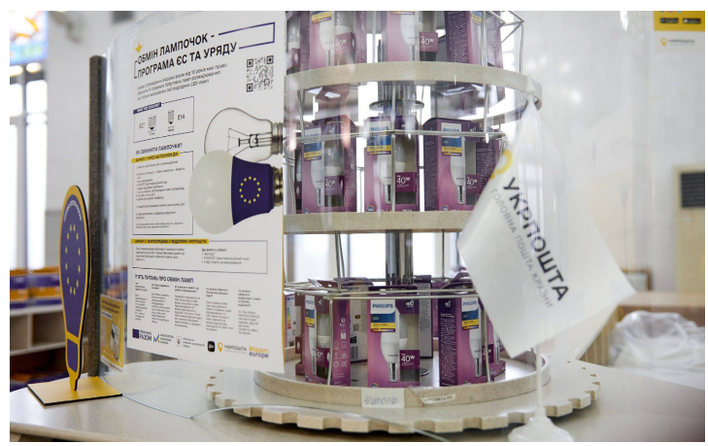
EU4Ukraine Review

EU-Ukraine Cooperation Newsletter

February 2023

CAMPAIGN NEWS

Ukrainians readily exchange old-type light bulbs for modern ones



Since the 25th of February, residents of Ukrainian villages, including frontline settlements in Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, Kharkiv, and Zaporizhzhia regions, could exchange outdated incandescent light bulbs for modern LED bulbs. The "Bringing Light Together" campaign has reached all corners of Ukraine within less than a month.

Launched on the 30th of January, this campaign immediately became popular among Ukrainians. A total of 50 million light bulbs are to be exchanged.

This large-scale upgrading of the 'light bulb fleet' is prompted by electricity shortages caused by large-scale Russian strikes on Ukraine's energy infrastructure for several months.

The "Bringing Light Together" campaign is unique. It combines a creative approach to solving the energy shortage problem, European solidarity, a modern implementation mechanism using the Diia app, and the participation of millions of people in solving the country's energy problems.

The idea came up in November last year. Katarina Mathernova, Deputy Director-General for Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, recalls that President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy expressed this idea at a meeting with her and the European Commission's Executive Vice President Valdis Dombrovskis and asked for help in purchasing light bulbs.

Soon after, at the "energy Ramstein" meeting, President Zelenskyy's initiative was supported by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. She said that the EU would finance the supply of 30 million LED light bulbs from its budget. This number subsequently increased, and France joining the campaign shortly after its start.

"In the first two weeks of the "Bringing Light Together" campaign, Ukrainians have exchanged 5 million light bulbs. We are grateful to France, whose government quickly added 5 million bulbs to the 35 million light bulbs from the EU. I call on the EU member states to join this campaign to achieve the goal of replacing 50 million outdated light bulbs and saving 1 gigawatt of electricity," said **Ambassador Matti Maasikas, Head of the EU Delegation to Ukraine.**

You can exchange old-type light bulbs for energy-saving ones in the Diia app. To do so:

- Log in to the app
- Select the section Services – Light Bulb Exchange
- Enter your contact phone number and the Ukrposhta office where you would like to exchange bulbs
- Choose the type and number of LED light bulbs you want to receive

You can also exchange bulbs at Ukrposhta offices without registration – in this case, the exchange is subject to availability. Ukrposhta offices are the single exchange point in settlements with less than 2,000 inhabitants.

More information:

"Bringing Light Together" campaign at the website EU4Ukraine – https://eu4ukraine.eu/together-we-bring-light-ua

Campaign latest news – https://eu4ukraine.eu/whats-happening-ua/news-ua/ukrainians-exchanged-5-million-incandescent-light-bulbs-news-ua.html

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Poltava hosts a mobile exposition dedicated to EU assistance

In various ways, the EU supported budget expenditures, restoration of damaged infrastructure, weapons and ammunition for the Armed Forces, social payments, and more.

A series of videos released in February as part of the "Together, We Are Europe" communication campaign shows the EU's support for the state's and business' resilience in wartime, humanitarian and other aid to Ukrainians, and assistance in strengthening the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

Since August last year, the campaign has been running to inform Ukrainians about the scope of EU assistance and make them confident in its continued support.

