



REFORMS DELIVERY OFFICE
CABINET OF MINISTERS OF UKRAINE

UKRAINE RECOVERY DIGEST №94

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

01 – 07 JANUARY 2024

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1. INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUSINESS: 30 UKRAINIAN COMPANIES WILL RECEIVE GRANTS FROM EU4BUSINESS

Up to €25,000 for the development of their own business - the winners of the program will receive such grants from EU4Business. These are businesses that work on innovative products and services, or are actively expanding into exports. The total fund of grants is €750,000.

The winning companies are located in 12 regions of Ukraine. 27% of them were founded or headed by women. Scroll through the carousel and learn even more details about each business.

The grant wave took place within the framework of the «EU4Business: Recovery, Competitiveness and Internationalization of SMEs» program, which is co-financed by the European Union and the German Government and implemented by the German federal company Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

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

JAPAN TO GIVE UKRAINE BIOFUEL TECHNOLOGY TO SUPPORT RECONSTRUCTION

Japan plans to provide Ukraine with biofuel manufacturing technology to support reconstruction efforts. The plan will be presented at a meeting in Tokyo next month of officials from the two countries' public and private sectors to discuss support for Ukraine's recovery.

Tokyo expects the biofuel technology to create a new industry in Ukraine, an agricultural nation abundant in resources that can be used as fuel. It is expected that Japanese firms will agree to provide renewable energy production technology and related equipment at the Japan-Ukraine Conference for Promotion of Economic Reconstruction to be held Feb. 19.

[Source 1](#)
[Source 2](#)
[Source 3](#)

STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND CYBER DEFENCE: UKRAINE AND ROMANIA SIGN COOPERATION AGREEMENT

The Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine and the Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalisation of Romania have signed an agreement on the development of electronic communications and cooperation in the field of digitalisation and cyber defence.

The agreement will enable the exchange of experience between Ukrainian and Romanian specialists. It will also allow them to implement joint projects for the development of telecommunications infrastructure, digitalisation and cyber defence.

«We agreed on the first steps — increasing the stability of Ukrainian internet networks, developing 5G corridors between the borders of Ukraine and Romania, and Ukraine's participation in EU financial support programmes,» Mykhailo Fedorov, Minister of Digital Transformation. Fedorov added that Romania will also help restore the digital infrastructure damaged by the war.

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

THE FIRST MINI COMBINED HEAT AND POWER PLANT WAS INSTALLED IN UKRAINE AT THE EXPENSE OF THE US AS PART OF THE ENERGY SECURITY PROJECT

The first cogeneration unit in Ukraine, purchased with the funds of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) as part of the energy security project, was installed in Starokostiantyniv, Khmelnytskyi region. USAID is procuring a total of 91 cogeneration units for 32 cities in Ukraine and two universities.

The small- and medium-capacity cogeneration units procured and transferred to local communities by USAID ESP will allow DH companies to generate electricity for their own needs or sale to the grid, not only during the ongoing war but also after it ends.

Mini Combined Heat and Power plant will provide stable heat to more than one million residents and about 1,000 social facilities.

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

2. RECOVERY PLANS – OFFICIAL



**WE HAVE CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF THE SUBSEQUENT STEPS
IN THE EU ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS.**

Olha Stefanishyna

The Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Ukraine, Olha Stefanishyna, chaired a meeting with deputy ministers for European integration to discuss the implementation of the European Commission's recommendations presented in the Ukraine Progress Report on the 2023 EU Enlargement Package and organisational aspects of the negotiations on Ukraine's accession to the EU.

«In December 2023, the European Union decided to open negotiations with Ukraine on its accession to the EU. This event is, without exaggeration, a landmark in the history of our country and the future of the European Union. This is a great achievement, but there is still much work to be done. The further process of European integration will largely depend on the pace and quality of our implementation of the recommendations provided in the 2023 Enlargement Package. Based on the European Commission's assessment, we have prepared a draft Action Plan for the implementation of the relevant recommendations. This document will be updated on an annual basis, taking into account each new report of the European Commission,» the Deputy Prime Minister said.

The participants of the meeting discussed in detail the launch of the negotiation process regarding the accession of Ukraine to the EU. Olha Stefanishyna emphasized that the process will take place in parallel with the implementation of the recommendations of the European Commission.

More than 80 authorities were involved in the preparation of the Plan, and it is planned to approve it by a Government order in the near future.

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



**IN 2024, ONE OF THE KEY TASKS WILL BE TO DIRECT RUSSIAN ASSETS
FROZEN IN THE WEST TO UKRAINE'S RECOVERY.**

Denys Shmyhal

The Government will make every effort to ensure that those affected are able to repair their homes and, if necessary, buy new ones. This was emphasised by Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal.

