Local business associations, chambers of commerce, and think tanks can actively participate in the democratic process by developing and contributing to policy platforms and discussion. CIPE programs equip these partners to advocate economic reform and engage in dialogue with the government. Advocacy tools such as coalition building, grassroots outreach, and business-led policy platforms give a voice to private sector needs and help to encourage strong, inclusive economic growth while bolstering democracy.
CIPE supports independent voices in Ukraine that contribute to dialogue on reform and hold the government accountable for its pledges, including on anti-corruption efforts, the main cause of economic problems since maidan.

Small and medium-sized enterprises — employing over 75 percent of Ukraine’s workforce — are crucial stakeholders in a democratic Ukraine. CIPE ensures that SMEs are able to provide input to economic policymaking by giving business associations and chambers of commerce the skills and tools to develop, propose, and advocate key legal and regulatory reforms.

CIPE collaborated with the National Business Platform, a broad-based coalition of business associations, to design Ukraine’s first-ever SME web portal to convene online policy discussions, and to provide economic and business news, information about advocacy campaigns, and training materials. The portal, which had more than 60,000 unique visitors in 2015, allows business leaders to assess, comment on, and vote on proposals for policy changes.

CIPE cultivated on-the-ground expertise by conducting training sessions on applying a methodology for anti-corruption analysis to local regulations in three cities — Kharkiv, Odessa, and Cherkasy — and by working with coalitions of business associations to conduct anti-corruption analysis of local regulations in three regions — Sumy, Ivano-Frankivsk, and Vinnytsia. These activities were followed by advocacy campaigns that resulted in the abolition or amendment of a number of local regulations, allowing SMEs to operate more freely and leading to better dialogue between local government and the small business community.