"The European Union will help Ukraine for as long as it takes. Our commitment to a free and democratic Ukraine has never been stronger." These words by **European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen,** cited from one of the videos, best describe the EU's approach.

In February, as part of the campaign, Dnipro hosted a mobile exposition of unique artworks created by Ukrainian illustrators about the EU's assistance to Ukraine and Ukrainians during the war.

"Dnipro is the easternmost city in our exposition. It is a frontline city fighting Russian terrorism, a city that recently had to face another war crime against civilians," said **Ambassador Matti Maasikas,** Head of the EU Delegation to Ukraine, recalling the barbaric missile attack on a high-rise building in January. *"We are honored to have our exposition there, and we hope it will bring some joy and hope to the people of Dnipro."*

Dnipro was supposed to be the last city on the exposition's map. However, given the high interest of visitors, the exposition extended its tour and arrived to Poltava on the 27th of February. Peremoha Culture and Recreation Park hosts it.

Launched in August in Kyiv, the exposition visited Lviv, Rivne, Khmelnytskyi, Uzhhorod, Odesa, and Dnipro.

More information:

"Together, We Are Europe" campaign at the website EU4Ukraine – https://eu4ukraine.eu/together-we-are-europe-campaign-ua

Recent videos about the EU's support:

Assistance to the Armed Forces of Ukraine – https://youtu.be/ZXr0HCO2f2I

Aid to people – https://youtu.be/5RCqzCKjlPI

Financial assistance – https://youtu.be/zhAEBI9_Ugs

PROJECTS NEWS

The educational platform Natolin4Capacity Building registered 2,500 users

In early February, Olga Bodnar, the head of the cultural sector of the Stryi District State Administration, Lviv region, got her completion certificates after online training organized through the EU-funded project Natolin4Capacity Building. Two of the courses she took focused on anti-corruption and civil society empowerment.

"The materials are great, and the presentation is exciting," says Olga. *"The training provides an opportunity to improve professional knowledge and skills on European integration. Most importantly, it teaches us how to change and reform public administration in line with European standards. We are striving for the EU, which means acting according to clear rules through a standardized system of laws."*

More than 2,500 Ukrainian civil servants have already registered for online trainings on the project's educational platform. The 16 training courses covering various aspects of the functioning of the European Union and its relations with Ukraine provide an excellent opportunity to strengthen their capacity to work towards European integration.

The Natolin4Capacity Building project is implemented by the College of Europe in Natolin, which traditionally provides great learning opportunities for Ukrainians.

"Among the many challenges of preparing for Ukraine's accession negotiations with the EU, the key one is to prepare the state system and its citizens for significant changes in law and society," says **project manager Tadeusz Kozek.** *"Our platform was developed primarily to support public administration in this process by sharing knowledge about the most important aspects of the EU's functioning. The training courses have been prepared by a team of highly qualified experts familiar with the Ukrainian context. The lessons include texts, multimedia, infographics, additional resource, and tests to help users gain the necessary knowledge simply and easily."*

In addition to online courses, since last November, the project has been running two-month training programs for Ukrainian civil servants from central executive authorities working in European integration. Currently, the second group is in Natolin, a total of 50 people planned to be trained. Ukrainian ministries and agencies send their employees to Natolin to improve their skills.

"The project aims to support Ukrainian civil servants responsible for European integration processes in applying theoretical knowledge in practice," says **Katarzyna Majcher, a training expert.** *"We support our colleagues in deepening their knowledge by conducting lectures and seminars on European affairs, EU institutions, decision-making, integration policies and mechanisms, and legislative approximation. Small groups allow us to provide a practically oriented program focused on the individual needs of the participants.*

This year, in cooperation with the Higher School of Public Administration, the short-term online training programs on European integration will be launched. They will be open to civil servants with completion certificates upon online training courses.

More information:

Online courses (in Ukrainian and English) – https://pdp.nacs.gov.ua/courses/natolin4capacity-building

How to register on the educational platform – https://bit.ly/3RNCK7P

Two-month study program in Poland – https://bit.ly/3DSFnzp

Project website and Facebook page – https://natolin4cb.eu/, https://bit.ly/3Z9OLac

FreeDOM TV channel's story about the project – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DuztLZjZQ00

Helping IDPs: Phoenix holds a call for grant proposals

Another EU-funded project implemented by the East Europe Foundation and aimed at supporting the activities of civil society organizations was presented in February.

