



REPORT

CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY LVIV AGGLOMERATION

**"How can we preserve
and use our water resources sustainably?"**

13 June – 12 July 2026



The citizens' assembly of the Lviv agglomeration was made possible with comprehensive expert, methodological and financial support from the Council of Europe's 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 as part of the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine "Resilience, Recovery and Reconstruction" 2023–2026.

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The opinions expressed in this work are the responsibility of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the Council of Europe.

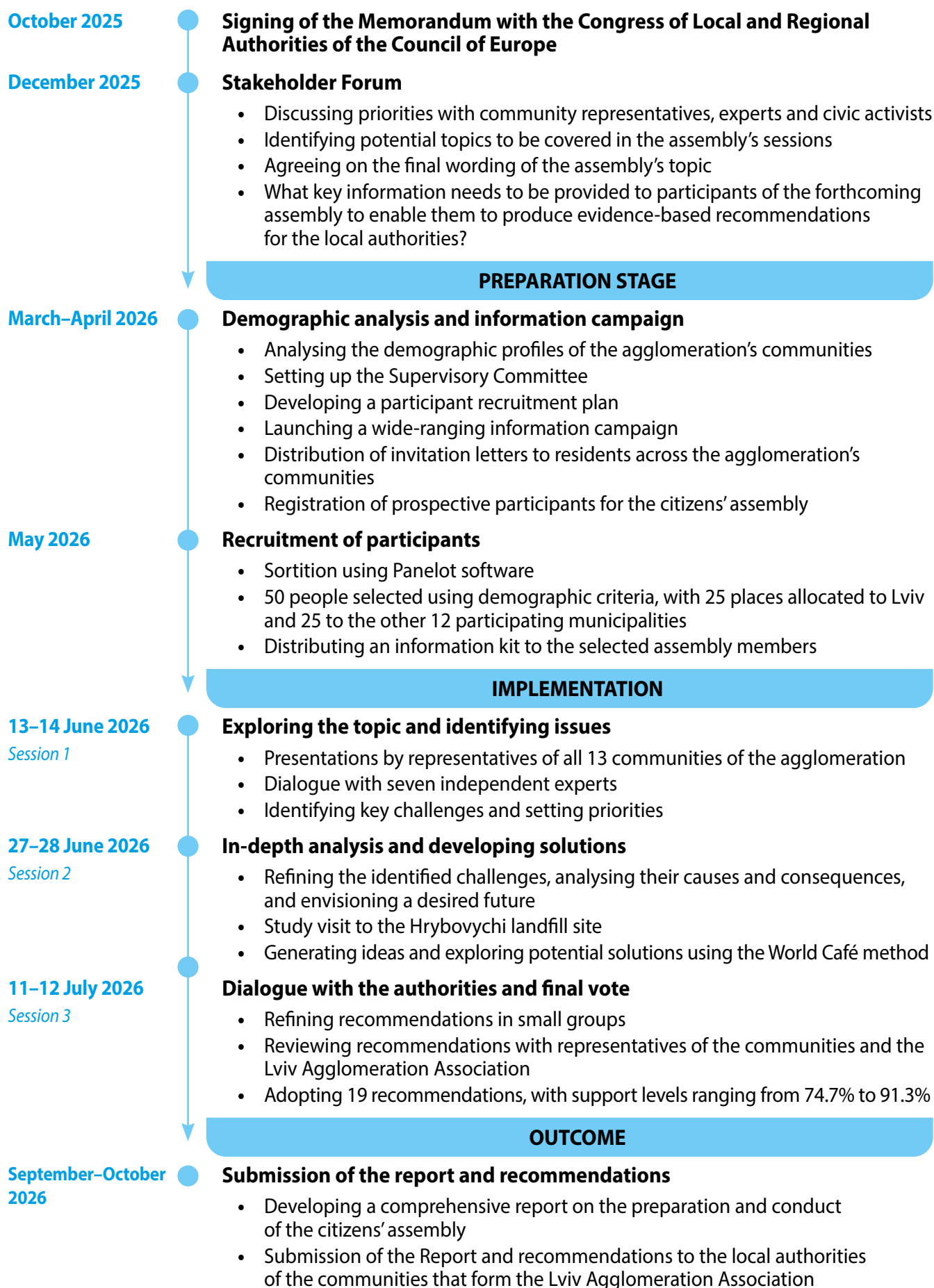
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From setting up the citizens' assembly to developing recommendations



1. ABOUT THE CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY

1.1. What is deliberative democracy?

Modern democratic societies are increasingly facing challenges that cannot be effectively addressed through traditional mechanisms of representative democracy alone. The complexity of societal issues, the need to take account of diverse interests and citizens' expectations, and the importance of strengthening trust between public authorities and society are driving the search for new approaches to decision-making. Deliberative democracy is one such approach.

Deliberative democracy is based on the principle of meaningful, informed and reasoned discussion of issues of public importance. Unlike traditional forms of participation, where citizens primarily express their support for or opposition to decisions that have already been formulated, deliberative processes involve collectively exploring an issue, considering different perspectives, exchanging arguments and seeking solutions that reflect the interests of a broad range of people.

At the heart of deliberative democracy is the belief that the quality of decisions improves when citizens have access to reliable information, can ask experts questions, discuss issues and form their own opinions based on facts and reasoned arguments. This approach encourages more informed participation in decision-making and helps develop proposals that can gain broader public support.

Over recent decades, deliberative mechanisms have been increasingly used across Europe and beyond – from national citizens' assemblies in Ireland and France to local deliberative processes in Poland, Denmark, Estonia and the United Kingdom.



For Ukraine, deliberative mechanisms are particularly important in the context of decentralisation, community recovery and the growing role of local self-government. Amid the ongoing Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, they provide an important means for citizens from different social groups, with diverse backgrounds, experiences and perspectives, to participate in shaping decisions that affect their shared future. Deliberative processes also help foster a culture of responsible dialogue between local authorities and residents.

The citizens' assembly of the Lviv Agglomeration marked **Ukraine's first application of a deliberative mechanism at the intermunicipal level**, bringing together residents from several communities within an agglomeration. It demonstrated how challenges extending beyond individual community boundaries can be addressed through structured dialogue among residents and the joint development of recommendations. The assembly thus provided a practical example of how deliberative democracy can complement traditional mechanisms of intermunicipal cooperation.



1.2. Citizens' assembly at the agglomeration level: a new approach to dialogue between local authorities and residents

One of the best-known and most widely used deliberative democracy mechanisms is the citizens' assembly. It is a structured process that engages citizens in exploring a specific issue of public importance and developing recommendations for public authorities.

Across the world, citizens' assemblies have been used to address issues such as climate policy, constitutional reforms, urban development, healthcare, environmental protection and other areas of public life. Successful international experience demonstrates that engaging citizens in meaningful dialogue can not only lead to better-informed decisions but also strengthen trust in democratic institutions.

A defining feature of citizens' assemblies is the random selection of participants, combined with learning, facilitated deliberation and the development of collective recommendations. From among residents who have registered their interest in taking part, 45–50 people (or more than 100 in the case of national assemblies) are selected through a specially designed lottery process, known as sortition. The selection is designed to reflect the main socio-demographic characteristics of the population, including gender, age, level of education and area of residence. This approach brings together people with diverse experiences, perspectives and personal circumstances, while ensuring that different population groups have a voice, including those who do not usually participate actively in decision-making processes.

A citizens' assembly typically consists of three two-day sessions. First, members are introduced to the topic and receive the information from experts and stakeholders. They then work in small groups, supported by independent facilitators, to analyse the issues, discuss possible solutions and develop their own proposals. The final stage involves developing recommendations, which are submitted to the relevant authorities for consideration and follow-up.

An important strength of the citizens' assembly is its ability to combine citizens' lived experiences with expert knowledge. Assembly members form their views not only on the basis of their own beliefs but also after considering different perspectives, facts and expert input. As a result, recommendations developed through such processes are often practical, balanced and focused on long-term outcomes.

- *For local authorities, a citizens' assembly provides an effective mechanism for engaging residents in shaping policies and decisions that affect community development. For citizens, it offers an opportunity to contribute directly to addressing important local issues, have their voices heard and influence decision-making.*

Deliberative processes are increasingly extending beyond communities to larger cities and metropolitan areas. Paris has a permanent citizens' assembly comprising 100 randomly selected residents who directly contribute to shaping and evaluating city policies and develop proposals that can be submitted to the Paris City Council for consideration. Brussels has a permanent citizens' assembly on Climate at the level of the Brussels-Capital Region, with its membership renewed annually, which contributes recommendations to regional climate policy. Another important example of a metropolitan deliberative process is the Climate Adaptation citizens' assembly of the Lyon Metropolis, which brings together 58 municipalities. In 2024–2025, 105 randomly selected residents identified nine priorities for adapting the metropolitan area to climate change, providing input for the updated metropolitan climate plan.

To strengthen cooperation between local authorities and residents and engage citizens in jointly identifying solutions for preserving and sustainably managing water resources, a citizens' assembly was held in the Lviv agglomeration in 2026, with comprehensive expert, methodological and financial support from the Council of Europe project. The assembly addressed the question: "How can we preserve and use our water resources sustainably?" Water resource management is a particularly pressing issue for the agglomeration, where rivers, groundwater aquifers and other bodies of water extend across the boundaries of several communities and require a coordinated approach to their management.



2. PREPARATION AND PLANNING OF THE CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY OF THE LVIV AGGLOMERATION

2.1. What is the Lviv agglomeration?

The Lviv agglomeration is not an administrative unit with its own budget or a single governing authority. It is a group of neighbouring territorial communities (municipalities) that live and function as an interconnected whole: residents travel between them daily for work, school, medical appointments or family visits; businesses establish offices and production facilities across several communities; and many shared challenges, such as road conditions, air quality, waste management and water supply, extend beyond the boundaries of any single community.

This interdependence is particularly evident when it comes to water resources. The water used by residents of Pustomyty is extracted from a well near Stryi. A river flowing past Zhovkva feeds into a body of water in the Novyi Yarychiv community. Lviv's wastewater treatment facilities process wastewater from several neighbouring villages. None of these challenges can be addressed by a single community acting alone – they require coordination and joint solutions.

This is precisely why agglomerations are established: to facilitate such coordination. An agglomeration is a voluntary association based on shared interests rather than imposed obligations. Each community retains its autonomy, while cooperation enables them to:

- **Attract greater national and international funding**, as EU funds and international donors are often more willing to support projects that benefit an entire agglomeration;
- **Implement major infrastructure projects** that would be beyond the capacity of an individual community, such as wastewater treatment facilities, regional water quality monitoring networks and shared waste processing facilities;
- **Develop coordinated strategies**, such as a joint water management policy that takes into account the fact that the same river may flow through three different communities;
- **Advocate more effectively for their shared interests** at regional and national levels.

The Lviv agglomeration encompasses the city of Lviv and surrounding communities within approximately 30 km of the city's outer boundary. It comprises 18 territorial communities – five urban, five settlement and eight rural communities – covering 351 settlements and home to more than 800,000 residents.

Type	Communities
Urban (5)	Lviv, Zhovkva, Horodok, Pustomyty, Bibrka
Settlement (5)	Ivano-Frankove (Pidhirtsi), Velykyi Liubin, Kulykiv, Novyi Yarychiv, Shchyrets
Rural (8)	Davydiv, Zhovtantsi, Zymna Voda, Murovane, Obroshyne, Pidberiztsi, Sokilnyky, Solonka
Total	18 communities • 351 settlements • over 800,000 residents

Association of Local Authorities “Lviv Agglomeration”

The Association of Local Authorities “Lviv Agglomeration” was officially established on 29 April 2024 and has developed its own Development Strategy until 2027. As of 2026, it brings together 13 communities, including the city of Lviv and 12 other communities: Zhovkva, Horodok, Pustomyty, Bibrka, Velykyi Liubin, Davydiv, Zhovtantsi, Kulykiv, Novyi Yarychiv, Pidberiztsi, Obroshyne and Murovane.

The Association serves as a platform for jointly addressing challenges that extend beyond the boundaries of individual communities. As of 2026, it is implementing five grant-funded projects with the support of international partners. The agglomeration’s economic significance highlights the strategic importance of this cooperation: it accounts for 72% of active enterprises in Lviv Oblast, two-thirds of the region’s capital investment and foreign direct investment, and over 90% of its innovation potential.



2.2. Analysis of water resources in the Lviv agglomeration

For the Lviv agglomeration, water resources mean much more than drinking water from the tap. They include rivers and ponds where families spend their leisure time, groundwater aquifers that supply wells, wetlands that protect against flooding, and sewerage systems whose condition affects the health of entire neighbourhoods. The stability of the agglomeration’s urban and rural infrastructure depends on the availability and safety of its water resources.

