



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
AND SCIENCE  
OF UKRAINE

# ROADMAP

FOR IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE ARTICLE 7 «LANGUAGE  
OF EDUCATION» OF THE LAW  
OF UKRAINE «ON EDUCATION»



# INTRODUCTION

**O**n September 5, 2017 the Parliament of Ukraine adopted the Law “On Education” – a framework document that is a basis for the reform of the national system of education. The Law establishes new approaches to the organization of educational process in schools, in particular the use of languages of instruction.

Article 7 “Language of Education” aims to ensure opportunities for all children in attaining an appropriate level of state language proficiency. So, it will equalize the chances of Ukrainian citizens regardless of nationality to fulfill their constitutional rights in Ukraine both in access to higher education and the labor market.

Flexibility, introduced in this Article, is stipulated by multinational character of the Ukrainian society and is aimed to take into account linguistic peculiarities and possibilities of indigenous people and national minorities of Ukraine in order to apply the most sufficient model of using languages of instruction for each national minority.

The provisions of Article 7 were examined by the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) which agreed that the Ukrainian language is one of the crucial components of national identity of the Ukrainian people and a guarantee of its national sovereignty. “The legitimate aim of the protection of the state language and its role as a factor of social cohesion and integration” are also recognized.

**Paragraph 126 reflects key recommendations of the Venice Commission according to Article 7:**

«126. Many concerns may, however, also be immediately addressed through other legislative acts and when implementing Article 7 as adopted, especially through the Law on General Secondary Education. In this respect, the Venice Commission recommends in particular:

- to fully use, when adopting implementing legislation, the possibilities provided by paragraph 4 of Article 7 to ensure a sufficient level of teaching in official languages of the European Union for the respective minorities;
- to continue ensuring a sufficient proportion of education in minority languages at the primary and secondary levels, in addition to the teaching of the state language;
- to improve the quality of teaching of the state language;
- to amend the relevant transitional provisions of the Education Law to provide more time for a gradual reform;
- to exempt private schools from the new language requirements in accordance with Article 13 of the Framework Convention;
- to enter, within the framework of the implementation of the new Education Law, into a new dialogue with representatives of national minorities and all interested parties on the language of education.
- to ensure that the implementation of the Law does not endanger the preservation of the minorities’ cultural heritage and the continuity of minority language education in traditional schools».

The Ministry is grateful to the Venice Commission for given recommendations and is intended to fulfill all of them in further steps to be done to ensure a fair balance between improving the quality of teaching of the state language and preserving of the minorities’ cultural heritage.

No.	Main steps	Approximate terms
<b>1. PREPARING OF LEGISLATION</b>		
1.1	Carrying out consultations with representatives of national minorities and collecting proposals regarding the language of instruction in schools*	<b>December 2017 – January 2018</b>
	Working out a mechanism of implementation of Article 7 “Language of Education” of Law “On Education” while drafting an article regarding language of education in schools (within the draft law of Ukraine “On General Secondary Education”):	<b>January – April 2018</b>
	public discussion of the draft version of this Law;	<b>February 2018</b>
1.2	finalizing the draft law after public discussion and consultations with representatives of national minorities;	<b>March 2018</b>
	approval of the draft law by central executive authorities and submission it to the Government of Ukraine	<b>March 2018</b>
	introduction of the draft law “On General Secondary Education” to the Parliament of Ukraine	<b>April 2018</b>
1.3	Amending paragraph 3(18) of Part XII “Concluding and Transitional Provisions” of the Law “On Education” by extending the transitional period of implementation of Article 7 “Language of Education” from September, 1 2020 until September, 1 2023 for those students belonging to indigenous people and national minorities who started their classes before September, 1 2018	<b>January, April 2018</b>
	Elaboration and adoption of new State standards for general secondary education:	<b>2017 - 2020</b>
1.4	standard for primary education;	<b>2017 - 2018</b>
	standard for secondary education;	<b>2019</b>
	standard for upper-secondary education	<b>2020</b>