“We have effective tools for this. In particular, the eVidnovlennia programme. Last year, the state paid UAH 2.2 billion to citizens for housing repairs. Now it is possible to use housing certificates to buy a property. This is an option for people whose homes have been completely destroyed,” said Denys Shmyhal, adding that this year Ukrainians will also be able to receive funds for repairs they have already carried out.

The Prime Minister stressed that Russia must pay for everything, including compensation for the damage caused to Ukraine. Therefore, one of the key tasks in 2024 will be to direct Russian assets frozen in the West to Ukraine's recovery.

[Source](#)

THE NEEDS FOR THIS YEAR ARE OVER USD 37 BILLION. WE COUNT ON RHYTHMIC, STABLE AND TIMELY ASSISTANCE FROM OUR PARTNERS, – DENYS SHMYHAL

USD 42.6 billion of external financing was attracted in 2023. Of these, 27% are grants. The leaders of support remain unchanged: the European Union, the United States, the IMF, Japan, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the World Bank.

At the same time, Ukraine is steadily increasing our its budget revenues, primarily customs and tax revenues

«Last year, the general fund of the state budget received more than UAH 1.1 trillion in taxes, duties and other payments. We are allocating all these funds for security and defence. This year, we plan to spend more than UAH 750 billion on payments to the military. More than UAH 265 billion will be spent on the purchase, production and repair of weapons», - said Prime Minister.

[Source](#)



TO PRESERVE EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES, THE GOVERNMENT PASSED EXTRAORDINARY DECISIONS AND IT WORKED.

Yuliia Svyrydenko

The Government of Ukraine predicts a 9% increase in exports of goods and services from Ukraine in 2024. This was stated by the First Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine, Minister of Economy Yuliia Svyrydenko.

«Logistics continues to be the key to Ukrainian exports. Despite all the problems and challenges, Ukraine exported 99.8 million tonnes of goods. This is 112,000 tonnes more than in 2022. At the same time, the value of exports was 18.7% lower than a year earlier - USD 35.8 billion. This is one of the lowest figures for the last decade. It was the result of the challenges Ukraine faced last year - border blockades, grain disputes and russia's sabotage of the grain deal. However, thanks to timely and correct decisions, we managed to preserve our export capabilities and continue trading on international markets. Although the losses are quite significant,» said Yuliia Svyrydenko.

The Government works to strengthen export logistics with air defence systems and to find new ways to export goods and services. This is the only way to ensure flexibility and manoeuvrability in the face of new challenges to maintain positive trends.

The Government signed a number of agreements that improve the access of our producers to foreign markets. These include a digital trade agreement with the UK, as well as updated agreements with Canada and Turkey. Both are now at the stage of ratification. And soon there will be an official announcement of the successful completion of negotiations with the UAE.

[Source](#)

THE PURPOSE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM OF CUSTOMS BODIES WITHIN THE NATIONAL STRATEGY IS TO INCREASE THEIR TRANSPARENCY AND EFFICIENCY, – MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Within the framework of the administrative reform of the State Customs Service, defined in the National Revenue Strategy for the institutional strengthening of customs authorities, the implementation of key measures is envisaged:

Anti-corruption measures: Implementation of the Anti-corruption program and certification of customs officials is planned. Implementation of body video cameras for video recording of goods control and interaction with citizens at the border.

Cooperation with the business sector: Development of the Help Desk for operational business support aimed at solving its issues. Business facilitation programs such as the Authorized Economic Operator and the NCTS system are expected to develop.

International cooperation: Strengthening the exchange of customs information and joint control at checkpoints.

Institutional development: Increase of salaries of customs officers, introduction of KPI system, improvement of personnel management through contracts and rotation.

IT development and technical equipment: Implementation of EU-compatible IT solutions, updating of the customs clearance system and implementation of modern technical means at checkpoints.

These measures are aimed at strengthening the effectiveness and transparency of customs administration in Ukraine.

[Ukrainian source](#)

UKRAINIAN STRATEGY FOR STATE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT WILL BE DEVELOPED TOGETHER WITH THE FRENCH STATE HOLDING AGENCY, – THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY

Representatives of the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine and the State Property Fund discussed with representatives of the French state program «mAIDan Ukraine» the preparation to develop a concept for centralizing the functions of the state property owner, i.e. a plan on how to effectively manage the state's assets.

“France has developed and effective approaches to managing state property, so its experience can help Ukraine create a better system of state asset management. The goal of our cooperation is to have a strategy for centralized management of state-owned enterprises”

- said Deputy Minister of Economy of Ukraine Oleksiy Sobolev.

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



DEVELOPMENT OF THE BORDER AND REFORM OF INTERNATIONAL PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION ARE PRIORITIES FOR 2024.

Serhiy Derkach

«During this year, we scaled the eCherha digital service to 16 checkpoints, and in conditions of border blockades, it remains an important tool for planning the time of carriers. The team of the Ministry is consistently working on the liberalization of freight transportation with the European Union and key partner countries.

