

ANALYTICAL REPORT

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

 Tlumach City Community

CONTENTS

I. METHODOLOGY	3
II. KEY RESULTS	5
2.1. Level of youth participation in decision-making at the local level	5
2.2. Methods and tools for involving young people in decision-making at the local level.....	7
2.3. Barriers and challenges to engaging young people in decision-making at the local level	9
2.4. Factors facilitating youth involvement in local decision-making	11
2.5. Stakeholder recommendations for policies and practices to improve youth engagement in local decision-making	12
III. CONCLUSIONS	14

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.

METHODOLOGY

List of abbreviations:

FGD – focus group discussion;
LSG – local self-government body;
NGO – non-governmental organization;
YC – youth council;
TC – territorial community;

The study “Involvement of youth in decision-making at the local level” in the Tlumach City Territorial Community was conducted from September 1 to October 20, 2024.

The field phase of the study was conducted from September 10 to 30, 2024.

The purpose of the study:

- Assessment of the level of youth involvement in decision-making processes at the local level;
- Identification of challenges and barriers to youth involvement in decision-making at the local level;
- Identification of factors that facilitate youth involvement in decision-making at the local level;
- Identification of methods and tools for involving young people in decision-making at the local level;
- Development of recommendations for policies and practices to improve youth involvement in local decision-making.

Target audience of the study: representatives of community youth aged 16-25, government officials, social workers, youth leaders, members of youth councils, representatives of youth centers, spaces, members of youth NGOs, youth workers, parents and teachers of active youth.

Research tools are qualitative research methods (in-depth semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions).

The study conducted **6 in-depth interviews** based on a pre-planned framework with government officials, social workers, youth leaders, youth council leaders, and representatives of youth centers and spaces. The interviews were conducted online using the ZOOM video communication platform. The duration of one interview ranges from 50 to 90 minutes.

3 focus group discussions were held based on a pre-compiled guide as part of the study:

- 1 FGD with representatives of active youth aged 16-19;
- 1 FGD with representatives of active youth aged 20-25;
- 1 FGD with parents and teachers of active youth.

All FGDs were conducted offline. The number of participants in one FGD ranged from 6 to 10 people. The duration of one FGD ranged from 110 to 140 minutes.

Coding of respondents' answers

All research was conducted on a confidential basis. The quotes in the text of the report are coded according to the following criteria:

- **Respondent's gender:** M – man, W – woman;
- **Respondent's age;**
- **Respondent category:** Y16-19 – a youth representative aged 16-19; Y20-25 – a youth representative aged 20-25; P – a representative of parents of active youth; T – teacher of active youth; LSG – representative of a local self-government body; NGO – member of a youth NGO; YW – youth worker; YC – youth council member; SW – social worker; YCR – representative of a youth center.

Limitations of the study

This study is not representative of the socio-demographic group of young people in the Kalush City Territorial Community; instead, it reflects the opinion of the active part of the youth environment of the TC, as well as other representatives of the environment who are stakeholders in the process of developing and implementing youth policy.

¹*One person can fit into several categories at the same time.*

KEY RESULTS

According to the European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life, youth participation and active citizenship involve having the rights, means, space and opportunities, and where necessary, support, to participate and influence decisions and to take part in actions and activities in order to contribute to building a better society. Ensuring youth participation in decision-making processes is an important element of building a better future not only for young people, but for all residents of the community as a whole.

2.1. LEVEL OF YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

The analysis of youth interaction with local self-government in the Tlumach City Territorial Community shows that it is ineffective and is carried out mainly through the youth council, as well as through personal contacts with employees of the house of culture. Most often, youth representatives cite examples of communication and interaction with Lesia Kuderska, deputy director of the Tlumach House of Culture. The respondents noted that they have the opportunity to address Ms. Lesia directly and jointly implement their ideas.

The youth did not name any LSG employees. This indicates a low level of interaction and cooperation between the youth environment and the governmental institution.

*"Personally, I have the opportunity to interact because I am in the youth council."
(F_16_Y16-19_YC).*

Young respondents generally assess the level of involvement in decision-making processes as low. One of the reasons for this assessment is the decline in the level of activity of the youth council. According to young people, at the time of the survey, only 4 out of 26 official council members were active. The reasons for the passivity are the high academic load of young people, as well as migration to other communities or regions of Ukraine and abroad to get an education.

