

XV UKRAINIAN MUNICIPAL FORUM

19 June 2019
Odesa, Ukraine



Programme

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (the Congress) is organising, jointly with the Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC) and international partners from the United States and Canada, the XV Ukrainian Municipal Forum.

The Ukrainian municipal forums contribute to the strengthening of local democracy and good governance as well as to the development and implementation of sound politics and legislation in Ukraine. This year's forum is also envisaged as a platform for exchange between more than 400 mayors, members of the AUC, who will share knowledge and experiences and work together in shaping inclusive, open and transparent societies.

Through an interactive programme which combines learning experiences and peer exchanges structured around thematic round tables on 19 June, participants of the Forum will be able to discuss topical issues related to open government and public ethics, with a special focus on gender mainstreaming in local self-government in Ukraine. Furthermore, linkages will be made with the Sustainable Development Goals and their integration in strategic local frameworks.

Day 2 of the Forum is organised within the project "Strengthening democracy and building trust at local level in Ukraine", which aims to improve the quality on local democracy in Ukraine.

Round Table 1 - Public ethics to address new local challenges

Public ethics and accountability are essential features of good local governance, which ensure that those in public office act in the wider public interest and that decision-making and resource allocation are fair, efficient and effective. It in turn helps to enable a prosperous democracy, economy and society.

Local elected representatives have a crucial role in building trust, through their professionalism, integrity and ability to function in an ethical, transparent and accountable manner. They must act as role models for enhanced public service delivery.

In order to prevent corruption and promote public ethics at local and regional levels, the Congress adopted the *European code of conduct for all persons involved in local and regional governance*, which provides ethical guidance to elected, appointed and contracted personnel.

The Code of conduct belongs to the "Roadmap of activities for preventing corruption and promoting public ethics at local and regional levels", adopted by the Congress along with practical guides on the misuse of administrative resources during electoral processes, transparent public procurement, open government, conflict of interest, protection of whistle-blowers and fighting nepotism within local and regional authorities. These reports are published as practical guides, which contain a number of examples that can be used and applied by local elected representatives and public officials.

Round Table 2 - Open local government: a driver for resilient democratic societies

Participatory policymaking, transparency and accountability have become the cornerstones of good democratic governance.

Participatory processes based on co-creation improve the quality of local actions, better tailor public services and ensure the sustainability of open government initiatives. It brings about co-responsibility and shared ownership in the actions of the local government, leading to higher government accountability and increased citizen trust.

Granting citizens' access to information by opening government data and implementing good records management procedures allow the public to see and understand the workings of their government, thereby underpinning local government transparency.

As the spheres of governance closest to citizens, local and regional authorities need to be involved in the co-creation and implementation of Ukraine's action plans of the Open Government Partnership (OGP).

In this context, the AUC has undertaken a series of steps to promote the inclusion of local governments into Ukraine's OGP commitments. The AUC and the Congress will closely co-operate and work towards the inclusion of Ukrainian municipalities into the new OGP Local Programme.

Round Table 3 - Gender equality for inclusive local self-government

Gender equality – the 5th Sustainable Development Goal of the UN 2030 Agenda – is of paramount importance at the local level and an essential component of democratic societies and reaffirmed by the Council of Europe in its Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023.

The ongoing decentralisation process in Ukraine affords a great opportunity to advance gender equality in the country and mainstream it in the implementation of open government principles. To this end, it is worth noting the importance of establishing common legislative and institutional frameworks (national and local governments should share views for an effective gender mainstreaming) and applying systematic approaches based on gender budgeting and gender impact assessments, which should be supported by the collection of sex-disaggregated data and the provision of training courses on gender equality for local authorities and public officials.

As of today, some fifty Ukrainian municipalities have formally approved the *European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life* - a political document and a practical instrument created by the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) aiming to encourage local and regional governments to take the gender dimension fully into account in their policies, their organisation and their practices, while about 26 municipalities have expressed their will to sign it.



Opening Plenary Session

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

Vitaliy KLITSCHKO, President of the AUC, Mayor of Kyiv

Vyacheslav NEHODA, First Deputy Minister of Regional Development, Construction and Housing of Ukraine

Andreas KIEFER, Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

Facilitation: **Andriy KULYKOV**, journalist, Ukraine

Public ethics to address local challenges

Andrew DAWSON, Congress thematic spokesperson on Promoting public ethics and preventing corruption at local and regional levels, Councillor, Cheshire West and Chester, United Kingdom

Sorin IONITA, President of Expert Forum (think tank), Romania

Facilitation:

Paolo CRUGNOLA, President of the European Network Training Organisation for Local and Regional Authorities (ENTO), expert trainer on local governance, Switzerland

Tetiana VASYLEVSKA, Professor at the National Academy for Public Administration, expert trainer on anticorruption, Ukraine

Open Local Government:
a driver for resilient democratic societies

Drago KOS, Chair of the OECD Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions, Slovenia

Facilitation:

Giorgi MESKHIDZE, President of the International Association Civitas Georgica, expert trainer on local governance, Georgia

Inna SKLIAR, Legal Expert on Decentralisation Reform Implementation, Association of Ukrainian Cities

Session on Gender equality
for inclusive local self-government*

Marianne HOLLINGER, Congress Member, Mayor of Aesch, Switzerland

Ibon URIBE, Former Mayor of Galdakao, Spain

Viviane TEITELBAUM, City Councillor, Ixelles (Brussels), Belgium

Carola GUNNARSSON, Lord Mayor of Sala, Sweden

Facilitation: **Andriy KULYKOV**, journalist, Ukraine

* In co-operation with the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) / PLATFORMA



Timing	Wednesday, 19 June		
09:00 09:45	Opening Plenary Session		
10:00 11:30	Public ethics to address local challenges <i>Europeyskiy Hall</i> [Group 1]	Open local government: a driver for resilient democratic societies <i>Hall 1</i> [Group 2]	Gender equality for inclusive local self-government <i>Concert Hall</i> [Group 3]
11:30 12:00	Networking coffee break		
12:00 13:30	Public ethics to address local challenges <i>Concert Hall</i> [Group 3]	Open local government: a driver for resilient democratic societies <i>Europeyskiy Hall</i> [Group 1]	Gender equality for inclusive local self-government <i>Hall 1</i> [Group 2]
13:30 14:30	Lunch		
14:30 16:00	Public ethics to address local challenges <i>Hall 1</i> [Group 2]	Open local government: a driver for resilient democratic societies <i>Concert Hall</i> [Group 3]	Gender equality for inclusive local self-government <i>Europeyskiy Hall</i> [Group 1]
16:00 16:30	Networking coffee break		
16:30 17:00	Closing Plenary session		



The Council of Europe Plan for Ukraine 2018-2021 is a strategic programming instrument which aims, through co-operation, to accompany the country in its efforts to bring legislation, institutions and practice further into line with European standards in the areas of human rights, the rule of law and democracy and, through this, to support the country in meeting its obligations as a Council of Europe member state.

Within this framework, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe is responsible for the project 'Strengthening democracy and building trust at local level in Ukraine'. It is based on the needs and recommendations voiced by relevant stakeholders and beneficiaries during the implementation of the project 'Promoting local democracy in Ukraine' (2015-2017) and builds upon the Congress co-operation activities carried out in Ukraine since 2014.

CONTACTS

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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities is an institution of the Council of Europe, responsible for strengthening local and regional democracy in its 47 member states. Composed of two chambers – the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Chamber of Regions – and three committees, it brings together 648 elected officials representing more than 200,000 local and regional authorities.