



**European Committee
of the Regions**

Brussels, 16 April 2024

**225th MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF THE
REGIONS**

- 16 APRIL 2024 -

ITEM 14

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COR 10-POINT SUPPORT PACKAGE FOR UKRAINE

Submitted by the Secretary-General

FOR INFORMATION

SUMMARY

Bureau meeting: 225

Date: 16/04/2024

Item 14

Implementation of the CoR 10-Point Support Package for Ukraine

Type:

- Document for information / debate**
- Document for decision**
- Recommendation to the Assembly**

The Bureau is asked to:

- Take note of the information contained in this document.

Remarks: The CoR 10-Point Support Package for Ukraine was submitted to the Working Group (WG) Ukraine and Conference of Presidents members on 24 February 2023, on the joint meeting of these bodies in Gdańsk (Poland). After more than one year of implementation of the measures in the package, the CoR is presenting an updated implementation table to contribute to the two key priorities for the next few years, namely:

- Support for reconstruction and resilience, with a view to a decentralised reconstruction process in Ukraine (also financially supported by the recently adopted Ukraine Facility);
- Support for Ukraine on its path to EU integration (pre-enlargement process).

**CoR 10-Point Support Package for Ukraine
Implementation Timeline - 2024**

Updated 26/3/2024

<i>Action</i>	<i>Current state and achievements</i>	<i>Steps to be taken / Timeline</i>	<i>Challenges and perspectives</i>
<u>Solidarity measures with a country at war, sustainable reconstruction efforts and support to resilience</u>			
1. European Alliance of Cities and Regions for the Reconstruction of Ukraine	<p>Increased membership and visibility at European and global level.</p> <p>Higher profile for the European Alliance of Cities and Regions in the context of the Ukraine Facility.</p> <p>The working and political-level meetings take place with the full participation of the four all-Ukrainian associations.¹</p> <p>Ukrainian counterparts fully cooperated in the organisation of the Alliance's Workshop with a view to the London Ukraine Recovery Conference: <i>Putting the Lugano Principles into Action</i>, held in Brussels on 25 May 2023. A CoR</p>	<p>In 2024, the Alliance will focus on the following:</p> <p>1) Contributing to the 2024 URC (<i>see below</i>);</p> <p>2) Following up on the Ukraine Facility, in particular, Pillar III – capacity building. (The January 2024 Alliance meeting focused on capacity building);</p> <p>3) Accompanying Ukraine in decentralisation efforts, in particular for decentralised reconstruction.</p> <p>It will also discuss the follow-up to the opinion on the Ukraine Facility, in particular considering its</p>	<p>An upgraded role for the Alliance will require rethinking the way it functions, its governance, its additional resources and/or outsourcing its activities.</p> <p>Possible options:</p> <p>a) status quo;</p> <p>b) operationalising the Alliance by further developing its involvement in match-making, peer-to-peer cooperation, capacity building, training, and other activities relating to specific aspects of the reconstruction process. This would require outsourcing part of the secretariat and technical support, creating the conditions for eligibility for EU</p>

¹ Association of Ukrainian Cities, All-Ukrainian Association of the Communities/Hromadas, Ukrainian Association of District and Regional Councils, All-Ukrainian Association of Amalgamated Communities/Hromadas

	<p>representative participated in the London Ukraine Recovery Conference (URC 2023) and the workshop's recommendations were presented at a breakout session specifically on the regional dimension.</p> <p>Visual mapping of core partners' activities and projects was published in the first few months of 2023 on the "Alliance Insight" website.</p>	<p>suggestion of creating a local and regional component for the Multi-Agency Donor Coordination Platform, with the Alliance playing a coordinating role (also supported by the EP report on the establishment of the Ukraine Facility), and depending on the outcome of the trilogue.</p> <p>As a follow-up to the 2023 Enlargement Package, the CoR will adopt an opinion specifically on Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine (for plenary adoption in April 2024) - Alliance members have provided input.</p> <p>It has developed concrete recommendations ahead of the Berlin URC meeting (11-12 June 2024), which were publicly endorsed at the political-level meeting and presented to URC co-organisers in Mons.</p>	<p>funding, and engaging more closely with partners that are present in the field for carrying out concrete projects on the basis of a memorandum of understanding with a clear task distribution;</p> <p>c) if supported by donors, advocating a local and regional component within the Multi-Agency Donor Coordination Platform, in which the Alliance could play a coordinating role, as suggested in the CoR opinion.</p>
<p>2. Green deal and sustainable reconstruction:</p>	<p>The Alliance meetings provide a platform for sharing information and</p>	<p>ENVE and the Alliance will continue to discuss the</p>	<p>Support Ukrainian cities and regions in progressive implementation of the relevant</p>

