

# ANALYTICAL REPORT

Based on the Results of the  
Study “Youth Involvement in  
Local Decision-Making”:

 Halytsynivska ATC

The study was conducted within the framework of the Vidnova project implemented by the Charity Foundation “Stabilization Support Services” and the Public Union “Legal Development Network” in cooperation with the humanitarian organization “People in Need” and with the financial support of the Czech Development Agency.

# INTRODUCTION

This study is aimed at assessing the level of youth involvement in civic initiatives and recovery processes in the Halytsynivska community. The results of the study reflect the high level of interest of young people in addressing local issues and community development. Halytsynivka youth demonstrate active engagement with local authorities, which, in turn, support their ideas and projects. Effective communication and the willingness of local authorities to support youth initiatives create an atmosphere of mutual trust, which is an important prerequisite for sustainable community development.

Particularly noteworthy is the activity of the youth of the Halytsynivska community in organizing school self-government, participating in trainings and seminars, and initiatives to create new spaces for communication and physical training. Through the creation of the media center, young people from all villages in the community had the opportunity to join the center's work, which helped to build their communication and teamwork skills. This emphasizes that young people are active and cooperative participants in public life.

However, the study also revealed a number of barriers faced by young people in the Halytsynivska community. These include the fear of rejection by local authorities, lack of sufficient funding, limited physical spaces for events, and an unfavorable security situation that limits opportunities for full participation of young people in community life. The outflow of young people due to security risks also poses challenges for project implementation, as the loss of active youth leaders weakens the overall level of engagement.

Thus, this study is an important tool for understanding the needs and challenges faced by young people in the Halytsynivska community. The findings can serve as a basis for developing effective programs to support youth initiatives, which will help strengthen social cohesion and community development in general.

# METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted to analyze the involvement of young people in local decision-making in the Halytsynivska community.

A total of three **focus group discussions** (hereinafter referred to as FGDs) were held (two with young people aged 14-19 and 20-25, and one with parents and teachers), as well as **five in-depth interviews** (hereinafter referred to as IDIs) with key stakeholders, including representatives of the authorities, social workers, leaders of youth councils, and representatives of youth centers and spaces.

## KEY FINDINGS

Representatives of the Halytsynivska community, unlike residents of the Bereznehuvatska and Bashtanska communities, demonstrated certain differences in their responses to the key blocks of the study.

Thus, the residents of the Halytsynivska community emphasize the need for effective communication between local self-government bodies and youth, and local self-government representatives are often ready to assist with and support youth projects.

When analyzing the responses about the interest and involvement of young people in various projects, the activity and initiative of young people in this community became evident, which manifests itself both in the field of school governance and in addressing issues of acquiring new knowledge, skills, abilities (conducting training, seminars, etc.), as well as ideas for creating new spaces for physical training and youth communication. According to the respondents, the previous creation of the media center, which involved young people from all villages of the community, served as a model for such participation and proactive stance.

The youth of the Halytsynivska community are actively involved in the recovery process, joining existing projects, creating and implementing their own ideas. However, there is also a certain proportion characterized by passivity and lack of motivation to engage in any activity or joint initiatives. The decrease in the number of young people due to the security situation also negatively affects their activity and the effectiveness of youth initiatives.

The main barriers and challenges faced by young people in the Halytsynivska community can be divided into several groups: personal, infrastructural, economic, and security.

Personal barriers are related to the fear of being rejected for their proposal or activity when interacting with the community, the feeling of lack of support from local government representatives, and skepticism from their parents.

According to the older audience, the important personal challenges faced by the community's youth are related to insufficient life experience, susceptibility to manipulation by others, and the ambition and emotionality characteristic of young people, which often hinder the implementation of a particular idea.

Infrastructural barriers focus on transportation and the availability of physical spaces for offline meetings, sports training, and interpersonal communication.

Economic barriers also play an important role: respondents point to a lack of funding, both budgetary and grant funding.

