



Round table on
**Gender equality and open government
for stronger local democracy**

14 – 15 March 2019

Venue: Hotel Aloft, 17 Esplanadna St, Kyiv, Ukraine

CONTEXT

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (the Congress) is organising jointly with the Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC) a round table to streamline gender into open local government and thereby advance gender equality and local self-government through increased transparency, participation, accountability, and government responsiveness.

Open government has the potential to accelerate gender equality and drive change through gender-sensitive policymaking. Local authorities have a key role in the implementation of the Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023 and Ukraine's commitments to the OGP 4th National Action Plan and the UN Sustainable Development Goals 5 (Gender Equality) and 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions), especially to ensure equal opportunities for representation at all levels of decision-making in political and public life.

The round table will gather together local elected representatives and public officials from all regions of Ukraine, members of the Government of Ukraine and other national stakeholders, as well as representatives of national associations of local authorities from Ukraine and other European countries to share experiences and good practices to incorporate a gender perspective into open government in Ukraine.

The round table is organised as part of the Open Government Week (11-17 March 2019) and within the project "Strengthening democracy and building trust at local level in Ukraine", which aims to improve the quality of local democracy in Ukraine by strengthening institutional frameworks and by supporting local authorities and their national associations in their efforts to promote ethical decision-making and more citizen-oriented, inclusive and transparent local governance. The project is implemented by the Congress within the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine 2018-2021.

CONTACTS

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PROGRAMME

Thursday, 14 March 2019

9:30 – 10:00 *Registration and welcoming coffee*

10:00 – 10:40 **Opening and introduction**

Mårten EHNBERG, Head of Office, Council of Europe Office in Ukraine

Oksana PRODAN, Member of the Parliament of Ukraine, Representative of the President of AUC to the Parliament

Oleksandr SLOBOZHAN, Executive Director of Association of Ukrainian Cities

Ihor ALYEKSYEYEV, Member of the Congress, Mayor of Okhlyrka, Sumy Oblast, Ukraine

Moderation: Marité MORAS, Head of Unit, Co-operation and External Relations Department, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

10:40 – 12:00 **Panel 1 – Open government to advance gender equality**

Keynote speech by Diane BUNYAN, Expert on Gender Equality and Human Rights

Taras MELNYCHUCK, Advisor to the Minister of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine

Jelena BRANKOV-ČEREVIČKI, Co-ordinator for Gender Equality, Municipality of Bečej, Serbia

Jordi PRUNEDA VELLVEHÍ, Gender Equality Specialist, Girona City Council, Spain

Moderation: Diane BUNYAN, Expert on Gender Equality and Human Rights

The panel will address gender equality through the open government lens. It will elaborate on the intersections between gender equality and open government by presenting European good practices, tools and initiatives to enhance equal participation of women and men in local public and political life. Moreover, panellists will suggest steps that local governments can take to ensure citizens' engagement and transparency in terms of gender.

Open discussion.

12:00 – 12:20 *Coffee break*

12:20 – 13:20 **Peer exchange – Open government tools and initiatives to promote gender equality in Ukraine**

Co-moderation: Yuliya SEDAYA, Expert on Gender Equality

Diane BUNYAN, Expert on Gender Equality and Human Rights

Peer exchange on ways to integrate open government and gender equality mechanisms at local level in Ukraine. Participants will take stock of the tools and initiatives already in place, and propose combined solutions, highlighting the importance of institutionalising gender equality through the development of policy frameworks and the establishment of gender mainstreaming mechanisms.

