution of information in different languages and enabling free choice of the language of its consumption. The state shall facilitate production and distribution of audio and audiovisual works and printed products in the state language, regional and minority languages.

2. Official information about activities of the state authorities and local self-government bodies shall be distributed in the state language and, at the territory where (a) regional language(s) is/are used, which conforms to the requirements of section three of this Article used, also in this/these regional language(s). In the event that official information is distributed in a language other than the state language, the distributor shall ensure authentic translation from the language in which this information is distributed into the state language.

3. Television and radio companies of Ukraine can broadcast at their own discretion in the state language, regional or minority languages, languages of international communication and other languages, both in one or several languages. Amounts of the national, regional and local broadcasting in the state language, regional or minority languages shall correspond to the size of linguistic groups and be determined by speakers themselves.

4. Audiovisual works shall be broadcast in the original language or with provision of dubbing, vocalization or subtitles in the state language, regional or minority languages at the discretion of television and radio companies. Where technical capacities permit it, television and radio companies shall broadcast audiovisual works in several languages, providing consumers with a free choice of a language.

5. The state shall guarantee free access to radio and television programmes transmitted from the neighboring countries in the same or similar languages to the state language or regional or minority languages of Ukraine, will not interfere with rebroadcasting of radio and television programmes in such languages from the neighbouring countries and shall ensure freedom of expression of opinions and

free distribution of printed media in such languages. The exercise of these freedoms can imply restrictions established by legislation.

6. A language of printed media shall be determined by their owners in accordance with the statutory documents.

7. Printed materials for official and public use (letterheads, forms, receipts, tickets, etc.) distributed by state authorities and local-self government bodies, state enterprises, institutions and establishments shall be issued in the state language. At the territory where (a) regional language(s) is/are used, which conforms to the requirements of section three of this Article, the local council may also permit the issue of such products in this/these regional language(s). Printed materials for public use distributed by private enterprises, institutions and establishments, entrepreneurs and citizens, shall be produced with a free use of the state language, regional or minority and other languages.

#### Article 25. Language of Postal Service and Telecommunications

1. The state language, regional or minority languages shall be used for postal services and telecommunications in Ukraine.

2. Delivery and return addresses of the mailings and telegrams sent within the territory of Ukraine shall be written in the state language. The text of the telegram can be written in any language using Cyrillic or Latin script.

3. International mailings and messages transmitted through telecommunication networks of public use are processed in the languages prescribed by international treaties of Ukraine.

#### Article 26. Language of Advertising and Labeling of Goods

1. Advertisements, announcements and other forms of audio and visual commercial products shall be presented in the state language or any other language of choice of the advertiser.

2. Signs for products and services shall be used in advertisements in the same form as protected pursuant to the laws of Ukraine.

3. Product labeling and user manuals shall be drawn up in the state language, a regional or minority language. Producers can decide to provide translation into other languages along with the text in the state language. Labeling of export products shall be carried out in any language.

### CHAPTER V LANGUAGES OF TOPONYMS AND NAMES OF CITIZENS

#### Article 27. Language of Toponyms

1. Toponyms (geographical names) – names of administrative units, railway stations, streets, squares, etc. – shall be formed and displayed in the state language. At the territory where a regional or a minority language is used, which conforms to the requirements of section three of Article 8 of this Law, along with a toponym in



the state language its equivalent in the given regional language(s) shall be displayed. If needed, the toponym in the state language should be displayed together with an equivalent in the Latin script (by means of transliteration).

2. Ukrainian toponyms in (a) regional or minority language(s) shall be reproduced in accordance with the traditions of the reproducing language. Their reproduction in other languages shall be carried out using transcription from the state language

3. Toponyms of foreign origin shall be presented in the state language using transcription from the language of original.

4. Cartographic publications designated for the use in Ukraine shall be designed and published in the Ukrainian language.

#### Article 28. Language of the Names of Citizens of Ukraine

1. Names of the citizens of Ukraine shall be recorded in the state language in accordance with the spelling norms of the Ukrainian language.