The "Phoenix. Strong Ukraine in Time of War" project will help civil society organizations support internally displaced persons. It will hold two calls for grant proposals, with the first one starting on the 16th of February and ending on the 23rd of March. Twenty CSOs will get financing to implement their initiatives. The total budget of the call is UAH 11 million, and grants can vary from UAH 400 to 800 thousand.

"Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion, we have seen a great demand for initiatives to overcome the challenges of war, supporting IDPs and communities hosting IDPs." says **Olga Voitovych, program manager at the East Europe Foundation, responsible for the Phoenix project.** *"Now, these requests are transforming from providing humanitarian aid and temporary shelters to adaptation and integration of new community residents, employment assistance, and assistance to displaced businesses. We will be happy to support such projects."*

Therefore, civil society organizations can propose initiatives focused on various forms of assistance to IDPs for funding.

"Ukrainian civil society is strong and in demand as never before, but it also needs our support," says **Martin Schroeder, Head of the Local and Human Development Section at the EU Delegation to Ukraine.**

The EU has consistently expanded this support since the beginning of the war.

According to Martin Schroeder, since February 24, 2022, approximately €30 million have been redirected to the needs of civil society organizations. An additional €80 million was provided for this purpose. Over the past year, 30 new projects have been launched to support the civil society sector and enhance its capacity so the projects could help their communities and neighborhoods.

One of the goals is to reach out to local civil society organizations and initiatives.

"To do so, we have strengthened cooperation with our strategic partners, in particular, Eastern Europe Foundation. So now we can reach out to up to 300 local organizations across Ukraine," says Martin Schroeder.

In addition to providing grants to civil society organizations for IDP-related activities, the Phoenix project aims to enhance their capacity through training and online education. The project will also provide financial support for implementing digital solutions to improve interaction within communities and between government authorities and citizens.

In the photo (from left to right): Martin Schroeder, Olga Voitovych, President of the East Europe Foundation Viktor Lyakh.

Photo by the Eastern Europe Foundation.

More information:

About the Phoenix Project on the East Europe Foundation website – https://eef.org.ua/program/feniks-sylna-ukrayina-pid-chas-vijny/

Phoenix Project call for grant proposals – https://eef.org.ua/competition/novi-granty-dlya-go/

Project launch press conference and announcement of the call for grant proposals –

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hljo2smMf5s

Search for missing children with EU support

Ihor, a 17-year-old boy, lived in the village of Soniachne near Kherson. With the occupation of this village in March 2022, he was lost for contact. Anastasia, a 17-year-old girl who lived in Izium, Kharkiv region, was also lost for contact in early April...

These two stories have much in common – relatives have found Ihor and Anastasia, and the Missing Children Search Service helped in both cases. The European Union financially supports the organization through the EU4CSOs Emergency Actions project, implemented by the Charitable Organization "Network of 100 Percent Life Rivne".

"Since 2015, we have been administering the call center of Hotline 116 000 – Missing Children Europe. The operators are properly trained specialists," says **Maryna Lypovetska, head of the Missing Children Search Service.** *"They receive calls from parents or guardians of missing children and provide them with the necessary psychological, legal, and social support. They also receive reports of missing children from citizens. At the same time, we join the search, make informational videos about each missing child, and distribute them on TV and social media."*

This was the case in the stories described above.

Ihor's grandmother called the hotline to search for her grandson. Immediately after streaming the video about the boy, Hotline 116 000 received calls from witnesses who had seen him. The first caller was a man who had done repairs in Ihor's and his grandmother's house a week before the war. Later, Ihor's fellow villager managed to reach the Missing Children Search Service and told that the boy was fine. Still, he could not contact his relatives due to the lack of Ukrainian mobile communication. The service shot and distributed another video about the boy, and the most recent video update came from the occupied village of Soniachne: Ihor was fine. He was in his house in the village.

Anastasia was searched for by her friend, who had left Ukraine. After the video, the hotline received many calls from people who had seen the girl, and one day she managed to get in touch with her friend. Anastasia said she was alive, but she and her parents were in the occupied territory, where there was almost no mobile communication, so she could not reach out to her friends for so long. After that, she sent a video to the Missing Children Search Service so everybody could see that the girl was fine.

