



## **Recommendations for strengthening the role of Local and Regional Authorities in Ukraine's Recovery and Reconstruction Process and on their road to EU membership**

The Committee of the Regions on behalf of the European Alliance of Cities and Regions for the Reconstruction of Ukraine, as well as of the workshop partners and participants, condemning Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, supporting Ukraine in its self-defense and its way to the membership in the EU, recommends to the London URC 2023 the following:

1. Encourage dynamising the decentralisation reform and reflect it in the overall architecture of Ukraine's recovery, reconstruction and on the road to EU membership;
2. Clarify and delineate the powers, tasks and responsibilities assigned to different levels of government, based on the subsidiarity principle and on good multi-level governance;
3. Restore functional and efficient local self-government, where justified by security situation in de-occupied territories, and support efforts to strengthen the resilience and effectiveness of municipalities and territorial communities throughout Ukraine;
4. Support fiscal decentralisation and revenue mobilisation capacity of Local Self Governments, as an essential element of any multi-level governance system with due account taken of regional disparities and of the need to support the less capable municipalities;
5. Ensure a structured framework of oversight of local self-government by state authorities, based on legality proportionality and subsidiarity principles;
6. Support local and regional capacity building and reinforce training aimed to enhance the expertise of public officials and capacity of institutions, which will facilitate their involvement in public investment and project preparation to effectively utilise national and international funding; make use of decentralised cooperation, twinning and partnership development initiatives with European peers to enhance the expertise of and the capacity of subnational entities in a mutual beneficial cooperation;
7. Foster evidence-based decision making, consistently improve transparency and accountability, enhance data collection, data sharing and strengthen performance monitoring;
8. Invest using an integrated strategy tailored to different places and the smart specialisation of regions, taking account of their varied capacity due to hostilities and enabling regions to identify and develop their own competitive advantages; adjust accordingly a multi-annual regional development strategy; ensure a clear, accessible and adequate funding stream for subnational entities and their associations in line with the decentralised power and responsibilities;

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9. Encourage co-operation across local and regional self-governments to design and implement joint reconstruction projects that meet shared needs;
10. Develop and adopt legislation on good governance, including on urban planning and development, in line with international standards, including the principles for democracy adopted at the Council of Europe's Reykjavik Summit in May 2023, and the principles of local self-government as set out in the European Charter of Local Self Government;
11. Mobilise private actors and financing institutions to diversify sources of funding and strengthen subnational investment capacities; create joint public/private investment opportunities; encourage entrepreneurship;
12. Stress the importance of good democratic governance at all levels of government and encourage increased citizen and local stakeholder participation in territorial development planning and project selection to increase accountability and enhance project implementation;
13. Put in place sound and transparent financial management, financial control and audit, as well as public procurement at all levels of government;
14. Improve the functioning of co-ordination mechanisms to facilitate dialogue across and among levels of government on recovery and reconstruction;
15. Instructs the President of the Committee of the Regions to transmit these recommendations to the London URC 2023, on behalf of the European Alliance of Cities and Regions for the Reconstruction of Ukraine, as well as on behalf of the workshop partners and participants.

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