Presidential elections in Ukraine

Ukraine will hold presidential elections on 31 March, five years after the Maidan protests resulted in the impeachment of pro-Kremlin President Viktor Yanukovich, setting the country on a course to deepen ties with the West. Russia reacted by launching a hybrid war against Ukraine, which resulted in the illegal annexation of the Crimean peninsula in March 2014, and in military aggression in eastern Ukraine. The outcome of the ballot is uncertain, but the new leader is expected to continue the efforts of incumbent President Petro Poroshenko to deepen relations with the European Union and NATO, and continue the country’s reform process, including anti-corruption measures.

A record 44 candidates are contesting the election, with actor and political novice Volodymyr Zelenskiy holding the lead in opinion polls, followed by Poroshenko and former prime minister, Yulia Tymoshenko. If no candidate secures an absolute majority in the first round, the top two contenders will face each other in a run-off on 21 April.

This note offers links to recent commentaries, studies and reports from major international think tanks on the situation in Ukraine.

**Ukraine: What comes after the presidential election?**
Carnegie Europe, March 2019

**Who is ready to lead Ukraine?**
Atlantic Council, March 2019

**Patriotism, pressure, populism: How Poroshenko can win**
Carnegie Europe, March 2019

**No good deed goes unpunished in Ukraine**
Atlantic Council, March 2019

**Der Donbas-Konflikt**
Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, February 2019

**Kremlin-linked forces in Ukraine’s 2019 elections: On the brink of revenge?**
Institut français des relations internationales, February 2019

**Ukrainian society ahead of the elections**
Carnegie Europe, February 2019

**Ukraine’s leading presidential candidates (minus Poroshenko) promise to fight corruption**
Atlantic Council, February 2019
Ukraine’s experiment with trust
European Council on Foreign Relations, February 2019

Russia looks to strike at Ukraine’s south again?
Atlantic Council, February 2019

The Ukraine model for Brexit: Is dissociation just like association?
Centre for European Reform, February 2019

L’industrie de défense Ukrainienne
Groupe de Recherche et d’Information sur la Paix et la Sécurité, February 2019

What will the 2019 Ukraine elections spell for the Donbas conflict?
Istituto Affari Internazionali, February 2019

And yet it moves: Post-Soviet frozen conflicts in 2019
Istituto Affari Internazionali, February 2019

The European deterrence initiative
Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessment, January 2019

Elections in 2019: Risks of more interference
German Marshall Fund, January 2019

The Sea of Azov should not become a Russian lake
European Policy Centre, December 2018

No Russian let-up on Ukraine
Rand Europe, December 2018

Advancing natural gas reform in Ukraine
Council on Foreign Relations, December 2018

Crimea annexation 2.0
Carnegie Europe, November 2018

Ukraine’s new front is Europe’s big challenge
European Council on Foreign Relations, November 2018

Time for Trump to stand up to Putin after the Sea of Azov attack
German Marshall Fund, November 2018

Supporting political stability by strengthening local government
Danish Institute of International Studies, November 2018

What is happening in relations of Ukraine with its western neighbouring states?
International Centre for Policy Studies, October 2018

Occupied Crimea: Europe’s grey zone
European Policy Centre, October 2018

A Church conflict brews in Ukraine
Carnegie Europe, October 2018
*Nobody wants us*: The alienated civilians of Eastern Ukraine  
International Crisis Group, October 2018

The attitude of Ukrainians toward social democracy  
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, October 2018

Migration from Ukraine to Poland: The trend stabilises  
Centre for Eastern Studies, October 2018

Russia vs. Ukraine: More of the same?  
Brookings Institution, October 2018

The struggle for good governance in Eastern Europe  
Centre for European Policy Studies, September 2018

Ukraine’s incomplete transformation  
Carnegie Europe, September 2018

Deepening EU-Ukrainian relations: What, why and how?  
Centre for European Policy Studies, September 2018

How Eastern Ukraine is adapting and surviving: The case of Kharkiv  
Carnegie Europe, September 2018

Ukraine and its neighbors: Analysis of regional trends  
International Centre for Policy Studies, September 2018

Rebuilding Ukraine: An assessment of EU assistance  
Chatham House, August 2018

How Ukraine’s government has struggled to adapt to Russia’s digital onslaught  
Council on Foreign Relations, August 2018

Ukraine’s Helsinki hangover  
German Marshall Fund, July 2018

Ukraine: The struggle for reforms continues  
Bruegel, July 2018

Integrity on trial: Judicial reform in Georgia, Ukraine and Moldova  
Centre for European Policy Studies, June 2018

Ukrainian elections: Poroshenko and proliferating populists  
European Council on Foreign Relations, May 2018

Poroshenko stands alone: Ukraine politics in a pre-election year  
Centre for Eastern Studies, May 2018

A route to national resilience: Building whole-of-society security in Ukraine  
International Centre for Defence and Security, April 2018

The EU twinning instrument in Ukraine: Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats  
Centre for European Policy Studies, April 2018
Russian social media influence: Understanding Russian propaganda in Eastern Europe
Rand Europe, April 2018

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