Another reason for the low involvement of young people is that they are not listened to or consulted in the decision-making process.

*"We play a very small part in all of this. We are almost invisible, everything is decided by the elders, young people are not asked about what is necessary or interesting."
(F_16_Y16-19_YC).*

Representatives of other target audiences, including local self-government officials, parents, and teachers, also point to a low level of youth engagement, attributing it to indifference and reluctance.

*"I want to tell you that the vast majority of our young people are indifferent. It is very difficult to involve them in anything."
(F_40_T_P).*

In-depth interviews with LSG representatives revealed that youth representatives do not attend meetings of sessions, executive committees, and other events. However, the statements of the young respondents indicate that they are ready and willing to engage in the social and political life of the community.

Youth representatives (mostly aged 16-19) declare a strong willingness to participate in decision-making processes at the community level and to join targeted activities, but they do not have information about these activities due to low interaction with representatives of government institutions.

Youth aged 20-25 have much less motivation to engage in decision-making and community life. The key reason for the low motivation is unsuccessful previous interaction with government officials and the community in general.

In particular, the youth council took the initiative to organize an entertainment evening (dance party) in the community to meet the needs of its target audience. Given that martial law has been introduced in Ukraine, a survey was conducted on the youth council's website on the feasibility of holding such an event, its formats, etc.

After the survey, young people faced a sharp rejection of their initiative by the older generation, including hostility and insults. According to the respondents, they expected support and protection from the LSG, but the LSG representatives were indifferent. This undermined young people's trust in the government and demotivated them.

*"It is important for us not to be judged and to be allowed to implement our projects."
(F_16_Y16-19_YC).*

Thus, it can be argued that the key to successful youth engagement is support from the LSG and the provision of opportunities for the implementation of ideas. Youth representatives are proactive and declare their readiness to contribute to community development. Young people often participate in volunteer initiatives and are ready to engage in community service, but their involvement in decision-making processes at the LSG level remains limited.

"I want to do something for the community, but I don't have enough time and opportunities because of my studies." (F_16_Y16-19_YC).

*"I think we need to involve different categories of youth to ensure their activity in communities."
(F_34_T_P).*

It is worth noting that, despite the generally low level of youth involvement in the community, the worst situation is in starosta districts. The study showed that the Tlumach City Territorial Community lacks tools for engaging rural youth not only in decision-making processes but also in community life in general. All of this leads to a significant alienation of young people living in remote settlements from the social, cultural and governance processes taking place in the community.

A separate problem is the lack of youth centers, cultural or sports facilities in villages, which significantly limits opportunities for social activity of young people. The lack of infrastructure and opportunities for self-realization means that young people are often forced to look for opportunities for development outside their communities.

The problem is exacerbated by the remoteness of rural districts from the administrative center of the community. Rural youth have limited access to events held in the urban part of the community, including due to transportation constraints (lack of regular and convenient transportation).

As a result, we can state that the low level of youth participation in decision-making in the Tlumatska community is due to the lack of effective interaction with the local self-government, insufficient support for youth initiatives, and an information vacuum.

The activity of the youth council in the community is low, and young people, especially in rural districts, are almost not involved in community life due to a lack of infrastructure and convenient transportation.

However, despite a significant number of restrictions and barriers, young people express their readiness to actively participate in the social and political life of the community, provided they are supported by local authorities and have the opportunity to implement their own initiatives.

2.2. METHODS AND TOOLS FOR INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE IN DECISION-MAKING AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

Methods and tools for involving young people in decision-making at the local level can be divided into different approaches that promote youth participation in governance processes. One of the main tools is youth councils, which act as advisory bodies to local authorities and provide a platform for young people to express their opinions, suggestions and ideas for community development.

Equally important are public discussions and hearings where young people can participate in discussions and influence decision-making.

Social media and online polls are another effective tool, as young people actively use digital platforms to share their opinions.

Open meetings and participation in public events that allow young people to express their views directly remain important. Some communities also implement youth projects with the support of local authorities, which helps to put youth ideas into practice.

