

CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY

RIVNE 2026 - Ukraine

? | *How can we make our community a place where young people want to stay and build their future?*

The unstable economic situation during the war is prompting young people to consider leaving the Rivne community. In the medium and long term, this may significantly reduce the community's potential for development and undermine Ukraine's post-war recovery more broadly. For this reason, the Rivne community is already seeking tools and opportunities to encourage young people to build their future within the community.

The assembly gathered **45 citizens** of the Rivne community (Rivne and Kvasyliv), selected randomly to reflect the demographic and geographic diversity of the community, including gender, age, education, and place of residence. Following three weekends (6 days) of learning and deliberation, members developed **20 recommendations** for local authorities, aimed at creating better opportunities for young people to live and work in the Rivne community, participate in local life and build their future there.

Recommendations (highlights)

- Introduce "My Start-up", a school-based entrepreneurship course promoting financial literacy, leadership and practical business skills.
- Establish a business incubator offering young entrepreneurs mentoring, workspaces, training and access to funding opportunities.
- Create TechnoRivne, a research and engineering centre focusing on defence and civilian technologies.
- Develop a modern youth centre, including opportunities for social entrepreneurship, networking and community initiatives.
- Create attractive public spaces and outdoor sports facilities where young people can meet, engage in activities and develop a stronger connection with their community.
- Conduct research into young people's needs to support evidence-based youth policies.
- Strengthen opportunities for young people to participate in local decision-making and contribute to shaping the community's future.

"This is a historic moment. Our goal is to create conditions that will encourage young people to stay, work, and build their future here despite the challenges caused by the war. The citizens' assembly process once again demonstrates our commitment to transparency and our openness to further partnerships and co-operation."

Viktor SHAKYRZIAN, Secretary of the Rivne City Council, Acting Mayor of Rivne

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