

CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY

IN THE RIVNE MUNICIPALITY



➔ "How can we make our community a place where young people want to stay and build their future?"

(March – April 2026)



A **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.



Members of a citizens' assembly are selected through a **civic lottery**, ensuring that the group reflects **the socio-demographic profile of the community**. This approach makes it possible to engage not only active citizens, but also residents who do not usually participate in decision-making processes.



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.



A total of **45 members** were selected for the citizens' assembly in the Rivne municipality, reflecting the diversity of the community 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 **20 recommendations**. These were submitted to the local authorities, which committed to considering them and identifying appropriate ways to translate them into concrete measures.



RECOMMENDATIONS



Entrepreneurship and economy

1	Introduce a school entrepreneurship programme entitled "My Start-up"	88.1%
2	Establish a business incubator for aspiring entrepreneurs	77.5%
3	Establish the "TechnoRivne" Military and Civilian Technology Hub	73.1%
4	Establish a youth entrepreneurship support desk at the Administrative Services Centre	73.1%



Spaces and environment

5	Create multifunctional outdoor sports spaces	85.0%
6	Improve the cultural environment for young people by upgrading Taras Shevchenko Park	83.1%
7	Establish a social café at the youth centre	83.1%
8	Promote Rivne through positive experiences by creating outdoor spaces for active recreation for young people	78.1%
9	Create spaces for young artists	74.4%



Cultural events and identity

10	Revive the international "Drevlianski Dzhherela" Ethnic Festival	75.0%
11	Organise the "Creative Youth" cultural and sports fair	70.6%



"I am delighted that citizens of all ages, professions, educational backgrounds and social statuses can come together around an idea that is relevant to the community to develop practical recommendations for the authorities. And we believe these will be implemented."



Youth institutional infrastructure

12	Establish a youth centre as a municipal institution of the Rivne municipality	76.9%
13	Establish a network of youth hubs where young people can fulfil their potential and gain practical skills by addressing real community needs	75.6%
14	Conduct a comprehensive study of the needs of young people in the Rivne municipality	70.6%
15	Establish a mentoring system to support the integration of students into the life of the Rivne municipality	69.4%
16	Establish a centre for researching the needs of the Rivne municipality	66.3%
17	Establish an expert council to support the implementation of youth policy	63.8%



Digitalisation and public outreach

18	Create a single web portal and mobile application entitled "All of Rivne in Your Smartphone", featuring a social media chatbot and an interactive map integrated into the portal	94.4%
19	Create a municipal digital platform listing premises available to young people for launching and developing their initiatives	70.0%
20	Develop a dedicated multi-level municipal information campaign entitled "A City for Young People" on youth support programmes	69.4%



"An intriguing format. I was pleased to see the desire for positive change in the community, the participants' enthusiasm, the interesting ideas, and the competent organisers and guest experts. I've learnt more about the opportunities available to local residents."



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.