EU4UKRAINE REVIEW

EU-Ukraine Cooperation Newsletter

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Contents

CAMPAIGN NEWS

Katarina Mathernova talked to the students of Fedkovych University

“Looking at you, I can see the future of Ukraine”

PROJECT NEWS

Retuning for hopes and dreams at the Resilience Hub

1 million for business: summing up the results of a major grant programme

Recovery and barrier-free accessibility: officials and activists were taught the basics of accessibility policy

Project helps border community to return to development

Ukrainian district heating companies learn from the German and Polish experience

OPPORTUNITIES

Campaign News

Katarina Mathernova talked to the students of Fedkovych Univers

On 25 October, Chernivtsi hosted events of the Together We Learn & Grow communication campaign, dedicated to the EU's support for children and young people in times of war. The event was attended by the EU Ambassador to Ukraine, Katarina Mathernova.

"We are restoring educational facilities, building shelters in schools, providing school buses and textbooks, facilitating access to modern learning platforms and international exchange opportunities," said **Katarina Mathernova.** *"We have significantly increased support for vocational training programmes for veterans and internally displaced persons, and we are helping to develop the leadership skills of young people who will take responsibility for Ukraine tomorrow. Investing in knowledge is investing in the future of Ukraine and our common European future".*

In Chernivtsi, Ms Mathernova met with students and faculty of the Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University to discuss the EU's support for Ukrainian higher education institutions, the opportunities for students offered by the EU's Erasmus+ programme, and the prospects for education cooperation between the EU and Ukraine. The EU Ambassador also held a press conference at the university.

"Since the outbreak of the full-scale invasion, the EU has provided around EUR200 million for education, from supporting student exchanges through the Erasmus+ programme to building shelters for primary schools – and everything in between. Because education requires our support and it is extremely important in times of war," the Ambassador said to the journalists.

As part of the Together We Learn & Grow campaign, the University also hosted a motivational lecture 'Education for the Post-War Development of Ukraine' held by Liliia Hrynevych, Vice-Rector of V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University and former Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine. In addition, university teachers and experts from Erasmus+ Ukraine took part in a discussion on Building a Common European Future. A mobile exhibition of the campaign, opened on the territory of the University's Sydor Vorobkevych Park, featured various information about the EU's support for young Ukrainians during the war.

"The cooperation with the European Union helps us to introduce innovative educational methods, develop academic mobility of students and teachers, and strengthen scientific research. This has a direct impact on the quality of our graduates, bringing them closer to European standards and the needs of the international labour market," said ***Ruslan Biloskurskyi, Rector of Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University.***

More information:

EU Delegation to Ukraine website

Together We Learn & Grow campaign
on the EU4Ukraine website

"Looking at you, I can see the future of Ukraine"

On 30 October, Katarina Mathernova, the EU Ambassador to Ukraine and Oksen Lisovyi, Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine paid a joint visit to the Sofiivsko-Borshchahivskyi Lyceum as part of the Together We Learn & Grow communication campaign. They spoke to teachers and students and handed over 1,100 art and computer science textbooks printed with EU funding.

The Sofiyivsko-Borshchahivsky Lyceum is a modern and vibrant school, celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. Students welcomed guests in five European languages: English, Polish, Spanish, French and German.

"This is an incredible place; I am very pleased to be here today. I must say that your lyceum is much better and more beautiful than the schools I went to when I was your age," said Katarina Mathernova.

To ensure the schooling is one of the areas of EU support for education. The EU is helping to build and modernise shelters, and since the start of the war, tens of thousands of laptops and one and a half million textbooks have been delivered to students and teachers. The EU and its Member States have provided 380 buses to Ukrainian schools, and the EU is also helping to implement a school feeding programme.

"In addition to defence, humanitarian and healthcare assistance, the EU and other partners are paying attention to education," **Oksen Lisovyi, Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine,** said to the students. *"The textbooks we are handing over today are the last batch to cover the need for textbooks for students in grades 5-6, which arose in the first year of the war when Ukraine had been unable to print them. This is a very important contribution from the European Union."*

The night before the event, a Russian airstrike hit a residential building in Kharkiv, killing an 11-year-old boy. The Ambassador mentioned this when addressing the students.