The Strategy for the development of border infrastructure until 2030 was formed and the transfer of 23 checkpoints from the State Customs Service to the State Agency for Restoration and Infrastructure Development of Ukraine was ensured. It was also agreed to create a «Green Corridor» between «Reni-Giurgiuilesti-Galati» and the repair of the «Reni» crossing point for the launch of joint control was started.

Verification of international routes with 6 countries has been carried out – more than 400 new routes have been opened. In addition, the Register of international routes and the carrier's online office for opening and changing routes have already been developed, which will be presented next year.

The main results of the anti-corruption include the Anti-corruption program of the Ministry for 2023-2025, which includes 50 corruption risks and measures to minimize them,» the Deputy Minister stressed.

[Ukrainian source](#)

MONUMENTS DESTROYED DURING THE WAR WILL BE RESTORED AFTER THE VICTORY, THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE CREATED A NEW DEPARTMENT, – ROSTYSLAV KARANDIEIEV

Acting head of the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy (MCIP) Rostyslav Karandieiev said that the monuments of Ukraine damaged by shelling will be rebuilt after the war.

Karandiev emphasized that the issue of preserving cultural monuments was always on the agenda in the Ministry of Culture - and before the war. The department struggled with natural conditions that harm monuments, aging and sometimes an anthropogenic factor, when people neglected the value of certain objects. Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion of Russia, over 850 monuments have been destroyed. Some objects need to be preserved right now and emergency work to preserve the monument. Also, some monuments can be restored, if we are talking about minor damage: broken windows, doors, etc.

But in general, due to the danger of new destruction during the war, the restoration will be postponed to the post-war period, says the acting minister.

The Ministry of Culture has already created a department for the restoration and reintegration of de-occupied territories, and a personnel reserve is being formed to deal with reconstruction.

At the same time, there is a catastrophic lack of restorers inside the country, says Karandiev: some left Ukraine, some changed their profession or did not enter their sphere.

In order to solve this problem, the Ministry of Culture is opening new programs in universities that will train restoration specialists.

From next year, groups of Ukrainian students will go to Europe to study in the specialty «restoration» at the expense of grant programs.

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

THE NEW LABOR CODE AND CHANGING APPROACHES TO STATE PROCUREMENT: YULIIA SVYRYDENKO TELLS ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN CAPITAL IN 2024

The Ministry of Economy has prepared a draft of the new Labor Code. It will be discussed with all interested parties in January. This was reported by the First Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine - Minister of Economy of Ukraine Yuliia Svyrydenko. According to her, the new Labor Code is a reform that the Ukrainian labor market has been waiting for years

«The labor market in Ukraine still functions according to the Labor Code of 1971. Despite numerous changes, this document no longer meets the requirements of the times and slows down the development of the economy. The full-scale war only highlighted all the shortcomings, archaic and often harmful Soviet norms, which are more than half a century old. In the new labor legislation, we finally legalize various forms of employment: remote work, home work, non-fixed working hours. We digitize the collection of information about the employee. Paper work books will no longer be needed. We will fight against mobbing and many other things. Our goal is to create conditions so that those who want to work can do so without obstacles,» said Yuliia Svyrydenko.

In 2024, the Ministry of Economy also plans to reform approaches to state procurement, which will help combat structural unemployment. This is a type of personnel shortage, when there are many unemployed people, but at the same time the labor market needs completely different specialists. To solve this problem, state procurement in higher education institutions will be reduced to a minimum. Instead, Ukrainians will have the opportunity to receive a grant and get the desired profession.

[Ukrainian source](#)

3. RECOVERY PLANS – EXPERTS

FROM RESILIENCE TO GROWTH. HOW THE ECONOMY OF UKRAINE WILL DEVELOP IN WAR CONDITIONS

NV

Yuliia Svyrydenko, First Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine – Minister of Economy of Ukraine

Today, the future of the Ukrainian economy can be predicted only with significant «if», «on condition» and other assumptions of a political and security nature. In such a situation, it is easy to turn any optimism into speculation. The antidote to this is our experience of economic sustainability and self-renewal in war.

Ukraine entered 2023 with disappointing forecasts. After GDP fell by 29.1%, in April 2023, the World Bank worsened its forecast for expected growth - only 0.5%. But Ukrainian enterprises resumed work and created new jobs, power engineers repaired the damaged, utilities cleaned cities from rubble after shelling. So, by the end of 2023, we have growth in all key sectors: agriculture, industry, especially in mechanical engineering (plus 12.9%), positive dynamics are observed even in construction, which froze at the beginning of the invasion.

The help of partners played a significant role in this stability. From February 24, 2022 to November 1, 2023, more than \$67 billion was received in the budget. Thanks to this, it was possible to cover primary needs, social costs and maintain financial stability (one of the indicators of which is inflation, which has decreased to 3.8%).

