Attachment to the decision of the city council

**Action Plan for the Implementation of the Open Government Partnership Initiative in Zviahel City and Orzhytsia Village Territorial Communities in 2025-2026**

In 2024, Zviahel and Orzhytsia, as part of a consortium, became one of the new partner municipalities of the Open Government Partnership initiative (OGP Local). This partnership unites local governments from around the world to implement the principles of open government, empower citizens, and fight corruption.

A Memorandum of Cooperation was concluded between Zviahel City Council and Orzhytsia Village Council to jointly develop and implement the principles of the Initiative. Both territorial communities have experience in involving residents in decision-making and are determined to deepen their development and exchange experience.

In July 2024, the Zviahel Community Development Strategy for 2024-2030 was approved. Developed with the participation of government representatives, local residents, civil society organizations, and businesses, alongside experts from the Council of Europe Office in Ukraine, the document outlines key tasks in all areas of community life. These include creating conditions for business development, attracting young people, and ensuring a high quality of life for all residents. A Monitoring Committee was established to oversee the Strategy's implementation.

The first Public Assembly in Ukraine was held in Zviahel, attracting about 60 residents of the Zviahel community. Forty-five main participants and twelve additional participants were randomly selected to represent the community's diverse demographics. Most had no prior experience with public participation tools or similar events.

The assembly, themed "Creating urban spaces as public locations for social interaction and recovery," was organized by the Zviahel City Council with the expert, methodological, and financial support of the Council of Europe's "Strengthening the Resilience of Democratic Processes through Public Participation in War and Post-War Periods" project.

During three weekend sessions in October-November 2024, members of the Public Assembly worked in groups to develop recommendations for local authorities on creating urban spaces in the community. They were assisted by experts and facilitators from the Council of Europe's public participation project.

As a result of the Assembly:

* vision for the community's urban spaces and an action plan for advocating initiatives was developed;
* setting up of eight initiative groups and one non-governmental organization was proposed. These groups will continue to work on the topic of open government.
* a foundation was as a basis for a new level of cooperation between local government and the community, where local authorities are receptive to public input and residents can actively influence community decisions.

The topic of the Public Assembly, "Creating urban spaces as public locations for social interaction and recovery," was determined at the Stakeholder Forum in July 2024 through detailed discussion and open voting. This theme was also reflected in the development of the Open Government Action Plan.

Orzhytsia Village Council's communication with community residents is carried out on the principles of ethics, accessibility and inclusivity. To foster trust, transparency in activities is ensured. Under martial law, information is disseminated through face-to-face public meetings, video addresses from leadership, and information messages and publications on the official village council website, Facebook page, and Telegram channels "Orzhytsia Village Council" and "Ask the Mayor." The official website includes an "Electronic Petitions" page and features accessibility for visually impaired individuals.

Over the past three years, Orzhytsia has actively applied public consultations as an effective tool for citizen engagement. Public discussions have already been conducted while discussing on the candidacies of 3 village elders (starosta), the renaming of 22 streets and alleys, and the optimization of 4 schools.

Orzhytsia Village Council also actively engaged citizens in a strategic session to discuss prospects for improving community life while developing the Orzhytsia Community Development Strategy until 2027 and the Comprehensive Spatial Development Plan of the Community Territory.

Partnerships have been established between the Orzhytsia village council and CSOs. Such interaction occurs through the involvement of an active community members to advisory and consultative bodies and through systematic information about the possibility of participating in various projects, advisory and practical assistance in developing project proposals. There are already many stories of joint achievements:

* 5 projects were implemented during the competition "Environmental Initiatives of Poltava Region";
* agricultural machinery was purchased for a municipal enterprise within the framework of the grant program "Course for Independence" from the agro-industrial holding Astarta with the support of the Government of Germany;
* a social cohesion hub "Wings of Hope of Orzhychchyna" was created during participation in the project "Path of Sustainability" with the support of the IOM;
* furniture was purchased for a school shelter thanks to the winning in the project "Support for the Restoration of Communities in Eastern Ukraine" by the Swiss organization for the implementation of sustainable development initiatives HELVETAS.

