EU4Ukraine Review

EU-Ukraine Cooperation Newsletter

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CAMPAIGN NEWS

Culture campaign

"Cultural mosaic" **Art Open Air:** one event – a variety of actions



Although the times of war are not rich in colourful events and live communication, the "Cultural Mosaic" Art Open Air event held at the Lavra Art Gallery in Kyiv on 8 July was one of them.

The variety of venues and activities, of participants and guests, the fusion of art and entertainment all contributed to the magical atmosphere, albeit with the "stamp" of the war. It was captured both in the works of the winners of the art competition among professional artists, and in the children's drawings made during the open-air event. They expressed the love for Ukraine, support of its defenders, and a united resistance against the aggressor.

The theme of art in times of war, in particular, was discussed at the public premier of the film titled "Culture During Wartime. West". The opportunities for grants from the European Union also took into consideration the current circumstances the artists are working in, with six programs supporting the culture presented.



"Every work of art in these halls has been created under the tragic impact of the war. It is evident that the people have changed and their art is a testament to that," EU Ambassador to Ukraine Matti Maasikas commented in an interview for ICTV Channel. "

The "Cultural Mosaic" became the key event of the communication campaign "Together We Create. Together We Preserve". Launched in March 2023, the campaign aims to show support provided by the EU to Ukrainian artists, development of culture and preservation of the cultural heritage.

During the event, it was also to the preservation of culture that the Swiss foundation Aliph dedicated its photo exhibition, which had previously been shown in Brussels and Paris. Since the beginning of the war, with financial support from the EU, the foundation has been assisting Ukrainian museums in safeguarding and protecting their collections while simultaneously documenting this complex and dramatic process of preserving cultural heritage. Aliph has provided support for over 300 cultural organizations in Ukraine.



"Financial, humanitarian, and military support for Ukraine are the main areas for the EU, but culture is also a spiritual weapon and a part of the European civilization space. Therefore, it is important for us to support Ukrainian culture," emphasized Nadiya Vertebna, Communications Coordinator of the EU Delegation to Ukraine, in an interview for 1+1 Channel.

The open-air event also featured some entertainment. For example, guests of the event could engage in pottery, crafting jewellery, restoring antiques, and making traditional dolls called "motantka". Children could enjoy the performances by the "Ravlyk" Puppet Theatre.

For more information: <u>A story on ICTV</u> <u>A story on Kyiv TV Channel</u> A story on 1+1

Winners of the children's drawings contest Photo **EU4Ukraine website**

How the EU is helping digitize cultural heritage and safeguard museum collections



Recent barbaric attacks by Russians on the historical centre of Odesa and destruction of the Spaso-Preobrazhensky Cathedral once again painfully reminded us of the vulnerability of cultural monuments during the wartime and the importance of their digitization. The European Union is providing support for the preservation of Ukrainian cultural heritage, as highlighted in two thematic videos released in July.



"We scan architectural landmarks so that in case of damage, we have a database to use for their restoration," shares Yuriy Prepodobny, co-founder of Skeiron in one of the videos.

The company is implementing the EU-funded project "Save Ukrainian Heritage". The project involves digitizing of 40 cultural monuments of national significance. As of now, 10 monuments have already been scanned.



"The EU supports us in different ways," says Yuriy. "Equipment is being one of them. In particular, we have been supplied with specialized servers, where we can store terabytes of information."

Zhytomyr Regional Museum of Local Lore was also able to purchase the necessary equipment thanks to a grant from the EU. The museum is one of the oldest cultural institutions in Ukraine, founded back in 1865. The equipment was purchased shortly after the start of the war, when the museum's collection was under threat not only from the shelling, but also from excessive humidity within its premises.



"We used the EU funds to purchase several dehumidifiers, as the central heating had already been shut down at the time," tells **museum director Roman Nasosov.** "These devices help maintain an optimal temperature and level of humidity in the library and storage areas."

These two videos were created by the EU-funded project "Communicating EU for Ukrainians" (CEU4U) as a part of the

communication campaign "Together We Create. Together We Preserve" aimed at communicating the support of the EU of the Ukrainian culture and cultural heritage in the times of war.

- More information:
- Video on digitizing cultural heritage
- Video on Zhytomyr Regional Museum of Local Lore
- "Together We Create. Together We Preserve" Campaign on the EU4Ukraine website

PROJECT NEWS

IDP Support

EU and NEFCO are implementing two housing construction programs



In mid-July, Novovolynsk City Council signed an agreement with Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO) on supporting construction of housing for internally displaced persons (IDPs).

