

# **UKRAINE RECOVERY DIGEST №158**

**Weekly overview of media,  
legislative acts and statements  
on Ukraine Recovery**

**MARCH 22 – 28, 2025**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS:

<b>1. INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. RECOVERY PLANS – OFFICIAL</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>3. PROCESS OF RECOVERY</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>4. RECOVERY – INTERVIEWS AND AUTHOR MATERIALS</b>	<b>17</b>



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The Ukraine Recovery and Reform Architecture is a comprehensive technical assistance programme deployed by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), in partnership with the European Union, to support critical recovery and reform processes in Ukraine. URA is implemented with the financial assistance of the EBRD-Ukraine Stabilisation and Sustainable Growth Multi-Donor Account (MDA), contributors to which are Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Latvia, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union.

# 1. INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE



**“THE EIB’S PORTFOLIO OF PROJECTS IN UKRAINE REACHES EUR 4.3 BILLION AND IS ONE OF THE LARGEST AMONG INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.”**

*Olga Zykova*

The Ministry of Finance of Ukraine and the European Investment Bank (EIB) have held a regular review of the loan portfolio of joint projects.

The parties identified the main results of project implementation in 2024, as well as further steps to ensure the effective use of EIB loan resources and guarantees provided by the European Commission under the Pillar II Ukraine Facility in 2025, in particular for priority areas of recovery.

“Ukraine’s cooperation with the EIB covers a wide range of areas that really meet the key needs of the Government in the economic development of the country and improving the lives of its citizens. First of all, it is support for critical infrastructure, energy, transport, education, as well as the implementation of important social initiatives and digitalisation. Today, the EIB’s loan portfolio in Ukraine is one of the largest among international financial institutions and consists of 24 active projects with a total value of EUR 4.3 billion. Strategic planning in the implementation of these programmes and the prompt use of credit funds from the existing portfolio are extremely important,” the Deputy Minister of Finance said.

In particular, the EIB is financing:

- two investment projects worth EUR 178 million to ensure the energy efficiency of educational buildings and the development of vocational schools;
- two investment projects worth EUR 400 million to provide rolling stock for public transport in Ukrainian cities;
- and three projects worth EUR 640 million to restore social infrastructure in regions with a high number of internally displaced persons and in regions affected by the military aggression of the Russian Federation.

[Source](#)

## **THE IMF BOARD COMPLETED THE SEVENTH REVIEW OF THE EFF ARRANGEMENT**

The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has completed the seventh review of the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) program for Ukraine.

As a result of the successful review, Ukraine will soon receive the next eighth tranche of about USD 400 million (SDR 300.47 million).

The IMF noted the progress of the Ukrainian side in performing the terms of the EFF program as of the end of December 2024. The Ukrainian economy remains resilient, and the performance of the EFF program remains high, despite the conditions of a full-scale war. Ukraine has met all quantitative performance criteria as of the end of December, the prior action for this review, and majority of the structural benchmarks, while the timelines of other benchmarks have been adjusted to accommodate capacity constraints.

[Source](#)

## **NORWAY AND UKRAINE STEP UP COOPERATION IN THE ENERGY AND SOCIAL SECTORS, – DENYS SHMYHAL**

On 26 March, Prime Minister of Ukraine Denys Shmyhal met with Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs Espen Barth Eide and Minister of Labour and Social Inclusion Tonje Brenna.

The parties focused on discussing joint humanitarian programmes, in particular those implemented in cooperation with the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad). Special emphasis was placed on national initiatives to support IDPs, as well as the importance of involving partners in their funding.

The Prime Minister commended Norway's assistance in the energy sector, in particular, its readiness to make a EUR 140 million contribution through the EBRD for the purchase of gas for Ukrainian gas storage facilities.

[Source](#)



mind.gov.ua

## NORWAY PROVIDING FUNDING TO SECURE ENERGY SUPPLIES IN UKRAINE

Three years of full-scale war and Russian attacks have severely damaged Ukraine's gas infrastructure. Norway is providing an additional NOK1 billion in funding for gas imports to Ukraine to ensure an adequate gas supply for the general population, businesses and industry in the country.

The new funding will be channelled through the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and will be used for procurement of gas from Western sources. The Ukrainian state-owned company Naftogaz will be the recipient of the gas.

The imported gas will be used to meet consumption needs and to increase gas reserves in the event of further attacks on the gas infrastructure. The funding is being provided under the Nansen Support Programme for Ukraine and the NOK 1 billion is being taken from the 2025 allocation for Ukraine's energy sector.

[Source](#)

## THE NETHERLANDS TO CONTRIBUTE €65 MLN TO THE UKRAINE ENERGY SUPPORT FUND

Deputy Minister of Energy of Ukraine, Roman Andarak, held an online meeting with the Special Envoy of the Government of the Netherlands, Erika Schouten, to discuss further support for Ukraine's energy sector.

During the meeting, Roman Andarak expressed his gratitude to the Netherlands for its recent decision to contribute €65 million to the Ukraine Energy Support Fund.

