



Хмельницька міська рада Khmelnytskyi City Council

29013, Україна, м. Хмельницький, вул. Гагаріна, 3
Тел. (0382) 76-41-24, 76-59-00 Факс 76-59-00
Електронна пошта: rada@khm.gov.ua

Haharina Str. 3, Khmelnytskyi, Ukraine, 29013
Tel. (0382) 76-41-24, 76-59-00 Fax 76-59-00
E-mail: rada@khm.gov.ua

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на № _____ від _____

OGP Local Team

Full Application Letter of Support Guide

Dear Sirs,

As the Mayor of the City of Khmelnytskyi, on behalf of the City Council and the city community, I am deeply honored to express our willingness to join the open Government Program. We commit to uphold the principles of open and transparent government, expressed in the Open Government Declaration, as we firmly believe that transparency and open governance are key of success for a local community. In 2018, the deputies of the Khmelnytskyi city Council approved Regulations on Open Data, and in 2019 signed the International Open Data Charter, this decision was made unanimously by all of the deputies <https://opendatacharter.net/>. There are only nine such cities in Ukraine. We seek to publicly report on the actions taken to implement these principles, consulting with the public on their implementation and updating our commitments in the light of new challenges and opportunities.

Khmelnytskyi is a city of 270,000 inhabitants. According to the results of the fifth municipal survey of the International Republican Institute in Ukraine in 2019, Khmelnytskyi has one of the lowest corruption rate indices in Ukraine, and 80% of respondents approve the activity of the city authorities, which puts Khmelnytskyi on the 1st place among the regional centers of Ukraine according to the experience of cooperation with the city government.

According to the first open data release rating, conducted by the Government-and-Public Initiative “Together against Corruption”, Khmelnytskyi became the leader among the regional centers of Ukraine according to the general estimation of open data release conditions.

Moreover, Khmelnytskyi is a market place for innovation and opportunity, one of the best places for doing business in Ukraine.



Openness, accountability, honesty – these are the principles that guide us in our activities. Today, more than 80 officials and workers of communal enterprises are working on open data of the city council. To ensure the open data policy implementation, we have set up a working group that has already identified a roadmap for our actions and commitments to be fulfilled in the coming years. We constantly conduct training and study successful experience of the communities. We seek to establish and maintain a legal framework for the disclosure of the income and assets of the high-ranking national civil servants. We strive to provide the public with information about the activities and effectiveness of our anti-corruption and law enforcement agencies, as well as about procedures of these institutions, and keeping confidentiality of specific law enforcement information.

Our goal is to have a credible anti-corruption policy. Khmelnytskyi is a confident leader in the fight against corruption, in the publicity sector, open budget, and access to resources. Khmelnytskyi became not only the leader of the Competitiveness Index of Ukrainian cities 2019/2020 overall rating, but also took the first places in the ratings in the components ‘Access to Public Property’, ‘Transparency and Openness of Data’. We are ready to share our experience with others.

The city is successfully implementing its own startup – the *MyCity* project (Unified City Information System web portal <http://mycity.khm.gov.ua>), which became a finalist in the Open Data Challenge based on open data (TAPAS Project / Transparency and accountability in government and services). Today more than 500 sets of open data are already available on the Internet on our portal and on the state open data portal.

By the end of 2020, we plan to launch a city geoportal, which will allow you to see geospatial data. This includes a master plan, plans for buildings in the city, control over facilities that have passed permitting procedures and more. This is the result of cooperation between officials and public activists. The creation of the city geoportal was supported by the *Support for Leading Anti-Corruption Organizations in Ukraine “VzayemoDiya”* Project, supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

We seek to set an example and promote the progress of open government in other countries by sharing best practices and experiences and committing ourselves to the commitments made in this declaration on a voluntary and non-binding basis. Our goal is to encourage innovation and stimulate progress. We emphasize the importance of promoting an integrated approach and technical assistance availability to support capacity and institutions development.

For the past 5 years, we have been studying the community needs, international and national experience, meeting with business, engaging scientists, experts, collaborating with NGOs and the media, communicating with the IT community, participating in competitions and forums.

For several years, the city has been actively allocating considerable funds to the *Participation Budget* – a program involving city residents in the projects implementation, aimed at changes in the city. For the next 2021, we plan to allocate 3 million hryvnias for the projects implementation that will improve the residents’ comfort and the city aesthetic appearance, as well as contribute to its socio-economic, cultural and spatial development.

Community involvement is important for us. Cooperation with active women of the city and youth are our priorities. We value equally and without discrimination the civic activism of all people in decision and policy making.

In 2020, more than 20 events were held for young people and the public, during which we talked about our activities and showed how to use the e-democracy tools (petitions, online consultations and surveys, e-appeals, Open City service).

The city is implementing many its own projects, including *School of Young Entrepreneur*, which provides support and promotes development for entrepreneurship in Khmelnytskyi, gives knowledge to young people, needed to start their own business. In total, since the beginning of the project, more than 200 participants have taken part in the School, who have successfully completed the training programs. There are successful examples of project graduates starting their own business.

We strive to uphold these principles in international cooperation, and we work to foster an open government global culture that empowers citizens and promotes the ideals of open and shared governance in the 21st century.

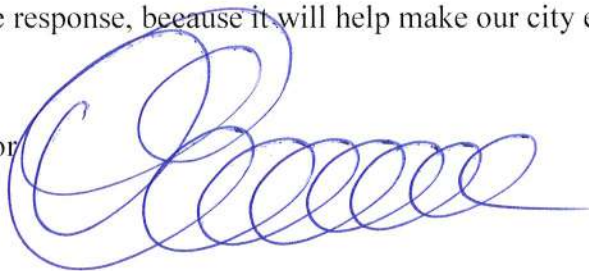
The high level of the city budget openness is evidenced by the fact that all budget funds managers are registered on a single web portal for the use of public funds <https://spending.gov.ua/>. All reports of the communal enterprises are published on the open data state portal <https://data.gov.ua/>.

In order to develop even more dynamic and effective relationships and interaction with city residents and businesses, it is important for us to accelerate the digitalization process in internal and external procedures, carried out in Khmelnytskyi. We are working out a new digital development program for the city to ensure even more effective policies implementation in the field of e-government and e-democracy, development of the information society, citizens digital skills and rights, open data, local electronic information resources and modern information technologies, effective management decisions.

We implement institutional integrity mechanisms and instruments that extend the notion of public office and service, including a system of oversight, so that the general interest has the highest priority.

So we hope for a positive response, because it will help make our city even more open.

Khmelnytskyi City Mayor



Oleksandr SYMCHYSHYN