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OF TRUST

# Funding Opportunities for Sustainable Recovery of Ukrainian Municipalities

EU Sources of Funding



Local & Regional  
Europe

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WITH EUROPE



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## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our comprehensive guide on funding available for Ukrainian and EU municipalities. This document serves as your roadmap, outlining numerous funding opportunities from European Union (EU) programmes and sources of funding from EU Member States (MS). It was collaboratively developed by the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), the U-LEAD with Europe Programme and with the support of CEMR National Associations within the framework of the Bridges of Trust initiative.<sup>1</sup>

Given the backdrop of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its subsequent economic and social repercussions, European and EU MS financial support programmes play a vital role for Ukrainian municipalities. They provide essential financial resources, technical expertise, and institutional support, enabling municipalities to address immediate public needs, stimulate economic growth and enhance citizens' quality of life.

The funding programmes and materials indicated below emanate from training sessions conducted as part of the Bridges of Trust initiative with European and Ukrainian municipalities. These sessions covered project design and development, an overview of EU funding programmes, and the impact of EU Accession on Ukrainian local and regional governments. The funding programmes presented in this document serve as a starting point for identifying funding opportunities for Ukrainian and European municipalities to collaborate, reinforce partnerships, develop, and implement concrete projects, contributing to Ukraine's recovery.

Recognising Ukraine's strategic importance and its aspiration to join the EU, the European Commission (EC) proposes corresponding measures to accompany the national and subnational entities on this path. By extending available funding mechanisms to Ukrainian municipalities, the EU aims to bolster the recovery and development of local communities in Ukraine. The highlighted programmes remain relevant for Ukrainian municipalities, complementing the ongoing development of the Ukraine Facility Programme by the EC as the main financing instrument to be made available from 2024 to 2027.

Finally, we have decided to keep this guide as a living document to accommodate new updates on other European funding streams, the Ukraine Facility programme and information that might be of interest for partnership building and twinning between the European and Ukrainian municipalities.

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<sup>1</sup>The Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments, the Union of Town and Municipalities of the Czech Republic, the Association of Polish Cities, the French Association of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, and the Association of Basque Municipalities.



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## What can you find in the following section?

The initial section of this document comprises a narrative inventory detailing the different European funds that European and Ukrainian municipalities can mobilise in the form of joint projects for the recovery of Ukraine. The objectives of each funding are thematically described, along with the necessary information on the calls for proposals, including eligible criteria, which are provided in the annexe to this document. This description provides an initial understanding of the focus of each programme, enabling you to navigate according to the priorities you wish to advance or the type of project you want to develop. Each European programme has a hyperlink that will direct you straight to the website pages where the calls for proposals and other important information, such as info sessions, workshops, and partner search services, are made available and published by the EC.

# 1. Social and Human Development

## 1.1. Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV)

### 1.1.1. About the programme

The Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV) aims to safeguard and promote the rights and values of the European Union, as outlined in the EU Treaties and the Charter of Fundamental Rights. The programme seeks to support maintaining and advancing open, rights-based, democratic, equal, and inclusive societies based on the rule of law.

At the moment, the association agreement with Ukraine to join the CERV programme has not been signed yet. This means that the participation costs of Ukrainian entities are not eligible. However, as soon as the agreement is signed, the costs linked to the project activities become eligible (with retroactivity from 01.01.2024).

General information to get informed regularly is provided below:

All the available calls under this programme are published [here](#).



More information and presentations to get a better picture of the content and requirements of the various calls for proposals can be found [here](#).



For the latest news on funding opportunities & funded projects under the CERV programme, sign up here to receive the [funding newsletter](#) regularly.



[CERV Contact Points 2021-2027 | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

## 1.2. Erasmus+




### 1.2.1. About the programme

The general objective of the Programme is to bolster, through lifelong learning, the educational, professional, and personal growth of individuals in education, training, youth, and sport in Europe and beyond. Erasmus+ significantly emphasises international collaboration with third countries, fostering mobility, cooperation, and policy dialogue activities. It supports European organisations in tackling global challenges like climate change and digital transition. Involving young people from third countries not affiliated with the Programme is pivotal for fostering more resilient societies founded on mutual trust and intercultural understanding.

While Ukraine is not associated with the Programme, it may participate in specific Erasmus+ activities, subject to particular criteria or conditions.

General information to get informed regularly is provided below:

All the available calls are published [here](#).