The Main European Watershed runs through the agglomeration, dividing rivers that flow west towards the Baltic Sea (the Western Bug basin, including the Poltva, Marunka, Mlynivka and other rivers) from those that flow east towards the Black Sea (the Dniester basin, including the Vereshchytsia, Shchyryka, Zubra, Malechkovycha and other rivers). All of these are small rivers with limited natural self-purification capacity, making them particularly vulnerable to pollution and slow to recover. The condition of most watercourses is a serious concern. In the Malechkovycha River, ammonium nitrogen concentrations have been recorded at four times the permitted limit, cadmium at 3.6 times the limit, and manganese at several dozen times the limit. According to the Vistula River Basin Management Plan, 89% of water bodies in the Western Bug basin are at risk of failing to achieve good ecological status, with a similar situation affecting watercourses in the Dniester basin.

In addition to rivers, the agglomeration has more than 180 ponds and reservoirs, with the highest concentration in the Horodok community. It also contains wetlands that serve as natural regulators in the context of climate change, retaining moisture, filtering water and protecting against floods. Some of these areas already have protected status, including the Bilohorshcha Peatland Landscape Reserve.

Water resource management in Ukraine operates at three levels. At the national level, the Ministry of Economy, Environment and Agriculture of Ukraine and the State Agency of Water Resources of Ukraine are responsible for policymaking and organising water monitoring. At the regional level, regional state administrations and the Western Bug and San River Basin Water Resources Administration oversee compli-

ance with relevant legislation. At the local level, local self-government authorities are responsible for the condition of individual water bodies and riparian areas, as well as the operation of municipal utilities. It is at this level that most environmental protection measures are implemented in practice. An example of an effective local initiative is the project to clear the Zubra riverbed in the Solonka community, implemented with the support of the River Basin Water Resources Administration.

2.3. Defining the citizens' assembly's remit and its mandate

Organising the citizens' assembly of the Lviv agglomeration was a complex process that spanned more than six months. To design and support all stages of the process – from preparation to session delivery – the Council of Europe project engaged international experts from the **Federation for Innovation in Democracy – Europe (FIDE)**, who have extensive experience in organising citizens' assemblies. **Olha Hvozdk**, lead expert, was responsible for ensuring that the deliberative process followed the established methodology and for designing the assembly sessions. **Olha Pylypovych**, PhD in Geography and Associate Professor at Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, provided subject-matter expertise on water resource management.

In planning the citizens' assembly of the Lviv agglomeration, the organisers drew on the experience of previous citizens' assemblies supported by the Council of Europe in the Zviahel, Slavutych and Rivne municipalities, as well as in the Obolon district of Kyiv.

An important milestone in the preparation process was the signing of a **Memorandum of Understanding** between the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and Lviv City Council. The Memorandum formalised the partnership between the parties for planning and holding the citizens' assembly in accordance with the principles of transparency and inclusiveness. The Congress of the Council of Europe committed to providing expert, methodological and financial support for the preparation, organisation and implementation of the citizens' assembly. The Association "Lviv Agglomeration", in turn, undertook to ensure that the assembly would be held and to consider the recommendations developed by its members, identifying the most appropriate ways to translate them into concrete local policies.

The Memorandum was signed on 28 October 2025, during the 49th Session of the Congress, by **Andriy Sadovyi**, Mayor of Lviv and Chair of the Association "Lviv Agglomeration", and **Mathieu Mori**, Secretary General of the Congress.



Stakeholder Forum

To finalise the remit of the citizens' assembly, clarify the main issues to be addressed, and identify the key questions for deliberation, the organisers held a Stakeholder Forum on 12 December 2025. Representatives of the agglomeration's communities, experts and civic activists took part in discussions to jointly identify the main challenges and problems related to water resources. The discussions were facilitated by consultants to the Council of Europe project.

During the Forum, **40 participants representing all communities of the Lviv agglomeration** worked together to agree on the final wording of the assembly's topic, identify the key challenges and issues to be addressed, and determine what essential information should be provided to prospective assembly members to enable them to develop and adopt evidence-based recommendations for local authorities.

Following an open vote, the assembly's topic was agreed as: **"How can we preserve and use our water resources sustainably?"** This wording received the support of 19 participants.

The outcomes of the Forum informed the preparation of information materials for assembly members and the subsequent development of the assembly's agenda. The Forum thus marked an important stage in the preparation process and confirmed the relevance of water resource management as a shared challenge for the agglomeration's communities, requiring coordinated solutions.



2.4. Demographic profile of the agglomeration and preparations for the lottery

To ensure the representative composition of the citizens' assembly, a demographic profile of the Lviv agglomeration was developed. This profile was subsequently used to conduct a random selection (sortition) from among registered prospective participants using Panelot software. The composition of the assembly was based on demographic criteria and a 50/50 allocation of places: 25 places were reserved for residents of the Lviv territorial community and 25 for residents of the other 12 communities. This approach was designed to balance demographic representation with the need to ensure meaningful representation of the smaller communities of the agglomeration, in line with the principles of cooperation among its member communities.

A key principle guiding the composition of the assembly was a 50/50 allocation of places. The organisers decided to reserve 25 places for residents of the Lviv urban community and another 25 for residents of the other 12 communities of the agglomeration.

- **Lviv urban community (25 members)** comprises not only the city of Lviv but also 19 surrounding settlements, including Vynnyky, Briukhovychi, Rudne, Malekhiv, Lysynychi, Pidbirtsi, Dubliany and Hrybovychi. The community has an adult population of approximately 594,000: around 544,000 residents of Lviv's six districts (Halytskyi, Zaliznychnyi, Lychakivskyi, Sykhivskyi, Frankivskyi and Shevchenkivskyi) and approximately 50,000 residents of the surrounding settlements. Places were allocated proportionally among the six city districts based on their population size, with two places reserved separately for residents of the surrounding settlements.
- **The other 12 communities of the agglomeration (25 members):** each of the 11 smaller communities was allocated two places, while the Horodok community received three places as the largest, with an adult population of over 40,000. The total adult population of these 12 communities is approximately 177,000.

The quotas were determined based on gender, age and level of education (due to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100%):

Demographic characteristic	Category	Share	Quota (out of 50)
Age and gender	Men aged 18–24	4%	2
	Women aged 18–24	6%	3
	Men aged 25–34	7%	3
	Women aged 25–34	8%	4
	Men aged 35–44	9%	4
	Women aged 35–44	11%	6
	Men aged 45–54	7%	4
	Women aged 45–54	9%	5
	Men aged 55–64	7%	3
	Women aged 55–64	8%	4
	Men aged 65+	10%	5
	Women aged 65+	13%	7
	Basic secondary education	35%	18
	Higher education	50%	25
Education	Advanced higher education (academic degree)	15%	7
	Lviv urban community	50%	25
	Other 12 communities of the agglomeration	50%	25

Selection quotas for 50 participants

526 Registered
people from all communities

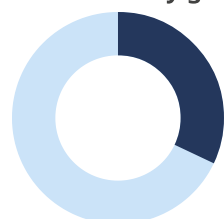
50 Selected
participants

13 Communities
Association members

Lviv urban community — 25 people
City of Lviv (6 districts) + 19 settlements

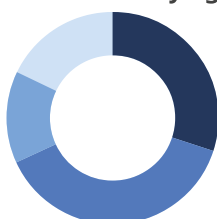
12 communities of the agglomeration — 25 people
2 places each; Horodok — 3 places

Distribution by gender



■ Women — 57% (29)
■ Men — 43% (21)

Distribution by age



■ 18–34 years — 24% (12)
■ 35–54 years — 38% (19)
■ 55–64 years — 14% (7)
■ 65+ years — 24% (12)

Distribution by education



■ Higher education — 50% (25)
■ Basic secondary — 36% (18)
■ Advanced higher — 14% (7)

Registrations by community (top 5)



Recruitment channels (526 people)



2.5. Outreach campaign and registration

In April–May 2026, the Association of Local Authorities “Lviv Agglomeration”, with the support of the Council of Europe project, launched a large-scale outreach campaign to encourage residents of the agglomeration to register for the citizens’ assembly.

To raise awareness of the preparation and conduct of the citizens’ assembly, **a communication plan was developed**, outlining the key stages, messages, communication channels and schedule for disseminating information materials. The campaign targeted residents of all 13 communities of the agglomeration, providing them with detailed information about the purpose and features of the citizens’ assembly, the stages of its preparation and opportunities to get involved.

A dedicated logo was designed for the citizens’ assembly, combining the visual identity of the Lviv agglomeration with the assembly’s topic. An important communication channel was **a dedicated webpage for the citizens’ assembly on the official website of the Association “Lviv Agglomeration”**.



The webpage was regularly updated with information covering all key stages of the process – from the initial announcement and recruitment of prospective participants to the lottery, the three assembly sessions and the presentation of the recommendations developed by its members.

Andriy Sadovyi, Mayor of Lviv and Chair of the Association of Local Authorities “Lviv Agglomeration”, recorded a video message encouraging residents to register for the citizens’ assembly.



Citizens’ assembly webpage
on the Lviv Agglomeration website



Video address by Andriy Sadovyi, Chair of the
Lviv Agglomeration Association and Mayor of Lviv

Citylight advertising displays featuring information about the citizens’ assembly were installed in the largest towns and cities of the agglomeration. In addition, **1,000 information posters** were distributed across settlements in all 13 communities and displayed in places regularly visited by residents, including social and cultural institutions, healthcare facilities and other public spaces. A further **8,000 information leaflets** were distributed among residents of the agglomeration.



A central element of the campaign was the targeted distribution of invitation letters: **10,000 letters** were delivered to household letterboxes across all 13 communities of the agglomeration. The number of letters allocated to each community reflected its population size: **smaller communities distributed 400 letters each** (Velykyi Liubin, Davydiv, Zhovtantsi, Kulykiv, Murovane, Novyi Yarychiv, Obroshyne and Pidberiztsi), while **larger communities distributed 600 letters each** (Bibrka, Zhovkva, Pustomyty and Horodok). The **Lviv urban community was allocated 4,400 letters, of which 4,095 were distributed to residents of the city of Lviv** across its six districts, with the remainder distributed among the community's 19 surrounding settlements in proportion to their population size.






Шановний(а) мешканцю(-ко) Пустомитівської міської громади!

Від імені Пустомитівської міської ради вітаю Вас із тим, що Ви стали одним(ією) із 10 000 мешканців і мешканок Львівської агломерації, яких запрошено до участі в Громадській Асамблеї.

Ваша думка та голос можуть стати ключовими у вирішенні стратегічно важливого для громад Львівської агломерації питання!

У червні-липні 2026 року Львівська агломерація за підтримки проєкту Конгресу Ради Європи «Зміцнення багаторівневого врядування та місцевої демократії для підтримки відновлення України» вперше проведе Громадську Асамблею.

Громадська Асамблея – це інноваційний інструмент залучення громадян до прийняття рішень, що застосовується у багатьох країнах світу, а з 2024 року – і в Україні. Група мешканців і мешканок Львівської агломерації, які відображають її за основними демографічними показниками (вік, стать, освіта, місце проживання тощо), протягом трьох сесій за допомогою експертів вивчатимуть визначену тему та обговорюватимуть її в групах, після чого **напрацюють рекомендації для органів влади**. Влада зобов'язується взяти ці рекомендації до уваги.

Тема: «Як ми можемо зберегти та раціонально використовувати наші водні ресурси?»

Дати: 13-14 червня, 27-28 червня, 11-12 липня 2026 року (орієнтовно з 10:00 до 17:00).

Це запрошення надіслано 10 000 мешканців і мешканок Львівської агломерації випадковим чином. Із числа тих, хто зареєструється до участі в Асамблеї, **50 осіб буде відібрано шляхом жеребкування за спеціальною методикою.**



Запрошуємо реєструватися до **10 травня 2026 року** одним із зручних для Вас способів:

- за допомогою QR-коду;
- особисто у канцелярії міської ради або у Львові, пл. Ринок, 1, каб. 122 (понеділок-п'ятниця у робочий час);
- за номером телефону: (067) 100 32 33 (понеділок-п'ятниця у робочий час).

Експертну, фінансову та організаційну підтримку надає проєкт Конгресу Ради Європи. **За кошти проєкту передбачена грошова винагорода у сумі 3000 гривень за участь у Громадській Асамблеї (за три сесії, по два дні кожна).** Під час усіх днів буде забезпечено обіди та кави-перекуси. Сесії Громадської Асамблеї відбуватимуться у центральній частині Львова. Приміщення для проведення Асамблеї буде доступним для людей, які користуються кріслами колісними, та забезпечене укриттям на випадок погіршення погоди. Ваша участь у всіх трьох сесіях є обов'язковою для забезпечення безперервності обговорень і досягнення змістовних результатів.

Детальну інформацію щодо програми, місця проведення та інших організаційних питань буде повідомлено додатково всім відібраним шляхом жеребкування учасникам.

“Цей лист є запрошенням стати кандидатом на участь у Громадській Асамблеї для будь-яких двох осіб, які проживають у Вашому домогосподарстві та досягли повноліття (18 років).”

З повагою
Міський голова

Олег СЕРНЯК



The invitation letters provided information about the topic and format of the citizens' assembly, the dates of its sessions, participation requirements and registration options. Using the QR code included in the invitation, up to two adult residents from the same household could register. Residents were also informed that the Council of Europe project provides an honorarium for the time spent participating in the assembly (in line with European and global practice regarding citizens' assemblies), amounting to UAH 3,000 for participation in three sessions.