"With the outbreak of hostilities, the number of requests from parents and relatives for legal support and assistance in finding their children, who disappeared during the bombing and evacuation and those who remained in the occupied territories, has significantly increased," says Maryna Lypovetska. *"We have received more than 2,600 search requests during this time!"*

The organization emphasizes that informing about missing children as widely as possible is one of the most effective ways to find them. Over the 17 years of its work, the organization has managed to find and secure more than 2,200 missing children and provided more than 6,000 psychological and legal consultations to parents and relatives.

In the photo: the call center is working.

Photo of the Children's Search Service.

More information:

Website of the Missing Children Search Service – https://missingchildren.org.ua/

Facebook page – https://www.facebook.com/detipoisk

EU4CSOs Emergency Actions project – https://www.facebook.com/EU4CSOs

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Community cooperation

Bridges of Trust: the priority is to restore communities

U-LEAD З ЄВРОПОЮ

МОСТИ ДОВІРИ 2.0. ВІДБУДОВА УКРАЇНИ ЧЕРЕЗ ПАРТНЕРСТВА З МУНІЦИПАЛІТЕТАМИ ЄС

On the 15th of February, the second phase of the initiative "Bridges of Trust: Empowering Communities in Ukraine and the EU through Municipal Partnerships" was launched. The project is being jointly implemented by the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, the Association of Ukrainian Cities, and the U-LEAD with Europe program.

The project will help to establish 30 new partnerships involving municipalities from the EU and Ukraine. With the support of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, local government associations from ten EU member states will select three potential partner municipalities each. For their part, the Association of Ukrainian Cities and the U-LEAD with Europe program will shortlist Ukrainian municipalities.

Currently, the selection of potential participants for further cooperation is already underway. The process is country-specific. In particular, potential partners should have approximately the same population or area, comparable economic capacity, and specialists with relevant experience and knowledge of English or another language common for both partners.

"Community reconstruction and rehabilitation projects are the key areas for cooperation. And the location is an important factor to consider for project selection. They may include war-affected or de-occupied communities or communities affected by shelling, even if they are far from the frontline," says **Yevhen Dukhovych, Senior Advisor on Sustainable Development of the U-LEAD with Europe Program.** *"Before Russia's full-scale invasion, cultural exchanges, sporting events, and festivals were the most common forms of cooperation. We hope that they will soon become relevant for our communities again."*

The project started in March 2021. The first phase brought together 20 communities and municipalities from the EU and Ukraine. For example, the Korosten community, Zhytomyr region, has partnered with the city of Ukmerge, Lithuania.

"We are interested in their experience in building a boiler house that runs on wood processing waste. We have much of this resource in the north of Polissia and would like to use it as efficiently as possible," said **Volodymyr Moskalenko, mayor of Korosten.**

Korosten and Ukmerge had been negotiating a partnership before the war and signed the agreement almost immediately after the full-scale Russian invasion.

"The role of the individual, the first person in the community, and his or her interest in cooperation and commitment are crucial," says Yevhen Dukhovych. *"Partnership works well where there is strong professional 'chemistry' between mayors, where people are interested in learning from each other, taking and implementing the best practice in their communities."*

More information:

Website of the U-LEAD with Europe Program – https://bit.ly/3xFvaTE

Website of "Public Space" – https://www.prostir.ua/?news=mosty-doviry-yak-hromady-es-ta-ukrajiny-buduyut-partnerstva

Partnership of Korosten and Ukmerge – https://decentralization.gov.ua/news/15998

Business

What female entrepreneurs need to know to be successful

In February, the first webinars for female entrepreneurs took place as part of the "Expert Consultations. United Economic Front of Two Regions" project launched by UNDP and the Dnipro and Chernihiv Chambers of Commerce and Industry with financial support from the European Union.

A series of 12 webinars will run until early May. They are devided into three thematic groups. The first two webinars were devoted to finding grants for a good reason.

Lack of financing is a current obstacle to business recovery and development. Many businesses had to move to safer regions and needed money to rent premises, purchase equipment, and pay salaries.

