



Ministry for Development
of Communities
and Territories of Ukraine



Ministry for Development of Communities and Territories of Ukraine

RESTORATION DIGEST

The 76th Special Edition – Summary of the Year

NEW YEAR

2025



KYIV, JANUARY 6TH, 2024

DEAR FRIENDS, COLLEAGUES, AND PARTNERS!

We are starting a new year in the war for our freedom and independence. Despite the fatigue and exhaustion, we are entering 2025 stronger, with a clear understanding of our needs and a vision for our future. We must make every effort to ensure that the sacrifice of our soldiers is not in vain. For the sake of building a strong, sustainable, and united country! Although this year was challenging, it showed our strength and unity. Every community and region of Ukraine worked in conditions that required extraordinary efforts. Together, we have ensured the main thing—resilience. Resilience is about recovery, support, mutual assistance, and solidarity, which

has become our strength. This year was a year of partnership. Communities worked together, helped each other, and shared their experience and resources. In the new year, we will expand our cooperation. In 2024, the Ministry for Development of Communities and Territories of Ukraine faced serious challenges and transformations. This year's priorities include the heating season, the functioning of critical infrastructure under constant shelling, the support and development of communities and regions, housing reconstruction, and attracting international funding for reconstruction projects. We have accomplished a lot at the Ministry.

In addition to continuing ongoing projects, we have identified new priorities and launched new policies. Below, you will find detailed information about the results of the Ministry's team in 2024 and the main priorities for 2025. I thank everyone who contributes to our common victory every day. You are the force shaping our country's future. Together and united, we will do even more!

Glory to Ukraine!

Oleksii KULEBA,
*Deputy Prime Minister for
Restoration of Ukraine - Minister
for Development of Communities
and Territories of Ukraine*



EUROPEAN INTEGRATION, INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, TOURISM AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY



In 2024, the Ministry for Development of Communities and Territories of Ukraine paid special attention to European integration, work with international recovery partners, community cooperation, and energy efficiency.



The First Deputy Minister of Communities and Territories Development, Aliona Shkrum summarized key achievements and plans in these areas.



Aliona SHKRUM,
First Deputy Minister for
Development of Communities
and Territories of Ukraine:

On the way to European integration, a large part of our daily work aims to bring our legislation closer to the European one—the Ministry pre-screened legislation in important areas for compliance with EU requirements.

[Get more details](#)

This year's priority was also to strengthen and develop international cooperation, both at the governmental level and at the level of communities and regions. New partnerships must emerge between Ukraine's cities and regions and foreign countries, which will now cooperate on recovery and many other projects.

Thanks to the efforts of the Ministry's team, we increased the volume of international support: in 2024, more than \$1 billion 115 million was raised for recovery and development projects.

Next year, we will continue cooperating with all international fi-

nancial organizations in the most important areas: restoration of critical infrastructure, distributed energy, and energy efficiency, restoration of housing, educational institutions and hospitals, and construction of shelters, focusing on frontline communities.

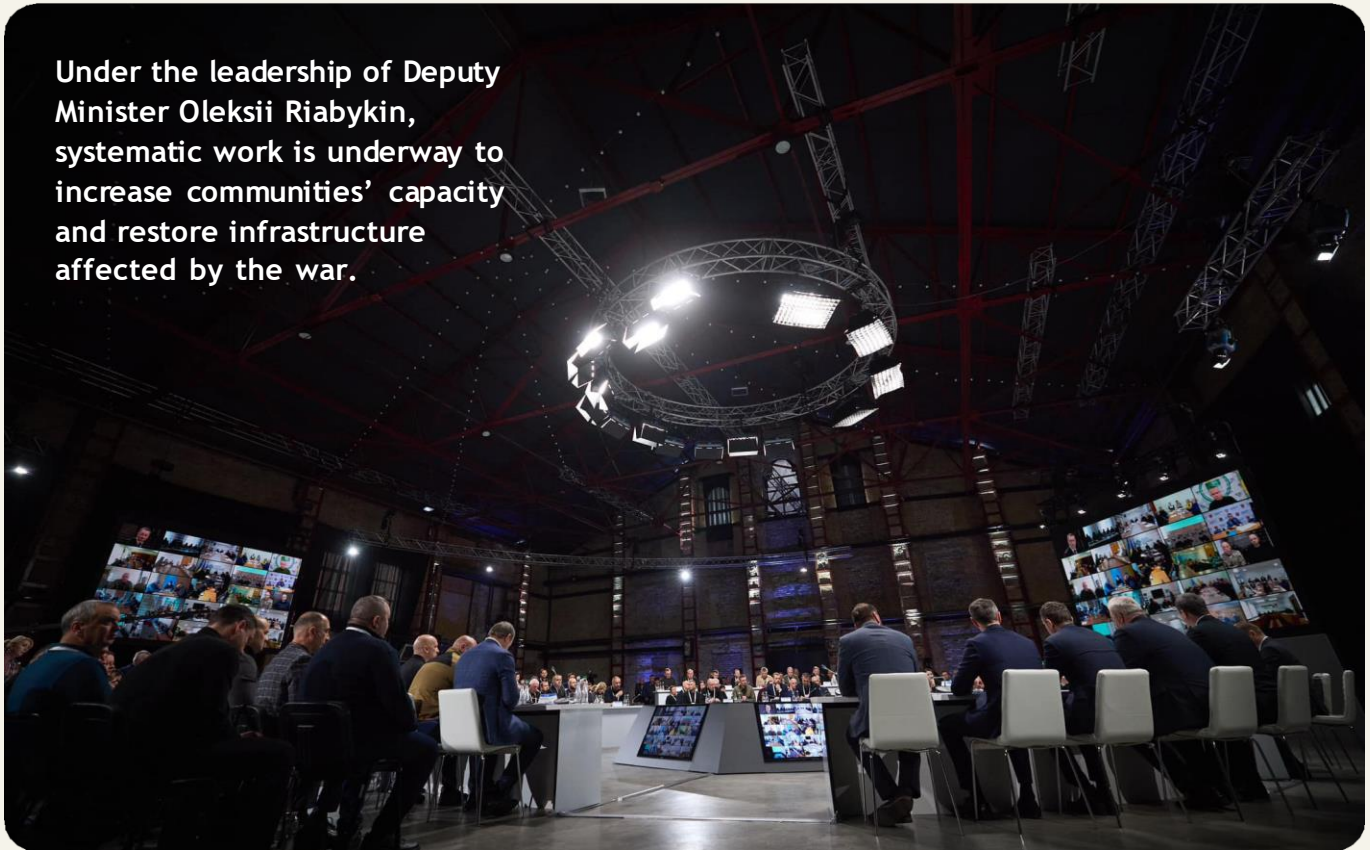
The main topic of the Ukraine Recovery Conference (URC) in July 2025 in Rome will be attracting international support for community recovery and development projects. We will focus on strengthening the capacity and role of communities and regions in the reconstruction process, allocating financial resources, reforms, and Ukraine's accession to the EU.