Currently, the Orzhytsia community is participating in a pilot project of the Ministry of Social Policy the Resilience Program to provide psychological assistance to military personnel, veterans and their families, support IDPs and other vulnerable groups of the community, and promote volunteer activities.

**Brief description of the progress of the Action Plan development**

Developing the Action Plan in a consortium is a challenge and an interesting opportunity. Various approaches and formats were used to develop it. Thus, a number of informational and introductory meetings were held, including with representatives of Kyiv, which also became a member of the OGP Local, as well as an exchange of experience with representatives of Vinnytsia, Ternopil and Khmelnytskyi, who have been members of the initiative since 2021. Representatives of Zviahel and Orzhytsia participated in extended meetings of the Coordination Council on the implementation of the Open Government Partnership Initiative in Ukraine (a consultative and advisory body of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine).

An online survey of active residents and officials of both communities was also conducted on potential commitments for the Action Plan. The results were discussed at a strategic session and were taken into account while developing draft Action Plan.

On 10 October, 2024, a strategic session was held, bringing together local activists, public organization representatives (including veterans and youth), local government officials, and experts. With the support of the Council of Europe project “Strengthening multi-level governance, democracy and human rights at local level in Ukraine”, participants actively developed priority areas for the future Action Plan, grounded in the important values of democratic society and effective governance.

As a result, the focus was placed on several key areas:

* Developing veteran policy, including creating a veteran space, providing psychological support to veterans' families, and offering vocational training and retraining.
* Expanding opportunities for youth engagement in community life, such as developing a School of Public Budget and Youth Council, and providing internships in local government bodies.
* Implementing the school participatory budget.

A Coordination Council mechanism has also been established to oversee the implementation of this Action Plan.

The draft Action Plan was discussed by local councillors’ commissions in both municipalities and was also published on the councils' official websites. Anyone interested could review the draft Action Plan before its adoption.

The Action Plan for the Implementation of the Open Government Partnership Initiative (OGP Action Plan) outlines specific measures to:

* Contribute to implementation of Ukraine's OGP commitments;
* Increase transparency, openness, and accountability of local government bodies;
* Strengthen public-private partnerships;
* Introduce innovative technologies into local government Exchange best practices.

**Implementing the Action Plan will allow to:**

* Expand opportunities for citizen participation in decision-making;
* Strengthen public trust in local government;
* Create an effective system of governance for territorial communities.

Joining the OGP Local initiative is a significant step for Zviahel City Council and Orzhytsia Village Council towards creating transparent and accountable local government.

The 2025-2026 Action Plan for the Open Government Partnership (OGP) initiative in Zviahel City and Orzhytsia Village includes commitments to strengthen citizen participation in decision-making. This will enhance trust and interaction between the public and local authorities, and lay the groundwork for the development of open governance.

**Commitments for the implementation of the Action Plan of the Open Government Partnership Initiative in Zviahel city and Orzhytsia Village territorial communities:**

**Commitment 1: Youth Development**

**Goal:** To empower young people by:

* Promoting their right to participate in local youth policy development and implementation;
* Creating a supportive environment and mechanisms for youth engagement in decision-making processes;
* Fostering active youth participation in community development;
* Involving young people in policies that directly impact their lives;
* Supporting proactive youth initiatives.

**Deadline:** 2025-2026

Impact of results on the strategic development of the community: implementation of this commitment will contribute to the implementation of task No.1.5.1. Ensuring conditions for youth leisure, development of the youth movement, desire to stay and be realized in the community, and achieving goal No. 1.5. Support for youth and public initiatives and communities, as defined in the "Development Strategy of the Zviahel City Territorial Community for the period 2024-2030", as well as task No. 3.3.2. Support for public participation and local development initiatives and achieving goal No. 3.3. Strengthen citizen participation in making management decisions and community development, as defined in the "Development Strategy of the Orzhytsia Village Territorial Community for the period until 2027".

