EU-Ukraine: facing the challenges together

Media Digest, June 2023

The latest edition of the Media Digest covers publications on the main events in June that affected the state and prospects of relations between the European Union and Ukraine.

TOP THREE

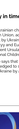
June was full of important events – on the front line, in international life and the economy, but it will be remembered above all for the destruction of the Kakhovka HPP as a result of a terrorist attack by Russia in the course of its full-scale war against Ukraine. The latter caused death and damage, displaced thousands of people of their homes and property, and the scale of environmental consequences is yet to be assessed. Read more in our digest.

Children's Day also brought new victims to Ukraine. On 1 June, when the whole world was talking about the safety, health and development of the younger generation, another Russian missile strike on a kindergarten in Kyiv left 2 children dead.

Against the backdrop of these tragic events, the growing consolidation of Ukraine's partners to support the country in such a difficult time is a real breath of fresh air.

The events of June have shown that the European Union, which has stood by Ukraine since the start of Russia's full-scale war, and which Ukraine is stepping up its assistance and support for Ukraine on the path to victory.

See our TOP 3 to find out more:

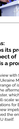


Children's Day in times of war

Some 1.3 million Ukrainian children now live in the European Union, according to a joint statement by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on International Children's Day.

Since the beginning of the war, the European Commission has pledged to supported child welfare reform in Ukraine by allocating €30 million.

Read more



URC-2023: strategies and challenges for Ukraine

The Ukraine Recovery Conference in Lugano (URC-2023) pledged €4.5 billion plan to rebuild Ukraine and to support the country's reforms. The next conference in Berlin pledged Ukraine €38 billion in assistance for 2023, which is more than double the amount in one of the most successful in terms of both financial guarantees and strategic decisions. The Ukrainian Recovery Plan scheme is innovative reforms, especially anti-corruption and judicial reforms.

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Matti Maasikas: «The EU keeps its promises, and the prospect of membership is a promise»

In an in-depth interview with the Tychiko, EU Ambassador to Ukraine Matti Maasikas, talked about the EU's assistance to Ukraine, from dealing with the aftermath of the Kakhovka HPP disaster, which resulted in the flooding of the Ukrainian side, to Ukraine's preparations for EU accession, which has given a new impetus to reforms and the country's EU membership argument debate within the EU itself.

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Read more today

Kakhovka HPP: a new dimension of Russian atrocities

JUSTICE AND LAW

The EU's External Action Service has issued a statement on the destruction of the Kakhovka HPP, saying that Russia's actions once again violate international humanitarian law and may amount to war crimes. The statement says that the deliberate civilian critical infrastructure reached an unprecedented level today with the destruction of the Kakhovka dam. The European Union condemns this attack in the strongest possible terms. Deliberate and indiscriminate of Russian atrocities and they constitute a violation of international law, notably international humanitarian law.

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Eurojust publishes an annual report

In response to Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, EU light agreed various measures to help Ukraine and its neighbouring countries, according to Eurojust's Annual Report.

Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, stated that according to the unjustified invasion of Ukraine by Russia has permanently changed the security landscape in Europe. Eurojust is to see the European Union lead the fight for full accountability for the horrendous international crimes committed. We immediately recognized where Eurojust could help, and it has more than lived up to the challenges.

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Punishment for breaches of sanctions must be unavoidable

On 9 June, the Council of the European Union set out general approaches for an EU directive on the criminalization of EU sanctions imposed on Russia. Once adopted, this directive will be important tool and will also provide punishment for violations of EU sanctions.

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The EIB allocates funds for temporary bridges

ECONOMY, FINANCE, BUSINESS

The EIB Ukraine has signed an agreement with the State Agency for Reconstruction and Development of Infrastructure (DRBU) in order to provide temporary bridges to replace bridges destroyed by Russian forces and have especially on road sections crucial for humanitarian needs. The grant is in addition to the EIB's existing support for Ukraine and has developed in cooperation with the European Commission as an urgent response to the war in Ukraine. The EIB provides €2.2 billion in emergency aid for Ukraine, of which €1.7 billion was disbursed in 2022.

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EU extends duty-free trade with Ukraine for one year

The Council of the European Union has extended the suspension of all duties and quotas for all imports and exports on Ukrainian exports by the EU until June 2024.

