

Transformation Literacy Conference

GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURES WITH

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Friday, 28 April 2023 2:00 - 4:00PM CET

**"Collaboration across societal levels for
democracy and good governance
in Ukraine"**





Collaboration across societal levels for democracy and good governance in Ukraine

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April 28, 2023

Re-thinking the role of civil society

Last year in Ukraine revealed that the **real power lies in the strength of your civil society** that has knowledge, expertise, and networks to address a lot of difficult issues inside Ukraine. Civil society is a real partner of the government in defending and rebuilding Ukraine.



Self-organized volunteer group delivers food to frontline communities

Extended civil society in Ukraine – Self-organization as a key driver

- NGOs and charities
- Local communities and condominiums that got a stronger voice in results of decentralization reform
- Youth centres
- Entrepreneurs
- Self-organized groups / volunteers
- Media and various watchdog groups / investigators



Community members rebuilding the house of their neighbour in previously occupied Zdvyzhivka village



Areas where civil society has strong impact – Commitment for collective action

- Reintegration of war veterans
- Creating community based solutions for internally displaced persons (IDPs)
- Promoting access to education and essential services at community level
- Gender equality and inclusion – advocating for ratification of the Istanbul Convention and LGBTQ+ rights
- Advocating for a green recovery of Ukraine



Ukrainians are determined to be engaged in decision making about the future of the country – What are the existing structures?

- **On international level:** Civil Society Lugano Declaration with underlying principles for recovery: Participation, Inclusion, Accountability, Inclusion
- **On national level:** Recovery of Ukraine is a new societal agreement – recovery should be done based on the principles of good governance and democratic decision making
- **On national level:** Civil society engagement through working groups and structured conversations
- **On local levels:** Governance structures to engage with local communities including those who are affected by the war: internally displaced people, war veterans, people with disabilities

54% of Ukrainians believe that local communities and local residents should determine the future of Ukraine.

37% of Ukrainians believe that local authorities should determine the future of Ukraine.

<https://shorturl.at/pJRUZ>



Challenges

- **How to develop a shared vision** on how Ukraine should look like in the future and how to balance the interests of civil society, government, local communities, and nature?
- **How to maintain inclusive platforms** where all the different stakeholders can have an open dialogue?
- **How to ensure that civil society in Ukraine is physically and mentally alive** – civil society and community leaders are fighting at the front lines, ensuring physical safety of their dependants, or engaging in humanitarian response



Thank you!

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