EU-Ukraine: Responding to Challenges Together

Media Digest, November 2024

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

The latest issue of the Media Digest features publications on the key events of October reflecting the condition and prospects of EU-Ukraine relations.

In November, Ukraine marked two anniversaries – the twentieth anniversary of the Orange Revolution and the tenth anniversary of the Revolution of Dignity, which played a decisive role in the country's history and its choice for European integration. November also saw a tragic date – 1000 days of relentless Russian aggression. Ukraine is fighting a full-scale war to assert its right to self-determination.

European partners, supporting this aspiration of Ukrainians, demonstrate their solidarity, standing firmly shoulder to shoulder with Ukraine. At the same time, while providing unprecedented political, military, and security support, the EU continues to actively implement key projects aimed at peace, reconstruction, and the European integration of Ukraine.

Top 3

1 000 days towards a just peacey

"One thousand days ago, Russia tried to wipe Ukraine off the map. And for one thousand days, Russia has failed - because of Ukraine's resistance, and the sacrifice of your heroes. Today is a day of mourning. But it is also a day of pride. Ukraine has been standing by your side for as long as it takes. You can be sure that support from Europe will last as long as it takes," said Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, said in a video message to mark 1000 days of the full-scale war of Russia's full scale war. The European Parliament President, Roberta Metsola, stated: "President, Roberta Metsola, said: "We have stood up against attempts to break your spirit and your determination to all who value freedom around the world."

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Josep Borrell: "The EU will be with Ukraine not because of friendship or generosity. It's simply in our interests."

The mandate of Josep Borrell, the European Union's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, is coming to an end. He played a crucial role in securing aid for Ukraine and strengthening relations between the EU itself. Borrell is convinced that the tragic events of recent years in Ukraine are not just a tragedy for Ukraine, but a tragedy for Ukraine." We need to make that we cannot entrust our security to anyone else, and we have taken part of ourselves. If Europe wants to maintain global influence, it must be a strong Europe. It must be a strong Europe." Borrell stated. Read this and the future of Ukraine, Europe, and the world in an interview with Ukrainska Pravda.

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Ukrainians expect EU to step up support for anti-corruption and judicial reforms

On the eve of the EU Enlargement Report's publication, EU Ambassador to Ukraine Katarina Mathernova made an exclusive comment on the state of anti-corruption and judicial reforms in Ukraine, according to sociological studies by the Rating Group (commissioned by the OSCE), Ukrainians rate the fight against the EU's anti-corruption and judicial reforms. These reforms received the lowest approval ratings, with 75% and 84% disapprobation, respectively. At the same time, Ukrainians want the EU to actively support these two reforms, which clearly goes beyond funding. How did Mathernova assess the situation?

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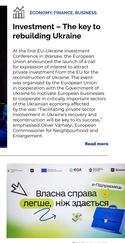

UKRAINE-EU ACCESSION ALGORITHM

Ukraine Progress Report

On 30 October, the European Commission presented a report within the 2024 enlargement package, the Ukraine Progress The report contains assessments of progress made by all candidate countries and potential candidates for EU accession, including an assessment of Ukraine's annual progress in meeting the accession criteria. The document outlines achievements and further steps for Ukraine to focus on in the coming year. The report, which was war against Ukraine, the country continues its transformation on the path toward EU membership. Read on about one of the urgent reforms impacting Ukraine's progress towards the EU.

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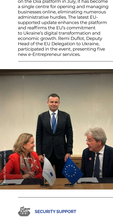

ECONOMY, FINANCE, BUSINESS

Investment – The key to rebuilding Ukraine

At the first EU-Ukraine Investment Conference in Warsaw, the European Commission presented a new EU-wide for expression of interest to attract private investment from the EU for the reconstruction of Ukraine. The event was organised by the European Union Delegation to Poland and the Commission's Ukraine to motivate European businesses to cooperate in critically important sectors of the Ukrainian economy, supported by the war. "Facilitating private sector investment in Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction will be key to its success," emphasised Oliver Varhélyi, European Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement.

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Digital transformation: Growing together

Through the EU4Digital4UA and DIGIUA projects, the European Union supports expanding the comprehensive e-Enterprenur service. Since launching on the Diia platform in July, it has become a key tool for the digital transformation of businesses online, eliminating numerous administrative hurdles. The latest EU-funded initiative, the e-Enterprenur hub, will reaffirm the EU's commitment to Ukraine's digital transformation and economic growth. Iliem Ulkadiev, Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to Ukraine, stated: "Ukraine's future is powering five new e-Enterprenur services.

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SECURITY SUPPORT

EU extends mandate of military assistance mission in support of Ukraine for two years

The Council of the European Union adopted a decision extending the mandate of the European Union Military Assistance Mission in support of Ukraine (EUMAM Ukraine) for a further two years. The budget allocation for the period from 14 November 2024 to 15 November 2026 is EUR 106.7 million. The decision states: "EUMAM Ukraine remains a key tool for the EU's military support to Ukraine, with its core objective of contributing to enhancing the military capacity of Ukraine's armed forces to cope with the newly taken decision, EUMAM Ukraine will also cooperate with NATO, in particular the NATO Security Assistance and Training for Ukraine (NSATU), and exchange information where the latter," reads the official statement.