Last but not least, these are barriers caused by the overall security situation, migration sentiments, and unclear prospects for young people due to the hostilities.

Among the factors and drivers of youth involvement in community recovery processes, respondents mentioned the following: the success and effectiveness of projects as a motivation to participate in the next ones; any reward for project implementation: material (souvenirs, patches), monetary or non-material (certificates, parties); conducting surveys and interviews among community youth to understand their needs and ways to solve problems; showing interest and support for youth ideas; organizing informal meetings of representatives of the community.

Unlike the residents of the Bashtanska community, representatives of the Halytsynivska community consider it inappropriate to involve parents to increase young people's motivation to participate in local self-government. They believe this will not bring the desired result.

It is worth noting that young people from all communities emphasized the usefulness of social media in increasing the level of participation of young people in various activities. In their opinion, the correct presentation of such information on social media will help attract new participants to projects aimed at community development. However, preference has always been given to participation in offline events.

The main recommendations made by the respondents included community education, awareness-raising activities, active government action, community opinion polls, and interaction with NGOs and self-government.

Particular attention was paid to the need for young people to have barrier-free access to participate in important community issues and to avoid discrimination by others.

In general, representatives of the Halytsynivska community of different age groups emphasize the positive impact of youth in the development of their community, which contributes to the solidarity of different groups and the availability of further prospects for the development of the community's future.

# MAIN RESULTS

## ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION

The level of youth involvement in decision-making at the local level is assessed by respondents as very high. Various projects and events are carried out with the active participation of young people, some of which are organized on the initiative of the youth center. Among the projects that can be highlighted in the Halytsynivska community are anti-cafes, charity lotteries, a project to create a youth space, a Youth Council, a gym project for young people, and a project to improve media literacy for people of golden age. Respondents also noted the high level of school self-government, which is able to actively influence the solution of problems and issues at school.

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*"We are currently implementing an anti-cafe. This is a project in which I participated: I helped, and the idea was mine. It is now in the process of being implemented. We have also restored our sports house. English classes and a singing group have been set up there. A gym will be built there." (FGD, Youth 16-19)*

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*"There is a Youth Council. The Youth Council also teaches a lot and helps the Armed Forces... We used to do amazing projects. For example, the Youth Day, and St. Nicholas Day, we gave gifts to children. Now we don't have such a strong opportunity. But the children (in this project) went to see the head. They went to get support." (FGD, Adults)*

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*"We are currently implementing a project to create a youth space. And if we are talking about something real, these are, again, the clubs we attended before the start of the full-scale war. These are the same clubs. We also had a large stage for performances repaired in my village. That is, if you speak up and voice your thoughts and problems, which are often silent, everything comes true." (FGD, Youth 19-25)*

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*"We are also involved in charity and volunteering. The youth council organizes charity lotteries and raises funds." (IDI, Tetyana)*

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*"We work closely with the Dobre program, i.e. we submitted a youth project to Dobre. We became the winners. We are now starting to implement this project." (IDI, Liubov)*

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*"Our presidential republic, that is, the student self-government of the school, decided that they didn't like everything: they didn't like the panels, and they didn't like these classes. They made a plan, initiated it, and we supported them. Then, through the decision of the pedagogical council, we gradually began to change everything: from the entrance to the building and then gradually, step by step, new classrooms, new corridors, modern decoration, and interesting walls. It was all suggested by children." (IDI, Tetiana Volodymyrivna)*

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The adult participants in the study emphasize the positive impact of youth activity on community life. In their opinion, it helps to unite different villages into a single community and helps to find fresh ideas. And the activities of young people to improve the life of their native community show that this community has a future.

