



# ASSOCIATION OF UKRAINIAN CITIES

BY JOINT EFFORTS



European Committee of the Regions



#UkraineAlliance



**AUC Chairman  
Kyiv City Mayor  
Vitaliy Klitschko**

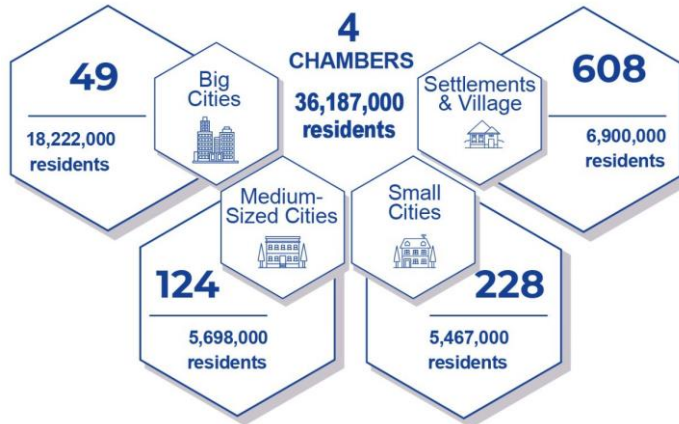


**AUC Executive Director  
Oleksandr Slobozhan**

ASSOCIATION OF UKRAINIAN CITIES (AUC) is the most powerful non-governmental organization in Ukraine, which represents and advocates joint position of Ukrainian cities, settlements and villages.

AUC was founded in 1992. It has become a strong voice of local governments in the dialogue with state authorities, has ensured forming joint policy of all types of communities and safeguarding their position at all levels. Nowadays, AUC unites 1,009 communities where more than 90 percent of Ukrainian population resides.

AUC experts are involved in developing draft laws, Government decisions on all kinds of activities of local governments.



AUC Website



AUC Telegram Channel



AUC Facebook Page

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## Lessons learned and best practices from 2022

- hundreds of proposals to draft laws and Government decisions on activities of local governments during martial law were submitted; in particular due to AUC proposals, revenues to local budgets increased by ₴15.7 bn (€407 mln) and ₴169.5 bn (€4,389 bn) were not withdrawn from local budgets;
- with AUC assistance, more than \$50 mln of international aid was attracted to the affected communities, delivery of humanitarian aid was coordinated from the beginning of the full-scale invasion into all regions of Ukraine regardless of their membership in AUC;
- Ukrainian communities of all types were represented at international forums, exhibitions, conferences; partnerships were established between 128 Ukrainian communities and their foreign counterparts;
- 30 mayors were released from russian captivity.

## Biggest current challenge, & future perspective

- further uniting local governments and defining their joint position in dialogue with state authorities and in cooperation with international partners;
- continuing the dialogue with state authorities, developing draft laws and proposals to them on the activities of local governments, including rebuilding communities and the transition period from the wartime to peaceful life after Victory;
- ensuring AUC institutional development to improve the efficiency of its activities and creating possibilities for rebuilding all communities across all regions of Ukraine.



# All-Ukrainian Association of the Communities



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The membership base consists of 866 local self-government bodies, including 23 urban councils (5.6% of the total), 334 town councils (74.2%), and 509 rural councils (83.4%).

The main mission is the development of rural territories through the enhancement of self-governance in territorial communities.



## Lessons learned and best practices from 2022

### AUAC project “**Consolidated Communities**”

✓ Provision of communities with necessary things (medicine, generators, food).

More than 1,000 tons of cargo were delivered to the de-occupied territories and communities on the front line. More than 100,000 beneficiaries of aid from 103 communities: 20 000 women, 5 000 refugees, 14 000 residents of the de-occupied territories, 1000 large and low-income families, 12 000 elderly people

✓ expertise in the interests of local self-government (providing consultations, lobbying interests)

## Biggest current challenge, & future perspective

✓ Restoration of communities and rural territories

Temporary housing; home repairs; construction of new housing; creating the right conditions for a long-term stay

Re-location of enterprises; creation of new jobs; attracting investors; expansion of the rural business network

Supporting vulnerable populations

✓ Initiating a new policy of sustainable rural and agricultural development in the context of Ukraine’s European integration.





# Council of European Municipalities and Regions



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The Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) is the broadest European association of local and regional governments that has been promoting international municipal cooperation between local and regional governments for many decades. Since March 2021, CEMR is involved since the beginning in implementing Bridges of Trust initiative to create new partnerships between municipalities in Ukraine and in the EU member states, nowadays, with a special focus on reconstruction. Bridges of Trust initiative is fully supported under U –Lead with Europe Programme managed by GIZ.

## Lessons learned and best practices from 2022

- Personal contacts matter; cannot build a partnership through emails.
- Assigning responsible person is important.
- Areas of cooperation must be clearly defined.
- Careful analysis of the partners during the matching process.
- Clear funding and mechanism for cooperation.
- Visits of UA mayors to events abroad with presentations of their municipalities.
- Both partners must benefit from the partnership.
- Involvement of local stakeholders is important.
- Individual advice and support for interested LRA's; facilitation of first meetings.
- Overestimated expectations on UA side.

