



Brief Overview

The Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine “Resilience, Recovery and Reconstruction” 2023-2026, prepared in close consultation with the Ukrainian authorities and civil society and adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 14 December 2022, is part of the Organisation's contribution to the reconstruction and recovery of the country as a result of the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine.

In the framework of the Action Plan and in line with the priorities set out in the “[Reykjavik Declaration – United around our values](#)”, the Council of Europe continues to assist Ukraine in:

- ensuring effective investigation of war crimes and serious human rights violations related to the war;
- implementing the European Union (EU) accession requirements, in particular as regards the promoting of media freedom, functioning of the judiciary, the fight against cybercrime, the fight against money laundering and financing of terrorism, and the fight against discrimination;
- strengthening the system for the protection of the rights of children, displaced persons, returnees, veterans, victims of war and war-affected populations, and other vulnerable groups.

In accordance with the “[Riga Principles](#)”, the Council of Europe provides its assistance to Ukrainian criminal justice stakeholders with a focus on the protection of human rights in criminal proceedings and a victim-centred approach on the path to justice and accountability for Ukraine, in particular through the focused and efficient functioning of the [Register of Damage Caused by the Aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine](#), including its local office in Kyiv.

On 15 June 2023, Ukraine officially joined the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB). Engaging with Ukraine is one of the three overarching goals of the CEB's Strategic Framework 2023-2027, endorsed by member states in December 2022. The CEB operates in Ukraine with a focus on social sectors, such as healthcare and housing, notably for IDPs, where it can the added value.

The implementation of the Action Plan also contributes to the advancement of the [United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) by supporting Ukraine in its efforts to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular Goal 1 – No Poverty; Goal 4 – Quality Education; Goal 5 – Gender Equality; Goal 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth; Goal 10 – Reduced Inequalities; Goal 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities; and Goal 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

Key Figures for May 2025



The total estimated budget for the Action Plan is **€65 million**.
€43 million has been secured from 26 contributors, including the European Union, member states and the Organisation's Ordinary Budget.
€22 million is still required to implement the Action Plan in full.

31 projects are implemented under the Action Plan, including:

- **19 funded by voluntary contributions** and Ordinary budget
- **12 co-funded by European Union**



**DOWNLOAD THE ACTION PLAN
FOR UKRAINE 2023-2026**



On 20 May 2025, over 100 participants of the third meeting of the Action Plan Steering Committee reiterated the relevance of the Action Plan, as well as the significance of its flexibility and adaptability given the fragile security situation and the consequences of the war.

The Council of Europe Office in Ukraine has also expanded its physical presence on the ground due to an increased demand from relevant partners and stakeholders in the country. The Office is in continuous and close contact with the President's Office, ministries, law enforcement agencies, heads of parliamentary committees, the Ombudsperson's Office, as well as local authorities and civil society organisations. Moreover, the Council of Europe Office in Ukraine holds regular consultations with international partners, including but not limited to the embassies of Council of Europe member and observer states, the European Union Advisory Mission, the EU Delegation, the UN agencies, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, in order to identify priority areas for action, create synergies and avoid duplication of resources.



Main Achievements

Securing human rights and fundamental freedoms



The Custody Records system within the National Police units is expanding at regional level, enhancing the respect of human rights in police activities even in these extreme circumstances.



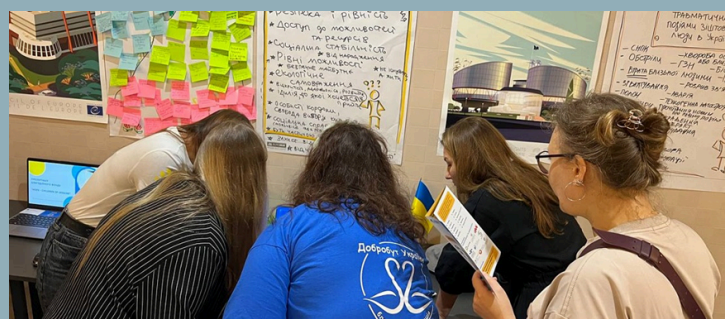
In 2024, Ukrainian legal professionals used the HELP (Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals) platform more than ever before. The number of users rose by 162% from 6,472 in December 2022 to more than 17,000 in December 2024. Ukraine is the top country for users completing the self-learning courses. The Ukrainian Bar Association accredited all HELP courses in Ukrainian for lawyers and legal professionals.



The inter-agency working group led by the Ombudsperson's Office has developed a concept to improve the national system of legal protection and assistance to persons affected by the war of aggression.