Many risks can affect economic development, but we already have experience with many. The main task for 2024 is to interact with partners, support and build mutual trust, implement reforms, ensure accountability, etc. A striking example of the complexity of this work is the Ukraine Facility, which should start in 2024 and within which it is planned to receive funding in the amount of 18 billion euros.

[Ukrainian source](#)



**WE NEED TO PROTECT UKRAINIAN TERRITORY FROM AGGRESSORS,
FROM AMBITIONS TO DESTROY THE UKRAINIAN STATE AND NATION.**

Tomash Kopechny

*Radio Free
Serhiy Stetsenko, journalist*

Tomash Kopechny is the representative of the Czech government on the restoration of Ukraine. Currently, its strategic goals are humanitarian and military aid: reconstruction of hospitals and schools, assistance with coordination of military enterprises of Ukraine and the Czech Republic.

In the article, he identified a number of key aspects that emphasize the importance of recovery and cooperation in the context of the Ukrainian situation. One of the main elements is the partnership between the Czech Republic and Ukraine in the restoration of the economy and society. He notes the success of the integration of Ukrainian refugees into Czech companies, which indicates a positive contribution to solving employment problems in both countries.

An important element is also the appeal to the development of partnership in the sphere of

production and supply of weapons. This underscores the need not only for the military sector but also for economic cooperation that contributes to the prosperity of both countries. Kopechny also points to the importance of the duration of the conflict and the need for long-term strategies. He expresses confidence that assistance to Ukraine is mutually beneficial from an economic point of view for the Czech Republic, contributing not only to security but also to general well-being.

Tomas Kopechny emphasizes that partnership and support in recovery are key elements of the strategy, which not only contribute to the development of Ukraine, but also bring benefits to the Czech Republic through economic and socio-cultural integration.

[Ukrainian source](#)

CITIES FOR PEOPLE. HOW TO FINANCE PROJECTS OF CITIES AND COMMUNITIES THAT WILL RETURN MILLIONS OF UKRAINIANS HOME

NV

Mykhailo Medko, Member of the Management Board of Ukreximbank

Reconstruction of infrastructure is a priority for cities and communities affected by Russian aggression. Today, the vision of infrastructure restoration sets an ambitious goal – build back better. The heads of cities, villages and united territorial communities (UTC) realize that, firstly, inclusive durable and high-quality infrastructure is needed already today, because it depends on the readiness of Ukrainians to return home, and, accordingly, the restart of economic activity in the community. Secondly, irreversible financing of such projects, for example, at the expense of frozen assets of the Russian Federation abroad, is unrealistic in the short- or medium-term perspective.

State Ukreximbank, the government's agent bank, will play a key role and has ambitions to become the main bank of the country in working with municipalities. Ukreximbank's constant dialogue with international partners allows for a balanced assessment of the prospects and currently available sources of financing for Ukrainian reconstruction.

Ukreximbank sees the great potential of small communities. Ukreximbank's implemented projects with small communities and cases of lending to communal enterprises that work in UTC, created on the basis of villages, convince of the perspective of such cooperation. The reliability of this sector is confirmed by the fact that many communities paid off their loans during the war. Even communities in the central part of Ukraine, in the south and closer to the east, paid off their loans early.

For the development of this sector, Ukreximbank created a global project – the Cities for People platform for financial and project teams of communities (based on the bank with the involvement of representatives of the Ministry of Finance, MFIs, etc.), so that specialists on the ground clearly understand the algorithms of financial products.

[Ukrainian source](#)

facebook.com



RESTORATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF UKRAINIAN CITIES SHOULD TAKE PLACE ACCORDING TO SMART SUSTAINABLE CITY PRINCIPLES – CEO ZEZMAN HOLDING

Interfax Ukraine
Oksana Hryshyna, journalist

“To win the competition for Ukrainians, it is not enough to ensure basic security. Today, agglomerations and megacities, developing according to the principles of Smart Sustainable City, are able to compete with individual states to attract talented and economically active residents from all over the world. We must create such points of development,” Boris Goldenstein, founder and CEO of Zezman Holding said.

The proposed formula for transforming Ukrainian cities includes four steps.

First of all, it is necessary to study, adapt and implement successful global practices and approaches of Smart Sustainable City. For more than 20 years, sustainable cities have achieved significant changes, which, according to experts, Ukraine will be able to reproduce in five to seven years. The same applies to the use of international standards aimed at improving the quality of life of people. Ukraine does not need decades to find its path of sustainable development - international institutions have already developed dozens of ISO standards and even KPIs for cities and their leaders

The transformation of Ukrainian cities into sustainable ones requires a complex approach and joint efforts of society, government and business and is possible only under effective partnership. Adapting and implementing the best international practices today, we are accelerating the recovery and prosperity of Ukraine.