## **2. CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR QUALITY TEACHING OF THE UKRAINIAN LANGUAGE IN SCHOOLS WITH NATIONAL MINORITIES’ LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION**

2.1	<p>Publication and dissemination of bilingual dictionaries of terminology in different disciplines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ukrainian-Hungarian, Hungarian-Ukrainian (1835 copies);</li> <li>• Ukrainian-Polish, Polish-Ukrainian (228 copies);</li> <li>• Ukrainian-Romanian, Romanian-Ukrainian (1641 copies);</li> <li>• Ukrainian-Russian, Russian-Ukrainian (30 000 copies)</li> </ul>	<b>December 2017 – January 2018</b>
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No.	Main steps	Approximate terms
2.2	Publication and dissemination of bilingual dictionaries of terminology in different disciplines (for 5th and 10th grades): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ukrainian-Hungarian, Hungarian-Ukrainian;</li><li>• Ukrainian-Polish, Polish-Ukrainian;</li><li>• Ukrainian-Romanian, Romanian-Ukrainian;</li><li>• Ukrainian-Russian, Russian-Ukrainian</li></ul>	2018
2.3	Publication and dissemination of textbooks for reading of modern Ukrainian literature for children (1-2, 3-4 grades)	2018
2.4	Elaboration and publication of teacher manuals for Ukrainian language teachers in schools with Hungarian and Romanian languages of instruction	until 2023
2.5	Elaboration of teaching materials in the Ukrainian language for schools with Hungarian and Romanian languages of instruction	2019
2.6	Equipping classrooms for Ukrainian language studies in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine (623 schools)	until August 2018

### 3. CREATING ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR QUALITY LEARNING OF THE UKRAINIAN LANGUAGE FOR STUDENTS IN SCHOOLS WITH NATIONAL MINORITIES' LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

3.1	Elaboration and conducting of online courses in the Ukrainian language for students of schools with Hungarian and Romanian languages of instruction	2018-2023
3.2	Organization and conducting of summer language camps for students of schools with national minorities' languages of instruction	2019

### 4. IMPROVING TEACHERS' QUALIFICATION FROM SCHOOLS WITH NATIONAL MINORITIES' LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

4.1	Training courses for the first-grade teachers who will start teaching in the 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 school years	2018 - 2019
4.2	Advanced teacher training courses for Ukrainian language teachers	2018
4.3	Advanced teacher training courses for teachers of other subjects	2018 - 2020
4.4	Teacher training courses for teachers of history, geography, civic education in schools with Russian language of instruction	2018
4.5	Elaboration and organization of online advanced training courses for teachers of schools with Hungarian and Romanian languages of instruction	2018 - 2023
4.6	Organization of regional teacher exchange within advanced teacher training programmes	2019 - 2023

No.	Main steps	Approximate terms
<b>5. CONDUCTING PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS</b>		
5.1	Representatives of the Ukrainians	February-March
5.2	Representatives of the Crimean Tatars	February-March
5.3	Representatives of the Hungarian minority	February-March
5.4	Representatives of the Moldovan minority	February-March
5.5	Representatives of the Polish minority	February-March
5.6	Representatives of the Romanian minority	February-March
5.7	Representatives of the Russian minority	February-March
5.8	Representatives of other national minorities	February-March
<b>6. COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS</b>		
6.1	Analyzing and application of international experience of bilingual education (teaching subjects in mother tongue and state language) in schools with national minorities' language of instruction, in particular within eTwinning Plus/TAIEX projects	2018 - 2020
6.2	Conducting teacher training courses on the methodology of bilingual education for teachers and principles, elaboration of educational curriculum (in cooperation with the Office of OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities)	2018 - 2020
6.3	Analyzing the experience of international language schools on multilingual education	2018 - 2020
6.4	Conducting dialogues with educationals, parents, associations of national minorities within the project "Dialogues for Reform and Social Cohesion in Ukraine" (in cooperation with the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine)	2017 - 2018
6.5	Implementation of the project "Strengthening of Defence of National Minorities in Ukraine" within the framework of joint European Union and Council of Europe programme "Partnership for Good Governance"	to be determined



# DRAFT VERSION

## Annex 1

### Language of Education at Schools (within the draft version of Law “On General Secondary Education”)

**1.** The language of the educational process at schools is the state language.

Everyone who is getting education in a school in Ukraine, studies the state language in this school in accordance with the state standards for general secondary education, which should provide for the fluent knowledge of the state language by all school-graduates.

