EU4Ukraine Review

EU-Ukraine Cooperation Newsletter

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CAMPAIGN NEWS

Ambassador Matti Maasikas talks about the challenges and benefits of Ukraine's accession to the EU

What should Ukraine do to join the EU, what challenges should it overcome, and what will Ukraine's accession bring to the European Union? These and other questions were answered by **Head of the EU Delegation to Ukraine, Matti Maasikas**, and students of the Kyiv School of Economics.

The lecture was held on March 24 as part of the «Together, we are Europe» communication campaign. This initiative aims to explain the benefits of Ukraine's accession to the EU. Ukraine and the European Union are preparing for Ukraine's accession to the EU. Ukraine in June 2022 was the most crucial political sign of the EU support and solidarity with Ukraine.

> *«A huge part of Europe would become stable and prosperous » said Matti Maasikas about the benefits of Ukraine's accession to the European Union. Ukraine's accession to the EU opens doors for the same reason, prosperity and economic growth benefited the member states.*

However, Ukraine is already having positive impact on the EU, the Ambassador believes.

> *«Ukraine has strengthened the EU in several areas. Together, we have risen to the challenge of Russia's full-scale war. The EU - a peace project - is helping to pay the price of peace. The EU started being geopolitical. Ukraine is the heart of the EU » he said, and added.*

However, Ukraine's accession to the EU will not be an easy process. Many challenges are already evident, the Ambassador noted. Among the challenges, the role of the civil society in Ukraine's accession to implement the necessary reforms and changes. Improving the governance system and adapting the EU acquis communautaire will require much effort.

> *«But the challenges will be overcome,» Matti Maasikas is convinced. «You have a unique civil society. The Ukrainian government is very pro-European and very pro-Ukrainian. Thus, the joint government strategy and strength to implement reforms. All successful European integration reforms in Eastern and Central Europe were based on strong civil society support.»*

As part of the «Together, we are Europe» campaign, a mobile exhibition of unique artworks by Ukrainian illustrators and photo artists, which tell the story of Ukraine's path to the European Union, continues its operation. This park is in Khmelnytskyi, Kamyanets-Podilskyi and Vinnytsia until April 30.

Checking will be the last city in Ukraine to host the exhibition, which started to tour in Kyiv in August 2022 and visited Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Uzhhorod, Chernivtsi, and Odesa.

More information:

Video of the lecture by the EU Ambassador to Kyiv Matyas Maasikas

«Together, we are Europe» campaign on the EU4Ukraine website

«Together, we preserve. Together, we create»: EU supports Ukrainian culture

#EuropeMeansEurope

«Do you know you are a hero? Do you know it or not?». This famous poem by Vasyl Symonenko launched a campaign of the European Union to support the development of Ukrainian culture and to strengthen the ties of Ukrainians with Europe.

In the campaign launch video, nine people – EU officials and well-known Ukrainians - recite lines from Symonenko's poem, which has become a kind of anthem of Ukrainians in the fight against the Russian invasion. The campaign is being implemented under the slogan «Together, we preserve. Together, we create» and has the hashtags #EuropeMeansEurope and #TogetherWeAreEurope.

This initiative launched a flash mob to support Ukrainian poetry #TogetherWeCreate, to encourage social media users to publicly recite poems by Ukrainian poets and paste the lyrics in others.

As the title suggests, the campaign is based on the concept of «together». Together, we Ukrainians have been resisting the Russian invasion.

The first is «Together, we Preserve» It includes preserving Ukrainian cultural heritage - architecture, monuments, museums, ancient churches, collections, libraries, including in dangerous areas, such as frontlines, fortitude, and cultural memory.

«Together, we Create» is about the EU support for Ukrainian artists, cultural workers and creative industries. Film, game, animation, and mobile projects, among others, can contribute to the preservation of Ukrainian culture and strengthen the ties between Ukrainians and Europeans.

> *«In the last year, we were in a state. It is being tested and destroyed. Russia wants to destroy our culture, our history, our language, our traditions, our existence,» Head of the EU Delegation to Ukraine, «Ukrainians are fighting for their freedom, preserving and keep creating it. And we stand with them shoulder to shoulder. Ukraine will be part of Europe. And we see, and we feel that Ukrainian culture is part of the European family.»*

The nationwide communication campaign «Together, we Preserve. Together, we Create» will have online and offline information, educational, cultural, and art events with various interactive elements.

More information:

Video launching flash mob #TogetherWeCreate

«Together, we Preserve. Together, we Create» campaign on the EU4Ukraine website

The lamp exchange campaign continues, but with major changes

As of the end of March, over 3 million Ukrainians have exchanged 17 million outdated incandescent light bulbs for modern energy-saving ones - the equivalent of 1 million lamps per week. The EU-funded lamp exchange campaign continues across Ukraine, but with major changes.