2. Names of the citizens of Ukraine in regional and other languages shall be recorded in accordance with the established standards.

3. Every citizen of Ukraine shall have the right to use his/her surname and name (patronymic) in the native language in accordance with traditions of the given language, as well as to the official recognition thereof. Exercise of this right shall require the surname and name (patronymic) in the passport of the citizen of Ukraine, the passport of the citizen of Ukraine for travelling abroad and other official documents to be transcribed from the Ukrainian, Russian or other language as chosen by the citizen.

4. Surname and name (patronymic) in the passports and other official documents shall be recorded with preliminary approval of the bearer.

5. Every citizen of Ukraine shall have the right to correct his/her misspelled surname and name (patronymic) in the passports and other official documents, including names misspelled as a result of violation of provisions of sections three and four of this Article.

### Chapter VI

#### LANGUAGE OF THE ARMED FORCES OF UKRAINE AND OTHER MILITARY UNITS

#### Article 29. Language of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and Other Military Units

The language of statutes, documentation, records, commands and other statutory communication of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and other military units established in accordance with the legislation of Ukraine, shall be the state language.

Chapter VII  
FACILITATING DEVELOPMENT OF UKRAINIAN LANGUAGE AND  
CULTURE OUTSIDE THE TERRITORY OF UKRAINE

Article 30. Facilitation of the Ukrainian Language and Culture Development outside the Territory of Ukraine

Pursuant to the international norms and interstate agreements, the state shall promote development of the Ukrainian language and culture abroad, assist in satisfying of the national cultural needs of Ukrainians living abroad, provide a comprehensive support, according to norms of international law and at the request to schools, educational institutions, national-cultural associations of Ukrainians, and to the citizens of Ukrainian origin who reside in foreign countries, in learning the Ukrainian language and conducting research on Ukrainian studies; it shall provide assistance to citizens of Ukrainian origin in studying at educational institutions of Ukraine.

Chapter VIII  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAW OF UKRAINE

“ON PRINCIPLES OF THE STATE LANGUAGE POLICY”

Article 31. Implementation of this Law

1. Ensuring implementation of the Law of Ukraine “On Languages in Ukraine” shall be the responsibility of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, state authorities and local executive bodies, local self-government bodies, heads of the associations of citizens, enterprises, establishments and organizations within the scope of their competencies.

2. Control of implementation of this Law shall be exercised by Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine in the form of parliamentary control and by other state authorities and local self-government bodies authorized by the legislation of Ukraine.

3. Judicial authorities shall ensure judicial protection of the implementation of this Law.

## Chapter IX

LIABILITY FOR VIOLATING  
THE LAW OF UKRAINE

## “ON PRINCIPLES OF THE STATE LANGUAGE POLICY”

Article 32. Liability for Violating the Law “On Principles of the State  
Language Policy” ”

State authorities and local self-government bodies, their officials, public servants and citizens who violate the Law of Ukraine “On Principles of the State Language Policy of Ukraine” shall be held liable in accordance with the administrative or criminal legislation of Ukraine.

## Chapter X

## CLOSING PROVISIONS

1. This Law shall enter into force on the day of its publication. The Law shall be published in the state language, regional or minority languages and other languages.

2. On the day when this Law takes effect, the following shall be invalidated:  
Law of the Ukrainian SSR “On Languages in the Ukrainian SSR” (Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady (VVR) 1989, No. 45, p. 631; 1995, No. 13, p. 85; 2003, No. 24, p. 159);

Resolution of Verkhovna Rada of the Ukrainian SSR “On Enactment of the Law of the Ukrainian SSR “On Languages in the Ukrainian SSR” (Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady (VVR) 1989, No. 45, p. 632).

3. Until effective legislative and regulatory acts have been brought in compliance with the present Law, they shall continue to be applied insofar as they do not run contrary to this Law.