13:20 – 14.30 *Lunch*

- 14:30 – 15:15 **Panel 2 – Gender equality at local and regional level in Ukraine: status quo**
Kateryna LEVCHENKO, Government Commissioner for Gender Equality Policy, Ukraine
Ihor ALYEKSYEYEV, Member of the Congress, Mayor of Okhlyrka, Sumy Oblast, Ukraine
Moderation: Yuliya SEDAYA, Expert on Gender Equality
- The panel will present the results of the questionnaire sent to Ukrainian municipalities to assess their progress and challenges in the adoption and/or implementation of the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life. During the panel discussion, Ukrainian participants will be able to share experiences on gender equality and gender mainstreaming with international participants.*
- Open discussion*
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- 15:15 – 16:00 **Panel 3 – The European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life: Opportunities and challenges for advancing gender equality**
Diane BUNYAN, Expert on Gender Equality and Human Rights
Jelena BRANKOV-ČEREVIČKI, Co-ordinator for Gender Equality, Municipality of Bečej, Serbia
Jordi PRUNEDA VELLVEHÍ, Gender Equality Specialist, Girona City Council, Spain
Moderation: Yuliya SEDAYA, Expert on Gender Equality
- The panel will focus on the importance of adopting and implementing the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life as a sound step towards gender equality, gender mainstreaming and the promotion of equal opportunities for women and men in local political and public life.*
- Open discussion*
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- 16.00 – 16.20 *Coffee break*
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- 16:20 – 17:30 **Panel 4 – The European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life: Prospects for its implementation in Ukraine**
Volodymyr NYZHNYK, National Co-ordinator for Implementation of the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life, Association of Ukrainian Cities
Anastasiia POPUSI, Acting Mayor and Secretary of Irpin City Council, Ukraine
Iryna YARMOLENKO, Councillor, Zhytomyr City Council, Ukraine
Svitlana KHODAKOVA, Advisor to the Mayor of Vinnytsya, Ukraine
Co-moderation: Yuliya SEDAYA, Expert on Gender Equality
Diane BUNYAN, Expert on Gender Equality and Human Rights
- The panel will facilitate the exchange of Ukrainian experiences in the adoption and implementation of the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life, and comment on the challenges that Ukrainian municipalities may be facing.*
- Open discussion*
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- 17:30 – 18:00 **Conclusion of Day 1**
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- 18:30 – 19:30 *Dinner*

09.00 – 09.20 **Reflections on the discussions of Day 1 and introduction to Day 2**

Moderation: Yuliya SEDAYA, Expert on Gender Equality

09:20 – 11:00 **Work in groups session 1 – Drafting an Equality Action Plan**

*Facilitators: Diane BUNYAN, Expert on Gender Equality and Human Rights
Yuliya SEDAYA, Expert on Gender Equality
Volodymyr NYZHNYK, National Co-ordinator for the Implementation of the European Charter for Equality, Association of Ukrainian Cities*

This session will guide participants, step by step, through the drafting of an Equality Action Plan for their municipalities, namely: data collection and analysis; consultation with relevant bodies and agencies; identification of priority lines of action; and development of an Equality Action Plan. For every step of the drafting process, the participants will be presented with Ukrainian and international good practices and guiding examples.

11.00 – 11.20 *Coffee break*

11:20 – 12:20 **Work in groups session 2 – Monitoring and measuring the implementation of the European Charter for Equality**

*Facilitators: Diane BUNYAN, Expert on Gender Equality and Human Rights
Yuliya SEDAYA, Expert on Gender Equality
Volodymyr NYZHNYK, National Co-ordinator for the Implementation of the European Charter for Equality, Association of Ukrainian Cities*

This session will introduce the use of indicators to monitor the implementation of the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life and, therefore, better follow up and evaluate the equality action plan. The monitoring process will help to measure the state of play of gender equality at local level and assess the implementation of gender-sensitive policies. Furthermore, the indicators resulting from the monitoring will function as a benchmark to identify new areas of intervention.

12:20 – 12:40 **The way forward – Ukrainian perspectives on open local government and gender equality**

Moderation: Yuliya SEDAYA, Expert on Gender Equality

Participants will build upon previous sessions and discuss next steps for advancing gender equality in and through open local government in Ukraine. Moreover, participants will discuss the AUC's efforts regarding gender equality, including its strategy, and debate ways to streamline gender in the current and future national action plans of the Open Government Partnership.

Plenary feedback from working groups and open discussion.

12:40 – 13:00 **Conclusions and next steps**

*Oleksandr SLOBOZHAN, Executive Director of the AUC
Marité MORAS, Head of Unit, Co-operation and External Relations Department, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe*

13:00 *Lunch*