The latest news is that the number of Ukrainian families who people can exchange lamps with the gradually reduced starting on March 22. Accordingly, the number of lamps that people can exchange will also be reduced. Now, the number of lamps for two minors or refugees that protect the program last will continue to be doubled, as it was before, to 10 lamps per person.

And starting on May 1, people can exchange incandescent light bulbs only at specialized offices in cities with more than one million inhabitants and regional centers with the highest demand and need.

Ukrainians can find the nearest exchange points on the map, on the iOs app, within TPA Ecoslav Independent Petroleum Company's network, or on the website.

Among the regions, the leaders of the campaign are Kyiv region (17 million lamps exchanged), Dnipropetrovsk region (1.4 million), Kyiv city (1.1 million), Kharkiv region (1 million), Vinnytsia (0.9 million), Zhytomyr (0.8 million), and Cherkasy (0.5 million).

As part of the campaign, everyone can exchange up to 5 old incandescent light bulbs for the same number of energy-saving ones.

More information:

«Bringing Light Together» campaign on the EU4Ukraine website

PROJECT NEWS

Investing in the European future: Eurolutsk's start a new phase

In March, the EU Delegation to Ukraine announced the winners of the Eurolutsk Project calls for proposals. Twenty-two Ukrainian cultural organisations received financial support for their ideas.

Eurolutsks are informal associations at secondary schools, universities, libraries, and youth and children's centres that promote European values, culture, and knowledge. The project has been ongoing since 2020, and participants. The Eurolutsks have organised over 1,000 events and reached more than 30 participants. At the movement since 1196. Every year, thousands of children and young people join various projects of Eurolutsk across Ukraine.

> *«The EU Delegation considers this a great investment in Ukraine's European future,» says* **Ihor Mykhalchuk, Grants and Institutional Officer at the EU Delegation.** *«From school or college age Eurolutsk tends to young people as understanding of European values and culture is crucial for Ukraine's future. Ukraine's European future and its belonging to a common European family. We are very grateful to Eurolutsk leaders and coordinators for their commitment and energy!»*

Among the winners of the first call for proposals for Eurolutsk Regional Resource Centres. Founded in 2009 and hosted by the Ainvalenok Regional Resource Centre for Children & Youth Creativity, this organisation has been a Eurolutsk since 2020.

Ainvalenok's Eurolutsk has been working on the same projects as ever.

The EcoPolutsk European Citizenship Project involves a game that Eurolutsk members will create first. The project will then organise a series of creative cultural activities entitled Contest of My European Community. This competition will become the basis for the game.

Another project, Eco Cinema, will see Eurolutsk members create cinematology and practical skills in creating high-quality videos. The project will also provide members with a deeper understanding of Ukraine's European perspective, its status as an EU candidate, and the EU's assistance to Ukraine.

The third project - the European Club Program - aims to promote a better knowledge of European integration processes and political systems, opportunities to take part in youth exchange programs and joint projects, and the EU's assistance to Ukraine in its path to EU membership and its reconstruction.

All projects will implement the principles of the Eurolutsk movement: Non-discrimination, civic activism, respect

> *«Nowadays, it is important for young people from different regions and parts of the country to meet, interact, and build the European future of Ukraine together,» says* **Olena Ivanenko, Coordinator of the Eurolutsk Regional Resource Centre.** *«Our Eurolutsk projects are a good chance to start such interaction and work together on European integration.»*

More information:

Eurolutsk their website the EU Delegation's call for proposals

Photo by Eurolutsk.com/europeis.org.ua

How journalists united to volunteer

> *«Humanitarian aid mainly comes to Western region through scattered volunteer initiatives from all over Ukraine and the world, «Ukr-aid»has gathered volunteers, organizations, and companies to provide humanitarian aid to those who need it most,» says* **Mohamed Mahmoud, Coordinator of the public organization Journalists Association «Ukraine».**

The project started in March and runs until the beginning of the EU4Ukraine program «Civic Society for Democratization» implemented by the Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting.

The total budget of the Journalists Association's Project is 2.4 million hryvnia. The project will provide relief services for families with children, large families, and other people.

> *«The Children's Voice Charitable Foundation from Kyiv responded to our requests,» says* **Kyrya Mikoshenko, the main coordinator of the volunteer network of Western journalists**, about helping such people. «They had 160 winter blankets in their warehouse and they gave them to us. We also helped them with food. We also helped a family with a disabled child who was forced to crawl to a pig in the Rivne Polissia reserve in the Ratno. Ordinary people and colleagues from NGOs joined this initiative.»

