Giving Ukrainians a sense of support: an event for communication experts held

**CAMPAIGN NEWS** 

**PROJECT NEWS** 'It's about care, hope and the future': a modern school

bomb shelter built in Odesa region 'A chance to relax emotionally and physically': the Mums in Resources project launched

Giving Ukrainians a sense of support:

New training for community leaders started

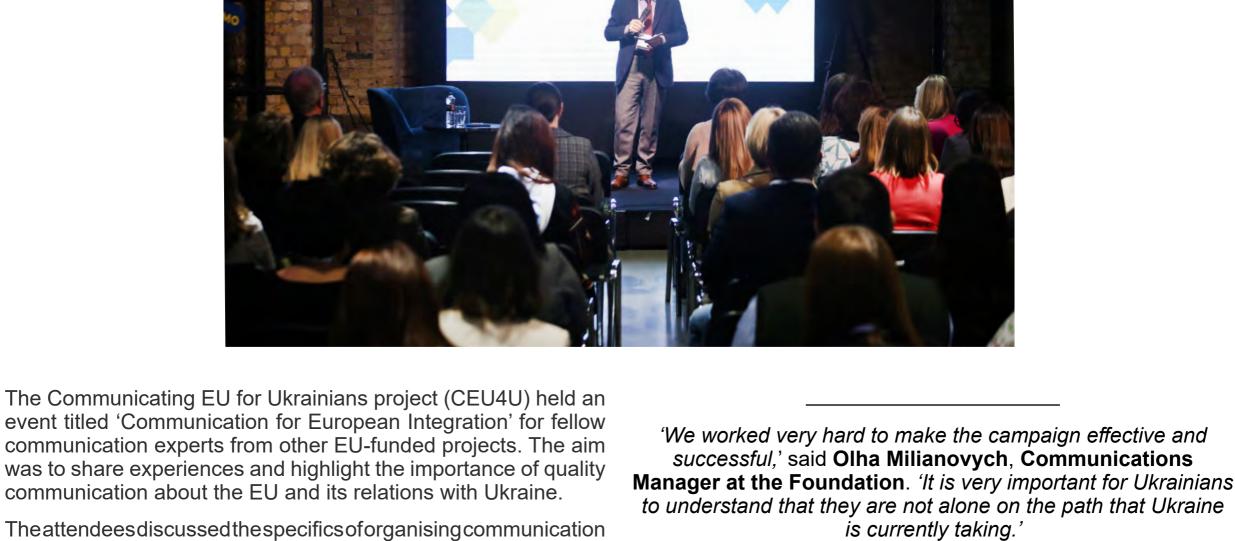
A project to bring the health system closer to EU requirements completed

Essential issues: a big report on the state of arts and culture prepared

**OPPORTUNITIES** 

# an event for communication experts held Ремі Дюфло,

**Campaign News** 



innovative approaches to engaging audiences. The CEU4U project, which has been running large-scale campaigns on the EU support to Ukraine since 2021, has gained considerable experience during this time.

campaigns, the EU support for Ukrainians in different areas and

'Over the past four years, we have worked together on more than ten major communication campaigns, each driven by a single mission: to bring the EU closer to the people of Ukraine,' said Remi Duflot, Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to

**Ukraine**, during the meeting. 'And not just by boasting about the billions of the EU funding or political support, but by giving people hope through the results of projects and concrete actions, and by providing a link between the abstract and reality. During the event, all 12 CEU4U campaigns were presented, covering financial, humanitarian and military support, environmental protection, culture, civil society, media, education and other areas important to Ukrainians.

'Today, 59% of Ukrainians see the EU as their most reliable

partner. And what's more, 69% see the European Union as the only viable way for them to move from the current Russian aggression to a future where freedom and democracy will flourish,' Remi Duflot noted. 'These are not just positive surveys

or ratings, but real signals of belonging. It is important not only

to see them, but also to understand and internalise them. Because our work is not yet done. Ukraine is fast approaching the EU membership, so this new chapter in our communication is journey is extremely important.' The networking participants also shared their impressions.

