

# PROMOTING LOCAL DEMOCRACY IN UKRAINE



Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe



The project “Promoting local democracy in Ukraine” is carried out by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe as part of the Action Plan for Ukraine 2015–2017. It aims to improve the implementation of democratic principles in Ukraine, by enhancing the institutional and leadership capacities of local elected authorities and disseminating best practices in local democracy nation-wide.

The intervention of the Congress is based on its Recommendation 348(2013) on local and regional democracy in Ukraine, further complemented by a post-monitoring programme which successfully led to the joint signature of a roadmap with national authorities in May 2015, setting out a timeline for the implementation of reforms.

## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Throughout the project life-cycle, the following outcomes are expected to be reached:

- ▶ institutional and leadership capacities of local elected representatives are strengthened;
- ▶ capability of local elected representatives to provide effective support to the implementation of the local self-government reform is reinforced;
- ▶ active democratic citizenship is fostered and the implementation of local democratic participatory processes is supported.

## METHODOLOGY

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities has developed a set of activities, that consist of a series of peer-to-peer exchanges and interactive sessions with the participation of Congress members, both from Ukraine and other Member States of the Council of Europe, as well as local and international experts. The Congress makes use of an integrated and flexible approach by engaging with mayors, councillors and young local leaders. Specific attention is paid to political pluralism and to the inclusion of women.



## MAIN ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Workshops "Mayors, leaders for change"
- ▶ Workshops "Local councillors: everyday actors of local democracy"
- ▶ Seminars for young local leaders on local and regional democracy
- ▶ Thematic roundtables on local self-government reforms
- ▶ Networking activities: summer university, study visits
- ▶ Coaching and support to local initiatives
- ▶ Observation of elections

## PARTNERS AND BENEFICIARIES

- ▶ Local and regional elected representatives (Mayors and Councillors)
- ▶ Associations of local and regional authorities
- ▶ Young local leaders
- ▶ Civil society organisations and media
- ▶ Representatives of the national government and the national parliament

## EXPECTED RESULTS

- ▶ Increased awareness and skills of mayors and local councillors regarding good practices in local democracy and European standards of local self-government, with a view to implementing the principles of the European Charter of Local Self-Government
- ▶ Increased capacity of local elected representatives to lead change at the local level
- ▶ Establishment of commonly agreed mechanisms and processes promoting effective co-ordination and co-operation between different levels of local self-government, national associations and central authorities for the effective implementation of reforms
- ▶ Increased participation of young leaders in local politics and local elections, with a better understanding of the role of local authorities and European standards for local self-government
- ▶ Increased participation of women and individuals with an ethnic minority background (leaders of local NGOs and local councillors) in local politics and in promoting democratic changes at the local level
- ▶ Implementation of local initiatives on citizen participation, accountability and transparency, and dissemination of the results
- ▶ Observation of local elections and dissemination of the report and recommendations adopted by the Congress

The Action Plan for Ukraine 2015–2017 is a joint initiative of the Council of Europe and Ukrainian authorities. This Action Plan intends to support Ukraine in fulfilling its statutory and specific obligations as a Council of Europe member state and to contribute towards addressing fundamental issues of human rights and rule of law in Ukraine. The initiative renews the commitment of the Council of Europe to assist Ukraine in its necessary reform agenda in the areas of expertise of the Council of Europe – human rights, the rule of law and democracy.

In the framework of the Action Plan for Ukraine 2015–2017, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe is responsible for the project “Promoting local democracy in Ukraine”.

Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine for 2015–2017  
<http://www.coe.int/en/web/programmes/ukraine>

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe  
<http://www.coe.int/congress>

Council of Europe Office in Ukraine  
<http://www.coe.int/kyiv>

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[www.coe.int/congress](http://www.coe.int/congress)

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities is an institution of the Council of Europe, responsible for strengthening local and regional democracy in its 47 member states. Composed of two chambers – the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Chamber of Regions – and three committees, it brings together 648 elected officials representing more than 200,000 local and regional authorities.

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