Most requests for warm blankets and food have been made in Western Ukraine, living in the suburbs. That's why many blankets went to Mykolaiv and Kryvyiy Ihor. Humanitarian aid from the Ukraine-wide initiative «Ukr-aid» has also been distributed to people in the Rivne Polissia reserve in the Ratno, Dnipro, Zhytomyr, and Kyiv regions.

Journalists Association «Ukraine». Relying on March 13, it was exactly one year when the organization, together with the Ukrainian Volunteer Service, Ukr-Aid, and the Ukrainian Volunteer Service, Ukr-Aid, and the Ukrainian Volunteer Service, gathered volunteers, donated clothes, and collected food packages for people in need.

With the liberation of Kherson and the right-bank part of the region, the volunteers had even more work to do.

> *«The work of the project coordinators and managers covers losses of daily phone calls and correspondence with people begging for help,»* says **Kyrya Mikoshenko**, *«Some people have lost all their belongings in the rubble, while others do not have enough money to buy food or medicine. Some people in the north need to be listened to, documented, and included in the project.»*

Of 150,000 people living in Western before the war, approximately 50-60 thousand remained. These are mostly long and low-income families and older people who cannot move to another region due to health or financial problems.

> *«In the months of work, we are going to deliver about 60 tons of food to the occupied territories of the Kherson region and Donetsk region,»* **Journalists Association «Ukraine» Ruslak** *thanks his plans, «We plan to provide food to about 30,000 people.»*

More information:

Journalists Association «Ukraine» on Facebook

Program «Civic Society for Democratization»

Photo by Journalists Association «Ukraine»

Hospitals, schools, water supply systems and more: the recovery program has identified its targets

The Ukraine Recovery Program implemented by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and funded EU projects. The four programs have been in the work of 2022 for the benefit of the people of Ukraine.

Now it has been decided to resume the process and start the planned activities where possible.

The total budget of the Ukraine Recovery Program is EUR 240 million. Among the projects, the EU-funded projects selected for funding are 15 hospitals, 48 educational institutions (schools, lyceums, kindergartens), 4 water supply systems, and 1 heating system. The program also includes the restoration of the Kyiv Zoo and the Kyiv Planetarium.

> *«We are proud of the Ukraininvest project, a pre-school will be reconstructed. It is about creating conditions for the admission of children of internally displaced persons and children with the status of war victims,»* says **Volena Shmatko-von Kamke, Head of the EBRD Ukraine Recovery Program.** *«Ukraininvest is a pre-school, children are about 2,000 meters away from the front line. The project cost is quite small - EUR 2.74 million, but the effect will be significant.»*

The work will cover several sectors, including the recently liberated ones. Initially, the program was to operate in the government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts and the adjacent Kharkiv, Dnipro, and Zaporizhzhia oblasts. However, the war has changed this geography. Yet Ukraine's need for such recovery has grown tremendously.

> *«We are grateful to the EU and Ukraine for this partnership with EBR that makes hundreds of impactful recovery projects possible. I am grateful to the Ukrainian Mayors that prioritize new, energy-safe, lack of workforce and all sorts of problems, they manage to complete projects, and we are very grateful to Ukraininvest, Ukraininvest is a very, very, very important project for our country, for the reconstruction is underway, proving the incredible resilience and strength of the Ukrainian people,»*

Media

The program is funded by the European Union, a financial institution of the European Union, has been cooperating with Ukraine since 2007. Since then, the total amount of financial resources provided by the EBI to Ukraine in the public and private sectors has exceeded EUR 1.7 billion.

More information:

Ukraine Recovery Program on the EBI website

EBI Ukraine on Facebook

EU4ResilientRegions programme continues to help communities

A modern operating table for the district hospital has become another asset of the Berezan territorial community in Kyiv region. The community received the table as part of the EU4ResilientRegions project. The project is funded by the European Union, is implemented by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), which implements the project.

> *«We had a very good experience with the project. We can thanks to reconstructed premises, durable and economical,»* says **Valeriy Bespanas, head of the Joint Surgical Department.** *«Now we can perform more complex operations, including those related to the treatment of injuries, surgery and make the work of the surgeon, anesthesiologist, and other medical staff easier.»*

The EU4ResilientRegions programme is implemented in Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kyiv, Mykolaiv, and Zaporizhzhia oblasts in cooperation with GIZ.