The Eastern Europe Foundation regularly runs projects with the EU support. Last year, the organisation participated in a

communication campaign to support civil society and the media. **Project News** EDUCATION

'It's about care, hope and the future': a modern school shelter built in Odesa region

We Learn & Grow campaign. The event was dedicated to the EU support for youth and education. 'Teachers from regions close to the front line were particularly

Liubov Shchitka, an expert from the eTwinning National

Support Service in Ukraine, recalled an event for education

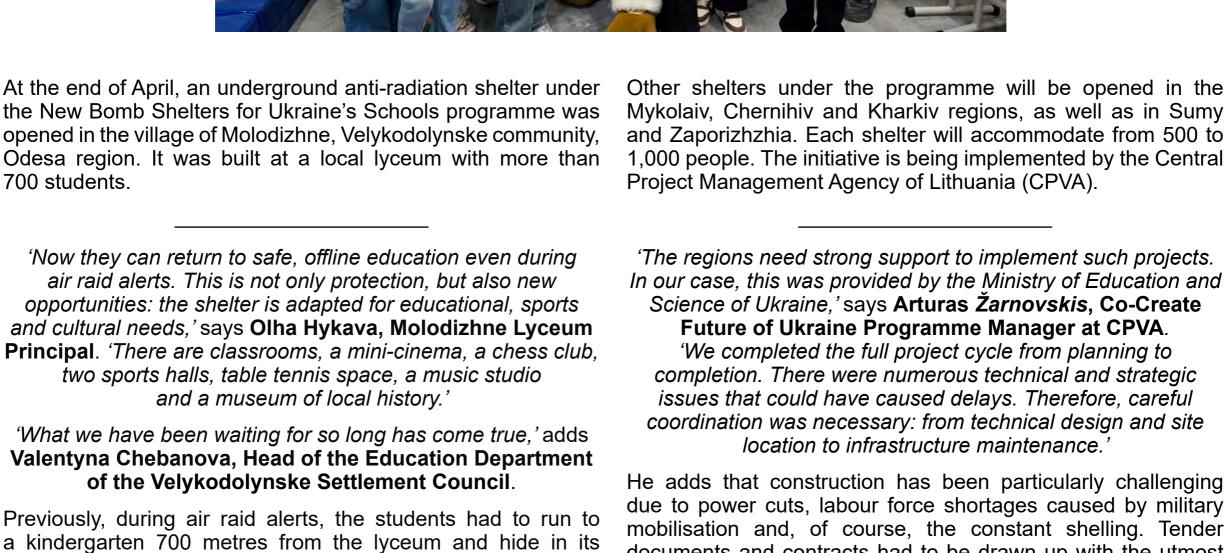
workers that took place in December 2024 as part of the Together

grateful for the event,' said Liubov. 'For many of them, it was the first time they had been able to talk to their colleagues in person after years of pandemic and war.' Vitaliy Portnikov, the journalist and publicist, was a guest at the event and gave a lecture titled 'Europe and the New World. The European integration and the role of Ukraine.'

'During the second Maidan, also known as Euromaidan, people initially demanded that the authorities return to the policy of European integration. At that time, we defended the European choice, which would prevent Russia from swallowing us up,'

Portnikov recalled. 'And if we are moving towards the European Union and Euro-Atlantic integration, it means that we are preserving ourselves as a people and as a state. More information:

Communication campaigns run with the CEU4U support



million by Ireland. The bomb shelter in Molodizhne was the first to be built under this initiative. It cost EUR 2.4 million to build, with a further EUR 75,000 spent on the interior. 'This is a real breath of fresh air in difficult times. The village is very close to the sea and has unfortunately been the target of repeated shelling,' said Mykola Lukianchuk, Head of the

basement. The new bomb shelter covers an area of 2,200 m<sup>2</sup>

The New Bomb Shelters for Ukraine's schools programme is funded by the EU, which has allocated EUR 15 million. An additional EUR 500,000 was provided by Lithuania and EUR 3

and contains 24 rooms.

Velykodolynske Settlement Council. 'We sincerely believe that peace will come and under these conditions this shelter will become a place for learning, leisure, communication and development. Because such spaces are about care, hope and the future.'

SOCIAL SUPPORT 'A chance to relax emotionally and physically': the Mums in Resources project launched

Valerii, the 28-year-old son of Kyiv resident Antonina

Plemiannikova, has had a mental disability since childhood.

long-term challenge.

also organised for mothers.

mobilisation and, of course, the constant shelling. Tender documents and contracts had to be drawn up with the utmost care. Abalance had to be struck between meeting strict standards and ensuring healthy competition in the market. 'Everyone involved did an outstanding job, and the lessons we learned will help us implement future projects even more

effectively, 'says Arturas Žarnovskis.

