EU4UKRAINE REVIEW

EU-Ukraine Cooperation Newsletter

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Contents

CAMPAIGN NEWS

The new campaign to emphasise the importance and role of media and civil society

The essays by the three winners of the EU Delegation's contest are available on Ukrayinska Pravda

PROJECT NEWS

Kamianske has a "Place of Power"; Kremenchuk and Nizhyn are next in the line

Civil society organisations supervise the recovery process

Campaign News

Tulchyn wants to raise waste management awareness among residents

Helping a child and saving a family: the project supports foster families

Healthy and not so much: how local media are doing during the war

OPPORTUNITIES

Campaign News

TOGETHER WE ARE

The new campaign to emphasise the importance and role of media and civil society

The Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine has launched a nationwide communication campaign, "Together We Are", to highlight the importance of Ukrainian media and civil society as drivers of democratic reforms and the protection of CSOs and the media for society and public institutions, and to showcase the opportunities for its support.

"Freedom, democracy and human rights are the EU's core values. The citizens of Ukraine are fighting for these very values, bringing Ukraine closer to EU membership. Ukrainian media and civil society organisations are the voice, the eyes and wellbeing of these fundamental values," said **EU Ambassador to Ukraine Katarina Mathernova** during the launch event of the campaign in Kyiv on April 18.

Since the beginning of the great war, the EU's support for CSOs and the media has increased significantly, according to Katarina Mathernova. In 2022 alone, the EU provided EUR 15 million to Ukrainian civil society and EUR 10 million to the media, which also provided a lifeline to hold local civil society organisations working in various fields.

"In these challenging times, the EU believes it is crucial to communicate more about the work of civil society and the media and highlight their vulnerable needs to local public institutions accountable and to ensure free and impartial media," said Katarina Mathernova. "We want to show civil society to strengthen the implementation of reforms and to support Ukraine's path to EU membership."

Ukrainian civil society organisations, journalists and youth were also discussed in an interview with Kateryna Mathernova for 1+1.

"The development level and the extent of civil society engagement in the reform process in Ukraine, We said that civil society was the first in mobilise during the invasion," says the Ambassador. "A huge number of civil society organisations emerged to essentially provide public services. In addition, civil society organisations have played a key role in ensuring coordination of state institutions. They are an essential part of conduct investigations, they expose corruption and so on."

Katarina Mathernova called the developed civil society "Ukraine's great advantage".

"The level of public debate and engagement of civil society organisations is very impressive," said the Ambassador. "I have met many Ukrainians who have supported them, including about one of the most important public roles of CSOs: oversight of the armed forces."

The European Union has always supported them, including as part of the EU's assistance to Ukraine's reform agenda. There are some of the statistics released on the occasion of the launch of the "Together We Are" campaign:

- Over the past 10 years, the EU has provided 33 grant projects to Ukrainian civil society organisations worth a total of EUR 158 million. The grant projects implemented 1984 sub-grant projects worth EUR 15 million, which supported hundreds of Ukrainian civil society organisations.

Over the past few years, more than 150 media outlets of Ukraine have received financial assistance from the EU in the amount of more than EUR 15 million. For example, the EU has supported Suspilne, Ukrainian Suspilne and its flagship channel Ukraine.

The all-Ukrainian communication campaign "Together We Are" will include awareness raising, learning and public activities with various interactive elements, both online and offline.

Some of these activities the Ambassador of CSOs held in Kyiv on May 9. Experts, civic activists, representatives of the Ukrainian government and the media will discuss the current situation and a common direction for Ukraine's EU membership.

More information:

Video message of the EU Ambassador Katarina Mathernova on the occasion of the launch of the "Together We Are" campaign

Katarina Mathernova's interview with 1+1 TV channel

"Together We Are" campaign page on the EU4Ukraine website

The essays by the three winners of the EU Delegation's contest are available on Ukrayinska Pravda

"Crimean Tatars have an old saying: 'Haliya tarlik qopsa qaya' (Only for a rarity is the stone bag torn). Unfortunately, we are currently forced to be divided; we continue to fight for an independent Ukraine and for our land, which is now in the hands of occupiers. Unfortunately, we are also in the season of heavy storms a meaningfully difficult but right path to freedom in 2014, we were ..."

Vladyslav Sokolyk, 23, from Kyiv emphasises the role of European values in Ukrainian society.

"People were united by the idea of a true European state as a guarantee of their human rights and freedoms, protection from rights and dignity, rule of law, equality, democracy and freedom of speech and freedom of the media, which are the main values of a modern, free, and prosperous society. Ukraine unofficially "joined" Ukraine before the war, unofficially "joined" Ukraine before the war, particularly in Kyiv, in the Kyiv region, where people were fighting for their rights and dignity, rule of law, equality, democracy and freedom of speech and freedom of the media, which are the main values of a modern, free, and prosperous society. Ukraine unofficially "joined" Ukraine before the war, particularly in Kyiv, in the Kyiv region, where ..."