> *«At that time, we did not even imagine that thanks to this cooperation, today, in the conditions of wartime, we will constantly receive such powerful assistance to improve the lives of people in our community,»* **Oleksandr Ivanenko, Deputy Head of the Berezan Village Council, chairman of the Berezan Village Council,** *«From the very beginning, the cooperation was designed to improve administrative, social and medical services. Our partners learn about our needs and, in turn, offer options for solutions.»*

This cooperation has already brought a lot of benefits, such as the Mobile Administrator (portable administrative centre), rehabilitation of the Berezan Cultural Centre, generators, a fully equipped medical van, the Center for Mental Health, and the Center for Social Services, and more.

In February 2023, the construction of a modular hospital began in Berezan. Meanwhile, concerning two other communities in the region, the construction of a modular hospital in Vorzel was pushed back or being completed. The community has received assistance from the program for more than UAH 2.5 million.

The Berezan community is one one of 17 communities that have signed memorandums of cooperation with the EU4ResilientRegions programme. The program is being implemented in cooperation with the German Economic Cooperation and Development co-funded the program. The program works with communities in Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kyiv, Mykolaiv, and Zaporizhzhia oblasts to provide them with comfortable and efficient access to quality local administrative, healthcare, and social services.

More information:

About EU-funded program «ResilientRegions - Special Support Program for Ukraine»

Photos from FB page of Berezan Village Territorial Community

Prompt economic analytics helps understand the state of the economy

High-quality analytical products are one of the hallmarks of the Ukraine Economic Research and Policy Consulting. The European Union is supporting the development of this analytical capacity.

In particular, the Institute publishes the Monthly Economic Review, which covers the state of the sphere, prospects for the development of War and Support for Ukrainians Affected by the Russian Aggression, and other analysis, analyzed by a team of experts.

Economic analysis is a detailed matter work, but March brought something new to the monitoring activities. When analyzing the economic situation in a country experts usually consider the current state of affairs and compare with those of the same months of the previous year, explains **Oleksandra Betliy, one of the WEBs authors**, and this time, WEB experts decided to add a comparison with the pre-war indicators to see the dynamics of change against Russian invasion.

> *«From March 2022, we will start comparing the performance of all sectors with the period of the large-scale war,»* says Oleksandra Betliy, according to the BTL report. *«We will see how 2022 decreased by 45.7% for the solution gradually improved. In March 2023, we will compare the performance of the economy with the pre-war 2021 and see how much the economy has recovered and what it will be below the pre-war level.»*

Monthly surveys of Ukrainian businesses are another important EU-funded product launched in May last year. Interviews are conducted by experts the Business Analytics Department of the Kyiv School of Economics. Wind the 2. when it also required up-to-date information on the state of the economy.

> *«There is no clear outline of the future,» comments Oleksandra Kuzyakiv, «At the summer, business was more optimist about the medium term. The Russian missile terror is having an impact.»*

More information about EU-funded DER analytical products:

Monthly economic monitoring of Ukraine, questionnaire Ukrainian business during the war, Questionnaire monitoring of business in Ukraine, profile monitoring, Kyiv Safe and Transparent Customs

Opportunities

Entrepreneurship

The European Commission leads two calls for proposals under the Erasmus for Small Businesses. The call «Business Bridge» is to create a network of business support organizations (BSO) to help European SMEs, and will grant support of up to EUR 150 thousand.

Deadline: **May 31, 2023**

Read more here.

Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs - Ukraine hosts and helps experienced entrepreneurs from EU and the EU which will find partners in the European Union to exchange knowledge and experience, and to develop their business. Participants will receive grants for accommodation and travel.

Deadline: **May 31, 2023**

Read more here.

Culture

The European Commission is accepting applications to select members of the expert panel of the culture subgroup in Ukraine. It will facilitate the exchange of information and best practices between the cultural and creative sectors in Ukraine and the EU and support the European Commission on relevant issues.

Deadline: **May 31, 2023**

Read more here.

Civil society

The Eastern Partnership Civil Society Foundation is seeking to fund up to 20 projects that will support civil society activities and initiatives and strengthen the best positive social change.

Deadline: **April 30, 2023**

Read more here.

Environment

The European Training Foundation announces a call for stories and best practices to promote the transition to a greener economy. The aim is to raise awareness of the opportunities for creating greener workplaces and societies.

Deadline: **April 23, 2023**

Read more here.

Media

Journalists are encouraged to apply for the Europe & the Greek Scholarship Program to study in Greece. The program covers tuition fees, living expenses, and bonus to EU countries in May-June and September-October.

Deadline: **April 15, 2023**

Read more here.

The EU-funded Creative Europe Program holds two calls for proposals in the media sector:

«Journalism Partnerships» - Foundations is intended for media working in sectors crucial for democracy and the rule of law, such as the fight against disinformation and media literacy, investigative journalism, etc.

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

Read more here

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