

MODERN CHALLENGES REDEFINED APPROACHES

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MODERN CHALLENGES – REDEFINED APPROACHES

Ukraine has been at war for three years. Our Research Service was established during this time, in August 2022, to enhance the Parliament's institutional capacity.

With the introduction of martial law, the Parliament of Ukraine functions with a single plenary session format. Sessions can be held on any day and at any time, regardless of the parliamentary calendar. Parliamentary committee meetings are convened as needed, without delay. This arrangement also affects the activities of the Research Service.

All activities of the Research Service involve preparing analytical and informational materials and providing educational services. These services, including professional training for Members of the Parliament, the Verkhovna Rada Secretariat staff, and assistant consultants to MPs, are designed to address modern challenges arising in parliamentary activities.

The Research Service plans its activities annually and has a strategic development plan. In doing so, it considers proposals from parliamentary committees on relevant topics for potential research and educational initiatives. Surveys are conducted to assess customer needs and the quality of services provided, and the planning of informational, analytical, and educational work is continuously adjusted.

The mission of the Research Service is to enhance the institutional capacity of the Parliament

The tasks of the Research Service are:

- ▶ to provide scientific, research, informational, and analytical support for the activities of the Parliament and MPs
- ▶ to provide professional training (advanced training) for MPs, the Verkhovna Rada Secretariat staff, and assistant consultants to MPs



However, the dynamic state of social relations, national events — such as martial law, European integration and Euro-Atlantic processes, upcoming elections, and the renewal of the Parliament of Ukraine — create new challenges for the Research Service and highlight the need for prompt responses. Relevant societal demands may be reflected in both requests to the Service and in proactive analytical reports it prepares.

In particular, continuous monitoring of the Service’s work in preparing analytical and informational materials has led to a revision of their types, clarification of their content, and an expansion of proactive activities. Since May 2024, the Service has been able to prepare a series of materials on its own initiative, guided by the relevance of state policy issues.

The relevance of topics and customer needs are determined based on two vectors: the legislative (forecasted) activities of the Parliament (as outlined in the annual legislative work plan), and unplanned activities (in other words, prompt responses to new challenges).

Challenges faced by the Research Service that impact the redefinition of its tasks:

- ▶ martial law – the Parliament operating with a single plenary session
- ▶ European integration and Euro-Atlantic processes
- ▶ upcoming elections and the renewal of the Parliament



For example, under the first vector, the Service prepares informational references on draft laws for parliamentary sessions, outlining potential risks (social, economic, corruption-related, and others) and the negative consequences of their adoption.

Another example: Before the Ukrainian Parliament considers the draft Law on the State Budget for the next year, the Research Service has prepared the Budget Process Guide to provide parliamentarians with a detailed understanding of the Parliament’s powers during the approval, amendment, and oversight of the State Budget of Ukraine, as well as the specifics of the budget process in the European Union and the role of member states in it.

Vectors for defining the relevance of materials and the needs of customers

1. legislative (forecasted) activities of the Parliament (as per the annual legislative work plan), for example:

- ▶ informational references on draft laws to be presented at parliamentary sessions, outlining potential risks and negative consequences of their adoption
- ▶ Budget Process Guide



The legal regime of martial law, Ukraine's path to European integration, and other events define the second vector for preparing materials by the Service, either on its own initiative or in response to customer requests. The key factor here is the need for a prompt response to specific events in order to provide the Parliament with the necessary information in a timely manner.

For example:

the legislative actions at the start of the war led to the preparation of the "Guide to Changes in the Security and Law Enforcement Legislation of Ukraine: the Challenges of Martial Law", which analyzes the laws adopted at the beginning of the war in the security and law enforcement sectors;

the ratification of the Rome Statute by the Parliament led to a comparative study on how its provisions are implemented in the criminal legislation of the Statute's member states. To help parliamentarians gain a better understanding of the key provisions of this document, the Service will organize a series of training sessions;

the adoption of the Ukraine Facility has created the need to analyze the Ukraine Facility instrument, its Plan, and the associated indicators, whose implementation depends on the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine;

the European Commission's annual communiqués on Ukraine have become a crucial component of the analysis used to prepare informational and analytical materials focused on European integration;

The conclusion of security agreements by Ukraine has prompted the research and preparation of relevant materials.

The slide highlights just a few examples of the Research Service's proactive activities.

Vectors for defining the relevance of materials and the needs of customers

2. unplanned (provoked by events or circumstances) situations requiring a prompt response to provide the Parliament with the necessary information, for example:

- ▶ **outbreak of war** → Guide to changes in the security and law enforcement legislation of Ukraine: the challenges of martial law
- ▶ **ratification of the Rome Statute** → comparative research of the implementation of its provisions into the criminal legislation of the Statute's member states; development of the corresponding training programme
- ▶ **adoption of the Ukraine Facility** → analytical research of the Ukraine Facility instrument, its Plan and indicators, the implementation of which depends on the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

The redefinition of the Research Service's activities also considers Ukraine's European integration and Euro-Atlantic processes. Adapting Ukraine's legislation to EU law (EU *acquis*) and ensuring that the acts of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine align with the country's European integration commitments is one of the Parliament's key tasks.

