ANALYTICAL BRIEF

based on the analysis of official websites of territorial communities in Mykolaiv Region under the Access Space project

INFORMATION ACCESSIBILITY AND COVERAGE OF BARRIER-FREE ISSUES ON OFFICIAL WEBSITES OF TERRITORIAL COMMUNITIES IN MYKOLAIV REGION

OCTOBER 2026

Project "Access Space: Inclusive Rooms and Staff Training in Social Institutions of Mykolaiv Region"

Implemented by Rokada Charitable Foundation with the support of and in cooperation with Danish People's Aid, funded by the Government of Denmark

1 Purpose of the Brief

This brief was prepared by the Charitable Organization "Charitable Foundation "Rokada"" under the project "Access Space: Inclusive Rooms and Staff Training in Social Institutions of Mykolaiv Region", implemented with the support of and in cooperation with Danish People's Aid and funded by the Government of Denmark.

The project aims to improve access to social services in 10 territorial communities of Mykolaiv Region and to involve their residents in decision-making. It combines upgrading the accessibility of social institutions, training their staff in the basics of inclusion and first aid, and advocacy activities to support local Barrier-Free Councils as effective platforms for dialogue between authorities and community residents.

The brief contributes to building a barrier-free environment in the communities of Mykolaiv Region and to removing information and digital barriers. Its purpose is to assess the level of information accessibility and information inclusiveness of the official websites of territorial communities in Mykolaiv Region with regard to the coverage of barrier-free issues and the activities of Barrier-Free Councils, and to identify the main areas for improving the communities' information policy.

2 Legal Framework

The brief draws on the legal acts that set out the principles of state policy on access to information, non-discrimination and barrier-free environment, and establish requirements for informing citizens and ensuring their participation in decision-making.

Constitution of Ukraine No. 254k/96-VR of 28 June 1996

Article 3 of the Constitution recognises the human being, their honour and dignity as the highest social value and establishes that human rights and freedoms and their guarantees determine the essence and orientation of the activity of the state. Articles 24 and 34 guarantee equal rights without privileges or restrictions on any grounds and the right to freely collect, use and disseminate information, while Article 38 guarantees the right to participate in the management of state affairs, including to elect and be elected to local self-government bodies. Together, these provisions form the constitutional basis for community residents' equal access to information on barrier-free environment and their participation in decision-making.

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ratified by Law of Ukraine No. 1767-VI of 16 December 2009

Articles 9 and 21 of the Convention oblige the state to ensure access for persons with disabilities to information and communications, including information and communication technologies and the Internet, and to provide information intended for the general public in accessible formats.

Law of Ukraine "On the Fundamentals of Social Protection of Persons with Disabilities in Ukraine" No. 875-XII of 21 March 1991

Article 2 of the Law provides for the state to create conditions for persons with disabilities to exercise their rights and freedoms on an equal basis with other citizens and to ensure their social protection. Access to information is a prerequisite for exercising these rights, as it enables people to learn about available services, participation mechanisms, ways of protecting their rights and opportunities to apply to the relevant bodies and institutions.

Law of Ukraine "On the Principles of Preventing and Combating Discrimination in Ukraine" No. 5207-VI of 6 September 2012

The Law defines the main forms of discrimination and lists disability among the grounds on which discrimination is prohibited. State policy in this area includes awareness-raising activities to prevent and combat discrimination. Systematic publication of accessible information on barrier-free environment, human rights and mechanisms for their protection on official web resources is therefore an important component of building an inclusive environment.

Law of Ukraine "On Access to Public Information" No. 2939-VI of 13 January 2011

Article 15 of the Law obliges information holders to publish, among other things, information on the mechanisms or procedures through which the public can represent its interests or otherwise influence the exercise of the holder's powers. In the barrier-free context, this justifies the need to properly inform the public on community websites about the activities of relevant consultative and advisory bodies, opportunities for public participation, the procedure for submitting proposals and other mechanisms for influencing decision-making.