At the same time, registration was open to all adult residents of the communities, regardless of whether they had received an invitation letter. This meant that anyone who learnt about the assembly through other communication channels could also apply to participate.

Employees of executive authorities, community leadership representatives, members of executive committees, employees of municipal enterprises, institutions and organisations established or co-established by city, settlement or village councils, as well as members of the respective local councils, were not eligible to register.

Registration was open from **10 April to 10 May 2026**. Residents could apply in three ways: by completing an online registration form, calling +380 67 100 32 33, or registering in person in Lviv at 1 Rynok Square, Office 122. Residents could also register in person in their own communities, with the exact location available by telephone.

During the registration period, **526 residents** of the agglomeration's communities registered to participate in the assembly. Of these, 292 registered in response to invitation letters, while 234 registered through the public outreach campaign.

The Council of Europe project's experts put together an **information kit**, which was sent to the selected members of the citizens' assembly ahead of its first session. The kit provided information on the citizens' assembly as an instrument of deliberative democracy, its advantages and how it differs from other forms of civic participation. It also provided background information on water resources in the Lviv agglomeration and the key challenges related to their preservation and sustainable use. These materials helped assembly members develop a basic understanding of the topic and prepare for the discussions during the sessions. Although primarily designed for assembly members, the kit may also serve as a useful resource for the wider population of the 13 communities of the Lviv agglomeration.



2.6. Supervisory Committee: ensuring the transparency and impartiality of the process

A Supervisory Committee was established to safeguard the independence and transparency of the process. On 6 February 2026, Andriy Sadovyi, Mayor of Lviv and Chair of the Association "Lviv Agglomeration", signed Order No. 40 approving the composition of the Supervisory Committee of the citizens' assembly of the Lviv agglomeration.

The role of the Supervisory Committee was to oversee the deliberative process and assess whether all its stages complied with the established rules and standards. Its responsibilities included monitoring the transparency and quality of all processes related to the preparation and conduct of the assembly, overseeing the recruitment and selection of assembly members, and reviewing complaints concerning potential violations. At the same time, the Supervisory Committee did not interfere with the content of discussions or participate in developing recommendations.

The Supervisory Committee comprised representatives of local self-government authorities, the expert community and civil society organisations:

- **Liubomyr Zubach** – Deputy Mayor of Lviv for Urban Development;
- **Oleh Serniak** – Mayor of Pustomyty territorial community;
- **Volodymyr Luchyshyn** – Member of Lviv City Council and Chair of its Standing Committee on Ecology, Natural Resources Management and Energy Conservation;

- **Roman Kizyma** – Executive Director of the Association “Lviv Agglomeration”;
- **Mariana Kobryn** – Representative of the youth civil society organisation “Ukrainian Union of Young Geographers”;
- **Nataliia Kruta** – Deputy Head of the Western Bug and San River Basin Water Resources Administration of the State Agency of Water Resources of Ukraine;
- **Vasyl Poluiko** – President of the CSO Development Foundation “Western Ukrainian Resource Centre”.

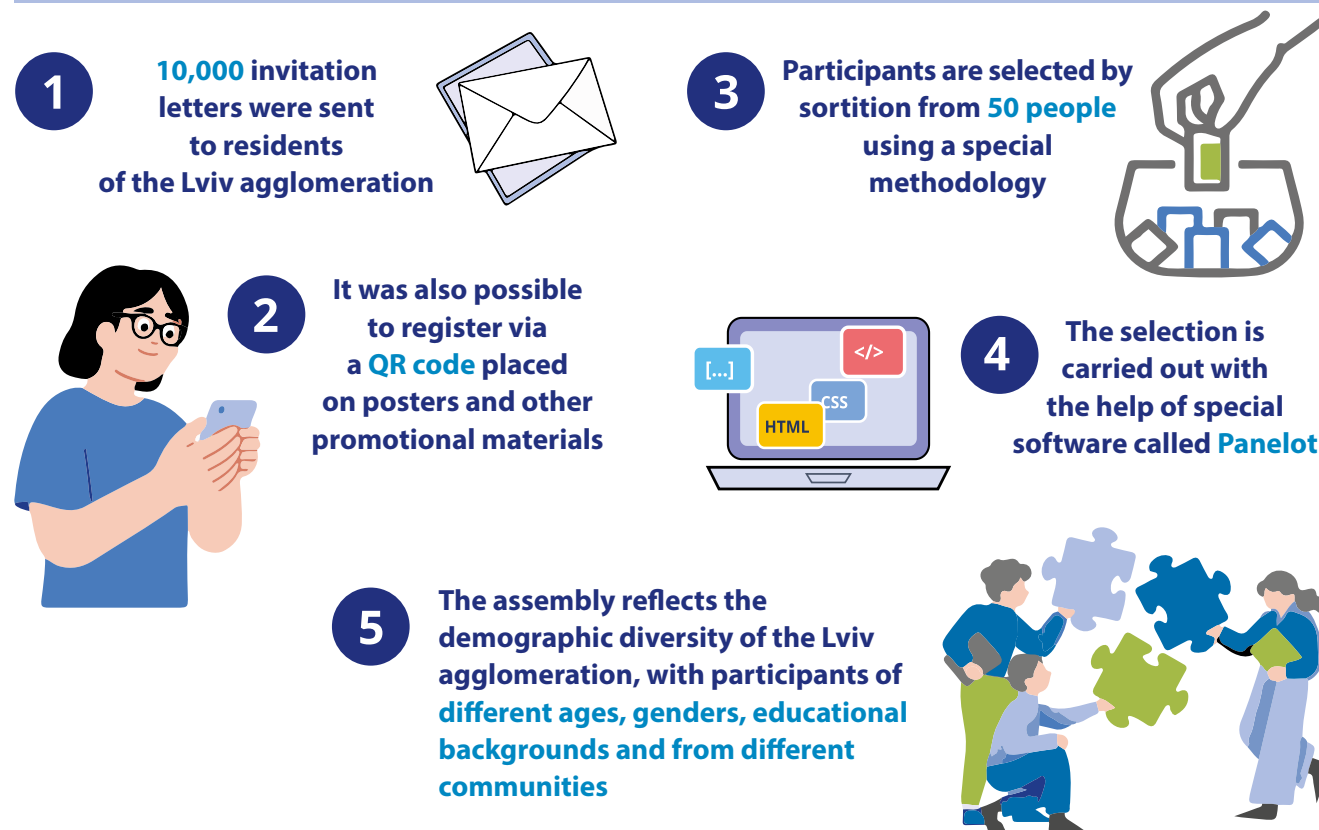
Assembly members could contact the Supervisory Committee if they had any concerns about the transparency of the process or potential breaches of the established rules. Throughout the entire assembly process, from the preparatory stage to the conclusion of the sessions, the Supervisory Committee recorded no concerns regarding compliance with the established procedures or violations in the conduct of the assembly.

2.7. Recruitment of the assembly members

Before conducting the lottery using *Panelot*, open-source software designed for the random and representative selection of participants in citizens’ assemblies, citizens’ juries and other deliberative processes, quotas and the minimum and maximum numbers of participants in each demographic subgroup were established. These were calculated based on the demographic profiles of the agglomeration’s communities, taking into account gender, age, level of education, internally displaced person (IDP) status, and community and settlement of residence.

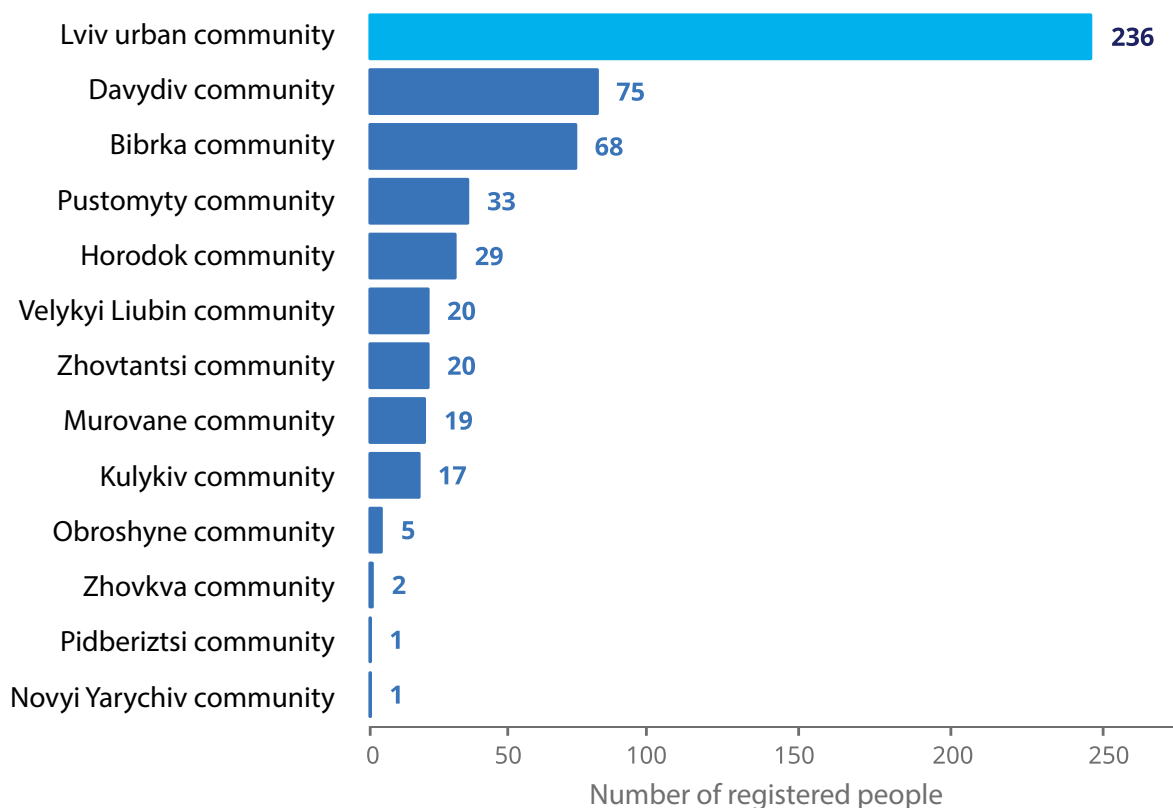


How are participants selected for the citizens’ assembly?

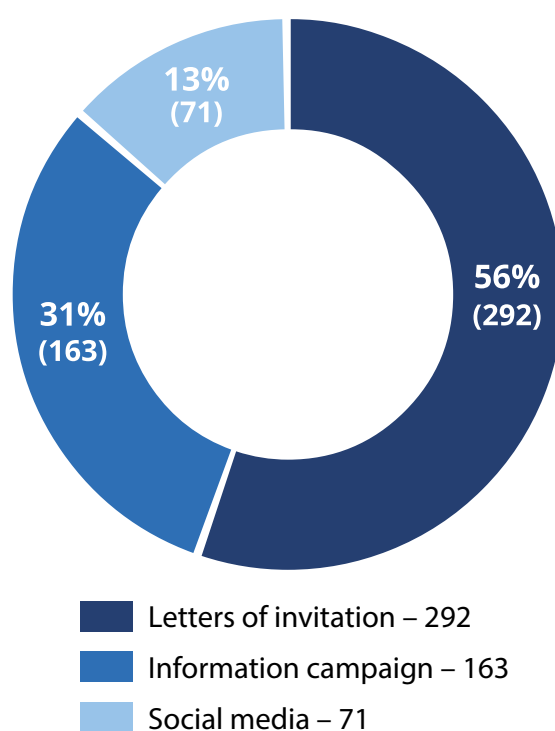


A total of **526 people** from all communities of the agglomeration registered to participate in the citizens' assembly. **The highest numbers of registrations came from Lviv (236), the Davydiv community (75) and the Bibrka community (68).**

Number of registrations by community (total 526)



Registration channels (total 526)





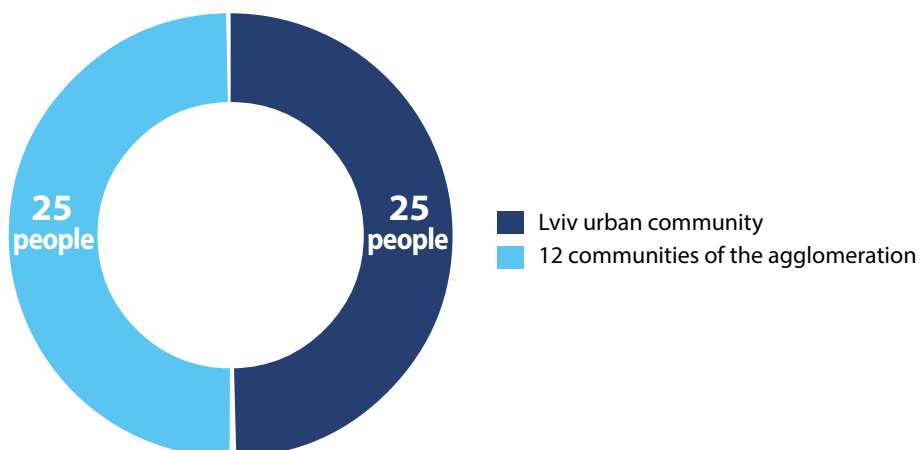
At the end of May 2026, the lottery was conducted using *Panelot* software by a consultant to the Council of Europe project, in the presence of representatives of the project and the Association “Lviv Agglomeration”. Importantly, **the list of registered applicants was uploaded to the software in anonymised form**, without names, surnames or telephone numbers. The software only processed data on gender, age, level of education, internally displaced person (IDP) status, and community and settlement of residence.