<p>support for Ukrainian cities in developing their strategy for climate neutrality, and facilitation of the twinning with EU 100 cities missions, in the framework of the Horizon Europe call for a proposal for Associating Ukrainian cities with the climate-neutral and smart cities mission</p>	<p>know-how.</p> <p>The CoR promoted the Horizon call in the Green Deal funding alert (which was sent to all members and various regional associations working on the Green Deal – around 4 000 recipients). The CoR (CIVEX) also co-organised with Eurocities a session on the “Sustainable reconstruction of Ukrainian cities and regions”, with a focus on green aspects in the context of the European Week of Regions and Cities in October 2023.</p> <p>On 5 December 2023, the CoR, together with DG ENER and the Covenant of Mayors, co-organised a side event in the context of the UNFCCC COP28 meeting, entitled “Decentralised power: cities rethinking the future of energy in Ukraine and beyond”.</p>	<p>development of a strategy for climate neutrality, as well as promoting implementation of the ‘build back better’ principle in 2024.</p> <p>The Alliance is planning an exchange of views on the role of the European Bauhaus in facilitating green and sustainable reconstruction (potentially in April 2024).</p> <p>To be considered is the participation of a CoR member in the COP29 delegation who could speak about green reconstruction in Ukraine, also on behalf of the Ukraine Working Group and/or the Alliance. Relevant points of the CoR opinion on boosting subnational climate diplomacy ahead of COP27 and COP28 (Olgierd Geblewicz – PL/EPP), which advocates gearing reconstruction investment to key aspects of the Paris Agreement, as well as to the objectives of the EU’s Green Deal, should be taken</p>	<p>EU <i>acquis</i>, in the context of enlargement and the green transition.</p>
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		into account.	
3. “Summer camps for Ukrainian children” initiative	<p>The summer camps initiative, launched in 2022 by the CoR and the Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC), has seen significant success. The number of children hosted doubled in 2023, with over 3 000 Ukrainian children welcomed to various cities and regions of the EU.</p> <p>The CoR has taken a number of steps to promote the initiative. On 14 November 2023, the CoR President sent letters to Commissioners Hahn, Varhelyi and Ivanova and to the EP President to explore possible options for mobilising European funds to support cities and regions that organise summer camps for Ukrainian children, in the form of a pilot project or using existing funds.</p> <p>On 31 January 2024, CoR received a reply from Commissioner Ivanova (DG EAC) saying that the Summer Camps for Ukrainian Children initiative was eligible for grants, based on competitive bidding, in the content of youth exchanges and under certain conditions. This made it possible for groups of</p>	<p>The objective for 2024 is to put the initiative into a more sustainable framework and to secure options for mobilising European funds to support cities and regions that organise summer camps for Ukrainian children.</p> <p>Prepare a proposal for the 2024 summer camps scheme (see Pt_15 a)).</p>	<p>Identify sources of financing for cities and regions interested in hosting summer camps, so that the endeavour can become sustainable in the longer term.</p> <p>Ensure a growing sense of ownership by CoR members.</p> <p>Engage YEPs in the process, in order to support this “annual” exercise.</p>

	<p>young people from at least two different countries to come together for a short period of time and to take part together in a non-formal learning programme on a topic of their interest, seeking inspiration from the European Youth Goals. Summer camps could also be eligible under the European Solidarity Corps programme, based on competitive bidding, if the organisations complied with the eligibility criteria.</p>		
<p>4. Offering space for Ukrainian LRAs on CoR premises: office space, exhibition area, conference rooms</p>	<p>The CoR offers an open-space office in the form of a desk area (suitable for up to 8 people) on the first floor of the VMA building, in a space shared with the EESC. It is currently occupied by the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Lviv city council, which officially launched their Brussels office on 4 May 2023 on these premises, on the occasion of the WG UA meeting and Enlargement Day; 2) the Association of Ukrainian Communities, which has deployed two people to work in the office on a temporary basis since May 2023; 3) Dnipropetrovsk Regional council, which officially opened its office during the EU Regions Week in October 2023; 	<p>Treat the Ukrainian LRA offices as any other local LRA office in Brussels (e.g. including them in mailing lists). CIVEX will pass this suggestion on to Directorate A.</p> <p>Incorporate Ukrainian LRAs into the Brussels European network of regional offices.</p> <p>Consider a list of measures to be taken to address the challenges related to office space.</p>	<p>Limited office capacities (all the 8 places currently available are either taken or reserved).</p> <p>This hospitality measure is facing logistical issues (e.g. UA LRAs cannot encode their visitors in the e-visitor system; they cannot use their access pass (badge) to enter the VMA from the JDE or BvS buildings, their movement in the building is limited to the 1st floor of the VMA building.</p> <p>Possible ways to address the shortage of office space include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - rethinking/making best of the existing space (rearranging and adding furniture in the same big room); - rotating office use by the

