



Форум місцевої демократії в Україні 4-7 липня 2017
Forum for Local democracy in Ukraine 4-7 July 2017

The Congress
Le Congrès



FINAL DECLARATION

WE, THE MAYORS, LOCAL COUNCILLORS AND YOUNG LOCAL LEADERS participating in the “Forum for local democracy in Ukraine” organised by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe from 4 to 7 July in Snovjanka,

Considering the European Charter of Local Self-Government and its Additional Protocol on the right to participate in the affairs of a local authority, ratified by Ukraine, respectively in 1997 and in 2014,

Considering the Recommendation 348 (2013) on Local and Regional Democracy in Ukraine, debated and adopted by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe on 31 October 2013, as well as the roadmap for its implementation, signed with the Ukrainian national authorities, in Kyiv on 20 May 2015,

Considering the reform of local self-government in Ukraine and the steps taken towards greater decentralisation,

Convinced that the enhancement of local and regional democracy through citizen participation and empowerment, as well as the reinforcement of local self-government, are the foundations of democracy at the local level,

Aware of the accomplishments of the project “Promoting Local Democracy in Ukraine”, implemented by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe within the Action Plan for Ukraine 2015 – 2017, which aims to empower mayors, local councillors and young local leaders,

Convinced that the Ukrainian society will continue to work towards better local democracy and will continue to join efforts for the development of local self-government,

COMMIT OURSELVES:

- **To create** an engaging environment to increase the quality of representative democracy, and to promote transparency and accountability of local and regional authorities and their elected representatives;
- **To respond** to the needs and growing expectations from citizens, and to develop strategies and opportunities to empower and engage citizens in decision-making processes at the local and regional levels, in a democratic, innovative and participatory manner;

AND IN PARTICULAR:

- **To enhance** transparency of local and regional authorities to increase trust in local political actors and institutions among citizens by:
 - abiding by the values of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability and honesty; and
 - promoting those values across local councils, communities and all partners involved in local democracy.

- **To ensure** equal opportunities for women and men at local level and to reject all forms of discrimination based on gender by:
 - fighting stereotypes about women and men in society; and
 - developing strategies and tools to promote and institutionalise gender equality issues in our communities.

- **To empower** youth at local level, and to establish constructive partnerships for democratic innovation, at local, national and international levels, thereby:
 - implementing an open and regular dialogue between youth and local authorities, adapted to the expectations of youth and to contemporary society; and
 - providing adequate means and resources to implement tailored actions that meet the needs of youth for an inclusive society.

In order to achieve those objectives, **WE, THE MAYORS, LOCAL COUNCILLORS AND YOUNG LOCAL LEADERS** will:

Continue to enhance local and regional democracy in Ukraine;

Implement in our communities the innovative actions discussed and developed during the Forum for local democracy;

Share experiences with partners and peers, and **disseminate** success stories at national level;

Call on the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe to pursue our co-operation to enhance local and regional democracy in Ukraine and to continue monitor the situation of local and regional democracy in light of the principles of the European Charter of local self-government;

And further pledge to take appropriate action to strengthen local self-government in Ukraine, to meet the needs of citizens and to address the challenges of local governance in accordance with the above principles.

Snovjanka, 7 July 2017