The agreement envisages construction of residential multi-apartment buildings with a total area of 5,100 square meters for housing at least 188 persons. The city will receive over EUR 7 million as a part of the EU-funded "Housing for Internally Displaced Persons" programme.



"We became a shelter for dozens of thousands of internally displaced persons. A year after the war started, over 6,000 IDPs stayed in the community, integrated into its life, found work, and plan to continue living here. These families have the greatest need for a home," says **Novovolynsk Mayor** Borys Karpus (in the middle on the photo). - "Therefore, this project is an opportunity to provide hundreds of families with homes and also improve the infrastructure of three micro-districts of the city."

This is one of several ongoing programmes aimed at providing housing for IDPs that is being implemented by NEFCO and funded by the EU. In addition to Novovolynsk, new residential buildings will be built in Lviv, Chernivtsi, Zhytomyr, Kovel, Dubny, Ivano-Frankivsk, and Ternopil. Also, residential buildings in Makariv and the village of Nemishayevo, Bucha County, Kyiv Oblast will be refurbished.

The overall budget of the program is EUR 100 million. This will provide housing for approximately 11,000 people. The construction is expected to be completed in the second half of 2024.

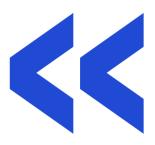
NEFCO and the EU are also implementing the EU Support for Urgent Housing Needs for IDPs in Ukraine program, which envisages refurbishment and renovation of buildings in ten cities. The funds of the programme are directed at restoring, renovating and repurposing existing municipal buildings, such as dormitories, health care institutions, administration buildings, schools and day-care centres that can be used to host IDPs.

The total budget of the program is EUR 19.4 million, with between EUR 1.5 million and EUR 2.5 million being allocated per project. Around 1,800 IDPs will benefit from receiving accommodation and access to basic municipal services.



"We expect the first renovated buildings to be commissioned in the autumn, with all planned work in 10 cities to be completed by the end of 2023," shared Julia Shevchuk, Chief Investment Adviser at Nefco.

A special focus of the programmes managed by NEFCO is on making construction greener.



"In all projects that envisage construction or reconstruction of housing for IDPs, we try to use environmentally-friendly materials that do not inflict harm on the environment, and green technologies – heating pumps, solar panels, etc.," says Julia Shevchuk. "Our aim is to achieve a 30% improvement in the energy efficiency of the renovated buildings compared to their former state, while the new buildings shall be at least 10% more energy efficient than required by Ukrainian legislation."

More information:

"EU Support for Urgent Housing Needs for IDPs in Ukraine" Program **EU-funded programs in Ukraine managed by NEFCO**

Photos from the Facebook page of Novovolynsk City Council

Anti-corruption

A new generation of lawyers trained in the Carpathians



40 law students participated in an Anti-corruption Camp, which took place in July in Yablunytsya, Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast. For five days, they were trained by experienced professionals from government agencies and public sector.

Presentations, lectures, training sessions, games, practical study sessions, discussions and even reflections in front of a fire – the camp's programme was quite comprehensive and diverse. The camp was organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Ukraine with financial support of the European Union (EU).

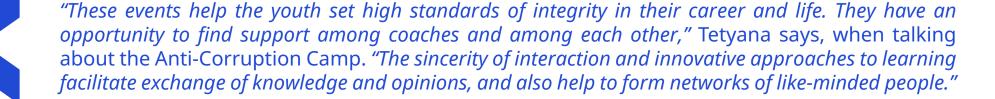
Yehor Zavyalov, a student at the Prosecution Department of the Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University, says that the program covered almost all issues that are necessary to fight corruption.



"It was particularly interesting to learn to advise clients on anti-corruption issues, because every lawyer deals with this," shares Yehor. "We modelled situations: participants played the role of lawyers to whom clients came to with issues related to the law on prevention of corruption in Ukraine. And the "lawyers" provided answers, not knowing in advance, what the issue the "clients" came to them for was."

Participants of the Anti-Corruption Camp had an opportunity to practice forfeiture of unjustified assets, simulation of a court session, etc. Theory lectures from top specialists, including NABU detectives and SAPO prosecutors, were just as useful.

Tetyana Khutor, Head of the Institute of Legislative Ideas, was one of the coaches at the camp. She gave a lecture and held practical sessions on the issue of forfeiture of illegal assets.



The absolute majority of students were highly motivated and engaged, shares the expert.



"They easily express their opinion, even if it is different from the others. They aspire not only for knowledge, but an understanding of processes and answers to the "why" question," says Tetyana. "This gives faith in the new conscious generation of lawyers that will be capable to demand and create new standards of integrity. The generation that will soon become lawyers, attorneys, detectives, judges,



and will form our legal system. Their principles will determine what kind of justice Ukraine will have in the future."

