



STRENGTHENING LOCAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE IN UKRAINE

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
of the Council of Europe

The Congress



Le Congrès

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



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The project “Strengthening local democratic governance in Ukraine” aims to improve the quality of local democracy in Ukraine by creating conditions for ethical decision-making and more citizen-oriented, responsive and transparent local governance, in consultation with local authorities and their associations. It was adapted to match the humanitarian and social needs of local authorities as a consequence of war in Ukraine.

The Project is implemented by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe as part of the Adjusted Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine 2018–2022, and in line with the Congress declaration on “The Russian Federation’s war against Ukraine” (Declaration 5 (2022)). Furthermore, it is in line with the principles enshrined in the European Charter of Local Self-Government (ETS No.122) and its Additional Protocol on the right to participate in the affairs of a local authority (CETS No. 207).

OUTCOMES

- ▶ Contribute to the creation of an efficient institutional consultation mechanism between local and national authorities, to be embedded in the regulatory framework.
- ▶ Facilitate the creation of a sustainable, inclusive and accountable local self-government that responds to citizens needs and expectations, thus increase their trust in public institutions.
- ▶ Support the rebuilding capacities of local authorities and their national associations to address the unprecedented humanitarian, social, economic and environmental challenges they face as a cause of the war.
- ▶ Reconstruct democracy and rebuild resilience at local level, while helping to implement war and post-war recovery measures in Ukraine.

METHODOLOGY

The project aims to rebuild democracy at a local level in Ukraine through the strengthening of the Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC), the provision of national and international experts support, the organisation of roundtables and workshops, identification of good examples of post war recovery policies and strategies and through the promotion of multi-level governance.

Continuous political dialogue between local and national authorities will be ensured through a National-Local Platform for open government, established under the Cabinet of Ministers, with the aim of improving local resilience and enhancing open government practices.

The Congress will also provide expert assistance in the preparation of new draft legislative proposals developed under the Martial law to ensure they are aligned with the principles of the European Charter of Local Self Government.

A peer-to-peer approach, including with the members of the Congress, will be used for exchanges and sharing of knowledge, know-how and practices across Europe. This support will be provided directly to local authorities and in close co-operation with national associations of local authorities.



EXPECTED RESULTS

- ▶ National associations, in particular the Association of Ukrainian Cities, improve their capacities to advocate and safeguard the interest of local and regional authorities.
- ▶ Ukrainian local authorities and other European municipalities and associations strengthen their partnership and co-operation in emergency and crisis situations.
- ▶ Local authorities strengthen their institutional capacities to protect human rights and respond to citizen's needs and expectations.
- ▶ Local authorities and civil society strengthen their alliances through the development and application of collaborative mechanisms of citizens engagement, including youth and IDPs, in order to enhance recovery goals.
- ▶ Local authorities adopt and implement legal and policy frameworks to promote a gender perspective in local political action and equal opportunities for women and men to participate in local political life.
- ▶ The trust of the citizens, and especially of minority groups, in their local and political institutions increases.

PARTERNS AND BENEFICIARIES

- ▶ Local and regional authorities, including mayors and councillors.
- ▶ National associations of local and regional authorities.
- ▶ Civil society organisations and media.
- ▶ Representatives of the Government and the Parliament of Ukraine.

The Adjusted Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine 2018–2022 is a strategic programming instrument which aims, through co-operation, to accompany the country in its efforts to deal with the consequences of war. It focuses on a limited number of priority areas, which can have immediate effect. The document is one element of the broader range of assistance provided to Ukraine in the context of its institutional relations with the Council of Europe.

Ukrainian local and regional authorities have had to adapt their functioning, provision of services and priorities to respond to the challenges they meet. As part of the post-war recovery measures, rebuilding capacities of local authorities to respond to citizens needs in a sustainable, inclusive and accountable manner remains a top priority to enhance resilience of local communities.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

www.coe.int/congress-cooperation

Council of Europe Office in Kyiv

www.coe.int/kyiv

Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine for 2018–2022

www.coe.int/en/web/programmes/ukraine

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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 46 member states, including all 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 46 member states. Composed of two chambers – the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Chamber of Regions – and three committees, it brings together 612 elected officials representing more than 130 000 local and regional authorities.

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