

### **OVERVIEW OF CURRENT SITUATION<sup>1</sup>**

The famous events known as the Orange Revolution changed the profile of Ukraine in late 2004–early 2005. They opened a path to positive changes in the country’s political and social life, primarily in the spheres of democracy, transparency of government power, and media freedom. A revitalized civil society and media have continued to enliven democracy in Ukraine over the subsequent period.

A December 2004 constitutional reform, which entered into force in January 2006, established a new government model with a substantially stronger role for the Parliament and government. At the same time, a new model provides risks for government stability and sustainability owing to a drastic shift of checks and balances within the political machinery and evident weaknesses in Ukraine’s party system. The new regime led by President Yushchenko has proved to be substantially more transparent and democratic than the previous one. However, stable and mature institutions ensuring the rule of law and the irreversibility of democratic changes have not yet been built.

### **MOST RECENT TRENDS**

In 2005, the new leadership began creating preconditions for improvements in the judiciary, though few steps were implemented. At the same time, the judicial system gained more independence from the executive, whose total control over judicial decision-making has disappeared. The principle of equality before the law, however, is still ignored. In August 2006 agreement was finally reached that allowed the Constitutional Court to resume activity. Corruption has become an issue of national prominence in the post-Kuchma era; while few prosecutions have been carried out, citizens are increasingly interested in holding politicians accountable for corrupt behavior.

Media freedom has been a major benefit of the regime change, but the Ukrainian media sector still needs strengthening, restructuring, and systemic reforms. The influence of political and economic groups in the media sphere remains strong. Ukrainian civil society, which played a crucial role in the Orange Revolution, continues to strengthen. Public participation is growing on different levels: From state politics to local communities, the wave of civic activism born in revolution is still not exhausted.

New wording of the Law on the Elections of People's Deputies, adopted in July 2005, significantly enhanced election procedures and integrated previous recommendations by international observers. Parliamentary elections in March 2006 were characterized as “exemplary” by EU monitors. However, the victory of the Yanukovych-led Party of Regions brings to power old elites whose interests do not include an active reform agenda. Political maneuvering continued throughout the year and the eventual stability of both the government and the opposition will play a large role in determining whether further reforms are carried out.

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## UKRAINE - WATCHLIST

### STATISTICS AND INDICATORS

World Bank Institute Governance Indicators 2005	Score	Key
Voice and Accountability	40.1	Range 0-100 (Lower value indicates weak voice and accountability; higher value indicates strong voice and account)
Political Stability and Absence of Violence	32.1	Range 0-100 (Lower value indicates weak political stability and high violence; higher value indicates opposite)
Government Effectiveness	40.2	Range 0-100 (Lower value indicates weak government effectiveness; higher value indicates strong govt. effectiveness)
Regulatory Quality	47.0	Range 0-100 (Lower value indicates weak regulatory quality; higher value indicates strong regulatory quality)
Rule of Law	34.8	Range 0-100 (Lower value indicates weak rule of law; higher value indicates strong rule of law)
Control of Corruption	34.5	Range 0-100 (Lower value indicates weak control of corruption; higher value indicates strong control of corruption)

Freedom House: Freedom in the World 2007	Score	Key
Political Rights	3	Range 1-7 (Lower value indicates good system of political rights; higher value indicates bad system political rights)
Civil Liberties	2	Range 1-7 (Lower value indicates good system of civil liberties; higher value indicates bad system civil liberties)
Status	Free	3 Categories: F (Free); PF (Partly Free); NF (Not Free)

Bertelsmann Transformation Index 2006	Score	Key
Stateness	8.0	Range 0-10 (Lower value indicates negative democratic development; higher value indicates positive democratic development)
Political Participation	7.8	
Rule of Law	7.0	
Stability of Democratic Institutions	6.5	
Political and Social Integration	6.3	
Total Score Political Transformation	7.10	Range 0-10 (Lower value indicates negative democratic development; higher value indicates positive democratic development) / Arrow shows trend in democratic development (↑Improved; ↓Worsened)
Total Score Political Management	4.69	Range 0-10 (Lower value indicates lower quality of political management; higher value indicates higher quality of political management)

Corruption Perceptions Index 2006	Score	Key
Total Score	2.8	Range 0-10 (lower value indicates high corruption; higher value indicates lower values of corruption)