EU4UKRAINE REVIEW

EU-Ukraine Cooperation Newsletter

JANUARY 2026

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EU supports the launch of the Youth Guarantee in Ukraine

Youth guarantee is an EU practice that is likely to become mandatory in Ukraine. It means that every young person under the age of 30 who is not working or studying for some reason should receive a job offer, continue education, or internship within four months.

This was discussed during a broadcast on the TV channel 1+1 on January 15, 2026. The EU-funded project "Support to employment in Ukraine" and the Ukrainian Ministry of Economy in Ukraine.

Details of the Youth Guarantee target audience is called NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) and it is widespread in Ukraine. According to **Evgenia Pashinska, key expert of the project**, the NEET phenomenon is not only about unemployment, but also about passive attitude to life, for various reasons, as not always what seem to be.

> "The Youth Guarantee is now being launched, we are in the process of developing the relevant draft law, which is being discussed with all stakeholders. We are working with the Ukraine Parliament, and we hope that the law will be adopted soon."
>
> There is still a lot of preparation ahead, starting with the legislative framework, institutional mechanisms, and ensuring the sustainable vision for the Ukrainian Youth Guarantee model.

Mr Ivan Miklashevskyi, Deputy Minister of Economy noted that the European Commission, the European Training Foundation and the Ukrainian Ministry of Economy have signed a **Roadmap for the implementation of Youth Guarantee of Ukraine**. Perhaps we are not the age ripe for the Youth Guarantee, but we are working on it. We have to be realistic, we have enormous challenges ahead, but we have to prepare, we are already what we want."

Hoverver projects

SOCIAL CARE

Care is essential in times of war

> Perhaps I needed psychological help and support more than anyone else, because I understand that I'm not the only one who has suffered and suicidal. It was interesting, very useful for me.
>
> The project worked very well and in the first six months of January, 300 people received a complex rehabilitation course. The total number of various social services of supported rehabilitation reached 1,000 people. Participants noted that the project helped them to regain the mind, recent the green, and not freezed for the waste.
>
> "The demand for our services is constantly growing. Unfortunately, the war is not ending, and people need our support," said Kostiantyn Yakovlev, head of the department of social services for veterans and their families. "We are working on information about what we do through friends, family, and acquaintances."
>
> Ukraine's military and their family members are a vulnerable category. The Ukrainian Ministry of Veterans Affairs, as mentioned in the Ukrainian Veterans Strategy, has a goal to provide 100% of veterans with access to rehabilitation services by 2030.

Hanna Ostapchenko, from Nikopol, moved to Kamianske with her family in 2022 because of the war. Her husband serves in the Ukrainian Armed Forces, and she and her three children have mainly been their efforts to cut and weed her mother's garden. Her son also plays football, and her daughter is a talented artist.

Hanna's mother is getting assistance from the SOS Children's Villages Ukraine social worker, Nataliia Ivanenko, who has been working with the family since 2022 through the EU4HCSs European LTE project. The project takes care of vulnerable families with children and people with disabilities, including residents of occupied territories, internally displaced persons, and families of veterans in ten communities of the Kamianske, Dnipro, and Pavlohrad.

> "We offer our services that are a daily routine for most people, but for our recipients they have become a luxury. We help them with everyday tasks, such as cleaning, accompanying to leisure activities, educational assistance, hairdressing services, and other. We also provide psychological support, and psychological counseling, and we provide therapeutic therapeutic sessions for patients in Nova Ukraine. We also provide a lot of other services."
>
> Nataliia Ivanenko, social worker

A hairdresser and a social worker visit Hanna and her mother, and at the beginning, a psychologist held several sessions with them.

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> "Everyone is happy and grateful: many communities don't have hairdressers. It's quite expensive in the city, and it's sometimes difficult for people with disabilities to travel to hairdressers, and people with disabilities are very happy."
>
> **Natalia Chernomorska is a social worker**. She assists solitary people with disabilities in the Dnipro region.

> *"I clean and weed the laundry if necessary. I have one family where two people are bedridden, so I have to feed them and change their diapers. I also do cleaning and cooking. I have another family, a man has been bedridden since childhood. I also do cleaning, cooking, and I also do laundry, I do ironing, cleaning, shopping at the market and pharmacies. It is a very large range of work."*
>
> The SOS Care project will run until June 2026, so there is still a lot of work to do.