Panelot generated over 500 possible combinations of assembly members that met the established representativeness criteria. One combination of 50 people was then selected using the random selection service *random.org*: 25 residents of the Lviv urban community and 25 residents of the other 12 communities of the agglomeration.

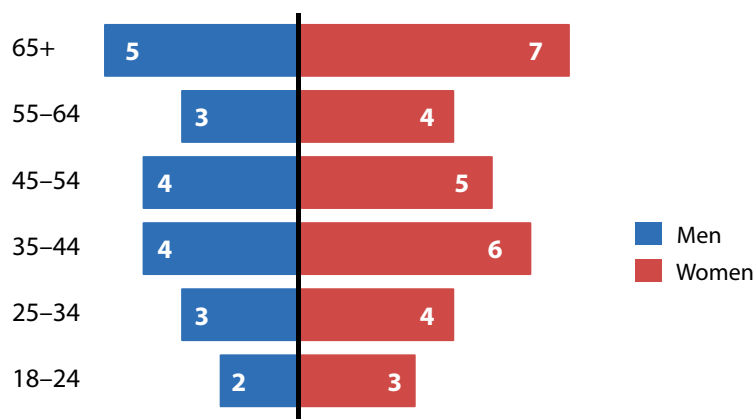
The coordination team contacted all selected participants by telephone to confirm their participation. Some were unable to take part due to personal circumstances and were therefore replaced by residents with similar demographic profiles through additional rounds of sortition using *Panelot*. Once all replacements had been confirmed, the final composition of the citizens’ assembly was established, comprising 50 members.

The selection process used random selection and demographic criteria to bring together a diverse group, with a deliberate allocation of half of the places to the Lviv territorial community and half to the other 12 member communities of the Association “Lviv Agglomeration”.

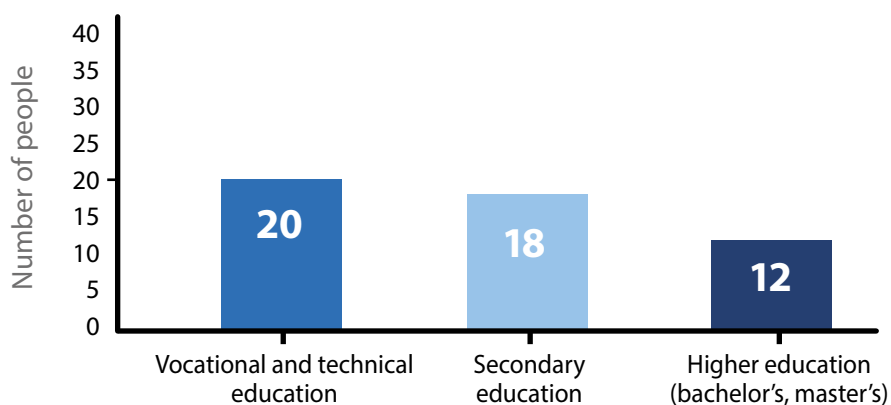
Final composition of the assembly — 50 people



Distribution of the final assembly members by gender and age (50 people)



Educational level of assembly members



3. HOLDING THE CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY OF THE LVIV AGGLOMERATION

3.1. Methodology and reasoning behind the setting of day-by-day agenda

The programme of the citizens' assembly of the Lviv agglomeration was designed to guide members through a gradual progression from exploring the issues and developing a shared understanding to identifying and prioritising solutions. Water resource management and wastewater disposal are complex, technical subjects involving engineering, environmental, financial and governance aspects, most of which were unfamiliar to assembly members in their everyday lives. For this reason, members were deliberately not expected to propose solutions from the outset. Instead, the initial focus was on building a sufficient shared knowledge base and understanding of the issues before moving on to discussing alternatives, constraints and possible courses of action.

The assembly was the first in Ukraine to take place at the agglomeration (metropolitan) level rather than within a single community or district. It brought together residents from 13 communities to address the question: "How can we preserve and use our water resources sustainably?"

Each of the three two-day sessions had a distinct methodological focus, while building logically on the previous session and laying the groundwork for the next stage of the process:

Session	Focus	Session Activities	Outcome
Session 1. 13–14 June 2026	Introduction to the topic and identification of challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official opening of the assembly and introduction to its format and mandate. • "13 Perspectives on Water Resources": presentations by all 13 communities of the agglomeration. • Mapping exercise to identify valuable water-related sites and problem areas ("hotspots"). • Adoption of shared ground rules. • Speed-dialogue sessions with seven experts. • Identification and prioritisation of key challenges. 	Seven thematic areas identified, key challenges defined, and permanent thematic working groups (tables) established.
Session 2. 27–28 June 2026	In-depth analysis and idea generation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refining problem statements using four key questions. • Analysing the causes and consequences of problems and developing a vision for the desired future. • Exchanging and building on ideas across groups through a Carousel exercise. • Study visit to a wastewater treatment facility. • Speed-dialogue sessions with experts. • Defining criteria for a "good solution". • Generating ideas across six areas. • Developing solutions through the World Café format. • Checking the factual basis and feasibility of proposed ideas, followed by preliminary selection. 	More than 30 initial ideas for solutions developed across the seven thematic groups.

Session	Focus	Session Activities	Outcome
Session 3. 11–12 July 2026	Refinement of proposals and final voting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing each idea using the structured “From Idea to Solution” template. • Preliminary assessment of ideas through an indicative vote using coloured stickers (green / yellow / red). • Question-and-answer session with experts on the feasibility of proposed solutions. • Refining proposals and selecting three priority solutions from each working group for further discussion. • Final presentations of all developed solutions. • Presentation of water sample analysis results. • Voting on the recommendations via secret ballot using a five-point rating scale. 	Final set of recommendations for the local self-government authorities of the Lviv agglomeration developed (see Section 4 for details).

➤ Exploring the topic and developing a shared understanding

The first day focused not on analysing the issues directly, but on understanding the broader context in which they arise. Assembly members were first introduced to the key characteristics of the Lviv agglomeration: its geographical boundaries, its composition of 13 communities, its legal status and governance arrangements. Only then was the rationale for selecting water resources as the topic of the citizens’ assembly presented.

This sequence was deliberate: understanding the institutional and governance framework was essential before exploring the issues themselves, as it provided the context for meaningful discussions about powers, responsibilities and opportunities for joint action among communities.

This was followed by a session entitled **“13 Perspectives on Water Resources”**, during which each community presented its situation using a common structure: its most important water resource, existing good practices, the main challenge, the need for cooperation with other communities and measures already taken.

The standardised presentation format shifted the focus from showcasing individual communities to examining and comparing their experiences. This helped assembly members identify shared challenges, differences between communities and potential opportunities for cooperation.

Individual reflection and collective mapping exercises were also integrated into the programme. After each presentation, members recorded the good practices and challenges they considered most significant. They then translated the information into a spatial perspective by placing coloured sticky notes on a map of the agglomeration to identify valuable water bodies and successful practices, as well as areas at risk, pollution hotspots and damaged infrastructure.

Throughout the first day, assembly members also rotated between working tables, exploring different perspectives on the topic and engaging with different people. By the end of the second day of Session 1, seven thematic areas had been identified and prioritised through dot voting. Each member then independently chose the thematic area they wished to explore further, based on their interests, with a maximum of seven to eight participants per table. The working groups formed in this way remained unchanged throughout Sessions 2 and 3.

➤ Learning from experts: progressive and member-led

Expert input was deliberately organised as interactive exchanges rather than lectures. Instead, rotating **“speed dialogues”** were used, with seven minutes allocated to each expert’s presentation followed by seven minutes for questions and answers. Assembly members remained at their tables while experts

moved from one table to another. This approach enabled each group to engage with all invited experts in turn and ask their own questions, making expert input a direct dialogue rather than a passive listening exercise.

This format was used on three occasions, each time progressing from a broad introduction to the issues towards increasingly specific and practical discussions.

On the second day of Session 1, seven expert stations covered different aspects of the topic: the condition of water bodies, resident engagement, flooding, wastewater, drinking water, recreation and water resource management at the agglomeration level.

During Session 2, the same seven thematic areas were explored from a more practical perspective, focusing on how communities implement water infrastructure projects, what technical solutions are used in practice and what funding opportunities are available.

By Session 3, the interaction had become even more targeted: experts responded to specific questions developed by the working groups after reviewing feedback on their proposed solutions.

This progression – from **“what is it?”** to **“how is it implemented?”** and ultimately **“will our particular idea work?”** – enabled members to deepen their understanding step by step. Each subsequent interaction with experts built on the knowledge and insights that members had already developed through their own reflection and discussions.



► Exploring the issues from different perspectives

The expert stations were deliberately designed to cover different types of knowledge and perspectives on the same issues, rather than focusing solely on engineering aspects. The technical and design perspective was provided by specialists in wastewater treatment facilities and local treatment systems (ZIKO and TEKOS companies); the governance and institutional perspective by representatives of state environmental supervision bodies, agglomeration authorities and community heads sharing their experience of project implementation; the financial perspective by experts in cross-border funding (Interreg NEXT) and, during the final session, through the presentation of specific household co-financing mechanisms; the environmental and conservation perspective by specialists in the condition of water bodies and river basin management; the behavioural and communication perspective by experts in civic oversight and resident engagement; and the socio-economic and recreational perspective by representatives of the tourism sector and civil society organisations working on access to water bodies.

This diversity of perspectives was not treated as a separate exercise but was embedded in the design of the expert input from the outset. Regardless of which thematic area each group subsequently chose to focus on, every table had the opportunity to explore all aspects of the issues presented and hear different points of view.

► Practical learning through direct observation

The study visit to the leachate and wastewater treatment facility at the Hrybovychi landfill site provided an opportunity for assembly members to connect the knowledge gained from experts with direct obser-

vation of real infrastructure. The visit was not designed as a conventional guided tour. Instead, each table appointed a rapporteur responsible for completing a structured field observation sheet addressing four questions: **What do we see? What surprised us? What challenges do we observe? What lessons can we draw for our assembly topic?**

The final question explicitly encouraged members to relate their observations to their group's specific thematic area, rather than treating the visit as an isolated experience. The following morning, the experience was immediately integrated into the next stage of work: the day's first activity involved a structured reflection on **"What did I take away from yesterday's visit?"** before moving on to new material.

➤ **Integrating members' local knowledge and lived experiences**

Members' personal and local experiences were integrated throughout the process rather than addressed in a separate activity. The "13 Perspectives" session drew directly on each member's knowledge of their own community. The mapping exercise required participants to connect general information with specific locations familiar to them. A paired exercise at the beginning of Session 2 – **"How has your understanding of the topic changed over the past two weeks?"** – encouraged members to reflect on their personal learning rather than abstract knowledge.

Perhaps the most tangible way of integrating personal experience was the invitation for members to bring water samples from their own households (wells or boreholes) for independent analysis. The results were presented during the final session, allowing members' individual contributions to develop alongside the broader assembly process.

➤ **Moving from learning to deliberation**

The transition from gathering information to deliberation was clearly defined in the methodology. An initial activity entitled **"What is a problem?"** explicitly introduced members to the distinction between a problem, its underlying causes and possible solutions before they were asked to identify problems themselves. This helped prevent members from moving directly to ready-made solutions without first analysing the issues.

Each identified problem then went through several successive stages:

- Open collection of ideas without initial filtering;
- Grouping similar ideas and removing duplicates;
- Distinguishing between issues requiring action at local and national levels;
- Prioritising the top three to five issues at each table;
- Presenting the prioritised issues and conducting dot voting in plenary;
- Agreeing on the final seven thematic areas.

This gradual narrowing of the focus, rather than making a single selection at the outset, helped ensure that members recognised the final thematic areas as the outcome of their own collective work, rather than a framework imposed on them.

The transition to generating solutions was equally deliberate. Before proposing their own ideas, each group first defined the criteria for a "good solution" – the standards against which proposals would be assessed. This provided members with a shared basis for evaluating ideas and helped avoid a common challenge in participatory processes: generating a large number of proposals without agreed criteria for assessing their quality and feasibility.

➤ **Progressive development of proposals**

The journey from an initial idea to a final recommendation involved at least six stages of refinement. It began with individual brainstorming, without criticism or immediate evaluation, across six areas: services, communication, partnerships, procedures and regulations, public spaces, as well as people and capacities.

Members then shared and clustered their ideas at their tables before moving into a **World Café** exercise. During this activity, they rotated between tables, explored the work of other groups, provided

written feedback and highlighted the strongest ideas, while retaining membership of their original thematic groups.

Each idea was subsequently assessed against three key questions: Does it address the underlying cause of the problem rather than merely its symptoms? Is it feasible for the community or agglomeration? Does it meet the agreed criteria?