More information:

EU4Ukraine website

Project News

RECOVERY

Kamianske has a "Place of Power"; Kremenchuk and Nizhyn are next in the line

More than 80 activities involving about 1 700 inhabitants of Kamianske in Dnipro region were delivered by the Ukrainian centre called "Place of Power". And this is even before the centre officially opened in the city last year.

"Last year, the authorities provided us with a building to present our activities. But we needed renovation," explains project manager Ivanna Ivanova. "We did it with the help of volunteers, and the building was officially opened in October, mainly at the Youth Initiative Centre. However, now our activities have outgrowed the premises, and we need to find a new one. We are fully functional."

The initiative to deploy a number of resilience centres called "Places of Power" across Ukraine was launched by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and funded by the EU under the EU4Ukraine programme. The first centre in Kamianske was being implemented directly on the ground by the Ukrainian Civil CSO and the Living Heart Charitable Foundation.

"We provide counselling and psychosocial support for the internally displaced people, veterans and their families, persons, the elderly and others. Everyone, we refer these people to our partners in the community who are engaged in more in-depth professional support," says Ivanna.

The focus of a number of activities is evidenced by their names: Creative Workshop, Creative Workshop for Veterans, Dance sessions with the centre's therapist, and Energy of Your Home. Specialists from the centre also provided 1 on 1 psychological counselling, and they also organised support groups for people with lives and their emotional, social, intellectual, physical and spiritual development. Volunteers also organised a peer-to-peer awareness raising campaign on domestic violence, or to help participants better understand their partners, their goals and aspirations.

"We talk about stress and emotional tension, how the body reacts to it and how it manifests itself. We present the "Life Mythology, project assistant and coach of the Resilience Centre in Kamianske. "We also talk about how to deal with it, how to overcome it, and that they may not look bad from their parents, teachers or mentors, but just say that they are having a hard time. We also talk about the fact that everyone has feelings, it is a bad sign when he hides it, he begins to cope, including in their adult lives. They all already know what to do with their feelings, how to deal with them."

In the coming months, resilience centres will be launched in Kremenchuk, Pelkine region and Nizhyn, Chernihiv region.

More information:

Fatherman's Club Facebook page

RECOVERY

Civil society organisations supervise the recovery process

In April, analysts from the Chernihiv-based CSO Agency for Municipal Initiatives (AMI) analysed 13 social infrastructure projects in the city of Chernihiv, including schools, kindergartens, the Municipal Community Following the Experience of Crime Radio, rest Rehesy' began, for which the Ukrainian Recovery Fund allocated UAH 2.5 million, and the Lesnyanka Park the LUGAS and Pyatnytsky Bridge.

"The project aimed at boosting public outreach in waste management to inform community members about the benefits of waste sorting and recycling, the impact of waste on the environment and on the functionality of waste treatment and removal services provided by the utility company Chernihivtsyanka," said Yevhen Ivashchenko, AMI project manager. "The results of the monitoring indicate the high tariff and the efficiency of the company. It is one thing when people pay UAH 20 per month for waste, and it is quite another when 100 etc. which means much more efficiency."

Raising residents' awareness of proper waste management is one of the key factors in reducing waste generation. Among other things, the project aims to introduce separate waste collection.

"That is what is missing in the community, and we want to see it, why the new landfill, which was built just seven years ago, is filling up so quickly. The utility company provides additional services from the sale of recyclables, which could be generated by separate waste collection," said Yevhen.

The community intends to remedy the situation, and contract the utility company to provide separate waste collection in the city of Chernihiv. A large-scale waste management awareness campaign will also be conducted on all possible information channels, including TV.

At the same time, the project also includes the installation of six surveillance cameras to monitor and record improper waste management and organise fines.

The Tulchyn community received funding for the project as part of the Ukraine Recovery Conference (URC2025). The project was proposed by AMI to the International Technical Fund. It was available to 25 municipalities, whose representatives had previously participated in training on the Project Management Cycle, the Action Plan project, interest in the Nadia and Natexa Communities, and this experience will now be shared.

"Community representatives carry out a variety of activities from youth work to waste management," said **Pavel Abakumovich, Good Governance Internships project manager.** *"We have provided them with the opportunity to develop their skills and contribute to the implementation of the field of local government modernisation. Over time, successful projects will be implemented in other communities, in combination with the ability to raise funds in the long run, this will contribute to the development of a highly-qualified network of local government officials in Ukraine."*

More information:

Agency for Municipal Initiatives website

Presentation of the Monitoring Recovery Costs by the Centre for Economic Strategy

ENVIRONMENT

Tulchyn wants to raise waste management awareness among residents

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