"This is a significant contribution for us, and it will play a crucial role in the ongoing repair campaign as we prepare for the upcoming heating season. These funds will help cover urgent needs. A stable energy supply is essential for the functioning of the economy, critical infrastructure, social services, and other areas of life in Ukraine. We are sincerely grateful for this support," said the Deputy Minister.

The Dutch representative, in turn, emphasised that the energy sector would remain one of the key priorities for the Netherlands in its continued support for Ukraine.

[Ukrainian source](#)

## GERMANY PROVIDES NEARLY €7.3 MILLION IN EMERGENCY AID FOR UKRAINE'S ENERGY SECTOR

The Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action of Germany (BMWK) is allocating an additional €7.27 million for the repair of Ukraine's energy infrastructure.

According to Ukrinform, citing the official website of the Ministry, the funds will be channelled through the Reconstruction Credit Mechanism and transferred to the Ukraine Energy Support Fund, which has received contributions from numerous international donors since 2022.

The support aims to facilitate urgent repairs of Ukraine's energy infrastructure damaged by Russia's full-scale aggression.

[Source](#)  
[Ukrainian source](#)



## UKRAINE STRENGTHENS COOPERATION WITH THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE ON LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT AND DECENTRALISATION

As part of the 48th session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, Deputy Minister for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine, Oleksii Riabykin, held a series of important meetings with representatives of the Council of Europe. The key topics discussed included local self-government reform, decentralisation, the return

of communities to regular governance, and support for Ukraine in regional recovery.

Oleksii Riabykin met with Bjørn Berge, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe. The parties discussed continued support for Ukraine and opportunities to deepen cooperation. Particular attention was given to strengthening the financial and institutional capacity of communities, updating regional development strategies, and advancing the concept for reforming local self-government.

[Ukrainian source](#)

## MORE THAN 20 MILLION UKRAINIANS HAVE RECEIVED SUPPORT THROUGH THE WORLD BANK'S URTF FUND

Ukraine's Deputy Minister of Finance Olga Zykova and the World Bank Regional Country Director for Eastern Europe Bob Saum co-chaired an update meeting on the Ukraine Relief, Recovery, Reconstruction and Reform Trust Fund (URTF) program, managed by the World Bank.

During the meeting, the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine, the World Bank project teams, and representatives from 17 donor countries discussed the progress of the Program's implementation and the strategic priorities for the Fund's further work in Ukraine.

To date, URTF-supported projects have reached 20 million Ukrainians, including:

- 87,000+ households (representing about 200,000 people) received compensations to repair their war-damaged homes (HOPE project in housing);
- 3.5 million customers had their electricity supply restored, and 1.5 million residents regained heating through critical equipment deliveries (RePoWER project in energy);
- 6.3 million people received mental health services and health examinations, 5.2 million children were vaccinated, and 473,000 people underwent rehabilitation (HEAL project in healthcare);
- 33,000 farmers gained access to affordable financing (ARISE project in agriculture);
- 13 million people received social assistance payments on time (PEACE project in supporting Ukraine's public service delivery capacity);
- 380,000 school students benefited from improved education, and 12,000 children in remote areas were provided free transportation (LEARN project in education).

[Source](#)

## UKRAINE AND FRANCE CONTINUE COOPERATION ON UKRAINE'S RECONSTRUCTION

On 26 March, First Deputy Minister for Communities and Territories Development Aliona Shkrum, Deputy Minister Kostiantyn Kovalchuk, and Head of the State Agency for Restoration Serhii Sukhomlyn met with representatives of the Association "French Business Community in Ukraine."



During the meeting, representatives of French companies had the opportunity to ask questions to officials from the Ministry for Communities and Territories Development, as well as to discuss key areas of reconstruction that require international investment and expert support. Among the priorities is the restoration of critical infrastructure, modernisation of housing and utility services, development of rail and port connectivity, the introduction of European technologies in urban planning, energy efficiency and waste management, as well as financial tools to support businesses.

Representatives of the French business community expressed their readiness to engage in joint projects, particularly in the fields of transport infrastructure, utilities, construction, and environmental solutions. The Ministry and French companies agreed to continue coordination and develop a roadmap for implementing joint initiatives in the near future.

[Ukrainian source](#)

## RECOVERY OF UKRAINE: OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT

Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion, France has been actively supporting Ukraine not only with military and humanitarian aid but also through economic assistance.

From war risk insurance and export credit guarantees to direct loans and joint investment in projects, France has established a comprehensive system of financial instruments to support the recovery of Ukraine's economy.

[Ukrainian source](#)



## LATVIA WILL HELP UKRAINE DEVELOP BORDER RAILWAY INFRASTRUCTURE

Deputy Minister for Development of Communities and Territories Maryna Denysiuk paid a working visit to Latvia. There, she participated in the 11th meeting of the Intergovernmental Ukrainian-Latvian Commission on Economic, Industrial, Scientific and Technical Cooperation, and also held a number of meetings. The focus of all discussions was cooperation in the transport sector.

