

ARMENIA CIVICS FOR ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

RESULTS OF THE TOWN HALL MEETING ON DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN GAVAR CONSOLIDATED COMMUNITY

Executive Summary



Yerevan, 2024



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Results of the Town Hall Meeting on Development Programs in Gavar Consolidated Community

This Executive Summary presents the process and the key results of the August 13, 2024 youth-oriented Town Hall Meeting (THM) organized within the “Armenia Civics for Engagement” (ACE) Program.

The goal of the “Armenia Civics for Engagement” Program is to improve the quality of Armenia’s formal and non-formal civic education to foster youth public participation and advancement of democratic processes in Armenia. The Program is implemented by Project Harmony International and its sub-awardees International Center for Human Development, Armenian Center for Democratic Education-CIVITAS and National Center of Educational Technologies.

You can find out more about the ACE Program at www.facebook.com/ArmCivics4Engage.

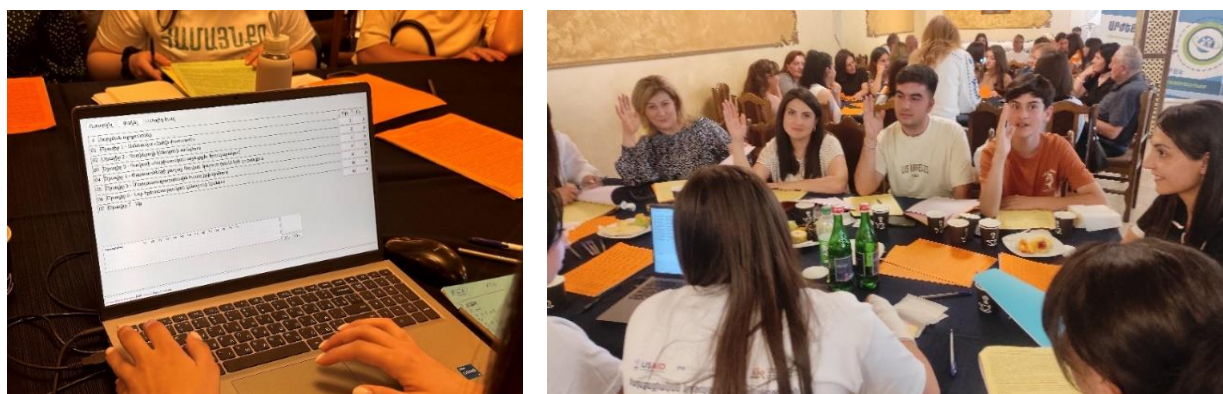
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On August 13, 2024, over 80 residents of the consolidated community of Gavar got together to participate in a youth-oriented Town Hall Meeting (THM). The THM participants discussed six community development projects driven by the needs of young people in Gavar. The briefs of these projects were developed by the International Center for Human Development (ICHD), in close collaboration with the municipality of Gavar, the local Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) “Sarvor” and active young people residing in the community. The project ideas aligned with the Five-Year Development Program of Gavar for 2022-2026, while due to effective collaboration with the municipality and the young people, these general ideas were further developed into tangible and feasible project proposals. These proposals were presented to the community members for discussion in a Town Hall Meeting.



Both young people and adults were invited to participate in the Town Hall Meeting, with youth being the majority. This approach honors the key objective of the ACE program which is to promote youth participation in decision making at various levels. Moreover, the Positive Youth Development framework, the philosophy and its toolkit underlying the ACE program design, strongly emphasizes the role of youth-adult partnerships and dialogs as one of the most significant guarantees for young people to be heard and to effectively engage in their communities.





A unique methodology ensuring participatory processes of decision-making was used to organize the THM. It was adapted and localized by ICHD in 2004, based on the critically acclaimed methodological guidelines for deliberative citizen consultations, developed by the “AmericaSpeaks” U.S. NGO, and has been successfully employed in various communities of Armenia. The specific THM format allows representatives of various social groups in a community to directly and

effectively engage in a discussion, express their perspectives on and approaches to issues that concern them. The THM participants in Gavar discussed the following project proposals:

- Development of Ethno-Tourism Development in Gavar: Annual Shepherd's Festival;
- Establishment of a Career Center;
- Publication of the Tourist Guide of Gavar;
- City of Festivals: Capacity Building;
- Establishment of a Sports and Health Center for Young People;
- Establishment of a New Youth Center.



The THM discussions were facilitated by active young people from the community, who had been trained prior to the THM in the requisite knowledge and skills. The note-takers, also pre-trained active young people from Gavar, summarized the ideas exchanged around the THM discussion tables in short postings, shared on large screens in the THM hall. These postings, visible to all THM participants, ensured that over 80 participants had an opportunity for a synchronous exchange of ideas.

The THM results were summarized in over 430 postings, which later were analyzed to reveal the perspectives of young people and their ideas on the priority issues in the community and relevant development projects. **The THM concluded with a vote to decide on the short-term priority among the proposed projects. According to the voting results, about 30% of the participants prioritized the proposal to establish a sports and health center for young people. During the THM, the participants enriched the proposal with more creative and feasible solutions.**

The THM was attended by the representatives of the Department for Youth Policy of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports, and the Gavar municipality.

The results of the dialogues and debates among the community members of Gavar are a credible source of information for the Gavar leadership and decision makers in general, to understand the perceptions of the community members regarding the different directions of the community development reflected in the five-year community development program, and the relevant priorities.

The full THM report in Armenian is available [here](#).

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