More information:

The website of the EU Delegation in Ukraine Photos from the Facebook page of UNDP in Ukraine

Labour market

A profession in high demand is taught in Berezhany



Sewing courses are being held from June 1 until August 31 in Berezhany, Ternopil Oblast, with support of the EU. Upon their completion, students will have skills in an in-demand profession. This will give them a good chance of finding a job. The training takes place at the "Berezhany School-Studio" within the framework of the namesake project.

The head of the studio Olena Berezhna says that students who have completed the courses will receive certificates of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine with a qualification "Seamstress, 2nd Grade".



"As part of the project, we plan to train 12 individuals," Olena explains. "There are currently over *3,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Berezhany community, many of whom have lost their* jobs. Therefore, our school will contribute to the creation of new job opportunities and speed up the integration of displaced persons into the local community."

The project is implemented by the NGO "Creative HUB Berezhany", which received a grant from the EU-funded "Civil Society for Democratisation Project", which is implemented by the Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting.



"Research shows that the profession of a seamstress is currently one of most sought-for professions in Ukraine," notes the head of the organization Viktor Hrubyak. "Therefore, there is a great demand for training in clothing design, cutting, and sewing among internally displaced persons, local residents, and school and college students."

NGO "Creative HUB Berezhany" was established in October 2022 by internally displaced persons. "Berezhany School-Studio" has already proven its success by being awarded the third place in the nomination for "Project of the Year" based on the results of expert evaluation at the Ukrainian contest "Golden Flipchart 2023". Last year, 12 students also completed the courses at the school. Subsequently, four of them found jobs, and one more became an individual entrepreneur and received a grant under the eRobota project.

The current students of the school also have various plans for making clothes.



"I am taking the courses to improve my knowledge and skills in designing clothes, so that I could make them for my family, and also create professional motanka dolls with quality clothes," says Oksana **Muravlyova** from Kramatorsk. She is an internally displaced person for the second time since 2014. "The courses for me are also a place for communication, meeting new people and exchanging experience. I dream of opening my own business after I return home."

In addition to theoretical and practical training in sewing, the project conducts excursions, master classes, round tables, trainings, and exhibitions. It also helps establish contacts between IDPs and potential employers, helps IDPs receive legal advice.

More information:

- Facebook page of NGO "Creative HUB Berezhany"
- **<u>Civil Society for Democratisation Project</u>**
- Photos provided by NGO "Creative HUB Berezhany"

Public service

People are important: EU4PAR and partners hold another "HR Workshop"



July 13 marked the start of the third "HR Workshop", providing training for HR professionals in the public service sector. The objective of the program is to spread best practices and cultivate a community of leaders of change.

The workshop is jointly organized by the EU-funded EU4PAR project, the National Agency of Ukraine for Public Service, the Reform Support Teat of the Ministry of Economy, and the Higher School of Public Administration.

Similar to the first and second editions of the "HR Workshop", the number of people wanting to participate in the program this year was three times higher than the available spots. Out of 120 applicants, 35 participants were selected.

EU4PAR Project Manager Ugis Sics emphasizes that HR professionals can play the key role in providing stability for their organisations and support to the leaders in the difficult times of uncertainty and turbulence.



"We all have one goal – to rebuild Ukraine, improve infrastructure, public services, and economic climate. HR professionals must help their leadership focus the servants on this goal and create favourable conditions," says Sics. "There is no doubt that the work of the public service will be impacted by Ukraine's path towards the EU membership. HR departments should already contribute to implementing necessary changes, from selecting the right personnel and developing essential skills to fostering the desired culture and instilling European values."

The workshop will continue for three months, featuring five modules and one special course.

The training program is practice-oriented and covers a wide range of topics related to human resource management, such as organizational culture, performance management, leadership development, the role of HR specialists, as well as coaching, mental health support, and inclusivity at the workplace.

Graduates join an existing community of over 70 HR professionals who have completed training in other editions of "HR Workshop" held in previous years. They are currently using the acquired knowledge and skills in their daily work and supporting each other in the professional challenges that the Ukrainian public service faces.

Yulia Hlukhonets, a graduate of the previous "HR Workshop", says the programme provided her with an understanding of personnel management, and also helped form a new vision of evaluation, development, and training of personnel.



"The acquired knowledge encouraged us to improve internal communication, hold webinars, create clarifications, involve employees in social projects, so that each one could feel their connection to the greater cause," Yulia shares. "The main message of the programme is that people are important. This is the most motivating factor of change for me."

