



**Zaporizhzhia NGO STEP  
Strategies and Technologies  
for Effective Partnership**  
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## Profile of the NGO

NGO "STEP" was registered as Zaporizhzhia Youth City NGO in 2009. Since then, the organization has been actively participating in the civic processes at the local and regional level.

**We cooperate with the communities, local governments, and NGOs to achieve our Mission:** to promote partnerships between different stakeholders at the local, regional, and national levels to build a cultured, democratic, capable, and human-oriented society.

### Our focus

*Strengthening civil society organizations and local democracy, facilitating social dialogue at the local level, supporting local development projects and civic initiatives.*

STEP uses its expertise and raises grant funds to support Ukrainian territorial communities in their democratic, inclusive, human-oriented development. Our partners are both local NGOs with a strong demand to make their communities better, and governments that are motivated to transparent decision-making and citizen participation in development processes. We work in rural areas and small cities, which usually have less access to international funds and cooperation opportunities.

### Activity portfolio (Main projects in 2017-2021)

**November 2020 – April 2021** *Raising the level of legal culture among the youth of Shyroke community* funded by International Renaissance Foundation, **UAH 246,320**

The project creates environmental for secondary school students to learn about their rights and responsibilities and increase their legal awareness. Implemented in cooperation with Shyroke village community of Zaporizhzhia region and the Legal Development Network (LDN).

- 8 law clubs for youth were established at schools of Shyroke community.
- 18 project events, including live presentations in village schools and online trainings provided by the LDN's experts.
- 465 participants, 300 of whom completed an online training course on human rights.  
[Public report](#) (in Ukrainian).

**October 2020 – February 2021** *Learn to Discern in Schools – National Rollout* funded by IREX, **USD 4479.92** (provider of project activities: Zaporizhzhia National University – Faculty of Philology, Faculty of Journalism; target communities: Bilenke and Shyroke of Zaporizhzhia region)

The purpose was to strengthen infomedia literacy competencies of student youth and subject teachers and help school educators integrate info- and media literacy into the teaching process. The project included 6 webinars (Media Literacy School) for students from target communities, 6 online trainings for subject teachers, creative competitions and a final Zoom forum.

- 100+ teachers and 70 students participated in the project activities.
- 11 experts on information media literacy were involved.
- Educators from Bilenke and Shyroke formed a community of media literacy ambassadors.  
[Public report](#) (in Ukrainian).



**January–September 2020** *Launching a free legal aid system and strengthening the legal capacity of residents in Shyroke community* funded by International Renaissance Foundation, **UAH 333,480** (provided in collaboration with Shyroke village council)

STEP used the grant support to organize the pilot system of free legal aid in 27 villages of Zaporizhzhia region, Ukraine. The project activities involved onsite consultations with legal experts, legal advice campaign in local media, and launching a legal aid helpline for rural residents. Performed in cooperation with Shyroke rural amalgamated territorial community.

- About 400 people received free legal aid, including residents of remote villages, ATO veterans, IDPs and low-income families.
- 124 training participants, including youth, leaders of local NGOs, activists.
- Shyroke village council approved a local program on legal aid for community's residents.

[Publications](#) and [final reporting](#) (in Ukrainian).

**November 2019 - February 2021** *Strengthening Local Democratic Governance III* funded by NED, **USD 32,000**

The third phase aims to strengthen the capacity of local NGOs and involve them in community development processes. For this, STEP supported 8 initiatives of NGOs from Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia and Kharkiv regions. Their leaders completed the online training, developed plans for local events, and implemented information campaigns.

- 80+ events were held in target communities (offline and online).
- 1300+ people participated in local events (trainings, public consultations, round tables, etc.).
- Local NGOs helped establish advisory bodies and public spaces in their communities, provided information campaigns to promote civic engagement tools at the local level.
- STEP assisted partner organizations in developing their strategies and created a set of practical tools for NGOs.

[Public report](#) (in Ukrainian).

**2018–2019** *Strengthening Democratic Governance II* funded by NED, **USD 28,000**

The project contributed to the capacity and engagement of local civic platforms in Zaporizhzhia region. STEP selected 10 target communities to participate in the project. Their representatives built the project teams from both activists and local government officials for joint training and further implementation of joint initiatives.