"Looking at you, I can see the future of Ukraine – although, of course, it is difficult to think about it in such terrible times as these. There is destruction all over the country. Some of you may not even remember what it was like to live without air raids," said Katarina Mathernova *"But there will be a future without bombing in Ukraine – and it will be in the European Union."*

"We will make every effort to justify the trust of the European Union and the world. We will withstand everything. Your greatest gratitude to us will be knowledge and ideas, so that you do not go abroad and stay here, because it will depend on you in what happy corner of the world, we will all live," **Oksana Bushenko, the Lyceum's Headmaster, told the students.**

More information:

Facebook page of the EU Delegation to Ukraine

Project News

PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT

Retuning for hopes and dreams at the Resilience Hub

"As I was painting, a wave of sadness for my hometown washed over me. When I looked at my finished painting, I couldn't hold back my tears. The sadness was combined with joy and satisfaction from the process. I will definitely repeat the affirmation I wrote on the painting every day; it will help me to escape from everyday life".

This is how **Iryna, an IDP from Zaporizhzhia region**, describes her participation in the art therapy event called Painting Affirmation, organised by the CO 'Network 100 Percent Life. Zaporizhzhia'. This is one of the many events taking place as part of the Resilience Hub - Your Support Space project, being implemented by the organisation with a sub-grant from EU4CSOs Empower UA.

Affirmation is a technique that helps to retune thoughts and focus on desires and goals. Usually, there should be a phrase or several phrases that a person repeats every day.

The participants of the event at the Resilience Hub in Zaporizhzhia had the opportunity to create their own artworks, combining colours and words to create the unique paintings that reflected their dreams, hopes and beliefs. Each piece was filled with a short but powerful positive statement to inspire them further. The process became a kind of therapy, allowing the participants not only to express their feelings through art, but also to find inner harmony.

At the Resilience Hub, anyone can receive comprehensive support, including professional counselling from a psychologist and social worker, as well as full social support. If necessary, the CO "Network 100 Percent Life. Zaporizhzhia" refers people to partner organisations for additional support. Two social workers and a psychologist are involved in the project.

Along with the Affirmation Painting, Draw Your Emotion art therapy and a group session for children called Modelling with Air Plasticine were also held in October. In total, at least 14 group sessions are planned over the course of the project, as well as weekly self-help groups for female and male veterans.

"Zaporizhzhia is currently going through an extremely difficult time due to constant shelling, and this has a significant impact on the mental state of its residents. In such circumstances, it is important to have a place where you can find support and reduce stress and anxiety," says **Veronika Zavrazhna, Project Coordinator**. *"The Resilience Hub was created for this very purpose. It is a space that not only provides social services to those in difficult life circumstances, but also helps people to regain their inner strength to overcome difficulties and discover new ways of development and self-improvement."*

More information:

Facebook page of 100 Per Cent Life. Zaporizhzhia

"I really enjoyed painting. For my painting, I chose the affirmation 'I am healthy and energetic'. At first, I couldn't decide what to write, but while working and talking to a psychologist, I realised what kind of affirmation I needed," says **Kateryna from Zaporizhzhia.**

"While creating the painting, I felt a deep connection with my inner self. I was literally filled with joy, harmony and peace. I want to preserve these feelings and bring them into my everyday life," says **Olga, also from Zaporizhzhia.**

Facebook page of the EU4CSOs Empower UA project

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

1 million for business: summing up the results of a major grant programme

In October, the results of an initiative to provide 100 grants of up to EUR10,000 to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises were presented. The programme targeted companies with the innovative capabilities and export potential.

The initiative was funded by the EU and the German government, and implemented by the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) in partnership with the EasyBusiness think tank. According to the conference participants, it has proved to be extremely popular with MSMEs. As many as 1128 companies applied for 100 grants, which came as a surprise to the organisers.

"The results exceeded all expectations, we were surprised by the activity of the companies," says **Hagen Etner, Director of the EU4 Business: SME Recovery, Competitiveness and Internationalisation**, *"We expected that with 100 grants available, we would receive around 300 applications from entrepreneurs. And we were surprised by the number we actually received."*

Here are some other figures announced at the conference. 77 of the 100 grantees selected under the programme are from the manufacturing sector. 58 are run by women, 70 have never applied for grant support before, and 16 are relocated companies.

One of them is NeverDark, which had to move from Kyiv to Chernivtsi in March 2022. It produces fireplaces for urban homes, including for export.

To promote their products, however, they needed to engage in marketing, for which they previously lacked the money. The EU4Business grant helped them with this.

