



XV Український Муніципальний Форум

XV Ukrainian Municipal Forum

The Congress



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



FINAL DECLARATION

WE, LOCAL ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES AND MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF UKRAINIAN CITIES participating in the XV Ukrainian Municipal Forum organised jointly by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and the Association of Ukrainian Cities,

Considering the European Charter of Local Self-Government and its Additional Protocol on the right to participate in the affairs of a local authority, ratified by Ukraine, respectively in 1997 and in 2014,

Considering the revised European Code of Conduct for all Persons Involved in Local and Regional Governance, and relevant adopted recommendations and resolutions which are part of the Road map of activities for preventing corruption and promoting public ethics at local and regional levels, adopted by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe,

Bearing in mind Ukraine's Fourth National Action Plan on the Implementation of the Open Government Partnership in 2018-2020, as well as the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recognising that the enhancement of local and regional democracy through citizen participation and empowerment, as well as the reform of local self-government in Ukraine towards greater decentralisation, are the foundations of democracy at the local level,

Aware of the midterm accomplishments of the project "Strengthening democracy and building trust at local level in Ukraine", implemented by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe within the Action Plan for Ukraine 2018-2021, and the co-operation with the Association of Ukrainian Cities towards the improvement of the quality of local democracy in Ukraine,

In light of our discussions and exchange of experiences and good practices with peers from Ukraine and other European countries on topical issues of open government, public ethics and gender equality at the local level,

COMMIT OURSELVES:

- **To respond** to citizens' needs and growing expectations by developing strategies and mechanisms to build trust and engage citizens in decision-making processes at the local and regional levels, in a democratic, open and participatory manner, while favouring inclusion and diversity.

- **To enhance** public ethics and the implementation of the three key principles of open government (transparency, citizen participation and accountability) in our municipalities by:
 - > adopting codes of conduct which set out ethical principles and standards of conduct to prevent the various risks and forms of corruption at local and regional levels, and;
 - > promoting and implementing transparent and inclusive policies and practices with a view to strengthen the local self-government system in Ukraine.

- **To ensure** equal opportunities for women and men at local level and to reject all forms of discrimination by:
 - > adopting the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life and developing equality action plans;
 - > promoting gender equality and supporting women's empowerment, recalling that it is central to the protection of human rights, the functioning of democracy and good governance, and;
 - > developing policies and tools to mainstream gender equality at local level in Ukraine.

In order to achieve those objectives, **WE, LOCAL ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES AND MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF UKRAINIAN CITIES**, will:

Implement in our communities – and by engaging citizens – the principles and mechanisms of public ethics, open government and gender equality discussed during the XV Ukrainian Municipal Forum;

Exchange experiences and **share** good practices with partners and peers, and **disseminate** success stories at national and international levels;

Call upon the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine to formally include the Association of Ukrainian Cities in the co-ordination group of the National Open Government Initiative, along with representatives of national authorities and civil society, to enhance the design, implementation, monitoring and impact of Ukraine's commitments to the Open Government Partnership.

Call upon the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe to pursue our co-operation to improve local and regional democracy in Ukraine and to continue supporting the efforts of local authorities and the Association of Ukrainian Cities towards the sustainability and irreversibility of the local self-government reform;

And further pledge to enhance the quality of local and regional democracy in Ukraine, in accordance with the European practices and standards of local self-government.

Odesa, 19 June 2019