During the meeting, the Deputy Minister presented to her Latvian colleagues the Plan for the Restoration of Ukraine's Maritime Infrastructure, developed in cooperation with Estonia. She called on Latvia to join this initiative. The plan covers all the most important areas of the maritime industry: mine clearance, shipbuilding, port equipment, IT solutions, etc. Its total budget is 550 million euros.

Thanks to the implementation of the project "Latvia for Chernihiv: Reconstruction of Social Infrastructure", implemented in cooperation with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), a number of important facilities were restored, including the Starobilou Lyceum, the "Malyatko" kindergarten, and the Talalaiv Lyceum. Latvia has allocated more than 5 million euros for other projects to support the Chernihiv region. Latvia also plans to transfer solar panels and equipment for water and heat supply facilities to the region. This will help reduce the cost of energy resources for local residents and increase the energy independence of the region.

Latvia is also promoting the installation of modular housing in the region. This year, thanks to this, 12 IDP families who lost their homes as a result of the Russian aggression will be able to receive housing.

[Source](#)

## NORWAY AND UNDP DELIVER CRITICAL ENERGY EQUIPMENT TO STRENGTHEN UKRAINE'S POWER SYSTEM

The Government of Norway, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has contributed to strengthening Ukraine's energy resilience by officially handing over critically important energy equipment.

At a ceremony held in Kyiv, representatives of the Norwegian government presented certificates for the equipment to three Ukrainian energy companies, marking a significant step in the ongoing efforts to restore and reinforce Ukraine's energy infrastructure. In particular, the support includes:

- Gas piston generator units (with a total capacity of approximately 150 MW) for the state-owned oil and gas company Naftogaz Group. These units will provide vital backup power for critical infrastructure and residential areas across Ukraine, ensuring reliable energy supply even during potential outages;
- Critical equipment for the gas production company JSC Ukgazvydobuvannya (UGV);
- Delivery of two autotransformers for the state energy company Ukrenergo, which will help enhance the efficiency and reliability of Ukraine's power transmission network, improve grid stability, and ensure uninterrupted electricity supply to consumers.

[Ukrainian source](#)

## **ESTONIA TO ALLOCATE €12 MILLION FOR PROJECTS IN ZHYTOMYR REGION THIS YEAR**

This year, Estonia will allocate €12 million for the implementation of projects in the Zhytomyr region. The Head of the Zhytomyr Regional Military Administration, Vitalii Bunechko, announced this on Facebook. "As part of the recovery and development projects in Zhytomyr region, Estonia has already allocated over €50 million, including €12 million for 2025. Thanks to these funds, important initiatives that are transforming the lives of our communities continue to move forward," Bunechko wrote.

[Ukrainian source](#)

## **JAPAN DELIVERS MODULAR BRIDGE COMPONENTS TO UKRAINE FOR RECONSTRUCTION**

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), under a grant agreement for the Emergency Recovery Programme, has delivered the first modular components for temporary bridges to Ukraine.

This was reported by the State Agency for Restoration and Infrastructure Development on Facebook, as cited by Ukrinform.

«The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has provided the first batch of international technical assistance. These are components for temporary bridge structures supplied by Japanese partners under the Grant Agreement for the Emergency Recovery Programme between JICA and the Government of Ukraine,» the statement reads.

[Source 1](#)  
[Source 2](#)

## 2. RECOVERY PLANS – OFFICIAL

### PRIME MINISTER CHAIRS MEETING ON DISTRIBUTED GENERATION DEVELOPMENT

Plans for the development of distributed generation and issues of energy supplies for the regions were discussed at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister of Ukraine Denys Shmyhal on 26 March.

The meeting was dedicated to reviewing the situation with energy supply in the regions and determining the next steps to install generation facilities.

The Prime Minister also stressed that work on the creation of regional energy passports had been completed. To support cities, 468 cogeneration units and 284 block-modular boiler houses with a total capacity of over 1.4 GW have already been delivered to the regions. Priority is given to the frontline regions. The equipment is currently being installed and put into operation.

In addition, participants heard proposals to liberalise the connection of private generation facilities to the grid. The relevant ministries have been instructed to work on further simplification of procedures to ensure the simplest and fastest possible process.

[Source](#)

### GERMAN GALUSHCHENKO DISCUSSES STRENGTHENING UKRAINE'S ENERGY SECURITY WITH BRITISH AMBASSADOR

Minister of Energy of Ukraine German Galushchenko held a meeting with the Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Ukraine, Martin Harris.

The parties discussed the development of solutions to enhance the energy security of Ukraine and the wider European region. In particular, they focused on the potential use of Ukraine's gas storage facilities to meet the needs of EU member states.

The discussion also addressed financial support for Ukraine's energy sector, including through the Ukraine Energy Support Fund, which has proven to be an effective tool for procuring equipment for Ukrainian energy companies.

