EU4UKRAINE REVIEW Newsletter

EU-Ukraine Cooperation

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Campaign News

"By helping Ukrainian children and youth, the EU is investing in our common future"



On 28 September, the Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine launched a communication campaign titled 'Together We Learn & Grow'. The campaign is intended to highlight the EU's support for the education of children and young people in Ukraine during the war, promote the importance of education and showcase the benefits for Ukraine's education from the EU accession.

"The war in Ukraine is still raging and has dramatically changed the lives of millions of adults, but the younger generation is the most vulnerable deprived of normal conditions for learning and development. That is why we believe it is crucial to do everything in our power to create a safe learning environment for schoolchildren, students and teachers and provide instructional, technical and psychological support. It is unacceptable that Ukrainian children who are forced to study under the threat of shelling and blackouts, far from their home school, without sitting at their desks for months, experiencing emotional pressure, lose precious time and quality of education. They demonstrate extraordinary courage and deserve our full support. It is they who will build a European Ukraine tomorrow.", said EU Ambassador to Ukraine Katarína Mathernová on the occasion of the campaign kickoff. "And this communication campaign is not only about the outcomes of our work, but also about the opportunities that young Ukrainians can benefit from. By helping Ukrainian children and young people, the European Union is not just fulfilling a humanitarian mission, but also investing in our common future."

The campaign was launched, and its inaugural events took place during the Book Country (Knyzhkova Krayina) Festival. For four days, the EU-funded Educational Space 'Together We Learn & Grow' was open. The Opportunity Space and Lecture Hall tents hosted presentations of EU-funded educational projects, competitions, lectures, and musical performances.

On the day of the campaign kick-off, several dozen schoolchildren came to the Opportunity Space to take a quiz about the European Union. The quiz was conducted by representatives of Euroclubs, an initiative that has been consistently supported by the EU Delegation to Ukraine for many years.

"Euroclubs are very important for young people, because they learn about European values, the history and culture of European countries, and the principles underlying the functioning of the European Union. They also develop leadership skills, which is very important in the modern world," says Lesia Shcherbatiuk, coordinator of the You and Me European Club at Cherkasy Secondary School No. 7.

"It is a great pleasure to be among the participants of this event, because we work at our school and understand how important it is for the younger generation to learn about the European Union from reliable sources," adds Oksana Krayilo, coordinator of the Window to Europe School Euroclub at the Luchynets Lyceum in Vinnytsia region.

Next to it there is a display on digital education, another domain actively supported by the EU in cooperation with the Ministry of Digital Transformation.

"We are building the world's most convenient digital state, so it is important to teach children high-quality digital skills from an early age," says Yaroslav Makarevych, communications expert for the Ministry of Digital Transformation's projects supported by the U-LEAD with Europe Programme. "Digital literacy contributes to economic development, provides people with the opportunity to implement various cross-border projects, improve cybersecurity and cyber hygiene. Educated people can withstand modern threats, and their digital literacy should be fostered from childhood."

Those interested could also learn about the opportunities offered by the EU's largest educational programme, Erasmus+. Ukrainian universities and students have been participating in it since 1994, but with EU accession, opportunities will increase significantly, and it is worth preparing for this.

Meanwhile, the **Collider**, an EU-supported edutainment project for children and teenagers implemented by Suspilne, has been running for less than a year but already attracts a significant audience. It was also presented at the launch of the Together We Learn & Grow campaign.

Over the four days of the Learning Space's availability, it was visited by about 14,000 children and adults. The Together We Learn & Grow campaign will run until January 2025.

More information:

Website of the EU Delegation to Ukraine Information for media

'Together We Learn & Grow' campaign on the EU4Ukraine website

Project News

VETERANS

Training, networking, grants: veterans and IDPs were helped

to become entrepreneurs



In September, two roundtable discussions were held in Odesa and Dnipro to brainstorm and develop policies to support young veterans' business in Ukraine. They were hosted by the EUfunded project to support young veterans and internally displaced persons.