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*"We, the youth, have more creative ideas, more strength, more inspiration, opportunities and time." (IDI, Tetiana)*

*"This was our main problem when we united. They did not want to cooperate with each other, could not cooperate with each other, and did not hear each other. That's why we had media centers organized there to report what was happening in each village, what was happening in the community in general. And, as a rule, Youth led these media centers and events. It's super cool here: children came, well, not children – young people came, and they are from three villages, and they have an idea, and their eyes are burning." (IDI, Olena)*

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*"Today I want to say that, despite the difficult conditions, young people have become even more active today. That is why I have great respect for the Youth Council. This is their initiative, and it means that the village is alive. If young people are so active, there are prospects. I can say: "Well done!" (IDI, Tetiana Volodymyrivna)*

Young people also agree that greater youth involvement has a positive impact on the community and promotes solidarity among its various groups.

*"It has a positive impact, because we contribute to the development of our community and create some interesting things where young people can develop, socialize, communicate, and share experiences. Well, not just sitting on their phones and degrading, but somehow developing... We bought some cookies, tea, and talked together. Working together always brings us closer. Creating something is always useful, because we unite together." (FGD, Youth 16-19)*

Respondents mostly indicated that young people in the community are quite actively involved in the recovery process, joining existing projects and creating their own. However, some research participants noted that there are also some demotivated, passive young people who do not want to join projects.

*"Well, it's quite active. When we came to the village council on Friday, there were seven or eight people there. These are those who were able to come. And there are also those who study in the city, and they could not come on Friday because of transportation problems. And it was one project at a time, and when we have several projects at once, the number is sufficient." (FGD, Youth 16-19)*

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*"It demotivates that they don't see the future. That no one is doing anything, and what am I going to do? There are people, young people, who don't want to do anything. They think that someone will do it for me. This is the problem. This is passive thinking." (FGD, Youth 16-19)*

The respondents noted that young people often participate in events organized by civil society organizations.

*"We are often invited to roundtables or workshops. If some organizations come and conduct a survey, young people are involved. For example, the last one that stuck out in my mind was the one from Dobre. They gathered only young people, without local authorities, to listen to their opinions and ideas." (IDI, Tetiana)*

The majority of young respondents noted effective and efficient communication between local governments and young people. Young people can address their projects directly to local officials and often receive the necessary support. Local government representatives are also often willing to accompany and support youth projects.

*“On Friday, Dasha and I went with a girl from Lupareve to the village head to ask questions. I want to write a project with the girls from Lupareve. He listened to us, said he liked the idea and sent us to the head of the education department to tell her more. We went to her, told her calmly, and she listened to us. Everything was fine. They said they would allocate the premises.”*  
**(FGD, Youth 16-19)**

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*“We had a project called Three Spheres. We wanted to realize a place of memory, a place of inspiration, and a place of strength. In short, we had no money. We went to the head of the village council to ask him to help us with funding [...]. We came to him and told him. He listened to us, said that everything is fine, everything is cool, he likes it, you are welcome to come.”*  
**(FGD, Youth 16-19)**

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*“We already have good communication with the deputies. Even before the war, we had a sports house and lacked 50 thousand hryvnias for it. A deputy came to us for a holiday (we celebrated the year of the opening of this club), and he brought us 50 thousand hryvnias. What other help? For example, we wrote a project, and we were short 5 thousand hryvnias for small expenses, we did not calculate it. We can go to our deputy, say that we are short, and he will give you money without any problems at all.”*  
**(FGD, Youth 16-19)**

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*“In our community, there is a woman in the village council to whom you can go and say that I have this idea. If she likes the idea, she is ready to accompany you throughout the project and help you with everything.”*  
**(FGD, Youth 16-19)**

## **BARRIERS AND CHALLENGES**

One of the main barriers to young people’s more active involvement in community life is the fear of rejection and lack of support from local self-government representatives. The study participants note that this view is often caused by the age difference between young people and officials. Another reason for this opinion of young people may be their parents’ skepticism about the success of interaction with the authorities.