- Successful execution of 8 initiatives created in partnership of activists and local governments (aimed at civic engagement, youth participation, participatory decision-making).
- 40+ local events, held in 14 towns and villages of Zaporizhzhia region.
- 2000+ participants and attendants of local events (training, public consultations, forums and mini-festivals, volunteer actions, informational events).

[Public report](#) (in Ukrainian).

**2017–2018** *Strengthening Democratic Governance* funded by NED, **USD 36,045**

The project was launched to promote civic engagement and democratic governance in amalgamated communities of Zaporizhzhia region. STEP used the Endowment grant to support local initiatives that reinforce civic engagement in the decentralization process and address urgent local concerns.

- 60 activists and officials from 10 communities gained the knowledge of project management, fundraising and public oversight, developed their cooperation and communication skills.
- Successful implementation of 9 local initiatives (establishing public councils, trainings for activists and youth, campaigns on promoting e-democracy and participatory budgeting).
- 50+ local events, held in 20 villages and towns of Zaporizhzhia region (trainings, forums, round tables, focus groups, mini-festivals). They engaged 650+ people.
- Project participants registered three NGOs. After the project, they started their own initiatives, and now are working actively with local stakeholders.



**2017–2018 Community Center for Urban Development "Zmistovno"** funded by Initiatives of the Infrastructure Program for Ukraine (GIZ GmbH), **EUR 10,855**

The project was designed to promote participatory budgeting in Zaporizhzhia and cooperation between the city residents, the local government, and other urban development stakeholders.

- To provide Public Lectures on Urban Development, STEP involved eight lecturers, including Zaporizhzhia's cultural activists, experts on participation from Kyiv and Poltava (EIDOS Centre, PAUCI Foundation), and the expert on urban development, GIZ consultant Lukas Born from Germany. The lectures were held in city parks, particularly of Zaporizhzhia's remote districts, to engage more isolated city residents in their communities.
- Nearly 300 citizens participated in other educational events, such as the school for moderators of participatory budgeting, seminars on proposals writing, and the final forum. They obtained the information on the main stages and procedures of participatory budgeting, learned the successful practices of other cities and developed their project writing skills.

## Other projects

**2020 Preventing the spread of COVID-19 among residents of Shyroke community** funded within the Humanity and Mutual Aid Program of the International Renaissance Foundation (direct purchases by the Foundation and transfer of personal protective equipment to healthcare and social workers).

**2019 Excursions in municipal transport** provided together with the NGO "Platform for Joint Action" and Zaporizhzhia City Council. Development of audio tours for city bus routes.

**2019 Interactive space for solving local problems in cooperation with the public** funded by Caritas Zaporizhzhia Charitable Foundation (provided in cooperation with Shyroke community).

**2017 Youth Councils in the amalgamated territorial communities**, provided in collaboration with Fundacja Mapa Pasji (Poland), funded by the Polish-American Foundation for Freedom within RITA program "Changes in the Region". Assisting rural communities of Zaporizhzhia region in establishing youth councils. The Polish-Ukrainian project team prepared the Youth Council Development Guide, which is [available online](#) (in Ukrainian).

**2016 The Government is Our Common Goal. Civil Dialogue in South-Eastern Ukraine**, provided in collaboration with NGO Fundacja Miejsc i Ludzi Aktywnych (Poland). STEP organized training for local officials and activists, managed small sub-grant projects in 10 communities of Zaporizhzhia, Mykolaiv and Kherson regions and conducted the interregional conference "Public Dialogue in Ukraine – on the path between struggle and indifference."

**2015–2016 Advocacy Campaign for the Implementation of the New Anti-corruption Legislation by Local Authorities** supported by the Embassy of the Netherlands in Ukraine.

To promote anti-corruption reform, NGOs from 5 regions of Ukraine created the Coalition for Transparent Council and developed the methodology to evaluate local governments' regulations. STEP provided the analysis of regulations of 8 local governments in Zaporizhzhia region.