STRATEGIC PLANNING, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT



In 2024, Ukraine's Ministry for Development of Communities and Territories implemented several key initiatives in regional development, local self-government, and community development.

Under the leadership of Deputy Minister Oleksii Riabykin, systematic work is underway to increase communities' capacity and restore infrastructure affected by the war.



Oleksii RIABYKIN,
Deputy Minister for
Development of Communities
and Territories of
Ukraine:

[Get more details](#) 

Any policy must focus on people's expectations and needs. Regional policy must have clear priorities, consistency and systematicity, and coherence with other policies. Most importantly, it must respond to society's demands.

Complex demands and problems that existed before and during almost

three years of full-scale invasion have become a real challenge for the state system and local governments, for every Ukrainian family, and for every Ukrainian. Ukraine has survived thanks to the unity of Ukrainians. In the face of a great war based on transparency and accountability, we must move forward and integrate into the European Union.

TRANSPORT AND POSTAL SERVICES



The Ministry for Development of Communities and Territories of Ukraine has introduced a number of innovations in the postal sector, increased the volume of rail and sea transportation, and adopted important regulations for the industry.



Despite continuous Russian attacks, the year demonstrated dynamic progress in key areas. Improved regulatory frameworks have opened up new opportunities for postal operators to provide high-quality services. The Ministry is modernizing our internal systems and upgrading

our port and railway infrastructure. These steps have a positive impact on consumers and strengthen the Ukrainian economy.

Sustainable development in times of war results from practical cooperation with international partners, coordi-

nation of all stakeholders, and heroic efforts of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. The Ministry team is already working on European integration standards, and a number of projects for the next year have been launched in 2024.

[Get more details](#) 



COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS, FINANCIAL ORGANIZATIONS AND DONORS



In 2024, the Ministry for Development of Communities and Territories of Ukraine paid special attention to international support for community recovery and development and raising funds from international organizations.

The Deputy Minister of Communities and Territories Development, Maryna Denysiuk summarized key achievements and plans in these areas.



[Get more details](#) 

Maryna DENYSIUK, Deputy Minister for Development of Communities and Territories of Ukraine:

International cooperation is the basis for consolidating efforts for recovery and development. The Ministry continues cooperating with global financial institutions, donors, and governments in partner countries to attract funding and technical assistance. In 2024,

we raised more than USD 1 billion 115 million for restoration and development projects. Together with partners, we reviewed all projects and updated their status. Every project has an implementation plan, and we are moving within the established terms.

This work is coordinated at the government level. Implementing the public investment management reform and forming a pilot Single-Project Pipeline based on the DREAM ecosystem is ongoing. All projects in the portfolio have been appropriately evaluated and verified. Next year, the plan is to move from the pilot phase to a systematic approach by creating

a methodological framework and introducing strategic planning for public investment. In 2024, the Ministry ensured the timely fulfillment of five indicators as part of implementing the Ukraine Facility Plan to ensure financial support for Ukraine from the European Union. We are preparing an updated RDNA4 - rapid damage and needs assessment report - with the World Bank, the European Commission, and the United Nations. The document will serve as the basis for forming priority reconstruction and development projects involving public and private funding. We are paying special attention to the issue of public investment management.