> *"I feel that I am doing something worthwhile when I help people who are in need. I'm helping people who are in difficult situations. They are being cared for and supported."*
>
> **Olena Ostapchenko**

Starting from scratch: People with no experience of independent living are supported in Bukovyna

In January, two training social apartments were opened in Bukovyna, Ukraine. The apartments are located in Chernivtsi and Vyzhnytsia and are part of the **Bukovyna Social Services** project, implemented by the Ukrainian Ministry of Veterans Affairs, Bukovyna Regional Administration, and the **Bukovyna Confederation** – Employers' Organization in Ukraine.

Social Services also conducted in needs assessment survey among veterans and their families in the Chernivtsi and Vyzhnytsia Districts regions. 67% of respondents indicated that independent living was the most relevant form of support, with 33% expressing interest in a house with further placement in a supported residential facility. Respondents also noted that they would be willing to participate in rehabilitation programs if they were provided with a house with further progression to independent living.

These social services are essential not only for their users, but also for their families and caregivers. As one beneficiary from Chortiv: *"They reduce the burden on the budget and the time also generate new taxpayers: people who have learned to be independent and have a stable income."* The project also aims to contribute to social cohesion development, as well as to the reintegration of veterans into civilian life and society.

At the end of January, five people were already living in the apartments in Chernivtsi and Vyzhnytsia, and the project is now preparing for the leasing process for additional beneficiaries. Project partners are also exploring the possibility of expanding the model to other regions of Ukraine.

More information:

UNDP Facebook page

Facebook page of the Social Services

Photo – UNDP

Bridges of Trust growing stronger with ambitious plans ahead

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In January, with the support of the EU-LEAD with Ukraine Programme, Bohuslavska Rayon Rada (Bohuslav Raion Council) in Kyivska Oblast, and the Bohuslavska Rayonna Derzhavna Administratsiya (Bohuslav District State Administration) in Kyivska Oblast, has learned about the experience of the local community development model in the Ukrainian-Polish cross-border region of Zamoyskyi Rayon, Lviv Oblast.

The visit was part of the Bridges of Trust initiative, which promotes cross-border cooperation between Ukrainian and Polish partner regions. Participants visited Zamoyskyi Rayon to:

> "It was useful to learn about how business and the public sector work together to develop and promote Podhorzhyna as a tourist destination. We saw how local authorities support business, how people are encouraged to develop their own ideas and bring them to the market, it was interesting to see how this model works in practice."
>
> "Organizations there have been using European grants for years, and they have developed strong skills in project writing, and it is interesting to learn from them. There are many similarities between our regions, and we can see that what has already been tested by a sustainable effort. Sometimes it's not clear what exactly we can do, but we can see what works and what doesn't."

The participants visited Mykolaychyk and Mokrka Sołtys (village administrators), local businesses, and cultural institutions and brought ideas and requests back to their Bohuslav partners in return.

> *"The essence of Bridges of Trust is the transition from isolated actions to a sustainable cooperation model. It is about strengthening the potential for cooperation in a region, in a district, in a community, so that people can develop their own initiatives and promotes sustainable socio-economic development. Ukraine is now at a very critical stage, and this is an important opportunity for regions beyond those in greater Ukraine to contribute to recovery and reconstruction."*
>
> **Dmytro Shkvyrko, Deputy Director of the EU-LEAD with Ukraine Programme**

The Bridges of Trust initiative has been running since 2021 and has so far supported 15 partnerships between Ukrainian and Polish regions.

In January 2026, more than 115 municipal partnerships have been established, with 15 more being prepared for signature. The project has also trained over 1,000 people in cross-border and testing various joint events.

The initiative is implemented by Związek Gmin Zagłębia Miedziowego (Association of Municipalities of Copper Basin) in partnership with the Ukrainian City The Ukrainian Municipality of Kyiv, and is supported by the European Union. The project also aims to deepen trust, strengthen local governance and civic participation, and promote opportunity for the big impacts with the Ukrainian and Polish communities.

Bridges of Trust has another plans to create 100 new inter-municipal partnerships and further deepen the existing ones by 2027.

