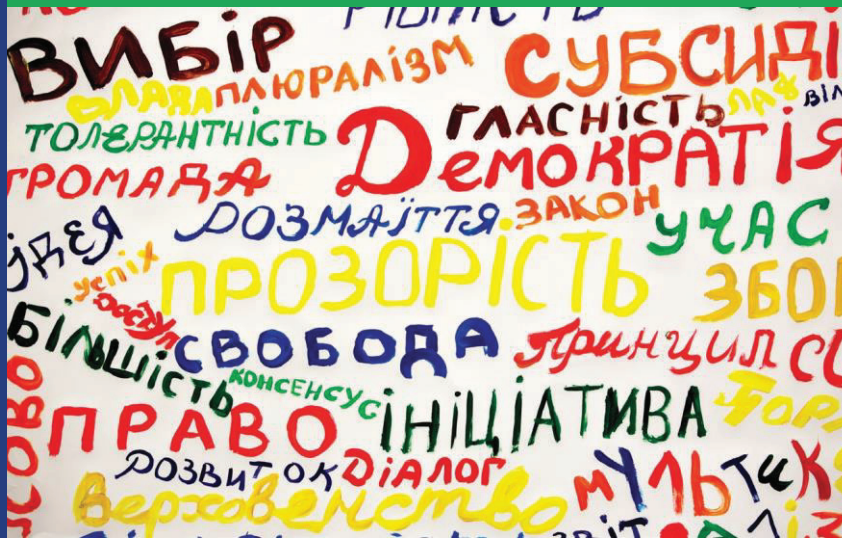


STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY AND BUILDING TRUST AT LOCAL LEVEL IN UKRAINE



Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

The Congress



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The project 'Strengthening democracy and building trust at local level in Ukraine' aims to improve the quality of local democracy in Ukraine by strengthening institutional frameworks and by supporting local authorities and their national associations in their efforts to promote ethical decision-making and more citizen-oriented, inclusive, responsive and transparent local governance.

The project is implemented by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities as part of the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine 2018–2021, and in line with the principles enshrined in the European Charter of Local Self-Government (ETS No.122) and its Additional Protocol on the right to participate in the affairs of a local authority (CETS No. 207).



OUTCOMES

The following outcomes are expected to be reached:

- ▶ Genuine decentralisation and local self-government reforms are implemented through regular and effective consultation mechanisms between local authorities, their associations, and the national authorities;
- ▶ Local elected representatives implement ethical, innovative and inclusive policies and practices in their municipalities.

METHODOLOGY

The project supports decentralisation and the implementation of good practices on local democracy through local and international expertise and capacity-building activities, including trainings, workshops, study visits, and peer-to-peer exchanges with the participation of members of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, both from Ukraine and other member states of the Council of Europe.



MAIN ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Thematic round tables on local self-government reforms;
- ▶ Capacity-building activities and workshops;
- ▶ Pilot initiatives on transparency and citizen participation;
- ▶ Coaching and support to local initiatives on innovative and inclusive policies and practices;
- ▶ Networking activities, including study visits.

PARTNERS AND BENEFICIARIES

- ▶ Local and regional authorities, including mayors and councillors;
- ▶ National associations of local and regional authorities;
- ▶ Civil society organisations and media;
- ▶ Representatives of the Government and the Parliament of Ukraine.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- ▶ The national associations of local and regional authorities, and in particular the Association of Ukrainian Cities, strengthen their capacities to advocate and enhance services to their members;
- ▶ Local and regional authorities and their associations strengthen their leadership and institutional capacities to enable a rich dialogue between all stakeholders towards the establishment of a sustainable multilevel governance system;
- ▶ Local authorities adopt policies and practices to promote ethical, transparent and participatory decision-making as a means to increase citizens' trust in local political actors and institutions;
- ▶ Local authorities adopt and implement legal and policy frameworks to promote a gender perspective in local political action and equal opportunities for women and men to participate in local political life;
- ▶ Local authorities adopt policies and practices to foster human rights and the engagement of under-represented groups (in particular ethnic minorities and internally displaced persons) in local affairs, and introduce positive measures to enhance resilience at local level.

The Council of Europe Action 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, as a result, 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 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.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

<http://www.coe.int/congress-cooperation>

Council of Europe Office in Ukraine

<http://www.coe.int/kyiv>

Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine for 2018–2021

<http://www.coe.int/en/web/programmes/ukraine>

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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.

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