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The Grassroots Institute | Ukraine
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Organizational Profile

Governance, Participation, Rights, Resilience

1. UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES

a) **Legality:** All organizational activities are conducted in accordance with the Constitution of Ukraine, applicable legislation, Ukraine's international obligations, and the Statute of the organization.
b) **Transparency and Accountability:** The organization ensures openness to the public, partners, donors, government bodies, and community members. Project outcomes, reports, and financial information are regularly published and publicly available.
c) **Voluntarism:** Membership and participation in the organization are based on voluntary principles. Volunteerism is recognized as a key tool for achieving the organization's goals.
d) **Sustainable Development:** The organization's initiatives maintain an ecological, economic, and social balance, operating with a focus on long-term impacts for society and nature.
e) **Partnership and Cooperation:** The organization develops horizontal connections with educational institutions, other NGOs, local self-governments, businesses, international partners, and initiatives. Cooperation is based on equality, mutual respect, and shared benefit.
f) **Inclusiveness and Non-Discrimination:** No discrimination is permitted on any grounds. All initiatives aim to ensure equal participation opportunities regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, social status, etc.
g) **Scientific and Professional Approach:** TGI bases its activities on scientific data, expert evaluations, and applied research. It engages professionals and promotes academic environmental education.
h) **Environmental Ethics:** All activities are guided by the principle of minimizing environmental harm, preserving natural resources, and promoting environmental awareness among the population.
i) **Innovation:** The organization supports the implementation of new approaches, technologies, and methods in field action, capacity building, advocacy, and research.
j) **Community Stewardship:** Acting on the principle "from communities to decisions", the organization actively involves local residents in projects, initiatives, and decision-making processes.

2. VISION

The Grassroots Institute envisions effecting positive change through participation in a world in which local communities and vulnerable people who have been marginalized by environmental degradation, poverty, conflict and other forms of injustice gain control over their natural and biocultural resources, lives and livelihoods, and the policy decisions that affect their lives directly or indirectly.

3. AIM

The Grassroots Institute aims to undertake education, capacity building, innovative research, human development and appropriate grassroots field action to conserve the natural environment, to promote sustainable development, and to serve and empower deprived and marginalized communities, ethnic groups, and threatened and vulnerable peoples.

4. MODES OF FUNCTIONS

1) Field Action; 2) Advocacy; 3) Training; 4) Research; 5) Education; 6) Networking

5. FOUR CORE STRATEGIC PILLARS

A) Human Rights, Minority & Roma Rights

- Roma rights and inclusion
- Human rights education
- Non-discrimination
- Equal access to public services
- Legal awareness and access to justice

- Roma women and youth leadership
- IDP and vulnerable-group rights
- Rights-based local governance

B) Local Governance & Civic Participation
- Democratic local governance
- Community participation
- Participatory planning
- Community statutes
- Citizen–authority dialogue
- Public consultations
- Civic education
- IDP councils and community representation
- Accountability and transparency
- Participation in local decision-making

C) Community Resilience & Recovery
- Social cohesion
- Community-led recovery
- IDP integration
- Community resilience
- Local crisis preparedness
- Social support
- Psychosocial and community-based approaches
- Reliable community information
- Strengthening local capacity to respond to shocks

D) Citizen Media and Community Communication
- Developing citizens' media
- Minority and Roma community media
- Civic dialogue & social cohesion programming
- Youth-led civic media labs to reform municipal governance
- Citizen journalism trainings and youth engagement
- Citizen journalism for accountability
- Women-led community and online radio

6. GOVERNANCE APPROACH

TGI Ukraine promotes a governance model based on:
- Bottom-up participation
- Evidence-based decision-making
- Community consultation
- Legal and institutional analysis
- Public accountability
- Transparent communication
- Inclusive representation
- Feedback and monitoring
- Policy advocacy
- Community-government dialogue

7. PARTICIPATION MODEL

From Awareness → Participation → Influence → Accountability
- Human-rights and civic education
- Community consultations
- Participatory mapping

- Community needs assessments
- Citizen journalism
- Public dialogues
- Municipal consultations
- IDP Council engagement
- Community action agreements
- Participatory planning
- Environmental monitoring
- Policy recommendations
- Community-led advocacy

Core principle ⏩ Participation should produce influence, not merely attendance.

8. COMMUNITY PRESENCE

Strongest geographic identity: Ukrainian Carpathian Region

Zakarpattia Oblast
- Uzhhorod
- Vynohradiv
- Mukachevo
- Zarechanska
- Berehove
- Kamenka
- Perechyn
- Irshava
- Velykyi Bereznyi
- Dubrynychi-Malyi Bereznyi
- Kostryno
- Stavna
- Onokivtsi
- Vinogradov
- Roma settlements and rural communities

Lviv Oblast
- Lviv
- Stryi District
- Zolochiv District
- Brody
- Zymna Voda
- Chervonohrad-area communities

Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast
- Kalush, Kosiv, Verkhovyna Districts
- Hutsul and mountain communities
- Selected Carpathian municipalities

Other emerging areas
- Kharkiv Oblast — community recovery and participation
- Wider Western Ukraine — scalable governance, resilience and environmental initiatives

