



**European Committee
of the Regions**



4th Meeting of the Working Group on Ukraine

extended to the Conference of Presidents (CoP)

24.02.2023 | Gdańsk (Poland)

Follow-up to CoR CoP, 7 February 2023
WG Ukraine meeting extended to CoP,
Gdańsk, 24 February 2023

THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS AND UKRAINE

Perspectives for 2023

This document intends to present a consolidated view about some of the actions that the European Committee of the Regions is planning to take towards Ukraine considering the double perspective that presides over its relationship with this country:

I - One related to the fact that Ukraine is at war fighting Putin's aggression.

II - The other one concerning the fact that it is a candidate country to accession to the European Union.

I – Ukraine - a European Country at War

Taking into account the much-needed support to **Ukraine**, the below **tailor-made measures specifically for Ukrainian LRAs** and other partners could be considered to form a "support package", embodying the CoR concrete support to Ukraine in its fight for freedom for 2023 and solidarity action.

Solidarity measures with a country at war & sustainable reconstruction efforts

- organising a second round of **summer camps** for Ukrainian children to come to EU member states in 2023; developing a cooperation with UNICEF focused on the welcoming of displaced children (incl. Ukrainians) in EU cities and regions;
- offering **space** for Ukrainian LRAs in the CoR premises: office spaces, exhibition area, conference rooms;
- Green deal and sustainable reconstruction: support to Ukrainian cities in developing their strategy for climate neutrality, and facilitation of the twinning with EU 100 cities missions, in the framework of the **Horizon Europe** call for proposal for Associating Ukrainian cities to the Climate-neutral and smart cities Mission;
- Pursuing the work of the **Alliance of Cities and Regions for the Reconstruction of Ukraine**.

II – Ukraine - a future member state of the European Union

The initiatives and actions that are mentioned under this title are not exclusive to Ukraine.

In fact, as a candidate country, Ukraine shares this position with seven more countries, so the initiatives presented here are to be extended to all candidate countries.

On the occasion of the CoR Working Group on Ukraine meeting in Gdańsk, there's a special reference to Ukraine although they are planned to be extended to all candidate countries.

Capacity-building measures

- Granting "**pre-observer**" **invitations** for Ukraine (and other candidate countries) LRA representatives, who could sit in some plenary sessions to get acquainted with CoR processes and network;
- Enlargement of the **Young Elected Politicians** programme (YEPs) to Ukrainian young leaders
- **training programmes** for local and regional officials (with financial support to be explored, potentially from the European Commission within existing "Natolin 4 Capacity-building" programme, TAIEX, building up on the CoR call for an EaP academy for public administration); short-term study visits, **traineeships**/internships and visitors' programmes;
- **Seconded-national-expert-like programme**, for Ukrainian line ministry staff, as well as civil servants from local and regional authorities, who could be seconded to the CoR;
- new **peer-to-peer capacity building measures**, in cooperation with EUACI programme with focus on transparency (under Integrity Cities Initiative), which would require financial and operational support from the EC and implementing agencies to be revived;
- Laying the ground for the launch of a **Joint Consultative Committee with Ukraine**, upon request of the Ukrainian government and providing an official declaration of the Association Councils between the Council of the European Union and Ukraine.



European Committee of the Regions

The European Committee of the Regions (CoR) is the EU's political assembly of 329 regional and local representatives from all 27 Member States. Our members are elected presidents of regions, regional councillors, mayors and local councillors - democratically accountable to more than 446 million European citizens. The CoR's main objectives are to involve regional and local authorities and the communities they represent in the EU's decision-making process and to inform them about EU policies. The European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council have to consult the Committee in policy areas affecting regions and cities. It can appeal to the Court of Justice of the European Union as a means of upholding EU law where there are breaches to the subsidiarity principle or failures to respect regional or local authorities.

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February 2023 – CoR 4890



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