

# STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT OF AMALGAMATED TERRITORIAL COMMUNITIES

Based on the previous experience of work with rural communities in the area of strategic planning for local development, DESPRO has prepared a guide containing an algorithm of actions for participatory strategic planning (SP) of local development.

## PARTICIPANTS

In 2016, DESPRO initiated and proposed to All-Ukrainian Association of Village and Village Settlement Councils (VASSR), Association of Small Cities of Ukraine (AMMU) and Ukrainian Association of Rayon and Oblast Councils (UAROC) a joint project aimed at supporting amalgamated communities in preparing their local development strategies. The Associations agreed with the initiative and selected three amalgamated territorial communities (ATCs) from various regions of Ukraine based on principle of different “central homesteads” – village, village settlement and town.

## THE AMALGAMATED COMMUNITIES INVOLVED IN SP:

**Velyki Hayi rural ATC**  
in Ternopil oblast

**Nova Borova village settlement ATC**  
in Zhytomyr oblast

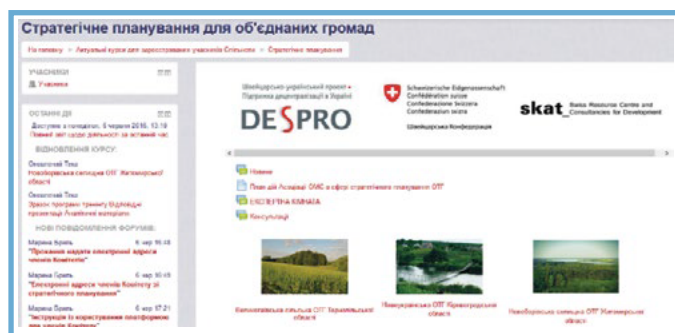
**Novoukrainka town ATC**  
in Kirovohrad oblast

are selected based on the criteria and indicators developed by DESPRO



## FORMAT

- Both VASSR and AMMU offer per 3 experts – specialists in SP, and per 3 Associations’ employees who will assist the experts (the so-called trainees). The experts and trainees are nominated for the selected communities in mixed groups: there are representatives of both associations working in each community.
- Each ATC forms and appoints the Committee, which includes, local leaders, teachers, best school students, and businessmen, representatives from local government.
- Expert groups collaborate with the SP Committees only as coaches and mentors. They explain the overall processes for strategic development actions and strategy preparation stages, adjust work of the Committees, if necessary. *The task of the experts is to explain the mechanism and to transfer all tools for developing a strategic document of a community.*
- At a later stage, UAROC is going to be involved; it will provide advice and support on harmonization and integration of local strategies with regional ones.
- In addition to face-to-face trainings conducted by DESPRO experts and expert groups of the Associations, the SP Committees are also being consulted on strategic planning with the help of DESPRO Community of Practices e-platform “Innovations and best practices of local governments”:  
<http://udl.despro.org.ua/course/view.php?id=64>.  
There are separate Experts rooms as well as Forums for general discussions, consultations and experience exchange between all participants of the strategic planning process:



## EXPECTED RESULTS

The above activities are based on the active participation of citizens and independent work of the Committees on SP. The strategies become the ATC's own product. This, in turn, contributes to forming a sense of ownership of community members, their affiliation to all processes that take place in their community. As a result, local development strategies produced with personal involvement, will not be forced onto the back burner as an incomprehensible and useless document. Strategies become the main driving force for the development of new amalgamated communities, facilitate cohesion of communities, give access to new financial opportunities. Besides, at the same time DESPRO coaches professionals of the Associations, who in future will be able to support other amalgamated communities by providing services in strategic planning on behalf of the Associations.

**THE ROLE OF DESPRO IN THIS PROCESS** is to be an ideological partner for communities and to provide the Associations with timely expertise, technical and financial support.