



# HECSOs

community engagement

## Policy Recommendation

to promote the active participation of local communities within the decision-making process and advocate for the values of participatory democracy.

Romania, July 30th 2024



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## Partners



## Results from local multi-stakeholder policy workshops that took place in Romania, July 30th

Within the framework of the HECSOs project, two multi-stakeholder policy workshops were held for each national context in order to solicit public debate and gather suggestions on how to advocate for the active participation of local communities in decision-making processes and to uphold the values of participatory democracy. The purpose of the local workshops was to gather - through consultation processes, focus-groups and roundtables - recommendations to be submitted to local authorities in each local context and from which to elaborate a policy recommendation paper to be submitted to European institutions.

Below you can find the main results collected.

### Involvement strategies

Strengthen communication and consultation processes with community stakeholders through:

- Organisation of periodic community actions with relevant stakeholders (like townhall meetings, community advisory boards, surveys, public consultations, digital platforms, workshops and neighbourhood councils), advertised properly through different communication channels including multilingual online portals and using inclusive communication strategies/language;
- Development of initiatives that respect the cultural and social diversity or different communities particularities, adapt methods to reflect diverse cultural context, and create environments that honour and integrate varied cultural norms and values;
- Involvement of the community leaders for guidance in building trust of their communities;
- Development of opportunities for meaningful participation in all stages of initiative/policies design, development, implementation and results dissemination - Communities feel more represented when they see their input reflected in final decisions;
- Development of tools with special regards to digital participatory platforms and linked to relevant social media platforms;

### Capacity Building and Education

Develop Competencies for active citizenship and participation through:

- Development of relevant training activities using innovative teaching methods - for example involve community members within service learning initiatives with education and training institutions with special regards to HEIs;
- Development of soft skills trainings for topics like effective communication, public speaking, engagement, leadership, critical thinking, conflict management, intercultural skills, project management;

### Communication channels

Develop a wide range of communication channels aimed at reaching all stakeholders:

- Face-to-face and online periodic meetings;
- Digital communication and collaboration platforms including accounts/groups on social media platforms;
- Surveys, questionnaires for gathering stakeholders feedback on a given matter;

### Support for community organisations and initiatives

Strengthen the financial and logistic support for community organisations and initiatives through:

- Development of transparent financial instruments for assuring the funding for initiatives for over a longer timespan;
- Development of support services in setting up community organisations, writing proposals for funding;
- Assuring proper infrastructure for community organisations operation and for events organisation;



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