GIZ Ukraine: Good governance

Strengthening municipalities, shaping reconstruction, fostering the rule of law

BUILD BACK BETTER
REBUILDING UKRAINE TO BE FIT FOR THE FUTURE

Only strong municipalities offer good living conditions at local level, and remain able to act even in wartime. The decentralisation reform in Ukraine ensured that municipalities had greater authority and better funding even before the escalation of Russia's war of aggression in 2022. Today, this local self-government is a crucially important factor in citizen-responsive reconstruction. On behalf of the German Government, the EU and other donors, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is supporting local authorities in their efforts to establish the administrative structures they need to handle large-scale reconstruction measures in line with the principles of transparency and accountability – from financing and contracting to implementation planning. Since strong, democratic, rule-of-law structures are a precondition for Ukraine acceding to the European Union, GIZ is also advising Ukraine on EU-compliant reforms, and helping with implementation.

Our objectives

1. Strong municipalities that take charge of reconstruction and offer local people prospects
2. Modern, digital local administration, geared to the needs of citizens
3. Effective structures and processes to rebuild Ukraine – for financing, planning and implementation
4. A high level of transparency and the rule of law at all administrative levels – as the precondition for Ukraine joining the EU and for German funding for reconstruction

Our achievements

Selected results, in figures, since 2022*

Reconstruction of essential local infrastructure, including schools and hospitals serving



3.7 million people

Cooperation with almost all Ukrainian local authorities and rapid assistance for areas close to the front line

over **1,400**



Anti-corruption training for **6,300 people**



13,000 people



involved in municipal, regional and national consensus building and decision-making processes

* Data collected between February 2022 and June 2026

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GIZ Ukraine

Our services

Strengthening municipalities

- We provide support for ongoing decentralisation and foster local development, including customised training for administrative staff, realised across the board by GIZ regional offices.
- We work with Ukrainian local authorities to develop reliable, efficient, digital administrative services, including online registers for authorities' data management, online portals for the transparent award of public contracts, and digital learning services for local authority staff.
- We underpin municipal reconstruction by establishing necessary administrative structures and developing the expertise needed to realise large-scale projects at this level.

Preparing for EU accession

- We advise the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Ukraine and the Ukrainian Parliament on bringing Ukrainian law into line with EU law.

Promoting the rule of law

- We advise the Ministry of Justice and downstream authorities on reforms in the fields of the judiciary, fundamental rights and criminal prosecution.
- We strengthen the independence of the judicial system by fostering transparent appointment processes.
- We facilitate dialogue between civil society and the government and foster civil society projects that strengthen the rule of law.

Citizen-responsive, transparent reconstruction

- We advise the Ukrainian Government on the process of reconstruction, taking account of the needs of all sections of the population.
- We enable local, regional and national levels of government and administration to network.
- We offer reform-related advisory services on the legal framework for construction and public investment.
- We foster transparency and accountability in the investment planning of reconstruction projects.

Our impact



Bohdan Koliada

Secretary of Berdychiv City Council

At the start of the Russian war of aggression, the municipality of Berdychiv not only took in numerous internally displaced persons. It also had to prevent local businesses leaving. Along with the U-LEAD with Europe project, Berdychiv managed to draw up a development and investment plan at short notice. This created housing for more than 5,000 internally displaced persons, managed to retain all local businesses and even attracted new international partners. Bohdan Koliada, Secretary of Berdychiv City Council, told us,

> "The investment plan was and is a major advantage for us. Not only have we been able to save all local businesses. It has also helped us forge cooperation arrangements with cities in Lithuania and Poland."

The U-LEAD with Europe programme has been financed by the EU and member states Germany, Denmark, France, Poland and Slovenia, and is being implemented by GIZ Ukraine on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Commissioning parties/cofinanciers: German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), European Union (EU), German Federal Foreign Office

Partners: Ukrainian ministries, city and municipal administrations, municipal operating companies, civil society

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.

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