Law of Ukraine "On Information" No. 2657-XII of 2 October 1992

Article 2 of the Law lists among the core principles of information relations the guaranteed right to information, openness and accessibility of information, and freedom of information exchange. These principles form the general legal basis for ensuring citizens' access to information of public importance, including on the implementation of barrier-free policy at the local level.

Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 757 of 21 July 2023 "Certain Issues of Accessibility of Information and Communication Systems and Electronic Documents"

The Resolution obliges executive authorities to comply with DSTU EN 301 549:2022 "Information technology. Accessibility requirements for ICT products and services" when creating and upgrading websites, and recommends that local self-government bodies comply with these requirements.

Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 366-r of 14 April 2021 "On Approval of the National Strategy for Creating a Barrier-Free Space in Ukraine until 2030"

The National Strategy defines information accessibility as one of the key areas of state policy. It emphasises, in particular, the need for access to information in various formats and the use of clear communication channels. Accordingly, the official websites of territorial communities play an important role as a permanent source of information on local policy, decisions, activities and participation mechanisms in the barrier-free area.

Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1301-r of 20 December 2024 "Certain Issues of Communication Support for the Implementation of the National Strategy for Creating a Barrier-Free Space in Ukraine until 2030"

The Communication Strategy provides for systematic communication support for barrier-free policy and the involvement of central authorities, local self-government bodies and other stakeholders in this process. One of its objectives is to raise public awareness of actions and results in the barrier-free area. In this context, the official websites of territorial communities are one of the basic channels for informing the population systematically.

Thus, the accessibility of territorial community websites and their substantive coverage of barrier-free issues should be seen not merely as a communication element, but as one of the tools for exercising the right to information, ensuring public participation, preventing discrimination and putting state barrier-free policy into practice at the local level.

3 Website Analysis Methodology

52
official websites - all territorial communities of Mykolaiv Region (listed in Annex 1)

13-26.07
analysis period, 2026

26.07.2026
cut-off date for the published information assessed

The analysis was carried out from 13 to 26 July 2026 and covered the official websites of all 52 territorial communities of Mykolaiv Region. The list of communities with links to their websites is provided in Annex 1. The websites were assessed against the following criteria:

1. Presence and location of a dedicated barrier-free section
2. Completeness of published documents on the Barrier-Free Council (decision on establishment, regulations, membership, meeting minutes) and how up to date the minutes are
3. Ease of navigation and functioning of the search
4. Availability and accessibility of supporting materials, including barrier-free route maps, reference information and thematic publications

Only information published on the official websites as of 26 July 2026 was assessed. The technical compliance of the websites with web accessibility standards was not assessed.

The analysis was complemented by the results of a survey of residents of the 10 project communities on their awareness of barrier-free environment and the activities of Barrier-Free Councils (see the list of sources). These data are not representative of all 52 communities and are presented separately from the website analysis.

4 Key Finding

The analysis of 52 community websites revealed insufficient information openness on barrier-free issues: thematic information is covered in a fragmented way, and the websites are updated unsystematically. As a result, the websites have not yet become an effective tool for authorities to communicate with residents, and residents find it difficult to obtain information about the Council's activities and the community's barrier-free policy.

46%
of websites have a section that is easy to find and has substantive content

44%
contain no information about the Barrier-Free Council at all

63%
do not publish or do not update Council meeting minutes

5 Location of the Barrier-Free Section on the Websites

The first criterion is whether information on barrier-free environment can be found on the community website, and how much time and effort this takes. The assessment considered:

- where the section is located on the website;
- how quickly a user can find it in the list of sections;
- how prominently the section is placed among other sections;
- the name of the section containing the thematic information and how well it reflects the content.