The Research Service (RS) contributes to achieving this goal by preparing specialized materials, such as EU *Acquis* Guides and EU Court of Justice Decisions Guides (monthly EuroDigests), which provide structured information on new EU acts and Court decisions. These materials are instrumental in understanding the legal aspects of European integration.

In addition, Ukraine's EU candidate status led to the preparation of a parliamentary study on the Parliament's role in the European integration process, as well as the development of new guidelines for the Verkhovna Rada's subcommittees on European integration and the relevant parliamentary committee for aligning draft laws with EU legal acts.

At the same time, the European Commission's annual reports on Ukraine have become an integral part of the analysis when preparing analytical and informational materials focused on European integration.

The Research Service also prepares analytical notes on comparative legislation by examining the practices of European Union and NATO member states.

Numerous examples of this exist.

The Research Service also organizes and conducts educational events (webinars, training sessions, etc.) for Members of Parliament, the Verkhovna Rada Secretariat staff, and assistant consultants to MPs on European and Euro-Atlantic integration issues.

Recently, the Research Service has started a series of educational events focused on explaining the key acts and standards of the EU acquis for each chapter of the negotiation process, as well as sharing the experiences of EU member states regarding the accession process. For each webinar, we prepare an informational reference. The primary purpose of this reference is to provide an overview of the relevant chapter of the negotiation process discussed in the webinar and to highlight current trends in the development of EU law within the respective area.

[The Research Service has also developed criteria to assess the suitability of products for such materials. These materials specifically cover the following: issues directly related to the adaptation of national legislation to EU law (EU acquis) and NATO standards; descriptions of agreements and/or cooperation programmes between Ukraine and the EU (e.g., the Association Agreement, etc.); agreements and/or cooperation programmes between Ukraine and NATO; specific areas of EU law and EU policies, as well as NATO standards; measures for implementing EU and NATO recommendations; analysis of cooperation with EU and NATO institutions; implementation of EU-funded projects or initiatives (e.g., Horizon 2020, Erasmus+, Ukraine Facility, etc.); NATO support programmes; analysis of the experience of EU member states and/or candidate countries in implementing EU and NATO standards; forecasting trends in the development of EU law, EU policies, and/or NATO standards that may impact Ukraine's European and Euro-Atlantic integration.]

Working quickly and responding promptly to current events relevant to the Parliament has become an integral part of our transformation in how we approach the preparation of informational and analytical materials, as well as the organization of educational events.

Each of our materials includes the following note: "The Research Service is committed to continually improving its work to meet the practical needs of its customers. Therefore, we kindly ask you to let us know whether the materials prepared by the Research Service have been useful in your parliamentary activities". This enables us to address new client needs and refine our materials.



The redefinition of approaches to the proactive activities of the Research Service is also grounded in the prospects for Parliament's work and forecasts of future challenges, including the anticipated development of legislation.

Given the upcoming parliamentary elections (after the end of martial law) and the renewal of the Parliament's composition, there will be a need to prepare new Members of Parliament for legislative work. The Research Service has already developed an interactive guide titled The Activities of a Newly Elected Member of Parliament of Ukraine which aims to provide newly elected MPs with the necessary knowledge for effective parliamentary work, as well as familiarize them with the main procedures, rights, and duties of an MP. Additionally, a training course for newly elected MPs has been developed, which will be conducted by the Research Service staff.

Therefore, in response to the new needs of the Parliament, we have focused on preparing analytical and informational materials, as well as organizing and delivering relevant educational events.

A new focus for the Research Service is foresight, aimed at analyzing future challenges for the Parliament. The outcomes of foresight studies will not only provide valuable insights but also support decision-making, enabling timely responses to emerging challenges and trends, and guiding legislative work in line with current priorities.

Upcoming Elections, the Parliament Renewal, and Legislative Development Forecasting

- ▶ interactive guide "The Activities of a Newly Elected People's Deputy (MP) in the Parliament of Ukraine"
- ▶ educational events for newly elected MPs
- ▶ foresight – research studies



Thus, one of the key principles of the Research Service of the Verkhovna Rada is our quick response to new challenges and the needs of our customers.

Despite the daily risks, the Ukrainian Parliament can always count on the Research Service, which adjusts to changes by reassessing needs and, most importantly, providing solutions to legislative problems.

We thank our friends and partners for their support of Ukraine and our RS.

Glory to Ukraine!

Thank you for your attention!

GLORY TO UKRAINE!