HOUSING UTILITIES AND HEATING SEASON



In 2024, the Ministry for Development of Communities and Territories of Ukraine implemented a number of measures in the field of housing and communal services, preparation and passage of the heating season.



The Deputy Minister of Communities and Territories Development, Kostiantyn Kovalchuk summarized key achievements and plans in these areas.



Kostiantyn KOVALCHUK,
Deputy Minister for
Development of Communities
and Territories of Ukraine:

The coordinated work of the authorities at all levels and the cohesion of communities and regions ensured the start of the heating season in most regions of Ukraine in time.

[Get more details](#) 

Despite the russians constant attacks, the government responds promptly to challenges and restores utility infrastructure. For example, representatives of different communities and regions joined forces to restore the heating system in Kryvyi Rih.

Coordination in such circumstances is crucial, so the government headquarters was set up to prepare housing and utilities and the fuel and energy sector for the autumn-winter period of 2024/25. We have also established the Headquarters

for Cohesive Communities to inform about the heating season.

The main task of the Ministry remains to restore and develop the communal infrastructure in the context of the war. In particular, to introduce distributed generation, improve energy efficiency, and strengthen the energy independence of communities. Setting up a decentralized heating system is a top priority for every community in the face of constant russian shelling.

CONSTRUCTION AND HOUSING POLICY



2024 was a year of significant changes and achievements in construction and housing policy. Deputy Minister Natalia Kozlovskaya shared the main results in these areas.



The Deputy Minister of Communities and Territories Development, Natalia Kozlovskaya summarized key achievements and plans in these areas.



[Get more details](#)

Natalia KOZLOVSKA,
Deputy Minister for
Development of Communities
and Territories of Ukraine:

When discussing
digitalization's importance

in urban planning, we also consider its impact on the processes that ensure transparent and accountable recovery now and in the postwar period, strengthening communities' capacity and role in implementing reconstruction projects, allocating financial resources, and implementing reforms.

Electronic systems, registries, and the automatic data

exchange between them are not only about transparency and overcoming corruption.

They also mean faster service delivery for individuals and legal entities in an automatic mode without officials' involvement. Thanks to digitalization, access to the necessary information is just a few clicks, both for the daily needs of every Ukrainian and for the strategic needs of communities.

ROAD TRANSPORTATION, BCP AND ANTI-CORRUPTION



In 2024 under the leadership of Deputy Minister for Development of Communities and Territories Serhii Derkach, significant positive changes were made in the field of road transportation, development of checkpoints, and building anti-corruption compliance in the Ministry's management.

Under the leadership of Deputy Minister Serhii Derkach, systematic work is underway to increase communities' capacity and restore infrastructure affected by the war.



Serhii DEREKACH,
Deputy Minister for
Development of
Communities and Territories
of Ukraine:

[Get more details](#)

Throughout the year, we worked as a team to ensure uninterrupted exports and imports of goods by road, liberalize transportation with other countries, improve bus travel abroad, and build checkpoints.

At the same time, we launched innovative projects to help overcome the challenges of the times,

such as the staffing crisis or queues at the borders. Today, we have a number of successful results in these areas, and we have even more work ahead of us to make the Ukrainian carrier competitive in the European market and to ensure that our citizens have the opportunity to use high-quality and safe transportation services.

THE MINISTRY FOR DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES FOR 2025

2025 opens up new opportunities and identifies key areas for development.
Key areas of Ministry work for 2025:

Energy security



Energy independence is one of the Ministry's main challenges in 2025.



Five hundred units of energy equipment are planned to be installed in communities, with a special focus on frontline settlements.



This will allow communities to improve their energy supply and minimize the risks of interruptions due to enemy attacks.

Housing



Housing compensation program eVidnovlennia

₴ 4 billion



provided for in the State Budget 2025 for the eVidnovlennia program

₴ 15 billion



allocated by the Government for compensation for damaged and destroyed housing for IDPs



4



15

A pilot project for housing for internally displaced persons in communities is planned for 2025.

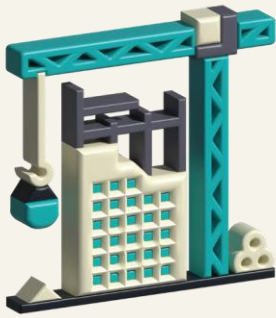
The implementation of the compensation program for damaged and destroyed housing eVidnovlennia continues. Thus, the State Budget 2025 provides UAH 4 billion for the eVidnovlennia program.

In addition, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine has reallocated UAH 15 billion for damaged and destroyed housing compensation for internally displaced persons. The financial redirection of funds to the Ministry for Development of Communities and Territories of Ukraine is expected to occur in January 2025. These funds will be used

to compensate IDPs, both for existing certificates and certificates that will be issued in the future.