**Brief description of the direction:** this direction is aimed at strengthening the role of youth in decision-making in the community, expanding opportunities for their self-development and realization of their potential, supporting proactive and talented youth.

**Implementing partner:** Zviahel city and Orzhytsia village councils

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| **Activity** | **Responsible for implementation** | **Deadline** | **Partners** | **Performance indicator** |
| Establishment of a youth council at the Orzhytsia Village council | Orzhytsia Village council | February - May 2025 | Zviahel city and youth councils (upon consent), NGO "Our Orzhytsia" (upon consent),  other civil society institutions (upon consent) | The Regulation on the youth council at the Orzhytsia Village council has been approved, containing indicative indicators of the effectiveness of its activities  Youth is involved on an ongoing basis in the decision-making process, in particular through the use of digital engagement tools by the youth council |
| Transformation of the mechanism of the Youth Council Activity at the Zviahel City Council | Zviahel City Council | During 2025 | the Zviahel Youth Council (upon consent)  Local youth public organizations of Zviahel (upon consent),  other civil society institutions (upon consent) | The approved updated Regulation on the Youth Council of the Zviahelsk City Council includes indicative performance indicators.  Youth will be continuously involved in decision-making processes, particularly through the use of digital engagement tools by the Youth Council. |
| Developing Policies to Attract, Recognize, and Encourage Talented and Creative Youth | Orzhytsia Village council | During 2025 | Zviahel Youth Council (with consent) NGO “Nasha Orzhytsia” (with consent) | Developed Regulations on annual financial rewards for gifted students and pupils of educational institutions for achieving special successes in international, All-Ukrainian and regional competitions, reviews, tournaments, competitions  The level of involvement and participation of young people in decision-making processes that concern them is increasing |
| Organizing a Youth Festival | Orzhytsia Village council | During 2025 | Zviahel City and Youth Councils (with consent)  NGO “Nasha Orzhytsia” (with consent)  Other civil society institutions (with consent) | Youth Festival: Held a youth festival to promote best practices in youth and student governance.  Increased Youth Participation: Expanded the number of members in youth organizations. |
| Organizing Round Table Discussions on Youth Council Experiences | Zviahel City Council | During 2025 | Orzhytsia Village Council  Zviahel and Orzhytsia Youth Councils (with consent)  Other civil society institutions (with consent) | **Round Table Discussions:** Held two round table discussions in Zviahel and Orzhytsia to exchange experiences and best practices among youth councils.  **Network Building and Knowledge Sharing:** Facilitated networking among youth organizations and promoted the implementation of successful youth participation models. |
| Creating Online Platforms for Youth Council Activities, coverage of activities in social networks | Zviahel City and Orzhytsia Village Councils | February-March 2025 | Zviahel and Orzhytsia Youth Councils (with consent)  Other civil society institutions (with consent) | Dedicated Website Sections: Created dedicated sections on the official websites of Zviahel City and Orzhytsia Village Councils to showcase youth council activities and membership.  Social Media Engagement: Actively used social media platforms to share updates and information about youth council initiatives. |

**Expected Results:**

* **Empowered Youth:** Create a conducive environment for young people to participate in local youth policy development and implementation.
* **Increased Youth Engagement:** Foster a growing number of proactive and influential young individuals.
* **Effective Youth Participation:** Ensure that youth councils effectively represent the interests of young people in local government decision-making.
* **Best Practice Implementation:** Promote the adoption of best practices in youth participation within Zviahel City and Orzhytsia Village Territorial Communities.
* **Transparent and Accountable Governance:** Advance the "Nothing for youth without youth" principle to enhance transparency and accountability in local government.