The ideas were then further developed using a structured **“From Idea to Solution”** template, which required groups to answer four questions: *What will be done? Who is it intended to benefit? Who will be responsible for implementation? What should the first step be?*

The next stage involved an indicative vote using coloured sticky notes: green for **“I support this”**, yellow for **“I have questions”**, and red for **“I propose rejecting or substantially revising this idea”**. Importantly, every expression of disagreement had to be accompanied by a written explanation.

Each successive stage introduced an additional form of scrutiny: social (Do others agree?), factual (Is the proposal based on accurate information?) and structural (Is it sufficiently specific?). An idea could only progress once it had undergone these different forms of review.

➤ Expert support during the development of recommendations

A defining feature of the final stage was the progressively more limited role of experts as the assembly moved closer to making decisions. During Session 3, experts no longer delivered presentations but responded only to specific questions formulated by the working groups themselves. Expert involvement therefore focused not on shaping decisions, but on providing members with the information needed to critically assess and refine their proposals.

The questions were formulated by members after reviewing the concerns and comments recorded on yellow and red sticky notes in response to their proposed solutions. Experts were given a maximum of three to four minutes to answer each question, were required to address only the specific issue raised, and could respond to one follow-up question.

The facilitator then asked the group whether any expert response had changed their position. In this way, the final decision on whether to refine, merge or discard an idea remained with the members at the table rather than the expert.

Similarly, during the assessment of ideas in Session 2, members independently evaluated their proposals against the agreed criteria, including whether a proposed solution addressed the underlying cause of a problem rather than merely its symptoms. Experts provided factual information and explained existing constraints – financial, regulatory and technical – but did not participate in formulating the solutions themselves.

- An important methodological principle throughout the process was that facilitators provided a structured framework for discussions, while assembly members themselves determined their content and priorities. The programme of each subsequent session was adapted based on feedback received after the previous one.



3.2. The roles of experts, facilitators and stakeholders

The Council of Europe project engaged facilitators with previous experience in facilitating citizens' assemblies, who had also received training from international experts from the Federation for Innovation in Democracy – Europe (FIDE). Lead facilitator **Oleksandr Solontai** was responsible for moderating the assembly sessions and coordinating the work of seven facilitators assigned to individual tables. The facilitators – **Iryna Shelep, Nataliia Malynovska, Tetiana Popova, Svitlana Tarasova, Olena Khmelnyk, Serhii Harashchuk and Bohdana Beschastna** – ensured constructive and balanced discussions, encouraged equal participation by all assembly members and helped groups move from exchanging views to developing shared, well-reasoned recommendations. Adhering to the principle of neutrality, facilitators refrained from expressing their own views on the issues under discussion or influencing members' positions and decisions.

The preparation and implementation of the assembly were supported by **Kyle Redman** (FIDE), an international consultant to the Council of Europe, who attended the second session and commended the high level of member engagement and the quality of discussions.

An important part of the assembly was the involvement of a wide range of invited speakers, including heads of the agglomeration's communities, subject-matter experts, and representatives of municipal utilities, public authorities and civil society organisations. Their role was to provide assembly members with balanced, comprehensive and reliable information, enabling them to form their own informed opinions and develop evidence-based recommendations. In total, **13 subject-matter experts** contributed to the assembly across its three sessions.



Session 1, Day 1 (13 June): Official opening

Speaker	Role / Topic of Presentation
Liubomyr Zubach	Deputy Mayor of Lviv for Urban Development – welcome address
Cecilia Dalman Eek	President of the Chamber of Regions of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (online) – welcome address
Oleh Volskyi	Mayor of Zhovkva
Yosyf Fabryha	Head of Velykyi Liubin Settlement Council
Petro Sokolovskyi	Head of Novyi Yarychiv Settlement Council
Vasyl Koval	Head of Pidberiztsi Village Council
Daryna Sokolova	Senior Project Officer, Council of Europe project “Strengthening multilevel governance and local democracy to support Ukraine’s recovery” – introduction to the citizens’ assembly tool and its mandate

Speaker	Role / Topic of Presentation
Roman Kizyma	Executive Director of the Association “Lviv Agglomeration” – introduction to the Lviv agglomeration
Myroslav Tsupruk, Viktoriiia Tkachenko	Members of the citizens’ assemblies in the Rivne community and Kyiv’s Obolon district (online) – sharing experiences from previous assemblies

Session 1, Day 2 (14 June): Speed-dialogue sessions with experts

Station Topic	Expert
Lakes, rivers and the ecological condition of water bodies	Olha Pylypovych, PhD in Geography, Associate Professor, Department of Physical Geography and Cartography, Ivan Franko National University of Lviv
Resident engagement and civic oversight	Sofia Shutiak, Lawyer, Deputy Chair of the Committee on Agricultural, Land and Environmental Law of the Ukrainian National Bar Association, Analyst at the City Institute
Floods, inundation and risk management	Roman Tutyskiy, Head of the Western Bug and San Rivers Basin Water Resources Administration
Wastewater and sewerage	Iryna Myronova, Executive Director and Co-founder of Zero Waste Lviv
Access to safe drinking water	Khrystyna Ternovetska, Environmental Expert, Environmental Monitoring Department, Lvivvodokanal Municipal Utility
Recreation, access to water bodies and business	Taras Biloshynskyi, Founder and President of the Manivtsi NGO
Water resource management in the agglomeration	Oleksandra Sladkova, Deputy Director of the Economic Development Department of Lviv City Council, developer of the “Lviv Water Vision”

Session 2, Day 4 (28 June): Expert stations

Station Topic	Expert
How communities implement water infrastructure projects	Oleh Serniak, Mayor of Pustomyty community
Modernisation of wastewater networks	Nataliia Voitsekhovska, First Deputy Mayor of Chortkiv community
Septic tanks and local wastewater treatment facilities: benefits, risks and alternatives	Olha Rubai, Head of the Environmental Engineering Department at ZIKO
State environmental supervision and monitoring of water resources	Roman Kohut, Head of the State Environmental Supervision (Control) Division for Water Resources, State Environmental Inspectorate in Lviv Region
Design and construction of water treatment facilities	Roman Zafiovskyi, Deputy Director of TEKOS LLC
Cross-border cooperation and international funding for water projects	Olena Zubrytska, Senior Expert, Representation of the Joint Secretariat of the Interreg NEXT Poland–Ukraine 2021–2027 Programme
Water education and environmentally responsible behaviour	Olha Pylypovych, Ivan Franko National University of Lviv

Session 3, Day 5 (11 July): Q&A Session with experts

Expert	Role
Roman Kizyma	Executive Director of the Association “Lviv Agglomeration”
Roman Tutskyi	Head of the Western Bug and San Rivers Basin Water Resources Administration
Tetiana Paliukh	Chief Specialist, Environmental Protection Division, Department of Ecology and Natural Resources, Lviv City Council

3.3. From introduction to the topic to developing recommendations: the three sessions of the assembly

The citizens’ assembly followed a structured approach, moving from broader issues to more specific solutions. Over six days, assembly members progressed through all stages of the deliberative process: exploring the issues, analysing their causes and consequences, developing ideas for solutions, and ultimately refining and adopting the final recommendations. Members were divided into seven small working groups, each focusing on a specific thematic area:

Table	Thematic area
1	Lack of wastewater treatment facilities or outdated infrastructure; septic tanks that do not comply with building regulations; inadequate wastewater disposal systems in areas with private housing
2	Lack of centralised sewerage systems in settlements; insufficient wastewater treatment facilities and sewage collection vehicles
3	Lack of designated bodies responsible for monitoring water quality and the condition of water bodies at the community level; lack of penalties for improper wastewater disposal
4	Water pollution resulting from low public awareness of the consequences of improper wastewater disposal
5	Lack of communication between residents, experts and public authorities on water resource management
6	Lack of innovative rainwater reuse projects and limited understanding of the importance of water resource conservation
7	Lack of subsidies for residents, particularly vulnerable groups, to connect to centralised sewerage systems

Session 1. Exploring the topic (13–14 June 2026)

The first session began with an official opening, featuring welcome addresses by **Liubomyr Zubach**, Deputy Mayor of Lviv, and **Cecilia Dalman Eek**, President of the Chamber of Regions of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (online). Heads of other communities of the agglomeration also expressed their support for the process.

The main objective of the first day was to hear from each of the 13 communities. During the “**13 perspectives on water resources**” session, municipal representatives openly shared their experiences and specific challenges, following a common presentation structure. In the afternoon, assembly members took part in a practical mapping exercise, using blue and yellow sticky notes to mark valuable water bodies, recreational areas, hotspots, risks and pollution sites on a map of the agglomeration.

Assembly members also collectively agreed on a set of rules for working together. In addition, they were invited to bring water samples from their households to subsequent sessions for independent analysis.

The second day focused on “speed dialogues” with seven experts at thematic stations covering lakes and rivers, citizen engagement, flooding, wastewater, drinking water, recreation and water resource manage-



ment at the agglomeration level. Following a series of intensive discussions, members identified key problems at their tables and used dot voting to prioritise the most pressing issues. This process resulted in the identification of seven thematic areas, which formed the basis for the work of stable thematic working groups established at the end of the day.

Session 2. In-depth analysis and idea generation (27–28 June 2026)

The second session focused on moving from theory to practical solutions. Working groups refined their problem statements using a structured set of questions: **What problem do we see? Where does it occur? How does it manifest itself? Why does it matter for the entire agglomeration?** They also analysed the causes and consequences of the identified problems and developed a vision of the desired future over the next 5–10 years.

An integral part of the first day was a study visit to the Hrybovychi landfill site, a former waste disposal site currently undergoing rehabilitation. Members observed first-hand how modern leachate and wastewater treatment systems operate, learnt about waste sorting and the reuse of treated water, and were intro-



duced to plans to establish Ukraine's first golf course designed to support the rehabilitation of veterans receiving care at the UNBROKEN Centre, alongside a publicly accessible recreational area.

The second day began with consultations at seven expert stations involving community heads, representatives of municipal utilities, infrastructure designers and international donors. The groups then established five criteria each for a "good solution" and generated ideas across six areas: services, communication, partnerships, procedures and regulations, spaces, and people and capacities.

Using the **World Café** method, members further developed their ideas with input from other tables. The day concluded with checks on the factual basis and feasibility of the proposed ideas, followed by a preliminary selection of the strongest proposals. By the end of the session, members had developed an initial set of more than 30 proposed solutions covering services, communication, spatial development, regulatory procedures and intermunicipal partnerships.

Session 3. Refining solutions and final voting (11–12 July 2026)

The final session began with each group developing its five shortlisted ideas using a common structured **"From Idea to Solution"** template, which outlined the implementation mechanism, target group, responsible bodies and first steps.

Following presentations by all working groups, members took part in an indicative vote using coloured sticky notes. The groups then reviewed the feedback received and formulated specific questions for experts.

During a dedicated question-and-answer session, representatives of the Association "Lviv Agglomeration", the River Basin Water Resources Administration and Lviv City Council responded to members' questions, helping them assess the feasibility of their proposed solutions. Based on this feedback and expert input, each group refined its proposals and selected three priority recommendations that had been developed in the greatest detail for the final vote.



On the second day, all recommendations were presented using a common structure: the title, target group and problem to be addressed, implementation mechanism, responsible body and level of implementation – individual community or agglomeration.

Following the presentation of recommendations addressing agglomeration-level issues, members proceeded to a **secret ballot using a five-point rating scale**, with each member rating every recommendation individually. The voting results and the final list of adopted recommendations are presented in Section 4 of this report.

In addition, members completed **"I Want to Get Involved" cards**, indicating which recommendations they would be willing to help implement through their own efforts and personal involvement.

The session concluded with addresses by representatives of the communities' local self-government authorities, who identified specific recommendations they were prepared to consider, followed by a formal certificate presentation to assembly members.



3.4. Member feedback and adjustments to the agenda

At the end of each day, assembly members provided feedback using the **“Stop /Start/Continue”** format, while facilitators recorded their observations in structured reports. These included assessments of member engagement, clarity of tasks, balance of participation and group dynamics, as well as detailed activity-by-activity records. The coordination team systematically used this information to adjust the programmes of subsequent sessions.

At the end of the second day, each group identified specific information it still needed to gain a deeper understanding of its thematic area, using **“What Are We Still Missing?”** cards. Based on these requests, the organising team prepared tailored information sheets for each table, which members reviewed at the beginning of Session 3 during an **“Information Lab”** activity. Similarly, the questions formulated by groups following the indicative vote on the fifth day of the assembly were used directly to structure the question-and-answer session with experts the following day.

Facilitators also identified several practical issues that the organising team took into account in its subsequent work. In particular, they highlighted the need for a clearer and more standardised structure for presentations by community representatives, as some speakers avoided discussing challenging issues. They also recommended improving the map of the agglomeration by adding rivers, lakes and ponds.

Facilitators unanimously reported high levels of member engagement and motivation throughout the process. They also observed that members were eager to move from analysing problems to identifying ready-made solutions as quickly as possible. This required additional facilitation to help groups remain focused on the objectives of each stage. At the same time, facilitators noted that members tended to place greater trust in independent experts and practitioners than in representatives of public authorities. This observation informed the selection of speakers for subsequent sessions.