In 2025, a pilot project will be implemented to construct housing facilities for internally displaced persons in territorial communities. It is also planned to provide affordable housing for rent, including for IDPs.

Housing



Construction of housing for Internally Displaced Persons

Implementation of a pilot project for the construction of social housing



Providing affordable social housing for rent, including for IDPs



Public Investment Management Reform



Public Investment Management Reform (PIM)

The purpose of the new system of Public Investment Management

to use budget funds efficiently, directing them to the most important projects that meet the country's strategic goals in times of war

224,2
million

allocated in the State Budget 2025 to finance the of a single project portfolio within the PIM

115
million

of these funds will be attracted under state guarantees to restore critical infrastructure

Implementation of public investment reform will continue at the state and local levels

The new Public Investment Management (PIM) Reform aims to use budget funds efficiently, directing them to the most important projects that meet the country's strategic goals in times of war. For 2025, funding for the Single Project Portfolio under PIM is envisaged in the amount of UAH 224.2 billion. Of these funds, UAH 115 billion will be raised under state

guarantees to restore critical infrastructure.

Over the next year, it is planned to continue implementing public investment reform at the state and local levels.

The Public Investment Management system emphasizes the critical role of strategic planning at the community level. Every community is

interested in developing and approving local development strategies. PIM provides communities with an effective tool for prioritizing and allocating resources to projects that meet strategic goals, especially during war. This approach guarantees transparency, accountability, and efficiency in using budget funds, contributing to each community's long-term development.

Regional development



Support of regional development

Launch of the renewed State Fund for Regional Development

Additional financial instruments for the implementation of development projects by communities

Update of the State Strategy for Regional Development, based on the factors of war

A new model of equalization of local budget revenues and a new model of community capacity

Regulation of the system of administrative supervision over the legality of decisions of local self-government

Update of the Concept of Local Self-Government Reform

In 2025, communities will have access to the updated State Fund for Regional Development and the introduction of additional financial instruments for community development projects.

In addition, the State Strategy for Regional Development (SRD) will be updated regard-

ing the approval of functional types of territories and macroregions.

A new model for equalizing local budget revenues and a new model of community capacity will be introduced during the year. The Concept of Local Self-Government Reform will also be updated.

Decentralization reform is a component of the resilience of communities and the country. In 2025, we have to regulate the system of administrative supervision over the legality of local government decisions. Another important component of regional policy is the reintegration of the temporarily occupied territories.

National project "Hand in Hand"



The national project "Hand in Hand: Cohesive Communities" envisages cooperation of rear and more capable communities as a partner with frontline ones and those under constant russian fire outpost communities.

Cooperation in three key areas:



infrastructure restoration



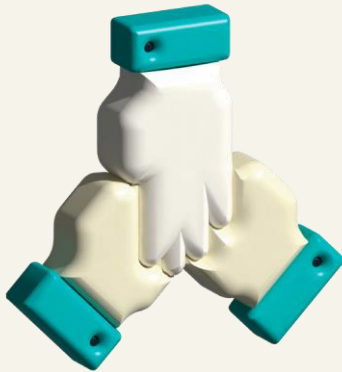
humanitarian aid



cultural and social support.

More than 100 communities are currently involved in the project; another 114 outpost communities need support.

International Cooperation



We continue to adapt Ukrainian legislation to meet the requirements of the European Union



In 2025



Preparation and holding of bilateral meetings between Ukraine and the EU within the framework of the official screening of the negotiated chapters is planned:



14 Transport policy



21 Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T)



22 Regional policy and coordination of structural instruments

In 2025, together with the World Bank, the European Commission, and the United Nations, we will update the Recovery Needs Assessment Report - RDNA4.

The document will become the basis for the formation of priority reconstruction and development projects with the involvement of public and private funding.

Accelerating and deepening cooperation with the European Union. In 2024, the EU-Ukraine High-Level Transport Dialogue met for the first time in six years.

In addition, we have been actively involved in the

European integration process. The Ministry of Development has conducted a pre-screening analysis of adapting Ukrainian legislation to meet EU requirements in the key areas of transport and logistics.

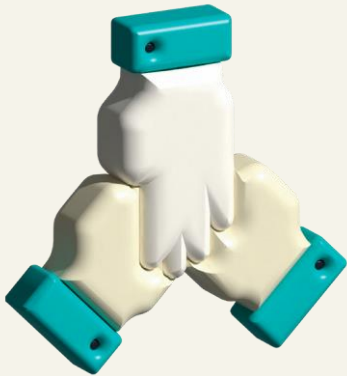
In 2025, civil society will be involved in preparing, and bilateral EU-Ukraine meetings will be held as part of the official screening under Negotiating Chapters 14 "Transport Policy," 21 "Trans-European Networks," and 22 "Regional Policy and Coordination of Structural Instruments." Ukraine's negotiating positions on the relevant chapters will be formed simultaneously.

The Ukraine Facility is a program of financial support for Ukraine by European partners, which runs until 2027.

The Ukraine Facility envisages allocating €50 billion to support the budget, stimulate investment, and develop regional projects.