*“People are probably shy, afraid, thinking that they will be rejected. They think that there are all these serious uncles and aunts sitting there who will tell them: “Well, no”. But there are ordinary people there who are like: “Yes, go ahead!”*  
**(FGD, Youth 16-19)**

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*“Because of this influence and pressure from society, they believe that their opinion is not taken into account, and therefore there is a certain fear of expressing their opinion. Because young people are afraid of being misunderstood... There is a certain plan for solving the problem, but there is also a fear that something will not work out, and that there is not enough knowledge to implement an idea. This is also a big obstacle – lack of confidence in your actions.”*  
**(FGD, Youth 20-25)**

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*“Maybe it’s the fear of not being supported by the same authorities. They may be afraid to share an idea or get involved because they may not be supported. But I say, in most cases, we are supported. And if our idea cannot be realized within the project, they help us to formulate this idea in a slightly different way. But there is still fear. They are afraid that they are not supported. They may also be afraid that our authorities are of an older generation and that there is a barrier between them. They think that they have experience, but they do not.”*  
**(IDI, Tetiana)**

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*“I think parents were skeptical because a lot of things come from parents. That is, if there are active parents in the family, in any case, children will also be involved and active.”*  
**(IDI, Liubov)**

*“Well, if we talk about the shortcomings, then, again, it is the lack of experience of young people, their ambition, emotionality. Because of their ambition, they may not take into account the fact that they are not very experienced, and some ideas are not easy to implement. It’s also manipulation because young people are very susceptible to manipulation, and this can affect their projects. That is, on the success of those projects, on improvement in general.” (FGD, Youth 20-25)*

Another barrier, according to the respondents, is the economic situation in the community, which is why most young people want to leave and, accordingly, do not see their future in their community of origin.

*“It’s more in the mindset of young people than in the barriers. That is, the barriers are more in their minds than in reality. Their type of thinking, their lack of vision of the future in this community, is this barrier that keeps young people from getting involved.” (FGD, Youth 16-19)*

*“A huge disadvantage is that our young people have nothing to do between the ages of 25 and beyond. A child has studied at school, we have created conditions at school. The child went to university, there is a connection to the city. And then what? We have no jobs, all budget-forming enterprises are closed. And our young people, whom we taught, whom we educated, whom we taught that they need to stand up, not sit around, be active, they move on. Do you understand? And then what? Well, a smart child who has studied, knows his rights, his responsibilities and wants to work, what will he do with us? We have nowhere to work.” (IDI, Olena)*

According to the respondents, the lack of physical space for meetings, discussions, or projects is a serious obstacle to youth engagement. However, according to the interviewees, this problem is being solved by attracting donor funds.

*“By the way, physical spaces are a real problem in all settlements. That is, even if we would like to write such a project, there is no way to implement it because of the large number of damaged buildings, plus the lack of shelters.” (IDI, Liubov)*

*“The infrastructure lacks places where young people could gather. Not just me for my village but for the whole community. We do not have a youth center where young people could gather. The same goes for the Youth Council. We have no fixed place where we could gather and discuss some of our issues or just talk about our own. This is our problem. But now we are implementing a project in Prybuzke. This village is one of the communities where we will have a youth anti-cafe, a youth space. And in another village, Lupareve, there will also be a youth space focused on sports activities. A club for different age groups. Six months ago, it was very difficult. Because many of our houses were damaged as a result of the hostilities. For example, I am now in the library, where there were no windows. There are cabinets here, and behind them is a hole like this. And I don’t want to bring my children to see it all. But we are starting to rebuild a little bit. We already have programs and projects that have won.” (IDI, Tetiana)*

Security concerns also play a significant role in limiting the activity of young people. Some respondents believe that due to remote learning, which is necessary because of security issues, children lose their skills in face-to-face communication and pay more attention to communication via the Internet.