## Biggest current challenge, & future perspective

- Russian Federation military troops are still on the territory of Ukraine, thus emergency support is still needed.
- Need for the establishment of a multilevel dialogue from the outset with local governments and their associations.
- Urgent need for Ukrainian local governments to access EU financial, technical and expert support, including from the EU member states, aimed at building the capacities of municipalities for the implementation of reconstruction projects. .
- The decentralisation process and principles should not be violated in the country's recovery process but build on.
- Initiatives such as Bridges of Trust are very important to be further funded promoting partnerships between European and Ukrainian local and regional governments.





EU4Energy



Covenant of Mayors  
for Climate & Energy  
Eastern Partnership

# Covenant of Mayors East



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The EU-funded project "Covenant of Mayors East" supports local authorities in implementing sustainable energy policies, improving energy security, and facilitating their contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

**198 Covenant signatories municipalities in Ukraine, with 158 developed local action plans.**

## Lessons learned and best practices from 2022

With the beginning of Russia's large-scale unprovoked invasion the project was proving support to local authorities facing a geo-political and/or humanitarian crisis.

The communities were assisted with equipment (power generators, construction materials), food, medicines, etc. Moreover, the CoM East started to build capacities of municipalities with the post-war recovery and reconstruction.

## Biggest current challenge, & future perspective

The CoM East planning the following activities for municipalities in 2023:

- High-level conference "Covenant of Mayors in Ukraine: Working together towards green reconstruction", 10–11 May 2023 in Lviv (Ukraine)
- Numerous webinars, trainings, city2city study visits
- Assistance to municipalities with development of the projects and building capacities of the local project implementation units
- Organisation of match-making meeting and facilitation of dialog with IFIs, donors and investors.





# Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe



## High level political dialogue and continuous support to Ukraine's democratic resilience and full recovery

Since Russia's war against Ukraine, the Congress has shown solidarity with Ukrainian local authorities. Through [political declarations](#) and [peer-to-peer support and technical expertise](#), the Congress is deploying relentless efforts for the consolidation of local democracy in the country, as well as multi-level governance, open government and human rights at local level. Co-operation activities are implemented within the [Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine "Resilience, Recovery and Reconstruction" 2023-2026](#).

## Lessons learned and best practices from 2022

- Local authorities in Ukraine as resilience pillars of the country
- Key role of the Association of Ukrainian Cities in advocacy, international outreach and co-ordination of humanitarian aid
- Strong willingness to continuously engage citizens in time of war, fostering open government initiatives, and proactive contribution to the Platform for National-Local dialogue
- International solidarity: Cities4Cities platform

## Biggest current challenge, & future perspective

- Support Ukrainian local authorities to build their operational capacities and strengthen co-operation and partnerships with European peers
- Strengthen multi-level governance and dialogue for an effective recovery and reconstruction
- Ensure thorough, timely and meaningful consultations between central and local authorities under the martial law and in the post-war recovery, in line with the European Charter of Local Self-Government



# Ukrainian Association of District and Regional Councils (UAROR)



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Established in 1991, the Association includes all regional and district councils of the country, represents their interests in governmental and non-governmental organizations and in the international arena. Coordinates their activities and provides legal, informational and methodological support.

President of UAROR - Sergii Chernov

Address: 73, Sichovyyh Striltsyv Str, Kyiv, Ukraine; <https://uaror.org.ua/> Tel. 044-484-05-64)

## Lessons learned and best practices from 2022

✓ February, 2022: Coordinating Center for Territorial Defense was established under the Association.

✓ Strengthened cooperation in the direction of restoring Ukraine, supporting decentralization and providing assistance to Ukraine with the following organizations: Congress of local and regional authorities of the Council of Europe; Conference of Regional and Local Councils of the Eastern Partnership (CORLEAP); Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR); EU Committee of the Regions (CoR).

✓ Started cooperation with the following three organizations:- European Alliance of Cities and Regions for the Reconstruction of Ukraine;- Assembly of European Regions (AER);- International Alliance for Peace and Unity in Europe (UAROR is acted as a cofounder).

✓ Implementation of UAROR initiatives with international organizations: Program of providing farmers with means of temporary grain storage (FAO UN); Project "The state of food security in the settlements of the "gray zone"

## Biggest current challenge, & future perspective

✓ The Association conducted studying of 1560 settlements that are located at a distance of up to 50 km from the border with Russia or the line of demarcation according to the socio-economic situation. There is a great need for reconstruction of the facilities. Thus, on the first place – logistics infrastructure, on the second – social infrastructure, on the third - the restoration of agriculture, and on the fourth – the reconstruction or restoration of housing.

✓ International partnership

✓ Conducting educational programs





# Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR)



CPMR  
CRPM



European Committee  
of the Regions



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The CPMR Migration Task Force, in collaboration with the CPMR Balkan and Black Sea Commission, have a coordinating role in the CPMR's activities on Solidarity with Ukraine:

- Specific issues related to the reception and integration of Ukrainian refugees
- Humanitarian and emergency support
- Role of regions in reconstruction efforts in the framework of Ukraine's EU accession process.

## Lessons learned and best practices from 2022

- [Issue Paper](#) CPMR Regions in support of Ukraine: From reception, integration & inclusion challenges to humanitarian aid : how can we build on the existing wave of solidarity to develop sustainable cooperation with Ukrainian regions & cities?

## Biggest current challenge, 2023 perspective

- Role of regions in the successful longer-term inclusion of Ukrainian refugees while looking ahead to preparing future repatriation and reintegration
- Cooperation between EU-UA regional authorities in the context of reconstruction, especially in the maritime field