Another tool is the organization of internships for young people within the local self-government structure. Thanks to internships, representatives of the youth environment better understand the mechanism of government institutions and are more willing to get employed there.

The level of youth influence on decision-making processes in the Tlumach City Territorial Community depends on two key factors: the activity of the youth themselves and the readiness of local authorities to involve them in management processes by developing and implementing participation tools.

Respondents from all target groups noted that the community uses several methods and tools to involve young people in decision-making processes. Here are the key ones:

- Participation in the work of the youth council;
- Participation in public discussions;
- Conducting open meetings with young people.

“The Youth Council is a great platform for exchanging ideas, but sometimes it seems that these ideas don’t translate into real solutions.” (F_22_T_Y19-25).

“Open meetings give us the opportunity to speak out, but sometimes our opinions are simply not taken into account.” (M_18_T_Y16-19).

In addition, the community actively uses **social media** to disseminate information and collect suggestions from young people. Given the rapid development of information technology and the active use of social media not only for communication but also for obtaining information, we consider it appropriate to advise the Tlumach City Council to expand its presence on such communication platforms as Telegram, Instagram, and Tik-tok.

Organizing online surveys to understand the moods or needs of the youth environment will create an additional full-fledged tool for youth participation in the community.

“Social media is a great tool to hear from young people, but unfortunately, sometimes it remains only at the level of discussion without further action.” (M_24_Y19-25_LSG).

“We actively use social media to share ideas. It is convenient and fast” (F_18_T_Y16-19).

Some respondents noted that young people are involved in projects supported by international organizations, including the DOBRE project, which focuses on planning local initiatives.

However, the project activity of the youth council and youth NGOs remains low. This is due to both a lack of knowledge and a lack of support and co-financing opportunities.

“Interaction with international partners opens up new opportunities for development and learning. We had a project from the Dobre donor where we could equip the space.” (M_16__T_Y16-19).

“The project funds were used to purchase three playgrounds for three settlements. This is one of the moments where we have improved opportunities for young people.” (F_36_T_LSG).

Representatives of the Tlumach City Council noted that the “Program for the Development of Education, Physical Culture and Sports of the Tlumatska Territorial Community for 2023-2027”, which defines a list of activities and events planned in the community to create leisure opportunities and develop the youth environment, was a tool for involving young people in decision-making and the socio-political life of the community as a whole.

However, the majority of respondents stated that they did not have information about this program and were not involved in its development.

The lack of involvement of young people in the process of developing program documents indicates that the proposed activities may not meet their needs and may not be popular among the target audience. This situation creates a risk of inefficient use of funds for youth development in the community, and also reduces the trust of young people in government institutions.

"In general, I would like to say that these programs, even if adopted, are not well funded by the city council. The program developer is the Department of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports, and I'm not sure if they attract young people." (M_45_T_LSG).

"Young people need to know how their ideas influence decisions. If they don't see the result, their interest will fade." (F_30_T_T).

The study shows that various activities are carried out in the community to engage young people, but their effectiveness and the level of compliance with the needs of young people are not monitored. This indicates a lack of feedback in the implementation of youth policy.

"Official meetings are often formal, and it is difficult for young people to express their opinions. Perhaps it is worth making these meetings more informal." (F_16_T_Y16-19).

2.3. BARRIERS AND CHALLENGES TO ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE IN DECISION-MAKING AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

There are many barriers and challenges to involving young people in decision-making in the Tlumach City Territorial Community.

One of the biggest barriers is the lack of support from local authorities and the absence of effective mechanisms to influence important decisions.

"Many young people feel that their opinions don't matter if they don't see any real results of their statements." (M_16_T_Y16-19).

The analysis of the responses revealed that the proposals of young people who want to get involved in community life are often ignored. This significantly reduces the motivation for active participation and encourages active young people to emigrate and find fulfillment elsewhere.

"Many young people go to study in a neighboring community and find better living conditions there." (F_26_T_Y20-25).

"It is important that all voices are heard. I often feel that only a few of us have the opportunity to express our opinions." (F_17_T_Y16-19).

As it turned out, another barrier to youth involvement in decision-making is the ineffective interaction with them by the structural units of local self-government bodies responsible for working with young people. Representatives of some structural units often do not involve young people in their work, and they feel isolated.