*“If our security situation leaves much to be desired, of course, this limits us and our youth. Even for those projects that have already been implemented, we definitely do not have the right to gather in large groups because we need to be responsible and understand.” (IDI, Liubov)*

*"Maybe it's the fact that a lot of children have withdrawn into themselves, plus the activity of going out has decreased, meaning that children have started to cooperate with gadgets, or so to speak? That is, the best friend of many is a gadget. They also communicate with their best friends through a gadget." (IDI, Liubov)*

Due to the negative security situation, many young people have left Ukraine for other countries or for the western regions of Ukraine. The decrease in the number of young people also negatively affects the activity and effectiveness of youth initiatives.

*"We lost a lot during the full-scale invasion because a lot of young people left. And it was active young people... Now, these very active young people have gone abroad. We could not bring them back. It was this core that went either abroad or to Lviv or Kyiv. We are now corresponding with them on Facebook, but they have not returned. And we are already working with these newcomers, the little ones who have returned: showing them, telling them, teaching them. Unfortunately, it is not as active as it used to be." (IDI, Olena)*

*"It used to be that there was a small population, a small population, and you create a space with 20 people. And why do we need to do this for 20 people? The donors were of the opinion that this was not enough for them. They wanted to involve more people, but we simply cannot involve more people in such a space. It seems like we just need 20 people, but we still don't have that many. If there were more people, there would be more opportunities, there would be more different needs." (FGD, Youth 16-19)*

The transportation problem also remains an urgent challenge for the Halytsynivska community.

*"There's quite a long distance between the villages. And minibuses run once an hour. Sometimes one and a half. Because of this, parents do not let their children go to the other village because it takes 3 hours to travel in both directions and children simply cannot communicate in any way except through the Internet." (FGD, Adults)*

Adult participants in the study identified a lack of funding, both public and grant, as one of the main challenges to engaging young people and implementing youth projects. According to the respondents, not all donors are willing to provide significant funds for the necessary repairs. Such funds are also not allocated from community budgets, which is primarily due to a significant decrease in tax revenues to local community budgets due to the hostilities.

*"I think that these are some grants that could be attracted more. Because I know that small amounts of money are allocated. It is very cool that there is such an opportunity to apply, but if it is something global, for example, repairs in the basement, then for a very long time, we could not find donors who would want to repair it. It's also very difficult to find donors for the building who would allocate at least 10 thousand dollars to rebuild it. Not everyone wants to give money for external repairs and work. This is also a problem." (IDI, Tetiana)*

*"Speaking of local authorities, I would like to note that our budget revenues have now dropped to a minimum, as agricultural production has progressed the most. And since all the land has not been surveyed, taxes are not being paid. And a large employer, Mykolaiv Alumina Plant, is not working at all." (IDI, Liubov)*

## ENGAGEMENT FACTORS AND DRIVERS

The respondents noted that one of the most important factors in involving young people in community recovery processes is the success and effectiveness of the projects implemented. The more youth projects receive attention from local leaders and are successfully implemented, the greater the interest and involvement of young people in new projects.

*“And then, after they’ve implemented it, everything is great, they’re happy. They report on their results on social media. And other young people join in. This is the raising of a storm, a storm of motivation in some children. Because after our children made their way into one project, a storm of activity immediately arose in another village, where children also began to make their way into other projects. And now, not one village, not one collective group of children, is fighting for victory. There are already several from this community fighting for different projects.” (FGD, Adults)*

It is also noted that a small monetary reward for active youth could also help attract more of them to participate in local projects actively.

*“Financial assistance. I also think that even if it is a small amount of money, it should be enough for young people to see that their work is appreciated and that they are not just trying for nothing.” (IDI, Tetiana)*

Among the opportunities that local self-government could provide for youth participation, respondents also mentioned conducting questionnaires and surveys with representatives of the Youth Council to understand the needs and wishes of young people, followed by consultations on possible ways to respond to the needs, realize the wishes, etc.