**2.** Every citizen of Ukraine is guaranteed and provided the right to obtain complete general secondary education in the state language in state, municipal and corporate schools.

**3.** Persons belonging to indigenous people and national minorities of Ukraine are guaranteed the right to study the language of the respective indigenous people or national minority in municipal and corporate schools or in national cultural associations.

**4.** Persons belonging to indigenous people of Ukraine are guaranteed the right to obtain complete general secondary education in municipal or corporate schools in the language of the respective indigenous people along with the official language of the State.

**5.** Persons belonging to national minorities of Ukraine are guaranteed the right to obtain primary education in municipal or corporate schools in the language of the respective national minority along with the official language of the State.

**6.** Persons exercising the rights provided in paragraphs 4 and 5 of this article, obtain in municipal and corporate schools in accordance with the requirements of the state standards for primary education in the state language in the scope of not less than 10 percent of the annual amount of study time with a gradual increase of such scope up to 20 percent.

**7.** Persons belonging to national minorities whose languages are the official languages of the European Union and who exercise the right to study in the languages of the respective national minorities can obtain in municipal and corporate schools in accordance with the state standards:

- basic secondary education in the state language in scope of 20 percent of the annual amount of study time at the 5th grade yearly increasing its scope (not less than 40 percent at the 9th grade);

- upper-secondary education in the state language in scope of not less than 60 percent of the annual amount of study time.

Persons belonging to other national minorities obtain in municipal and corporate schools basic secondary and upper-secondary education in the state language in scope of not less than 80 percent of the annual amount of study time.

The list of study subjects taught in the official language of the State and a language of the national minority is defined at educational curriculum of school in accordance with the respective state standard for general secondary education and taking into account peculiarities of the linguistic environment.

**8.** The right to education in the language of indigenous people or national minority is realized by creation of separate classes with education in the respective language along with the official language of the State and is not applied to classes with the Ukrainian language of educational process.

A class with education in language of indigenous people or national minority of Ukraine along with the official language of the State is created in accordance with this Law if there is a sufficient number of applications for the language of instruction from students (or their parents) belonging to respective indigenous people or national minority.

**9.** Hearing-impaired persons are given the right to education in a sign language as well as for studying of the Ukrainian sign language.

**10.** Educational curriculums of schools may provide teaching of one or more subjects in English or other official EU languages along with the official language of the State.

**11.** Private schools that provide obtaining of complete secondary education at the expenses of individuals and/or legal entities may freely choose a language of educational process (except of those that receive public funds) and are obliged to provide students with proficiency in the state language according to state standards for general secondary education.








**12.** The State promotes establishment and functioning abroad of schools, in which the Ukrainian is the language of education or in which the Ukrainian is taught.


## Annex 2

### Amendments to Part XII “Concluding and Transitional Provisions” of the Law of Ukraine “On Education”. New wording of paragraph 3(18):

Persons belonging to indigenous people, national minorities of Ukraine who started their classes before September 1, 2018 continue to obtain the education in accordance with rules effective before this Law came into force until September 1, 2023, with gradual increase of the number of subjects that are taught in the Ukrainian language.

# EXPECTED OUTCOMES

-  Adoption of a new Law of Ukraine “On General Secondary Education”
-  Adoption of new State education standards within the concept of the New Ukrainian School
-  Improvement of teachers’ qualification within the concept of the New Ukrainian School
-  Achievement of a high level of state language proficiency of all school-graduates
-  Mutual understanding and consensus on the models of using state and other languages as language of instruction in schools
-  Successful self-realization of children and youth in Ukraine
-  Social cohesion and strengthening the role of the state language as a tool of communication within the Ukrainian society



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