"We udes the grant to create a very cool website, a high-quality tool for promoting our products in Europe and other markets," said the co-founder of Ecopan LLC. "*We did market research to understand how best to present our product in a particular country and adapted the website accordingly. If we had done this at our own expense, it would have been much more modest."*

Supporting micro, small and medium-sized enterprises has been one of the EU's priorities in Ukraine since the start of the full-scale invasion. Last year, the EU Delegation ran a 'Together, We Are Resilient.Together, We are Europe' communication campaign, aimed at informing businesses about EU support and how to access it.

"We are focusing on SMEs because they play an important role in maintaining the country's resilience during the war and will be of great importance after the war, in the process of post-war reconstruction and modernisation of the country," said **Iryna Hubarets, Project Coordinator for Competition and Economic Cooperation at the EU Delegation to Ukraine**.

More information:

"We used the funds to certify two new models of fireplaces," said **Andrii Zaiats, the company's leader.** *"One of them, a round fireplace, was developed before the war. While most fireplaces make you sit face to face and side by side with other people, this one allows you to sit in a circle. It's a milestone in the industry, and after full certification, we will be launching this model on the European market next season."*

Ecopan makes energy-efficient houses. According to **Olha Romanenko**, **its co-founder,** at the beginning of the great war, they were faced with the urgent need to increase exports.

"For the company to survive, there was only one way - to increase exports to Europe, to expand our presence there," said Olha. *"Before the war, we exported our houses to Germany, but we had no strategy or goal to increse exports. Ukraine remained our main market."*

Facebook page of The EU4 Business: SME Recovery, Competitiveness and Internationalisation programme

Page of Together, We Are Resilient. Together, We Are Europe campaign on the EU4Ukraine website

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INCLUSION

Reconstruction and barrier-free accessibility: officials and activists were taught the basics of accessibility policy

A series of four workshops on ensuring inclusivity in reconstruction was organised by The League of the Strong NGO in October. Topics covered included accessibility policy in strategic documents and at further stages – from the terms of reference to commissioning, tools and approaches that can ensure barrier-free communities.

The training was supported by the EU and the International Renaissance Foundation as part of the European Renaissance of Ukraine project. The workshops were attended by representatives of local governments and NGOs, as well as activists.

"Understanding the mechanisms of these tools will allow us to better plan projects that meet the needs of all citizens," says Viktoriia. *"For me, these workshops have become an important source of knowledge and inspiration. They confirmed that barrier-free accessibility is not only a legal aspect, but also a cultural and social imperative that should be at the heart of all our initiatives."*

Violetta Kochishvili, a social activist from Pervomaisk, Mykolaiv region, is a wheelchair user.

"Local governments are the customers of restoration or reconstruction projects. They set the terms of reference and control the execution of the work. So, these people need to understand what the accessibility standards are, what to look for, how to describe it in strategic documents, etc.," **stresses Daria Sydorenko, Executive Director of the League of the Strong.** "*That's why we're holding these trainings with the support of our partners. We believe that reconstruction can be a chance to expand opportunities for independent living."*

The League of the Strong believes that now is the time to talk about barrier-free reconstruction. Despite the war, projects are being planned, funded, and implemented. At the same time, we are talking about reconstruction in a broad sense: communities are modernising infrastructure, expanding service delivery spaces; the need for barrier-free accessibility also arises when arranging housing for IDPs, creating recreational areas, shelters, and social service facilities, especially given the increasing number of veterans and people with disabilities in communities.

Viktoriia Koliuda, Chief Specialist of the Organisation Department and Barrier-Free Accessibility Coordinator of the Shevchenkivskyi District State Administration in Kyiv, says that she found the workshops that discussed various tools and approaches to integrating the needs of all population groups particularly useful.

"This is the first time I have attended such a training. I wanted to learn about programmes for such people, how to communicate with the authorities about barrier-free access," she said. "*I will try to put what I have learnt into practice.*

The workshops were run by **Volodymyr Vysotskyi, Accessibility Expert at The League of the Strong NGO.** He says that in preparing the training, they took into account requests from communities and the challenges they face in implementing accessibility policies.