[Source](#)

WILL THE KAKHOVKA HYDROELECTRIC POWER PLANT (HPP) BE REBUILT AND IS IT WORTH DOING?

ThePage
Olena Cherkasets, journalist

The Ukrainian government plans to restore the Kakhovka hydroelectric power station within two years and in July 2023 approved a resolution on an experimental project on reconstruction. The main idea was to develop engineering solutions and create a basis for future work. However, some experts claim that the restoration of the Kakhovka hydroelectric station after the liberation will take at least 6 years, and its cost, according to preliminary estimates, may reach more than \$1 billion.

The opinions of experts have traditionally been divided into two conventional camps: some support the idea of reconstruction, others give arguments for the inexpediency of rebuilding the hydroelectric power plant. In the article, experts express contrasting points of view, determined by various aspects, such as economics, agriculture, technological development, and relations with the environment.

Opinions of the opponents of restoration collected the following foci of attention, such as the historical context, the need for reorientation, artesian wells as an alternative.

The views of the supporters of restoration focused on the importance for water supply, the need for the development of the energy system, economic and technological development, importance for agriculture.

The article demonstrates a variety of points of view on the problem of restoration of the Kakhovka HPP and the use of the Kakhovka reservoir. Solving this problem requires a balanced approach that takes into account the economic, social and environmental aspects of the development of the region. It is important to conduct a thorough analysis of the impact of the decision on various areas and carry out strategic planning to achieve balanced development. Solving this problem requires a balanced approach that takes into account the economic, social and environmental aspects of the development of the region. It is important to conduct a thorough analysis of the impact of the decision on various areas and carry out strategic planning in order to achieve balanced development.

[Ukrainian source](#)

5 TIPS ON HOW TO RESTORE THE ENVIRONMENT IN UKRAINE AFTER THE WAR, - WORLD WILDLIFE FUND

Voice of America

According to the World Wildlife Fund, during the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, at least 812 objects of the nature reserve fund with an area of 0.9 million hectares were affected.

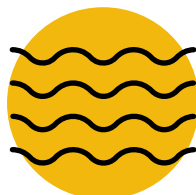
2.9 million hectares of the territories of the Smaragdova merezha are under threat of destruction.

There are 17 wetlands of international importance with unique biodiversity in the risk zone. 514 objects of the nature reserve fund of 0.80 million hectares remain occupied.

After the climate conference last December, the Foundation's researchers published recommendations on what Ukraine and its partners can do to restore the environment. They cover the following areas:



Investments
in planting
forests



Investments in the
preservation of river
basins



Agriculture in
swamps



Intersectoral
cooperation



A plan for the
future

[Ukrainian source](#)

HOW TO RESTORE THE PROTECTED STEPPES OF SOUTHERN UKRAINE?

Hmarochos
Yulia Boychenko, journalist

Ukrainian nature, after the war period, faces the challenge of recovery, which, according to ecologists, may take decades. However, exactly how this process will take place remains a difficult question. Rewilding, or «restoration» in a sense that involves helping nature to regenerate itself, can play a key role in this process. The organization Rewilding Ukraine already has experience in the restoration of protected nature in the Odesa region, especially in the Tarutyn steppe, which was previously used as a military training ground.

The organization is working to restore steppe flora and fauna, including fallow deer, kulans, hamsters, and marmots, which previously inhabited this area. Reintroducing animals to their natural environment contributes to biodiversity and ecosystem stabilization, as well as reducing the risk of wildfires. The innovative approach of the organization is to attract species that previously existed in the area in order to increase the efficiency of restoration.

Executive Director of Rewilding Ukraine expresses faith in the possibility of restoring nature on the Kinburn Spit after de-occupation, stressing that nature can quickly recover, provided that the de-occupation is completed quickly. Using the experience of Rewilding Ukraine to support the process of restoring nature on the Kinburn spit is seen as an opportunity to speed up this process and improve the state of wildlife in the region.

[Ukrainian source](#)

4. PROCESS OF RECOVERY

STRATEGY FOR THERMAL MODERNISATION OF BUILDINGS IN UKRAINE UNTIL 2050 APPROVED

The Strategy sets out a long-term plan for the gradual renovation of Ukraine's building stock, taking into account energy-saving technologies. This is necessary to reduce energy consumption, as buildings consume the most energy. The implementation of comprehensive thermal modernisation will have a downward impact on utility bills. The strategy was developed by the Ministry for Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development of Ukraine together with its partners.

“Our task is not only to rebuild Ukraine, but also to modernise it. Improving energy efficiency is one of the steps towards this. It is also one of the priorities of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union. Using the world's best energy-saving practices, such as thermal modernisation, will allow Ukraine to reduce energy costs.