> *"That's why there is such a high demand for grants. A lot of grants are channeled to Ukraine today for different sectors and businesses,"* says **Dina Sidash, Vice President of the Dnipro Chamber of Commerce and Industry.** *"But to receive these funds, you need to be able to find a list of calls for grant proposals, know the rules for writing a grant application, how to properly describe the problem, goals and objectives, target audience, and calculate the project budget. 60% of success depends on the quality of the application."*

So, the first webinars were devoted to grant opportunities and the knowledge that will help to use these opportunities. Another problem today is the sales of products.

The war has caused a significant decrease in domestic consumption, so businesses must look for new customers, in particular, enter the international market. They need to know how to start exporting, where to find new business partners, how to properly conduct an online presentation of their products, and what tools are available for export activities. Therefore, the second part of the webinars for female entrepreneurs held as part of the "United Economic Front of the Two Regions" project will focus on these issues.

But why is the program designed specifically for women? The third part of the program answers this question.

> *"A woman's experience before she becomes an entrepreneur and manager differs from that of a man. This is due to gender education and stereotypes about the concept of a "true woman", which is based on a set of features such as modesty, gentleness, and flexibility,"* explains Dina Sidash, who is also the head of the Women's Entrepreneurship Support Committee at the Dnipro Chamber of Commerce and Industry. *"That's why women need special career training sessions to deeply develop a set of competencies, such as leadership, managerial skills, self-presentation skills, self-confidence, and the ability to conduct tough negotiations."*

The final part of the webinars will be titled "Development of Leadership, Management, Communications, and Service".

Applicants should register for each webinar separately. Approximately 700 female entrepreneurs will get new knowledge.

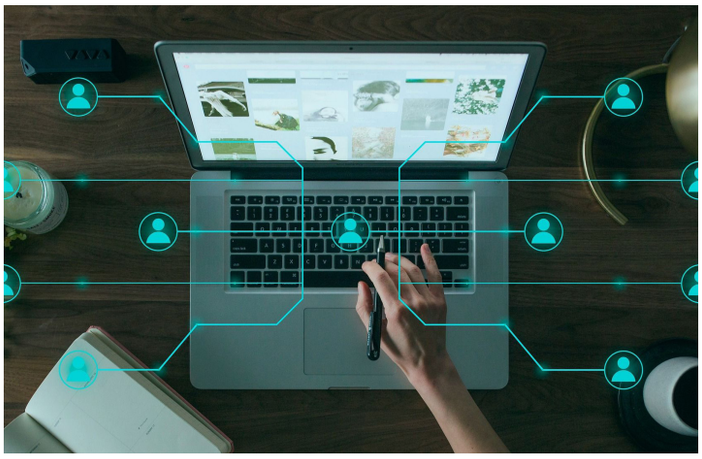
More information:

Webinar program for female entrepreneurs – https://bit.ly/3kdmL6O

Registration for webinars – https://bit.ly/3XLOgCf

Digitalization

Personal data protection: government obligations and citizens' rights



In today's digital age, we often provide someone with our personal data with a keystroke, for example, when we get online administrative or other services from government institutions. It is undoubtedly a very convenient option, but is it safe for our privacy?

This largely depends on the authorities. They must comply with national and international legislation governing the processing and protection of personal data. On the other hand, citizens need to know their rights. The recommendations on personal data protection for public authorities, developed by the EU4DigitalUA project, are intended to help better understand personal data issues.

They are collected in the 46-page guide "Protection of Personal Data in the Activities of Public Authorities". The document has three sections, the first devoted to theoretical principles (terminology, legislation) and the other two dealing with practical issues related to processing and protecting confidential information.

"Today, European data protection rules have become the gold standard and a benchmark for many countries worldwide. The EU4DigitalUA project aims to use European best practices to help improve the implementation of personal data protection in Ukraine," said **Maria Gaston Betran, FIIAPP Technical Institutional Coordinator at the EU4DigitalUA project.**

The document lists the rights of citizens regarding protecting their personal data in ten points. For example, people can receive information about the conditions for granting access to their personal data, including information about third parties to whom data is transferred. They also have the right to know the sources of data collection, the purpose of data processing, and the location of the data owner or processor.

The EU4DigitalUA project developed the guide "Protection of Personal Data in the Activities of Public Authorities" in cooperation with representatives of the Ombudsman's Office.