	<p>4) Vinnitsya City Council, which opened its office on 30 November 2023;</p> <p>5) UAROR, which opened its representative office in Brussels, co-located on the premises of the Région Grand Est, on 31 January 2024. Their liaison officer has received accreditation to the CoR, similar to the one granted to the other representatives.</p> <p>The Association of the Invincible Communities and Lutsk City Council requested office space (the requests have been replied to positively).</p> <p>Additional requests and expressions of interest have been received from the Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC) and the City of Kharkiv.</p>		<p>representatives in a self-managed hot-desking system in the available space;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - allocating additional room at the VMA building; - discussing with Alliance partners which have premises in Brussels whether they too can offer similar office space on a pro-bono basis, along the lines of the Grand Est example, which is worth following by other parties.
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Enlargement context

<p>5. The Working Group Ukraine will accompany the enlargement process until the JCC is established</p>	<p>WG UA meets twice a year. Meetings will continue to follow the progress on Ukraine's road to accession and will focus on capacity building.</p>	<p>Consider the possibility of establishing a pool of standard Ukrainian counterparts at local and regional level, in cooperation with the main Ukrainian associations, who will engage with WG members and participate in WG meetings (similar model to the one that applies to the WG with Türkiye).</p>	<p>Revisit the upcoming work programme for the next term, considering new developments in the reconstruction and enlargement processes.</p>
<p>6. Laying the ground for the launch of a Joint Consultative Committee with Ukraine, subject to a request from the Ukrainian government and following the relevant Association Council framework</p> <p><i>CIVEX</i></p>	<p>The CIVEX secretariat produced several background documents with a preliminary evaluation of various options for and ways to go about setting up a possible JCC.</p> <p>The establishment of a JCC is not a unilateral decision by the CoR; it is part of a long process, which inter alia requires either an amendment of the Association Agreement or a decision by the Association Council.</p> <p>In meetings with the Ukrainian Mission to the EU (October 2023 and January 2024 - staff level), the Ukrainian side</p>	<p>As a follow-up to the 2023 Enlargement Package, the CoR is preparing an opinion on the 'Trio countries', to be adopted in April 2024. In this context, CoR could in principle express support for the establishment of a JCC for Ukraine (and Moldova).</p> <p>In the meantime, the involvement of the WG UA with key Ukrainian players will continue (see point 8).</p>	

	<p>explored the possibility of developing a JCC with Ukraine, and the legal requirements were explained.</p> <p>The CoR President wrote to HR/VP Borrell and Commissioner Varhelyi in advance of the EU-Ukraine Association Council meeting of 20 March 2024 to reiterate the CoR's support to the establishment of a JCC. On 8 April 2024, the Ukrainian mission to the EU sent a relevant <i>note verbale</i> to HR/VP Borrell and Commissioner Varhelyi.</p>		
<p>7. Enlargement of the Young Elected Politicians programme (YEPs) to Ukrainian young leaders</p>	<p>The 2023 YEPs programme was open to Ukrainian applicants, as well as applicants from all candidate countries, for the first time. There were 60 applications from Ukraine in total, with 13 being chosen to take part in the YEP programme.</p> <p>Ukrainian YEPs were invited to plenary sessions and other events.</p>	<p>The programme is well on track and the high-quality participation of the UA YEPs serves to empower the future decision-makers of the enlargement country, as well as building networks with their EU peers.</p> <p>The programme will continue in 2024². A new call has been launched³.</p>	