This decision will help Ukraine maintain stable trade relations with the EU and support its economy in a very difficult situation. By extending these measures, the EU continues to demonstrate its unwavering and unconditional support for Ukraine in its efforts to defend its hard-won democratic achievements and to fight unprovoked and unjustified military aggression from Russia.

Read more

Post-war business: how to rebuild and adapt it to European standards?

The post-war recovery of the Ukrainian economy may coincide with an active synchronisation with the EU market and its regulations. Will the Ukrainian economy withstand this transformation, what are the risks and what should be done so that it will find a balance to maximise the benefits of the European market and avoid shocks and crises? Experts discussed this and other thinking about economic development.

Read more

How can Ukraine become a European gas hub?

The EU is considering using Ukraine's gas storage facility in the event of the country's accession to the EU, making the largest gas storage facility in Europe. However, this will require rebuilding the destroyed infrastructure and ensuring the protection of the EU's most important energy infrastructure, the social and economic impacts and ensuring the security of supply. What needs to be done to make this happen, and will the hostilities get in the way?

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Experience of Danish municipalities for Ukrainian communities

GOOD GOVERNANCE

Representatives of the Hatylska, Dolynska and Horodenkivska communities studied their Danish counterparts' experience in ensuring the participation of internally displaced persons in municipal decision-making. During the week, experts from Ukrainian communities visited Danish cities and Odense and Esbjerg to study and build partnerships as part of the «Bridge of Truth» initiative launched by the U-LEAD with Europe Programme.

Read more

Analysis, dialogue and cooperation: Ukrainian and European communities establish cooperation

The Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC), the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), the Association of Local and Regional Governments (LALRG) organised a visit of representatives of the Kyrgyzka community Chernivtsi region to Gudenes and Aarhus, Denmark, on the invitation of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia. The LALRG Solidarity Forum «Before, during and after the war» promotes cooperation in the framework of EU programmes.

Read more

Digitalisation of communities as a tool for post-war development

Almost every Ukrainian community is now faced with the task of reconstruction and every community is planning a strategy for peacetime development. It is important that the reconstruction and functional communities determine the best tools for this work, which ensure transparency, effective communication activities, two-way communication between community leaders and residents, understanding of the needs and wishes, and close interaction.

Read more

SCIENCE, CULTURE, EDUCATION

Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission. «Your kindness and creativity truly brightened my day»

Joe Biden, Boris Johnson, Roberta Metsola and Andrzej Duda have outright traditional Ukrainian embroidered towels, which Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy gift for Justin Trudeau is being prepared for dispatch, and the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, received a «lucky flushing».

The President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, received a similar handmade rushing from Russia and expressed her sincere thanks for it.

Read more

The winners of the European Heritage Award / Europe Nostra Awards 2023 have been announced

Among this year's 30 winners from 11 countries, two are from Ukraine:

– Un-archiving Post-industry digitally preserves endangered industrial heritage in Ukraine's Donbas region

– Saving Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Online (SUCHO) is an international team that has archived more than 50 TB of data from Ukrainian cultural institutions since February 2022.

Read more

EU draws up a list of restrictions on artificial intelligence

After two years of debate, the emergence of ChatGPT and its potential negative impacts on society and humanity, has brought the issue to the forefront.

Representatives of the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of the EU are currently negotiating the final text of the EU version of the law, as some points are controversial, such as the use of facial recognition technology in public spaces, which is currently included in the list of restrictions.

Read more

Vocational education in Ukraine is changing its image

The EU4Skills programme is gradually restoring the prestige of vocational education and training. EU4Skills, a joint programme of the EU and its Member States – Germany, Finland, Poland and Estonia – is actively reforming Ukraine's vocational education and training sector. In particular, it seeks to adapt education to the needs of the labour market.

Read more

Future farmers trained on modern European equipment

As part of the programme funded by the EU, farmers from Ukraine, Germany, Finland, Poland and Estonia, EU4Skills Better Skills for Modern Ukraine, visited Estonian farms. Estonian Agricultural Lyceum in Rõuge/Võrka received a self-propelled combine harvester worth over €2.25 million. But the opportunities now available to its students are worth much more.

Read more

Seven schools in Kharkiv region to be renovated with European funding

The reconstruction will be done by the Smiley Charitable Foundation and the Kharkiv Regional Military Administration with the support of the U-LEAD with Europe programme and the Estonian Foreign Ministry's Development Cooperation. The restoration work will actively involve volunteers, locals, and parents.

Read more

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