

Developed by
Elections and Civil Society Division
within the framework of the project "Promoting civil participation in
democratic decision-making in Ukraine"

CIVIL PARTICIPATION IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

How to ensure continuous citizens' engagement in the time of Coronavirus constraints?

Even though city councils across the world cannot approve major decisions without proper public consultations and offline citizens' engagement in the time of Coronavirus quarantine constraints, various digital platforms, open data and e-democracy tools can keep citizens informed and engaged in the decision-making process.

Along with the increased use of online means by public authorities, a significant increase in online responses to online surveys and public consultations is noticed these days, as people work from home and have fewer meetings. However, we also know that they may not be representative of the critical audiences from whom you want to hear – especially the seldom heard. This is why stakeholder mapping is so important – it's not quantity that matters, it's who responds, what they say and, importantly, why?

The Elections and Civil Society Division offers support to local authorities in ensuring the sustainable and representative involvement of citizens in decision-making under quarantine constraints, inter alia, in designing 'no-touch' consultation plans in these special circumstances, designing the engagement strategy and deploying proper dialogue methods to achieve the objectives, reaching all stakeholders and social groups, especially seldom-heard, hearing their voices, insights and innovative ideas.

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Civil Participation Be the Change

The Council of Europe Project

Promoting Civil Participation in Democratic Decision-Making in Ukraine



Civil Participation: online Covid-19 response

Gennadiy Kosyak,
Deputy Head of Elections and Civil Society Division

Dear Friends,

We do not stop working during the quarantine, but transform our usual means of communication, trainings and cooperation activities into online format - this toolbox offers continues online assistance in ensuring civil participation in the decision-making process.

We are confident, our initiatives will remain practical and relevant to your needs and solutions. We offer public officials, active citizens and NGOs a set of innovative and dynamic tools that we have tested successfully in Ukraine. within the framework of the Council of Europe projects. The toolbox features a mentoring programme "Mentoring for Change, online game-based training Uchange, online courses on effective public consultations, tailored online courses on local mechanisms for civil participations "Academy of Civil Participation", expert on-distance support to local authorities in enhancing municipal regulations on civil participation, guidelines in planning and implementation of innovative participation tools, such as School Participatory Budgeting and Civic Engagement in Creation of Public Spaces.

The Council of Europe project is ready to provide expert and methodological support to local authorities in ensuring the sustainable involvement of citizens in decision-making under quarantine constraints through remote and digital dialogue citizens' engagement methods.

Council of Europe's Elections and Civil Society Division and our Ukrainian project team cordially invite you to discover our new initiatives and join our project activities.



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Online mentoring programme

Mentoring for **Change**

Apply: <https://forms.gle/LBx4bdN48fVykJa97>

In the framework of the Council of Europe response to the challenges presented by COVID-19 outbreak, the Council of Europe Project "Promoting Civil Participation in the Democratic Decision-Making Process in Ukraine" is launching a 3-month comprehensive online mentoring programme for local and regional-level officials and civil society leaders.

Programme objectives:

- improve participants' dialogue with other stakeholders in the decision-making process;
- enhance their skills essential for their professional performance;
- advance their personal development plans.

Deadline for applications (Ukraine only): 30 April 2020. Programme duration: May - July 2020.

Eligible applicants: local and regional public officials, CSO leaders from Ukraine (participants from other Council of Europe Member States will be invited at the later stage). Priority will be given to the alumni of the Council of Europe Academy of Civil Participation.

Areas of mentorship support:

- international standards and strategies of citizens' engagement;
- democratic innovation and civic participation
- public consultations for inclusive decision-making;
- government relations, advocacy and lobbying;
- communications and public relations;
- donor relations and international advocacy;
- leadership in a challenging environment;
- project management in the public sector.

