Ukrainian way to implement declared opportunities
(Ukrainian NGOs practical experience in climate change related decision-making)
General situation

- Ukrainians don’t feel climate change in everyday life.
- Some scientists still demure anthropogenic influence.
- Climate changes in some cases are good for Ukrainian economy (agriculture).

Driving forces for climate protection

– those who already aware

- Scientists (especially biologists who fix changes in nature)
- Environmental NGOs – deal with environmental national and international policy, movements and processes
- University students and well educated young people

Community based SCOs and just public who face environmental problems – if they are informed about links between their problems, climate and life style.
Official obligations

• Ukraine is a Party of a number of international environmental treaties, including UNFCCC (Annex I Country)

• The Association Agreement between EU and Ukraine was ratified by Ukraine and the European Parliament on 16 September 2014. The Agreement contains a chapter on cooperation of EU and Ukraine on environmental issues (Title V “Economic and sector cooperation”, Chapter 6). It includes, among other, cooperation in the area of climate change.

• Ukraine should approximate its legislation to relevant EU directives, to develop and implement a policy on climate change and an action plan for long-term mitigation of and adaptation to climate change.

• As a Contracting Party of the Energy Community (since 2011) Ukraine has to implement a number of European directives related to the environment, renewable energy and energy efficiency.
Tasks declared by NGOs

• **Raising public awareness**
  To explain connection between climate issues and everyday life
  Push and motivate to act, to change behavior.

• **Lobbying decision-makers at all levels**
  To participate in decision-making process
  - in working out of national policy
  - in creating of relevant programs

  To monitor the implementation
  To disseminate information
Public participation opportunities exist in Ukraine

NGOs have right to take part in climate change related decision-making in accordance to national legislation through participation in:

- Inter-agency Commission on ensuring implementation of UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
- Governmental Committee on the development of infrastructure and environmental policy
- Parliamentary Committee for Environmental Policy, the Use of Natural Resources and Liquidation of Consequences of Chornobyl Catastrophe
- Public Councils to such governmental bodies as Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, State Environmental Investment Agency of Ukraine (SEIA), Ministry of Regional Development, Building and Housing and Communal Services, State Agency on Energy Efficiency and Energy Saving of Ukraine, Ministry of Energy and Coal Industry of Ukraine, Ministry of Foreign Affairs etc.
- International supporting programs.
Tools in use

- SCO representatives participate in official working groups and commissions.
- Public Councils recommendations to governmental bodies.
- New reform civil society platforms hand proposals to the President and government.
- Public assessment of environmental policy implementation.
- Public assessment of implementation of Association Agreement EU - Ukraine and Energy Community Treaty.
- Discussions and consultations (face-to-face, via internet, social networks, mass media).
- Public hearings, conferences, forums, meetings etc.
- Events - direct actions, exhibitions, festivals etc.
- Claims to court.
Tools in use

Public assessment of the State environmental policy

New reforms’ civil society platforms hand proposals to the President and government
Tools in use – events, direct actions
Court cases – EPL

- 2007-2009: EPL took part in the discussions of draft decisions in the sphere of climate change and gave comments for more than 25 drafts, but these comments were not taken into account by Ministry of Environment and by State Agency of Environmental Investments without any explanations. EPL sent information requests related to PPDM to these bodies and to the Ministry of Justice and Prosecutor General`s Office of Ukraine, but they didn’t give full information.

- In 2009 EPL filed the claims against above mentioned bodies. Court proceedings had been hearing during 5 years. EPL won these cases at all instances. Ministry of Justice, Prosecutor General`s Office of Ukraine, Ministry of Environment gave answers to EPL’s information requests.

- In 2014 State Agency of Environmental Investments was liquidated, so last year public wasn't involved into CCDM because no decisions on climate change were developed and accepted. Despite proven in courts the right of PPDM, there is still no implementation mechanism of this right.

International public interest environmental law organization **Environment-People-Law**, founded in 1994, the aim to help in protecting environmental rights of citizens and organizations, to promote development of nature protection, environmental education, science and culture.
Effectiveness

NGOs are not satisfied!

- Their comments and recommendations are “taking into account” but not for implementation.

- Climate issue is not a priority for authorities.

So, NGOs strengthen activities.
Key non-governmental organisations

- **NGO Working Group on climate change** is a network of 25 non-governmental and non-profitable environmental organizations all over Ukraine. Our aim is advocating for transparent use of Kyoto Protocol mechanisms, advocating for introduction of policies directed to emissions reductions, raising public awareness on climate change and mobilizing civil society for actions (operating since 2000).
  
  http://climategroup.org.ua

- **ClimateInfo** – is a community of environmental leaders and a unique source of information about the climate change in Ukrainian language.
  
  http://www.climateinfo.org.ua
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Used information:
http://www.climaeast.eu/partner-countries/ukraine
www.dossier.org
http://350.org
http://climategroup.org.ua
http://www.climateinfo.org.ua

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