



# CITY TRANSPARENCY UNDER AIR STRIKES: IS THERE PROGRESS?

The study of city councils' transparency in the course of the full-scale war



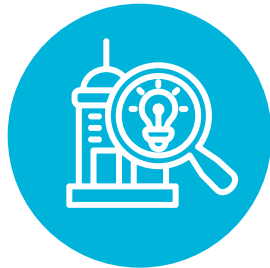
# "Transparent cities"

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Transparent Cities is a program by Transparency International Ukraine, which works to enhance the capacity of local self-government in wartime by:



increasing the transparency of local authorities



encouraging LSGBs to introduce the best practices of self-government



supporting cities



engaging citizens to actively participate in the city's life

# "Transparent cities". History

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Transparency Ranking  
of the 100 Largest Cities of Ukraine

2017-2021

2022-2023



2020-2021

Accountability Ranking  
of 50 Cities

Study of city transparency  
in the conditions of a full-  
scale war

# "Transparent cities". History

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2024



**Updating the methodology for studying the transparency of cities** means reconsidering the approach to studying the transparency of city councils in the context of the full-scale war.

**Development of a methodology to rank cities** by the level of open data disclosure.

# History

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## Before the full-scale invasion

Since 2017, we assessed the transparency of the 100 largest cities. **Transparency increased by 62%**

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Since 2020, we assessed accountability as well: the average indicator **increased by 29%**

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**A score for the indicator** and the area, points in the ranking

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**Five levels of transparency:**

- transparent
- mostly transparent
- partially transparent
- mostly non-transparent
- non-transparent city

## After the invasion

In 2022-2023, we conducted an adapted study of city transparency in wartime. In 2023, the average implementation rate of 50 indicators by 80 cities was 42.3%

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Analysis, best practices, problem identification, change roadmap, support

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**The indicator has 4 levels of implementation** (*implemented, partially implemented, not implemented, impossible to determine*)

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**Three categories of cities:**

- transparent
- partially transparent
- non-transparent

# Research methodology

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2022  
Research methodology

**70** cities under study

**18** oblasts

**40** indicators

2023  
Research methodology

**70 + 10** frontline cities under study

**21** oblasts

**50** indicators  
*division of indicators by areas of city self-government*

2024  
Research methodology

**100** cities  
*9 cities – Territories of possible hostilities*

**21** oblasts

**70** indicators

# 10 cities that joined the study in 2023

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- Kharkiv
- Kryvyi Rih
- Lozova
- Marhanets
- Mykolaiv
- Nikopol
- Pervomaisk
- Pokrov
- Yuzhnoukrainsk
- Zaporizhzhia



# Challenges cities face in wartime

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Attacks on cities, damage to critical infrastructure, remediation of consequences, recovery



Difficulty in finding a balance between closing access to information and maintaining transparency



Lack of resources for certain services



Insufficient communication with central authorities



Suspension of enterprise operation, relocation of business, withdrawal of the "military" personal income tax from communities in favor of the state



Loss of human resources (migration, mobilization, hostilities)



Challenges and needs of European integration



Complex psychological state of residents



# Study results

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# 2023



# Transparency in the second year of the invasion

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Results of Ukrainian cities

**42,3%** – the average implementation rate of 50 indicators by 80 cities

Among the 70 city councils, **30** improved their transparency levels by **5%** or more



# Transparency in the second year of the invasion

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## Results of Ukrainian cities

**5** cities became transparent (6%)

**23** city councils are partially transparent (29%)

**52** municipalities (65%) are non-transparent

Among **10** new frontline cities under study, two were partially transparent, the rest were non-transparent





# Level of indicator implementation

The average level of indicator implementation by 80 cities is

**42,3%**

Average implementation level

**44.5%**

**46.2%**

**35.6%**

Indicator requirement

**Law + Practice**

**Practice**

# Good practices of municipal transparency

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In 2023, the cities:

- ✓  provided for an opportunity to submit online applications for social (Pokrov, Mukachevo), residential (Vinnytsia, Khmelnytskyi), and educational services (Kolomyia, Mykolaiv), as well as created tools for complaints and appeals (Sumy, Chernihiv)
- ✓  engaged citizens in the IDP Council and the commission to provide compensation for damaged property (Odesa, Lozova, Drohobych)
- ✓  provided reporting by mayors on their activities, and residents were informed about this event in advance and provided online access to it (Dnipro, Zhytomyr)
- ✓  informed residents about persons appointed to positions in local self-government bodies outside the competition (Lutsk, Kalush)
- ✓ published lists of all movable property (Kropyvnytskyi, Uzhhorod), informed about objects that can be privatized and which are not subject to privatization (Drohobych, Ivano-Frankivsk) and also published data on green spaces to be removed (Okhtyrka, Volodymyr)
- ✓ conducted e-auctions for the sale of rights to place temporary structures and/or seasonal trade objects (Kyiv, Ternopil, Lviv)
- ✓ ensured the completeness of information about the commission (commissions) to consider issues on the provision of compensation for damaged/destroyed objects (Vinnytsia)

# European integration in 2023

Providing tools for a dialogue between the authorities and citizens is an important condition on Ukraine's path to the EU



**City councils did well on:**



**budget transparency**



**responding to residents' appeals**



**Problematic areas:**



**the ability to monitor the work of the authorities** *(reporting by the mayor, streams of meetings)*



**public engagement in advisory bodies**



**systemic anti-corruption activities**



**availability of municipal statistics**

# Monitoring and public oversight

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Monitoring and public oversight drives cities to become better, safer, and more attractive to residents, businesses, and investors



Transparency is also necessary for the successful recovery of Ukraine, future European integration, and attracting the support of international partners

You can engage by:

- ✓ activating work in LSGBs if you work in self-government
- ✓ monitoring and motivating local authorities if you are a resident
- ✓ cooperating if you are a business or central authority representative or an expert in the area



# Impact

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A certain landmark and a sign of quality for cities. Transparency Ranking of **100** Cities, Accountability Ranking of **50** Cities + over a hundred smaller analytical products with recommendations for cities

In the first five years, before the large-scale invasion, the level of transparency

in municipalities had grown by **62.2%**

In the two years, the transparency relief fund provided assistance to 22 cities from 11 oblasts and purchased products worth UAH

**2.7 mln**

# Impact

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Fruitful cooperation with half of the cities under study: additional analytics, consultations, training

Implementation of large-scale projects in cooperation with **7** donors



# Contacts

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