

## Cooperation between local authorities and residents

Self-government is intended to contribute to the wider dialogue between local authorities and residents. This dialogue should include as many people as possible and increase residents' involvement in local affairs, while at the same time ensuring their participation in the decision-making process and the actual impact on decisions made by local authorities. In an increasing number of Polish municipalities and cities, such a process is carried out through various forms of cooperation and specific programs enabling residents to participate in decision-making, e.g. public consultations, citizens' initiatives or participatory budgets.

Most respondents (64%) feel that in their municipality / commune authorities take into account their voice when making decisions.

**Do you agree that the voice of the inhabitants of your municipality / commune is taken into account by the local authorities when making decisions that concern residents?**



Although the majority of Poles are convinced that inhabitants of their towns/villages have influence on decisions of local authorities, only one third (34%) are able to indicate any specific opportunities and tools for cooperation of residents with local authorities to improve the situation of the local community.

**Are you aware of any possibilities and tools for cooperation between the inhabitants of your place of residence and local authorities in order to improve the situation of the local community?**



People who have declared knowledge of specific forms of cooperation between local authorities and residents in their localities most often (35% of indications) mentioned the possibility of direct meetings and talks with councillors and representatives of the authorities, including open meetings for residents. A quarter (24%) pointed to the possibility of initiating solutions and inhabitants' participation in the implementation of specific investments through civic initiatives, social campaigns, etc., while one-sixth (17%) mentioned participation of residents in determining a part of public expenditure, e.g. through participatory budget. Less frequently mentioned tools for dialogue between local authorities and residents are: submitting letters and petitions (10% of responses), operation of district councils and housing communities aiming to improve the situation of the local community (5%), public consultations (4%), local council sessions open to residents (4%), local NGOs monitoring the activity of the town / commune authorities (4%) and activities of various types of entities subordinated to the local authorities which involve residents in cooperation with the office (4%). Less frequently, respondents pointed to social research of residents (3%), referenda (2%) or Internet communication with representatives of authorities (2%).

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More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Cooperation between Local Authorities and Residents", April 2018. Fieldwork for national sample: February 2018, N=1057. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.