4. The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine shall:

within a three-month period, ensure bringing of its legislative and regulatory acts as well as legislative and regulatory acts of ministries and other central executive authorities in compliance with this Law;

take measures to inform appropriate state authorities, organizations and establishments, officials, state servants and all the citizens about rights and duties established by this Law;

empower the duly authorized executive body in the field of statistics and its territorial agencies with providing local councils within a three-month period with the data of the national population census on the language composition of administrative units according to section three of Article 7 of this Law.

5. The National Television and Radio Broadcasting Council of Ukraine, within the period of three months, shall ensure bringing licenses granted earlier to

TV and radio broadcasters in compliance with the provisions of this Law, without involving additional expenses for the licensees.

## Chapter XI TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

1. Introduce changes to the following parts of and Laws of Ukraine:

1) The Law of Ukraine "On Education" (Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady (VVR), 1991, No. 34, p. 451):

Article 7 shall be reformulated as follows:

"Article 7. Language of Education

Language of education is prescribed by Article 20 of the Law of Ukraine "On Principles of the State Language Policy";

Article 18:

amend section one after the words "in accordance with" with "the citizens' needs of for the language of education";

amend section four with paragraph one to read as follows:

"The need for state and municipal educational institutions of all educational levels with different languages of instruction shall be established in the mandatory manner based on applications about language of education filed by pupils (in case of minors, by their parents or persons who substitute them), students entering educational institutions and, if needed, at any appropriate stage of education".

Therefore, paragraph one, two, three, four shall become correspondingly paragraph two, three, four, five;

in Article 35 section one, amend the words "defined by social" with "linguistic";

in Article 59 section three paragraph three, amend the words "respectful attitude to the state" with "language, regional or minority languages, other languages";

2) The Law of Ukraine "On Pre-School Education" (Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady (VVR), 2001, No. 49, p. 259):

in paragraph three Article 7, amend the word "state" with "language, regional or minority languages";

Article 10 shall be reformulated to read as follows:

"Article 10. Language of Pre-School Education

Language of pre-school education shall be determined by Article 20 of the Law of Ukraine "On Principles of the State Language Policy"

in Article 36 section two paragraph six, amend the word "state" with "language, regional or minority languages";

3) The Law of Ukraine "On General Secondary Education" (Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady (VVR), 1999, No. 28, p. 230):

in Article 5 paragraph seven amend the word "state" with "language, regional or minority languages";

Article 7 shall be reformulated to read as follows:

“Article 7. Language of Instruction and Upbringing in General Secondary Education Institutions

Language of instruction and upbringing in general secondary education institutions shall be determined by Article 20 of the Law of Ukraine “On Principles of the State Language Policy”;

in Article 29 section two paragraph four, amend the word “state” with “regional or minority languages”;

4) The Law of Ukraine “On Out-of-School Education” (Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady (VVR), 2000, No. 46, p. 393), Article 7 shall be reformulated to read as follows:

“Article 7. Language of Instruction and Upbringing in Out-of-School Education

Language of instruction and upbringing in out-of-school education shall be determined by Article 20 of the Law of Ukraine “On Principles of the State Language Policy”;

5) The Law of Ukraine “On Higher Education” (Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady (VVR), 2002, No.20, p. 134), Article 5 shall be reformulated to read as follows:

“Article 5. Language of Instruction at Higher Educational Institutions

Language of instruction at higher educational institutions shall be determined by Article 20 of the Law of Ukraine “On Principles of the State Language Policy”;

“Article 5. Language of Instruction at Higher Educational Institutions

Language of instruction at higher educational institutions shall be determined by Article 20 of the Law of Ukraine “On Principles of the State Language Policy”;

6) The Code of Civil Procedure (Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady (VVR), 2004, № 40-41, 42, p. 492), Article 7 shall be reformulated to read as follows:

“Article 7. Language of Civil Proceedings

Language of civil proceedings shall be determined by Article 14 of the Law of Ukraine “On Principles of the State Language Policy”;