More information:

Press release by the EU Delegation to Ukraine

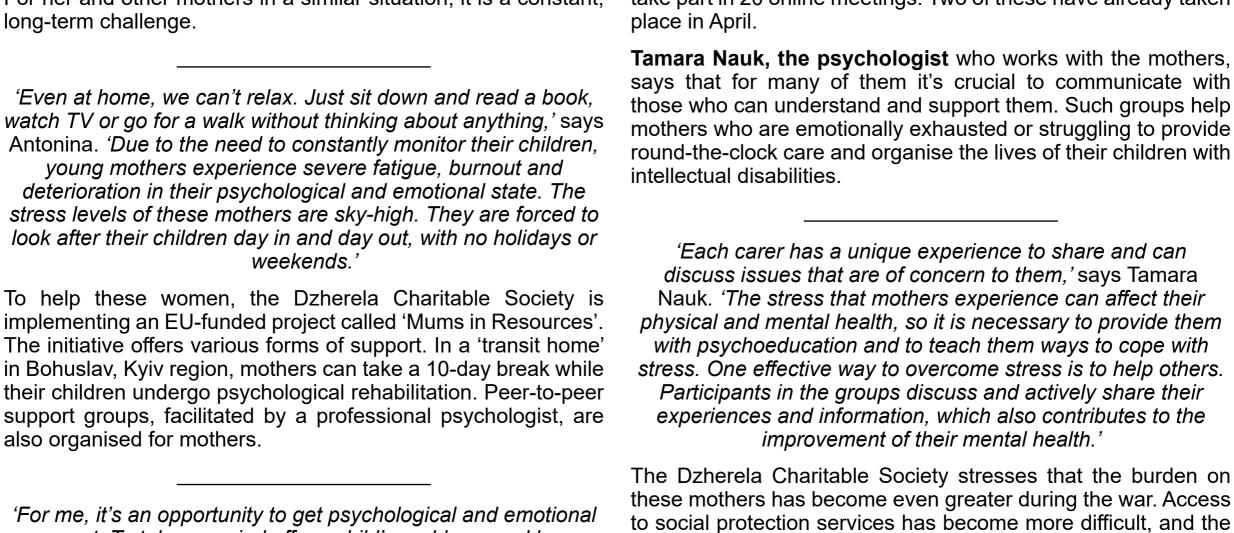
Page of the programme 'New bomb shelters for Ukrainian

schools' on the CPVA website Facebook page of Molodizhne Lyceume

In total, 64 people with intellectual disabilities and 154 members

of their families will benefit from the project. 300 mothers will

### take part in 20 online meetings. Two of these have already taken For her and other mothers in a similar situation, it is a constant, place in April. Tamara Nauk, the psychologist who works with the mothers, says that for many of them it's crucial to communicate with 'Even at home, we can't relax. Just sit down and read a book, those who can understand and support them. Such groups help watch TV or go for a walk without thinking about anything,' says



all the more timely.

I have the opportunity to take care of my own health. To rest emotionally and physically so that I can continue to look after my son. That's why this project is so important.' SELF-GOVERNANCE New training for community leaders started

support. To take my mind off my child's problems and have

some time for myself. To gain resources,' says Antonina. 'When

my son works with wonderful psychologists and teachers, goes on holiday or is temporarily placed by the organisation,

In April, the first module of the League of Municipal Leaders

2025 programme organised by U-LEAD with Europe took place.

Twenty-four local government leaders from different regions of

Ukraine are participating in the programme, which consists of

The first module was dedicated to personal leadership. Training

topics included the biology of leadership and emotions, preventing burnout, the importance of leadership character, the differences between a leader and a manager, and creating a personal

'The module was very powerful. I would never have thought

that these concepts had such a deep structure. There is a lot

to work on, 'says Oleksii Kryvokonia, Head of the Cherkasy Settlement Military Administration in Donetsk region.

'I have gained a wealth of knowledge that I will use in my

professional and even personal life.'

Oleksii adds that participating in the League of Municipal Leaders

is particularly valuable given the lack of training programmes

during the war. And for him, as the head of a frontline community,

'Community management in the post-war period will be completely different in terms of structure and architecture. Right now, people are in a state of stress and psychological

instability, so it is very important for leaders to be properly

prepared to respond to emergencies and challenges brought about by military action,' Oleksii believes. 'This first module was really useful in a number of issues. It helped me understand how to work in such a critical situation.

leadership issues are extremely important.

four thematic modules.

development strategy.

