



## BRDO INITIATIVES IMPLEMENTED WITH EU SUPPORT

DIGITAL “VISA-FREE REGIME” WITH THE EU AT RISK:  
THE PARLIAMENT REGISTERED A CONTROVERSIAL DRAFT LAW

Ukraine has a one-in-a-lifetime opportunity to get a digital “visa-free regime” with the EU – to join the Single Digital Market of the European Union. In particular, it will remove barriers to e-commerce. A key condition of joining is a reform of the electronic communications sector and, above all, the creation of an independent regulator in the sector. However, the draft law developed by the Parliament Committee on Digital Transformation undermines the independence of the future regulator in reality. BRDO experts **analysed** the draft law and outlined its norms that do not comply with Ukrainian Constitution and laws. We strongly believe that this draft law should be improved, and our experts are ready to actively participate in the drafting work and have already prepared some proposals on the revision of the draft law.

## NEW LAW ON CONSUMER RIGHTS PROTECTION APPROVED: WHAT IS CHANGED?

We receive annoying shops ads every day. Customers are being informed on sales, special offers, new collections almost forcibly. New law on consumer rights protection developed jointly by BRDO helps in resisting the flows of advertisement spam. The document envisages that product information may be sent to customers by phone or email only if they have given consent to receive such information. Liudmyla Lisina, BRDO's lawyer, has **described** in detail what rights are protected by the new law and how consumers can use it to their benefit.

ENERGY CRISIS IN UKRAINE: WHAT ARE THE REASONS  
AND WHAT UKRAINIANS NEED TO DO TO PREPARE?

On the eve of the winter season Ukraine does not have enough coal to safeguard heating of citizens' homes. Several regions of Ukraine already declared a state of emergency because of their unpreparedness to heating season. Our experts are following the situation closely and explain why it happened and what to do. Read the **commentary** of Oleksii Orzhel, BRDO's Member of the Board, on the problems with natural gas reserves, and Anton Zorkin, Head of the Energy Sector of BRDO, **explains** the situation in electricity sector (in Ukrainian).

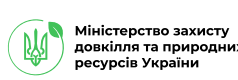
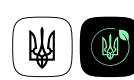
UKRAINIAN BEEKEEPERS LEGALIZE THEIR BUSINESS:  
THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED BEE FARMS INCREASING

Although Ukraine is among the top 5 world leaders in honey production and export, the state authorities have not been tracking for quite a while the number of registered farms as well as who produces honey in the country. The situation changed with the adoption of the Order of the Ministry of Economy “On some issues in beekeeping” that introduces, in particular, an electronic register of bee farm certificates. The document was developed jointly with BRDO experts who have been researching the market of honey since 2018. The Order provides opportunities for legalizing Ukrainian honey production. From now on, anyone can quickly and easily register a bee farm, receive state support, and protect their interests in the event of bee poisoning by plant protection agents. See the **details** on how the market has evolved since 2018 and what changes with the adoption of the new Ministry Order.

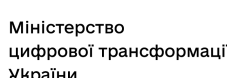
## BORSCH INDEX: HOW THE PRICES FOR FOOD CHANGED IN UKRAINE OVER THE YEAR

UAH 65.16 грн is the price for a serving of borsch for 4 persons cooked by the traditional Ukrainian recipe. In comparison with October 2020, the price has increased by 5.52%. BRDO experts analysed the dynamics of prices for ingredients of borsch during the year based on the online data of retail networks. The prices for beetroot, carrot, and cabbage have increased the most: by 62.43%, 35.01%, and 34.87% respectively. Other ingredients' prices have also increased, however, with a slightly less rate. Only potatoes and sour cream have decreased in price: by 8.05% and 8.04% respectively. See our **infographics** to discover more.

## BRDO INITIATIVES DEVELOPED IN PARTNERSHIP

THE GOVERNMENT ADOPTED THE  
RESOLUTION ON THE SINGE ECOLOGICAL  
PLATFORM “ECOSYSTEM”

The document that regulates the functioning of the state web portal have been developed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Ukraine jointly with BRDO. Our experts are also supervising the further digitalization of 11 policies of the Ministry. The Government decision grants official status to the EcoSystem finally. The platform <https://eco.gov.ua> has been operating in the testing mode since May 2021. It was created for swift and convenient interaction between the state, citizens, and the business in the sphere of ecology. 29 administrative services for business are planned to be digitalized on the base of EcoSystem, and 172 registries of ecological information available for citizens are being prepared to be published on the platform. The portal functions according to the principles of “paperless” and “peopleless” and helps Ukrainians to save time and resources as well as minimizes corruption risks.

BRDO SURVEY: HOW DO YOU EVALUATE  
THE EFFECTIVENESS OF STATE E-SERVICES?

BRDO experts are researching the anticorruption and economic effect of the digitalization of the state services. As a part of the research, we are surveying how much time and costs have been saved due to the use of electronic services instead of visiting state authorities or using intermediaries' services. You could help us by responding to the short and anonymous survey: <https://bit.ly/2YAGZfL>. Your answers would be used as a basis for the Report that is being prepared by BRDO supported by the program “E-Governance for Accountability and Participation” (EGAP) financed through Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and is implemented by the East Europe Foundation in partnership with the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine.

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