[Ukrainian source](#)



### GERMAN GALUSHCHENKO AND DIRECTOR OF THE ENERGY COMMUNITY SECRETARIAT DISCUSS INTEGRATION OF ENERGY MARKETS OF UKRAINE AND THE EU

Minister of Energy of Ukraine German Galushchenko met with Director of the Energy Community Secretariat Artur Lorkowski.

The parties discussed organisational and financial issues of the Ukraine Energy Support Fund, established under the Energy Community Secretariat, as well as the need to use the proceeds from the immobilised Russian assets to restore the energy sector.

The meeting focused on Ukraine's further integration into the EU energy markets and the acceleration of the adoption of relevant legislation. The parties also discussed the corporate governance of NPC Ukrenergy and LLC GTS Operator of Ukraine.

Special attention was paid to regional energy security and the development of solutions that would ensure energy stability.

[Source](#)



## **MINISTRY OF ECONOMY SIGNS MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION WITH THE AUDIT COUNCIL OF UKRAINE FACILITY**

The Ministry of Economy of Ukraine and the Audit Council of the Ukraine Facility signed a Memorandum of Cooperation in Kyiv today. The document was inked by Yuliia Svyrydenko, First Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine and Minister of Economy of Ukraine, and Marek Marek Belka, Chairman of the Audit Council, former Prime Minister of Poland, Professor of Economics.

The Memorandum defines the key principles of cooperation between the Ministry of Economy as the national coordinator of the Ukraine Facility program and the Audit Council. The aim of the cooperation is to ensure transparent and efficient use of EU funds. The parties agreed to coordinate their efforts in the following areas:

- Improving mechanisms for monitoring the use of financial assistance.
- Analysing systemic challenges and developing recommendations to improve the efficiency of funding programmes.
- Providing advisory support for reforms and public governance.
- Establishing cooperation between Ukrainian government agencies and international partners within the Ukraine Facility.

[Source](#)

## **UKRAINE APPROVES CULTURE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY UNTIL 2030 AND ACTION PLAN FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION**

On 28 March 2025, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved the Culture Development Strategy until 2030. Alongside the Strategy, an Operational Action Plan for 2025–2027 was also adopted. This is the first comprehensive strategic document in the field of culture that offers a new vision of culture in the broader context of state-building — including as a key element of national security and sustainable development.

The Strategy aims to establish culture as a foundation of national identity, a powerful factor for social cohesion, the development of human capital, and enhancing Ukraine's global recognition.

This, in turn, shapes a strategic vision for the further development of Ukrainian culture, built around four key objectives:

- Strengthening human capital through cultural practices
- Protecting, preserving, enriching and leveraging cultural heritage and values
- Increasing the resilience of culture as a social system
- Integrating Ukrainian culture as an active and equal participant in global cultural processes

The Strategy takes into account the challenges caused by the war and proposes a systemic approach to restoring the cultural space, supporting creative industries, and expanding access to cultural services for all citizens. It also provides for the modernisation of the governance system, the development of public-private partnerships, the digitalisation of the cultural sphere, mechanisms for protecting heritage during wartime, and the creation of conditions for local initiatives and the inclusion of vulnerable groups. Particular attention will be given to veterans, internally displaced persons, children, and youth.

[Ukrainian source](#)

## **UKRAINE AIMS TO HAVE A NEW CUSTOMS CODE BASED ON THE EU CUSTOMS CODE IN 2026**

The Steering Committee for the development of the new Customs Code of Ukraine has approved the timeline for the preparation and adoption of the document.

“We plan to complete the drafting of the new Customs Code of Ukraine based on the EU Customs Code by the end of April and expect its final approval by the Parliament in January 2026,” said Deputy Minister of Finance Yuriy Draganchuk, outlining the prospects for the European integration of Ukrainian customs legislation at a meeting of the Steering Committee for the development of the new Customs Code of Ukraine.

The development of a new Customs Code of Ukraine based on the EU Customs Code is a key

recommendation for Ukraine in the EU Enlargement Report published last autumn. The progress made by 1 September will be included in the 2025 report and will influence the current assessment of Ukraine's readiness to join the EU.

[Source](#)



## **HUMAN CAPITAL RESILIENCE CHARTER WILL HELP MAKE LABOUR MARKET MORE INCLUSIVE AND OPEN.**

*Yuliia Svyrydenko*

The Ministry of Economy is working with the business community to prepare a Human Capital Resilience Charter that will help overcome barriers to the labour market. This was announced by Yuliia Svyrydenko, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy of Ukraine, at a meeting of the Barrier-Free Council.

“During the URC 2024 in Berlin, we launched work on the Human Capital Resilience Charter, which should become one of the tools to overcome barriers in the labour market. Adherence to the Charter's principles by businesses will help increase the resilience of companies to crisis situations, promote gender equality in pay, and create an inclusive environment for people with disabilities, internally displaced persons, and youth. It will promote the creation of a policy to support women and men veterans in business, including their employment and mentoring support. And it will also facilitate access to new training and professional development opportunities,” said Yuliia Svyrydenko.

According to her, the Human Capital Resilience Charter is to be presented at the Ukraine Recovery Conference 2025.