"The biggest one is the lack of funding and strategic planning skills. We can help communities in writing accessibility programmes, train officials and activists, but all the work stops because the community has little money," - says the expert. *"We need funding instruments from international partners that allow communities to receive funds directly from donors rather than through the state. Such opportunities already exist, but they are sorely lacking."*

More information:

Facebook page of the League of the Strong NGO

ENERGY

Ukrainian district heating companies learn from the German and Polish experience

Specialists from seven Ukrainian district heating companies, as well as representatives of local authorities and a number of central institutions, took part in a week-long tour of the German capital Berlin and Lublin, Poland. They got to know the work of local heat and power companies, studied their experiences, and exchanged a lot with colleagues.

The tour was organised by the Ecoclub NGO and the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) as part of the EU-funded project "Closing the Loop: A Just Energy Transition Designed by Cities and Regions".

Ruslan Pohrebniak believes that it is quite possible for Ukraine to adopt the Polish and German experiences seen during the tour. He himself has made useful contacts with local experts.

"District heating is a valuable asset for communities inherited from the Soviet era. However, along with this resource, they have received many challenges that require financial and human resources to overcome," says **Mykhailo Lukianyk, Coordinator of the District Heating Development Project at the Ecoclub NGO.**

In Berlin in particular, Ukrainian heat and power engineers visited a number of local heat producers (BEW, BTB) and met with representatives of the German Energy Agency (DENA), the District Heating Department of the German Ministry of Energy and Environmental Protection (BMWK), and the German Association for Energy Efficiency in Heating, Cooling and Cogeneration (AGFW). They discussed the regulatory environment and conditions for the sustainable development of district heating in the EU and Germany, the legal framework, and instruments for financing enterprises. They also discussed future challenges related to the transition to renewable energy sources.

In Lublin, the participants met with representatives of the district heating company (LPEC) and the municipality to discuss issues related to the implementation of European decarbonisation requirements in Poland. They also visited a local biomass CHP plant.

Ruslan Pohrebniak, Chief Engineer of the Zhytomyr Heat and Power Company of the Zhytomyr City Council, was one of the participants of the tour. He says it was extremely interesting to visit Polish and German companies.

"We are just starting to install gas piston units in our country, but they have been running them for some time," he says, *"So we saw how they maintain them and how they solve various problems that arise. It was also interesting to see what companies are using to meet emission standards, which are quite strict in the EU. All this is very useful, because this is what we are working on now."*

"Over the past 30 years, the number of households using district heating has fallen by about half. Some cities have completely abandoned such services. At the same time, successful European countries are trying to develop these networks, connect new consumers and switch to renewable energy sources."

The tour helped the participants to understand why this industry is successful in Poland and Germany, why companies are developing, and the quality of services is improving, the Ecoclub NGO points out.

More information:

Website of the Ecoclub NGO

Facebook page

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Project helps border community to return to development

The Bereza community in Sumy Oblast is located just 20 kilometres from the border with Russia. Since the beginning of the Great War, many people have left the area, leaving only shops. In March 2022, the community was partially occupied.

"We are always uncertain about the future, but we have

Another significant problem addressed by the project was the use of digital technologies and the publication of information in open data format.

"We have developed and approved the necessary administrative documents, restored access to the administrative

to move forward and plan, develop our community and country," says **Inna Hulakova from the The Future Is Yours youth NGO.**

For the past six months, the Nova Energia NGO has been helping the Bereza community to overcome difficulties and even despondency as part of a project to build the capacity of the local government and improve the skills of community residents. The project was implemented with the support of the EU and the International Renaissance Foundation.

"Before the full-scale invasion began, the Bereza community was actively working on its own development, but later faced challenges: an exodus of personnel, business, and a change in the population structure," says **Sofia Molochii, head of the Nova Energia NGO.** *"Despite the lack of significant physical damage, there was a false sense that development was 'not at the right time'. Our project was designed to support the community at this critical time. To show that the war should not stop the desire for a better future."*

11 training sessions were held in the community. Much of the work was to help the community prepare their own projects for further funding.

According to the Nova Energia NGO two problems were initially identified. The first was a lack of confidence in the possibility of obtaining funding due to the proximity to the Russian border, which had a significant impact on the desire to develop projects. And since the community had been spared significant destruction, they also believed that they had no 'need' to attract funding. The project team helped the community to overcome these internal barriers.

office on the unified open data portal," says **Maryna Buzan-Svirska, Project Manager at Nova Energia, an expert on digital solutions,** *"The project gave the community an opportunity to get an 'outside view' and see the prospects and opportunities of using modern digital solutions, which is the key to the development and well-being of the community and its residents, increasing trust in the local government and making the community more attractive to investors***."**

In October, a chatbot was launched in the community to enable communication between the local government and residents. Another practical project outcome was a change in approach to household waste management.