Table 1. Barrier-free section on the websites of Mykolaiv Region communities



No section at all (link missing or broken)	**21%** 11 of 52
Section hidden under an unrelated name	**10%** 5 of 52
Section exists but is placed at the end of a long menu	**15%** 8 of 52
Section is prominent but almost empty	**8%** 4 of 52
Section is prominent and filled with real content	**46%** 24 of 52

In other words, only ***46%*** of websites have a section that is both easy to find and has substantive content. In the remaining ***54%*** of cases, a user will either find no information on barrier-free environment at all, spend considerable time searching, or land on an empty or broken page.

6 Barrier-Free Council Documentation

The second criterion covers the availability of the Council's founding documents and the transparency of its activities: the decision on establishing the Barrier-Free Council, the Council regulations, the approved membership and the minutes of meetings held.

Table 2. Barrier-Free Council documentation on the websites of Mykolaiv Region communities

Full set of documents (all four elements)	**19%** 10 of 52
Only some of the documents available	**37%** 19 of 52
No information at all	**44%** 23 of 52

63%
33 of 52 websites

Meeting minutes deserve particular attention: **63% of websites (33 of 52) either do not publish minutes or do not update them**. This trend is seen even among websites with otherwise complete documentation: in several communities, the latest published minutes date back to early 2025. As a result, website users cannot obtain up-to-date information on how regularly the Council meets and what it achieves.

7 Navigation, Search and Supporting Materials

Beyond the presence of the section and the documents, the practical usability of the website matters:

19% 10 of 52 websites

Website search returns no results

Searching for "barrier-free", "Barrier-Free Council" or other related terms does not find the relevant information. On some websites, the search bar searches the entire Internet rather than the website.

15% 8 of 52 websites

Information gets lost among news

Important documents (decisions, minutes) are published in the general news feed instead of a dedicated documents section, so they become harder to find as new posts appear.

19% 10 of 52 websites

Barrier-free route maps

Available, but the image quality or presentation makes them hard to read: in some cases the image has low resolution, the legend symbols are barely legible, or the route is not actually marked on the map.

13% 7 of 52 websites

Link to the Barrier-Free Guide

Some communities already rely on a single methodological source, although this practice is not yet widespread.

8 Good Practices

Despite generally weak results, the analysis identified isolated examples of good practice that can serve as a benchmark for other communities:

- clear separation of news, reference materials and Council documents into distinct subsections, which avoids mixing information and makes navigation predictable;
- complete and up-to-date publication of all four Council founding documents in one section, so users do not have to search for them across the website;
- display adjustment features - font size, contrast, spacing, etc. Two websites (4%) have them, as described below.

ACCESSIBILITY FEATURE

Kryvoozerska Territorial Community

krivoeozero-decentralization.gov.ua

The website has a dedicated accessibility feature: an eye icon on the left of the page opens a panel for adjusting text size, fonts, contrast, spacing, link highlighting and more. The settings are flexible, so users can adapt the website to their own needs.

ACCESSIBILITY WIDGET

Voskresenska Settlement Council

voskr-rada.gov.ua

The accessibility widget in the bottom right corner offers the widest range of settings among all websites analysed. It allows users to change font size, background, line height and letter spacing, text alignment and cursor size, adjust contrast, and provides reading aids: a reading mask and reading line, stopping animations, hiding images and highlighting hyperlinks. In addition, the thematic section is placed prominently on the website, where it immediately catches the eye.

Both examples show that such solutions are technically simple and can be introduced by other communities. The next step for them could be bringing their websites into line with DSTU EN 301 549:2022.

