

CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY

OF THE LVIV AGGLOMERATION



→ “How can we preserve and use our water resources sustainably?”

(June–July 2026)



The citizens' assembly is a widely recognised deliberative democracy tool that brings residents together to tackle pressing public issues and shape actionable recommendations for authorities.



In Ukraine, the first citizens' assemblies were held in the Zviahel and Slavutych municipalities in 2024 with the support of the Council of Europe. In 2026, three more assemblies were organised: in the Rivne municipality, the Obolon district of Kyiv and the Lviv agglomeration.



A citizens' assembly involves an in-depth and structured process of jointly developing solutions. Participants first explore the topic and receive all the necessary information from independent experts and relevant stakeholders. Working in small groups with the support of professional facilitators, residents analyse key challenges, consider possible solutions and formulate their recommendations.



The Lviv Agglomeration citizens' assembly was **the first in Ukraine to be held at the metropolitan level**, bringing together **residents from 13 municipalities**. It demonstrated how structured dialogue and the collaborative development of recommendations can enable residents to contribute to finding solutions to challenges that extend beyond the boundaries of individual communities.



A total of **50 members** were selected for the citizens' assembly in the Lviv Agglomeration, reflecting the diversity of the agglomeration's population in terms of **sex, age, level of education and area of residence**. For the majority of members, this marked their first experience with civic participation.



Over the course of three sessions held on three weekends, the assembly members jointly developed **19 recommendations**. These were submitted to the local authorities, which committed to considering them and identifying appropriate ways to translate them into concrete measures.



RECOMMENDATIONS



Coordination and water resource management at the agglomeration level

1	Develop a unified digital platform for information sharing, communication and water resource management in the Lviv agglomeration	87.3%
2	Introduce an annual agglomeration-wide "Water Community of the Year" competition to encourage the adoption of good practices in water resource management	77.3%



Development of wastewater infrastructure and financial support for households

3	Develop and implement a financial support programme (preferential loans, subsidies and co-financing), with differentiated conditions for different population groups, to facilitate connections to sewerage systems and the installation of septic tanks	91.3%
4	Organise regulated collection and transportation of liquid household waste from properties not connected to centralised sewerage systems to wastewater treatment facilities, following a model similar to municipal solid waste collection	88.7%
5	Introduce a household co-financing scheme: a local targeted programme for the construction and modernisation of wastewater treatment facilities (60/40)	88.0%
6	Include wastewater treatment and resident engagement projects in participatory budgeting	87.3%
7	Construct a shared, standalone wastewater treatment facility at street level through co-financing	81.3%
8	Establish street-level homeowners' associations for wastewater treatment	74.7%



Environmental education and public awareness

9	Conduct an information campaign on proper wastewater management in private households	83.3%
10	Develop and implement a "Water Without Myths" information and education campaign to raise public awareness of responsible water use and protection	82.0%
11	Promote and disseminate information through the media on successful rainwater use practices	80.7%
12	Develop and widely distribute an information booklet on septic tanks and wastewater treatment technologies for private houses	78.7%
13	Organise an environmental festival near water bodies, focusing on proper wastewater management practices	78.7%
14	Organise training on rainwater use for municipal representatives	75.3%



Rainwater management and climate adaptation

15	Implement demonstration projects for rainwater collection and use in each community	84.7%
16	Develop local support programmes to help residents purchase rainwater collection tanks	82.7%



Pollution control, monitoring and accountability

17	Eliminate illegal dumping sites through land rehabilitation, environmental improvements and public awareness-raising	86.0%
18	Organise the safe disposal of deceased farm and domestic animals and inform residents about available services, rules and procedures	82.0%
19	Expand the functions of local video surveillance systems to monitor compliance with public amenities regulations, with a focus on environmental protection	78.0%

“It was my first experience of civic participation. I was deeply impressed by the scale of the process and how thoughtfully it was designed. So much information, professional experts, and facilitators guiding us every step of the way. The citizens' assembly was an amazing experience!”
– citizens' assembly member

“What really impressed me was how we started with so many scattered, unformed ideas and ended with a clear understanding and articulation of the problems. I also gained great satisfaction from taking part in the process and meeting new people. I am grateful for the opportunity to express my opinion and share my own perspective.”
– citizens' assembly member



Citizens' assembly webpage



Citizens' assembly report



Video about the citizens' assembly

The citizens' assembly was prepared and implemented within the framework of the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine "Resilience, Recovery and Reconstruction" 2023–2026, as part of the project "Strengthening multilevel governance and local democracy to support Ukraine's recovery", implemented by the Centre of Expertise for Multilevel Governance at the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.

Council of Europe, 2026