**Commitment 2: Developing a Veterans' Policy**

**Goal:** To empower veterans and their families by:

* Promoting their participation in local veterans' policy development and implementation.
* Facilitating their integration into society.
* Encouraging their active involvement in community development.
* Recognizing their contributions to the nation's defense.

**Impact on Strategic Community Development:**

* **Zviahel City Territorial Community:** Contributes to Task 2.1.2. Supporting the reintegration of military personnel and their families into civilian life and Goal 2.1. Creating suitable conditions for military personnel and their families within the community, as outlined in the 2024-2030 Development Strategy.
* **Orzhytsia Village Territorial Community:** Supports Task 1.1.2. Providing social protection and support and Goal 1.1. Ensuring quality services and adequate social protection, as outlined in the Development Strategy until 2027.

**Deadline:** December 2026

**Brief Description:** This initiative aims to establish a strong partnership between veterans and local authorities, ensuring their social well-being, professional advancement, and active participation in local decision-making.

**Implementing partner:** Zviahel City and Orzhytsia Village Councils.

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| **Activity** | **Responsible for implementation** | **Deadline** | **Partners** | **Performance indicator** |
| Establishing a Veterans' Advisory Board | Zviahel City Council | February-May 2025 | Veteran public organizations of the Zviahel community (upon consent)  Other civil society institutions (upon consent) | The decision of the executive committee approved the composition of the veterans' council at the Zviahel City Council from among veterans and their family members, representatives of public and volunteer organizations, and approved the Regulations on its activities |
| Creating Veteran Community Spaces | Zviahel City and Orzhytsia Village Councils | during 2025 | Veteran public organizations of the Zviahel and Orzhytsia communites (upon consent)  Other civil society institutions (upon consent) | **Established Veteran Spaces:** Created or renovated veteran spaces to facilitate the reintegration of veterans into society. These spaces are actively used, and their reach continues to grow. |
| Consulting with Veterans | Orzhytsia Village Council | during 2025 | NGO “Our Orzhytsia”(upon consent)  Volunteer and public organizations of the Orzhytsia territorial community(upon consent) | Regular Consultations: Held regular meetings with veterans and their families to identify and address their needs.  Developed Solutions: Created a list of tools and strategies to resolve veterans' issues. |

**Expected Results:**

* **Empowered Veterans:** Created a supportive environment for veterans and their families to participate in local veterans' policy development and implementation.
* **Enhanced Social Integration:** Facilitated the integration of veterans into society.
* **Active Community Involvement:** Promoted the active participation of veterans in community development.
* **Established Veteran Hub:** Created a dedicated veteran hub in the Zviahel community.
* **Strong Partnerships:** Fostered a collaborative relationship between veteran organizations and local authorities.
* **Transparent and Inclusive Decision-Making:** Increased transparency and inclusivity in decision-making processes affecting veterans.
* **Veteran Input and Influence:** Ensured that veterans' voices are heard and their interests are considered in local programs and budgets.

**Commitment 3: Implementing the School Public Budget**

**Goal:** To empower young people by:

* Educating them about civic engagement and decision-making processes.
* Providing opportunities for them to actively participate in community development.
* Fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility in shaping their communities.

**Impact on Strategic Community Development:**

* **Orzhytsia Village Territorial Community:** Contributes to Task 3.3.2. Supporting public participation and local development initiatives and Goal 3.3. Strengthening citizen participation in decision-making and community development, as outlined in the Development Strategy until 2027.
* **Zviahel City Territorial Community:** Contributes to Task 1.5.1. Ensuring conditions for youth leisure, development of the youth movement, and the desire to stay and realize oneself in the community, and Goal 1.5. Supporting youth and public initiatives and communities, as outlined in the 2024-2030 Development Strategy.

**Deadline:** December 2025

**Brief Description:** The School Public Budget is a digital tool that empowers young people to actively participate in decision-making processes and contribute to community development.