More information: The website of "HR Workshop"

Local self-government

Exchange of experience at the time of war: **Poltava and Cherkasy** oblast residents discuss problems of municipalities



The experience exchange visit was organized by the "U-LEAD with Europe" programme for the municipalities of the Poltava and Cherkasy oblasts in July. Heads of local self-government bodies discussed issues related to provision of municipal services under martial law.

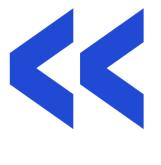
The delegation comprised 14 heads and deputy heads of municipalities from both oblasts. As a part of the visit, the delegation was hosted by the municipalities of Biloziria, Chyhyryn and Shevchenkove in the Cherkasy oblast where they learned about local experiences. One of the pressing issues that was discussed was integration of internally displaced persons. Since both oblasts are considered relatively safe, people from occupied territories and populated areas close to the front line are moving there.

For example, there were 1,500 IDPs in Biloziria municipality as of March 2022, with 400 of them still staying there.



"They decided to stay and live in our municipality. They bought houses and are renovating them," shares Deputy Head of Biloziria Village Iryna Hryshchenko. "We already have experience in integrating these people into the municipality."

This, in particular, concerns employment in the agrarian sector, says Iryna. Also, the municipality secured grants from the International Solidarity Fund and the Association of Ukrainian Cities, which allowed them to purchase household appliances for internally displaced persons. The ability to duly prepare an application for receiving various forms of support has become a valuable experience that the municipality is mastering, according to Irina Hryshchenko.



"The problems of IDPs are common in municipalities: social, economic, psychological integration, provision of medical and educational services to them," says the Head of Serhiyivka Municipality (Poltava oblast) Ihor Lidoviy. "Every municipality solves them in their own way, depending on economic possibilities, human resources, availability of business. We have bigger employment possibilities, because we have not only agro-industrial companies, but also oil and other businesses. Therefore, we have programmes for financial support of IDPs. Cherkasy residents provide more inkind assistance, in particular food."

Participants of the visit agree on the value of communication and exchange of experience.



"Thanks to the "U-LEAD with Europe" programme, we visited municipalities in Zaporizhzhia and Dnipropetrovsk oblasts," recalls Iryna Hryshchenko. "We always have obtained a lot of useful knowledge and shared experience."

Both Biloziria municipality in Cherkasy oblast and Serhiyivka municipality in Poltava oblast have been working with the programme since 2016, when they were established.



"The programme helped create our municipality," says Ihor Lidoviy. "There were trips around Ukraine and abroad; we were provided with legal and other advice. Those visits to different parts of the country before the war helped "sew" it into a united country. We hope that this practice of exchange of experience continues."

More information:

The website of the "U-LEAD with Europe" programme

<u>Facebook page</u>

Photos by "U-LEAD with Europe"

Opportunities

Culture

On July 8, the "Cultural Mosaic" open air event featured presentation of grant opportunities as a part of EU-funded programmes and projects. They were presented by experts of the programmes "Creative Europe", "Culture Helps", "House of Europe", "Erasmus+", EU4Culture and Izolyatsiya foundation.

Presentations of grant opportunities from the EU

Artists working with sound design and sound installations can submit applications for participation in the residency "ReSilence" from Ars Electronica. Its participants will have from 12 to 18 months to create sound landscapes for the future cities. The project is funded by the EU programme "Horizon Europe".

Deadline - 1 September 2023 For more details

The Izolyatsiya foundation accepts applications within the framework of the programme "Zmina: Rebuilding. First Wave of National Sub-Grants". Representatives of cultural and creative sectors (visual art, performance art, cinematography, literature, city cultural planning, etc.) can submit applications. Deadline - 7 September 2023 For more details

Civil society

Eastern Partnership Civil Society Facility is accepting applications for the EU-funded fellowship programme to facilitate a deeper engagement of communities and development of digitization. Deadline - 4 September 2023 For more details

Environment

Applications are being accepted for grant assistance of the "Climate Innovation Vouchers" competition for Ukrainian small and medium businesses. It is an opportunity to receive up to EUR 50.000 for the development or implementation of climate technologies that reduce greenhouse emissions and increase the efficiency of energy consumption. Deadline - 30 September 2023

<u>For more details</u>

Communications

East Europe Foundation offers a free online course "SMM Basics for Non-Government Organizations" on the educational online platform, which was prepared as a part of the Phoenix Project, which is being implemented by the foundation with financial support of the European Union. For more details

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