EU4UKRAINE REVIEW

EU-Ukraine Cooperation Newsletter

DECEMBER 2024

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Campaign News

Journalists learned how the EU supports youth and education in Poltava region

The press tour to Poltava region took place in December as part of the Together We Learn & Grow communication campaign. Journalists visited educational institutions and youth centres, learned about the reforms and how the EU supports Ukraine.

In particular, the media visited the sports and rehabilitation complex of the Olympic Reserve School in Kremenchuk, the Kremenchuk Vocational Lyceum, the Kremenchuk Pedagogical and Deaflympic sports, The European Investment Bank, and EU's Regional Development Trust office in Poltava and Kremenchuk.

The tour showed how they have completely modernised, including to meet the inclusivity requirements.

"I have always been a big sports fan. So, the future project in Kremenchuk is very, very important to me personally. I'm very happy that Kremenchuk has been selected as part of Ukraine and part of our EU-funded education recovery programme, which has been implemented by the British Council and the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine. We have been working very closely with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, and we have seen how they their favourite sports. It is very important for us to master the reforms and to see the results on the ground."

In particular, Lilia Bondarenko, Vice-Rector of V. Sukhomlynskyi National University and former Minister of Education, shared how the EU supports youth and education in Ukraine, focused on the EU, Ukraine and Kremenchuk's future.

Lilia Hryhorivich believes that "education policy should be aimed at overcoming the losses caused by the war, ensuring the return of children to educational institutions, and the creation of new opportunities for the development of Ukrainian youth and the restoration of the country's human capital".

The teachers also learned about countering disinformation and cybersecurity, the prevention of violence, using AI in their work and underwent psychoeducational training to help their better understand their students' needs and behaviour.

A key part of the event was devoted to the discussion of the reforms and the implementation of the EU's Ukraine Facility programme.

The programme is a platform for a community of education professionals, including teachers, school leaders, and education experts, to share best practices, collaborate on innovative solutions and higher educational institutions that train teachers.

Since the beginning of the Together We Learn & Grow campaign in 2024, the EU has supported over 1,000 Ukrainian educational institutions and educational hubs, and over 1,000 teachers have participated in the EU-funded training projects.

Examples of successful participation of Ukrainian education institutions in EU-funded projects were presented by **Olena Dichkina, an expert from the National eHealing Support Office**.

More information:

Facebook page of the Together We Learn & Grow campaign

Website of the National eHealing Support Office - Ukraine

eTwinning, informative higher, using AI and more: event for schoolteachers

The Together We Learn & Grow campaign organised a meeting for teachers and school leaders in Ukraine, which took place on December 20.

On 20 December 2024, a meeting for education professionals, teachers and school leaders was held in the Ukrainian House in Kyiv. The event was dedicated to the topic of using AI in the field of Ukrainian extracurricular campaign and EU support for education in Ukraine, and much more.

More than 40 participants from different regions of Ukraine joined the programme were carried and included discussions, lectures and practical workshops.

In particular, **Liliya Hryhorivna, Vice-Rector of V. Sukhomlynskyi National University and former Minister of Education, shared how the EU supports Ukraine's education, the EU-funded projects in Ukraine, and the future of Ukrainian education.**

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The winners of the Together We Learn & Grow quiz announced

"The quiz was generally easy for me, though there were some questions that I had to think about. I especially liked the questions about the EU-funded projects in Ukraine. It was a meaningful quiz for participating," says Kseniia Tymoshenko.

David Tymkovych, the Brigadier from the Lyrasoft No. 35 in **Kyivmakh** Ukraine regular, receives one of the prizes for the quiz.

He made a recommendation when, as David has been an active member of the European Unity, the School Eurovoice Council, for two years. He mentions activity participate in the European Parliament's Youth Debate and participated in the quiz to improve his knowledge.

Eurovoice members also implement various projects with the support of the European Parliament Office in Ukraine, such as the Ukraine's Moving Forward Roadmap, and many others.

"We have held many different events: trainings, challenges, field media sessions, virtual trips to European countries," says David Tymkovych, the winner of the quiz. "Our main goal is – we want to visit the European Union in Ukraine and to see how it works, and we want to visit the European Union in European countries."

The winners of the quiz received prizes presented with the campaign's logo: power banks, hoodies and pencil cases with the campaign's logo.

The winners of the quiz were announced on the last day of the campaign of the whole year as follows. One and a half million people participated in the quiz, and 1,000 people from all regions of Ukraine participated in the quiz. The quiz was conducted in Ukrainian and Russian, and participants from other countries and students of Ukrainian such students participated in the quiz.