3.5. The assembly’s findings: problems, causes and a vision for change

Over the course of three sessions, assembly members conducted an in-depth analysis of water resource management challenges in the Lviv agglomeration. Drawing on expert presentations, input from community representatives, the study visit and the structured deliberative process, they identified a set of specific problems across each of the seven thematic areas.

Thematic area	Key challenges identified by assembly members
Wastewater treatment facilities and septic tanks	A significant proportion of private housing lacks adequate wastewater disposal systems, with households relying on outdated or unauthorised septic tanks that do not comply with building regulations. Lack of clear alternatives to septic tanks for households. Insufficient co-financing mechanisms for the construction or modernisation of wastewater treatment facilities.

Thematic area	Key challenges identified by assembly members
Centralised sewerage systems	Most settlements within the agglomeration are not served by centralised sewerage systems. Insufficient number and capacity of wastewater treatment facilities and sewage collection vehicles. Unclear cost estimates and funding sources for centralised sewerage projects.
Water quality monitoring and penalties	Lack of designated bodies responsible for monitoring water quality and the condition of water bodies at the community level. Lack of penalties for improper wastewater disposal by residents, agricultural enterprises and businesses. Limitations in existing legislation that make pollution monitoring and enforcement more difficult.
Public awareness	Low public awareness of the consequences of improper household wastewater disposal. Lack of systematic environmental education and awareness-raising activities. Insufficient visual information illustrating changes in the condition of water bodies over time.
Communication between communities, experts and authorities	Lack of effective communication between residents, experts and public authorities on the condition of water resources. Insufficient clear and accessible data on water resources across the agglomeration. Limited public awareness of civic initiatives working in this area.
Innovative solutions and rainwater management	Lack of implemented innovative rainwater reuse projects. Shortage of practical solutions such as constructed wetlands for natural wastewater treatment. Limited public understanding of the importance of preserving water resources in the long term.
Financial support for vulnerable groups	Lack of subsidies or preferential financing for vulnerable population groups to connect to centralised sewerage systems. High costs of household connections to sewerage networks. Insufficient information for residents about available connection options.

Despite the diversity of thematic areas, assembly members identified several cross-cutting challenges that repeatedly emerged in discussions across most of the seven working groups.



- **Lack of adequate wastewater disposal systems in areas with private housing.** Only some settlements within the agglomeration have access to centralised sewerage systems, while others rely on outdated or unauthorised septic tanks, cesspits or local treatment systems that do not comply with building regulations. This issue emerged as a common concern in three of the seven thematic groups and formed the basis for the largest number of final recommendations.
- **Insufficient monitoring and accountability for pollution.** Members repeatedly highlighted the absence of dedicated bodies responsible for monitoring water quality at the community level, as well as the lack of penalties for improper wastewater disposal by residents, agricultural enterprises and businesses. This gap was identified as one of the root causes of pollution affecting the agglomeration's water bodies.
- **Communication gaps between local authorities, experts and residents.** Members highlighted the lack of systematic communication about the condition of water resources and appropriate water management practices, as well as inconsistent and uneven access to information among different population groups. At the same time, facilitators observed that members tended to place greater trust in independent experts and practitioners than in representatives of public authorities.
- **Need for financial support for vulnerable groups.** The high cost of connecting households to centralised sewerage systems or installing compliant septic tanks remains a significant barrier, particularly for vulnerable population groups, in the absence of subsidies or preferential loan schemes.
- **Need for accessible data and visualisation tools.** Several groups independently proposed ideas for creating an interactive map of water resources, a single information portal or a unified digital platform. These proposals reflect the wider lack of centralised data collection and monitoring systems accessible to residents.

The analysis undertaken by assembly members highlights the systemic nature of water resource management challenges in the Lviv agglomeration. None of the identified problems exists in isolation; rather, they are interconnected and reinforce one another.

Building on this analysis, members developed a final set of recommendations over the course of the three sessions. A detailed description of these recommendations and the voting results are presented in Section 4 of this report.



4. OUTCOMES OF THE CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY OF THE LVIV AGGLOMERATION

4.1. From initial inputs to the final recommendations package

The recommendations were developed progressively over the course of the second and third assembly sessions. Each of the seven working groups developed recommendations within its thematic area, using the structured **"From Idea to Solution"** template, which covered the title of the proposed solution, the specific action to be taken, the target group, geographical scope, first steps, and those responsible for initiating, implementing and supporting the proposed action. This approach ensured that ideas were not only generated but also developed in sufficient detail.

During the second session, each group developed an initial package of ideas, generating a total of over 30 proposed solutions across the fields of services, communication, partnerships, procedures and norms, space, as well as people and capacities. After structuring and reviewing the ideas, each group selected up to five priority proposals for further development.

During the third session, each group developed its five ideas in greater detail using the common template. This was followed by an **indicative vote using coloured sticky notes** (green – "I support this"; yellow – "I have questions"; red – "I propose rejecting or substantially revising this idea"). This preliminary vote helped identify proposals requiring further refinement and guided the groups in improving their wording, taking into account feedback from assembly members and responses from invited experts.

Following this refinement, each of the seven groups selected its three highest-priority and most fully developed solutions for the final vote, resulting in **21 proposed solutions**. Assembly members reviewed the full set of proposals and put the final list to a secret ballot. Each member received a ballot paper listing all the proposed solutions and rated each one on a scale from 1 to 5.

Following the final vote, **19 recommendations received support from more than 60% of assembly members** and were included in the final set of recommendations of the citizens' assembly of the Lviv agglomeration. The recommendations are presented in descending order of support, from highest to lowest.

Nº	Recommendation	Level of support
1	Develop local financial support programmes (preferential loans, subsidies and co-financing) for sewerage connections and septic tank installation	91,3%
2	Organise regulated collection and transportation of liquid household waste from properties not connected to centralised sewerage systems	88,7%
3	Introduce a household co-financing scheme: a targeted programme for the construction and modernisation of wastewater treatment facilities (60/40)	88,0%
4	Develop a unified digital platform for information sharing, communication and water resource management in the agglomeration	87,3%
5	Include wastewater treatment and resident engagement projects in participatory budgeting	87,3%
6	Eliminate illegal dumping sites through land rehabilitation, environmental improvements and public awareness-raising	86,0%
7	Implement demonstration projects for rainwater collection and use in each community	84,7%
8	Conduct an information campaign on proper wastewater management in private households	83,3%

Nº	Recommendation	Level of support
9	Develop local support programmes to help residents purchase rainwater collection tanks	82,7%
10	Develop and implement the “Water Without Myths” campaign to raise public awareness	82,0%
11	Organise the safe disposal of deceased farm and domestic animals and inform residents about the relevant procedures	82,0%
12	Construct a shared, standalone wastewater treatment facility at street level through co-financing	81,3%
13	Promote and disseminate information through the media on successful rainwater use practices	80,7%
14	Develop and distribute an information booklet on septic tanks and wastewater treatment technologies for private houses	78,7%
15	Organise an environmental festival near water bodies, focusing on proper wastewater management practices	78,7%
16	Expand the functions of local video surveillance systems, with a focus on environmental protection	78,0%
17	Introduce an annual “Water Community of the Year” competition to encourage good practices in water resource management	77,3%
18	Organise training on rainwater use for municipal representatives	75,3%
19	Establish street-level homeowners’ associations for shared wastewater treatment	74,7%

4.2. Recommendations of the citizens’ assembly

Over the course of three sessions, assembly members developed, refined and voted on 19 recommendations for the local self-government authorities of the communities belonging to the Association “Lviv Agglomeration”. The recommendations are grouped into five thematic areas.

Coordination and water resource management at the agglomeration level

These recommendations address a cross-cutting challenge identified during the initial analysis: the lack of a centralised system for collecting and coordinating data on the condition of water resources across the agglomeration.ii.

- ✓ **Develop a unified digital platform for information sharing, communication and water resource management in the Lviv agglomeration** (*level of support: 87.3%*)

The recommendation proposes establishing a unified digital platform bringing together a **“Water Administrative Service Centre”**, an interactive map of water resources, training on the use of the geoportal, water-based tourist routes, a database of ideas and solutions for communities, and a tool for conducting resident surveys.

For residents, the platform would provide a single point of access to water-related information, clear guidance on water resource use, opportunities to report problems and greater trust in local authorities. For local self-government authorities, it would offer a unified communication channel with residents, access to open data and a convenient tool for collecting information.

The initial steps would include adopting a decision to establish the platform, developing the technical solution, populating it with content, training staff and informing residents about its launch.

The initiative would be led by local self-government authorities, Administrative Service Centres (ASCs), water utilities and relevant municipal departments. The same bodies, together with civil society organisations, would be responsible for implementation, with additional support from the media, civil society and charitable organisations. **Level of implementation: agglomeration-wide, as implementation requires coordination between communities.**

- ✓ **Introduce an annual agglomeration-wide “Water Community of the Year” competition to encourage the adoption of good practices in water resource management** (level of support: 77.3%)

The recommendation proposes organising an annual competition among the communities of the Lviv agglomeration, with an incentive prize awarded to the winner.

For communities, the competition would create new opportunities to introduce good practices in water resource management. It would also encourage greater engagement among residents, businesses and local self-government authorities in initiatives aimed at protecting water resources.

Implementation would involve establishing a project team, developing competition criteria, launching the competition, evaluating applications, and selecting and announcing the winners.

The competition could be initiated by civic activists, civil society organisations, businesses, local self-government authorities or the Association “Lviv Agglomeration” itself. The Association would act as the organiser, with support from local self-government authorities, businesses and the media. **Level of implementation: agglomeration-wide.**



Development of wastewater infrastructure and financial support for households

The largest group of recommendations addresses the cross-cutting challenges of inadequate centralised sewerage infrastructure and financial barriers faced by households, identified during the first and second assembly sessions.

- ✓ **Include wastewater treatment and resident engagement projects in participatory budgeting** (level of support: 87.3%)

The recommendation proposes incorporating relevant provisions into local regulations governing participatory budgeting, allocating funds through the relevant budget authority and conducting an information campaign among residents of the agglomeration's communities.

For local self-government authorities, this would mean a change in the approach to governance; for residents, greater engagement and a better understanding of the issue; and for the environment, improvements in the quality and condition of wastewater treatment facilities.

The initial steps would include a council decision to allocate funding, publishing information on the community's website, and enabling residents to submit projects and vote on them.

The process would be initiated by assembly members and the relevant local council, with support from active residents. Implementation would involve the council, its executive bodies and active residents.

Level of implementation: agglomeration-wide.

- ✓ **Introduce a household co-financing scheme: a local targeted programme for the construction and modernisation of wastewater treatment facilities (60/40) (level of support: 88.0%)**

The recommendation proposes developing local procedures for implementing the programme, approving a local targeted co-financing programme based on a 60/40 cost-sharing arrangement, and securing additional funding, including grants.

For private households, this would mean improved wastewater treatment facilities and better water quality. For local self-government authorities, it would help reduce the burden on local budgets and create additional opportunities to attract external funding.

Implementation would begin with developing and approving the relevant local procedures and targeted programme, followed by corresponding amendments to the local budget.

The initiative would be launched by local self-government authorities. Implementation would involve these authorities, their officials and community residents, with support from residents, local self-government authorities, and grant-funded and international programmes. **Level of implementation: individually by each community and jointly at the agglomeration level.**

- ✓ **Establish street-level homeowners' associations for wastewater treatment (level of support: 74.7%)**

The recommendation proposes that local self-government authorities conduct public information and outreach activities, organise public hearings and support local initiatives. Residents, in turn, would establish self-organised initiative groups and form bodies of self-organisation at the building, street and neighbourhood levels.

For local self-government authorities, this would provide a better understanding of wastewater-related challenges and greater transparency in reporting on the use of public funds. For residents, it would create opportunities to influence wastewater management and treatment in their neighbourhoods.

The recommendation primarily targets areas where sewerage infrastructure is either absent or insufficiently developed.

Implementation would begin with a seminar for homeowners on establishing associations, followed by information outreach to residents, the introduction of incentive mechanisms, registration of the first associations and the launch of joint projects with local self-government authorities.

The process would be initiated by homeowners with support from local self-government authorities. Implementation would involve homeowners, local self-government authorities and active residents. **Level of implementation: individually by each community and jointly at the agglomeration level.**

- ✓ **Construct a shared, standalone wastewater treatment facility at street level through co-financing (level of support: 81.3%)**

The proposal involves analysing the problem and taking the necessary steps from an initiative put forward by a local council member or residents to a formal decision to support the project. These steps include developing a project proposal, obtaining input from relevant specialists, holding residents' meetings and allocating a land plot.



The main beneficiaries would be residents who currently rely on septic tanks or discharge wastewater without authorisation due to a lack of adequate treatment facilities. The proposed solution would improve their living conditions and reduce wastewater disposal costs.

The recommendation could be implemented at the level of an individual street, village or community.

The initial steps would include analysing the problem, identifying the appropriate type of wastewater system and estimating implementation costs.

