GIZ Ukraine: Supporting EU accession

Supporting Ukraine on its reform path to EU membership

BUILD BACK BETTER
REBUILDING UKRAINE TO BE FIT FOR THE FUTURE

Supporting Ukraine's accession to the European Union is a direct investment in Europe's long-term stability and prosperity. Beyond political solidarity, integrating Ukraine would extend the Single Market by more than 40 million consumers, creating significant opportunities, including for German businesses. However, EU enlargement is not only about economic growth. Ukraine's accession is also crucial for safeguarding peace, stability and security across Europe.

Ukraine's path towards EU membership requires comprehensive reforms and the alignment of national legislation, institutions, and standards with the EU acquis (the body of EU laws). In this context, GIZ Ukraine supports the Government of Ukraine on behalf of the German Government, the European Union (EU) and other donors. We provide policy advice, support legal approximation, and strengthen institutions, while combining these efforts with practical, hands-on support. Our work helps ensure that Ukraine's journey towards EU membership is based on good governance, the rule of law and sustainable economic development, and delivers real benefit not only for the Ukrainian people, but also for Germany and the EU as a whole.

Our strengths

- Strong networks with European institutions and EU member states and proximity to Ukrainian partners and actors.
- Comparative and long-standing experience in accompanying EU accession processes in various countries.
- Expertise in enabling civil society participation in policy-making for EU-aligned reforms.
- Ability to implement a holistic approach by working across different levels of collaboration (from national to local) and linking all steps of the process.

Our objectives

1. Ukrainian institutions that effectively coordinate and manage the EU accession process, enabling Ukraine to become a stable and predictable partner for the EU and its member states, including Germany.
2. Increased transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement in the European integration process, strengthening democracy and trust in public institutions.
3. Comprehensive reforms that ensure a level playing field for Ukraine and EU member states and support the effective use of the opportunities arising from EU membership.
4. Strong institutions and regulators that are able to enforce the acquis and deliver services to ensure fair competition, high standards, and reliable public services aligned with EU law and for the benefit of the whole EU.

Our achievements

Selected results, in figures, since 2022*

More than **1,600 people** trained on the rule of law and EU accession

Significant contributions in **15 out of 35 Chapters**

154 legislative amendments supported to advance EU alignment with the particitpation of high-level experts.

Support across **5 of the 6 AQUIS CLUSTERS**

*Data collected between February 2022 and October 2026

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GIZ Ukraine

Our services

Cluster 1: Fundamentals

- We support the Government of Ukraine in preparing and implementing comprehensive reforms to bring the country's judiciary and law enforcement system into line with EU standards of Rule of Law, democracy, and fundamental rights.
- We contribute to initiatives aimed at combating and preventing corruption.
- We support the Ukrainian national, regional, and local institutions in establishing a modern and efficient system of administration, in line with European standards of multi-level governance.

Cluster 2: Internal Market

- We support Ukraine in aligning its economy with the EU Single Market by helping design and implement the required reforms.
- We support the harmonisation of legislation in key areas such as freedoms of the internal market, intellectual property, consumer protection.
- We help reduce trade barriers and enable Ukrainian businesses to compete and integrate successfully within the European economic space.

Cluster 3: Competitiveness and Inclusive Growth

- We support Ukraine in implementing EU-aligned economic reforms and employment policies to foster inclusive and sustainable growth and just transition.
- We advise on industrial policy and support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to increase their competitiveness.

Cluster 4: Green Agenda and Sustainable Connectivity

- We support Ukraine's alignment with the European Green Deal.
- We provide expertise on reforming the energy sector, promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency, and implementing climate action policies.
- We advise on modernising transport infrastructure and environmental regulations to meet EU standards for a sustainable future.

Cluster 5: Resources, Agriculture, and Cohesion

- We support all municipalities to ensure that economic development and the benefits of EU integration are distributed equitably across all of Ukraine's regions.

Our impact



Oleksandr Palazov

Director of Regulatory Policy and Entrepreneurship Department at the Ministry of Economy, Environment and Agriculture of Ukraine

GIZ supported Ukraine in drafting a key market surveillance law aligned with EU requirements, which has been approved by the Ukrainian Parliament. The law will ensure that products certified in either Ukraine or the EU are automatically accepted by the other party, without the need for a second round of costly inspections. Additionally, the new rules crack down on unsafe products sold online, ensuring that digital marketplaces remain safe for consumers in both the EU and Ukraine.

> "This reform cuts the bureaucracy that slows down trade between the EU and Ukraine while ensuring that cheap, unsafe products don't undercut fair business."

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Partners: Ukrainian Ministries and Centre of Government Bodies, Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, civil society organisations and think tanks.

GIZ Ukraine

On behalf of the German government, the EU, and other donors, GIZ provides comprehensive support for efficient and sustainable reconstruction. Our aims are (1) conditions in which Ukraine is strong, able to act autonomously once the war is over, and capable of offering good living conditions to the local population and those returning to the country; (2) an efficient Ukrainian economy that creates jobs, attracts private investors and acts as a reliable trading partner for the EU and Germany; and (3) a reform-oriented Ukraine that meets EU standards and observes the principles of transparency and the rule of law. GIZ's decades-long record of cooperation and a network spanning the entire country enable tailored support that is both forward-looking and responsive to citizens' needs.

Imprint

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