



Zaporizhzhia NGO STEP
Strategies and Technologies
for Effective Partnership
e-mail: stepzpz@gmail.com
website: www.stepngo.in.ua

Strengthening Democratic
Governance Project office
hromada.zp@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/hromada.zp/>
<https://issuu.com/sdg-project>

Profile of the NGO (updated on March 10, 2022)

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 2018-2021)

March 2021 – continues *Strengthening Local Democratic Governance: Strategies for people* funded by NED, **USD 40,500**

The project's focus is public oversight of local governments and development processes in eastern Ukraine through the participatory monitoring of local development strategies in territorial communities (Donetsk, Dnipro, Kharkiv and Zaporizhzhia regions). In February 2022, the activity was paused because of the Russian invasion and military actions on the territory of partner communities.

- By February 2022, five partner communities had already completed monitoring of local strategic documents and were preparing public reports on strategies' performance. Two more communities were at the final stages of the monitoring process.

[Last updates \(in Ukrainian\)](#)

February – November 2021 *Introducing a free legal aid system and protecting social rights of women in rural communities of Eastern Ukraine* funded by Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs (acting through the Federal Republic of Germany in Donetsk), **EUR 27,312.55**

The activity goal was to increase opportunities to protect the social rights of women living in rural areas by introducing a system of free primary legal aid at a community level.

- STEP helped four partner communities to study the legal needs of residents.
- 96 representatives of village councils, municipal institutions and services, local NGOs completed the training on access to legal information, raising legal awareness and advocacy.
- A "Roadmap for the implementation of free primary legal aid in rural areas" was compiled and published as the project's product. The materials are also [available online](#).

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



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.
- 465 participants, 300 of whom completed an online training course on human rights. [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**

STEP used the grant support to organize the 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.

- About 400 people received free legal aid consultations during the project.
- 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.

- 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 helped partners to develop 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 communities to participate in the project. Their representatives built the project teams from both activists and local officials for training and further implementation of joint initiatives.

- Successful execution of 8 initiatives created in partnership of activists and local governments.
- 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.

- 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 in 20 villages and towns of Zaporizhzhia region. 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.



Other projects

2021 *Honey Community* within Bayer's Social investment program for Ukraine. The project aims to promote beekeeping and increase employment opportunities for the rural population.

2021 *Capital repair of the premises of Zolotokolodiazka ambulatory clinic of general practice – family medicine №2 (project administration)*. Local subsidy agreement under the Special Assistance Programme for Eastern Ukraine (government-controlled areas), GIZ GmbH. Project partner – Shakhove village council of Donetsk region.

2020-2021 *Learn to Discern: info-media literacy – national rollout*, IREX project (together with Zaporizhzhia National University, faculties of philology and journalism). The purpose of the collaboration was to strengthen media literacy competencies of student youth and subject teachers and help educators integrate media literacy into the teaching process in Shyroke and Bilenke communities.

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).

2017-2018 *Community Center for Urban Development "Zmistovno"* funded by Initiatives of the Infrastructure Program for Ukraine (GIZ GmbH). The project was designed to promote participatory budgeting in Zaporizhzhia as well as cooperation between city residents, NGOs and local government.

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.

In May 2021, STEP became a member of the *Kyiv Dialogue* network (<https://www.kyiv-dialogue.org/uk/>). As regional partners, we provided local activities of Advocacy and Participation School and administration of Kyiv Dialogues' small grants for communities in Zaporizhzhia region.

Since 2017, the NGO collaborates with the *PAUCI Foundation* (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*.

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.

Since 2010, STEP is a regional partner of the *Centre of Political Studies and Analytics EIDOS* (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 [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/strategichne-planuvannia-rozvytku-neprybutkovo-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)

Contacts



Kateryna Maltseva, chairperson
office@stepngo.in.ua
katim89736@gmail.com



Inna Stashchuk, manager of projects,
projects@stepngo.in.ua
i.stashchuk@gmail.com