The project is implemented by a consortium of CSOs: Smart Media, Action Time, Ukrainian Veterans, and SOS Ukraine.

Back in May, the organisers announced a call for applications for young veterans and IDPs to join the project and received a huge number of them - about 600. Among the applicants, 60 participants were selected for project public activities, training and development of their own business plans. Ten of them will receive financial support, and the selection of the winners continued in September.

"A lot of people really want to start a new life," Oleksandra Shchukina, Smart Media's Chair of the Board, reflected on the strong interest in the project. "Young veterans who have returned from the war know well what it means to survive and are ready to take risks. And business is quite often a risk."

Veterans have no fear of taking risks, but they lack knowledge, Oleksandra notes. Providing them with this knowledge is the project's objective, with experts helping the successful participants develop high-quality business plans.

One of the project participants is Anna Rudenko from Boryspil. Before the full-scale Russian invasion, she and her husband, now a veteran, created busyboards - wooden developmental toys of their own design and manufacture. At the same time, Anna knitted large-format toys - custom-made rugs.

The war changed everything radically. My husband was already in the army on February 28, 2022. Our joint business came to a halt.

"I received dozens of letters from our customers with words of support and offers of help... And they became my motivating force – I continued to create toys, but knitted ones," says Anna. Later, the couple decided to turn this small venture into a proper business.

"The veteran support project gave me the inspiration to create a new collection of characters. I highly appreciate meeting and communicating with the project participants and staff," says

Anna. "The three days of training felt like a perfect retreat, where I was able to fully immerse myself in the learning

process and forget about the depressing things we have been seeing every day for quite some time."

Now Anna is waiting for the final results of the business plan competition. She hopes that her idea will be supported and that the veteran's family will be able to buy an embroidery machine to improve their work.

However, the project has another dimension: establishing a veteran community.

"People communicate with each other, exchange information, support one another, and forge an all-Ukrainian network," says Oleksandra Shchukina. "We help them do this so that they become local stakeholders, opinion leaders among veterans

and other active people. These are the people who will lay the foundation for the proactive society of the future and make an important contribution to the country's recovery."

More information:

Facebook page of Smart Media

EDUCATION

Bright colours: two schools in Vinnytsia region renovated with EU support



In September, the Stryzhavka community in the Vinnytsia region opened two reconstructed schools in Stryzhavka and Miziakivski Khutory. They have upgraded the thermal insulation of walls and roofs and installed new energy-efficient windows and doors. All this is extremely timely given the power shortage and the expectation of a difficult winter.

"The work was carried out to the highest quality, on time, and all our requests were always listened to," says Alla Markevych, the school headmistress in Miziakivski Khutory. "The school has become comfortable, it now has bright colours on the facade, and children are happy to play in the courtyard. The overall appearance is cheerful, not gloomy as before. It gives us hope that everything is going to be all right."

The reconstruction of schools in the villages of Stryzhavka and Mizyavski Khutory, worth EUR 380,000 and EUR 205,000, was completed under the Ukraine Recovery Programme, a joint initiative of the European Union and its European Investment Bank, implemented in partnership with the Ukrainian government agencies and UNDP.

Alla Markevych noted that the thermal effect of the renovation was already appreciated by the school staff and children at the end of last winter, when insulation work had just been beginning.

"It has become much warmer and more comfortable in some of the premises. So we are confident that we will be warm in this winter. And we will also see the impact on heating costs," says the headmaster.

Mykhailo Demchenko, head of the Stryzhavka community, says that the community applied for school reconstruction under the Ukraine Recovery Programme and was successful. However, when it came to the actual implementation, people had doubts about the feasibility of such expensive renovations in times of war.

"We gathered parents, school staff, and discussed it," recalls the head of the community. "And someone said, listen, my husband is at war, so why shouldn't his child study in good, comfortable conditions?"

According to Mykhailo Demchenko, the Stryzhavka community is extremely active in seeking cooperation with international partners.