In the context of the war and attacks by the Russian occupiers on critical infrastructure facilities, we need to look for solutions that will allow us to support Ukraine's energy system, use energy efficiently and respond more quickly in possible crisis situations,” commented Oleksandr Kubrakov, Deputy Prime Minister for Restoration of Ukraine and Minister for Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development.

[Source](#)

GOVERNMENT IMPROVES PROCEDURE FOR IMPORTING EQUIPMENT AND COMPONENTS FOR INVESTMENT PROJECTS WITH SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENTS

The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine has improved the Procedure for the import into the customs territory of Ukraine and the intended use of new equipment and components imported by investors for their own use in the implementation of an investment project with significant investments. The relevant decision was made at a Government meeting on 3 January.

“The reconstruction of Ukraine is impossible without attracting funds from private investors. Therefore, one of the areas of work is to attract projects with significant investments in the real sector of the economy. This year, UAH 3 billion has been allocated in the budget to support them. The funds will be provided to investors who focus on production facilities for the manufacture of high value-added products. The Government's amendments to the Procedure for the import of equipment and components should make it easier to start implementing projects with significant investments. This should be a signal to investors who are already preparing to start working in Ukraine,” said Deputy Minister of Economy of Ukraine Volodymyr Kuzio.

[Source](#)



STATE WILL PAY PENSIONS AND BENEFITS ON TIME IN 2024.

Denys Shmyhal

On 1 January the minimum wage in Ukraine increased by 6% from UAH 6,700 to UAH 7,100. A further increase is planned for the spring. This was announced by Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal. In addition, the subsistence minimum has risen by an average of 12% to UAH 2,920.

“The minimum pension in Ukraine has increased from UAH 2,093 to UAH 2,361. We plan to index pensions from 1 March. Last year the state demonstrated exemplary fulfillment of social obligations. In the structure of consolidated budget expenditures, social payments accounted for more than 12%,” the Head of Government noted.

The Prime Minister stressed that the social sphere would also be a priority this year. According to him, pensions and benefits will be paid on time.

[Source](#)

EROBOTA: GOVERNMENT HAS INVESTED UAH 6.5 BILLION IN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT THROUGH GRANTS

Over the year and a half since the launch of the Government's eRobota grant programme, the state has invested UAH 6.5 billion in small and medium-sized business development through grants.

«More than 11,000 Ukrainians have already received financial support from the state in the form of grants to start or expand their business under the eRobota initiative. In total, the state has invested UAH 6.5 billion in entrepreneurship development through grants over the past year and a half. Thousands of new small and medium-sized companies have been established, while existing ones have managed to increase production volumes, master new areas and launch new types of products. In addition, it is also more than 35,000 new jobs for our citizens. In 2024, we are significantly increasing the amount of funding for grant programmes for business development - we have allocated about UAH 9 billion for this purpose,» said Yuliia Svyrydenko.

In total, since the launch of the eRobota project in July 2022:

- 10,049 microgrants worth UAH 2.4 billion have been issued under the «Own Business» programme
- 660 grants worth UAH 3.3 billion - for the development of processing enterprises;
- 157 grants totalling UAH 706 million - for gardening and greenhouse development;
- 171 grants worth UAH 65 million - to veterans and their families.

[Source](#)



FIRST FAMILY TO BUY A HOUSE WITH A HOUSING CERTIFICATE.

Oleksandr Kubrakov

The first Ukrainian family, whose home was destroyed as a result of Russian aggression, purchased a house under the eRestoration program. A family from Gostomel has chosen a house in Bucha, Kyiv region, and plans to move to a new home within the next month.

In total 1826 housing certificates have been issued to pay compensation for completely destroyed housing. certificates. Of these, more than 400 families have already reserved funds to buy new housing. This means that they have decided on a new property and are ready to conclude purchase and sale agreements

[Ukrainian source](#)

«EVIDNOVLENNIA» (ERESTORATION): FROM JANUARY 1, COMPENSATION PAYMENTS FOR ALREADY MADE REPAIRS BEGIN

Ukrainians who repaired damaged housing at their own expense will be able to claim compensation. Payments will begin on January 1, 2024.

At the same time, the mechanism will be the same as for other categories of the «eVidnovlennia» program:

- submission of an application through «Diia»;
- examination of the application by the commission;
- determining the size of the payment.

When determining the amount of compensation, the commission is guided by the report of the initial inspection of the damaged housing and the checklist with the established cost of building materials and works, approved by the Cabinet of Ministers.

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



MORE THAN 32,000 APPLICANTS HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED COMPENSATION FOR DAMAGED HOUSING.

Olena Shulyak

So far, Ukrainians have filed 65,844 applications for housing damaged as a result of the hostilities, of which 32,608 have already received compensation. This was announced by Olena Shulyak, the Head of the Servant of the People Party, Head of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on State Building, Local Self-Government, Regional Development and Urban Planning. «As of January 3, 2024, we have received 8,113 applications for compensation for destroyed housing, while almost half of them - 3,732 applications - have already been processed. According to the results, 1,844 housing certificates were created,» Shulyak said.