7) The Code of Business Procedure of Ukraine (Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady (VVR), 1992, No. 6, p. 56), Article 3 shall be reformulated to read as follows:

“Article 3. Language of Business Proceedings

Language of business proceedings shall be determined by Article 14 of the Law of Ukraine “On Principles of the State Language Policy”

8) The Code of Administrative Procedure of Ukraine (Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady (VVR), 2005, No. 35-36, 37, p. 446), Article 15 shall be reformulated to read as follows:

“Article 15. Language of Administrative Proceedings

Language of administrative proceedings shall be determined by Article 14 of the Law of Ukraine “On Principles of the State Language Policy”;

The Code of Criminal Procedure of Ukraine (Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady of Ukrainian SSR, 1961, No. 2, p. 15), Article 19 shall be reformulated to read as follows:

“Article 19. Language of criminal proceedings

Language of criminal proceedings shall be determined by Article 15 of the Law of Ukraine “On Principles of the State Language Policy”;

10) The Law of Ukraine “On Notaries” (Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady (VVR), 1993, No. 39, p. 383), Article 15 shall be reformulated to read as follows:

“Article 15. Language of Notary Records

Language of notary records shall be determined by Article 16 of the Law of Ukraine “On Principles of the State Language Policy”;

11) The Law of Ukraine “On Public Defender’s Office” (Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady (VVR), 1993, No. 9, p. 62) shall be amended with Article 6a reading as follows:

“Article 6a. Language of Legal Assistance

Language of legal assistance shall be determined by Article 17 of the Law of Ukraine “On Principles of the State Language Policy”;

12) The Law of Ukraine “On Local State Administrations” (Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady

(VVR), 1999, No. 20-21, p. 190), Article 12 section one shall be reformulated to read as follows:

“The citizens of Ukraine to be appointed at posts with local state administrations shall have appropriate education and professional expertise, command of the state language, regional or minority languages sufficient for performing their official duties in compliance with the provision of Article 11 of the Law of Ukraine “On Principles of the State Language Policy”;

13) The Law of Ukraine “On State Service with Local Self-Government Bodies” (Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady (VVR), 2001, No. 33, p. 175), Article 5 section two shall be reformulated to read as follows:

“The citizens of Ukraine to be appointed at the posts shall have appropriate education and professional expertise, have command of language, regional or minority languages sufficient for performing their official duties in compliance with the provision of Article 11 of the Law of Ukraine “On Principles of the State Language Policy”;

14) The Law of Ukraine “On National Minorities in Ukraine” (Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady (VVR), 1992, № 36, p. 529), Article 8 shall be reformulated to read as follows:

“Article 8. Language of work, documentation and records of the state and local self-government bodies shall be determined by Article 11 of the Law of Ukraine “On Principles of the State Language Policy”;

15) The Law of Ukraine “On the Local Self-Government in Ukraine” (Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady (VVR), 1997, No. 24, p. 170), Article 26 section one paragraph 50 shall be reformulated to read as follows:

“50) making decisions on the implementation of provisions of Articles 7, 11, 12, 20, 24 of Law of Ukraine “On Principles of the State Language Policy”;

Article 32 paragraph 'b' subparagraph one shall be reformulated to read as follows;

"1) ensuring, within the scope of delegated responsibilities, access to free education and medical care services at the given territory, an opportunity to obtain education in the state language and, at the territory where a regional language is used, in the given regional or minority language in compliance with the provisions of Article 20 of the Law of Ukraine "On Principles of the State Language Policy";

16) The Law of Ukraine "On Elections of the President of Ukraine" (Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady (VVR), 1999, No. 14, p. 81), in Article 59 section two:

after the word "text", amend with "and language (languages)";

amend with the sentence: "Language (languages) of information posters shall be determined by Article 12 of the Law of Ukraine "On Principles of the State Language Policy";