*“Make a survey and launch it at school, if it is for young people. We had a survey like this: what do we need – we need video surveillance, we need this, that, and the other thing... If you conduct such a survey, you can then find out the opinion of young people. We got their opinion, but still have no idea what to do with it. You can call the head of the Youth Council and ask him. Your youth voted for this, how do you see it?” (FGD, Youth 16-19)*

*“When the football field was opened here, a person came around, gave people a piece of paper with a pen, and they wrote down what they would like to see in this village besides the football field. People wrote down their ideas, and a lot of ideas were collected. And the local authorities processed them, and the community centers and the Youth Council will use this as a list of ideas that can be implemented in the future.” (FGD, Youth 16-19)*

In general, the main request from young people to local self-government bodies is support and serious consideration of their initiatives, ideas, and projects.

*“To take some interest in this, to support us, to help us, so that we feel supported, that we will not be abandoned somewhere halfway through, but that they are always ready to help us, if necessary, to support us financially. If we come and see that no one wants to hear us, no one wants to see us here, no one wants to support us, we just give up because there is no support.” (FGD, Youth 16-19)*

Another option to increase youth motivation, according to respondents, is to organize meetings between local self-government representatives and youth.

*"Maybe we could organize some meetings or coffee breaks with young people. So that children and the starosta could talk at the same table. The starosta would ask them something, and they would tell them what problems they have, what they lack, and vice versa, what they like about the village. It would also be interesting to talk to the head of the community. But we don't have such joint meetings. If we have any questions, we go directly to the head or deputy head." (IDI, Tetiana)*

At the same time, some respondents consider it inappropriate to involve parents in increasing the motivation of young people to participate in local self-government, as they believe it will not bring the desired result.

*"If something needs to be discussed, it is discussed directly with the youth. They may not always accept the teaching or guidance (how to say it correctly) from their parents or teachers. That is, even if there is a useful and valid situation, they perceive it differently. We try to discuss this directly with young people. Therefore, I believe that if you need to discuss something or convey something to young people, it is better to gather them and talk to them personally. I don't see any point in talking to parents. [...] Everything that is inherent in children comes from their parents. In other words, the parents were already receiving incorrect information, so what's the point of explaining to parents so that they can change their children's minds later. No, it is better to work with children, to show them the results." (IDI, Liubov)*

The respondents consider it very useful for young people to travel to other communities to exchange experiences. In their opinion, this will encourage more young people to participate in local government decision-making processes.

*"We were invited to Nesensk, Mykolaivska Oblast. Even though it's just one oblast, we saw and learned a lot of new things. We were more focused on developing a grant application than on tourism, but we still exchanged experience. I think it would be interesting for young people to go somewhere not only to see another city but also to be inspired by other ideas." (IDI, Tetiana)*

*"Why not, if children come from our community, talk about the fact that we have implemented such a project, and they, accordingly, inspire other children? Some projects, for example, have not yet been implemented. Those children will say that they also have such a project. So they just exchange ideas." (IDI, Liubov)*

Based on one of these visits, one of the respondents suggested some non-standard ways to motivate young people to participate in community recovery projects: producing thematic patches, access to exclusive events, etc.

*"I was at the camp, and they talked about the development of the Youth Council and how to engage participants. You involve them in doing some interesting things, "fun stuff". You can create, for example, some kind of patch for the active ones. For example, we have made a project, and in this place, we can hold a party for those who implemented it. And to those who come in, we'll say that you're welcome, but you have to help us in the next project. And in the next project, they help us write. You can come up with something like that." (FGD, Youth 16-19)*

Young people consider social media to be a very useful opportunity to increase youth participation. In their opinion, the correct presentation of such information will help attract new participants to projects aimed at community development.