"During the project, we talked a lot about raising awareness of the community's attitude towards household waste," says Inna Hulakova, "*We held a drawing competition for schoolchildren about this. Adults were involved as much as possible in the restoration of a small, abandoned building, where we set up an educational sorting station... So, despite the difficult times, we are developing and learning ourselves, which makes it possible to teach others and develop the community."*

Read more:

Project page on the website of the New Information NGO

Facebook page of the Nova Energia NGO

Opportunities

EDUCATION

The College of Europe and the Young European Ambassadors (YEAs, part of the EU-funded EUNEIGHBOURS EAST programme) invite you to join a webinar on the full scholarships for students from the Eastern Partnership countries offered by the College of Europe for the 2025/26 academic year. The webinar will take place on 27 November via Zoom.

The College of Europe announced the call for applications for the scholarships in October. The competition is open to students from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine who have at least a bachelor's degree or are in their final year of university. The deadline for applications is 15 January.

Register for the webinar

Event on the Facebook page

A series of online trainings supported by the ERASMUS+ programme will take place in November: "Innovative Development of Sustainable Supply Chains: EU Benchmarks", "Sustainable Supply Chains: EU Policy and Strategy", "EU Circular Practices for Sustainable Supply Chains". Participation is free of charge.

Read more

Creative Europe Desk Ukraine is pleased to invite you to participate in the sixth International Culture Grants Fair, which will take place in Kyiv on 14 November 2014. This is the largest annual event of the year dedicated to grant support for the cultural and creative sectors in Ukraine. There will be presentations of the largest national, European and international programmes, projects and support initiatives, information on current grant opportunities, free communication, etc. Participation at the event is free of charge.

Deadline is 11 November 2024.

Read more

The EU House of Europe programme has launched the third wave of mobility grants. Professionals who work with the topic of national minorities or develop a project related to this theme can receive up to EUR4000 for tickets, accommodation, food, insurance, etc.

Deadline is 19 November 2024.

Read more

FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS

The European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA) and the University Institute of Lisbon have announced the bursaries for the

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs programme invites aspiring or new entrepreneurs to work for up to 6 months in the EU or in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey or Croatia. Selected participants will get a monthly financial support to cover travel expenses, accommodation, etc.

Deadline is 30 November 2024

Read more

TRANSPORT

The European Commission launched the 2024 calls for proposals under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) for Transport, making EUR2.5 billion available for projects to modernise the transport infrastructure on the EU's trans-European transport network (TEN-T), as well as in Ukraine and Moldova.

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

Deadline is 21 January 2025

CULTURE

The Culture Moves Europe programme is calling for proposals for granting professional travels for artists and cultural professionals. They can apply to implement a project with a partner of their choice in a Creative Europe country which is not their country of residence.

Deadline is 30 November 2024.

Read more

2025 European Drugs Winter and Summer Schools, open to professionals, academics or experts from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine.

Two scholarships will be offered for the European Winter School on Drugs, which will take place online on 10-22 March 2025, with a focus on crime prevention. Two more will be available for the Summer School (24 June - 4 July, Lisbon), which will focus on synthetic opioids.

Two bursaries will be offered for the European Drugs Winter School (EDWS) (10–22 March 2025, online, focus on Crime Prevention) and two for the European Drugs Summer School (EDSS) (24 June–4 July 2025, Lisbon, focus on Synthetic opioids).

These bursaries will cover the registration fee. In the case of the EDSS, the round trip to Lisbon will also be covered, plus accommodation and a reduced per diem.

Deadlines for EU4MD II bursary application are 30 November 2024 for the European Drugs Winter School (EDWS) and 28 February 2025 for the European Drugs Summer School (EDSS).

Read more

MEDIATION

With the support of the EU, the CONSENT project has created the Mediation Help platform: Strengthening the Role of Alternative Dispute Resolution in Ukraine with a Focus on Mediation. The platform is designed to help mediators in Ukraine and abroad to obtain up-to-date information on mediation in their host country, as well as a convenient tool for finding mediators willing to provide mediation services.

Read more

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