**2015 Public monitoring of the right to education for internally displaced persons** funded by the International Renaissance Foundation. Conducting a sociological study "Supporting the needs and implementation of IDPs' rights", developing proposals for addressing the topical issues.

**2014 Public anti-corruption control for increasing financial transparency and budgetary accountability of local health departments in Zaporizhzhia region**, provided in collaboration with the EIDOS Centre, funded by the International Renaissance Foundation.

**2013–2014 Know to Act!** This project of the EIDOS Centre was funded by the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine. As a regional partner in Zaporizhzhia, STEP provided a monitoring campaign on local budgeting, tender activities, implementation of the Law of Ukraine "On Access to Public information".

**2013–2014 Functional Survey of Local Authorities to Increase the Effectiveness of the State Gender Policy** funded by the Embassy of the Netherlands in Ukraine.

**2011 Public monitoring as a basis for the transparency of public procurement** funded by the International Renaissance Foundation.



## Partnerships

**In March 2021**, STEP joined the Union of Ukrainian NGOs – Legal Development Network (<https://ldn.org.ua/en/>). The actual cooperation with LDN began in 2018. The Network's lawyers are involved as experts in STEP's projects on legal aid and legal education.

**Since 2017**, the NGO collaborates with the PAUCI Foundation ([www.pauci.org](http://www.pauci.org)) experts within various projects. In January 2020, STEP was a partner of the International Forum of Participation Practitioners held in Poltava, Ukraine, and provided by PAUCI and the PLEDDG Project. Also, we collaborate with the Association for Communities Participatory Development, which was established with the support of the PAUCI Foundation in 2019.

**Since 2018**, we have a memorandum on cooperation with Shyroke territorial community (Shyroke village council, Zaporizhzhia region) and already implemented several joint projects, in particular, those aimed at the improvement of local policies, civic engagement, youth participation, supporting primary health care facilities in the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Since 2010**, STEP is a regional partner of the Centre of Political Studies and Analytics EIDOS ([eng.eidos.org.ua](http://eng.eidos.org.ua)) in Zaporizhzhia. Has the successful experience of joint projects (2011-2015), particularly, within the Coalition "For Transparent Councils".

We also cooperate with **local and regional NGOs** – Zaporizhzhia branch of the All-Ukrainian Initiative Active Community (Insitute Respublica), Insitute for Civil Development "Ortega y Gasset", YES, Impulse UA. In 2020, STEP signed memorandums on cooperation with 8 NGOs operating in Zaporizhzhia, Dnipro, Kharkiv region within Strengthening Democratic Governance project.

## Transparency

The information about NGO's total income and expenditure in the previous years is available on the website [stepngo.in.ua](http://stepngo.in.ua) [in the section "Reports"](#), which includes:

- annual financial statements with an overview of implemented projects – since 2016;
- detailed annual activity reports – since 2018 ([the latest annual report](#) in Ukrainian, \*PDF).

In 2020, we also started to report about the results of individual grant projects. Such public reports are available on our website (in Ukrainian):

- [Youth legal clubs' network will help students of secondary schools to defend their rights.](#)
- [Learn to discern: students and educators of Zaporizhzhia communities explored media literacy.](#)
- [New partnerships, public councils and civic education platforms are among the achievements of the "Strengthening Democratic Governance" project.](#)
- [Legally informed citizens mean a legally empowered community.](#)

## Selected publications and printed products (in Ukrainian)

Strategic planning for non-profitable organizations (2021)

<https://www.stepngo.in.ua/stratichne-planuvannia-rozvytku-nepributkovo-orhanizatsii/>

Raising funds for projects and ideas (2021)

<https://www.stepngo.in.ua/fundraising-for-ngos/>

Strategic communications for non-governmental organizations (2020)

<https://www.stepngo.in.ua/strategic-communication-for-ngos/>

55 tasks and solutions for active communities and citizens: a practical guide (2019)

<https://www.stepngo.in.ua/55-zavdan-i-rishen-dlia-aktyvnykh-hromad/>

Developing civil society in amalgamated territorial communities: a practical guide (2018)

<https://www.stepngo.in.ua/publikatsii/posibnyk-ohs-v-oth/>(in Ukrainian)

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