Local democracy (LD): experience of Ukraine

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Presentation plan:

- achievements concerning development of LD
- challenges concerning development of LD
I. Achievements

Legislation:

Article 140 of the Constitution of Ukraine:

Local self-government is exercised by a territorial community by the procedure established by law, both directly and through bodies of local self-government: village, settlement and city councils, and their executive bodies.
Forms of LD:

- local elections;
- local referendums;
- public hearings;
- local initiatives;
- general meetings at dwelling places;
- self-organization bodies of population;
- electronic petitions;
- public budget (participatory budget), etc.
Network of resource centers for development of LD

• 13 regions since 2011

• Donor – International Renaissance Foundation
• Network coordinator - Association for Community Self-organization Assistance (Odessa) (http://samoorg.com.ua)
Examples of public initiatives in Amalgamated Territorial Communities:

**Balta (Odessa region)** - 33,000 persons, 27 settlements.

- Set up 17 village committees and about 70 block committees;
- Competitions for municipal services for self-organization bodies of population;
- Participatory budget;
- Arrangement of boxes for propositions (contact office);
- Local Program of civil society development.
Bilozirka (Cherkassy region) – 9 000 persons, 3 settlements.

- Participatory budget (2017).
- Projects presentation - through community site.
- Use of the Center for administrative services both for accumulation of projects and for voting for them.
• **Ustilug (Volyn region)** – 7,600 persons, 26 settlements.

• 2017 - Competition of local initiatives. Purpose – development of self-organization and activity of the community population.

• 5 projects: preparation of football mini-field, arrangement of pavilions for bus stops, folk creative activity, etc.
Bilokurakino (Lugansk region) - 15 000 persons, 24 settlements.

• Strategy of Community development prepared together with the citizens (2016).

• Worked out acts containing democratic procedures of participation (initiating public hearings – from 20 signatures, local initiatives – from 100 signatures).
Irshansk (Zhytomyr region) – 7,500 persons, 5 population centers.

- Restoration of the local lake.
Analysis of public participation: generalized conclusions

- Communities select, as a rule, one instrument of interaction.
- Communities mostly use such practices of attraction which do not require regulation at the community charter level.
- As a rule, selected forms of interaction are well regulated.
- Emphasis on only one form of citizens attraction on condition of successful application of it may become the “point of growth” for further cooperation of power with population.
- Web-site simplifies communication and helps to arrange consultations.
- Key role in development of LD was played by international projects of technical assistance, NGOs, resource centers for development of LD.
II. Challenges concerning development of LD:

- absence of conceptual understanding at the level of state of the directions of support of LD development;
- absence of laws or their obsoleteness ("On Local Referendum", "On Self-organization Bodies of Population", etc);
- insufficient level of LD regulation at the local level (absence or weakness of communities charters and regulations);
• insufficient attention from the side of donors concerning matters of LD, especially in provincial settlements;
• sporadic attraction of people to settlement of local problems;
• approval of acts will not “activate” automatically LD. It is necessary to create conditions for development of it: meetings, trainings, consultations;
• communities at present do not use properly centers for rendering administrative services for arrangement of public consultations, voting for the participation budget, etc.
Thank you for your attention!