-  More information and presentations to get a better picture of the content and requirements of the various calls for proposals can be found [here](#).
-  The latest news on the Erasmus+ programme can be found [here](#).
-  [Contact | Erasmus+ \(europa.eu\)](#)

## 1.3. EU4Health

### 1.3.1. About the programme

Adopted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, this programme aims to enhance health crisis preparedness in the EU by developing stronger, more resilient, and more accessible health systems. Ukraine was included in the programme in 2022. The fund encompasses four main objectives representing areas of intervention: enhancing and promoting health, safeguarding people, fortifying health systems, and improving the accessibility, availability, and affordability of relevant products.

General information to get informed regularly is provided below:

All available calls are published [here](#).

-  More information and presentations to get a better picture of the content and requirements of the various calls for proposals can be found [here](#) and [here](#).



 [Contact the EU | European Union \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/en/multi-media-centre/documents/15414/15414_1_en.pdf)


## 1.4. Justice

### 1.4.1. About the programme

The Justice programme offers funding to bolster judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, encompassing training for judges and other legal practitioners and facilitating effective access to justice for citizens and businesses. It is geared towards cultivating and reinforcing the European area of justice, grounded on the rule of law, which encompasses the independence and impartiality of the judiciary, mutual recognition, mutual trust and judicial cooperation. Ukraine expressed interest in participating in the programme in 2022.

General information to get informed regularly is provided below:

All the available calls are published [here](#).

 For the latest news on funding opportunities & funded projects under the Justice programme, sign up [here](#) to receive the funding newsletter regularly ([previous newsletters](#)).

 [Justice and Consumers - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/justice/consumers)

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## 2. Infrastructure, Connectivity, and Innovation

### 2.1. Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)

#### 2.1.1. About the programme

The CEF aims to foster growth, jobs, and competitiveness by directing infrastructure investments towards specific targets. It backs the creation of high-performing, sustainable, and effectively interconnected trans-European networks in transport, energy, and digital services. One of the key priorities of the programme is to enhance synergy between these three sectors. The programme extended to Ukraine in 2023. CEF benefits individuals across member states and associated countries by simplifying and making travel more sustainable while also facilitating cross-border interaction between public administrations, businesses, and citizens.

General information to get informed on a regular basis is provided below:

All the available calls are published [here](#).





**i** More information and presentations to get a better picture of the content and requirements of the various calls for proposals can be found [here](#), [here for CEF Digital](#), [here for CEF Transport](#), and [here for CF Energy](#).

## 2.2. Digital Europe

### 2.2.1. About the programme

Digital technology and infrastructure are critical in our personal lives and business environments. We depend on them for communication, work, scientific advancements, and addressing contemporary environmental issues. Simultaneously, the COVID-19 pandemic underscored how important it is for Europe not to be dependent on systems and solutions originating from other global regions. The Digital Europe Programme aims to address these challenges by providing strategic funding and supporting projects in five key capacity areas: supercomputing, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, advanced digital skills, and promoting widespread usage of digital technologies throughout the economy and society.

General information to get informed regularly is provided below:

All the available calls are published [here](#).

**i** More information and presentations to get a better picture of the content and requirements of the various calls for proposals can be found [here](#) or [here](#).

**☰** For the latest news on funding opportunities & funded projects under the Digital Europe programme, sign up [here](#) to receive the funding newsletter regularly.

## 2.3. Horizon Europe

### 2.3.1. About the programme

Horizon Europe is a pivotal funding programme for research and innovation to address climate change, accomplish the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, and enhance the EU's competitiveness and growth. The programme fosters collaboration and strengthens the impact of research and innovation on development. Additionally, it supports generating and disseminating outstanding knowledge and technologies. Horizon Europe generates employment, stimulates economic growth, enhances industrial competitiveness, and maximises investment impact within a reinforced European Research Area.

General information to get informed regularly is provided below:

All the available calls are published [here](#).



## 2.4. EU Space Programme

### 2.4.1. About the programme

The European Space Programme implements space activities in the fields of Earth Observation, Satellite Navigation, Connectivity, Space Research and Innovation. It fosters innovation and competitiveness by investing in essential infrastructures and disruptive technologies. Moreover, it promotes space entrepreneurship and innovative solutions based on space technologies, data and services, directing targeted investments towards European start-ups and SMEs through establishing initiatives.

General information to get informed regularly is provided below:

All the available calls are published [here](#).



Contact point and access to EU Space Support Office activities: [EU SPACE SUPPORT OFFICE \(EUSSO\) - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

## 2.5. Single Market Program (SMP)

The SMP is the EU funding programme designed to unlock the full potential of the single market and facilitate Europe's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. It became accessible to Ukraine in 2021. This programme consolidates vital activities previously financed under various programmes, offering a more cohesive and adaptable financing framework to support multiple objectives, such as ensuring a secure and sustainable food chain or maintaining a high level of consumer protection.

General information to get informed regularly is provided below:

All the available calls are published [here](#).



Practical information in the Competition policy webpage: [The Single Market Programme \(SMP\) \(europa.eu\)](#) and on the Social Economy Gateway: [The European Single Market Programme \(SMP\) - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)



A concrete and comprehensive factsheet to download: [DocsRoom - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)



Access to the press release: [First-ever financial programme to boost the Single Market \(europa.eu\)](#)

## 2.6. LEADER (part of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development EAFRD)

### 2.6.1. About the programme

LEADER embodies a 'bottom-up' approach, wherein farmers, rural businesses, local organisations, public authorities and individuals from different sectors collaborate to establish local action groups (LAGs). LAGs devise their local development strategies and oversee their respective budgets. This approach fosters stronger ties within local communities, promotes innovation across sectors and facilitates knowledge exchange among LAGs at national and EU-wide levels. While the fund is primarily dedicated to EU Member States, certain specific cross-border projects may be developed in cooperation with third-country territories, including Ukraine.

General information to get informed regularly is provided below:

Projects are selected by local action groups or by a system of candidacy set up by the Member States

 [The European Network for Rural Development \(ENRD\)](#) provides detailed information on the fund (resources, toolkits, database).

## 3. Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action


### 3.1. Environment and Climate Action – LIFE

#### 3.1.1. About the programme

The LIFE programme is committed to backing environmental and climate action projects. The programme is segmented into four areas: Nature and Biodiversity, Circular economy and quality of life, Climate change mitigation and adaptation, and Clean energy transition. It supports demonstration, best practices, coordination and support actions, capacity building, and governance projects. Ukraine joined the programme in 2021.

General information to get informed regularly is provided below:

All available calls are published [here](#).

 For the latest news on funding opportunities & funded projects under the Digital Europe programme, sign up here to receive the funding newsletter regularly.

 [LIFE contacts - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)



## 4. International Cooperation and Development

### 4.1. EU External Action – Global Europe: NDICI

#### 4.1.1. About the programme

The primary objectives of the NDICI are to support sustainable development, poverty reduction, and promoting democracy, peace, and security. It aims to tackle global challenges and contribute to the EU's dedication to international cooperation. The fund is structured to offer support tailored to the priorities and requirements of various regions and countries beyond the EU's borders, including Ukraine.

General information to get informed regularly is provided below:

All the proposals for Europe apart from the EU are published [here](#).



find [here](#) information and assistance to apply for EEAS funding.

### 4.2. Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX)

#### 4.2.1. About the programme

This programme is an instrument of the European Union (EU) designed to offer short-term, demand-driven technical assistance and expertise to bolster public administrations in countries under the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP), the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA), and certain other countries. The principal aim of TAIEX is to strengthen the administrative capacities of beneficiary countries, fostering good governance, effective public administration, and alignment with EU standards and practices. It primarily operates on a needs-driven basis and provides tailored expertise to address issues promptly through workshops, expert missions, and study visits.

#### 4.2.2. Funding and available calls

The beneficiaries can be Civil servants, judiciary and law enforcement authorities, civil servants working in Parliaments and Legislative Councils, and representatives of social partners, trade unions and employers' associations. TAIEX does not provide direct support to civil society, private citizens or individual companies.

General information to get informed regularly is provided below:

Officials in line Ministries dealing with community legislation, staff from regulatory or supervisory bodies and inspectorates, officials in notified bodies which implement or enforce legislation, and officials in Parliaments, the Judiciary and Law Enforcement Agencies [can introduce requests for TAIEX assistance](#).



 More information and presentations to get a better picture of the content and requirements of the various calls for proposals can be found [here](#).

 [NEAR-Taiex@ec.europa.eu](mailto:NEAR-Taiex@ec.europa.eu)

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## 5. Cultural and Creative Sectors, Cooperation, and Emergency Response

### 5.1. Creative Europe

#### 5.1.1. About the programme

Creative Europe invests in initiatives that bolster cultural diversity, competitiveness, and innovation while addressing the needs and challenges of the cultural and creative sectors. Its goal is to aid these sectors' recovery, strengthening their endeavours towards greater inclusivity, digitalisation, and environmental sustainability. The programme's primary objectives are to safeguard, develop and promote European cultural and linguistic diversity, as well as to enhance the competitiveness and economic potential of the cultural and creative sectors.

General information to get informed regularly is provided below:

All available calls are published [here](#).

 More information and presentations to get a better picture of the content and requirements of the various calls for proposals can be found [here](#).

 [Creative Europe Desks | Culture and Creativity \(europa.eu\)](https://europe.eu/creative)

### 5.2. EU Civil Protection Mechanism

#### 5.2.1. About the programme

The mechanism aims to enhance cooperation between EU countries and 10 participating states, including Ukraine since 2023, in civil protection to improve prevention, preparedness, and response to disasters and emergencies, whether natural or man-made. It enables the swift deployment of assistance to affected countries or regions, including search and rescue teams, medical teams, equipment, and other resources. For preparedness and prevention measures, the mechanism encompasses training, exercises, and the development of response capabilities to better anticipate and mitigate the impact of disasters.



General information to get informed regularly is provided below:

When an emergency exceeds the response capabilities of a country in Europe and beyond, it can request assistance through the mechanism.

- Upon evaluating the situation, the country's government can request assistance from the Commission, specifically the [Emergency Response Coordination Centre \(ERCC\)](#). The request details the nature of the disaster, specific needs, and the required type of assistance. When the ERCC activates the mechanism, member states and participating countries are notified and can also offer assistance.
- Every year, the European Commission's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations Department (ECHO) issues numerous [calls for proposals](#) regarding various relief and civil protection efforts.

### 5.3. Anti-Fraud Programme

The EU Anti-Fraud Programme targets the fight against fraud and irregularities in utilising EU funds in EU Member States and associated countries, including Ukraine, which joined in 2023. It encompasses the following overarching objectives. The programme offers funding, notably for technical and operational investigation equipment, specialised training, and research activities, to bolster safeguarding EU financial interests.

General information to get informed regularly is provided below:

All available calls will be published [here](#).



More information and presentations to get a better picture of the content and requirements of the various calls for proposals can be found [here](#).



[OLAF-FMB-HERCULE@ec.europa.eu](mailto:OLAF-FMB-HERCULE@ec.europa.eu)

### 5.4. European Territorial Cooperation – INTERREG

#### 5.4.1. About the programme

Interreg is one of the two objectives of the EU Cohesion policy, financed under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). It serves as a crucial instrument of the EU, offering a framework for cooperation across borders among national, regional, and local actors from various Member States and associated countries, including Ukraine, to foster harmonious economic, social, and territorial development across the Union. Based on a place-based and local-level approach, these programmes encourage partners to seek shared solutions and facilitate the implementation of joint actions and policy exchanges at a community level. Interreg supports the twin green and digital transition and operates in fields such as health, environment, research, education, transport, sustainable energy, and more.


## 5.4.2. Existing programmes

Seven programmes, including Ukraine, are declined hereafter. The potential beneficiaries are usually public authorities, interest associations, and non-profit organisations, such as chambers of commerce, employer organisations, unions, or research institutes, as well as private bodies (SMEs, for example).

### 5.4.2.1. INTERREG – Hungary, Slovakia, Romania, Ukraine

This programme contributes to the overall ENI objective of progress towards ‘an area of shared prosperity and good neighbourliness’ between EU Member States and their neighbours.


All calls are published [here](#).

 More information and presentations to get a better picture of the content and requirements of the various calls for proposals can be found [here](#) or [here](#).

 [Contacts – Interreg VI-A NEXT Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine Programme 2021-2027 \(huskroua-cbc.eu\)](#)

### 5.4.2.2. INTERREG – Poland and Ukraine


The opening of the calls is to be published [here](#).

 More information and news on the programme are available [here](#).

 [PL-UA 2021-2027](#)

### 5.4.2.3. INTERREG – Romania and Ukraine

The calls for proposals are published [here](#), with an estimated timetable for their launch.

 For the latest news on funding opportunities & funded projects under the Digital Europe programme, sign up [here](#) to receive the funding newsletter regularly.




 [Contact \(ro-ua.net\)](#)

### 5.4.2.4. INTERREG – Black Sea Basin

The programme aims to remain a platform where the links between the participating countries are strengthened, new ones are created, and the regional actors come together and contribute to the sustainable management of resources for the benefit of local citizens. It further deepens cross-border cooperation in the Black Sea Basin in a transnational configuration.






All calls for proposals are published [here](#).

-  More information and presentations to get a better picture of the content and requirements of the various calls for proposals can be found [here](#) and [here](#).
-  For the latest news on funding opportunities & funded projects under the programme, sign up [here](#) to receive the funding newsletter regularly.
-  [Contact overview - Interreg Baltic Sea Region \(interreg-baltic.eu\)](#)

#### 5.4.2.5. INTERREG – Danube

The programme focuses on fostering sustainable development in the Danube River region, including countries from Central and Southeastern Europe, including Ukraine. It aims to address challenges through collaborative projects promoting economic growth, environmental sustainability, and regional social cohesion.

All calls for proposals are published [here](#).

-  More information and presentations to get a better picture of the content and requirements of the various calls for proposals can be found [here](#) and [here](#).
-  For the latest news on funding opportunities & funded projects under the programme, sign up [here](#) to receive the funding newsletter regularly.
-  [Interreg Danube Region | Contact us \(interreg-danube.eu\)](#)

#### 5.4.2.6. INTERREG - Europe


INTERREG Europe is an interregional cooperation programme that aims to reduce disparities in development, growth, and quality of life within and across Europe's regions. It is part of the wider European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) objective, which promotes harmonious development across the EU by fostering cooperation between regions. The programme aims to create an environment and opportunities for sharing solutions to regional development issues through exchanging good practices and policy learning among European regions in 36 countries.

For Ukraine, it was extended in 2023 with an additional allocation of €5 million. This expansion allows regions and municipalities in the country to build partnerships in the fields of innovation, climate resilience, mobility, social issues, and local development, not only with their counterparts across the EU but also with the six other new members.





All calls for proposals are published [here](#).


 More information and presentations to get a better picture of the content and requirements of the various calls for proposals can be found [here](#).

 [Contact us | Interreg Europe - Sharing solutions for better policy](#)

#### 5.4.2.7. INTERREG – URBACT

URBACT is a European Territorial Cooperation program promoting sustainable urban development in European cities. It focuses on facilitating exchange and learning between cities to develop and implement integrated urban strategies that address various social, economic, and environmental issues. URBACT has developed a series of processes and tools as a part of the URBACT Method.

All calls for proposals are published [here](#).

 More information and presentations to get a better picture of the content and requirements of the various calls for proposals can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

 [How to find us | urbact.eu](#)

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## 6. Other fundings of interest

### 6.1. Ukraine: Relief, Resilience, Recovery

The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) established a comprehensive emergency program to support Ukrainian citizens, civic activists, civil society organisations, journalists, and independent media. The program acknowledges the key roles played by all these actors in the short-term defence and long-term development of a democratic, European, and transatlantic Ukraine.

- Helping Ukrainian civil society and media provide for their staff's immediate safety; retain human, organisational, and technical capacities; and ensure uninterrupted operations.
- Working to increase the resilience of Ukrainian society by supporting civic and media actors.
- Fostering the earliest and strongest possible involvement of Ukrainian civil society and local communities in planning internationally funded reconstruction efforts.



Eligibility: Projects should be initiated by CSOs and independent media legally registered in Ukraine, which are based or relocated to and working from Ukraine and neighbouring countries. The expenses indicated in the budget for compensation of salaries to members of the organisation's team should not exceed 40% of the total budget.

Project proposals must be sent to [Ukraine3R@gmfus.org](mailto:Ukraine3R@gmfus.org). All information on the fund is available [here](#).

## 6.2. Pathways2Resilience

This first call aims to provide financial support to 40 regions/communities through subgrant agreements, supporting services and capacity-building activities for subgrants lasting up to 18 months. The selection process will prioritise regions/communities with heightened vulnerability and low adaptive capacity to climate change impacts.

All the details on the registration and information sessions are available [here](#).

## How to prepare and submit a proposal?

You can find information on how to navigate the EU ‘Funding and Tender portal’, how to submit a successful project proposal and other relevant guides/platforms on the Guide on 2021-2027 EU funding provided by CEMR (pages 18 to 22). This information aims to facilitate your preparation and access to its funds.

➤ Available here: [Guide\\_on\\_EU\\_funding.pdf \(ccre.org\)](#)

Also available in several languages is a comprehensive handbook provided by PLATFORMA for elected representatives and local civil servants on how to prepare a project, formalise an application, and coordinate the implementation phase of the funded project. It also includes a special focus on European funding Programmes (pages 51 to 70).

➤ EN – [PLATFORMA-v2-EN-1.pdf \(platforma-dev.eu\)](#)

➤ FR – [PLATFORMA-v2-FR.pdf \(platforma-dev.eu\)](#)

➤ DE – [PLATFORMA-v2-DE.pdf \(platforma-dev.eu\)](#)

➤ ES – [PLATFORMA-v2-ES.pdf \(platforma-dev.eu\)](#)

➤ IT – [PLATFORMA-v2-IT.pdf \(platforma-dev.eu\)](#)

The EU platform on which most of the Grants and tenders listed in this document are published is available here: [Funding & tenders \(europa.eu\)](#)



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