Full programme description and more details: https://bit.ly/Mentoring_for_Change

Online courses from **The Consultation Institute**

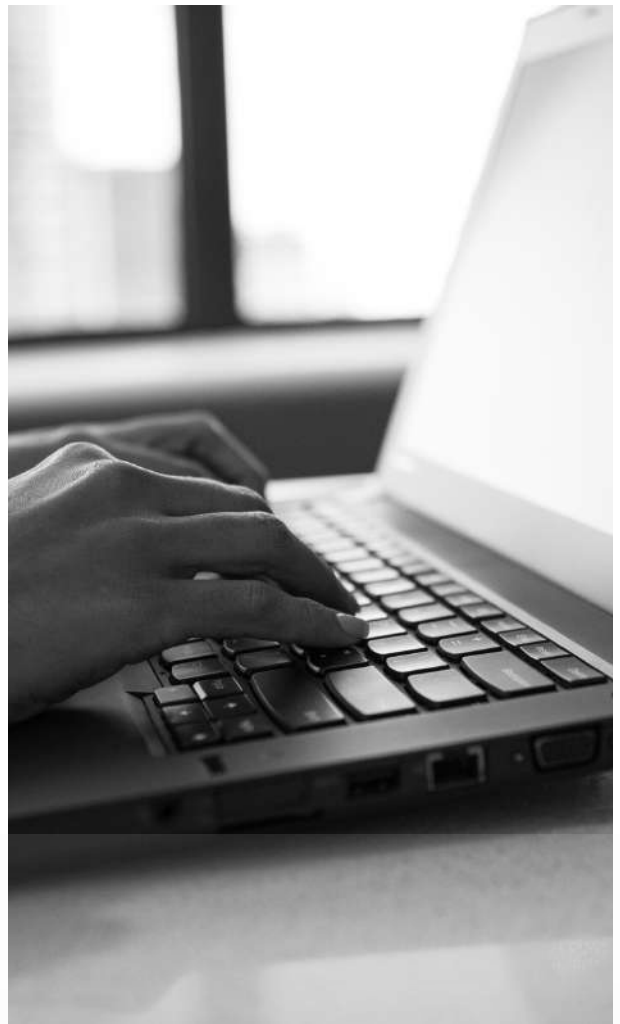
To register contact:

Daryna.SOKOLOVA@coe.int

Kateryna.BEREZOVSKA@coe.int

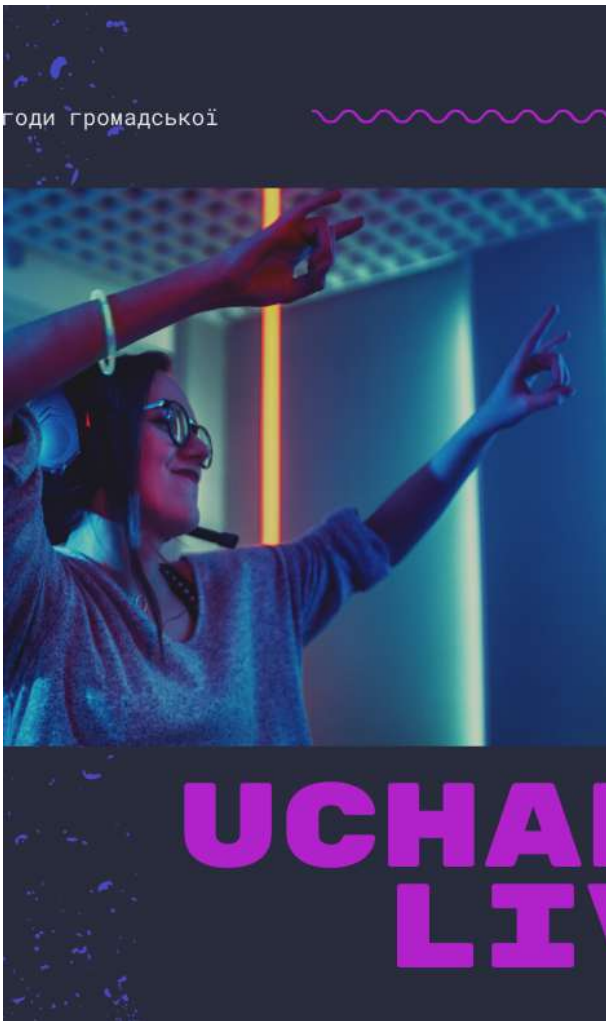
We want to help ensure that the decision-making process is more open to civil participation and the decisions, taken by the municipalities, consider the interests and the needs of all the parties, including seldom-heard. Effective public consultations is a cornerstone for inclusive participatory process.

In partnership with **The Consultation Institute** we offer public officials, experts, active citizens, NGOs and civil activists to undergo online courses on key elements for effective public consultations. The courses are interactive, and theoretical knowledge is interconnected with practical cases provided.



The following **courses on effective public consultations** are provided in English:

- The Consultation Charter: A foundation course in consultation
- Stakeholder Mapping for Public Consultation
- Focus Groups
- Surveys and Questionnaires
- Data Analysis and Report Writing
- Collecting data, information and sampling
- Consultation and Public Events



CivicLab UChange LIVE!

Register in the online game-based training:
<http://bit.ly/2lq7RU8>

We have transformed the methodology of the interactive game-based training for Kyiv citizens "Your district: **CivicLab UChange**" into online format to help participants improve their skills in solving local problems of their building, street, or district and to inform about the available tools of civil participation.

This is a unique opportunity to gain knowledge and competences, being at home, in order to engage effectively with the city council. The format is unusual, interesting and effective. The virtual game consists of two parts, 2 hours each.