[Ukrainian source](#)

THE AMOUNT OF FORMED HOUSING CERTIFICATES IS NOW ALMOST 3.4 BILLION, – OLENA SHULIAK

«The total amount of certificates issued as of January 3 is almost 3.4 million hryvnias. The average amount of one housing certificate is 2 million hryvnias. The amount of agreed payments for damaged housing is currently almost 3.8 billion hryvnias. Moreover, almost 3 billion of them have already been paid. The average amount of one agreed payment at this stage is UAH 102,000. But we must understand that the damage and its degree can be completely different, «said Olena Shulyak, Head of the Servant of the People Party, Head of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on State Building, Local Self-Government, Regional Development and Urban Planning.

[Ukrainian source](#)

6 MILLION UKRAINIANS ARE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF DIGITAL SKILLS: THE MINISTRY OF DIGITAL HAS ACHIEVED THE GOAL

In 2019, the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine identified one of the strategic goals of attracting 6 million citizens to digital literacy programs. The expected result is improved digital skills of Ukrainians and increased use of online tools for both work and personal development. For the first time in the history of Ukraine, digital literacy has become a priority of the state. Therefore, the Concept for the development of digital literacy at the general and regional levels was approved and the European framework DigiComp 2.1 and 2.2 was adapted.

Minister of Digital Transformation Mykhailo Fedorov said: «The goal of more than 6 million has been achieved.» According to the results of a sociological study, almost 60% of Ukrainians have basic and advanced digital skills – their share increased by 12.6% in four years and now reaches the EU countries' indicators (53.84% of the population of EU countries as of 2021). These indicators are indicated in Digital Decade (a document defining the vision of the EU digital development until 2030).

[Ukrainian source](#)

IN 2023, UKRAINE INCREASED EXPORTS OF FURNITURE AND SUGAR, AND IMPORTED MAINLY FUEL, MEDICINES AND UAVS

According to the 2023 results, Ukraine's exports increased and amounted to almost 100 million tonnes of goods. This is 112,000 tonnes more than in 2022. However, the value of exports fell by 18.7%, or USD 35.8 billion. This is due to a number of factors, in particular, problems in logistics.

Positive dynamics are observed in the furniture industry, where volumes and cash receipts have increased. It is also worth noting the significant increase in sugar exports. Most of the export goods brought less revenue, especially the most popular - corn.

“Last year, export revenues reached one of the lowest levels in the last decade. This is an expected

and objective result, which was the result of logistics problems. We are now slowly resolving them. We have launched an alternative corridor in the Black Sea, are developing river transport on the Danube, and are continuing negotiations with the Polish side to unblock the border. Thanks to this, in December, for the first time in the second half of the year, we exported goods worth more than USD 3 billion. In December, we also exported more than 10 million tonnes for the first time since March,” said Yuliia Svyrydenko, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy of Ukraine.

[Source](#)



THANKS TO THE WORK OF THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY FUND, ALMOST 17 THOUSAND FAMILIES HAVE ALREADY BEEN ABLE TO RETURN HOME IN 2023.

Yehor Fareniuk

«After the start of a full-scale war, the Fund was somewhat transformed - amendments to a number of laws made it possible to expand the scope of activities. In particular, to help condominiums whose houses were damaged by enemy shelling.

For a year now, we have been implementing the «VidnovyDIM» Program — a mechanism that allows us to support active people who have joined together in condominiums. We provide them with grants to repair houses that do not have significant damage. We pay a lot of attention to the issue of reducing corruption risks — we have prescribed clear requirements for construction companies and contractors hired by condominiums. All of them go through the compliance procedure.

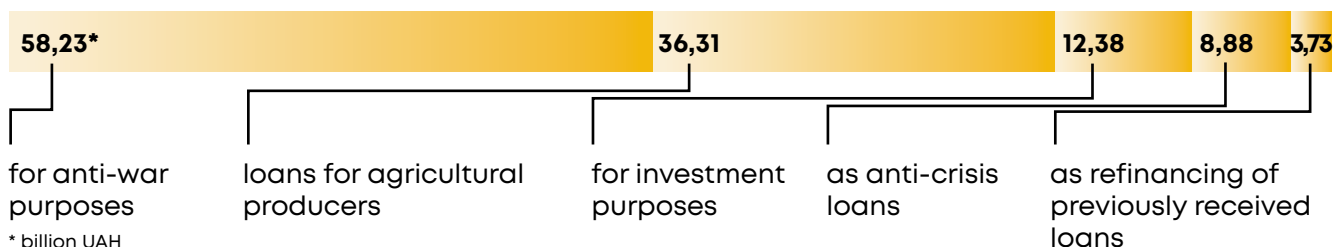
At the same time, the core of our activities remains the «Energodim» Program, which we administer together with IFC. Currently, we have over 300 fully or partially completed projects. During the martial law, 800 million hryvnias of grants were paid to our beneficiaries - condominiums, which, even in such a difficult time, strive to thermally modernize their houses. The new version of package «A» allows them to quickly upgrade the heating system and save 20-25% of energy, «said Yehor Fareniuk.

