

Task Force "Ukraine"

Context:

Following the adoption of "UBC Resolution on Brutal and Unprovoked Russian Invasion of Ukraine"¹ During the XVII UBC General Conference, taking place in Palanga, Lithuania, on 26 October 2023, the network decided to mandate UBC Antenna in Brussels to create a framework for the task force and operationalize the support to Ukrainian cities being associated members in the network.

In spring 2022, Vilnyansk became the first Ukrainian city to join the UBC, leading the way for other Ukrainian cities such as Kherson, Kramatorsk, Pokrovsk, Vyshhorod, Zaporizhzhia and Khmelnytskyi. to follow. At the same time UBC became an observer member of the platform: "European Alliance of Cities and Regions for the Reconstruction of Ukraine " in April 2024 in order to be more active in supporting Ukrainian cities in reconstruction and European integrations.

Among other statements in above mentioned resolution, UBC explicitly calls for:

- "for deeper integration of Ukraine into the European Union and providing Ukrainian local and regional authorities access to European networks";
- "Empowering local self-governance to play a more significant role in directing recovery and reconstruction efforts".

The task force "Ukraine " will aim to operationalize those two statements and provide a concrete framework for UBC Members Cities and Ukrainian Observer Cities to cooperate, exchange expertise and build long-term strategic alliances.

The aim and roles of task force:

The main aim of the task force is to prepare the framework for the integration of new Ukrainian cities into the UBC activities and support them during the war, and post-war democratic consolidation and recovery.

The specific roles of this task force will be to:

1. Provide a framework for active participation of Ukrainian Observer Member Cities in a sustainable manner;
2. Develop the mutual benefits for the UBC Member Cities to access European funding reserved for cooperation with Ukraine, expand the cooperation with Ukrainian cities and for Ukrainian Associated Cities to reach EU standards in green policies and practices, social and democracy policies);

Members:

The members of the task force will be coming from the Member Cities, Executive Board, Board of Audit, Secretariat, Presidium, The coordinator for Ukraine, Commissions, and will be moderated by UBC Brussels Antenna.

¹ <https://ubc.net/documents/statements/>

Activities:

Tandem programme: UBC Tandem program focusing on bilateral policy cooperation between UBC Member Cities and Ukrainian Associated Member Cities in reaching EU standard in democracy and sustainable development;

EU Funding support mechanism: Creating and kicking-off an EU Funding project schemes on EU projects that develop and implement together, policy coordination (joint advocacy and policy influence mechanism);

Participation within UBC: Mainstreaming and reinforcing the active participation of Ukrainian cities through existing UBC Structure such as policy positions, participation in commissions, task forces and similar.

Timeline:

No	Action	Timeline	The coordination
1.	Drafting Task Force Mandate, Activities, and Timeline	20 April 2024	UBC Antenna
2.	Revision and approval of the Task Force's scope of work	25 April 2024	UBC Executive Board
3.	Defining criteria and preparing a call for Task Force members	30 April 2024	UBC Antenna and Secretariat
4.	Sending drafted call and criteria for members' selection to the Secretariat	4 May 2024	UBC Antenna and Secretariat
5.	Launching the call for members	11 May 2024	Secretariat
6.	Selection of the Task Force members	25 May 2024	UBC Secretariat and Presidium
7.	First meeting of the Task Force	June 2024	UBC Antenna
8.	Creating calls and guidelines for all strategic priorities	June-July 2024	UBC Antenna
9.	Approval of created calls and guidelines for all strategic priorities (Tandem programme, EU Funding support mechanisms, Participation within UBC)	1 September 2024	UBC Secretariat
10.	Launching the calls for UBC Member Cities to join actions in some of the strategic priorities	1 September 2024	UBC Secretariat
11.	Info days in Brussels on funding opportunities and policy trends	October November	UBC Antenna
12.	Satisfaction assessment against key performance indicators	Bi-annually	UBC Antenna

Expected results:

1.	Support Ukrainian enlargement process through local self- governments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop policy recommendations that empower local self-governments to actively participate in and benefit from the enlargement process;
2.	Establish and sustain communication alliances between UBC and Ukrainian Member Cities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a robust communication framework to ensure ongoing and effective dialogue between the UBC and UKR Associated Cities;
3.	Increase awareness of EU funding opportunities among UKR Cities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement initiatives to keep Ukrainian cities well-informed about current and upcoming EU funding schemes, enhancing their access to financial resources.

Monitoring and evaluation:

No.	Action	Target	In charge for data collection
1.	Number of involved UBC and UKR cities in strategic priorities implementation	10 UBC Member Cities, 5 UKR Cities	Task Force Chairs
2.	UKR Observer Member Cities' satisfaction with their involvement and communication in UBC structures	At least 60% of surveyed UKR Member Cities report high level of satisfaction	UBC Antenna
3.	UKR Member Cities' level of acquired knowledge and information about funding opportunities within the EU granting schemes	At least 60% of surveyed UKR Member Cities report increased level of acquired knowledge and information	UBC Antenna
4.	Level of satisfaction of UKR local self-governments with the UBC support mechanisms for the enlargement process	At least 60% of surveyed UKR Member Cities report high level of satisfaction	UBC Antenna
5.	Number of joint project proposals between the UBC and UKR member cities	3 joint project proposals	UBC Antenna and Secretariat

Reporting:

No.	Action	Frequency	In charge
1.	Task Force's progress report for the UBC Governing Board including an overview against key performance indicators	Bi-annually	Task Force Chairs
2.	UBC Antenna report for the UBC Governing Board including an overview against key performance indicators	Bi-annually	UBC Antenna