*"You can also write on a social network that we are going to clean up on November 5 at 12 o'clock. There will be some interesting things, like a tea party afterward. Something like that. Or it will be in an interesting form, in a game form: whoever collects the most garbage, for example, or cleans a larger area, gets a gift. People unite through social networks. We can write that an event will be held on New Year's Eve, that we will be glad to see you at the place where the preparation will take place. Social networks, of course, play a big role in our society nowadays." (FGD, Youth 16-19)*

Participants' opinions were divided on the availability of information about such projects. Some respondents believe that the information is quite accessible, while others note that the social media most often used by young people (Telegram, Instagram) do not tell much about opportunities for young people.

*"We have Viber groups in every village, and there are also parents of young people, youth. That is, if there is information, it spreads much faster than we sometimes expect, so there are no issues with this." (IDI, Liubov)*

*"I want to say about our community that all information and reports are published on Facebook. And our young people are not so active on Facebook now. They use Telegram or Instagram more. Therefore, they do not always receive all the information." (IDI, Tetiana)*

At the same time, some respondents emphasize that participating in online projects is not as interesting for young people as interacting directly offline.

*"It's strange, but it showed that our children have no such interest. For some reason, they all want to do it live. And, to be honest, we even thought that maybe some student bloggers would turn out. But no. Doing things together, editing some video, shooting something. But again, we want to do it together." (FGD, Adults)*

*"Our contests are now all online. That is, we film at home, at school, and videos of dances. And it's all just sent in a video. We stopped traveling, performing, sewing, doing something, creating. Now there is a competition, and people want to attend it, but they don't want to participate online. They have no enthusiasm to participate online." (FGD, Adults)*

Respondents generally agree that young people lack some skills and knowledge to participate more effectively in local self-government. Among the skills needed are the ability to communicate and express their opinions correctly.

*"Communication with people, openness, some basic knowledge, not being shy, expressing your opinion, defending your opinion. You have to be able to work in a team, not to be very aggressive to everyone so that no one likes you, or vice versa, very closed off so that no one pays attention to you at all. It means being active, showing yourself, and showing your capabilities. It's not about knowledge: knowing how to use project management or English. There is no such thing, but it is all acquired: if you want to, you can." (FGD, Youth 16-19)*

*"I think we can make an association where they would teach a little bit of these solutions. This is a joint format where we explain that opinion is important, what a decision is, and how to express yourself. To provide a little bit of such a program, that is, educational activities." (FGD, Adults)*

When measuring the effectiveness of youth involvement, adult participants in the study suggest that the opinions of older people should also be taken into account, as they believe that quality cooperation between youth and local government has an impact on the life of the entire community.

*"The results, i.e. the survey, are not among the youth, but among other community members, and they can evaluate their activities. If the youth of the community have taken some action, even passers-by will see that they are relevant, that they are doing something." (FGD, Adults)*

## RECOMMENDATIONS AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM

The main recommendations made by the respondents include: training, active measures to engage young people, in particular through school psychologists, and cooperation with NGOs and local governments. Local governments should invite young people to participate in their projects, allow the Youth Council to take more initiative, conduct educational activities, and conduct surveys among young people so that they understand that they are being listened to. The development of school self-government is also very important, as it encourages young people to unite and gives them experience in interacting with government officials (open lectures, workshops, etc.).

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*"It's new ideas, new views, digital literacy because nowadays young people are very knowledgeable. If young people are involved, it may even influence the improvement of the country's democracy to some extent..." (FGD, Youth 20-25)*

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*"I think the first thing is to hold trainings for young people. They are very motivating very encouraging, and they defuse young people. Because nowadays young people are very shy. They are ashamed to express themselves, to show their abilities, and to say that they know something and even know a lot. And such trainings are a great opportunity to express themselves and show their thoughts and ideas." (FGD, Youth 20-25)*