More information: Facebook page of the Dzherela Charitable Society

war has added new sources of stress. This makes such support

Liudmyla Prokopechko, Head of Dobroslav settlement in

Odesa region, says she was motivated to join the programme

by the opportunity to be among active people, to share

experiences and to learn from the best practices. She hopes to gain knowledge that will help her develop the municipality more

effectively, introduce innovations and strengthen cooperation

'The April module was warm and inspiring. The atmosphere of

Welcoming this year's participants, Asier Santillán, Head of

Section for European Integration, Good Governance, Rule

of Law and Civil Society at the EU Delegation to Ukraine,

emphasised that strong local leaders and capable communities are key to Ukraine's sustainability. He also underlined the

importance of the partnership between Ukraine and the European

More information:

Facebook page of U-LEAD with Europe

trust, open dialogue and support is exactly what local leaders need today,' says Liudmyla. 'Feeling heard and seen, that we have real partners both in Ukraine and in Europe, was very valuable. I came out of this module with a feeling of energy and confidence that big changes are ahead of us.' This is the second wave of the League of Municipal Leaders

programme. The first intake started last year.

Union in developing local self-governance.

with European partners.

HEALTHCARE A project to bring the health system closer to the EU requirements completed

The final conference of the EU-funded project 'Support to Ukraine for Developing a Modern Public Health System' took place in

April. The project ran for six years and helped Ukrainian partners

to improve legislation, reorganise the blood system and establish

'In a nutshell, the project gave us confidence that we were on

the right track,' says Dmytro Koval, Director General of the

Ukrainian Transplant Coordination Centre (UTCC), one of

the project beneficiaries.

As an example, he cites the adoption by the Cabinet of Ministers

in March 2025 of a resolution on the regulation of the sale of

'These important changes have taken place with the direct

support of the project. What's more, thanks to the project, the

formulas and methods used to calculate the cost of donated

blood have been developed and verified by a community of

European experts,' adds Dmytro Koval.

Modernising the blood system in Ukraine was one of the key

Mohammed Farouk, one of the project's key experts on blood transfusion safety, notes that Ukraine has put in place a solid regulatory framework that is already largely in line with the

EU requirements. A modern blood transfusion structure has also been established at national level, including a coordinating body

and a national transfusion company. 'I believe that the project

effective communication with citizens.

donated blood and its components.

areas covered by the project.

expert says.

'There was a lot of training in EU countries, including our

regulatory body. Inspectors who will organise and carry out the

licensing of blood system units have been trained,' says Olena

Matiuk, Deputy Director General of the Ukrainian Transplant Coordination Centre for Quality of Medical Services. 'As coordinators, we also studied quality systems and production

Another important area has been the updating of the legal

framework in the field of public health to bring it in line with EU

standards. In particular, the project contributed to the development

'The project has been the main driving force in adapting the Ukrainian health system to meet the EU norms and standards,

said Rene Steiner, Programme Officer for Health, Justice

and Home Affairs at the EU Delegation to Ukraine, during

the conference. 'A total of 140 national and international

experts provided technical assistance to the Ministry of

Health, the Public Health Centre of Ukraine and the Ukrainian Transplant Coordination Centre.'

During the closing conference, participants had the opportunity

More information:

Project page on the Ukrainian Transplant

to donate blood on the spot (see photo).

practices in Belgium, the Netherlands, Portugal and Italy.'

and adoption of the Law on the Public Health System.

## **Coordination Centre website** has exceeded the expectations in the field of blood transfusion,' Much attention has been paid to training Ukrainian professionals in European practices. Nearly 50 training sessions were held, attended by more than 2,000 people. CULTURE

Essential issues: a big report on the state of arts and culture prepared

R S-POL



or frontline areas), and the lack of programmes to bring back professionals, both from abroad and from other sectors. Special attention is paid to the problems of art education, which, according to Alena Karavai, "everyone was talking about, and everywhere". According to the expert, a significant part of the challenges in this field are related to the loss of human capital due to

**RES-POL** key expert Alona Karavai.

The central part of the study is devoted to key challenges in the cultural sector. These include the lack of policies and tools to

evacuate cultural institutions and professionals from risk areas, the lack of long-term storage facilities for evacuated collections,

low wages in the sector, brain drain (especially in de-occupied

previously prepared analytical material.

2025. The programme is open to students of secondary schools, lyceums and gymnasiums (9-11 grades), master degree students, students who are enrolled in the last year of bachelor studies, and postgraduate students. Age of participants - up to 25 years. Deadline - 19 May 2025 Read more YOUTH

**EDUCATION** 

The Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine has announced

a new call for participation in the Online School EU Study Days

Deadline – 6 May 2025 Read more CIVIL SOCIETY As a part of the project 'Enhancing the Resilience of Civil Society in the Eastern Partnership' (ERICS-EaP), there is a permanent call for grants for representatives of civil society organisations to participate in regional networking events, forums and cooperative initiatives. A total of 50 grants of EUR 1,500 each will be awarded.