No one consults with youth representatives during the development of program documents for the development of the youth environment, and this calls into question the relevance of the documents to the real needs and demands of the target audience.

Lack of knowledge about opportunities, tools and mechanisms for engaging in decision-making processes and social and political life of the community not only reduces the readiness of young people to join initiatives, but also limits opportunities for constructive dialogue.

Another important obstacle is the lack of effective communication channels between young people and local self-government bodies. More than half of the surveyed respondents “do not know how to contact the authorities or which organizations to turn to for support.”

Therefore, increasing the level of LSG’s communication effectiveness and increasing the number of communication platforms is one of the top priorities for both local self-government bodies and civil society.

“Young people do not have a clear understanding of how they can influence decision-making processes.” (F_18_T_Y16-19).

“We try to be open, but young people often don’t know about our initiatives.” (F_30_T_LSG).

In the context of barriers and obstacles, it is also worth paying attention to socio-demographic factors. The study showed that young people often face the barriers of age and lack of experience, which make their opinions not taken into account and not taken into account.

“It creates a sense of futility in participating in such processes” (M_16_T_Y16-19).

However, representatives of other target audiences, including parents and teachers, indicate that there are no barriers to youth involvement in the community.

This leads to the conclusion that there is a significant gap between the perception of the youth environment by youth representatives and other target groups in the community, which may lead to conflict situations in the long run.

“No, there are no barriers. Our youth are very modern, they are gender-aware. I don’t think there is anything to hinder them, except for some personal, minimal ones.” (F_40-T_P).

Policies and practices that also hinder youth involvement include a rigid approach to public meetings and discussions. In such cases, youth participation is perceived as a purely procedural aspect, without real attention to their proposals. This further reinforces the feeling of neglect and apathy.

We consider it appropriate to highlight another barrier to youth involvement: the lack of access to public leisure facilities (including youth spaces) after 5 p.m.

One of the respondents, a representative of LSG, provided information that the functions of the community youth space are to create opportunities for young people to implement their initiatives, hold events and activities, etc. The young respondents themselves noted that the space is open until 5 p.m., when young people are usually studying or working.

This example shows that the formal availability of youth participation tools does not guarantee their effective use. Local government representatives should constantly evaluate the available mechanisms, increasing their effectiveness and compliance with the real needs and demands of the youth environment.

2.4. FACTORS FACILITATING YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN LOCAL DECISION-MAKING

The analysis of the responses revealed a number of factors that can contribute to increasing the level of youth involvement in social and political life in the community and in decision-making processes in particular.

1. Organizing activities and events that meet the needs of young people. Young people themselves confirm that such activities and events will be an important motivational factor. The absence of such events in the community encourages young people to look for alternatives outside the community – to emigrate or leave.

2. Providing support and mentoring in the process of implementing their own initiatives. According to parents and teachers, judgment and criticism, particularly in social media, negatively affects the motivation of young people to implement their own ideas and reduces the level of interaction.

“Without support and encouragement from adults, young people can feel that their opinions don’t matter, and this greatly reduces their motivation to participate.” (F_19_T_16-19).

“Praise and support are important for young people.” (F_40_T_P).

3. Convenient and accessible consideration of youth opinions in the decision-making process. Young people are not quite motivated to attend meetings of the city council or executive committee, but they are ready to vote on social media, participate in polls, etc. As a result, in order to encourage young people to actively participate in decision-making processes, it is advisable to conduct surveys using social media and, most importantly, to use the results in the decision-making process.

4. Availability of accessible tools for engaging youth in decision-making at the community level. In particular, youth representatives indicate their readiness to use such a tool as an internship in the structure of the Tlumach City Council. Therefore, expanding the list of available engagement tools is one of the most important motivational factors for young people.

5. Engaging famous people, including bloggers and opinion leaders, in the process of communication and interaction. After all, bloggers, vloggers, influencers and celebrities shape the views of young people. Organizing meetings with such people with the participation of local government representatives or conducting information campaigns can have a positive impact on the level of youth engagement.

6. Organizing and holding open discussions and informal meetings that would facilitate an open dialogue between young people and the authorities. Youth representatives said they would not mind joining meetings with the city council leadership and discussing community development issues.