[Source](#)

## **DECLARATION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UKRAINE UNITY HUB IN FRANCE SIGNED**

Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine and Minister of National Unity of Ukraine Oleksiy Chernyshov and Minister of State and Minister attached to the Minister of the Interior of France François-Noël Buffet took part in an intergovernmental meeting on the reception and integration of temporarily displaced Ukrainians.

During the meeting, the parties reaffirmed their common desire to establish a Ukrainian Unity Hub in France, which was confirmed by signing a Joint Declaration.

In addition, the officials discussed key aspects:

- the future of temporary protection and the prospects for Ukrainians returning home;
- support mechanisms for Ukrainians in France, including access to healthcare and education, as well as simplification of the procedure for the recognition of Ukrainian driving licences;
- employment and social adaptation opportunities.

[Source](#)

## **MINISTRY OF NATIONAL UNITY: DECLARATION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNITY CENTRE IN SPAIN SIGNED**

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Unity of Ukraine Oleksiy Chernyshov and Minister for Inclusion, Social Protection and Migration of Spain Elma Saiz Delgado signed a declaration on the establishment of the Unity Centre in Spain.

“We have consolidated our common goal of providing comprehensive support to Ukrainians who have found refuge on Spanish soil. Currently, more than 220,000 of our citizens have received temporary protection here, and this Centre will be another step towards their social adaptation, integration and maintaining ties with their homeland. Spain is the third country with which we have signed a Joint Declaration on the establishment of the Centre for Unity of Ukraine. We continue to work together for the sake of our people,” the Deputy Prime Minister stressed.

[Source](#)

## **MINISTRY OF ECONOMY LAUNCHES SELECTION OF UKRAINIAN COMPANIES FOR BUSINESS FAIR AT UKRAINE RECOVERY CONFERENCE 2025 IN ROME**

The Ministry of Economy of Ukraine has announced an open call for private Ukrainian companies interested in showcasing their investment projects on the international stage. Selected companies will have the opportunity to participate in the Business Fair, which will take place as part of the Ukraine Recovery Conference (URC) on 10–11 July 2025 in Rome, Italy.

The Business Fair will be held in parallel with the main programme of the Conference. A total of 120 stands will be presented at the event, including 30 international companies, 30 Italian companies, 30 Ukrainian companies, and 30 stands representing Ukrainian regions.

“The Business Fair at URC2025 is a unique opportunity for Ukrainian businesses to present their potential to international partners and investors. Our goal is to showcase the most promising investment projects in priority sectors for Ukraine’s recovery, so that they may receive the necessary funding and move towards implementation,” noted First Deputy Minister of Economy of Ukraine Oleksii Sobolev.

[Ukrainian source](#)

## **UKRAINE TESTING A NEW DOMESTIC DEMINING MACHINE**

The Kramatorsk Heavy Machine Tool Building Plant has developed a remotely operated demining system — the Germina URCM-3000. The machine is capable of clearing up to 5 hectares per day and can withstand the detonation of an anti-tank mine. Currently, one of the humanitarian demining operators is testing the first prototype in trial mode. After the trial, the machine will undergo conformity certification.

“This machine is a good example of how the technical capabilities of a domestic manufacturer can be combined with the practical experience of Ukrainian sappers. I hope Germina successfully passes certification and becomes a Ukrainian-made demining machine with excellent performance. Over 60% of its components are produced in Ukraine. The speed with which it covered a 100-metre stretch today is impressive,” said Ihor Bezkaravainyi, Deputy Minister of Economy of Ukraine.

In the first half of this year, the Ukrainian Deminers Service (UDS) plans to receive five Germina machines from the Kramatorsk plant for humanitarian demining operations in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Mykolaiv, and Kherson regions.

[Ukrainian source](#)

## 3. PROCESS OF RECOVERY

### EU-UKRAINE BILATERAL MEETINGS ON SOCIAL POLICY AND EMPLOYMENT TOOK PLACE IN BRUSSELS

On 24 March, a bilateral meeting between representatives of Ukraine and the European Commission started in Brussels, Belgium, as part of the official screening of the compliance of Ukrainian legislation with EU law under Chapter 19 – Social Policy and Employment. Such meetings are part of the negotiation process of Ukraine's accession to the European Union.

The EU-Ukraine bilateral meetings on Chapter 19 – Social Policy and Employment will last for two days, 24 and 25 March. During the meetings, the Ukrainian delegation will present progress in the approximation of legislation to EU law and the next steps in the following areas:

- European system of social rights;
- Labour law;
- Health and safety in the workplace;
- Social dialogue;
- Employment policy;
- Social protection and social integration;
- European Social Fund;
- Non-discrimination in employment and social policy;
- Equality of women and men in employment and social policy.

The meetings will focus on the degree of approximation of social legislation covering minimum standards in labour law, equality, health and safety at work, and anti-discrimination.