17) The Law of Ukraine "On Elections of People's Deputies of Ukraine" (Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady (VVR), 2004, No. 27-28, p. 366), in Article 67 section two:

after the word "text" amend with "and language (languages)";

amend with the sentence: "Language (languages) of information posters shall be determined by Article 12 of the Law of Ukraine "On Principles of the State Language Policy";

18) The Law of Ukraine "On Elections of Deputies to Verkhovna Rada of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and local councils, village, township and city mayors" (Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady (VVR), 2004, No. 30-31, p. 382):

in Article 24:

section two paragraph 8 after the word "text" amend with "and language (languages)";

section four paragraph 9 after the word "text" amend with "and language (languages)";

section five paragraph 9 after the word "text" amend with "and language (languages)";

in Article 36 section one paragraph 10, after the words "in the state language" amend with "and at the territory where a regional or minority language is used, also in the given regional or minority language";

in Article 52 section two:

after the word "text" amend with "and language (languages)";

amend with the sentence: "Language (languages) of information posters shall be determined by Article 12 of the Law of Ukraine "On Principles of the State Language Policy";

Article 63 section nine shall be reformulated to read as follows:

"Language (languages) of the voting ballot shall be determined by Article 12 of the Law of Ukraine "On Principles of the State Language Policy";

19) The Law of Ukraine "On National and Local Referendums" (Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady (VVR), 1991, No. 33, p. 443), in Article 36:

section four:

after the word “contents” amend with “and language (languages)”;  
 after the words “by Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine” amend with “in accordance with decisions of local councils on the language (languages) of the voting ballot”;  
 section five shall be reformulated to read as follows:

“Language (languages) of the voting ballot shall be determined by Article 12 of the Law of Ukraine “On Principles of the State Language Policy”;

20) The Law of Ukraine “On Bureaus of Civil Registration” (Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady (VVR), 1994, No. 14, p. 78), Article 16 shall be reformulated to read as follows: :

“Article 16. Language of Records of the Bureaus of Civil Registration

Language of records of the bureaus of civil registration shall be determined by Article 13 of the Law of Ukraine “On Principles of the State Language Policy”;

21) The Law of Ukraine “On Culture” No.2778-VI dated 14.12.2010, Article 5 shall be reformulated to read as follows:

«Article 5. Language in the Area of Culture

1. The use of languages in the area of culture is guaranteed by the Constitution of Ukraine and shall be determined by Article 23 of the Law of Ukraine “On Principles of the State Language Policy”;

2. The state shall ensure comprehensive development and functioning of the state language in the area of culture, and shall guarantee free use of languages of all national minorities of Ukraine.

22) The Law of Ukraine “On Cinematography” (Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady (VVR), 1998, No.22, p. 114):

Article 6 shall be reformulated to read as follows:

“Article 6. Language in the Area of Cinematography

The use of languages in the area of cinematography shall be regulated according to Article 23 of the Law of Ukraine “On Principles of the State Language Policy”

Article 14 section two shall be reformulated to read as follows:

“Distribution of foreign films shall be conducted in compliance with Article 23 of the Law of Ukraine “On Principles of the State Language Policy” and international treaties recognized by Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine as legally binding;

23) The Law of Ukraine “On Information” (Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady (VVR), 1992, No. 48, p. 650), Article 11 shall be reformulated to read as follows:

“Article 11. Language of Information

Language of information is regulated by the Law of Ukraine “On Principles of the State Language Policy”, international treaties recognized by Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine as legally binding and other legal acts of Ukraine in the field of information”;

24) The Law of Ukraine “On Television and Radio Broadcasting” (Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady (VVR), 1994, No. 10, p. 43):

Article 10 shall be reformulated as follows:

“Article 10. The Use of Languages in the Information Activity of the Television and Radio Broadcasters”;

Article 24 section two paragraph “i” shall be eliminated;



Article 27 section three paragraph “f” shall be eliminated.

