IFES Omnibus Survey Key Findings

May 16, 2012

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Executive Summary

From April 12-26, 2012, IFES placed several questions pertaining to party preference and other related to election issues on a Kyiv International Institute of Sociology omnibus poll conducted in Ukraine ahead of the parliamentary elections in October. The sample was based on a random selection of sampling points throughout Ukraine.

Overall, 2,038 interviews were conducted and the sample is representative of the population of Ukraine. The margin of error is +/- 2.2 percent.

Key findings include:

- Party of Regions is the party most frequently mentioned when Ukrainians are asked to name the party they would vote for if parliamentary elections were held the following weekend.
    - Among those who express some willingness to vote, Party of Regions is mentioned by 20.3 percent, followed by Batkivshina (12.2%), Front of Change (7.7%), UDAR (7.2%), Communist Party (5.8%) and Svoboda (3.6%) (Figure 1).
    - More than a quarter of those who express an opinion (30%) say it is "difficult to say."

- There are significant regional variations in party preference.
    - In the east, the most popular is Party of Regions (35 %), Communists (10%), UDAR (6%) and all other parties receive less than 5 percent of support.
    - There is a similar pattern in the south, with 33 percent support for Party of Regions, 10 percent support the Communists and all others receive less than 5 percent.
    - Central Ukraine is a closely contested region with 24 percent support for Batkivshina, 16 percent support for Party of Regions, 8 percent support (each) for UDAR and Front of Change and all others with 4 percent or less of support.
    - In the west, Batkivshina is the most popular with 22 percent, followed by Front of Change (15%), Svoboda (12%), UDAR (8%) and Party of Regions with 5 percent.
    - In the capital city of Kyiv, the most popular party is UDAR (15%), followed by Batkivshina (13%), Front of Change (9%) and Party of Regions (6%).

- Intention of voting is higher in the west, where 15 percent say they will not vote, compared to the east (25%), center (25%) and south (23%). In Kyiv, only 6 percent say they will not vote.

Figure 1 - Party Preference

Preferred Party for Rada	Overall Percent	Percent excluding those who will not vote
Party of Regions (M. Azarov, S. Tihipko)	16.1	20.3
Batkivshina (Y. Tymoshenko)	9.7	12.2
Party "Front of Changes" (A. Yatseniuk)	6.1	7.7
Party "UDAR" (V. Klychko)	5.7	7.2
Communist Party of Ukraine (P. Symonenko)	4.6	5.8
All-Ukrainian Union "Freedom" (O. Tyahnybok)	2.9	3.6
Party "Ukraine - Forward!" (N. Korolevska)	2.3	2.8
Party "Citizenship" (A. Hrytsenko)	1.7	2.1
People's party (V. Lytvyn)	1.4	1.7
Party "Our Ukraine" (V. Yushchenko, V. Nalyvaichenko)	0.9	1.2
Socialist Party of Ukraine (O. Moroz)	0.8	1.0
Progressive Socialist Party of Ukraine (N. Vitrenko)	0.7	0.9
European Party of Ukraine (M. Katerynchuk)	0.4	0.5
Ukrainian People's Party (Y. Kostenko)	0.3	0.3
Other party	2.1	2.6
WILL NOT VOTE	20.4	
Difficult to say	23.7	29.9

- Respondents were also asked how they would react to a possible combined Batkivshina/Front of Change candidate list. Survey findings indicate the vast majority of individual supporters of Batkivsina and Front of Change would likely vote for a joint list, and the combined ticket might gain significant support from individual supporters of other parties.

  - Overall, among those who say they will vote, 12 percent say they would definitely support the combined ticket for the party list vote and 16 percent say they would probably vote for the ticket.
  - Thirteen percent say they would probably not vote for the combined ticket and 35 percent say they would definitely not vote for this ticket. Twenty-five percent do not know.
  - The findings are similar when respondents are asked if they would vote for a candidate backed by both parties in their single-member district (12% definitely yes, 16% probably yes, 11% probably no, 34% definitely no).

- Ninety-three percent of Batkivshina supporters would likely support the combined ticket in the national party list (56% definitely, 37% probably). Support for the combined ticket is slightly lower among Front of Change supporters, but 82 percent would likely support the ticket (38% definitely, 44% probably).
  - A sizable percentage of supporters of Svoboda are also somewhat attracted to the combined ticket, as 5 percent say they would definitely support it and 42 percent say they would probably support it.
  - Among UDAR supporters, 51 percent are unlikely to support the combined ticket, 17 percent are likely to support it and 32 percent are not sure what they would do.

- The majority of Ukrainians believe upcoming parliamentary elections will not be free and fair.
  - Twenty-eight percent believe the elections will mostly not be free and fair and 23 percent believe they will not be free and fair at all.
  - Only 5 percent believe the elections will be completely free and fair, and 23 percent believe they will be partially free and fair.

- A majority of Party of Regions supporters believe the election will be at least partially free and fair.
  - A majority of supporters of other prominent parties believe elections will not be free and fair.
  - By region, a plurality of respondents in each region believes elections will not be free and fair. Residents in the west are most likely to believe the elections will not be free and fair (61%), followed by those in the center (56%).

- As for what will lead to the election not being free and fair, respondents were most likely to cite falsification of results (68%) and voters being given money or other rewards to vote a certain way (41%). Twenty-seven percent mentioned ballot stuffing, 22 percent said some voters will be stopped from voting, 21 percent said some voters will be able to vote multiple times and 19 percent said authorities will pressure parties and candidates from campaigning openly.

- Among those who believe the election will not be free and fair, the majority (63%) believe government authorities will primarily be responsible for taking actions that make the elections not free and fair. Only 6 percent say opposition parties will primarily be responsible for taking these

actions. Thirteen percent believe electoral authorities or local government leaders will be responsible.

- Among those who think elections will not be free and fair, a plurality in each region believes that government authorities will primarily be responsible for taking actions that make the elections not free and fair: center (77%), north (73%), west (66%), Kyiv (60%), east (57%) and south (49%).