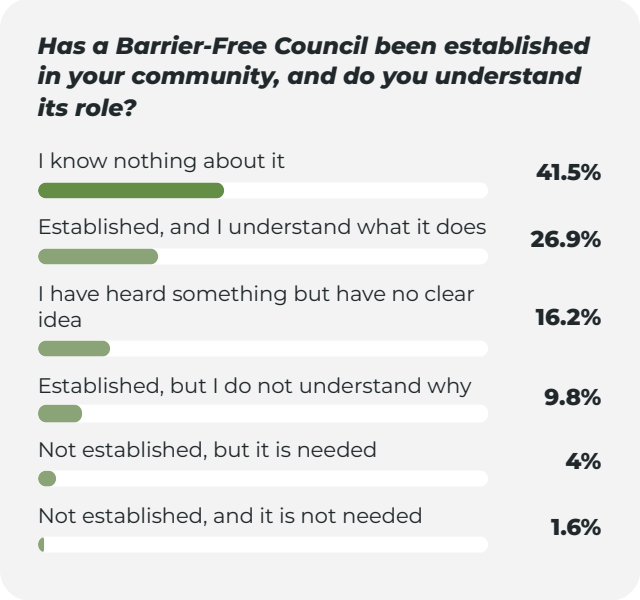
9 Practical Relevance for the Access Space Project

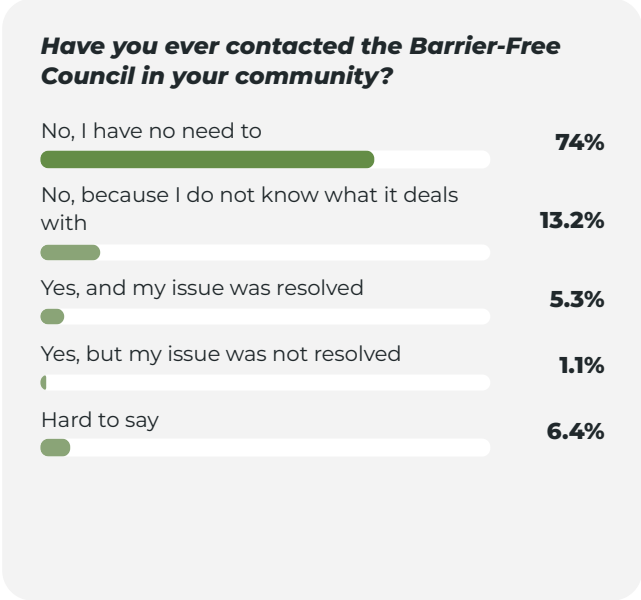
These results are directly relevant to the project's advocacy component. The criteria used in this analysis (location of the section, completeness of documents, regularity of minutes, quality of navigation and search) can form the basis of a single checklist for assessing and supporting Barrier-Free Councils. Current indicators, in particular the share of websites without up-to-date minutes (***63%***), can serve as a baseline for measuring progress during project implementation; for this purpose, they should be calculated separately for the 10 project communities.

Removing the information barrier depends primarily on action by the authorities. An official website is a universal tool for disseminating information, which can be used to raise residents' awareness of barrier-free environment and the activities of the Barrier-Free Council.

Data from a separate survey of residents of the 10 project communities show that the largest share of respondents (***41.5%***) know nothing about Barrier-Free Councils and their role among local self-government bodies. Almost one in ten respondents (***9.8%***) know that the Council exists but do not understand its functions.

The vast majority of respondents (***74%***) had not contacted the Council because they had no need to, and another ***13.2%*** because they did not understand its functions and powers. Only ***6.4%*** of respondents had contacted the Council: ***5.3%*** said their issue was resolved, and ***1.1%*** said it remained unresolved.





Source: Analytical report on the survey of residents of the 10 project communities, Rokada Charitable Foundation, 2026 (source 8).

These data do not prove that low awareness is caused by insufficient website content. However, taken together, the results of both analyses point to the need for stronger communication between authorities and community residents, greater transparency of authorities' activities in the barrier-free area, and information campaigns, including those based on official websites.

10 Limitations

The analysis is based solely on publicly available website content and does not include interviews with representatives of communities or Councils. The absence of information on a website does not mean the absence of relevant activity in the community: a Council may be operating in practice without publishing information online, or vice versa. The indicators presented should therefore be regarded as indicative data on digital transparency rather than a definitive assessment of the Councils' institutional capacity.