To learn more about how we can customize the training for your community, please, contact:

Daryna.SOKOLOVA@coe.int

During the theoretical and practical parts, the participants go deep into the real conditions in the city – they are trying to **find the solution to the problem**, which they came with, plan the whole process of decision-making from the municipals perspective. In the **personalized part of the game**, every participant gets expert evaluation of the work, done, when the most corresponding "entry points" and participatory tools are chosen.

As the result, all participants receive knowledge about the participatory tools available for their future projects, as well as unlimited access to the digital component, passwords, templates and documents, including the developed road map for their project and, of course, the diploma. All this information is followed by **digital advisor "Dream"**.



Academy of Civil Participation (online)

In April we will be starting to implement online courses in the framework of the online Academy of civil participation for the representatives local of Drohobych City Council and local civil society. The training course is dedicated to implementation of the amalgamated territorial community Charter and regulations on civil participation. The main purpose is raising awareness of the regulatory framework regulation of civil participation instruments, enhancement of the ability to apply effectively a range of civil participation mechanisms strengthening good democratic governance and solving local problems. The project is ready to **design an online course for your community**, considering local needs and context, special features of local legal regulation.

Structure of the multi-module online course:

- Civil participation as a key element of open and good governance
- CoE standards and legal framework for civil participation in Ukraine
- Legal framework for civil participation at local level
- Citizens' meetings
- Citizen initiatives
- Public hearings
- E-petitions
- Public consultations
- Participatory budgeting
- Public space and civic engagement
- Open data - a way to better governance and effective civil participation
- Application of gender-oriented approach in community planning and development

If you are interested to implementing a tailored online courses in your community, please contact: **Volodymyr.KEBALO@coe.int**

The project continues to cooperate with the pilot municipalities for improvement of regulatory frameworks for civil participation, development of methodological materials on local council procedures, namely:

- ensuring local government transparency;
- development of the modern legal framework for civil participation;
- adaptation of civil participation mechanisms to local conditions and context by providing and encouraging citizen participation;
- development and implementation of innovative civil participation mechanisms (see "School participatory budgeting" and "Public spaces and civic engagement");
- improvement of existing provisions related to civil participation tools.

Enhancing **civil** **participation** **mechanisms**



School Participatory Budgeting

School participatory budgeting is a powerful and innovative civil participation tool that is being actively deployed and implemented worldwide for involving young people in decision-making process as well as a way to encourage and to develop active citizenship, civic engagement and connection with the community. Local authorities are increasingly recognizing the potential of children and young people for sustainable community development, civic engagement and restoring democracy as a whole. The project is ready to help your community in developing recommendations and a roadmap for implementation of the school participatory budgeting.

Civic Engagement in Public Spaces

"Public space" is created and maintained for citizens in order to ensure equal opportunities for rest, sustainable and harmonious development of territories. People want the government to hear their opinion on the arrangement of parks, streets, adjoining territories etc. Government at all levels should create conditions (legislative and practical) and encourage civil participation at all stages of policymaking process and its implementation, create opportunities and entry points for citizens and NGOs in the process of development, creation or reconstruction of public spaces. Your community can top up a list of communities of innovation which made use of the Project assistance in developing and implementation of the mechanism of civic engagement in the process of public space design.

If you are interested in enhancing civil participation tools, piloting a mechanism for citizens' engagement in public spaces development or School PB in your community, please contact: **Volodymyr.KEBALO@coe.int**

Civil Participation Be the Change

The Council of Europe Project
Promoting Civil Participation in Democratic Decision-Making in Ukraine



About us

We are the Council of Europe project that helps create the conditions for strengthening civil participation in Ukraine and enhanced citizen participation in decision-making process both at local and national levels. In our work we are guided by the standards of the Council Europe and international best practices.

Our goals:

- improvement of the legislative and institutional framework for civil participation at national and local levels to ensure effective civic engagement and development of civil society in Ukraine in accordance with the Council of Europe standards and best practices;
- promoting effective and broad application of civil participation tools at local and national levels;
- promoting dialogue between NGOs, citizens and public authorities in the decision-making process;
- strengthening the capacity of NGOs to advocate changes and promote dialogue with authorities in the decision-making process;
- assisting in the development and implementation of innovative civil participation tools;
- building regional NGOs' cooperation for sharing best practices.

Learn more:

[Elections and Civil Society Division](#)
Department of Democracy and Governance
[Directorate General of Democracy \(DGII\)](#)
[Council of Europe](#)

[Project "Promoting civil participation in democratic decision-making in Ukraine"](#)

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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It includes 47 member states, 27 of which are members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law.