The Ministry for Development implements 26 indicators in the Ukraine Facility Plan and a co-implementer of two more. Thus, this year we managed to fulfill all 5 indicators mandatory for implementation in 2024. The Ministry has to meet eight more in 2025, 6 in 2026, and 7 in 2027.

International Cooperation



Ukraine Facility

is a program of financial support for Ukraine by European partners until 2027.

8

of Ukraine's obligations under the Plan should be fulfilled in 2025

The Ukraine Facility provides

€ 50 billion

to support the budget, stimulate investment and develop regional projects



Establishing a separate stream as a “single window” for exchanging information concerning the urgent needs of restoration and recovery.

The stream is joined by:

- Ministries, special commissioners for recovery, members of the Platform and
- other stakeholders



Next Steering Committee meeting: **January 2025**

Also, in 2024, the Ministry started working under the Ukraine Investment Framework (UIF or Pillar 2). The total volume of the UIF is €9.3 billion, of which €7.8 billion is the Ukrainian Guarantee, a special mechanism to protect investments during the war. The priorities for 2025 include investments in the energy sector. We must build additional capacities, decentralize the electricity and heat supply

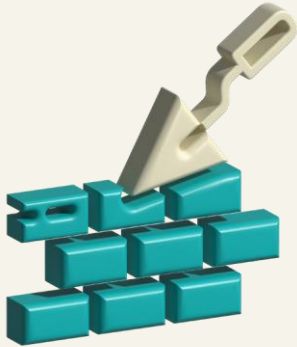
system, and ensure community energy independence. The portfolio for 2025 will include regional projects in energy, water supply, heat supply, social housing construction, and assistance to small and medium-sized enterprises in the frontline regions.

A new Recovery and Reconstruction area is being created within the Ukrainian Donor Platform to become a single

window for coordinating and sharing information on urgent recovery and reconstruction needs. Depending on the agenda, the task force's meetings will be attended by government representatives, special envoys for recovery, platform members, HoCs, and other experts. The next meeting of the Ukrainian Donor Platform Steering Committee is scheduled for January 2025.

Infrastructure

Restoration of critical infrastructure



₴ 8 billion

In 2025 is planned to complete the construction of water intakes and main water pipelines for water supply in Mykolaiv.



Protection of energy facilities



Development of a cogeneration network

In 2025, it is planned to complete the construction of water intakes and main water pipelines to supply water to Mykolaiv. The water supply interruptions occurred as a

result of the blowing up of the Kakhovka HPP dam by russian terrorists. The state budget for 2025 provides UAH 8 billion for these purposes. In addition, the Ministry is focused on

protecting energy facilities and building a cogeneration network. It also aims to restore facilities damaged by the war, attracting international support.

Digitization

Development of digital tools



Further development of the eQueue project



scaling up the service to all types of vehicles crossing the border (cars, trucks under 7.5 tons)



Ensuring automatic verification of a number of information at the time of registration in the system



Implementation of the Geographic Information System for Regional Development Monitoring



Development of the DREAM ecosystem



Building a local statistics database to improve analysis and decision-making



Strengthening digital tools for citizens' access to information and participation in community life

Digitization



Development of digital tools

Development of an electronic system that will combine information about apartment buildings, condominiums co-owners and administrators



Launch of the Single Platform for Housing and Utility Services



Implementation of the eInspector system to increase the transparency of the work of the State Service of Ukraine for Transport Safety



Modernization of the distribution of permits of the European Conference of Ministers of Transport



Digitalization of the functionality of obtaining a seafarer's identity card

The eQueue project will continue to develop in 2025. In particular, as part of the new stage of the project's development, it is planned to scale the service to all types of vehicles crossing the border (cars and trucks less than 7.5 tons) to ensure automatic verification of certain information at the time of registration in the system, such as the availability of an insurance policy ("green card"), etc.

Special attention will be paid to implementing the Geographic Information System for Monitoring Regional Development (GIS RD) and developing the DREAM ecosystem, as well

as forming a local statistics database to improve analysis and decision-making. It is also planned to create a database of local statistics to improve analysis and decision-making. And strengthen digital tools for citizens' access to information and participation in community life.

It is also planned to develop an electronic system combining up-to-date information about apartment buildings, co-owners, condominiums, and managers. The Unified Platform for Housing and Utility Services will launch, providing accessible and convenient services,

improving customer accounting, and allowing for better control over service quality.

Special attention will be paid to implementing the Geographic Information System for Monitoring Regional Development (GIS RD) and developing the DREAM ecosystem, as well as forming a database of local statistics to improve analysis and decision-making. It is also planned to create a database of local statistics to improve analysis and decision-making. And strengthen digital tools for citizens' access to information and participation in community life.

