



# Annual report 2018

## About organization

Europe without Barriers - it is an independent think-and-do tank conducting advocacy and analysis. The main focuses of our work are the human rights, movement of persons and key reforms in related spheres - the rule of law, migration and border management, public order, security, European integration and combatting discrimination.

The mission of the organization is to find a new balance between freedom of movement, human rights and security (national and human security) in an effort to see Europe without barriers and Ukraine being a part of this Europe

### Our team

Iryna Sushko - Executive Director  
Tetyana Malysheva - Chief Accountant  
Kateryna Kulchytska - Analyst  
Pawlo Krawchuk - Communication Manager, Analyst  
Olha Sovenko - Involved Sociologist  
Olena Machulska - Project Assistant  
Nidzhat Eldarov - Analyst-intern

## The main areas of work in 2018

<b>Friendly borders</b>	<b>Visa-free regime with the EU</b>	<b>Friendly visa policy</b>	<b>Open Sky with the EU</b>
<p>Estimation of practice of crossing the border by Ukrainian citizens and foreigners</p> <p>Analysis of legislation changes in border management</p> <p>Monitoring and analysis of the migration trends</p>	<p>Informing citizens about rules of using visa-free regime, conditions of entry, stay, education and employment in the EU countries</p> <p>Analysis of visa policies of Schengen area and United Kingdom</p>	<p>Monitoring and analysis of policies of granting citizenship and legalization of foreigners in Ukraine</p> <p>Analysis of Ukraine's visa policies regarding countries of "migration risk"</p>	<p>Promoting necessity to sign and implement Common Aviation Area Agreement with the EU</p> <p>Monitoring air traffic between Ukraine and the EU countries</p>

## I. PROJECTS

In 2018 we implemented four projects in compliance with the mission and goals of organization

### I. Civil facilitation of the Association Agreement implementation through harmonization of the EU and Ukraine's legislation in aviation sphere, based on the Eastern Partnership countries experience

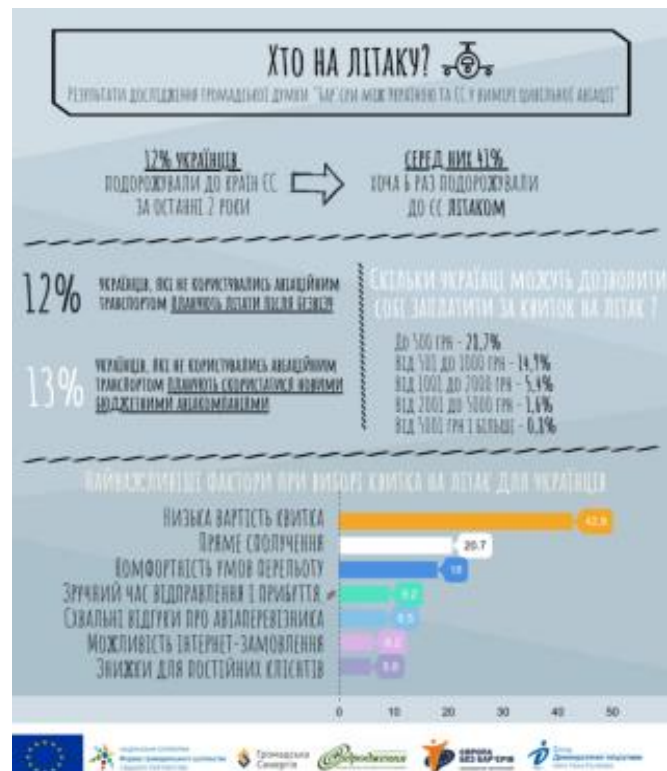
**Period:** April 2017- February 2018

In January - February "Europe without Barriers" finished an ambitious project aimed to improve the availability of air travelling through harmonization of civil aviation legislation of Ukraine and the EU.

In February 2018 final press conference has been held with the participation of Minister of Infrastructure of Ukraine.

#### Report from a press-conference

Common actions of Government, President of Ukraine and civil society members allowed to achieve evident progress in increasing air travel availability. In 2018 several big low cost carriers expanded presence in Ukraine. For the first time Irish lowcoster Ryanair entered the Ukrainian market.



**Project support:** The project implemented under the auspices of [Ukrainian National Platform of Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum](#) with the support from European Union and [International Renaissance Foundation](#), in the framework of grant program of [Civic Synergy](#) project.