[Source](#)



### MAJOR WINTER SUPPORT PROGRAMME HAS COVERED 14.4 MILLION UKRAINIANS.

*Denys Shmyhal*

14.4 million people have benefited from the Winter eSupport programme. This was announced by Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal at a meeting of the Cabinet on 25 March.

According to him, yesterday the Government completed the payment of UAH 1,000 to each person who needed this assistance. Ukrainians used the money to pay utility bills, buy Ukrainian medicines and make donations to support the Armed Forces.

According to Denys Shmyhal, this programme was the largest in the country's history.

[Source](#)  
[Ukrainian source](#)

### THE GOVERNMENT APPROVED THE LAUNCH OF A NEW PHASE OF THE EMERGENCY RECOVERY PROGRAM

The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine has approved the signing of a Grant Agreement, which will allow the launch of the fourth phase of the Emergency Recovery Program. The project is being implemented by the Ministry for Development of Communities and Territories together with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Similar Grant Agreements regulate the terms and conditions for the provision and use of funding. The very first agreement was signed back in March 2023. Since then, 3 phases of the Program have already been implemented. This has enabled a rapid response in various sectors: transport, energy, waste management, water supply, utilities, and healthcare.

A grant of 8.8 billion Japanese yen, which is about \$60 million, has been allocated for Phase 4. It

will implement 6 subprojects aimed at:

- supporting humanitarian demining;
- servicing energy infrastructure;
- restoring water supply systems;
- supporting public health and safety projects;
- provision of educational services;
- improvement of public infrastructure in the regions.

[Source](#)

## STATE AUDIT SERVICE OF UKRAINE TO APPLY FRENCH EXPERIENCE IN MONITORING UKRAINE FACILITY FUNDS

A five-day mission organised by the French agency for international technical cooperation, Expertise France, has concluded at the central office of the State Audit Service of Ukraine. The mission aimed to facilitate experience-sharing and enhance Ukraine's public financial control system.

The programme included daily meetings with the leadership of the State Audit Service, heads of its independent structural units and interregional territorial bodies, as well as representatives from the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine, and other institutions.

The parties exchanged best practices in public financial control, presented tools, methods and procedures for overseeing public procurement, and discussed topics such as the prevention of double financing and conflicts of interest. Participants also engaged in a case study comparing public procurement oversight in Ukraine and France.

As part of the mission, the French delegation also presented France's Recovery and Resilience Plan, including the reforms and public investment projects to be implemented with support from the EU's Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) in 2021–2026. This EU fund provides grants and loans to support reforms and investments across Member States.

[Ukrainian source](#)



**EOSELIA IS AN INVESTMENT IN THE ECONOMY: EVERY HRYVNIA  
INVESTED YIELDS UAH 2.6 IN RETURN.**

*Yuliia Svyrydenko*

The Government's eOselia concessional mortgage lending programme not only provides Ukrainians with access to affordable housing but also stimulates additional economic growth. eOselia has one of the highest multiplier effects among all Made in Ukraine programmes – every hryvnia invested generates UAH 2.6 in return. This was announced by the First Deputy Prime Minister – Minister of Economy of Ukraine Yuliia Svyrydenko during the First Forum on Affordable Mortgages in Ukraine.

«eOselia is one of the most popular initiatives under the Made in Ukraine policy. Thanks to the programme, construction output grew by 23% in the first nine months of 2024 compared to the same period in 2023. eOselia has possibly the highest multiplier effect of all Made in Ukraine programmes – for every hryvnia invested, the return is UAH 2.6. We also observe that eOselia contributes to the de-shadowing of the market – if a developer wants to participate in the programme, they must operate transparently,» said Yuliia Svyrydenko.

As a result, the construction sector has increased its contributions to the state budget. In the first half of 2024 alone, developers paid UAH 1.6 billion in taxes – 2.2 times more than in the same period of 2023.

[Ukrainian source](#)



## **57 TASKS OF THE NATIONAL MINE ACTION STRATEGY ARE BEING SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED – THE NATIONAL MINE ACTION AUTHORITY HELD ITS FIRST MEETING OF THE YEAR**

In 2024, 14 tasks under the Operational Plan for the implementation of the National Mine Action Strategy were fully completed. Another 43 tasks are ongoing and can only be considered completed by the end of 2026. These results were reported by Deputy Minister of Economy of Ukraine Ihor Bezkaravainyi during a meeting of the National Mine Action Authority.

«Together, over the past year, we have accomplished a significant amount of work, made possible through the joint efforts of the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Defence, the State Emergency Service, and other stakeholders identified in the Plan. But it is equally important that we are analysing which provisions of the National Strategy and the Operational Plan require updates and adjustments. In the near future, we will prepare the relevant amendments to these documents,» said Ihor Bezkaravainyi.

The members of the Authority also considered the use of innovative technologies in mine action. In particular, it was decided that the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Defence should jointly propose initiatives to expand opportunities for testing new developments, and also prepare a legal framework for the introduction of such innovations into operation.