The initiative would be launched by a local council member representing the area concerned, who would submit the proposal to the council or its relevant standing committee for consideration. Implementation would involve municipal departments responsible for public amenities, natural resources and construction, with support from property owners connecting to the system, construction companies and the local self-government authority. **Level of implementation: individually by each community.**

- ✓ **Recommend that local self-government authorities 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** *(level of support: 91.3%)*

This recommendation, which received the highest level of support among all the assembly's recommendations, proposes introducing subsidies, preferential loan schemes and co-financing mechanisms for sewerage connections and septic tank installation, with conditions tailored to different population groups.

For vulnerable groups, the programme would provide a realistic opportunity to improve household wastewater disposal and treatment arrangements, which may previously have been unaffordable due to high connection costs.

The recommendation would be implemented at the community level. The first step would be a formal request from residents calling for the introduction of such a programme.

The initiative would be launched by civil society organisations and implemented by local self-government authorities and state-owned banks, with support from donor organisations. Level of implementation: individually by each community, or through cooperation between individual communities where necessary.

- ✓ **Recommend that local self-government authorities 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** *(level of support: 88.7%)*

The recommendation proposes establishing a dedicated wastewater collection position within the community and purchasing specialised vehicles for the collection and transportation of liquid household waste.

For residents whose homes are not connected to centralised sewerage systems, this would provide access to a regulated wastewater disposal service and enable more responsible wastewater management practices, reducing reliance on uncontrolled discharges. The first step would be a decision by the local self-government authority to establish the service. The initiative would be launched and implemented by the community's municipal utilities. **Level of implementation: by an individual community or jointly by several communities.**

Environmental education and public awareness

This group of recommendations addresses the lack of public awareness of the consequences of improper water resource management, identified during the first and second assembly sessions.

- ✓ **Develop and implement a “Water Without Myths” information and education campaign to raise public awareness of responsible water use and protection** (*level of support: 82.0%*)

The campaign would involve producing a series of short educational videos, debunking common myths about water, organising visits to wastewater treatment facilities, laboratories and water utilities, delivering educational lectures, promoting rainwater management solutions and engaging young people in generating ideas.

Residents would gain a better understanding of the importance of protecting water quality. Local self-government authorities would be encouraged to take more active measures to protect water resources, while municipal utilities would become more transparent and better informed about the needs of water service users.

The campaign would cover the entire Lviv agglomeration.

The initiative would be launched by local self-government authorities and civil society organisations. Implementation would involve environmental departments, civil society organisations and environmental clubs, with support from the media, local self-government authorities, socially responsible businesses, churches and extracurricular educational institutions. **Level of implementation: agglomeration-wide.**

- ✓ **Develop and widely distribute an information booklet on septic tanks and wastewater treatment technologies for private houses** (*level of support: 78.7%*)

The recommendation proposes developing an information booklet in line with an environmental education strategy. It would include examples of different types of septic tanks and wastewater treatment technologies and involve cooperation with Lvivvodokanal, Lviv's municipal water utility, to distribute the booklet together with water bills.

The booklet would help residents understand the available types of septic tanks and treatment technologies and choose solutions that best suit their needs and budgets.

The recommendation would cover all communities of the agglomeration.

Implementation would begin with a decision by the relevant local self-government authority to allocate funding for developing and printing the booklet. Additional resources would then be sought from socially responsible businesses and grant programmes, while the content would be developed in cooperation with experts.

The initiative would be launched by Lvivvodokanal, local council members, active residents and the relevant inspection authority. Implementation would be undertaken by local self-government authorities and Lvivvodokanal, with support from local self-government authorities, residents and council members. **Level of implementation: individually by each community.**

- ✓ **Organise an environmental festival near water bodies, focusing on proper wastewater management practices** (*level of support: 78.7%*)



The recommendation proposes establishing an organising team, identifying funding sources, developing the festival programme, engaging partners, determining the venue and frequency of the event, and evaluating its outcomes. It also involves engaging volunteers and visually illustrating changes in the condition of a water body over time, for example, comparing its condition 50 years ago with the present day.

For residents, the festival would help raise awareness of proper wastewater management practices.

The festival could be organised either at the agglomeration level or separately within individual communities.

The initiative would be launched by residents and civil society representatives, who would establish an organising team together with local authorities. Support could be provided by the media, public figures, environmental experts, businesses, international organisations and foundations. **Level of implementation: individually by each community and jointly at the agglomeration level.**

✓ **Conduct an information campaign on proper wastewater management in private households** *(level of support: 83.3%)*

The campaign would include printed materials illustrating the consequences of water pollution, public awareness videos featuring well-known personalities, gamified educational activities for preschools and other educational institutions, information sharing through religious communities, and the development of slogans and other communication materials.

The expected outcomes include improved well water quality, ecosystem restoration and the development of rural tourism.

The campaign would cover the entire Lviv agglomeration.

The first step would involve the Association “Lviv Agglomeration” engaging subject-matter experts to develop an effective campaign and incorporating it into a municipal targeted programme for environmental education.

The initiative would be launched by assembly members, community representatives, environmental activists, local self-government authorities and the water utility. Implementation would be undertaken by local self-government authorities and the water utility, with support from the media, public figures, international organisations, foundations, environmental activists and businesses. **Level of implementation: individually by each community.**

✓ **Organise training on rainwater use for municipal representatives** *(level of support: 75.3%)*

The recommendation proposes organising a series of practical training sessions for officials of local self-government authorities and municipal utilities across the agglomeration. The training would focus on implementing and maintaining rainwater collection and reuse systems, drawing in particular on demonstration projects implemented under other recommendations in this report.

For municipal officials and utilities, the training would provide practical knowledge and greater confidence in introducing similar solutions within their own communities. This would help bridge the gap between



adopting a financial support programme for residents, as proposed in the recommendation “Local support programmes for residents to purchase rainwater collection tanks”, and putting it into practice at the local level.

The training would cover the entire Lviv agglomeration.

The first step would be to develop a training programme in cooperation with invited subject-matter experts and invite representatives of all communities of the agglomeration to participate.

The initiative would be launched by the Association “Lviv Agglomeration” and implemented by invited experts under the Association’s coordination, with support from civil society organisations and donor-funded programmes. **Level of implementation: agglomeration-wide.**

- ✓ **Promote and disseminate information through the media on successful rainwater use practices** (level of support: 80.7%)

The recommendation proposes disseminating promotional materials about successfully implemented pilot projects and good practices in rainwater use through social media.

This would create new opportunities for other communities of the agglomeration to adopt effective water resource management practices.

The recommendation would cover the entire Lviv agglomeration.

The first step would be to identify appropriate communication channels.

The initiative would be launched by the Association “Lviv Agglomeration” and implemented by starostas, officials responsible for communication and administrators of local social media groups, with support from civil society organisations.

Rainwater management and climate adaptation

The recommendations in this thematic area address the lack of innovative rainwater reuse projects, a challenge first identified by the thematic working group at Table 6 during the opening session of the assembly.

- ✓ **Implement demonstration projects for rainwater collection and use in each community** (level of support: 84.7%)

The recommendation proposes that the Association “Lviv Agglomeration” organise a competition for rainwater use projects among educational institutions, including schools, colleges and universities. Participa-

tion would require a partnership with the organisation responsible for managing the facility where the project would be implemented.

Three winning institutions would implement pilot projects and monitor their effectiveness over a one-year period.

In parallel, the Association would establish an “Agglomeration Water Working Group” as a platform for exchanging experience and developing practical solutions. It would also promote successful pilot projects among community heads through this working group and among local council members during plenary council meetings.

Local councils would subsequently adopt decisions to implement demonstration projects within their communities and allocate the necessary funding. The projects themselves would be implemented by the organisations responsible for managing the selected facilities, such as schools, kindergartens or health-care institutions.

This would allow residents to see practical examples of rainwater collection and use at specific facilities designated by their local councils. **Level of implementation: individually by each community.**

- ✓ **Develop local support programmes to help residents purchase rainwater collection tanks** (level of support: 82.7%)

The recommendation proposes that communities adopt local financial support programmes to help residents purchase rainwater collection tanks. This would enable households to use collected rainwater for their everyday domestic needs.

The recommendation would cover the entire Lviv agglomeration.

Level of implementation: individually by each community.

Pollution control, monitoring and accountability

These recommendations address the cross-cutting challenge identified in Section 3.5: insufficient monitoring and accountability for the pollution of water resources and the environment.

- ✓ **Expand the functions of local video surveillance systems to monitor compliance with public amenities regulations, with a focus on environmental protection** (level of support: 78.0%)

The recommendation proposes developing an interactive map of potential violations, establishing a video surveillance system, installing cameras in areas most affected by environmental problems and pollution, and monitoring community territories to identify new problem locations where additional cameras may be needed.

For residents, this would mean fewer violations and greater civic engagement in improving environmental conditions. For local self-government authorities, the system would provide a tool for promptly detecting violations. For potential offenders, it would increase the likelihood of detection and serve as a deterrent.

The recommendation would be implemented across all communities of the agglomeration, with each community having its own interactive map and video surveillance system.



The initial steps would include a decision by the local self-government authority to establish the video surveillance system and install cameras, approval of the project budget, installation works, procurement of drones and the establishment of a dedicated drone operator (pilot) position.

The initiative would be launched by active residents, local council members and civil society organisations. Implementation would involve local government inspectors and the police, with support from local council members. **Level of implementation: individually by each community.**

✓ **Eliminate illegal dumping sites through land rehabilitation, environmental improvements and public awareness-raising** *(level of support: 86.0%)*

The recommendation proposes extending the coverage of the mobile hazardous waste collection service (EcoBus) to the entire Lviv agglomeration, maintaining a register of illegal dumping sites, introducing fines for illegal waste disposal, monitoring household waste collection contracts and encouraging residents to enter into such agreements. It also involves rehabilitating illegal dumping sites and organising community clean-up activities.

For residents, this would mean cleaner and better-maintained public spaces, improved environmental conditions and a greater sense of personal responsibility for proper waste management.

The recommendation would cover the entire Lviv agglomeration.

The first step would be to identify and register all illegal dumping sites.

The initiative would be launched by the State Environmental Inspectorate. Implementation would involve local self-government authorities and community residents, with support from active citizens. **Level of implementation: agglomeration-wide.**

✓ **Organise the safe disposal of deceased farm and domestic animals and inform residents about available services, rules and procedures** *(level of support: 82.0%)*

The recommendation proposes establishing new municipal enterprises to provide animal carcass disposal services, identifying existing service providers, maintaining records of farm and domestic animals and introducing appropriate monitoring mechanisms. It also involves developing a guide on the proper disposal of deceased animals, introducing penalties for violations alongside public information about the applicable rules, and developing a local support programme or allocating the necessary funding from community budgets.

For private households, these measures would help improve soil conditions, reduce the risk of disease transmission and enhance public health and sanitary conditions within communities.

The recommendation could be implemented both at the level of individual communities and across the entire Lviv agglomeration.

The initial steps would include developing the guidance materials and conducting an information campaign for residents.

The initiative would be launched by farmers and environmental protection services. Implementation would be undertaken by specialised animal carcass disposal services, with financial and institutional support from local budgets and municipal environmental departments. **Level of implementation: agglomeration-wide.**

4.3. Review of the recommendations: key areas and anticipated impact

An analysis of the 19 recommendations developed by members of the citizens' assembly reveals the main priorities and shared vision of residents regarding water resource management in the Lviv agglomeration.

The recommendations receiving the highest levels of support focused on direct financial assistance to households and practical infrastructure solutions. These included a financial support programme for sewerage connections and septic tank installation (91.3%), regulated collection and disposal of liquid waste (88.7%), a 60/40 co-financing scheme for wastewater treatment facilities (88.0%), as well as a unified digi-



tal platform for water resource management and participatory budgeting for wastewater treatment (both 87.3%). These results suggest that assembly members viewed the removal of specific financial and practical barriers preventing households and communities from addressing wastewater management challenges as a more immediate priority than establishing new institutions or developing large-scale strategies.

Financial accessibility is a recurring theme across several recommendations. Subsidies and preferential loans for sewerage connections (91.3%), co-financing for wastewater treatment facilities (88.0%) and support for purchasing rainwater collection tanks (82.7%) all reflect an understanding that even technically sound solutions may remain out of reach unless financial barriers faced by individual households are addressed, particularly for vulnerable population groups.

Recommendations concerning **pollution control and remediation** received varying but consistently high levels of support. Eliminating illegal dumping sites (86.0%) and ensuring the proper disposal of dead domestic animals (82.0%) received noticeably stronger support than expanding video surveillance (78.0%). This may indicate that members preferred recommendations with clear and measurable outcomes, such as the removal of illegal dumping sites, over preventive measures whose impact may be more difficult to assess immediately and whose implementation requires additional investment in technical equipment.

Recommendations related to **rainwater management and climate adaptation** attracted strong support when they offered tangible demonstration results. Pilot projects for rainwater collection at community-owned facilities (84.7%) and financial support programmes for purchasing rainwater collection tanks (82.7%) received considerably more support than training for municipal representatives (75.3%).

