

FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT EU-UKRAINE RELATIONS

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Ukraine is a priority partner for the European Union (EU). The EU supports Ukraine in ensuring a stable, prosperous and democratic future for its citizens and is unwavering in its support for Ukraine's independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty. The Association Agreement (AA), including its Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA), is the main tool for bringing Ukraine and the EU closer together, promoting deeper political ties, stronger economic links and respect for common values. Since 2014, Ukraine has embarked on an ambitious reform programme to accelerate economic growth and improve the livelihoods of its citizens. Priority reforms include the fight against corruption, reform of the judiciary, constitutional and electoral reforms, improvement of the business climate and energy efficiency, as well as reform of public administration and decentralisation. Since 2014, the EU and the European Financial Institutions have mobilised more than **€15 billion** in grants and loans to support the reform process, with strong conditionality on continued progress.

STRONGER ECONOMY

- ✓ The Association Agreement (AA), including its Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA), entered into force on 1 September 2017. Parts of it had been provisionally applied since 1 November 2014 and the DCFTA since 1 January 2016. The DCFTA is a **major milestone in bilateral trade** offering new economic opportunities to both sides.
- ✓ The AA triggers reform of Ukraine's legal framework, aiming to align it with that of the EU. These reforms will **improve the overall business climate in Ukraine**, including by curbing corruption.
- ✓ **Ukrainian businesses receive preferential access** to the largest single market in the world. EU businesses are able to benefit from easier access to the Ukrainian market, building new relationships with suppliers and partners.
- ✓ During the first three years of application of the DCFTA, **bilateral trade** flows between the EU and Ukraine have increased by 49%.
- ✓ The EU is Ukraine's **largest trading partner** accounting for 42% of total trade.
- ✓ **Private sector development**, especially SMEs supported through dedicated programme (€110 million) and EU4Business initiative.
- ✓ Over €180 million channelled since 2014 for **investments in transport, municipal infrastructure, energy efficiency**; lending to small and medium-sized enterprises, particularly in local currency.

STRONGER CONNECTIVITY

- ✓ The EU contributes substantially to the Ukrainian Energy Efficiency Fund (EFF) and supports raising awareness and public support for **energy efficiency** investments.
- ✓ The EU continues to support gas and electricity market reform in Ukraine. With a view to a progressive integration with the EU energy market, the EU and Ukraine have **updated the energy annex of the Association Agreement**.
- ✓ The EU has provided support for establishment of an **independent energy regulatory** authority and new gas and electricity laws to improve efficiency in the energy sector.
- ✓ In close cooperation with partners and financial institutions, the EU continues to support the **modernisation of Ukraine's gas transport system**.
- ✓ The EU is the largest financial supporter to the new **Safe Confinement of the Chornobyl nuclear power plant**.
- ✓ The EU supports an **ambitious transport agenda**, contributing to the implementation of the AA/DCFTA.

STRONGER GOVERNANCE

- ✓ Large-scale support to **Ukraine's governance reform** since 2014 via programmes on decentralisation (U-LEAD with Europe), anti-corruption (EUACI), the rule of law (PRAVO), public administration reform (EU4PAR) and public finance management (EU4PFM) (together over €300 million).
- ✓ Support to the **decentralisation reform** improving transparency and accountability of local and regional authorities and their capacity to offer better services with an overall €130 million to U-LEAD with Europe programme.
- ✓ The EU will continue to support **anti-corruption institutions** in Ukraine with an overall support of €30 million to the fight against corruption.
- ✓ The EU Advisory Mission for Civilian Security Sector Reform in Ukraine (**EUAM Ukraine**) supports to reform the civilian security sector.

STRONGER SOCIETY

- ✓ **Visa-free travel** for Ukrainian citizens with biometric passports entered into force on 11 June 2017. Since then, Ukrainians have made almost 3 million visa-free visits to the EU using biometric passports.
- ✓ Ukraine is one of the largest beneficiaries of the Erasmus+ programme in the Eastern Partnership region, with **more than 7,250 Ukrainian and nearly 3,000 European students and academic staff** benefitting from Erasmus academic exchange opportunities.
- ✓ Professional, cultural and youth exchanges, artistic cooperation and Ukraine's participation in EU programmes are supported through the «House of Europe» programme (€ 18 million). The EU is also providing €53 million to **support the modernisation of the vocational education and training system** and secondary education, as well as displaced universities in eastern Ukraine.
- ✓ Since 2014, more than €40 million have been committed in **support to Ukraine's civil society**.
- ✓ Ukraine participates in the **Horizon 2020 Programme**, the Euratom Research and Training programme and the Creative Europe Programme and has signed the Copernicus Cooperation Arrangement.

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IN FIGURES

Citizens of Ukraine have made almost
3 million
visa-free visits to the EU using biometric passports since 11 June 2017.

The EU-Ukraine bilateral trade has grown by
49%
since the start of its application of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area in January 2016.

The EU humanitarian assistance
€133.8 million:
healthcare, basic needs, food, shelter and protection since 2014.

THE EU'S SUPPORT TO UKRAINE'S SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY

The EU remains steadfast in its commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. 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 has adopted a strict non-recognition policy that has led to substantive sanctions that include diplomatic measures, asset freezes and travel bans, and substantial restrictions on economic exchanges with the territory.

The EU has been strongly supporting efforts to come to a peaceful and sustainable solution to the conflict in eastern Ukraine. It supports the diplomatic efforts of the Normandy format, Trilateral Contact Group and OSCE. The EU's approach is to combine pressure through restrictive measures with diplomatic efforts and continuing dialogue.

Diplomatic restrictions against Russia were first imposed by EU leaders in March 2014, when sanctions were also imposed against persons responsible for actions against Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence. Economic sanctions against Russia were announced in July and September 2014. Their duration remains linked to the complete implementation of the Minsk agreements.

EU restrictive measures are kept under constant review. On 15 March 2019, the EU added eight Russian officials to the list of those subject to a travel ban and asset freeze for their role in the seizure of Ukrainian vessels and their crews in November 2018.

The EU has provided humanitarian, early recovery and, increasingly, development assistance in response to the conflict in the east of Ukraine and internal displacement. This includes €133.8 million of humanitarian assistance and projects on humanitarian demining, psychosocial support, and support to the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM). The EU and its Member States are the biggest contributors to the OSCE SMM, which monitors the implementation of the Minsk agreements. The €50 million "EU Support to the east of Ukraine" programme supports the implementation of reforms in conflict-affected areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

The EU is also stepping up its support to the Sea of Azov region to alleviate the impact on the local economy and communities by Russia's destabilising actions in the Sea of Azov and the conflict. This includes: (i) increasing the EU's presence through an EU programme office in Mariupol; (ii) improving connections, including feasibility studies for rail and road rehabilitation projects, in cooperation with international financial institutions; (iii) an additional €10 million will be provided to the ongoing programme «EU Support to the east of Ukraine» to support local economic diversification and small businesses, local civil society and citizens' involvement in decision-making. Additional support (€6 million) is also envisaged for demining and psychosocial assistance. The European financial institutions also channel investments to conflict-affected areas; the European Investment Bank has provided a package of €200 million for the early recovery of small-scale damaged infrastructure.