"Even during the covid pandemic, tax revenues decreased, and then came the war... We can plan and deliver something, but it is difficult to implement such large-scale projects without the help of the government, the European Union and other partners," the community leader says.

The European Investment Bank has provided a EUR 340 million loan for the Ukraine Recovery Programme. These funds will help local authorities rebuild social infrastructure and improve the living conditions of internally displaced people and their host communities. Currently, 155 subprojects are at various stages of implementation.

'By rebuilding schools, hospitals and other critical infrastructure assets, we are contributing to a brighter, more sustainable future for Ukrainian children and the communities they live in,' said Stefan Schleuning, Head of Cooperation at the EU Delegation to Ukraine, on the occasion of the opening of the renovated schools in Vinnytsia region.

More information:

Website of the EU Delegation to Ukraine

In the photo: renovated Mizyakivski Khutory school

CIVIL SOCIETY

Strong Ukraine in time of war: over 400 CSOs covered by the Phoenix project



In September, the EU-funded Phoenix project to support civil society organisations in Ukraine was concluded. It was implemented by the East Europe Foundation for over two years.

About 100 people took part in the project's final conference. In addition to summing up the project outcomes, it was also an opportunity for the participants to share experiences and gain new knowledge in communications, business cooperation, coaching, etc.

The Phoenix Project focused on three areas: building institutional capacity of civil society organisations, supporting them in implementing civic initiatives, and helping them implement digital solutions that improve interaction between communities and the government and citizens. The project directly supported 38 CSOs, and in total, the activities of the subprojects funded under the Phoenix project reached about 440 of them.

For example, in 2023-24, as part of its support for civic initiatives, Together for Successful Business, a civil society organisation from Ladyzhyn, Vinnytsia region, implemented the Hospitable Community project aimed at social adaptation and integration of IDPs.

"At that time, we had 2,500 registered internally displaced persons. Just like everywhere else, there were some problems with integrating them into the community," says Liudmyla Ravliuk, Manager of Together for Successful Business. "We conducted a survey to assess challenges and needs of internally displaced persons and used its findings in our follow-up work, held joint activities with IDPs and local community members."

According to Liudmyla, the activities included traditional Ukrainian cooking masterclasses, pottery and ceramics painting workshops. In addition, the organisation helped IDPs with legal issues, such as recovering documents left behind during the occupation, and organising meetings with officials to help IDPs better understand their rights.

The Kharkiv Volunteer Centre received institutional support as part of the project. Training was provided for employees along with the development of strategic papers. The organisation was able to expand by opening new offices.

"New volunteers have joined our team and are now actively working in the Kharkiv region," says Svitlana Sitnik, head of the Kharkiv Volunteer Centre. "Thanks to the enthusiastic commitment of the organisation's team to the overall project activities, their hard work, high qualification and professionalism of the coaches involved, the organisation has developed highquality internal policies, an updated Strategic Development Plan, a Development Roadmap and is now implementing them

The East Europe Foundation is one of the EU's key partners in supporting civil society in Ukraine.

on the ground."

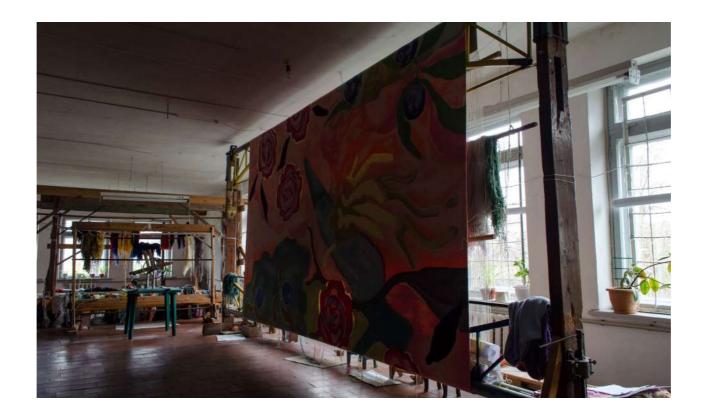
"You continue to play an important role in ensuring Ukraine's resilience so that it can counter the aggressor, maintain social peace and solidarity, and strengthen democracy," said Julia Jacobi, Civil Society Section Coordinator at the EU **Delegation to Ukraine**, addressing the participants of the final Phoenix conference. "The European Union is a strong advocate of civil society and will continue to support it."