More information:

Facebook page of the Ukraine's Moving Forward

Preliminary presentation of the Ukraine's Moving Forward Roadmap

EU Gender Equality Index 2024

Project News

ECOLOGY

Following the EGD: a major green project comes to an end

Integrating Sustainable Development in Ukraine in line with the European Green Deal (ISDU) project, implemented by consortium led by the British Council, has successfully completed its activities, led by the GIZ Group think tank carried out diverse and intensive digital activities.

"The EU has managed to create practical mechanisms for a green and just transition, which Ukraine can implement in its own way, taking into account its specifics and the unique green crisis caused by Russian aggression," says **Roman Vakulenko, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Ukrainian Green Transition Office**. "We have the opportunity to catch up, we the European Commission will support Ukraine in this process, and we will be with Ukraine in this difficult and exciting path to become a member of the EU, and, of course, we will be with Ukraine in its victory over Russian aggression."

The project's achievements include the creation of a specialised online platform for stakeholder engagement, the launch of an online course on the EGD attended by 4,000 people, and extensive media coverage of the EGD's benefits for Ukraine. Collaborative efforts with ministries and local authorities have facilitated the development of strategies for sustainable urban mobility and enhanced 90% of Ukrainians, and 76% consider climate change to be a major issue.

"Integrating EGD principles is not just about former steps such as adopting the Paris Agreement, but also about ensuring effective implementation of these commitments through energy efficiency measures, sustainable transport, and the protection of biodiversity," emphasises Roman Vakulenko.

"We have connected to many new regulations, as we can offer many more services than before," explains Olena Bakhtina.

Certainly the Nonexpensive NSC office about 170 administrative services, such as the registration of marriages, business registration, issuing birth certificates, residence registration, and many others. The office also provides a wide range of support services, including psychological support, housing, More than 15,000 local residents use the NSC in Kremenchuk, and 90% of them are satisfied with the quality of the services provided.

The ASC in Zhovti Vody currently provides 340 services, up from just 50 in 2021. The ASC's ambitious plans include adding services to have 60,000 people and more than 5,000 businesses.

The University participates in Erasmus+ projects. The Kremenchuk "Mere Elbe" also operates here.

The delegation from the media also visited the Youth Space Kremenchuk, which was established in December 2024 in cooperation with the support of the EU and UNDP. At the Kremenchuk Secondary School No. 23, the media learned about the modernisation of the school thanks to the EU's partnership with Ukraine.

"For the past three years, Ukrainian children and educators have endured the hardships of war, facing shelling, blackouts, and the constant threat of attacks. The EU has been with Ukraine every step of the way, ensuring that children can continue their education in safe environments and that educators have the support they need," **said Ricardo Cabral, Deputy Head of Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine.** "The EU's support to UNICEF in Ukraine is Ukraine, which is also our shared future, working closely with international partners to ensure a brighter future for all."

More information:

Press release by the British Council

Video about press tour

Facebook page of the Together We Learn & Grow

Facebook page of the Together We Learn & Grow

Ukraine scores well the Gender Equality Index

In December, the preliminary results of the Ukrainian Gender Equality Index, calculated by the Ukrainian Women's Fund and the Ukraine Women Leadership Institute, showed that Ukraine scores 57 points on the Gender Equality Index, which is 2 points higher than last year.

Methodological support was provided by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), which actually calculate the EU Gender Equality Index. The EU Gender Equality Index covers Ukraine's results with those of the Member States.

Ukraine scores 57 points in the Gender Equality Index, that the average score of the EU Gender Equality Index (71 points), which means that Ukraine is 14 points behind the EU.

"These results give us the feeling that we are close to the European Union and have the potential to catch up with the EU countries," **Olena Zhuravlova, Chairman of the Board of Gorgo/Ukraine, project coordinator of the Ukrainian Women's Fund** shared her feelings. "We are ready to work with the European Union in Ukraine because we need to catch the train that is already moving."

A brief presentation of the preliminary results of the Ukrainian Gender Equality Index was presented at the Ukraine Recovery Conference 2024, organised by the EIGE, where this year's EU Gender Equality Index was presented. The EU Gender Equality Index covers Ukraine's results with those of the Member States, including Ukraine.

Nevertheless, the Women's domain leads at gender equality in areas in Finance: women have more equal access to finance than women and men. The Finance domain includes indicators on financial positions for the political, economic and social actions.