## II. Creative youth education for responsible mobility

**Terms:** October 2017 – May 2018

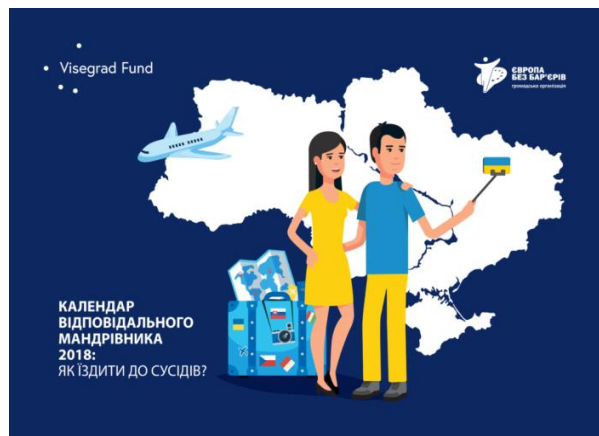
Within the project “Europe without barriers” in cooperation with four [partner organizations](#) from V4 countries held educational activities and workshops for youth in order to explain them the rules of legal border crossing, stay, education and employment in V4 countries (Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia).

In January – April 2018 four seminars and four interactive workshops with groups of students in Lviv, Lutsk, Uzhhorod and Mukacheve were held. More than 400 young people practiced their skills in border crossing and challenged the knowledge on V4 countries in interactive form during the quizzes.

To reach more youth with valuable information “Europe without barriers” launched [Calendar “How to travel to neighbors”](#) and video “Travel responsibly”, that was watched more than 5 thousand times.

A video reportage [was created](#) based on our activities in Uzhhorod.

**Support:** International Visegrad Fund and Government of the Netherlands.



### III. Anatomy of the border: public assessment of the practice of crossing Ukrainian border and normative innovations

**Terms:** December - January 2018

The team of "Europe without barriers" conducted a comprehensive assessment of the practice of crossing the borders of Ukraine by its citizens and foreigners. The project was aimed to raise the level of mobility of Ukraine citizens and forming more loyal politics of border crossing for foreigners.

Within the project we took a survey on 20 car and passenger border-crossing points in 5 regions of Ukraine, which involved 2243 respondents. The sample contained 1386 Ukrainian citizens and 857 foreigners.

40 interviewers and regional coordinators from five partner organizations worked over the survey. According to the results of the study, a detailed analytical report was created. Besides that the analysis of the border management legislation was accomplished. The main recommendations, data and conclusions were presented to relevant governmental agencies (State Border Guard Service, State Fiscal Service, Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine, Ministry of Internal Affairs), representatives of the neighboring EU countries and the media.



**Support:** International Renaissance Foundation, European program



#### IV. Public assessment and advocacy of changes to the state policy of providing citizenship

**Terms:** June 2018 – February 2019

“Europe without barriers” team held complex assessment of state policy of granting citizenship of Ukraine. In particular, legislation, judicial practices and media agenda on this point were analyzed. Moreover, a comparative analysis of the practice of granting citizenship in EU countries has been carried out. In addition, in-depth interviews with foreigners who have legalization experience in Ukraine, regarding the state policy of granting citizenship conducted.



The summarizing part of the work will be an analytical report on the procedure and policies for acquiring citizenship of Ukraine with recommendations for state bodies and other stakeholders. The report will be presented on February 2019.



In December “Europe without barriers” held a press-conference “Being a migrant in Ukraine. What obstructs foreigners who live and work here”, which was dedicated to [Ukrainian migration policy](#) and [main problems of foreigners' legalization](#).

**Support:** The project was implemented under the aegis of Ukrainian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, supported by European Union and International Renaissance Foundation within the framework of grant component of Civic Synergy project.





## III. IMPACT

### Informing and consulting

In 2018 we continued to inform Ukrainian citizens about the rules of visa-free travelling to the EU countries, education and employment. We also continued consulting travelers on the individual cases. During the year more than 600 young people from different regions of Ukraine, who were planning to travel, work or study in EU countries, obtained the information in live regime (lections, workshops, consultations). Tens of thousands citizens gained the information via media publications, EWB experts' comments on radio and TV. The map containing the sums of money needed for border crossing, was visited over 400 thousand times. The proof of the effectiveness of the information campaign is the positive conclusions of the second report of the European Commission on monitoring of indicators of the suspension mechanism. According to the report Ukraine has not exceeded the point of "dangerous" growth of migration indicator.

### Research and analytics

Unique research within the project "**Anatomy of the border**" has created the ground for evidence-based policy changes in border management for the first time. The study was actively discussed by the representatives of the State Border Guard Service, the State Fiscal Service, the Ministry of Infrastructure, relevant directorates of the European Commission.

On spring 2018 the experts of "Europe without barriers" held the first global research on **gender aspects of visa policies of the OSCE member-states** for Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

On spring-summer 2018 "Europe without barriers" has published analytical materials on unfriendly visa policy of the **Great Britain** and has taken part in consultations with British diplomats. Due to common actions of parliamentarians, the public, the media and diplomatic establishments of the United Kingdom in Ukraine, in the third quarter of 2018, the average length of processing of visa applications of citizens of Ukraine by the British Consulate declined from 15 to 10 business days.

### Policy and document development

During 2018, Europe without Barriers participated in the development of perspective areas of European integration within a few platforms with the participation of government structures. The result of the work was the **New EU-Ukraine Justice, Freedom and Security Agenda** passed to the European side during the 5th meeting of the EU-Ukraine Association Committee in December 2018. New Agenda contains the principles on integrated border management and migration, which were developed by the Europe without Barriers experts.