Digitization



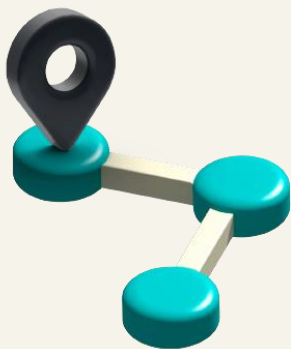
It is also planned to develop an electronic system combining up-to-date information about apartment buildings, their co-owners, condominiums, and managers. Launching a single platform for housing and communal services will provide accessible and convenient services, improve customer accounting and allow for better control over the quality of services.

The government plans to introduce the eInspector system as part of the transport reform. This system will make the work of

the State Service of Ukraine for Transport Safety more transparent. In addition, the distribution of European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) permits will be modernized. The exchange with customs will be finalized, and the rules for distribution and redistribution will minimize any human factor.

New digital solutions for the maritime industry are being prepared for 2025. In the first half of 2025, the long-awaited functionality of obtaining a seafarer's identity card will be digitized.

Export and military logistics



To ensure efficient logistics, particularly in the frontline regions, and evacuation routes, the Ministry envisages the following initiatives:



Repair and maintenance of roads: **UAH 12.6 billion** has been allocated for 2025, primarily for military logistics.



Development of automobile checkpoints, including infrastructure modernization for faster border crossing.



Strengthening security measures.

The priorities for 2025 include continuing the strategic work to restore Ukraine, which aims to support communities, improve living conditions

for IDPs, restore critical infrastructure, and attract international funding.

Implementing these tasks will become the

foundation for the country's sustainable development. for citizens' access to information and participation in community life.

KEY FIGURES OF THE WEEK

UKRAINIAN CORRIDOR

TEMPORARY HUMANITARIAN SEA ROUTE

In total, since the beginning of the corridor functioning:

- Arrived: **3504 vessels**;
 - Loading in progress: **37 vessels**.
- Exported:
- grain cargo - **61.1 mt**;
 - other cargo - **31.7 mt**;

TOTAL - 92.8 mt
Declared for arrival:
66 vessels, 1.6 mt



eVIDNOVLENNIA

DAMAGED/ DESTROYED HOUSING COMPENSATION PROGRAM

DAMAGED HOUSING

(repairs and overhauls)

With a substantial financial commitment of UAH 8.6 billion, we have approved 80.9 thousand applications for housing restoration.

TOP-5 regions:

- Kharkiv
- Kyiv
- Donetsk
- Mykolaiv
- Kherson



DESTROYED HOUSING

(buying new housing)

13470 certificates were generated according to applications, and UAH 19.6 billion was approved for payment. 4928 certificates have already been implemented, with a total of

UAH 9,1 billion.

TOP-5 regions:

- Kharkiv
- Donetsk
- Kyiv
- Kherson
- Mykolaiv

DESTROYED AND DAMAGED INFRASTRUCTURE*

Facilities	Damaged or destroyed	Restored
TOTAL:	228 975	52 174
Individual houses	174 781	29 345
Energy	-	10 797
Apartment buildings	22 053	5 760
Life sustenance	9 166	2 850
Education	4 001	916
Social, sports, and cultural facilities	1 954	316
Healthcare	1 691	524
Roads	1 110	486
Administrative and Centres of administrative services	1063	206
Others	13 156	974



**As of January 3rd, 2025, according to regional military administrations since February 24th, 2022*

RESTORATION PROJECTS: DREAM ANALYTICS**

The Digital Restoration Ecosystem for Accountable Management (DREAM) is a significant milestone in Ukraine's restoration efforts. It's not just a state digital platform for implementing restoration projects but a powerful tool that underscores our unwavering commitment to transparency and accountability.

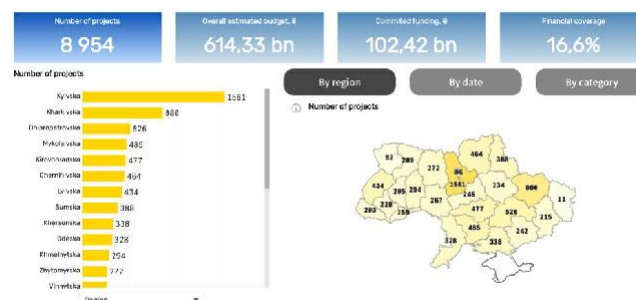
8954 projects have been added to DREAM since the launch of its beta testing in September 2023. The number of projects by sector includes **3456 projects** created in the Education sector, **1295 projects** created in the Healthcare sector, **977 projects** created in the Water, Sanitation, and Waste Management sector, **887 projects** created in the Housing sector, **779 projects** created in the Transport sector.

Top 10 regions according to the number of projects in the DREAM:

- Kyiv
- Kharkiv
- Dnipro
- Mykolaiv
- Kirovohrad
- Chernihiv
- Lviv
- Sumy
- Kherson
- Odesa

Metrics

During the pilot project stage, the analysis results are not official statistics and may be inaccurate.