² See COR-2024-00359-12-00-NB-TRA

³ <https://cor.europa.eu/en/engage/pages/join-the-yep-community.aspx>

<p>8. “Pre-observer” invitations for Ukraine (and other candidate countries)</p>	<p>V. Klitschko, Mayor of Kyiv, has been an honorary member of the CoR since March 2023.</p> <p>UA LRA representatives were invited to plenary sessions and events organised or hosted by the CoR.</p> <p>UA LRAs that are members of EGTCs, or wish to join, were given the possibility of participating in EGTC Platform events, as has been the case in the past.</p> <p>The UA Alliance members were consulted regarding two CoR Ukraine-related opinions and their contributions were taken into account.</p>	<p>A scheme for integrating pre-observers from candidate countries on a more structural basis is currently under discussion for the next term of office in the relevant forums in the CoR, also in terms of budgetary feasibility. This will also depend on the enlargement timeline.</p> <p>Reflect on the inter-institutional developments with regard to involving candidate countries in the CoR’s political work on a more structured basis, and present a proposal to the CoP in June.</p> <p>Consider inviting Mayor Alla Myronova (recipient of the MPAA special mention for 2024) to an appropriate political-level meeting.</p>	<p>Legal and financial challenges arise from this commitment, which has also been misinterpreted by some partners as an offer of formal observer status.</p> <p>There has been an additional Ukrainian request for granting the honorary membership. There is a need to manage expectations. A new rule on honorary membership (not existing at present) will be part of the proposed modifications to the Rules of Procedure to be adopted in June PS.</p>
<p><u>Capacity-building measures</u></p>			
<p>9. Training programmes for local and regional officials; short-term study visits,</p>	<p>Contacts have been established with the European Commission services responsible for TAIEX and the Working Group on Ukraine focused on capacity-</p>	<p>Additional opportunities should be explored and developed in light of the Ukraine Facility funds made available under its Pillar III.</p>	<p>In the context of the recovery and reconstruction of Ukraine, TAIEX will not be enough to support the capacity building of LRAs and could not be used by the CoR</p>

<p>traineeships/internships and visitors' programmes</p>	<p>building, in the context of the 2023 Enlargement Day.</p> <p>On 24 July 2023, the CoR President sent letters to CoR members on TAIEX opportunities and financial support.</p> <p>The Alliance meeting of 19 January 2024 focused on capacity-building.</p> <p>Ukrainian trainees (study visitors) already hosted by the CoR.</p>	<p>Consider a possible study on this issue.</p> <p>Advocate a training programme specifically on this issue, perhaps broadening the work of U-LEAD with Europe in this respect.</p> <p>Also consider this issue in the context of discussions on an EaP Academy for Public Administration in CORLEAP. CIVEX is in contact with the <u>Regional School of Public Administration</u> (ReSPA) and has been enquiring about their training modules and their "exportability" to the region. The overall aim would be to provide short seminars teaching participants how to find EU funding opportunities, how to write a project proposal, and how to implement it in line with EU standards of sound financial management. This could be done in the framework of a potential EaP Academy for Public Administration, but also by the College of Europe, ReSPA or</p>	<p>members to facilitate their involvement in training sessions. Nevertheless, additional opportunities under the new Ukraine Facility and existing programmes will be explored.</p> <p>Developing a scheme for training programmes for Ukrainian LRAs and identify funding opportunities.</p>
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		<p>other universities online. The possibility can be further explored with DG EAC and/ or the EP for a pilot project.</p> <p>Also discuss this important issue with partners in the Alliance.</p> <p>Continue with the traineeship/ study visitor programme</p>	
<p>10. Peer-to-peer capacity-building measures, including a focus on transparency, which would require financial and operational support from the EC and implementing agencies to be revived</p>	<p>The 2023 timeline referred to cooperation with the EU Anti-Corruption Initiative (EUACI – Integrity Cities Programme). No concrete possibilities for further peer-to-peer capacity-building measures could be identified for 2024. This possibility was explored in a meeting with the EUACI (17 January 2024 – staff level). EUACI works very closely with a limited number of municipalities; since the beginning of the war, a number of initiatives have been developed on the ground that contribute to anti-corruption capacity building, including through peer-to-peer partnerships. Therefore the EUACI does not currently see a need to strike up new partnerships.</p> <p>On 23 January, as part of the European</p>	<p>Given that the overall topic is still of considerable political interest (including in the context of the pre-accession reforms), the CoR will continue to draw on the expertise of the EUACI for the work of the Alliance (presentation planned for 23 February 2024) and, where useful, of the WG Ukraine.</p>	<p>After consolidation of the agreement on the regulation of the Ukraine Facility and clarity on the implementation design and funding of the Ukraine Plan, new avenues could be explored for technical assistance for LRAs.</p>

	<p>Entrepreneurial Region (EER) Info Session, the ECON commission organised a hybrid workshop on sustaining the economic cooperation of EU regions with Ukraine. The event brought together EER regions for an exchange of best practices on the role of entrepreneurship in rebuilding Ukraine; representatives from the European Commission also presented the latest developments in relation to EU programmes opened up to Ukraine. The event was attended by a speaker from the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, as well as representatives from the EC, EER regions and relevant stakeholders.</p>		
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