11 Conclusions

The analysis of 52 community websites in Mykolaiv Region shows that information about the activities of Barrier-Free Councils is mostly fragmented, hard to access or missing: fewer than half of the websites have a complete and easily accessible section, and almost two thirds do not publish up-to-date meeting minutes. At the same time, isolated examples of good practice - structured sections, a full set of documents, website accessibility features - show that improvement is entirely realistic and can serve as a benchmark for other communities.

12 Recommendations

The analysis identified several of the most common shortcomings, which can be addressed with minimal resources and without a major website redesign:

1 **Location and name**

Create a dedicated "Barrier-Free Environment" section with a name that reflects its content, and make it accessible from the main menu so that users see it immediately.

2 **Structure**

Organise the section by type of information (news / reference information / Barrier-Free Council / barrier-free route) without mixing them. A sample section structure is proposed in Annex 2.

3 **Content**

Regularly publish announcements of activities held, add a list of legal acts and useful barrier-free resources, including a link to the Barrier-Free Guide. Post route maps as high-quality images with a legend and a text description.

4

Council documents

Publish the decision on establishment, the regulations and the membership of the Council, and post meeting minutes no later than 10 working days after each meeting.

5

Communication with the Council

Provide the contact details of the Council secretary or the person responsible for barrier-free development in the community, the procedure for submitting proposals, the date of the next meeting and how to take part in it. A feedback form should not be the only way to get in touch.

6

Search

Check whether the website search finds materials for “barrier-free” and “Barrier-Free Council”, and make sure the search covers the website itself.

7

Accessibility features

When upgrading websites, take into account the requirements of DSTU EN 301 549:2022, and use the Methodology for Self-Assessment of the Accessibility of Information Published by Public Authorities to check materials. Display adjustment widgets are appropriate as a complement to these requirements.

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ANNEX 1

List of Analysed Websites of Territorial Communities in Mykolaiv Region

No.	Community	Website
1	Arbuzynska Territorial Community	https://arbtg.gov.ua/
2	Bashtanska Territorial Community	https://bashtanka.mk.gov.ua/ua/home/
3	Berezanska Territorial Community	https://berezanska-gromada.gov.ua/
4	Bereznehuvatska Territorial Community	https://berezneguvatska-gromada.gov.ua/
5	Blahodatnenska Territorial Community	https://blagodatnenska-gromada.gov.ua/
6	Bratska Territorial Community	https://bratska-gromada.gov.ua/
7	Buzka Territorial Community	https://buzkagromada.gov.ua/
8	Veselynivska Territorial Community	https://veselynivska-gromada.gov.ua/
9	Vesnianska Territorial Community	https://vesnyanska-gromada.gov.ua/
10	Vilnozaporizka Territorial Community	https://vilnozaporizka-gromada.gov.ua/
11	Voznesenska Territorial Community	https://voz.gov.ua/
12	Volodymyrivska Territorial Community	https://volodymyrivska-gromada.gov.ua/
13	Voskresenska Territorial Community	https://voskr-rada.gov.ua/
14	Vradiivska Territorial Community	https://vradiivska-gromada.gov.ua/
15	Halytsynivska Territorial Community	https://galycynivska.dosvit.org.ua/
16	Horokhivska Territorial Community	https://gorohivska-gromada.gov.ua/
17	Domanivska Territorial Community	https://domanivska-gromada.gov.ua/
18	Doroshivska Territorial Community	https://doroshivska-gromada.gov.ua/
19	Zavodska Territorial Community	https://pervomayska-gromada.gov.ua/
20	Yelanetska Territorial Community	https://elanecka-gromada.gov.ua/
21	Inhulska Territorial Community	https://ingulska-gromada.gov.ua/
22	Kazankivska Territorial Community	https://kazanka-gromada.gov.ua/
23	Kamianomostivska Territorial Community	https://kamyanomostivska-gromada.gov.ua/
24	Koblivska Territorial Community	https://koblivska-gromada.gov.ua/
25	Kostiantynivska Territorial Community	https://kost-gromada.gov.ua/
26	Kryvoozerska Territorial Community	https://krivoeozero-decentralization.gov.ua/
27	Kutsurubska Territorial Community	https://kucurubska-gromada.gov.ua/
28	Myhiivska Territorial Community	https://mygiivska-gromada.gov.ua/
29	Mykolaiv City Territorial Community	https://mkrada.gov.ua/
30	Mishkovo-Pohorilivska Territorial Community	https://mphromada.gov.ua/