**Key Achievements in Zviahel:**

* Successfully implemented the School Public Budget in 12 educational institutions.
* Trained 264 students in public participation.
* Engaged 71.39% of students in project development and implementation.
* Utilized an innovative electronic voting system to involve 2,220 students in project selection.
* Trained four teachers as certified trainers in the School Public Budget.

**Next Steps:**

* Form a group of mentors (including students) to support the implementation of the School Public Budget in Orzhytsia.
* Adhere to the standards of the Council of Europe and the Open Government Partnership.

**Implementing partner:** Zviahel City and Orzhytsia Settelment Councils

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| **Activity** | **Responsible for implementation** | **Deadline** | **Partners** | **Performance indicator** |
| Implementing the Inclusive School Public Budget (SPB-2.0) | Zviahel City Council | January - December 2025 | Zviahel City Council (upon consent)  Local youth public organizations (upon consent)  Public organization “Civil Society Development Forum” (upon consent)  Other civil society institutions (upon consent) | Updated Regulations: The Zviahel City Council approved an updated regulation for the School Public Budget, incorporating adaptations and modifications to accommodate the needs of children with special educational needs.  Inclusive Participation: Children with special educational needs actively participate in the School Public Budget process.  Mentorship and Training: Student group members, along with certified teachers, provide training and mentorship support to project teams. |
| Establishing a School Public Budget Working Group | Orzhytsia Settelment Council | January 2025 | Zviahel City Council (upon consent)  Civil Society Development Forum (upon consent)  Other civil society institutions (upon consent) | **Established Working Group:** Formed a working group to oversee the implementation of the School Public Budget, composed of representatives from student government, the Orzhytsia Youth Council, civil society, and local authorities. |
| Developing and Approving the School Public Budget Regulations | Orzhytsia Village Council | January-February 2025 | Zviahel City Council (with consent)  Public organization “Civil Society Development Forum” (with consent)  Other civil society institutions (with consent) | **Approved Regulations:** Developed and approved the regulations for the School Public Budget of the Orzhytsia Village Territorial Community. |
| Training and Education on the School Public Budget | Zviahel City Council | March 2025 | Orzhytia Village Council  Public organization “Civil Society Development Forum” (upon consent)  Other civil society institutions (upon consent) | **Teacher Training:** Conducted training sessions for teachers and student group members in the Zviahel community.  **Community Seminar:** Organized a seminar for representatives of the Orzhytsia territorial community.  **Expanded Training Capacity:** Increased the number of trained teachers and students who can provide training and mentorship support for the School Public Budget in both Zviahel and Orzhytsia communities. |
| Conducting an Information Campaign | Orzhytsia Settelment Council | March - December 2025 | Public organization “Civil Society Development Forum” (with consent)  Other civil society institutions (with consent) | **Dissemination of Information:** Conducted a comprehensive information campaign using the official website, social media, and offline meetings to raise awareness about the School Public Budget. |
| Pilot Implementation of the School Public Budget | Orzhytsia Village Council | March - June 2025 | Zviahel City Council (upon consent)  Public organization “Civil Society Development Forum” (upon consent)  Eastern Europe Foundation (upon consent)  Other civil society institutions (upon consent) | **Pilot Schools:** Selected secondary schools to participate in the pilot implementation of the School Public Budget.  **Student Training:** Provided training to students on public participation and facilitated the formation of student groups and competition committees.  **Digital Platform:** Introduced the eDem "School Public Budget" service in the Orzhytsia Village Community.  **Electronic Voting:** Utilized electronic voting to select winning projects. |
| Implementation and Impact of Winning Projects | Orzhytsia Village Council | September - December 2025 | Public and volunteer organizations (with consent) | **Project Implementation:** Successfully implemented the winning projects.  **Student Empowerment:** Enabled students to utilize the outcomes of the implemented projects.  **Public Recognition:** Showcased the implemented projects on the official website and social media channels of the Village council and schools. |
| Monitoring, Evaluation, and Future Planning | Orzhytsia Village Council | March-December 2025 - 2026 | Public organization “Civil Society Development Forum” (with consent)  Civil society institutions (with consent) | **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Conducted regular monitoring and evaluation of the School Public Budget implementation and its impact on the student community.  **Future Planning:** Developed proposals for the continued implementation of the School Public Budget in future cycles. |