On spring 2018 "Europe without barriers" has participated in **Expert Panel on Eastern Partnership on Border Management and Migration**, which was dedicated to conducting information campaigns on visa-free travel regimes. Conceptual approaches developed during the meeting may become the basis for the next wave of information campaigns in Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia.

## Media

In 2018, Europe without barriers experts commented on radio and television, published their own materials and were interviewed by online and printed outlets. We were quoted in Ukrainian, English, German, Polish and Russian.

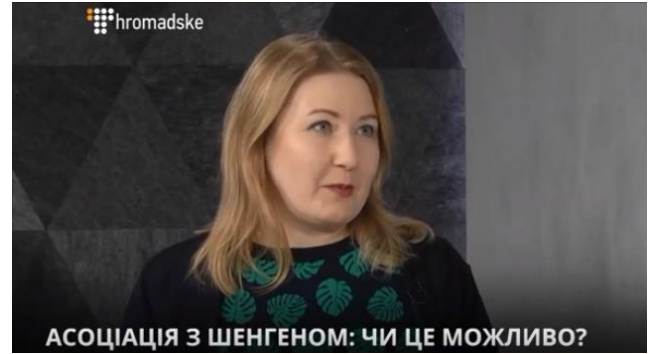
## Own informational platforms

In 2018, 50 558 users visited the sites of Europe without barriers.

The number of Facebook subscribers increased from 2,785 to 3,100, and the total number of subscribers of the Ukrainian and English accounts of “Europe without barriers” on Twitter reached 220.

## Participation in advisory bodies

In 2018, Europe without Barriers worked as a member of the Public Council under the State Migration Service, continued cooperation with the Ministry of Infrastructure within the Working Group on the signing and implementation of the CAA Agreement. Organisation actively cooperated with the State Border Guard Service, the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, the Government Office for the Coordination of European and Euro-Atlantic Integration.



## Networks

We actively participated in the activities of Ukrainian National Platform of Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, Ukraine–EU Civil Society Platform and Ukrainian Think Tanks Liaison Office in Brussels, Reanimation Package of Reforms.

Together with our partners in the regions of Ukraine, we created a coalition of [Mobility and Reform](#), which by the end of 2018 brought together 20 experts from 9 regions.

## IV. OUR EVENTS

In 2018, "Europe without Barriers" experts organized **20 events** in Kyiv, Lviv, Uzhgorod, Mukachevo, Lutsk, Chernihiv and Vinnytsia. In particular, 7 trainings, 6 press conferences, 4 interactive games, a conference, a round table and a fair of jobs were organized. Representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Education of Ukraine, the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine, the State Migration Service of Ukraine, the State Financial Service of Ukraine, and the members of the Government of Ukraine have joined to the events.



The partners in organization of our events were International Renaissance Foundation, "Civic synergy", Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Informational-Legal Centre "Our Right", Center for Strategic Partnership, Polissya Foundation for International and Regional Studies, Our Choice Foundation (Fundacja "Nasz Wybór"), Hungarian European Society (Magyarországi Európa Társaság), Research Center of the Slovakian Association of Foreign Policy (Výskumné centrum Slovenskej spoločnosti pre zahraničnú politiku), Integration Council (Poradna pro Integraci), International Centre for Policy Studies, Donetsk Vasyl Stus National University.



The organization's experts have been actively involved in the work of the Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration, Mobility and Integrated Border Management (Odessa, Tbilisi), assembly of Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, EU Study Days, participated in UkraineLab-2018 (Brussels), Training program in Germany "Integrating Internally Displaced Persons in Local Communities"



## V. FINANCIAL REPORTING

The total budget of Europe without Barriers in 2018 was UAH 1,625,509.00 grn.

### Revenue pattern

Project	Funded	Income	
		Hryvnia	Percent
<a href="#"><u>Anatomy of the border: public assessment of the practice of crossing Ukrainian border and normative innovations</u></a>	International Renaissance Foundation, European Program	929 510,00	57,18%
<a href="#"><u>Public assessment and advocacy of changes to the state policy of providing citizenship</u></a>	European Union, International Renaissance Foundation («Civic synergy»)	495 450,00	30,48%
<a href="#"><u>Creative youth education for responsible mobility</u></a>	International Visegrad Fund	104 814,00	6,45%
Extra events of <a href="#"><u>Anatomy of the border: public assessment of the practice of crossing Ukrainian border and normative innovations</u></a>	International Renaissance Foundation	60 000,00	3,7%
<a href="#"><u>Civic control of sustainability of reforms implemented within the framework of Visa Liberalization Action Plan (VLAP) and Association Agreement</u></a>	European Union («Strengthening the RPR reform», via Centre for Democracy and Rule of Law	35 735,00	2,2%

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