No.	Community	Website
31	Mostivska Territorial Community	https://mostivska-gromada.gov.ua/
32	Nechaianska Territorial Community	https://nechayanska-gromada.gov.ua/
33	Novobuzka Territorial Community	https://novobuzka-gromada.gov.ua/
34	Novomarivska Territorial Community	https://novomarivka.org.ua/
35	Novoodeska Territorial Community	https://nodmr.gov.ua/
36	Oleksandrivska Territorial Community	https://oleksandrivskaotg.gov.ua/
37	Olshanska Territorial Community	https://olshanske-rada.gov.ua/
38	Ochakivska Territorial Community	https://ochakiv-rada.gov.ua/
39	Pervomaiska Territorial Community	http://www.pervomaisk.mk.ua/
40	Prybuzhanivska Territorial Community	https://prybuzhanivska-gromada.gov.ua/
41	Pivdennoukrainska Territorial Community	https://yu.mk.ua/
42	Prybuzka Territorial Community	https://prybuzka-gromada.gov.ua/
43	Pryvilnenska Territorial Community	https://pryvilne-gromada.gov.ua/
44	Radsadivska Territorial Community	https://radsadivska-gromada.gov.ua/
45	Syniukhynobridska Territorial Community	https://snb-gromada.gov.ua/
46	Snihurivska Territorial Community	https://snigurivska-gromada.gov.ua/
47	Sofiivska Territorial Community	https://sfotg.gov.ua/
48	Stepivska Territorial Community	https://stepivska-gromada.gov.ua/
49	Sukhoielanetska Territorial Community	https://suhoelanecka-gromada.gov.ua/
50	Chornomorska Territorial Community	https://chm-gromada.gov.ua/
51	Shevchenkivska Territorial Community	https://shevchenkivska-gromada.gov.ua/
52	Shyrokivska Territorial Community	https://shirokivska-gromada.gov.ua/

ANNEX 2

Sample Structure of a “Barrier-Free Environment” Section on a Community Website

The thematic section should be placed in the main menu of the website and divided into subsections by type of information. Below is an indicative structure that communities can adapt to their own needs.

Barrier-Free Environment

1. What barrier-free means
2. Community Barrier-Free Council
3. Local programmes and action plans
4. Community barrier-free route
5. News and events
6. Legal framework and useful resources

1 What barrier-free means

An explanation of the concept and information on the six areas of the National Strategy for Creating a Barrier-Free Space in Ukraine until 2030: physical, information, digital, social and civic, educational and economic barrier-free access. This is also the place for a link to the Barrier-Free Guide and other official resources. Information should be presented in plain, clear language, with practical examples of barriers that community residents may face.

2 Community Barrier-Free Council

The decision on establishing the Council, its regulations, membership, work plan, meeting minutes and adopted recommendations. Contact details for the Council, the procedure for submitting proposals and requests, and the date of the next meeting and conditions for participation should be stated separately.

3 Local programmes and action plans

Current local programmes and action plans that provide for creating a barrier-free environment. Each activity should include its timeline and results achieved.

4 Community barrier-free route

Information on the development and arrangement of the barrier-free route: a high-resolution route map with a legend, a text description of the route, a list of facilities along it and their current state of adaptation.

5 News and events

Announcements of barrier-free activities, information on Council meetings, trainings, consultations and other community events. News should be published in this subsection, not only in the website’s general news feed.

6 Legal framework and useful resources

A list of legal acts in the barrier-free area with links to their texts, methodological materials and contacts of organisations providing accessibility advice.