**Expected Results:**

* **Increased Engagement:** Enhanced involvement of students, teachers, and parents in school life and local decision-making, including budget allocation and resource utilization.
* **Transparent and Open Educational Environment:** Fostered a transparent and open educational environment where all stakeholders can contribute to school development.
* **Capacity Building:** Leveraged the experience of Zviahel City Council to strengthen the capacity of local teams in Orzhytsia Village Council.
* **Empowered Students:** Empowered students through active participation in decision-making processes.

**Commitment 4: Establishing a Coordination Council**

**Goal:**

To create an effective mechanism for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the Open Government Action Plan, fostering collaboration between different departments within the councils, engaging the public in the implementation process, and improving the efficiency of governance in the communities.

**Deadline:** February 2025

**Brief Description:**

The Coordination Council is an advisory body that brings together representatives from Zviahel City Council, Orzhytsia Village Council, public organizations, experts, and other stakeholders to work together on the implementation of the Action Plan.

**Implementing partner:** Zviahel City and Orzhytsia Village Councils

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| **Activity** | **Responsible for implementation** | **Deadline** | **Partners** | **Performance indicator** |
| Developing the Coordination Council Regulations | Zviahel City and Orzhytsia Village Councils | February - April 2025 | Association of Ukrainian Cities (with consent)  NGO “Zviahel Development Agency” (with consent)  NGO “Zviahel City Organization of Women” (with consent)  NGO “Network of Educational Institutions of the City of Novograd-Volynskyi” (with consent)  NGO “Nasha Orzhytsia” (with consent) | **Developed Regulations:** Developed the Regulations for the Coordination Council in collaboration with the public. |
| Establishing the Coordination Council | Zviahel City and Orzhytsia Village Councils | May - July 2025 | Association of Ukrainian Cities (upon consent)  Project of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (upon consent)  NGO “Zviahel Development Agency” (upon consent)  NGO “Zviahel City Organization of Women” (upon consent)  NGO “Network of Educational Institutions of the City of Novograd-Volynskyi” (upon consent)  NGO “Nasha Orzhytsia” (upon consent) | **Established Coordination Council:** Formed a Coordination Council comprising officials from Zviahel City and Orzhytsia Village Councils, representatives from civil society, experts, and partner organizations. |
| Monitoring the Implementation of the Action Plan | Zviahel City and Orzhytsia Village Councils | July 2025 - 2026 | Association of Ukrainian Cities (upon consent)  NGO “Zviahel Development Agency” (upon consent)  NGO “Zviahel City Organization of Women” (upon consent)  NGO “Network of Educational Institutions of the City of Novograd-Volynskyi” (upon consent)  NGO “Nasha Orzhytsia” (upon consent) | **Monitoring System:** Established a system to monitor the implementation of the Action Plan.  **Regular Reporting:** Provided regular updates on progress through official websites and social media.  **Adaptive Approach:** Made necessary adjustments to the Action Plan as needed. |
| Promoting the Work of the Coordination Council | Zviahel City and Orzhytsia Village Councils | 2025 – 2026 | Association of Ukrainian Cities (with consent)  NGO “Zviahel Development Agency” (with consent)  NGO “Zviahel City Organization of Women” (with consent)  NGO “Network of Educational Institutions of the City of Novograd-Volynskyi” (with consent)  NGO “Nasha Orzhytsia” (with consent) | **Public Awareness:** Regularly shared information about the Coordination Council's activities through official websites and social media channels. |

**Expected Outcomes:** Increased efficiency in the implementation of the Action Plan. Enhanced transparency and accountability of local governments. Strengthened public trust in local authorities. Increased public engagement in decision-making and monitoring of their implementation.