

Shaping reconstruction with strong municipalities

A functioning democracy and a reliable rule of law are basic requirements for Ukraine's accession to the European Union. It is therefore vital that the various levels of government – national, regional and local – are integrated effectively. In addition, state services such as hospitals, schools and childcare facilities must be geared towards people's needs. This is possible only if the population is involved in decision-making in their cities, towns and municipalities. In 2014, Ukraine therefore initiated a reform process to give local authorities more responsibility and additional financial resources. This reform has been instrumental in allowing the majority of municipalities to remain operational even amid the war. On behalf of the German Government, the EU and other donors, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is supporting the Ukrainian government in performing the new tasks effectively. Since Russia's war of aggression began, the country's reconstruction has shifted into focus. GIZ is also supporting its Ukrainian partners in this area.

GIZ is working closely with all Ukrainian municipalities, as they have a key role to play in the country's reconstruction. They need to rebuild schools and hospitals, care for internally displaced persons and ensure that infrastructures such as the

water supply are operational and that roads are passable. GIZ is advising national and municipal partners on how best to implement infrastructure projects. When it comes to tackling the colossal challenges of reconstruction, GIZ focuses on the principles of good governance and digital administration. A basic requirement for this is a transparent and inclusive process that involves citizens and is based on EU standards.

GIZ was involved in local self-government and modernising local authorities before the war began, and this has continued. For example, it supports local authorities in preparing their budgets correctly and works with towns and cities to develop strategies for regional development. GIZ has already supported the development of integrated urban development plans for six major cities, including Kyiv. It is providing assistance to digitalise municipal services so that citizens can communicate quickly and easily with the relevant authorities. It is also training administrative staff in municipal services such as waste disposal and the water supply. And with success – in 2023 alone, some 2.6 million people had access to improved administrative services such as an online application process for identity documents. In addition, since 2024, 2,800 government authority staff have received training on how to mitigate corruption risks and which measures this requires.



More services for citizens through digitalisation

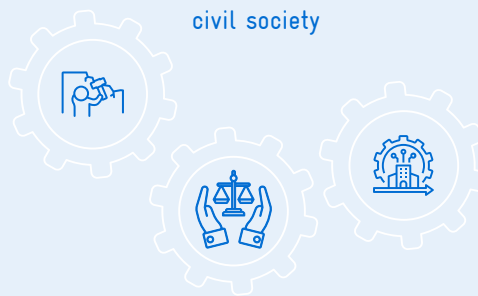


VALERIYA IONAN,
Deputy Ukrainian Minister for Digital Transformation presents DIIA.Engine

Digitalisation has huge potential for improving public services. Citizens benefit from faster services around the clock, paperless procedures increase administrative efficiency, and digital processes mitigate the risk of corruption. Even before the war began, Ukraine was a European leader in digital transformation. Across the country, more than 90% of the most in-demand public services have been digitalised already. This has been achieved with the DIIA.Engine digital platform. It provides the technical basis for digital services for citizens in Ukraine and is already being used by more than 20 Ukrainian ministries and state institutions. The platform was co-developed by the 'Digital UA Hub', which is coordinated by GIZ and commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (BMDV). DIIA.Engine is faster and cheaper than its competitors and has the potential to set international standards in the future – Zambia and North Macedonia are already examining the possibility of using the platform for their own public sectors, for example.

At a glance

Area of intervention	Good governance
Objective	Strengthening Ukraine's resilience through good governance at the local, regional and national level to facilitate reconstruction that is tailored to the needs of the population and aligns Ukraine with EU standards.
Priority areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU accession and reforms in the field of multi-level governance and the rule of law • Strengthening local self-government • Local reconstruction and modernisation
Commission volume	EUR 158 million
Commissioning parties/financiers	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), EU, State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (Switzerland), Federal Foreign Office
Partners	Ukrainian ministries, city and municipal administrations, municipal operating companies, civil society



GIZ Ukraine

In its role as a highly effective implementing organisation, GIZ is supporting Ukraine's efforts to begin rebuilding the country. The focus is on building municipal and social infrastructure, ensuring reliable energy supplies and strengthening the Ukrainian economy. At the same time, GIZ is supporting the country on its path towards EU accession. It is providing advice on necessary reforms and driving the modernisation of public administration. Its decades-long record of cooperation and a partner network spanning the entire country mean that GIZ is well placed to offer tailored support that is both forward-looking and responsive to citizens' needs. Around 560 staff work for GIZ in about 45 projects in Ukraine.

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