7. Engaging the potential of the public sector in the interaction between youth and authorities in the community. The respondents indicated that they actively cooperate with a volunteer organization in the community and often participate in organizing volunteer events. Establishing cooperation between the public sector and the LSG can serve as an additional communication platform for involving young people in decision-making.

2.5. STAKEHOLDER RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICIES AND PRACTICES TO IMPROVE YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN LOCAL DECISION-MAKING

The study found that youth policy stakeholders (young people, representatives of local self-government bodies (LSG), parents, and teachers) are interested in the development of the youth environment and are ready to invest in its development.

LSG representatives emphasized the need to expand the range of participation tools and the possibility of organizing and holding more events. Young people want to see more interactive methods of engagement, including educational trainings, informal meetings, and discussion clubs. Such activities are intended to promote better interaction between young people and local authorities and strengthen civic engagement.

The involvement of other stakeholders in the development of the youth environment is also an important factor in its diversity. Parents, teachers/educators and civil society organizations should play an important role in youth engagement processes by acting as mentors and mentors, providing youth with knowledge about political activism and participation in community life. According to the respondents, teachers and parents should pay more attention to raising civic awareness among children and youth. At the same time, civil society organizations should become a platform for interaction between young people and the authorities.

Thus, the key recommendations of the stakeholders are as follows:

■ **IMPLEMENTATION OF INCLUSIVE APPROACHES TO INTERACTION WITH YOUTH.** The authorities should take into account the interests and needs of different groups of young people and provide more convenient conditions for their participation in decision-making processes.

- **FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF YOUTH INITIATIVES.** Young people need financial support for the implementation of projects, as well as a transparent procedure for obtaining grants and funding from LSG.
- **IMPROVEMENT OF TRANSPORT ACCESSIBILITY.** Young people from starosta districts emphasized the need for better transportation to facilitate participation in events held in decision-making centers.
- **RAISING AWARENESS OF YOUTH ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTICIPATION.** It is important to conduct information campaigns and make more active use of social media to promote opportunities for youth participation in local life.
- **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND WORKSHOPS.** For young people to be ready to take an active part in community life, it is necessary to conduct training in leadership, project management, and communication.
- **THE FIRST STEPS OF THE AUTHORITIES.** Local authorities can already activate young people by inviting them to participate in the planning of new projects or consultative meetings. This will be an important signal to young people that their opinion is important and can influence the development of the community.
- **INVOLVEMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS.** Civil society organizations already play an important role in youth development, but need additional resources to expand their programs and opportunities to work with young people.

"We need more support and cooperation between NGOs and local authorities" (F_22_T_Y20-25).

"Often we just don't know about the existence of such opportunities" (F_19_Y16-19).

"It is very important for the civil society sector to be active and support young people in their endeavors" (F_45_T_P).

"Joint projects and initiatives can establish a dialogue between young people and local authorities" (F_18_T_Y16-19).

"We need platforms where we can openly express our opinions and be heard" (F_18_T_Y16-19).

Overall, in our opinion, increasing the level of youth involvement in decision-making processes requires comprehensive measures that combine support from local authorities, educational opportunities for young people, and the active role of NGOs and schools as communication platforms.

CONCLUSIONS

The study “Youth Involvement in Local Decision-Making” in the Tlumach City Territorial Community found that the level of youth participation in decision-making processes remains low. Although young people express a desire to participate in community life, the tools for this participation, such as public hearings and the work of the youth council, are not used effectively enough. Therefore, young people do not see their real influence on decisions, and their role in the processes is perceived as formal.

One of the main problems is the lack of regular communication between the authorities and youth. The lack of information and consultation makes young people feel excluded from decision-making, and this reduces their motivation to actively participate. Low awareness of the available mechanisms of influence and lack of trust in local authorities become significant barriers to youth engagement. In addition, transportation difficulties, especially in remote starosta districts, further complicate youth participation in community events.

Despite these difficulties, young people continue to express a desire to be part of community life. This is facilitated by the presence of youth leaders, support from NGOs, and professional development programs. Local initiatives by the authorities to support youth projects are also important, as they motivate young people to become more involved.