[Ukrainian source](#)

## **“RAY OF HOPE” PROJECT: STRENGTHENING UKRAINE’S ENERGY RESILIENCE THROUGH THE UKRAINE ENERGY SUPPORT FUND**

On 27 March 2025, a delegation of high-ranking officials visited one of the sites of the “Ray of Hope” solar panel installation project — part of an initiative aimed at ensuring reliable electricity supply for healthcare facilities across Ukraine. The visit was led by Artur Lorkowski, Director of the Energy Community Secretariat; Katarína Matheriová, EU Ambassador to Ukraine; German Galushchenko, Minister of Energy of Ukraine; and Ihor Kopych, Deputy Minister of Health of Ukraine.

The initiative was launched in 2023 by the European Commission in cooperation with the Italian company Enel and is being implemented through the Ukraine Energy Support Fund. It forms part of broader efforts to enhance Ukraine’s energy resilience and introduce sustainable solutions for the operation of critical infrastructure. The EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) and Italy’s civil protection authorities provided support in coordinating and transporting the donated solar panels, ensuring their timely delivery to Ukraine.

The “Ray of Hope” initiative, implemented by the Energy Community Secretariat in close cooperation with the Ministry of Health of Ukraine and the Ministry of Energy of Ukraine, has significantly expanded. Initially covering 17 hospitals, by March 2025 the project had scaled up to over 100 medical facilities, with further expansion expected as new requests continue to arrive.

[Ukrainian source](#)

## **1,500+ EDUCATIONAL SPACES: THE LARGEST EDUCATION INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE IN UKRAINE**

The Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine is implementing the largest education infrastructure modernisation project in the country’s history. In 2024-2025, the Government allocated funding for the construction of underground school shelters, modern laboratories, vocational training workshops, upgraded school canteens, and dedicated «Defence of Ukraine» classrooms.

Construction and renovation of educational spaces will continue into 2026. In total, over 1,500 educational spaces will be built and modernised during this period. This is not merely restoration — it is a systemic transformation of education that includes both content-based reforms and infrastructure upgrades.

«Over the past two years, together with the Ministry of Education and Science, we have been transforming the education system. Our mission is to build a system capable of shaping skilled and fulfilled individuals for a new, innovative economy. One of the key pathways to achieving this mission is the largest-scale upgrade of educational infrastructure. Learning spaces are becoming

safer, more modern, and more technologically advanced. In frontline cities, underground schools have already been built; at the same time, we are upgrading vocational training workshops and classrooms for “Defence of Ukraine” lessons. All of these infrastructure improvements contribute to a new quality of education and create an enabling environment for children’s development,» said Mykhailo Fedorov, Deputy Prime Minister for Innovation, Education, Science and Technology Development and Minister of Digital Transformation.

[Ukrainian source](#)

## **SUPPORT FOR PROJECTS WITH SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENTS: GOVERNMENT APPROVES DUTY-FREE IMPORT OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE FIRST PROJECT**

The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine has approved the list of goods that Astarta Agro Protein LLC will be allowed to import into Ukraine duty-free. These goods include equipment and components for a deep soybean processing plant in Poltava region. The decision was made under the special investment agreement signed by the Government with Astarta in October 2024.

This type of state support is available to all enterprises that conclude a special investment agreement. Investors who invest at least EUR 12 million may receive up to 30% compensation of capital investments from the state. This includes reimbursement of costs for network connections and compensation for the construction of substations, power lines, gas pipelines, and other engineering and transport infrastructure. Additionally, the investor may recover a portion of the invested funds through tax relief.

“State support for investors making significant investments is already working. Last year, we signed two investment agreements, one of which was with Astarta — one of the largest food producers, including one of the biggest sugar producers in Ukraine and Europe. Currently, four more major investment projects are under review, and we are seeing growing interest from businesses in this programme. The approval for duty-free import of equipment for the Astarta Agro Protein plant is the first practical precedent confirming the effectiveness of this model. Such initiatives foster the development of the processing industry and create jobs. Ukraine must focus on developing domestic production and shifting from raw material exports to value-added processing,» – noted Vitaliy Kindrativ, Deputy Minister of Economy of Ukraine.

[Ukrainian source](#)

## **STATE PROGRAMME FOR COMPENSATION OF DEMINING COSTS: OPERATORS CLEAR OVER A THOUSAND HECTARES OF AGRICULTURAL LAND**

Operators have already returned more than 1,100 hectares of agricultural land to use under the state compensation programme for the demining of agricultural land. In particular, in March, the 434-hectare plot of the Institute of Potato Growing of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, where artillery shells and mines were discovered and removed, was handed over.

“Six months ago, the figure of 1,000 hectares cleared of mines sounded too ambitious. Today it is already a result. These are fields that are being sown with wheat and other crops right now. This is the future harvest, instead of the dangerous remnants of war. And, no less importantly, it is a component of food security not only for Ukraine but also for the world. The state has not only declared its interest in demining farmland, but has created a tool that allows us to return security to Ukrainian land metre by metre,» said Yuliia Svyrydenko, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy of Ukraine.