Recommendations aimed at **environmental education and behavioural change** received moderate but consistent support. An information campaign on wastewater management in private households (83.3%), the “Water Without Myths” campaign (82.0%), media coverage of rainwater reuse practices (80.7%), an information booklet on septic tanks (78.7%) and an environmental festival (78.7%) remained important components of the overall set of recommendations. Members recognised that infrastructure solutions would not be used effectively without greater public awareness. Nevertheless, these recommendations consistently received less support than those offering direct infrastructure or financial benefits.

The recommendation to establish **street-level residents’ associations for wastewater treatment** (74.7%) received the lowest level of support among the 19 recommendations. Nevertheless, it secured sufficient support for inclusion in the final set and reflects a genuine interest among some members in grassroots, self-organised approaches to addressing wastewater challenges where centralised solutions provided by local authorities are unlikely to become available in the near future.

A defining characteristic of the recommendations developed by the citizens' assembly of the Lviv agglomeration is their **practical orientation**. Most proposals do not require the establishment of new public authorities or fundamental changes to existing governance arrangements. Instead, they focus on specific financial mechanisms, infrastructure solutions, and improved coordination and communication within the existing powers and responsibilities of the communities and the agglomeration. This suggests that assembly members had a sound understanding of the realities of local self-government in Ukraine and formulated their recommendations with due consideration of the communities' existing institutional and budgetary capacities.

4.4. From recommendations to implementation: the role of local authorities

All recommendations developed by the citizens' assembly are submitted to the local self-government authorities of the 13 communities of the Lviv agglomeration and the Association "Lviv Agglomeration" through this report. During the final day of the assembly, the recommendations were presented to agglomeration representatives, who shared their feedback and confirmed their readiness for ongoing coordination. These included **Roman Kizyma**, Executive Director of the Association "Lviv Agglomeration"; **Oleh Serniak**, Mayor of Pustomyty; **Oleh Volskyi**, Mayor of Zhovkva; **Roman Kushneryk**, Deputy Head of Pidberiztsi Village Council; and **Nataliia Podvirna**, Head of the Social Protection Department of Davydiv Village Council. Local authorities are urged to formally consider the assembly's recommendations and provide a transparent, reasoned public response outlining how each proposal will be addressed or why it cannot be taken forward.

As a next step, local authorities are encouraged to develop an action plan with clear timelines and designated departments responsible for implementing the recommendations, both within individual communities and at the level of the Association "Lviv Agglomeration" for recommendations requiring intermunicipal coordination. They should also report regularly and publicly to residents on implementation progress.

International good practices suggest at least two stages of follow-up by local authorities after the conclusion of a citizens' assembly and the publication of its report and recommendations:

- **The first follow-up should take place approximately a few months after the presentation of the report and recommendations.** At this stage, local self-government authorities should indicate which recommendations can be implemented, which require further consideration and which are currently difficult to implement, providing clear and reasoned explanations.
- **The second follow-up should take place after 6–10 months to publicly present progress in implementing the recommendations,** share the results achieved and outline the next steps.

This approach can not only help maintain trust in the process but also turn the assembly's recommendations into a basis for long-term cooperation between the agglomeration's communities and their residents. It would also be beneficial to establish a public tool for monitoring progress, for example on the Association "Lviv Agglomeration" website, where updates on the assembly process have already been published. This would enable residents to track the implementation status of each recommendation over time. Such tools strengthen the accountability of local authorities and demonstrate that civic participation can lead to tangible results.



5. CONCLUSION

5.1. The citizens' assembly of the Lviv agglomeration in figures

The citizens' assembly of the Lviv agglomeration marked the first deliberative process organised at the agglomeration level in Ukraine. The key figures below illustrate the scale of the process.



To evaluate the process, the Council of Europe project conducted anonymous surveys among members of the citizens' assembly of the Lviv agglomeration before the start of the process and after the completion of all three sessions.

The survey results indicate a high level of satisfaction with the process. **All respondents (100%)** considered their decision to participate in the citizens' assembly to have been the right one. By the end of the process, **87% of respondents** reported that they fully or mostly understood the purpose of the citizens' assembly and how it works: 60% indicated that they understood it fully, while a further 27% said they mostly understood it.

For most members, the citizens' assembly exceeded their initial expectations: **77% of respondents** reported that the process had been better than expected, while 23% said it had met their expectations.

One particularly significant outcome was the increase in members' knowledge not only of the assembly's topic but also of the Lviv agglomeration itself. **All respondents (100%)** reported that participating in the assembly had improved their understanding of why the Lviv agglomeration was established and how it functions, with 87% indicating a substantial increase in their knowledge. At the same time, **97% of respondents** reported gaining a better understanding of water resource preservation, including 73% who indicated that their knowledge had increased substantially.

When asked about the most notable features of the citizens' assembly, members most frequently highlighted the opportunity to receive diverse information from independent experts and other stakeholders, selected by 37% of respondents. For 33%, an important feature was the commitment of local authorities to consider the recommendations developed by the assembly. The collective development of recommendations and the involvement of ordinary citizens in the process were each highlighted by 27% of respondents, while 23% valued the representation of different social groups within the assembly. By contrast,

only 3% identified financial compensation for participation as one of the most interesting features of the process. As respondents could select multiple answers to this question, the percentages add up to more than 100%.

Assembly members also gave very high ratings to the organisation and facilitation of the process. On a **five-point scale**, the organisation of the citizens' assembly received an average rating of **4.93**, communication between organisers and members **4.80**, the performance of the lead facilitator **4.93**, the work of facilitators at individual tables **4.93**, and the performance of the lead expert **4.97**. The subject-matter experts who shared their knowledge and experience related to the assembly's topic received an average rating of **4.60 out of 5**.

The high level of satisfaction with the process was further reflected in members' willingness to participate in similar initiatives in the future. **97% of respondents** indicated that they would participate in another citizens' assembly in the Lviv agglomeration or their own community if given the opportunity, while **100% would recommend taking part in such a process to others they know**.

At the same time, the survey helped identify areas requiring attention when organising similar processes in the future. **33% of respondents** reported experiencing no difficulties during the assembly. Among the challenges identified, the most frequently expressed concern was whether the recommendations developed by the assembly would translate into practical decisions and actions, cited by 27% of respondents. For 13%, the assembly's topic was too complex. A further 10% highlighted the difficulty of attending sessions over three weekends, while another 10% found it challenging to express their views publicly. Meanwhile, 7% noted that the most active members tended to dominate certain discussions. Notably, no respondents reported arguments or misunderstandings between members, or difficulties related to working in a shelter during air raid alerts.

The content of the recommendations also received high ratings. **63% of respondents** awarded the recommendations the maximum score of 5 out of 5, while a further 33% gave them a score of 4. Overall, **97% of respondents** rated the content of the final set of recommendations highly, and all those who were able to provide a rating were awarded a score of either 4 or 5.

Overall, the survey results demonstrate a high level of satisfaction among assembly members, a positive perception of the citizens' assembly as a deliberative mechanism, and a substantial increase in their knowledge of both water resource preservation and the functioning of the Lviv agglomeration.

Particularly noteworthy are the willingness of the vast majority of members to participate in a similar process again and the readiness of all respondents to recommend the experience to others. At the same time, concerns raised by some members regarding the future of the recommendations underscore the importance of proper follow-up by local authorities. This highlights the need to keep assembly members informed about subsequent decisions and concrete steps taken in response to their proposals.



5.2. Feedback from members



"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!"



"I was interested in taking part in the citizens' assembly because many of these issues had never been raised in our community before and, at first glance, did not seem to affect me personally. But seeing how many problems across different settlements of the agglomeration brought a group of people together made me realise just how necessary this assembly was."



"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."



"The experts provided comprehensive insights. I also appreciated the involvement of community heads in the discussions. It was clear that their participation was not merely a formality but reflected a genuine interest in the topic. Overall, it was a very positive experience. Thank you!"



"I was impressed by the amount of information about water resource use, the causes of water pollution, the challenges involved and possible ways to address them."



"New connections. New perspectives. Joint decisions. Hope for a better quality of life across the agglomeration."



"My sincere thanks to the organisers of the citizens' assembly. It was a pleasure to meet so many interesting new people and spend time with them. But most importantly, I learnt so much about the topic."

5.3. Conclusions and lessons learnt from the citizens' assembly

The experience of organising the citizens' assembly of the Lviv agglomeration – the first deliberative process at the metropolitan level in Ukraine – offers several practical lessons for organisers of future citizens' assemblies at the level of agglomerations, metropolitan areas or associations of communities.

Methodological lessons

➤ Separating learning from deliberation

Clearly distinguishing between the different stages – first building a shared knowledge base, then analysing problems, and only afterwards generating and selecting solutions – helped prevent premature and superficial proposals. At the same time, facilitators consistently observed that some members were eager to move directly to solutions. This suggests that the rationale behind this approach should be explained to members at the very beginning of the process, rather than simply being embedded in the programme design.

➤ Maintaining stable working groups allows for more in-depth discussions and proposals

Establishing thematic groups at the end of the first session, based on the “law of two feet” principle, and keeping their composition unchanged throughout the three sessions, with support from the same facilitators, enabled each group to explore its topic in considerable depth, progressing from identifying the initial problem to developing a detailed solution. The World Café and Carousel formats provided sufficient opportunities for exchanging ideas and perspectives between groups.

➤ Members tend to place greater trust in independent experts than in representatives of public authorities

This observation was repeatedly noted by facilitators in their reports and deserves attention when selecting speakers for future assemblies. Combining representatives of public authorities with independent practitioners and civil society experts can help strengthen members' trust in the information provided.

Organisational lessons

➤ Study visits should remain an important element of citizens' assemblies

The opportunity to gain first-hand experience of infrastructure through the study visit to the Hrybovychi landfill site was highly valued in both facilitators' reports and member feedback. For topics involving physical infrastructure, direct observation and practical experience can significantly deepen members' understanding compared with information-based activities alone.

Lessons on member engagement

➤ Personal relevance strengthens engagement

The initiative to collect and analyse water samples from members' households, despite its simplicity, proved to be one of the most emotionally meaningful elements of the process. It transformed an abstract topic into something personally relevant and tangible for assembly members. Similar simple activities that connect the topic to members' everyday lives should be considered when designing future assemblies, regardless of their subject matter.



➤ The agglomeration level presents both challenges and opportunities

Bringing together representatives of 13 communities in a single process required more time to compare different situations and develop a shared understanding than would have been necessary within an individual community. At the same time, these comparisons enabled members to identify common challenges extending across municipal boundaries, which might not have emerged through separate local processes, and to develop recommendations explicitly calling for intermunicipal coordination.

Overall, the experience of the citizens' assembly demonstrates that a deliberative methodology previously tested at the level of individual communities or districts can be successfully adapted and scaled up to the agglomeration level, provided that its core principles are maintained: a gradual progression from learning to developing solutions, the involvement of experts representing diverse perspectives, and the systematic collection and incorporation of feedback between sessions.

5.4. Next steps and monitoring the implementation of the recommendations

Following the conclusion of the citizens' assembly, the final set of 19 recommendations was submitted to the local self-government authorities of the 13 communities of the Lviv agglomeration and the Association "Lviv Agglomeration". The recommendations reflect the outcomes of a deliberative process in which residents of the agglomeration jointly analysed water resource management challenges, discussed possible solutions and reached a consensus on proposals for local authorities.

The recommendations address issues that fall under different levels of governance and require shared responsibility between individual communities and the Association "Lviv Agglomeration". Effective implementation of most recommendations will only be possible through coordination between communities, including a clear division of responsibilities, alignment of budgetary decisions and well-established mechanisms for intermunicipal cooperation.

Recommended next steps for local self-government authorities:

- **Provide a public response to each recommendation.** The local self-government authorities of the agglomeration's communities and the Association "Lviv Agglomeration" should indicate which recommendations can be implemented, which require further consideration and which cannot be implemented at this stage, providing reasons for their decisions.
- **Develop and approve an action plan for implementing the recommendations,** specifying timelines, responsible bodies and persons at the level of individual communities and the Association "Lviv Agglomeration", as well as a mechanism for intermunicipal coordination.
- **Publicly present the outcomes of the review of recommendations** approximately **3–4 months** after the submission of this report and provide an update on implementation progress approximately **6–10 months** after its submission.
- **Ensure open communication with residents** on the status of implementation, including through official communication channels and the dedicated "Citizens' Assembly" section of the Association "Lviv Agglomeration" website, where information about the assembly process is already being published.

An important outcome of the citizens' assembly of the Lviv agglomeration was the willingness of a significant number of members to remain engaged beyond the development of recommendations. During the final session, assembly members completed **"I Want to Get Involved" cards**, indicating which proposed solutions they would be willing to help implement by contributing their time, personal contacts, professional skills or other resources. This willingness to remain involved demonstrates that the assembly served not only as a mechanism for developing recommendations but also as a platform for building an active community of residents committed to addressing shared challenges across the agglomeration.

The citizens' assembly of the Lviv agglomeration thus laid the groundwork for moving beyond a one-off event towards a more sustainable partnership between residents of the 13 communities, local self-government authorities and the Association "Lviv Agglomeration". Such a partnership would enable civic participation to continue beyond the development of recommendations, extending to the implementation of decisions and the evaluation of their outcomes.

NOTES

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