

Round table: United for Ukraine Co-operation mechanisms of local and regional authorities in times of war

6 July 2022, 14.00-17.00 (CEST)

[Zoom platform link](#)

Zoom ID: 820 8871 5919; Passcode: 722632

CONTEXT

In times of the current Russian Federation aggression, local and regional authorities of Ukraine have a huge responsibility in preserving a democratic culture based on human rights and the rule of law. They found themselves at the frontline protecting their citizens and providing essential services during horrendous humanitarian crisis. Almost five million people have become refugees and over seven million have been displaced within Ukraine. The consequences of war and humanitarian crises create daily challenges for local authorities, in particular in the provision of safety, food, accommodation, shelter and medical care.

In order to support local authorities in their efforts to protect citizens and provide basic services, the event will promote peer-exchanges and showcase examples of good practice at national level between Ukrainian municipalities, as well as internationally with other European communities. The multi-level governance discussions would allow Ukrainian local elected representatives to highlight challenges they face and voice their needs so that they are considered in the current legislative developments.

In this view, the Congress is organising, jointly with the Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC) and the City of Sindelfingen, Germany, the round table discussion on the functioning of local authorities in the war times, the challenges they face as consequence of war and the ways to rebuild democracy and resilience at local level. By bringing together mayors from Ukraine and other European countries, with the active participation of Ukrainian central authorities, the round table seeks to highlight successful co-operation mechanisms and enlarge the scope of support and solidarity with Ukrainian municipalities, in particular under the [cities4cities](#) platform. The event will also foster the development of closer partnership and co-operation between cities.

Interpretation will be provided for Ukrainian, German and English languages.

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (the Congress) unanimously adopted the [Declaration](#) on the Russian Federation's war against Ukraine. Recognising the key role of local authorities and their national associations, the Congress provides continuous political support and took steps to convert political support to concrete operational activities. [Joint Declaration](#) was signed between the Congress and the AUC on 2 June 2022, calling for the reconstruction of Ukrainian communities and the restoration of the functioning of local authorities in line with the [European Charter of Local Self-Government](#).

This event is organised as part of the project "Strengthening local democratic governance in Ukraine" implemented by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities within the Priority Adjustments to the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine 2018-2022. The project aims at rebuilding capacities of local authorities and their national associations to address unprecedented humanitarian, social, economic and environmental challenges they face as a consequence of war, to reconstruct democracy and rebuild resilience at local level, as well as to implement post-war recovery measures in Ukraine.

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PROGRAMME

Moderator: *Andrii KULYKOV, journalist*

14:00 – 14:15 Opening and introductory remarks

Leendert VERBEEK, President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

Kyrylo TYMOSHENKO, Deputy Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine

Steen NØRLOV, Head of the Council of Europe Office in Ukraine, Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on the co-ordination of co-operation programmes of the Council of Europe

14:15 – 15:15 Wartime democracy: strengthening multilevel governance and partnership between central and local authorities

Viacheslav NEHODA, Deputy Minister for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine

Vitalii BEZHIN, Member of the Parliament of Ukraine, Committee on Organization of state power, local self-government, regional development and urban planning of the Parliament of Ukraine

Viacheslav CHAUS, Head of the Chernihiv Regional State Administration

Oleksandr SLOBOZHAN, Executive Director of the AUC

Andreas KIEFER, Secretary General of the Congress

Open discussion

By highlighting the necessity for dialogue and synchronisation of efforts in war time and post-war reconstruction, representatives of central authorities will share their vision for effective co-ordination and partnership with local authorities.

15:15 – 15:50 Solidarity in times of war: the role and co-operation of Ukrainian local authorities

Volodymyr MOSKALENKO, Mayor of Korosten, Zhytomyr oblast

Yurii FOMICHEV, Mayor of Slavutych, Kyiv oblast

Andrii DRANCHUK, Mayor of Khotyn, Chernivtsi region

Viktor KLIMINSKYI, Secretary of Zhytomyr City Council

Serhii MAZUR, Mayor of Balta, Odesa region

Open discussion

Mayors will share their testimonies on addressing the needs of local communities, as well as the challenges they face in ensuring the sustainable provision of services in times of crisis.

Panellists and participants will discuss different policies and measures that allow for better integration of internally displaced persons, as well as modalities to develop and improve inter-municipal co-operation to address the most urgent humanitarian, social and economic issues, in view of enhancing the resilience of local communities.

15:50 – 16:50 European partnerships and co-operation

Bernd VÖHRINGER, President of the Congress Chamber of Local Authorities, Mayor of Sindelfingen, Germany

Anatolii FEDORUK, Mayor of Bucha, Kyiv oblast, Ukraine

Joana BALSEMÃO, Councillor for Environment, Citizenship, and SDG's, Cascais, Portugal

Oleksandr SIENKEVYCH, Mayor of Mykolaiv, Ukraine

Claudia SCHÜTZ, Office for International Relations, City of Dortmund, Germany

Mykola BOROVETS, Mayor of Novohrad-Volynskyi, Ukraine

Oleksandr LYSENKO, Mayor of Sumy, Ukraine

Open discussion with the contribution of European associations and networks of local and regional authorities

By matching the demands and needs of Ukrainian cities with the capacity, know-how and supply of other European cities participants will exchange views and ideas on how to enhance partnerships and co-operation to address the daily challenges of citizens.

Mayors from Ukraine and other European cities will provide their feedback and lessons learned on new co-operation models and support. They will explore ways to foster sustainable partnerships, also through the Cities4Cities platform.

16:50 – 17:00

Conclusions and way forward

Andreas KIEFER, Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

Oleksandr SLOBOZHAN, Executive Director of the Association of Ukrainian Cities