More information:

The Phoenix Project on the website of the East Europe Foundation

MEDIA

Helping those most in need: new media join a dedicated programme



In September, a number of media outlets from the frontline regions started working under the EU-funded programme called Local Media Relaunch Initiative. It is implemented by the Media Development Foundation.

The active phase of the programme commenced last year in August. Along with the newcomers, 20 newsrooms have received or are receiving support from the programme.

"We relaunch some media outlets and help them become stronger as organisations. Some of them are being launched from scratch," says programme manager Oleksiy Khutorny. "The goal is to support those media that need it most, that face the greatest security and financial threats."

The support portfolio includes training programmes and mentorship, media and content development strategies, and human resources management.

"On average, each team has doubled in size thanks to the programme," says Oleksiy about those who have already benefited from the support. "The quantity and quality of content has gone up."

He mentioned several successful examples. The programme helped the Berdiansk-24 website to bring its content up to journalistic standards, launch new products, and improve its organisational work and fundraising. Another illustrative case is Kordon Media from Sumy.

"They entered the programme with a small team as a start-up. Thanks to their participation in the project, their staff tripled, they raised funding, and increased their outreach on all social media," says the Local Media Relaunch Initiative manager. "We also launched their website. So they have turned from a startup into a solid media outlet that is a source of news from the Sumy border region for many Ukrainian publications."

Kharkiv-based media group Objektiv is one of the new crop of teams. It was founded back in 2000 based on the news agency of the Kharkiv regional television and radio company Simon. Before the big war, the media outlet was one of the regional leaders.

But in 2022, as a result of missiles hitting the Simon TV channel's premises and causing damage (in the photo), it was forced to discontinue broadcasting. As a result, the newsroom lost the airwaves as its mainstream. The journalists switched to working online.

"We plan to update the website, create an English-language version to expand our audience, and develop strategic plans and fundraising strategies," says Victoria Annapolska, head and producer of the Objectiv. "Thanks to the support from the programme, we will be able to ensure greater financial stability, which will allow us to continue creating quality content and expanding our presence in the media space."

Kharkiv is currently one of the cities most heavily shelled by the enemy, so the work of journalists and independent media there is extremely important. Thanks to the financial support from the programme, the Objectiv hopes to avoid external pressures and maintain editorial independence. The journalists plan to produce a high-quality and relevant content by investing in new equipment, training staff and developing new formats.

"We strive to develop in the genre of solutions journalism, develop podcasts and expand our video content," adds Victoria Annapolska about their plans.

More information:

Local Media Relaunch Initiative programme page on the MDF website

Media Development Foundation Facebook page

House of Europe project supports creative companies



12 businesses from architecture, crafts, design and other creative industries have benefited from the Creative Business Boost programme of the EU-funded House of Europe project. They were selected in July in a cut-off competition with more than 240 applicants.

Creative Business Boost is a programme to support small and medium-sized creative businesses to help them take their business to the next level. The winners of the competition received EUR 10,000 in grant support and the opportunity to consult with experts from Ukraine and the EU.

"We aim to promote sustainability and development, empower the sector and increase their cooperation with EU markets," says Anton Savidi, House of Europe's Creative Industries expert. "The creative industries have great potential to adapt quickly in times of war, contribute to the economic revival, IDP employment, and have a positive impact on social welfare and overall cultural development."

The winners include the Reshetylivka-based Solomia Arts and Crafts Workshop. The business from the Poltava region majors in making embroidered clothing and carpets.