More information:

Website of the EU-LEAD with Ukraine Programme

Kyivs'ka Oblasna Rada's Facebook page

Opportunities

EU DELEGATION ACTIVITIES

On 15 February, a dedicated event will take place in Lviv at the Ukrainian Institute of the EU's Together with Lviv in Brussels initiative.

Participants will feature discussions on youth leadership, cultural diplomacy, and cross-sector collaboration, offering information in Ukrainian, EN/PL/UA and other EU initiatives for youth and cultural cooperation. Following Ukrainian access to Horizon Europe, Lviv's city, art, Applicants must be under 30 and Single Agora Agora will be the special guest of the event.

Deadline: 15 February 2026

Read more

The EU Delegation has invited the media to participate in a press tour to Kyiv on 17–18 February, organised by the EU Delegation to Ukraine and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. **Ambassador of the European Union to Ukraine, Katarina Mathernova**, will be the special guest of the event.

The training and take place on 17–18 February.

Deadline: 17 February 2025.

Read more

EDUCATION

The International Solidarity Fund in Ukraine is holding a call for proposals and the framework of the Global Recovery Multi-Donor Trust Fund (GRMDTF) for Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova. The call for proposals is open to Ukrainian and international NGOs. Applicants can be VET institutions and/or non-governmental organizations, including those with a VET focus, or partnerships of organizations, working in partnership with vocational education and training institutions, focusing on long-term impacts in the field of project implementation.

Starting range from EUR 200,000 to EUR 500,000.

Deadline: – 18 February 2025.

Read more

The European Energy Community Summer School is now open for applications. It will be held from 29 July – 7 August at the Faculty of Maritime Studies of the University of Split, Croatia.

This call is available to highly motivated postgraduate students (master's or doctoral students), researchers in all energy-related fields, and professionals in energy-related fields from Ukraine and the Energy Community. Applicants must be under 30 years of age.

Deadline: 31 March 2025.

Read more

The European Commission has launched the calls for proposals for Erasmus+ Programme in 2026. Ukrainian applicants can apply for grants in the following areas: education, training, youth and sports for approximately EUR 3 billion.

The list of calls available to Ukrainian participants and the deadlines for submitting applications can be found on the website of the Erasmus+ Programme in Ukraine.

Read more

ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS

The EU Anti-Corruption Initiative is running a grant competition to support anti-corruption initiatives in Ukraine's accession process, as well as advocacy and communication activities. Possible activities include advocacy and communication on Ukraine's accession process, anti-corruption reforms, monitoring and evaluation of anti-corruption policies and implementation.

Deadline: – 7 February, 2025.

Read more

FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS

The European Union Drugs Agency and the University Institute of Lisbon will organize a training programme for Ukrainian and experts from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine, from 23 – 27 March 2026. European Week and Summer Schools on Drugs.

In particular, the Summer School 24 June-4 July (advanced) will provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of the two round dynamics, assessments and responses.

Deadline: – 28 February 2025.

Read more

CULTURE

The EU4Culture project team has announced a call for proposals under the Creative Europe programme to support Ukrainian cultural and creative organizations. The call for proposals for Applications are expected to strengthen the resilience of Ukrainian artists and cultural organizations. Fostering Ukrainian access to the EU cultural and creative sectors, and promote the recovery of the Ukrainian cultural and creative sectors.

Deadline: 5 February 2025.

Read more

The EU Cultural Heritage Programme is currently offering a call for proposals for joint projects between cultural heritage organizations from Ukraine and the EU. Grants are available for up to EUR 100,000 per project, covering up to 90% of eligible costs. Applicants must be legal entities from Ukraine or EU member states.

Deadline: – 28 February 2025.

Read more

The EU's House of Culture programme has launched a new call for large infrastructure projects in Ukraine's cultural sector. Civil society organizations can receive up to EUR 150,000 to support the rehabilitation of cultural spaces, such as theatres and other important spaces. Organizations working with national minorities can receive the same amount to restore a cinema, theatre, or other cultural space that is important to their community.

Deadline: – 28 February 2025.

Read more

General grassroots information grants

Grants for organizations working with national minorities

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Address for correspondence: subscription@eu4ukraine.news