In total, since the start of the programme, auctions have been held for 56 applications covering more than 11,000 hectares. Work is ongoing under 40 concluded agreements covering an area of about 9,400 hectares.

Seven deals with a total value of UAH 52 million have been fully closed, and 1,102.9 hectares have been returned to use. These are three sites in Mykolaiv region (131.4 hectares), two sites in Kyiv region (921.9 hectares), Kherson region (21.1 hectares) and Kharkiv region (28.5 hectares).

[Source](#)

## PARLIAMENT ADOPTS DRAFT LAW TO ACCELERATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF MOBILE NETWORKS

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine has supported, in a repeated second reading, the revised draft law No. 9549, which simplifies the process for mobile network operators to lease land plots for the construction of mobile base stations. This will accelerate the expansion of 4G coverage along national and international highways, as well as in rural areas.

The changes will help to:

- Ensure access to mobile internet for residents of remote rural areas, and consequently, access to state online services.
- Expand 4G coverage along key roads. By simplifying procedures, connectivity will be established more quickly – which is vital for safety and the future development of tourism.
- Accelerate the restoration of connectivity in de-occupied territories. Operators will be able to obtain land for building new networks faster, and will be able to deploy temporary communication structures without the risk of them being dismantled.

[Ukrainian source](#)

## MORE THAN 400 COMMUNITIES JOIN THE “SIDE BY SIDE: UNITED COMMUNITIES” PROJECT

The national project “Side by Side: United Communities” continues to expand – over 400 communities from across Ukraine have already joined the initiative. The project aims to foster cooperation between rear communities and frontline stronghold communities to promote experience-sharing and the implementation of recovery projects.

“Since the first days of the full-scale war, communities have stood as pillars of support for one another. Today, this cooperation has grown into a large-scale programme for support and recovery.

Together, we have launched hundreds of initiatives that provide real help to people living under daily shelling and constant destruction. We have begun rebuilding destroyed housing, enhancing the energy resilience of border communities, organising events for children, and offering support to veterans and displaced persons.

The ‘Side by Side’ project demonstrates how communities can act in a coordinated and effective way – especially under the immense pressure of full-scale war,” said Deputy Prime Minister for Restoration – Minister for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine, Oleksii Kuleba.

[Ukrainian source](#)

## 4. RECOVERY – INTERVIEWS AND AUTHOR MATERIALS

### THE €300 BILLION QUESTION: WHAT ACTIONS SHOULD UKRAINE AND THE EU TAKE REGARDING FROZEN RUSSIAN ASSETS

*Column*

*European Pravda*

*Olena Halushka, Board Member at the Anti-Corruption Action Centre, Co-founder of the International Centre for Ukrainian Victory*

In her column, Olena Halushka analyses the prospects for using frozen Russian assets to support Ukraine's post-war recovery and to strengthen European security. She stresses that the key challenge is not only political will, but also timing: decisions on sanctions and asset utilisation must be taken in the near future.

The author cites the following figures: over €200 billion of the Russian Central Bank's assets are frozen in the EU, with €183 billion held by Belgium's Euroclear. The annual income generated from these assets is approximately €3 billion. "There are two options: either Europe helps Ukraine recover and strengthens European security, or it returns this money to Russia – where it will be spent on tanks, missiles, drones, repression, and propaganda," the author warns.

She also points out that the debate on whether Russia should pay reparations has already taken place: "The legal foundation for this decision is already in place. The 2022 UN General Assembly resolution recognises the need for Russia to compensate Ukraine for the damages caused."

Olena Halushka urges swift action, warning: "If Europe fails to decide on the use of these assets now, we may lose even the freezing of them by July."

In conclusion, the author argues that frozen Russian assets are a powerful tool of leverage and must be transformed into an instrument of just recovery.

[Ukrainian source](#)

### UNIVERSITY 3.0: THE ROLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION

*Column*

*Interfax-Ukraine*

*Vadym Popko, professor of the Department of Comparative and European Law of the Educational and Research Institute of the International Relations of Kyiv Taras Shevchenko National University*

In his column, the author analyses international examples in the field of higher education and emphasises that transforming Ukrainian universities into qualitatively new, modern higher education institutions that meet the «University 3.0» model will require significant efforts on the part of the state, particularly in the legislative sphere.

"Firstly, it is necessary to pursue the course of strengthening the administrative and financial autonomy of higher education institutions to ensure their «flexibility» in the conditions of the modern world.

Secondly, it is necessary to increase funding for research and innovation, as well as to introduce incentives for universities to scale up cooperation with businesses, local communities and society as a whole.

Thirdly, in cooperation with universities and businesses, develop mechanisms for commercialising research and creating university-based start-ups - from research to enterprise creation." Popko summarises.

In the context of state engagement, the author also stresses the importance of designating these areas as specific responsibilities for vice-rectors of higher education institutions. “This will ensure successful advocacy of the interests of universities, strengthen partnership with society, ensure that the priorities of higher education institutions are in line with national and regional development strategies,” he concludes.

[Source](#)