157 citizens of Ukraine met with representatives of the Office of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights in Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Poland, Slovakia, Spain



Training for trainers of the Programme "Trauma-Informed Approach in the Context of Access to Human Rights and Essential Services for IDPs and Returnees"

Advancing social justice, good health and a sustainable environment



594 social workers (479 women and 115 men) from all regions of Ukraine learned how to better support veterans and their families. This improved the effectiveness of the social service system and strengthened government institutions.



Implementation of a Barrier-Free Strategy, which strengthens inclusion and accessibility in Ukraine, resulted in 86% of the 2024 actions being completed and a new 2024–25 Action Plan being developed. This assistance has improved accessibility of physical spaces, services, information, goods, and inclusion of groups with reduced mobility.



“Barrier-free environment is becoming an increasingly important priority for Ukrainians. The understanding of its value is growing, and, accordingly, so is the demand for solutions and results.”

**- Tetiana Lomakina, Advisor
Commissioner of the President of
Ukraine for Barrier-Free Environment**



Acting for equality, diversity and respect



The Council of Europe supported the Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine by conducting a peer review of the Concept of the State Programme for preventing children from committing offences and combatting crimes against children up to 2028, to align it with Council of Europe standards.



Professionals working with and for children to identify, report, refer and manage cases of child abuse and protect the rights of children in contact with or in conflict with the law have undergone a tailored training in mediation for restorative justice involving minors. The training was developed by Council of Europe experts in co-operation with the Coordination Centre for Free Legal Aid.



In November 2023, the Council of Europe launched the Consultation Group on the Children of Ukraine (CGU) in Reykjavík following the Declaration on the Situation of the Children of Ukraine. In 2025, the CGU is seen as a valuable peer-review mechanism which has made significant progress in co-ordinating efforts to protect the rights of children of Ukraine affected by war and other Council of Europe member states hosting them. Key achievements include facilitating discussions on access to education, identifying risks of human trafficking and guardianship, supporting Ukraine's reform of the child-protection system, and creating conditions for the safe return of children from Council of Europe member states.



906 professionals, including 466 frontline workers, 410 civil servants and 30 psychologists, learnt how to respond to violence against women, including conflict-related sexual violence, in line with the Istanbul Convention.



Thanks to the Council of Europe's expertise and technical support, Ukraine's State Service on Ethnic Affairs and Freedom of Conscience has improved its capacity to implement Council of Europe standards for the protection of minority rights.



Building trust in public institutions



Ukraine is consolidating its approach to judicial specialisation in international crimes and military offences, with a draft law adopted in the first reading.



A Performance Evaluation System of Investigators for the State Bureau of Investigation has been developed (both methodology and software) and is being integrated. This is a pioneering initiative launched with the Council of Europe's support.



The Office of the Prosecutor General has adopted and is implementing a strategy for the prosecution of international crimes, and the War Crimes Department has been strengthened.



The Co-ordination Centre for the Support of Victims and Witnesses of International Crimes has been established. It is now operational and expanding its activities to the regions.

Upholding safety, security and integrity of society and persons



Ukraine has adopted a law on registration of damage to personal non-property rights as a result of Russian aggression.



Legislation revising the definition of politically exposed persons (PEPs) was adopted in line with international standards, with implementation support and guidance provided to the National Bank of Ukraine.



The Main Investigation Department of the National Police has developed a draft strategy for war crimes investigation, which is awaiting approval.



The Council of Europe addressed Ukraine's need for updated skills for cybercrime investigators, prosecutors, and judges. In partnership with Ukraine's Parliament, it promoted discussions on legislative reforms related to the Budapest Convention and its Second Additional Protocol.

Anchoring democratic values in European societies



A new law on local democracy, developed with the Council of Europe's support, was adopted by the Ukrainian Parliament in November 2024 and came into force on 8 January 2025. It expands opportunities for citizens to participate directly in decision-making, even under martial law.



The Venice Commission's Advisory Group of Experts supported transparent and merit-based selection of Constitutional Court judges.



The first-ever Citizens' Assemblies took place in Zvyahel and Slavutych in 2024 and developed recommendations for local authorities on urban design and waste management. The City Council of Zvyahel has already approved the Assembly's results and adopted an action plan.



400 young people learnt self-help and self-healing techniques to prevent burnout and compassion fatigue. The Council of Europe ensured adequate responses to the needs of young people by providing ad-hoc expert support to youth centres and youth organisations in Ukraine.



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