

EU4Youth: Five ideathons on youth engagement in community recovery held in Sumy region of Ukraine

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Throughout November-December 2024, the League of Changes NGO conducted a series of five ideathons in the communities of Sumy region in Ukraine, as part of the 'Youth Plan of Sumy Region Recovery' initiative under the 'EU4Youth: Youth Engagement and Empowerment' project, co-funded by the European Union and the German government and implemented by GIZ.

The events engaged youth in identifying ways they could contribute to local recovery and development. Each ideathon focused on gathering insights and solutions in four key areas: infrastructure, economy, social cohesion, and youth engagement.

The **first ideathon, held in Romny**, brought together local youth to discuss ideas for creating a safe, accessible, and modern community. Key proposals included improvements in infrastructure, support for local entrepreneurship,

and the establishment of youth hubs to foster dialogue and engagement.

The **second ideathon in Konotop** highlighted the importance of developing green spaces, inclusive facilities, and youth-friendly business opportunities. Participants discussed the need for collaboration between local authorities and young people to address economic challenges and enhance social cohesion.

In Sumy, during the third ideathon, participants focused on advancing urban design, digital economy initiatives, and inclusive programmes to strengthen community bonds. They also called for increased youth involvement in decision-making processes and inter-community cooperation.

The **fourth ideathon, held in Buryn**, explored innovative ideas such as constructing a waste processing plant and promoting tourism. The participants prioritised job creation, international partnerships, and cultural spaces while highlighting the role of youth in fostering community resilience.

The **final ideathon**, conducted online, united young people from the Sumy region currently living abroad. Discussions revolved around the integration of youth into local communities upon their return, leveraging international experiences, and creating opportunities for professional development.

The results of the ideathons will be consolidated into a manifesto, which will later be published and submitted to local self-government bodies for consideration in their activities.