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## **Regional seminar in Odessa : promoting local democracy with Ukrainian youth**

Strasbourg, 10 December 2014 - The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe is organising a regional training seminar for young local leaders in Odessa (Ukraine) from 9 to 11 December 2014.

22 young local leaders of NGOs, youth wings of political parties as well as local elected representatives will discuss and share their perceptions on local democracy, in particular the key provisions of the European Charter of Local Self-Government, and how these principles should be applied in Ukraine.

Members of the Congress Liisa Ansala, Finland (L, ILDG), Mairi Evans, United Kingdom (L, NI-NR), Dariusz Wrobel, Poland (L, CRE-ECR), and Volodymyr Udovychenko, Ukraine (L, ILDG) will participate in the seminar to exchange on their experience as local representatives. They will discuss the situation of Ukraine and issues related to citizen participation and planning action together, electoral campaigns as well as fighting corruption and unethical behaviour.

This seminar is part of a series of regional workshops aimed at spreading a culture of democracy at local level by raising awareness on local and regional democracy principles and developing the participants' capacity to engage locally in an active and qualified manner.

It is funded by the Government of Denmark, as part of the project "Strengthening the capacity of local authorities in Ukraine". This project aims to support Ukraine in improving the quality of local self-governance and developing a national legal framework in line with the Council of Europe standards.

*Ukraine ratified the European Charter of Local Self-Government on 11 September 1997 and signed its Additional Protocol on the right to participate in the affairs of a local authority on 20 October 2011. Countries which have ratified the Charter are bound by its provisions. The Charter imposes compliance with a minimum number of rights, which are the European bedrock of local self-government. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe ensures respect for these principles.*

### [The Council of Europe Congress and Ukraine](#)

The Congress has two chambers, the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Chamber of Regions. It brings together 318 full and 318 substitute members representing more than 200 000 European territorial communities.

President of the Congress: Jean-Claude Frécon (France, SOC), President of the Chamber of Local Authorities: Anders Knappe (Sweden, EPP/CCE), President of the Chamber of Regions: Gudrun Mosler-Törnström (Austria, SOC)

Political Groups: Socialist Group (SOC), Group of the European People's Party – Christian Democrats (EPP/CD), Independent and Liberal Democrat Group (ILDG), European Conservatives & Reformists Group (ECR)