



Strengthening multi-level governance, democracy and human rights at local level in Ukraine

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
of the Council of Europe

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The project “Strengthening multi-level governance, democracy and human rights at local level in Ukraine” addresses the needs voiced by local and regional authorities, and their national associations, and supports them in building resilience to multiple challenges provoked by the Russian Federation’s war against Ukraine. It promotes multi-level governance, open government and a human-rights based approach at local level, on the path towards a successful recovery and transformation while upholding key local self-government principles.

The project is implemented in the framework of the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine “Resilience, Recovery and Reconstruction” for 2023-2026. It contributes to building inclusive, sustainable and transparent local authorities.

OUTCOMES

- 1) Dialogue, partnership and consultation between different levels of government are strengthened for effective co-ordination of recovery and reconstruction of Ukraine.
- 2) Collaborative governance mechanisms are introduced between local stakeholders to strengthen local democracy and open government.
- 3) The right to equality and non-discrimination is promoted and protected by local authorities.

METHODOLOGY

The project aims to strengthen local democracy and accompany new processes to meet the ambitions of Ukraine and support the country in its European commitments. The methodology, in support of multi-level governance, encompasses peer-to-peer exchanges, including with members of the Congress, sharing of knowledge, know-how and practices across Europe, as well as expert and financial support.

Continuous political dialogue between local and national authorities will be ensured through a Platform for national-local dialogue on open government, established under the Cabinet of Ministers, with the aim of improving local resilience and enhancing open government practices.

The Congress provides expert assistance in the preparation of new draft legislative proposals developed under the Martial law and after, to ensure their alignment with the principles of the European Charter of Local Self Government.

Local authorities are provided with direct support in the design and implementation of innovative mechanisms of democratic participation in order to bring meaningful change to citizens and local communities.

National associations of local and regional authorities, which are the representative bodies of local and regional authorities have, over the years, become active players in the political landscape of the country. They are fundamental for the successful dissemination of good practices, the localisation of open government principles, and the development of policies that contribute to the achievement of SDGs. They are directly supported through legislative, expert and financial assistance to better advocate for a legislative framework that recognises local authorities’ capacities and to serve local and regional authorities in their development and international outreach.



PARTNERS

In Ukraine

- National associations of local and regional authorities
- Government of Ukraine
- Parliament of Ukraine

International

- Open Government Partnership (OGP)
- Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS)

BENEFICIARIES

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

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Local/regional authorities, and their national associations, strengthen their capacities to engage in dialogue and contribute to the development of relevant legislative frameworks and recovery plans.
- Local/regional authorities, and their national associations, develop tools to increase resilience and manage risks, implement innovative open government actions and introduce innovative approaches to participatory democracy through citizens deliberations.
- Local/regional authorities foster youth participation, establish multi-stakeholder advisory councils and promote equality and non-discriminatory policy-making at local level.
- Local/regional authorities integrate a human-rights approach to local policy-making fostering social cohesion and inclusion of IDPs and under-represented groups.

PARTNERS' ENGAGEMENT

- All project activities are rooted in political dialogue and partnership with relevant stakeholders at all levels in Ukraine, based on mutual trust and a long-standing co-operation.
- Focus is placed in strengthening the role of local elected representatives as leaders for change and key partners to engage in local alliances with civil society and local residents.
- Sustainability of the action is ensured through the involvement of local authorities and their associations.

The Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine “Resilience, Recovery and Reconstruction” for 2023-2026 is a strategic programming instrument, which focuses on accompanying the reconstruction process and economic recovery in Ukraine strengthening the resilience of Ukrainian public institutions. The Action Plan is one element of the broader range of assistance provided to Ukraine in the context of its institutional relations with the Council of Europe.

Within this framework, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities is responsible for the project “Strengthening multi-level governance, democracy and human rights at local level in Ukraine”. It is based on regular dialogue and the needs and recommendations voiced by relevant stakeholders and beneficiaries. It builds upon the Congress co-operation activities carried out in Ukraine since 2014 and strong partnerships at all levels.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

www.coe.int/congress-cooperation

Council of Europe Office in Ukraine

www.coe.int/kyiv

Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine 2023–2026

www.coe.int/en/web/programmes/ukraine

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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 46 member states, including all members of the European Union. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities is an institution of the Council of Europe, responsible for strengthening local and regional democracy in its 46 member states. Composed of two chambers – the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Chamber of Regions – and three committees, it brings together 612 elected officials representing more than 130 000 local and regional authorities.

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