

CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY

ZVIAHEL 2024 - Ukraine

? | *Creating urban spaces as public locations for social interaction and recovery.*

The Assembly brought together **45 citizens** of the Zviahel community, randomly selected to reflect the city's socio-demographic and geographic diversity, including gender, age, education, and place of residence. Over six days – combining learning, deliberation, decision-making, and exchanges with local authorities and civil servants – participants developed **40 recommendations** and the **action plan** was approved by the City Council.

Recommendations (highlights)

- Following the group discussions and deliberations, the assembly members voted to prioritise 4 key community public spaces and 4 themes for further development of recommendations.

  These included: a parking system in the community; involving young people in creating and developing public spaces in rural areas; cleaning the riverbed and improving water quality; establishing spaces for psychological recovery and mental health support.

"The citizens' assembly made it clear that you can be the change in the community where you live. The Assembly inspired me to take action in the development of public spaces, work in a team of like-minded people."

Assembly member, Zviahel 2024

Impact

In the Defenders of Ukraine Park, the viewing platform was renovated and the "Red Rowan" spring restored.

In the central park, hazardous trees were removed, new spruces planted with assembly members, and regular meetings launched with local businesses.

A riverside promenade concept was developed: the area was cleared, pedestrian paths and recreation zones arranged, and young trees planted.

In the village of Maistrova Volia, work began on a multifunctional park and lake improvement.

Youth engagement expanded: comfortable spaces and events for teenagers were created in libraries and community clubs.

More parking spaces were added in the city centre.

Citizens created an advocacy action plan, established eight initiative groups, and founded a new civil society organisation that now leads local projects in the village.

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