"With the rapid development of technology, personal information has become a valuable product. Therefore, the personal data protection system is designed to ensure that technology remains human-friendly and everyone has at least a little privacy," says **Andriy Nikolayev, a key expert on personal data protection.** *"Our project, in cooperation with the Ombudsman's Office, is working to ensure that Ukraine can provide adequate personal data protection following the highest European and international standards, such as Conversion 108+ and GDPR."*

More information:

Guide "Protection of Personal Data in the Activities of Public Authorities" – https://bit.ly/3DgzlbS

Website of the EU4DigitalUA project – https://eu4digitalua.eu

Opportunities

Competitions of the EU Delegation to Ukraine

The call for proposals for EU Networks events for Team Europe Ukraine, the College of Europe Alumni Association, Young European Ambassadors, and EU Study Days Alumni is open. In 2023, seven events will be supported to inform the public, media, government, and local authorities about the EU's priority policy areas and its cooperation with Ukraine.

Deadline: **March 15, 2023**

More information – https://bit.ly/3XIzG4R

The call for applications for EU Study Days 2023 is ongoing. Students of secondary schools, lyceums, and gymnasiums pursuing secondary education (grades 9-11); master's or final year bachelor's students of full-time programs at Ukrainian universities, and postgraduate students of any form of study are encouraged to apply.

Deadline: **March 6, 2023**

More information – https://bit.ly/3DpxuRP

The EU Delegation to Ukraine invites young graduates for a paid internship in the Mission's Communications Office. The requirements include a bachelor's degree in international relations, political science, or other relevant disciplines and excellent knowledge of English.

Deadline: **March 6, 2023**

More information – https://bit.ly/3Zl2bQV

Education

The European School in Tbilisi (Georgia) announces a call for applications for the scholarship program for the academic year 2023/2024 with the support of the European Union and International Baccalaureate. Students from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine, who will be 16-17 years old as of September 1, 2023, are encouraged to apply.

Deadline: **March 16, 2023**

More information – https://eapeuropeanschool.eu/

Agriculture

Registration for a grant from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) under the European Union-funded project "Integrated, Competitive and Sustainable Value Chains in Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry" is underway. Micro and small agricultural producers, cooperatives, and associations of geographical indication producers in Lviv, Zakarpattia, Ivano-Frankivsk, and part of Chernivtsi regions are eligible to participate.

Deadline: **March 10, 2023**

More information – https://www.dar.gov.ua/news-list/rozpochato-priyom-zayavok-na-uchast-u-programi-grantovoyi-pidtrimki-fao-ta-ies

Culture

The Creative Europe program runs the Audience Development and Film Education calls for proposals to promote European audiovisual works, especially those using digital technologies.

Deadline: **March 30, 2023**

More information – https://creativeeurope.in.ua/programs/89

Grants of up to EUR 150 thousand can be awarded to European film festivals with at least 50% of supranational European films in their program, and the annual activity of the festivals should be aimed at expanding the audience of all age groups, especially young people.

Deadline: **March 9, 2023**

More information – https://creativeeurope.in.ua/programs/91

The EU4Culture project is launching its third call for proposals to support artists and cultural professionals from the Eastern Partnership countries. Funds can be used for internships, study visits, conferences, professional development, and other activities that promote knowledge exchange and intercultural dialogue.

Deadline: **March 27, 2023**

More information – https://www.goethe.de/ins/ua/uk/kul/sup/e4c/inf.html

Media

The EU's Creative Europe program runs two media competitions at once.

Journalism Partnerships – Pluralism is intended for media working in sectors of particular importance for democracy and civic participation, such as local and regional media, community media, investigative journalism, etc.

More information – https://bit.ly/3YsVXOB

Journalism Partnerships – Collaborations aims to support high-quality media production standards and business models by promoting collaboration, digital skills, and cross-border and/or collaborative journalism.

More information – https://bit.ly/3RZO7K7

Deadline for both calls – **April 27, 2023**

Volunteering

As part of the Spilnodiya Program, enrollment for training sessions for volunteer groups and non-governmental organizations involved in volunteer activities is open. The training will focus on the rules and techniques of communication during military operations, emotional management under extreme stress, and prevention of post-traumatic stress disorders. The first training will take place on the 11th of March in Kyiv, and the second on the 25th of March in Bucha.

Deadline:

Training in Kyiv – **March 8, 2023**

Training in Bucha – **March 22, 2023**

More information – https://bit.ly/3xOh0ji

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