25) The Law of Ukraine “On Information Agencies” (Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady (VVR), 1995, No. 13, p. 83), Article 3 shall be reformulated as follows:

“Article 3. Language of Production of the Information Agencies

In accordance with the legislation of Ukraine, information agencies shall distribute their products in the state language, Russian, other regional or minority languages, and other languages while complying with generally accepted ethical and moral norms of language use”;

26) The Law of Ukraine “On the Manner of Highlighting of Activities of State Authorities and Local Self-Government Bodies of Ukraine by the Mass Media” (Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady (VVR), 1997, No. 49, p. 299), Article 4 shall be reformulated as follows:

“Article 4. Language of Distribution of Information about Activities of State Authorities and Local Self-Government Bodies

Language of distribution of information about activities of state authorities and local self-government bodies shall be determined by Article 24 of the Law of Ukraine “On Principles of the State Language Policy”;

27) The Law of Ukraine “On Postal Service” (Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady (VVR), 2002, No. 6, p. 39), Article 4 shall be reformulated as follows :

“Article 4. Language in the Area of Postal Services

Language in the area of postal services shall be determined by Article 25 of the Law of Ukraine “On Principles of the State Language Policy”;

28) The Law of Ukraine “On Telecommunications” (Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady (VVR), 2004, No. 12, p. 155), Article 7 shall be reformulated as follows:

“Article 7. Language in the Area of Telecommunications

Language in the area of telecommunications shall be determined by Article 25 of the Law of Ukraine “On Principles of the State Language Policy”;

29) The Law of Ukraine “On Advertising” (Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady (VVR), 1996, No. 39, p. 181), Article 6 shall be reformulated as follows:

“Article 6. Language of Advertising

Language of advertising shall be determined by Article 26 of the Law of Ukraine “On Principles of the State Language Policy”;

30) The Law of Ukraine “On Pharmaceutical Products” (Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady (VVR), 1996, No. 22, p. 86), Article 12 shall be amended with the section to reads as follows :

“Language of labelling of the pharmaceutical products and instructions on their use shall be determined by Article 26 of the Law of Ukraine “On Principles of the State Language Policy”;

31) The Law of Ukraine “On Geographical Names” (Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady (VVR), 2005, No. 27, p. 360, Article 6:

Section two shall be reformulated as follows:

“Language of the geographical objects situated at the territory of Ukraine shall be determined by Article 27 of the Law of Ukraine “On Principles of the State Language Policy”;

Article 6 section three shall be eliminated.

32) The Rules of Proceedings of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine approved by in the Law of Ukraine “On the Rules of Proceedings of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine” (Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady (VVR), 2010, No.14-15, No.16-17, p.133), Article 2:

Section three shall be reformulated to read as follows:

“3. Language of proceedings of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine shall be determined by Article 9 of the Law of Ukraine “On Principles of the State Language Policy”;

Article 2 section four shall be eliminated.

33) Resolution of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine “On Enactment of the Provisions on Passport of the Citizen of Ukraine, Birth Certificate and Passport of the Citizen of Ukraine for Travelling Abroad” (Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady (VVR), 1992, No. 37, p. 545):

in the Provision on Passport of the Citizen of Ukraine, section four paragraph 1 shall be reformulated to read as follows:

“4. Languages of passport shall be determined by section one of Article 13 of the Law of Ukraine “On Principles of the State Language Policy”. Surname and name (and patronymic) shall be recorded in accordance with Article 28 of the Law of Ukraine “On Principles of the State Language Policy”.

in Addendum to the Provision on Birth Certificate paragraph 3 shall be reformulated to read as follows:

“Language of birth certificate shall be regulated by Article 14 of the Law of Ukraine “On Principles of the State Language Policy”. Surname and name (and patronymic) shall be recorded in accordance with Article 28 of the Law of Ukraine “On Principles of the State Language Policy”.

in the Provisions on Passport of the Citizen of Ukraine for Travelling Abroad section six

sentence two after the word “according to” amend with “Article 28 of the Law of Ukraine “On Principles of the State Language Policy”.

Head of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine