



Ukraine Updates

Standing with the people and local governments in Ukraine

[‘Ukraine section’ on the CEMR website](#)
[CEMR statement on Ukraine](#) | [List of signatories](#)

28 March 2022/3

Voices of Ukrainian municipalities

➤ **Destruction of Ukrainian communities**

During Russian war against Ukraine, approximately 4500 houses, 100 enterprises, 400 educational establishments and 150 health care establishments, have already been destroyed. The numbers were reported by Minister of Communities and Territories of Ukraine, Oleksiy Chernyshov, during the briefing at Ukraine Media Centre on 26 March. The damage amounts to tens of billions of dollars, and the sum is increasing every day. The Government is developing a plan to restore the destroyed communities. [Source](#)

➤ **Web portal about international humanitarian aid for Ukraine**

The Government of Ukraine created an official webpage with detailed information on how to provide help, the rules to transport humanitarian goods from the EU member states and logistics on how to do it. The page also contains an interactive map of the recorded humanitarian assistance provided to Ukraine to date, which amounts to 100,992 tons. A detailed information per region and per municipality can be found on this [resource](#). Please consult it for detailed information and share with your network.

➤ **Abductions of Ukrainian mayors**

The list of kidnapped Ukrainian mayors continues to grow. CEMR wholly condemns the kidnapping of democratically elected Ukrainian mayors. The Association of Ukrainian Cities is urging others to join them in calling for the release of Yevheniy Matveev, the mayor of Dniprorudny, Oleg Myroshnyk, Bilovodsk settlement mayor, Vasyl Mitko, Nikolske settlement mayor, Tetyana Svyrydenko, Ivankiv village mayor, Oleksandr Shapovalov, the mayor of Beryslav, Mykola Sikalenko, Tsyrukuniv village mayor and Oleksandr Medved'ov, the mayor of Snovsk.

➤ **International Marathon: Local Governments Unite for Welfare and Peace**

During the International Marathons which took place on 18 March and 22 March, Ukrainian mayors spoke about the situation in their communities and appealed to their European and international colleagues to close the sky over Ukraine, tighten sanctions against Russia and support Ukraine's aspirations for European and Euro-Atlantic integration. The International Marathon will continue on **29 March at 11:00 CEST** in presence of representatives of local governments including twin cities of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, and Sweden. To join the Marathon please consult [this page](#).

➤ **Rehabilitation and developmental camps for children**

The Association of Ukrainian Cities together with UNESCO continues to work on the organisation of rehabilitation and developmental camps for children in the municipalities abroad. From March 12 to 15, a survey was conducted and applications were accepted from 15 regions of Ukraine. About 15,000 children have registered to participate in the project.

Your organisation can support the work of the Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC) with a charitable donation to help ensure stable AUC statutory activity and assistance to communities. The AUC collects information about the urgent needs of municipalities, coordinates volunteers and cooperates with the civil-military administration. More information on how to help AUC can be found [here](#).

Stories of support through action

➤ “Bridges of Trust” partner-municipalities

Dolyna municipality in Ivano-Frankivsk Region (Ukraine) received more than 11 tons of humanitarian aid totaling about 100,000 euros from their Lithuanian partner, Šiauliai district municipality. The aid includes high-quality overalls, knee pads and shoes, chainsaws, and various tools, optical devices, radios, batteries, flashlights, as well as medicines, and long-lasting and nutritious food. *"We are sincerely grateful to our Lithuanian friends from Siauliai district. This is an invaluable contribution of our friends to our common victory, the victory of Ukraine"* - Ivan Dyriv, mayor of Dolyna municipality, said. Watch the full video [here](#).

➤ Slovenia

On 26 March, 20 Slovenian municipalities sent help to Ukraine. The delivered aid included food, water, medicine, hygiene products and other supplies. The aid was destined for towns of Ternopil and Lviv. This is the second time the Slovenian municipalities are helping their partners in Ukraine since the start of the invasion. The first convoy of Slovenian aid to Ukraine was sent two weeks ago and reached refugees from Bucha near Kyiv and Trostyanets near Sumy. A detailed report and videos depicting the journey from Slovenia to Ukraine can be found [here](#) (in Slovenian).