To improve the situation, it is worth reviewing the work of the youth council by involving representatives of starosta districts and establishing a regular dialogue with local authorities. In addition, it is advisable to introduce new forms of cooperation: internships for young people in the executive bodies of local self-government, regular meetings with community leaders in an informal atmosphere, and the creation of a youth advisor position. It is also important to support initiatives to create youth NGOs that will be able to apply for grants and implement their own projects.

At the same time, young people often feel that their ideas do not receive adequate support, in particular due to a lack of financial resources and insufficient information support on official community platforms. Community youth policy is perceived as formal and insufficiently adapted to the real needs of young people, and this also hinders their activity.

Therefore, in order to increase the level of youth involvement, it is necessary to create conditions that ensure their real participation in decision-making processes and provide them with support, both at the institutional and resource levels.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To increase the level of youth participation in decision-making in the Tlumach City Territorial Community, **we recommend reading the following recommendations:**

IMPROVING COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION ACCESSIBILITY

Development of information platforms: create dedicated online resources or social media pages for young people, where information about opportunities to participate in community life, LSG initiatives, local projects and events will be available.

Active use of social media: regularly update information through platforms that are popular among young people, – Instagram, TikTok, Telegram.

Publication of the results of youth participation: Ensure transparency of processes and publication of the results of initiatives in which young people participated. This will help to increase motivation.

DEVELOPING DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION BETWEEN YOUNG PEOPLE AND LSG

Ensuring the functioning of communication platforms for interaction between youth and LSG: organize regular mini-forums or roundtables for youth to meet with LSG representatives, where they can directly discuss their needs and ideas.

Focus groups and discussions: organize regular meetings with youth leaders and LSG representatives to jointly identify key areas of cooperation.

Integration activities: promote the involvement of young people in joint activities with representatives of older generations and local authorities to build trust and mutual understanding.

CREATING PROGRAMS TO DEVELOP LEADERSHIP SKILLS

Workshops and master classes: organize courses for young people aimed at developing leadership skills, public speaking, project management and effective communication.

Competitions and grant programs: create opportunities for young people to win grants and support for the implementation of their initiatives, thus encouraging them to actively participate in the development of projects for the community.

IMPLEMENTATION AND USE OF FEEDBACK MECHANISMS

Questionnaires and surveys: introduce systems for collecting youth opinions, for example, through online surveys or questionnaires, to regularly assess youth needs and requirements for LSG.

Involving young people in monitoring and evaluation: to enable young people to participate in monitoring the implementation of local programs and evaluating the effectiveness of various measures implemented in communities.

INCREASE ENGAGEMENT THROUGH INCENTIVIZING PARTICIPATION

Awards and recognitions: introduce award systems for young activists who make a significant contribution to community development and youth policy.

Hands-on participation in the processes: provide young people with the opportunity not only to participate in discussions but also to be part of the decision-making process, for example, through involvement in working groups on local infrastructure development or educational programs.

REBOOTING THE YOUTH COUNCIL AND INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE FROM STAROSTA DISTRICTS

Updating the composition of the youth council: to ensure effective representation of young people in local governments, it is necessary to reboot the youth council, i.e. to renew its composition, in particular by involving new active young leaders who are able to represent the interests of different groups of young people, including those from remote and rural areas.

Rotation of council members: to ensure fresh ideas and new approaches to the work of the youth council, it is advisable to introduce a rotation system. Rotation will allow young people to have more opportunities to participate in governance processes and will help to regularly update their views and initiatives.

Identification of strategic priorities for the development of the youth council: to ensure the development of a strategic plan for the activities of the youth council in the community, identifying the key priorities of its work in the context of performing the functions of an advisory body.

YOUTH INTERNSHIP IN LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT BODIES (LSG)

Introducing an internship program for young people: organize systematic internships for young people in local authorities, where young people can not only observe but also participate in decision-making processes, administrative duties and the implementation of local programs.

Mentoring during internships: to ensure more effective mastery of professional skills, a mentoring program can be implemented, where young interns will work under the guidance of experienced LSG representatives or junior specialists who already have experience in local self-government.

Rotation in different LSG departments: ensure that young interns have the opportunity to change internship locations, working in different departments of the local administration (economy, education, youth policy, etc.) to gain a comprehensive understanding of the work of local self-government bodies.

“COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR” – REGULAR INFORMAL MEETINGS OF YOUNG PEOPLE WITH LSG LEADERSHIP

Organizing informal meetings: introduce the initiative “Coffee with the Mayor” – regular informal meetings of young people with the mayor or other LSG representatives. These meetings will allow young people to ask questions directly, discuss community issues, and offer their ideas for the development of the city.

Promoting openness and accessibility of the authorities: such meetings will be a great opportunity for young people to learn more about the decision-making processes in LSG and gain direct access to the city leadership. It will also increase trust in local government and contribute to a better understanding of the needs and demands of young people by the authorities.

Increasing motivation through participation: regular communication with representatives of local authorities will allow young people to feel their importance and become more involved in the processes of change in their community.

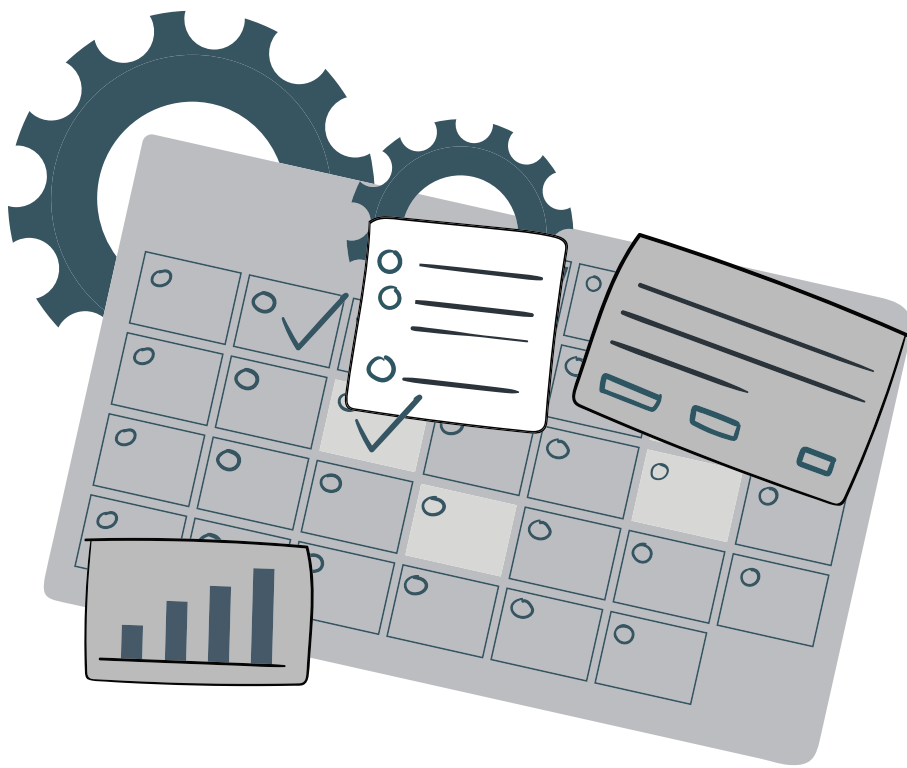
INTRODUCTION OF THE POSITION OF YOUTH ADVISOR IN THE LOCAL COUNCIL

Establishment of the position of youth advisor: for the effective implementation of youth participation policy in decision-making processes at the local level, it is necessary to create a separate position of a youth adviser in the local council. Such an advisor would be responsible for coordinating work with youth, identifying the needs of the youth environment, and providing recommendations to local authorities on programs and initiatives for youth.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A YOUTH NGO TO APPLY FOR GRANTS ON YOUTH ISSUES

The creation of a youth non-governmental organization (YNGO) will be an important step in activating young people and engaging them in solving social and community problems through grantmaking. Such an organization will become a platform for supporting and implementing youth initiatives, giving them the opportunity to receive funding for their own projects.

The materials were prepared by the Charity Foundation “Stabilization Support Services” in cooperation with the humanitarian organization “People in Need” and with the financial support of the Czech Development Agency.



The materials were prepared by the Charity Foundation “Stabilization Support Services” in cooperation with the humanitarian organization “People in Need” and with the financial support of the Czech Development Agency.