**Digital Restoration Ecosystem for Accountable Management (DREAM) is the state digital platform for implementing restoration projects. DREAM collects, organizes, and publishes open data across all stages of reconstruction projects in real time, implementing the highest standards of transparency and accountability.*

*** DREAM collects, organizes, and publishes open data across all stages of restoration projects in real time, implementing the highest standards of transparency and accountability. As of now, DREAM contains only a part of restoration projects. Legislation ensuring all restoration projects are included in DREAM is being developed.*

All the data on projects in DREAM is available on the public [portal](#) and via the business intelligence [module](#). At the pilot project stage, the analysis results are not official statistics and may need more accuracy. Join the DREAM and find more information concerning investment projects on dream.gov.ua or write to info@dream-office.org

JAPAN EXPANDS THE ENERGY SECTOR RECOVERY

Ukraine and Japan to expand cooperation in the energy sector



This was discussed during a meeting between Deputy Prime Minister for the Restoration of Ukraine Oleksii Kuleba, and the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Ukraine Masashi Nakagome.

The parties discussed urgent issues of the heating season, the need to restore roads in the frontline regions, the stable functioning of Ukraine's sea-ports to ensure global food security, and the prospects for the aviation industry.

Deputy Prime Minister Oleksii Kuleba invited Japanese representatives to visit the affected regions to discover the actual needs of the communities. They also discussed the Single Project Pipeline of Investment Projects, which is based on the DREAM ecosystem, and public-private



partnership projects, particularly concession projects in seaports. Oleksii Kuleba emphasized that it is important that all projects are implemented according to the principles of transparency and accountability.

For his part, Ambassador Masashi Nakagome noted that Japan is committed to continuing

and expanding cooperation, particularly in the energy sector. Also relevant is the construction of shelters in schools and the implementation of transport, water supply, and sanitation projects. Representatives of the Japanese side expressed interest in housing projects and business involvement in implementing these initiatives.

The First Deputy Minister of Communities and Territories Development, Aliona Shkrum, invited Japanese businesses to join the URC2025 International Conference on Ukraine's Recovery, which will take place in Rome next June. Alyona Shkrum also noted that housing construction is a social project and an investment project that will attract additional funds to the housing sector. She also said that it is important to continue to work on attracting funding for projects in the water supply, wastewater, and waste management sectors.

In turn, Deputy Minister Maryna Denysiuk spoke about the successful cooperation experience with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in implementing pilot projects to install heat pumps at social infrastructure facilities, manage demolition waste, and supply special equipment to the most affected communities. In partic-

ular, Maryna Denysiuk emphasized that it is important not only to transfer the equipment to the balance sheet of the communities but also to ensure its proper use. It is necessary to organize training for operators who can operate this equipment and ensure its necessary maintenance. A separate stream is the supply of power generators to ensure the autonomous operation of critical infrastructure facilities.

The participants also discussed the need to maintain the proper functioning of the aviation sector's infrastructure. The issue of resuming civilian aircraft flights remains open, as it directly depends on the ability to protect Ukraine's airspace from Russian missiles. However, the aviation industry should be operationally ready to resume flights as soon as the security situation allows it. Japanese businesses are also interested in implementing investment projects in the aviation sector.



Masashi NAKAGOME,
Ambassador of Japan to
Ukraine:

During a telephone conversation yesterday, Prime Minister Ishiba assured President Zelenskyy of Japan's unwavering support for Ukraine. Japan has been actively assisting Ukraine by providing generators, gas turbines, heavy machinery, heat pumps, vehicles, rails, water pipes, and other urgently needed equipment to regions near the front line, and will continue to make every effort to further support with the just approved additional budget of \$190 million. The initiative to establish a Coordination Council for the Reconstruction of Ukraine with the participation of the public and private sectors will help engage the Japanese business sector in rebuilding Ukraine.



THE FINAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL BARRIER-FREE COUNCIL

Creating a barrier-free society together: the annual final meeting of the National Barrier-Free Council took place



The final meeting of the Barrier-Free Council was headed by Deputy Prime Minister for the Restoration

of Ukraine, Oleksii Kuleba, and attended by First Lady of Ukraine Olena Zelenska. The meeting

summarized the achievements of 2024 and identified key areas of work for the next year.



As First Lady Olena Zelenska said, the uniqueness of Ukraine's defense is that we are trying to develop without postponing it until after the war. In a UNICEF survey, 83% of Ukrainians named barrier-free accessibility as a new value. In the second wave of the survey, in the fall, this figure was already 87%. At least one in four people in the country has a request for accessibility. That's why it's not about someone, it's always about all of us.

Ministry for Development Communities and Territories of Ukraine presented the results of its work in barrier-free accessibility. Over the year, 895 measures were implemented (89% of the planned number) according to the cooperation of the government, regional and Kyiv city administrations:

- 500 local barrier-free councils established
- 700 communities approved local action plans
- 93,000 facilities tested for accessibility. Only 20% of them meet the barrier-free standards, 32.5% partially meet the standards, and 47.5% remain barrier-free



According to Deputy Prime Minister Oleksii Kuleba, barrier-free accessibility is not just about convenience, but about justice, mutual

respect, and national consciousness. It should be the basis of social contract, that should unite communities, all

branches of government, business, and international partners. Barrier-free accessibility should become a philosophy.