[Ukrainian source](#)

IN 2023, ENTREPRENEURS RECEIVED 23,973 AFFORDABLE LOANS WORTH UAH 97.2 BILLION, – MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Since the start of the State Program «Affordable Loans 5-7-9%», business entities have received 78,964 loans from authorized banks for a total amount of UAH 266.9 billion, of which 53,509 are from banks of the state sector of the economy for a total amount of UAH 117 billion UAH (as of January 1, 2024).

During the martial law in Ukraine, within the framework of the State Program «Affordable Loans 5-7-9%,» 44,142 loan agreements were concluded for a total amount of UAH 177.2 billion (including 33,033 loans by public sector banks in the amount of UAH 99.3 billion), of which:



In the last week of last year, within the framework of the Program, 661 concessional loans were issued for a total amount of UAH 3.7 billion, including 496 loans worth UAH 2.3 billion by banks of the public sector of the economy.

In 2023, entrepreneurs received 23,973 affordable loans worth 97.2 billion hryvnias.

[Ukrainian source](#)

UKRAINE EXPORTED A RECORD 672 THOUSAND TONS OF SUNFLOWER OIL IN DECEMBER 2023

Ukraine exported almost 672 thousand tons of sunflower oil in December of the 2023-2024 marketing year (MY), which exceeded the November figure by 25% and became the maximum monthly volume of shipments since January 2022, the information and analytical agency APK-Inform reported. According to the report, this figure was the second highest for December in the history of export of Ukrainian sunflower oil. The main importers of Ukrainian sunflower oil in December 2023 were Romania and Turkey - about 25% and 12%, respectively.

[Ukrainian sources](#)
[Source](#)



FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC EQUIPMENT, ONE MILLION TONNES OF GRAIN AND 18,000 SQ KM OF SAFE TERRITORIES IN ONE YEAR.

Yuliia Svyrydenko reports on results of demining

According to Yuliia Svyrydenko, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy of Ukraine, while 174,000 km² of Ukrainian territory was considered potentially dangerous at the beginning of 2023, today, as a result of mine action, 156,000 km² remain so. That is, 18,000 km² of fields, forests, and water areas have been returned to people's use thanks to the work of specialists. Thanks to the strengthening of the capacities of government institutions and an increase in the number of operators, the survey and clearance of areas has accelerated throughout the year.

Over the past year, deminers of the State Emergency Service, the State Special Transport Service and private operators have inspected 274,000 hectares of agricultural land, which is 58% of the four-year plan. 208,000 hectares of these lands have already been transferred to farmers.

According to the First Deputy Prime Minister, there is still a lot of work to be done. The goal is to return 80% of potentially mined areas to use within 10 years. In 2023, important steps were taken to achieve this goal:

The National Mine Action Strategy, the main document that will define the directions of policy development and implementation in this area, has been developed and is at the final stage of approval. It is planned to develop proposals for updating the Law "On mine action in Ukraine".

Work is ongoing to create a market for demining services. For 2024, UAH 3 billion has been allocated in the state budget to compensate farmers who will purchase services to clear their fields from mine action operators. The compensation programme will be launched this year.

The production of domestic demining equipment is developing. Ukrainian producers have developed and started manufacturing machines to prepare the soil for demining. The first machines are already in operation in the fields of Kharkiv region. Domestic enterprises are mastering and scaling up the production of vehicles for transporting explosives, other special equipment, and domestic mine detectors.

Ukraine attracts and uses innovative approaches. For example, algorithms for mapping contaminated land, including the use of satellite imagery. It also uses drones, state-of-the-art technical devices, and artificial intelligence.

[Source](#)

UKRAINIAN HOSPITALS ARE EQUIPPED WITH MORE THAN 10,000 GENERATORS IN CASE OF EMERGENCY BLACKOUTS

Energy infrastructure facilities are under constant threat of Russian shelling. The Ministry of Health of Ukraine together with partners continue to equip medical facilities with generators to make them more resistant to possible power outages. Now Ukrainian hospitals have 10,413 generators for uninterrupted operation. They will work in critical situations and supply voltage to the network. Thanks to autonomous power sources, intensive care units and operating rooms will function in

medical institutions, and doctors will be able to continue to save patients. The Ministry of Health of Ukraine expresses gratitude to all partners who have joined the provision of medical institutions with generators. Such cooperation has allowed hospitals to provide medical services even under extreme conditions.

Ukrainian sources
Source