For example, thanks to a grant, the For the Development of Gorgo/Ukraine project, implemented by the Ukraine Women's Fund, created an environment for the participation in the city's children's leisure path. In this way, children aged 5-14 were able to participate in the development of the city, to learn about different spaces, communicate with people, and learn about the rules of public setting and recycling.

"This will contribute to the sustainable development of the city and the development of the Ukrainian Women's Fund," **says Olena Zhuravlova, Project coordinator.** "Implementation of such projects also helps communities to develop sustainable ties, to learn how to implement joint projects and create environmentally friendly and sustainable spaces for the development of the city."

And the Solidarity is NGO from Velyki Bychkiv in Zaporizhzhia region also implemented a project in Gorgo.

"We do a lot of training with children and adults, and various people participate in our projects. We have a lot of volunteers and helpers and cares for the standard possession, and, which is very important, we have a lot of people with disabilities," **says Olena Bakhtina, Chairman of the Solidarity.**

"We have connected to many new regulations, as we can offer many more services than before," explains Olena Bakhtina.

Certainly the Nonexpensive NSC office about 170 administrative services, such as the registration of marriages, business registration, issuing birth certificates, residence registration, and many others. The office also provides a wide range of support services, including psychological support, housing, More than 15,000 local residents use the NSC in Kremenchuk, and 90% of them are satisfied with the quality of the services provided.

The ASC in Zhovti Vody currently provides 340 services, up from just 50 in 2021. The ASC's ambitious plans include adding services to have 60,000 people and more than 5,000 businesses.

"We moved into the new premises very quickly. Once Friday, we had a meeting with the mayor, and on Monday, we started to work. We already working projects in the new ASC," recalls **Olena Bakhtina, Chairman of the Solidarity, Project coordinator of the Zhovti Vody Disabled.**

The ASCs in Zhovti Vody and Novopokrovka are accessible to people with disabilities, and the Novopokrovka ASC is the first in the communities of these towns and contributes to facilitating the construction of the foundations for the municipal buildings, as well as the development of the local community, and the development of the local economy.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Two more communities received new ASCs

Two new Ukraine administrative service centres were opened in December in Zhovti Vody and Novopokrovka, Dnipropetrovska region, with the support of the EU-funded Decentralisation for Resilience project, implemented by the British Council and implemented in partnership with UNDP.

"Previously, administrative services were provided in the premises of the local council, which was not convenient for people with disabilities and people with limited mobility. The new ASC premises are accessible, modern, and comfortable, and in addition to new ASC is spacious and comfortable, and in addition to the administrative services, we can offer many other services," says **Olena Bakhtina, Chairman of the Solidarity.**

Thanks to the relocation of staff to the new ASC and its good accessibility, administrative services are now available to Novopokrovka.

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"The integration of new administrative service centres is a significant step towards enhancing the quality of life in these communities. The EU-funded Decentralisation for Resilience project underscores the importance of accessible and modern infrastructure in fostering resilient and thriving communities," **said Ricardo Cabral, Deputy Head of Delegation of the EU to Ukraine.**

A total of nine municipal administrative service centres have been created under the Confidence+ - Empowering Communities project in partnership with the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine.

More information:

Press release of the EU Delegation to Ukraine

CYBERSECURITY

Unase non-but chat and more created by a project for children's safety in cyberspace

In December, the results of the Safe Cybersecurity for Children project, a consortium of Ukrainian NGOs led by the Child Rights Network Ukraine, implemented with the support of the British Council, were presented.

"Children have access to the Internet at ever younger age and they spend more and more time on social media, messengers, and online games," says **Olena Bondarenko, Project coordinator of the Safe Cybersecurity for Children project.** "Children are exposed to various threats, such as **Cyber Management of the Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine**, cyberbullying, online harassment, online fraud, disinformation, unsafe social networks and online games."

Harmful content, such as pornography, violence, cyberbullying, online harassment, and online fraud, is a major threat to children's safety. The project aims to raise awareness and equip children with the skills to navigate the digital world safely and responsibly.

In particular, a series of leaflets have been produced for children on how to spot online scams and how to report them. The project also has created a dedicated website to provide a single hub for all target cyberbullying. Several animated videos and digital tools have been created.

For example, a cybersecurity game has been developed for children, which is a fun and interactive way for children to learn about online safety. The game covers topics such as cyberbullying, online harassment, and how to report cyber threats to the police.

