



# THE EUROPEAN UNION AND UKRAINE

## #StrongerTogether

### Ukraine is a priority partner for the European Union.

The **Association Agreement (AA)**, including its **Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA)**, signed in 2014, is the legal framework bringing Ukraine and the EU closer together, promoting deeper political ties, stronger economic links and respect for common values.

The EU stands united in its **unwavering support to Ukraine** in the face of Russia's unprovoked and unjustified aggression. The EU strongly condemns the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol by the Russian Federation and continues to condemn this violation of international law. The EU remains steadfast in its commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The EU has stepped up its **political, humanitarian and financial support** to Ukraine and is imposing **massive sanctions** against the Kremlin to cripple its war machine.

On **28 February 2022**, Ukraine presented its application for EU membership.

Visa-free travel for Ukrainian citizens with biometric passports entered into force in June 2017.

The DCFTA has supported the continuous increase of bilateral trade between the EU and Ukraine. The EU has reinforced its position as Ukraine's number one trading partner, accounting for close to 40% of Ukraine's total international trade.

### RESPONSE TO RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE

Since the Russian aggression, the EU and European financial institutions have mobilized over **€4 billion in financial, humanitarian, emergency and budget support** to Ukraine. This including €1.2 billion in EU macro-financial assistance and €120 million in budget support already disbursed this year. A €330 million emergency package focused on immediate needs of internally displaced persons, as well as support to independent media and civil society has been adopted, while previous on-going projects worth €200 million have been adjusted to meet urgent needs on the ground.

Additional **€2 billion** has been made available under the **European Peace Facility** to deliver military equipment to the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

To address Ukraine's significant **short-term financial needs** the Commission has proposed granting an additional exceptional macro-financial assistance in the form of loans of up to €9 billion in 2022.

People fleeing the war in Ukraine can receive **temporary protection in any EU country**, including residence permits, access to the labour market and housing and medical assistance.

In 2022, the EU has provided over **€700 million of humanitarian aid and in-kind assistance** through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism consisting of over 38,000 tonnes of aid.

Since the beginning of the war, the EU has stepped up its immediate support to strengthen Ukraine's **cyber resilience** with €10million for equipment, software and other related support. A further €15 million has been provided to support resilient digital transformation.

### INSTITUTIONS

- The U-LEAD with Europe programme aims at increasing the capacity of local self-government to ensure good local governance and regional development, and to offer quality services to citizens, with an overall envelope of €158 million for the period 2016-2023. This programme has become a key emergency responder at the local level during the war.

### ECONOMY

- As part of the EU solidarity response with Ukraine, the EU has proposed to suspend import duties on all Ukrainian exports to the EU for one year and set out an action plan to establish 'Solidarity Lanes' to ensure Ukraine can export grain, but also import the goods it needs, from humanitarian aid to animal feed and fertilizers.

### SOCIETY

- On 3 March, the EU unanimously agreed to trigger the Temporary Protection Directive giving rights to a residence permit for at least one year, access to the labour market and housing, medical assistance, and access to education for children to the people fleeing the Russian aggression. As of 15 June, more than 7 million people arrived to the EU from Ukraine and Moldova & around 7 million are internally displaced in the country.

### GREEN

- The EU supports security of energy supply by increasing gas reverse flows, by electricity grid synchronisation since March 2022, and by substantial investments of the Ukrainian Energy Efficiency Fund. Ukraine will be able to benefit from EU common purchase of gas, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and hydrogen. In 2021, the EU and Ukraine launched a dedicated dialogue on the European Green Deal and Ukraine's Green Transition.

## RECOVERY RESILIENCE REFORM

### DIGITAL

- The EU has also allocated €25 million to support e-governance, cybersecurity and implementation of Ukraine's telecommunications obligations in the DCFTA in order to mutually benefit from internal market treatment.



### SUPPORT FOR RECONSTRUCTION

A major global financial effort will be required to rebuild Ukraine after the widespread destruction caused by Russia's invasion. An international coordination platform, the **'Ukraine reconstruction platform'**, co-led by the Commission and by the Ukrainian government, has been announced. The platform would be responsible for endorsing a reconstruction plan, drawn up by Ukraine, with administrative capacity support and technical assistance by the EU. The Commission has proposed to set up the 'RebuildUkraine' Facility as the main legal instrument for the EU's support, using a mix of grants and loans.

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