Deadline -16 July 2026

and other expenses will be covered. Deadline – **19 May 2025** Read more The European Network Remembrance and Solidarity, a Polish NGO, invites young people to apply for 'Freedom of Speech Beyond Borders', an interdisciplinary educational project. The initiative, co-funded by the European Union, is designed to introduce young people to the history of the fight against censorship during the Cold War, and to encourage critical reflection on contemporary cases of violations of freedom of expression and restrictions on access to reliable sources of information. The programme consists of an online seminar session, followed by a nine-day study visit to selected European archives and memory sites.

Young people aged 18-30 have the opportunity to participate in the Non-formal Educators for Youth Development volunteering programme, which will take place in Rzeszów (Poland) from 10 August 2025 to 1 August 2026, as part of the European Commission's European Solidarity Corps programme. Volunteers will be involved in organising seminars, events and cultural meetings, helping to manage social media accounts, hosting an Open Café - a space for exchanging ideas - and more. Volunteers will receive a monthly allowance of EUR 345

Презентація the war. The proportion of people returning to Ukraine from abroad

> Facebook page of the RES-POL project EU Together We Create. Together We Preserve communication campaign

> > Read more

The EU's Creative Europe programme has launched a call for

proposals for European Cooperation Projects. This call will

support the initiatives of cultural and creative organisations in different countries who are demonstrating sectoral or crosssectoral activities. Projects are expected to present a clear cross-

Deadline - 13 May 2025

Read more

**MEDIA** 

The EU's Creative Europe programme has launched a call for

proposals to support TV and online content works. The action

Read more

The European Commission has launched a call for proposals to

producers,

and trends in art is currently achieved almost exclusively through self-education.'

More information:

Baseline report on material issues

in the Arts and Culture sector

aims to strengthen the independence of producers in relation to broadcasters and digital platforms, to enhance collaboration operators, including between independent broadcasters, digital platforms and sales agents. Deadline - 14 May 2025

safer online environment for European citizens. Key actions to be implemented through the call will include the implementation of a fact-checkers protection scheme against harassment, the building of a repository of fact-checks and the creation of factchecking response capacity including for emergency situations. The competition is open to organisations from Ukraine with the

**ENVIRONMENT** The Ecodiya NGO, in cooperation with the People in Need, Czech

EUR 7,500 to EUR 10,000 in hryvnia equivalent. Deadline - 15 June 2025 Read more

course is available via the EU4Digital Academy and is currently available in English, with translations into other languages

expected in May. The new course is suitable for non-experts needing to build their cybersecurity awareness and capabilities, starting with core principles and foundational skills.

Read more

The team of experts is currently working on proposals to address 'Our main challenges were time constraints and a certain the problems identified. The main beneficiary of the RES-POL perfectionism. We wanted to cover as many stakeholders as possible and cross-check the results. We were largely project is the Ministry of Culture and Strategic Communications of Ukraine, with which the team coordinated its work during the successful,' says one of the co-authors of the baseline report, preparation of the baseline report.

**Opportunities** 

The House of Europe offers grants of up to EUR 16,000 for collaborative art residencies between European cultural institutes and Ukrainian organisations on the theme of national communities. Applications will be accepted until 31 July 2025 or until the fund is exhausted. The deadline is rolling – the last day of the month at 15:00 Kyiv time

border cooperation dimension.

support the growth of the European Network of Fact-Checkers. The call aims to contribute to fostering a more trustworthy and

total funding envelope of EUR 5 million.

humanitarian organisation, the EcoClub NGO, and with financial support from the EU, is organising a competition for project proposals in the field of green energy. Organisations working in or supporting the Sumy and Dnipropetrovsk regions are eligible to participate. The amount of funding available ranges from

**CYBERSECURITY** 

The EU4Digital Facility has launched a new Cybersecurity

course, the latest in a series free-of-charge digital technology

training for small businesses in the Eastern partner countries. The

Deadline – 2 September 2025

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reflect the views of the European Union.

Read more CULTURE The House of Europe has launched a grant call for collaborative projects of European cultural institutes with Ukrainian organisations that have legal entity. This could be a conference on the decolonisation of Ukrainian art, a business course for

veterans, a workshop on investigative journalism, a retreat for teachers from frontline cities, or any other idea. The maximum grant is EUR 20,000. Applications will be accepted until 31 July 2025 or until the fund is exhausted. The deadline is rolling – the last day of the month at 15:00 Kyiv time Read more