"Teenagers come with different feelings. Sometimes they ask: 'we would like to see these criminals arrested.' I explain that we can't do this, but we can report them to the police, and they do can give them a warning. Learn them how to block offenders, how to deal with online grooming or cyberbullying," says **Yevhen Kryzhanovsky, Head of the Cyber Police Department.** "It is published, we are ready to work with children in the future, so that children are protected, not just physically, but also online."

According to the media, the leaflets to gender equality in the EU are between 60 points: Denmark (74.5) and the Netherlands (73.7). The EU Gender Equality Index covers the period between 2015 and 2023, and Ukraine's first calculation.

The detailed results of the Ukrainian study with the same domain as the EU Gender Equality Index will be published in 2025. The research has been carried out in the framework of the project.

"This task based on the methodology of the European Institute for Gender Equality, which is implemented in the EU Member States, and, but also already significant progress in ensuring the collection of data in Ukraine," **Olena Zhuravlova, Olena Mikaeva, Chief Specialist of the Government Commissioner for Gender Policy.** "We are ready to work with you, above the audience of Ukrainian society and its difference in gender equality, and we are ready to implement this research in Ukraine and to be able to compare the results with the European community."

The index was commissioned by the National of Gender Policy Ministry of Ukraine, and implemented by the Ukraine Women's Fund, Impact Assessment, Strategic Advocacy, and Specialised Policy Communications Agency, Ukraine.

More information:

Facebook page of the Ukrainian Women's Fund

Preliminary presentation of the Ukrainian Gender Equality Index

EU Gender Equality Index 2024

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Press release of the EU Delegation to Ukraine

Facebook page of DSI Group

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The educational activities reached at least 500,000 children, and the project also trained over 1,000 teachers and educators on how to protect children online. The project also created a dedicated website to provide a single hub for all target cyberbullying.

"Crimes in the cyberspace are very delicate, sensitive and dangerous. We have to protect our children, our future, our future, our future, our future and our children," said **Brad Cleveland, Head of Cyber Management of the Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine.**

The Safe Cybersecurity for Children: Creating Together project was funded by the cumulative of 5.8 million euro. As it stated, the project is February 2023.

"Despite the changed circumstances, the European Commission decided to continue the project and not without reason. We have seen the results of the project," said **Ruslan Bilyak, Head of Unit, Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, Caucasus and Central Asia of the European Commission.** "We are very pleased that the project has reached its goal."

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More information:

Project page on the website of the Child Rights Fund

Video of the project final conference

EU4SafeFood helps to bring an important law closer to EU legislation

On 17 December, the Verkhovna Rada adopted the draft law On Out-of-Home Advertising in the Second Reading. This is a major step towards bringing Ukrainian legislation in this area closer to the European Union's legislation. The draft law was developed by EU4SafeFood project under implement in the staffing of the law.

"The role was to showcase EU requirements in this area and to provide a platform for discussion with all stakeholders," says **Yana Dzhevelekova, Senior Expert on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, EU4SafeFood project.** "We organised a series of roundtables with Ukrainian stakeholders, both market operators and inspectors of the State Service of Ukraine on Food Safety and Consumer Protection, and we also helped to, as the participants in the discussion, to understand the EU requirements and how to implement provisions with all the actors involved in the process and how to implement the provisions of the law."

In the EU, the implementation part alone spread two years. The draft law provides for a period of 18 months for the implementation of the provisions of the law, which is a very long period, and it is very important for Ukraine.

"We organised one different hearings. Sometimes they ask: 'we would like to see these criminals arrested.' I explain that we can't do this, but we can report them to the police, and they do can give them a warning. Learn them how to block offenders, how to deal with online grooming or cyberbullying," says **Yevhen Kryzhanovsky, Head of the Cyber Police Department.** "It is published, we are ready to work with children in the future, so that children are protected, not just physically, but also online."

The law will have three year transition period, but the implementation part alone spread two years. The draft law provides for a period of 18 months for the implementation of the provisions of the law, which is a very long period, and it is very important for Ukraine.

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Opportunities

EUROCLUBS

The EU Delegation to Ukraine is accepting applications for Eurocluster 2025. The Eurocluster is a platform for Ukrainian youth organisations and diversity and communication specialists to discuss the EU's Ukraine Facility and other activities related to integration, the EU Support for Ukraine, media literacy, and other topics. The Eurocluster will take place in Kyiv, Ukraine, in Eurovoice Network.

Deadline – 1 February 2025
Read more

MEDIA

The EU Delegation to Ukraine, together with the Institute of Mass Information and the Ukraine Media Development Fund, is accepting applications for the Ukraine Media Development Grants Competition. The contest will accept entries from Ukrainian media outlets, including TV, radio, print, and online. The contest will address the challenges of the EU and importance of the European Union's support for Ukrainian media outlets.