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMUNITIES AND TERRITORIES OF UKRAINE

The Ministry of Development has initiated a series of discussions on the strategic development of communities and regions



During December 2024, a series of strategic sessions on “Regional Strategic Planning as an Effective Mechanism for Recovery, Development and Coordination” took place in different parts of Ukraine from Lviv to Kyiv. These were intensive discussions and joint work on the future of the regions with the support of UNDP and financial support from the Government of Japan. The events brought together more than 500 government officials, experts and civil society.

These strategic meetings have become a platform for open dialog and search for optimal solutions for each region. The participants included representatives of regional administrations, local governments, lead-



ing experts in strategic planning and regional policy, members of the Ukrainian Parliament, representatives of the Ministry for Development of Communities and Territories of Ukraine, the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, civil society, regional

development agencies, and international technical assistance projects. Together, they analyzed the strengths and weaknesses of the regions, identified opportunities and challenges, and most importantly, formed a strategic vision of the future.



The sessions focused on the following key issues:

- analysis of the productive forces of the regions: identifying the unique resources and potential of each region
- assessing the effectiveness of strategic planning: analyzing existing strategies and their relevance to current challenges
- Identification of opportunities and challenges: determination of key factors affecting regional development
- formulation of strategic steps: development of specific action plans to achieve the goals

According to Deputy Minister for Development of Communities and Territories Oleksii Riabykin, regions and communities need to have a clear vision of their future in order to develop. The Ministry pays special attention to strategic planning, as each territory has unique conditions, resources and potential in times of war. It takes into account developing state support programs, stimulating economic activity and creating strategic documents. From 2025 every community and region should have such documents, which are aligned with the State Strategy for

Regional Development. This will allow efficient use of resources at all levels.


The results of these sessions will form the basis for developing effective regional strategies aimed at improving the lives of every Ukrainian and maximizing the efficient use of all resources, including the State Budget of Ukraine.

The strategic sessions were held in Lviv, Cherkasy, Kropyvnytskyi, Odesa, Kamianets-Podilskyi, Kharkiv, and Kyiv and focused on the development of both communities and regions.



EIB PROVIDED EUR 55 MILLION FOR SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE RECOVERY

The European Investment Bank (EIB) has provided €55 million in EU-guaranteed financing for the Ukraine Recovery Program to reconstruct hospitals, social housing, educational institutions, heating, water supply and sewage systems, and other critical social infrastructure in 2025 and beyond.



The funding will be used to implement 151 sub-projects planned under the program in Vinnytsia, Dnipropetrovs'k, Zhytomyr, Kyiv, Kirovohrad, Mykolaiv, Odesa, Poltava, Sumy, Kharkiv, Cherkasy and Chernihiv regions. This contribution, part of the EIB's Emergency Solidarity Package for Ukraine, was developed in cooperation with the European Commission.

The Ukraine Recovery Programme is a €340 million framework loan from the EIB, supported by an EU technical assistance grant, to help communities rebuild vital social infrastructure.

The Ministry for Development of Communities and Territories of Ukraine implements the program with the Ministry of Finance. Local authorities manage recovery sub-projects, while UNDP Ukraine provides technical assistance to accelerate their implementation.

The Ukraine Recovery Program In 2024, several subprojects were completed under the Ukraine Recovery Program, including a water treatment plant in Bucha, Kyiv region, two schools in

Vinnytsia region, a children's infectious diseases unit in Zhytomyr region, and now a sewer pressure collector in Zhmerynka, Vinnytsia region.

The sewer reconstruction was completed on December 25, and the total cost of the subproject was EUR 526 thousand. 2.64 km of the sewer pipeline was renewed using durable pipes and modern sensors.

This upgrade guarantees reliable wastewater transportation for the next 50 years, improving sanitation, public health, and environmental protection for more than 33,000 residents of Zhmerynka, including 4,000 internally displaced persons.



Valdis DOMBROVSKIS,
Commissioner of Economy
and Productivity of the
European Commission:

The EU's unwavering commitment to supporting Ukraine and its people in the face of Russia's illegal and brutal war is manifested at all levels: political, financial, military, and humanitarian. This also includes the restoration of the infrastructure of local communities. That is why we fully support this €55 million tranche of the Ukraine Recovery Program, which will finance hospitals, schools, social housing, heating and water supply systems, and the opening of a small wastewater treatment plant in the Vinnytsia region. We are committed to further close cooperation with Ukraine, the EIB, and other partners to continue supporting Ukraine in addressing its urgent needs.



Teresa CZERWINSKA,
Vice-President of the
EIB:

Together with our EU partners, the European Investment Bank supports Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction. This €55 million tranche for the Ukraine Recovery Program will help communities rebuild critical infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, heating systems, housing, water and sanitation facilities, and other essential services for citizens. Ukraine continues to rebuild despite the challenges of war, and we are pleased to support these efforts.

Thank you
for attention



Ministry for Development
of Communities
and Territories of Ukraine

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