➤ Germany

In Hanover, civil society, city administration and local stakeholders are joining forces to welcome Ukrainian refugees. Frankfurt am Main, Dortmund and Cologne are also planning and executing actions in support of Ukraine. Several actions, demonstrations and concerts took place and are planned for the future. Cities are stepping up to provide the best care possible for those in need and to welcome as many Ukrainian refugees as possible. For more information, please see [website](#) of Eurocities.

➤ Poland

Municipalities of Katowice, Sosnowiec and Świerklaniec responded to the appeal of Lviv's mayor and the town of Tychy, to send buses. In total, 13 buses will go to Lviv, of which 7 were made available by Tychy Public Transport Company. The buses will be used by the local Lviv carrier, because many of their buses are currently serving the Ukrainian army. For more information, please see the [website](#) of the Association of Polish Cities, which is collecting best examples of direct city-to-city help.

➤ France

France sends 21 new ambulances, 11 fire engines, 16 rescue vehicles and 23 lorries transporting 49 tons of health and emergency equipment. The help is offered via the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and will arrive at the EU Civil Protection Centre in Romania, from where it will be sent to Ukraine. For more information, please see the [press release](#).

European measures

European Council, 24-25 March 2022

The European Council adopted conclusions on the Russian military aggression against Ukraine, security and defence, energy, economic issues and external relations. EU leaders urged Russia urgently to guarantee safe passage to civilians trapped in war zones, immediately release all hostages, provide uninterrupted humanitarian access, and establish humanitarian corridors. They are ready to move quickly with further sanctions. Furthermore, they recognised all the efforts already made to welcome refugees fleeing the war against Ukraine, and called on all member states to intensify their efforts in a continued spirit of unity and solidarity. EU funding will have to be mobilized and member states will have to develop contingency plans in order to address a significant challenge for the infrastructure and public services of the EU countries hosting refugees, particularly for the member states bordering Ukraine. The EU leaders also agreed to set up a Ukraine Solidarity Trust Fund. Full information on the results of the European Council, can be found [here](#).

Joint Statement by President von der Leyen and President Biden

Last week, during the visit of the American President to Brussels, President Biden and President von der Leyen confirmed they would coordinate responses against sanctions evasion and continue to mobilise and coordinate significant humanitarian relief to support people within Ukraine. This includes more than \$1

billion in humanitarian assistance the United States is prepared to provide and €550 million from the EU. The EU and the United States said new actions would be taken to strengthen democratic sustainability and protect human rights in Ukraine and neighbouring countries. They will also continue supporting the work of war crimes documentation experts who are gathering evidence on the ground in Ukraine. Please see the full statement [here](#).

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

In full solidarity with Ukraine, a matching platform for Ukrainian and other European Cities is being launched. It will be a place to match the demands and needs of Ukrainian cities with the capacity, know-how and supply of other European Cities. Through this platform local and regional leader will be supported in these difficult times to make sure that local infrastructures are in place and leaders can perform their duty in addressing the daily challenges of citizens in their cities, towns and villages. For more information, please see the [webpage](#).

How to help Ukraine?

There are many ways in which your organisation, municipalities and regions can support local governments in Ukraine during this difficult time.

1. Get in direct touch with your partners in Ukraine. Ask what specific help they need at this moment. If you do not have partners in Ukraine, please contact one of the municipalities that submitted a plea for help to [CEMR](#) or the [Committee of the Regions](#).
2. Spread information about the [urgent needs of Ukrainian municipalities](#) (prepared by AUC) among your national and international partners. Encourage them to reach out and send direct and fast aid to them. Please note and inform others that Ukrainian municipalities prefer material help to financial contributions because it is very difficult to buy most things in the country at the moment.
3. Encourage your citizens through awareness-raising events and social media campaigns to donate funds for humanitarian aid in Ukraine. There is a dedicated [official webpage](#) on how to donate. Translate information into your own language and spread it among your members.
4. Support the Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC) with a charitable donation to help ensure stable AUC statutory activity and assistance to communities. The AUC is collecting information about the urgent needs of municipalities, coordinates volunteers and cooperates with the civil-military administration. More information on how to help AUC can be found [here](#).
5. Coordinate all actions of support to Ukrainian municipalities with your national governments. Inform CEMR about inspiring stories of support through [this form](#).

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