9. TARGET GROUPS

Primary
- Youth
- Students

- Young community leaders
- Roma women
- Roma youth and children
- Roma community representatives
- IDPs
- IDP Council
- Women
- Veterans and war-affected families
- Vulnerable households
- Local citizen groups
- Community-based organizations

Institutional
- Local government officials
- Municipal and village councils
- Local self-government bodies
- CSOs
- Legal professionals
- Educators and universities
- Local media
- Community journalists
- Service providers
- Environmental actors
- Community leaders

10. TEAM EXPERTISE STRENGTHS

Multidisciplinary expertise
- Human rights & legal expertise
- Environmental and natural-resource law
- Local governance and decentralisation
- Participatory development
- Roma and minority rights
- Gender and social inclusion
- Civic education
- Community engagement
- Environmental governance
- Climate resilience
- Sustainable development
- Community media and citizen journalism
- Research and policy analysis
- Monitoring, evaluation and learning
- Project designing/writing and grant management
- Digital communication

Institutional strength

Law + Governance + Environment + Community Development + Communication
This combination enables TGI Ukraine to approach community problems from legal, institutional, social and environmental perspectives simultaneously.

11. ACTION MODES

TGI Ukraine works through a **mixed action model**:
- Community action
- Capacity building

- Civic education
- Legal awareness
- Research
- Participatory assessment
- Community mapping
- Public consultation
- Dialogue facilitation
- Policy advocacy
- Citizen journalism
- Community media
- Legal and policy analysis
- Pilot initiatives
- Networking and partnerships
- Institutional strengthening
- Knowledge products and toolkits

12. LOCALISATION APPROACH

Local problems → Local knowledge → Local actors → Local solutions → Institutional uptake

- Work through existing hromada structures
- Strengthen — not replace — local institutions
- Build local capacities
- Engage community leaders and grassroots organizations
- Use local knowledge and evidence
- Develop locally owned tools
- Facilitate citizen–government communication
- Promote community ownership of results

13. ORGANISATIONAL STRENGTHS — CORE ATTRIBUTES

Core Attribute	TGI Ukraine Strength
Community-based presence	Strong field relationships across Zakarpattia and the wider Carpathian region
Youth engagement	Civic education, leadership, citizen journalism and environmental education
Local governance	Community statutes, participatory planning, municipal dialogue and accountability
Roma rights	Dedicated Roma-rights programming, community engagement and Roma women/youth leadership
Citizen participation	Practical mechanisms linking residents with decision-making
Inclusive participation	Women, youth, IDPs, Roma, veterans, vulnerable and underrepresented groups
Localisation	Existing hromadas and community structures used as primary platforms
Community resilience	Social cohesion, information, recovery, preparedness and local capacity
Rights-based approach	Human rights, non-discrimination, access to justice and equal participation
Environmental governance	Citizen participation in forests, water, waste, biodiversity and climate issues
Partnerships	Civil society, universities, municipalities, media and international partners
Replication	Tested pilots converted into methodologies, toolkits and scalable models
Policy influence [proposed]	Evidence → analysis → recommendations → dialogue → institutional change

14. RESILIENCE CONCEPT

TGI Ukraine understands resilience as more than emergency response:

- *Social resilience* — cohesion, inclusion and mutual support
- *Democratic resilience* — participation, accountability and trust

- *Institutional resilience* — stronger local governance
- *Legal resilience* — knowledge of rights and access to justice
- *Information resilience* — reliable local information and citizen media
- *Environmental resilience* — climate adaptation and sustainable resource management
- *Economic/community resilience* — local capacities, livelihoods and community initiatives

Resilient community = informed + connected + inclusive + capable + participatory

15. COMPLIANCE & INSTITUTIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

TGI Ukraine's organisational framework is supported by:

- Code of Ethical Conduct
- Financial Management & Accounting Policy
- Procurement Policy
- Due Diligence Policy
- Data Protection & Cybersecurity framework
- Policy on Child Protection and Safe Interaction with Children
- Whistleblowing, Complaints and Response Policy
- Conflict-of-interest controls
- Fraud and misconduct prevention
- Financial documentation and reporting
- Donor compliance
- Procurement transparency
- Safeguarding and responsible engagement
- Monitoring, evaluation and learning
- Partnership and lower-level partner due diligence

16. EVIDENCE OF CURRENT STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The 2026 portfolio demonstrates a coherent progression from *rights awareness to participation, participation to influence, and influence to resilient governance*, including:

- Human-rights and Roma programming
- Civic education for youth and IDPs
- Community statutes and local democracy
- Civic Embed Labs
- Citizen media and community radio
- Women-led civic leadership
- Legal support for war-affected people
- Participatory environmental governance
- Climate resilience
- Forest and biodiversity governance
- Community-led agrobiodiversity conservation
- Inclusive local recovery

This portfolio also shows that TGI Ukraine is moving from individual activities toward **replicable community-governance models**.

One-Line Institutional Profile

TGI Ukraine is a grassroots, rights-based and community-centred organisation working across the Carpathian region and beyond to strengthen human rights, inclusive participation, democratic local governance and community resilience, enabling youth, women, Roma, IDPs and other underrepresented groups to build capacity, engage institutions and influence decisions affecting their lives, communities and environment.