"We have inherited and use all the achievements of our creative ancestors and already have our own developments that support traditions of the region. Modern workflow technologies help us to reduce routine work and spend more time on creativity and artwork. However, we lacked the resources to bring our ideas to life and to ensure our sustainable development," says Vladyslav Kolinchenko, **Development Manager at SOLOMIA.**

Thanks to Creative Business Boost, the company has mastered a new carpet-making technology called tufting, which required training and procurement of materials. They also purchased fabric for new embroidered clothing collections and made minor repairs to their manufacturing facilities.

"Thanks to the grant, we have upgraded our visual appearance, enhanced the competencies of our team and ramped up our production capacity," Vladyslav concludes.

Kharkiv-based Ist publishing specialises in books about contemporary culture and art. One of the key goals of their project was to introduce e-commerce, a new business area for the company.

"The programme has provided support in areas where we have always lacked time, finance and expertise. We were able to focus on optimising our business model, developing an effective marketing strategy, and preparing for the launch of our e-commerce platform," says publisher Nastia Leonova. "This project helps us move towards our strategic goals in attracting new audiences and significantly increasing sales, while maintaining stability and development in the market."

More information:

Website of the House of Europe project

Facebook page

Opportunities

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs programme invites aspiring entrepreneurs to undertake an internship of up to 6 months in the EU and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Kosovo, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey or Montenegro. Selected participants will receive a monthly allowance to cover travel, accommodation, etc.

Deadline – 30 November 2024

Read more

TRANSPORT

The European Commission is launching a call for proposals under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) - Transport. It has allocated EUR 2.5 billion for projects to modernise the transport infrastructure of the EU's Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T), as well as in Ukraine and Moldova.

The selected projects will seek to create a sustainable and smart transport infrastructure, promote interoperability and sustainability within the network, while seamlessly integrating different modes of transport.

Deadline – 21 January 2025

Read more

ENERGY

Ecoclub invites to take part in the First Forum of Heat Suppliers, which will be held on October 10-11 in Zhytomyr. The forum will focus on district heating systems in Ukraine, financial and commercial performance of companies, present a dedicated study, and offer site visits to Zhytomyr utilities running on renewable energy sources. The forum will be held within the framework of the EU-funded project Closing the Loop: A Just Energy Transition Designed by Capitals and Regions.

Registration

CULTURE

The <u>Culture Moves Europe</u> programme is calling for professional travel grants for artists and cultural professionals. They can apply to implement a project with a selected partner in a Creative Europe country that is not their country of residence.

Deadline – 30 November 2024

Read more

The House of Europe project provides grants of up to EUR 5,000 for translations from or into endangered languages: Belarusian, Gagauz, Yiddish, Karaite, Crimean Tatar, Krymchak, Roma, Rumeika or Urum. The funding is an opportunity to cover all costs - translation, editing, rights transfer, design, printing and marketing.

The deadline - 24 October 2024

Read more

The EU-funded Archipelagos project offers fiction translators research residencies in Wojnowice, Poland, to find and promote works worthy of translation and publication. The residencies can cover two or four weeks. The organisers provide an honorarium of EUR 350 or EUR 700, travel expenses, and meals.

Deadline – 9 October 2024

Read more

INCLUSION

How to rebuild the country in an inclusive manner, what approaches to apply and where to start from? This will be discussed during a series of workshops entitled 'Barrier-Free Future: A Strategic Approach to Recovery and Accessibility', which will be held by the League of the Strong with the support of the EU and the International Renaissance Foundation.

Read more

Registration

National and international companies are invited to submit proposals for a quantitative study on the social and economic vulnerabilities of Roma people in Ukraine, which will cover 700 Roma and 300 non-Roma households. The call for proposals was launched by UNDP and the World Bank, which are partners in the social and economic vulnerability assessment of Roma people in Ukraine, funded by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR).

Deadline – 28 October 2024

Read more

EDUCATION

Junior Achievement Ukraine invites educators and educational institutions to actively join the Code4Europe project and take part in the EU Coding Week (14-27 October). The project participants will have access to online and offline programming courses for different levels of education; regular hackathons; trainings for educators with the participation of leading IT professionals; practical tasks and internships from leading IT companies.

Read more

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