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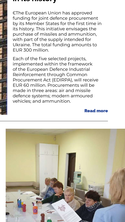

EIB and EU announce new support for Ukraine

An EUR 52 million EU investment in Ukraine's telecom sector to fund 112 emergency number and call system in Ukraine. This investment includes a new EUR 12 million EU grant and an already planned EUR 40 million EIB loan.

The EIB Group also announced full coverage for the EUR 150 million pan-European guarantee for Ukrainian liquidity. Also highlighted in Washington was the recently approved energy rescue plan for Ukraine, which includes a new EUR 50 million in EU-backed financing for critical energy and heating projects as the country prepares for winter.

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EU approves joint arms procurement, including for Ukraine, for first time in its history

«The European Union has approved its first joint arms procurement programme by its Member States for the first time in its history. This initiative envisages the purchase of missiles and ammunition, with part of the supply intended for Ukraine, with EU funding amounts to EUR 300 million.

Each of the five selected projects, implemented within the framework of the European Defence Industrial Development Programme (EDIDP) Procurement Act (EDIPRA), will receive EUR 60 million. Procurements will be made in three areas: air and missile defence systems, modern armoured vehicles, and ammunition.

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LAW AND RULE OF LAW

Humanitarian aid and social support

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Ukraine, in partnership with the European Union and the governments of Canada and Sweden, has opened 30 Social Adaptation Spaces in the Kharkiv region. The initiative, implemented in Kharkiv, Chernihiv and Chernihiv oblasts will bring together people with different needs to them to adapt to new life circumstances and the challenges of war. These spaces aim to create favourable conditions for reintegrating older people, internally displaced people, people with disabilities into active society, and to ensure their socialisation. The Social Adaptation Spaces are equipped with everything they need: modern furniture, computers, projectors, televisions, and tablets.

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GOOD GOVERNANCE

EUR 14.5 million EU-guarantee backed funding for the infrastructure of Mykolaiv and Dnipro

UGUR is 2 million in EU-guarantee backed funding has been secured for the Mykolaiv and Dnipro Water Utilities. This financial support is part of the EBRD's Ukraine Solidarity Urgent Response package, through which over EUR 2 billion has already been provided to Ukraine since 2022. The funds will support the restoration and modernisation of water supply and wastewater treatment systems in Mykolaiv and Dnipro. "The two years of war make a grim milestone, yet it reminds us of the unbreakable strength and resilience of the Ukrainian people. The EIB's support remains steadfast - from immediate humanitarian assistance to fostering economic recovery," says EIB Vice-President Teresa Czerwińska.

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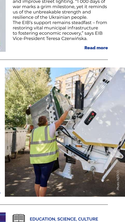

A start has been made: Fastiv moves toward a European waste management system

With support from the European Union, Fastiv in Kyiv Oblast has successfully modernized its waste management system. This is the first such initiative in Ukraine, the EU Delegation to Ukraine Finance Corporation (NEFCO).

"The EU priorities waste prevention and consolidate landfills a last resort," said Joachim Comet, Head of the Reconstruction, Energy, Transport and Environment Sector at the EU Delegation to Ukraine. "We hope these achievements inspire further positive changes in waste management practices in Fastiv and beyond."

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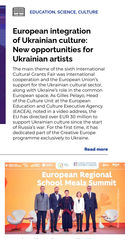

EDUCATION, SCIENCE, CULTURE

European integration of Ukrainian culture: New opportunities for Ukrainian artists

The main theme of the sixth International Forum of Cultural Diplomacy and cooperation and the European Union's support for the Ukrainian cultural sector, along with Ukraine's role in the common European space. As Gites Pelaya, Head of the Sector for Culture, Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), noted in a video address, the EU has directed over EUR 30 million to support Ukrainian culture since the start of the war, including EUR 5 million in dedicated part of the Creative Europe programme exclusively to Ukraine.

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Not only textbooks and equipment: EU announces EUR 65 million pledge to support Ukraine's school nutrition reform

"The EU has pledged EUR 65 million in Budgetary support for the school meals programme, to help Ukraine improve its school nutrition system and plan and implement school meals programmes," said Eva Ambrosio, Deputy Head of the European Regional School Meals Summit. Mathernova highlighted that Ukraine is making significant progress in its commitment to ensuring health The school meals reform being rolled out despite the ongoing full-scale Russian invasion.

This commitment will help Ukraine achieve the School Meals Coalition's goal: ensuring that every child has a healthy and nutritious meal at school every day by 2030.

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MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

The media digest was prepared by the EU project "Communicating for Ukraine's Recovery"

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