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*"To organize it for 2 days in a safer place, for example, in Zakarpattia. Some kind of a camp for children to communicate, where they can rest from all these worries and communicate and get to know each other. And to be honest with you, [...] I don't always support this huge number of trainings. I would say they are just a waste of money. They are just organized because they need to check a box to gather people... No, why? If there is really a war, people have a lot of problems. There are children whose houses are destroyed, damaged... They have their own worries, and here is an opportunity to go and relax, communicate, and meet. The result will be much greater." (IDI, Liubov)*

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*"...That, first of all, all schools should have a psychologist. This is very important, but not all schools have them. And this can already be done through a psychologist, that is, to communicate with young people through a psychologist. They can conduct certain information training and provide young people with information that there is a certain organization, a certain project aimed at hearing your thoughts and implementing them." (FGD, Youth 19-25)*

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Some respondents also noted the need for equal access to decision-making for young people, regardless of their religion, physical abilities, age or income. Some participants also believe that more active involvement of people with disabilities is advisable. At the same time, participants did not believe that IDPs should be treated differently, as they believe that they integrate well into the community and are as active as other youth.

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*"Do not use religious norms, age norms, and if you come from a poor family." (FGD, Adults)*

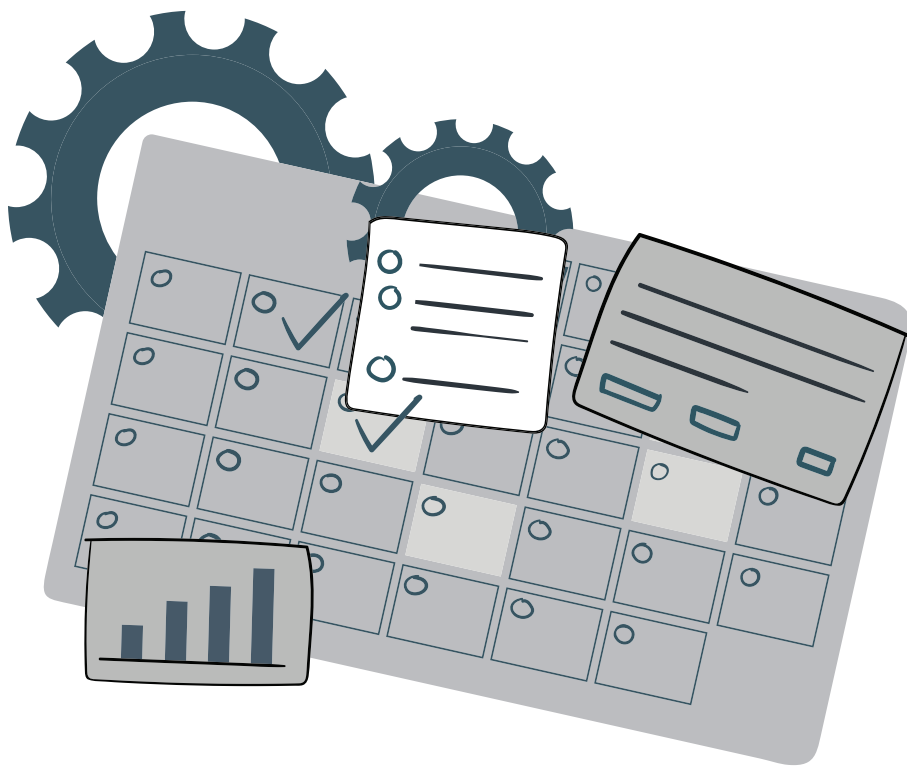
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*"Involve more such people [with disabilities], involve them in this activity, because they also have very interesting ideas, and the ideas are aimed at the same people with the same needs as this person." (FGD, Adults)*

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*"There is no need to emphasize this, to draw attention to it. We have children who are IDPs, they communicate perfectly with all children and visit the same places with them. And I think we should not emphasize them." (IDI, Liubov)*

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Матеріали підготував Благодійний фонд «Стабілізуєшн Суппорт Сервісез» у співпраці з гуманітарною організацією «Людина в біді» та за фінансової підтримки Чеської агенції розвитку.