Deadline – 20 January 2025
Read more

The Journalism Fellowship of Ukraine is looking for proposals to support the media in wartime.

The Journalism Fellowship of Ukraine is looking for proposals to support the economic sustainability of the media, namely cross-sector partnerships between media and other sectors, and anti-corruption projects.

The Journalism Partnership – Prundarium strand seeks to protect and develop the rights of journalists to democracy and participation.

Deadline for both contests – 27 February 2025
Read more

Journalism Partnerships – Collaborations
Journalism Fellowship of Ukraine

ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS

The EU Anti-Corruption Initiative (EUACI) is launching a grant competition for CSOs to implement projects that strengthen the regulatory environment and advocacy and communication capacity of the anti-corruption ecosystem in Ukraine. The activities related to integration efforts, focused on anti-corruption and rule of law, and aimed at building a strong and independent anti-corruption policies and reforms.

Deadline – 7 February 2025
Read more

The Press Justice EU Project has announced a grant programme for journalists and media outlets to cover the accession process of Ukraine to the European Union. The grant programme is aimed at journalists and media outlets from Ukraine and other countries in the thematic areas under the negotiated Chapters 23 and 24, and other related topics. The project is funded by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Enlargement.

Deadline – 20 January 2025
Read more

The European Union and the International Renaissance Foundation are holding a competition for projects to support the Ukraine's Roadmap to the EU Accession Negotiations. EU-funded projects should be implemented by Ukrainian CSOs and be eligible to apply.

Deadline – 28 January 2025
Read more

COMBATING CORRUPTION

The EU Anti-Corruption Initiative (EUACI) is launching a call for proposals for a grant scheme for CSOs to implement projects that strengthen the anti-corruption ecosystem in Ukraine. The activities should be implemented through workshops, participation, YouTube projects, podcasts, discussions, public events, and others.

Deadline – 7 February 2025
Read more

EDUCATION

The College of Europe (Bruges) is accepting applications for the Master's in European Interdisciplinary Studies. The programme is designed for students and professionals who want to pursue careers in international organisations, diplomacy, public administration, institutions, and academia. Ukrainians are eligible to participate.

Deadline – 31 January 2025
Read more

The European Commission has launched the calls for proposals for the Erasmus+ programme. The Erasmus+ programme is a major EU programme for education, training, youth and sport. Ukraine is a partner country.

The list of calls available to Ukrainian participants and the Ukrainian participation in Erasmus+ is available here.

The European Commission has launched the calls for proposals for the Creative Europe programme. The Creative Europe programme is the EU's main programme for the cultural and creative sectors, and it supports the cultural and audiovisual sectors. Ukrainians are eligible to participate.

The projects selected will aim to create a sustainable and smart cultural and creative ecosystem, promote cultural diversity, and strengthen the network, while seamlessly integrating different models of cooperation.

Deadline – 21 January 2025
Read more

TRANSPORT

The European Commission has launched the calls for proposals under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) for Transport, Digital, and Energy. The calls for proposals are for a wide range of projects in various areas, including cybersecurity, digital, transport, and energy infrastructure.

The projects selected will aim to create a sustainable and smart transport system, promote cybersecurity, and strengthen the network, while seamlessly integrating different models of transport.

Deadline – 21 January 2025
Read more

FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS

The European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA) and the University Institute of Lisbon will award scholarships to professionals, students, and researchers from the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia (Eligible Countries) to attend the Master's in Drug Policy.

The scholarship covers the Summer School (24 June – 4 July Lisbon) and the Master's programme. The scholarship covers tuition and registration fee, travel expenses, accommodation, and per diem.

Deadline – 15 January 2025
Read more

CULTURE

The House of Europe project is recruiting for a Digital Laboratory of Ukraine festival organisers. Participants will learn from the best Ukrainian and European experts to create a dynamic festival that reflects the uniqueness of Ukrainian culture.

Deadline – 10 January 2025
Read more

The European Commission has announced a call for proposals for the Creative Europe programme to support the development of cultural and creative organisations, artists and professionals, and the promotion of cultural diversity, including minority languages, artists and cultural organisations. Following Ukrainians access to culture and cultural heritage, and Preparing for the post-war reconstruction of the cultural and creative sectors.

Deadline – 21 January 2025
Read more

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Communicating the European Union for Ukrainians' EU4UkraineEU project.

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