



Supporting decentralisation

Robust local self-government will make Ukraine resilient – and help the country rebuild

The challenge: the mammoth task of rebuilding the country

Since the Revolution of Dignity in 2014, Ukraine has been implementing a comprehensive decentralisation programme. The centralised Soviet-era system has finally been replaced and a system of strong municipalities established. 11,000 small, disparate municipalities have been regrouped to form 1,470 larger administrative units, known as 'hromadas'. These units are now responsible for delivering essential services to the people. They have greater responsibility and decision-making authority and the funding they need.

Strong local self-government has proved to be vital for Ukraine's resilience. In spite of massive attacks, the hromadas are ensuring that citizens are supplied with the basic services. They are taking in internally displaced people and helping defend the country. But the widespread destruction caused by Russia's invasion means that Ukrainian municipalities are facing a mammoth task. They must organise reconstruction, revive economy and uphold local democracy. If they are to succeed, they will need continuing support.

U-LEAD with Europe: Phase II

Project title	U-LEAD with Europe: Phase II
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), EU and Denmark with additional inputs from Poland and Slovenia
Implemented by	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
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Implemented by:



Our approach: strengthening local self-government

Financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the EU and Denmark, with the additional support of inputs provided by Poland and Slovenia, the project U-LEAD with Europe is supporting all 1,470 hromadas in their efforts to cope with the consequences of the war and the challenges of local reconstruction. One goal is to give Ukraine future prospects in the EU.

A wide-ranging training programme is upskilling staff in Ukrainian local authorities in key areas of local self-government and local reconstruction. This means, for instance, fostering local services including education and health, supporting work with the internally displaced people and handling local reconstruction projects.

Our comprehensive legal and policy advisory services are helping the Ukrainian Government and the Ukrainian parliament to address important legislative bills to strengthen local self-government, even during the war, partly with a view to accession to the EU.

We are honing the integrity of the administration with our House of Integrity initiative, implemented in cooperation with the Ministry for the Restoration of Ukraine and the responsible anti-corruption authorities. Target groups include civil servants working for national and local authorities, representatives of local self-government entities and local anti-corruption officers. House of Integrity offers participants a variety of training options related to anti-corruption, both in person and online, as well as a platform for networking and dialogue.



'Support in difficult times'

'The U-LEAD with Europe partners were with us during the darkest days of the war and are still by our side. True friends stand shoulder to shoulder with us when times are hard.'

Halyna Minayeva, Head of the military government of the city of Chuhuiv in Eastern Ukraine. U-LEAD helped the municipality to set up places of refuge and emergency accommodation and provided humanitarian aid for the population.

A U-LEAD facility to support reconstruction projects is assisting municipalities that have been particularly hard-hit by the war in tapping into national and international sources of funding by drawing up high-quality project proposals. Parallel to this, we are helping local authorities devise local development strategies and reconstruction plans.

Through the Bridges of Trust initiative, we are supporting local self-government bodies to establish partnerships with municipalities in EU member countries. We assist municipalities at every stage of the process – from the first meeting to identifying common interests to working together to rebuild Ukraine. City twinning schemes strengthen local authorities, and more than 100 partnerships have already been established and supported.

Through the procurement of a variety of items, such as electric generators, excavators and accommodation for internally displaced people, we are able to make an important contribution to building the resilience of Ukrainian municipalities. They received the first supplies back in April 2022, only a few weeks after the outbreak of Russia's war of aggression.

Our results: Over 46000 participations in our training

- Since 2016 we have run more than 13,000 training courses for staff from various authorities.
- We have provided support for the implementation of 99 local development and reconstruction projects as well as 300 local development strategies.
- Some 600 municipalities have been able to improve their work processes thanks to our advisory services.
- We provided support for the adoption of nine important laws that have been vital for the success of the reform of local self-government in peace and in war.
- Over 400 municipalities received emergency assistance in the form of generators, vehicles and tools to offset the damage caused by the Russian invasion to some extent.

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