

CONCLUSION

Since the Orange revolution the context for overall transformation process in Ukraine changed substantially from **defending of basic democratic principles and values** (which were actual due to authoritarian trends of late presidency of Kuchma) towards particular stress on **strengthening democratic institutions, rule of law promotion, reforms of judiciary and the local governance, fighting against corruption**.

Basic fundamentals of representative democracy and media freedom secured by the revolution were not sufficient to guarantee irreversibility and sustainability of changes. It became clear that democratic commitments of the government, despite visible progress in certain areas have not resulted in the sustainable transformation policy yet. Weakness of democratic institutions became evident especially after implementation of constitutional reform adopted in December 2004 and 2006 Parliamentary elections which brought the country into the period of turbulence caused by cohabitation of different political forces and leaders in power. Political crisis of the year 2007 proved that the process of democracy consolidation in Ukraine remains incomplete, which provided a wider, more comprehensive need for democratic and market reforms in different areas. This fact poses a crucial challenge for the newly established Yulia Tymoshenko's government set by the Coalition of democratic forces on 18th of December, 2007.

The main question as of Ukraine is **how to transform relatively weak, fragmented democracy into the functional and consolidated one?**

Ukraine has achieved basic democratic standards such as political liberty, pluralism, freedom of speech and general media freedom, but the level of efficient functional democracy have not been achieved yet. Erosion of rule of law became evident during 2007 political crisis. Fragility and inefficiency of democratic institutions pose a permanent threat of spreading distrust to democracy by Ukrainian society. Transformation policies, therefore, should be concentrated in the area of strengthening democratic institutions, their functional capacity.

Political elite of Ukraine should accept the fact that the most efficient way towards mature democracy is the Euro-Atlantic Integration and the European

Integration which are two different patterns but not separated processes. It comes from the fact that is about almost the same actors willing to respect almost the same principles, but having a single strong feature which is a consolidated democracy.

Corruption remains a key challenge to Ukraine, its democracy. Systemic efforts should envisage necessity to develop and multiply projects aimed at fighting corruption in different areas.

Ukraine needs stronger conditionality and clear benchmarks on the way to consolidated democracy. Foreign actors such as the EU and NATO should draw the conditional linkage between eventual membership in these organisations and maturing democracy and rule of law in Ukraine. The future ENP-the ENP plus – should be driven in the direction of taking the best use of the enlargement policy that proves to be the success story of EU's policies since it helps fundamentally reforming the system of the former socialist countries and to make them compatible to EU rules. In this respect, the future ENP must let the door open and ensure an eventual perspective for applying for EU accession for every country that meets the Copenhagen criteria.