

## СЕКЦІЯ 2

### ПРАВОВЕ, ОСВІТНЄ, НАУКОВЕ ТА ІНФОРМАЦІЙНЕ ЗАБЕЗПЕЧЕННЯ РОЗВИТКУ ТЕРИТОРІАЛЬНИХ ГРОМАД

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#### **LEGAL, EDUCATIONAL AND INFORMATIONAL SUPPORT FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: CASE STUDY OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND INTEGRATION INITIATIVES IN OPOLE (POLAND)**

#### **ПРАВОВЕ, ОСВІТНЄ ТА ІНФОРМАЦІЙНЕ ЗАБЕЗПЕЧЕННЯ РОЗВИТКУ ТЕРИТОРІАЛЬНИХ ГРОМАД: ПРИКЛАД ІНІЦІАТИВ ГРОМАДЯНСЬКОЇ АКТИВНОСТІ ТА ІНТЕГРАЦІЇ В МІСТІ ОПОЛЕ (ПОЛЬЩА)**

Antonina Kalinichenko, dr hab, prof, Institute of Environmental Engineering and  
Biotechnology, Opole University, Kominka 6, Opole, 45-040, Poland  
E-mail: [akalinichenko@uni.opole.pl](mailto:akalinichenko@uni.opole.pl)  
ORCID: 0000-0001-7342-3803

The sustainable development of territorial communities is increasingly understood as a multidimensional process requiring coherent legal, educational and informational support systems. European public governance emphasises that strengthening community resilience depends not only on administrative structures but also on residents' access to knowledge, civic participation and effective cooperation between academic institutions, civil society organisations and local authorities. In this context, the city of Opole (Poland) presents a relevant case of a local environment in which community-oriented initiatives, educational activities and social integration programmes jointly contribute to local development priorities outlined in contemporary municipal strategies [1].

A central element of this model is the development of educational programmes that connect scientific knowledge with applied forms of civic engagement. At the University of Opole, academic courses related to spatial management, sustainable development, resource governance and environmental engineering expose students to real local issues and promote collaboration with municipal institutions. This approach aligns with broader European trends that

emphasise the importance of evidence-based public policies and participatory decision-making [3].

Non-formal and informal education plays an equally significant role. Public lectures, community workshops, urban walks and cultural meetings create accessible platforms for knowledge transfer. These initiatives strengthen the informational infrastructure of the local community by disseminating reliable content on environmental sustainability, urban history and local heritage. At the same time, they foster intergenerational engagement and create opportunities for interaction among seniors, young residents and newly arrived migrants. Such practices reflect recommendations formulated in analyses of local integration strategies in Poland [4].

Opole has also become an important centre for supporting Ukrainian residents and displaced persons following the escalation of the war. Local organisations implement numerous actions that promote inclusion, psychosocial support and cultural adaptation. These activities correspond to findings of international monitoring reports, which underline the central role of local communities in migrant integration processes [2]. Programmes conducted by local NGOs, including the Aviriana Association, provide opportunities for participation, reduce social isolation and promote psychological resilience through non-formal educational and cultural activities. They also contribute to strengthening accessibility of community life for people with diverse needs.

Strong academic and civic ties connect Opole with Ukrainian institutions, including Mykolaiv National Agrarian University. Joint activities—such as training initiatives, scientific exchange and expert cooperation—support the rebuilding of Ukrainian territorial communities and the strengthening of local governance capacities. These forms of collaboration are consistent with analyses by human rights and civil society organisations, which highlight the role of local-level partnerships in crisis response and integration support [5].

Information accessibility constitutes another essential dimension of effective community development. Transparent communication, digital

engagement tools and publicly available materials help build trust and foster civic participation. Ensuring access to clear information—particularly for vulnerable groups—supports inclusive governance processes and enhances the legitimacy of public institutions.

An analysis of the Opole model indicates that the integration of legal frameworks, educational resources and informational mechanisms creates favourable conditions for community resilience and long-term development. The combination of formal education, community-based learning, civic activism and intersectoral cooperation increases social cohesion and strengthens the cultural and informational capital of the community. This experience provides a valuable reference for other territorial communities seeking sustainable, inclusive and knowledge-based approaches to local development.

#### **References:**

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