



17-те засідання Платформи громадянського суспільства ‘Україна-ЄС’
Рим, 11 липня 2025

DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE as a tool for a transparent, inclusive, reliable and efficient support of post-war reconstruction of Ukraine

Keynote

Digital decisions only are able to assure an inclusive, transparent, reliable and efficient support of the post-war reconstruction of Ukraine.

Four basic principles

Previously, at the 13th EU-UA CSP meeting we reported on the Four basic principles of the post-war reconstruction of Ukraine:

- 1) Inclusiveness – everybody may develop and present own recovery project
- 2) Innovations – reconstruction according to the principle ‘to build back better’
- 3) Direct communication – no artificial barriers between finances and authors or owners of projects from the state and other players
- 4) Professional support – development and supporting profile markets for needs of the project teams and donors

We suggested that digital tool implementing these principles will accelerate economic recovery, strengthen market-oriented economy in Ukraine and make possible wide international cooperation. It was two years ago on July 3, 2023, just simultaneously with Ukrainian Recovery Conference (URC) in London launching the Ukraine Facility Instrument suggesting allocation of €50bln for recovery needs of Ukraine, including €7bln for private business. Since that time two other URC has been organized – in Berlin, 2024 and right now in Rome.

Current situation

We monitor the situation through the perspective of the Four basic principles for the recovery and would like to report the next:

- 1) Inclusiveness: right now, 7 entities are engaged into storing of the recovery projects:
 - 3 are established by the state (DREAM project, ‘Ukraine Invest’ established and owned by the Cabinet of Ministers, Advantage Ukraine supported by President Office and Ministry of Economy);
 - 2 by former state officials (‘We Build Ukraine’ fund established by former Minister of Infrastructure Oleksiy Kubrakov, Kyiv School of Economy headed by former Minister of Economy Tymofiy Milivanov);



- 3 by non-governmental entities (European Business Association created the Investment map, Hromadas Development Logistics Center, HDLC emerged from the project financed by EU and UNDP for internally displaced persons and the environment 'Economy of Trusts Ukraine', Ink., UoTU established by repatriates from USA).

Among these only EoTU proposes true inclusiveness free from any internal barriers propose, HDLC is also does not put barriers but concentrated mainly in building sphere.

- 2) Innovations: IP rights, licenses from world-wide technological leaders, capitalizing on the best practices form a base for successful innovative post-war development of Ukraine. Right now, national IP legislation is harmonized, the state-owned National IP Office exists for a long time and are well finances, even the whole branch of the national court system is specializing on the IP issues. But on practice business is not in a hurry to recognize IP objects as an asset, royalty is rather a tool for financial and tax optimization than a payment for real innovations. Business prefer and insist on acquisition of the IP for free. It makes huge barriers for implementation of the principle 'to build back better'. Analysis centers also are restricted in the development due to these circumstances.
- 3) Direct communication: we indicated only 3 entities involved into matchmaking and attracting financing. One of it, #AdvantageUkraine, is joint initiative of the President Office, Ministry of Economy and Ministry of Culture and communication supported by USAID. Another, the EU project 'Cities4Cities, United4Ukraine' helps Ukrainian communities establish inter-municipal partnerships with municipalities from European countries. Third of them, 'Synergy Universe' is an authentic initiative of a group of companies specializing on consultancy and fundraising. The last is an attempt of NGOs and specialists to continue their activity after grant projects are over.
- 4) Professional support: it includes training, project development, legal assistance, harmonization with international rules and standards, translation, tools for implementing innovations, audit, risk assessment, assurance, independent monitoring of the project implementation, tools for providing sustainability and other services. Right now, grant financing covers this sphere as usual. But it is not the best way to provide effectiveness as it is local unpredictable and highly competitive in a non-productive way. Development of full-scale markets here would create healthy and efficient environment for development and implementation of projects at the stage of Ukrainian economic revival.

The national strategy for recovery of business entities harmonized with EU policies, rules and standards is to serve a basis for the next economic development. Despite some version of a post-war economic strategy was presented at the Ukrainian Recovery Conference in Lugano in 2022 (it was crucially criticized by civil society players), the recovery strategy till now has been absent in fact.

Our vision

We suppose that the best way to achieve effectiveness at the stage of the post-war reconstruction is to develop a strategy for business recovery, which is based on Four basic principles mentioned above, to implement a digital tool for matchmaking projects and finances immersed into healthy environment for non-governmental business activity and investments.

The next infographics indicates an approach for such an environment that was discussed among members of US PCS WG3 during these 2 years:



We proposed to discuss it during the URC in Rome widely. But only EU-UA PCS enabled this.

Final remark

The war in Ukraine lasts and nobody can predict the time of its finishings. The issue of the post-war recovery and reconstruction is discussed at the level of international community since May 2022, including during the annual Ukraine Recovery Conferences. Every time international community announces allocating resources for the Ukrainian post-war reconstruction. At the same time, in Ukraine internally state entities and state officials dominate in attempts to build instruments for the post-war reconstruction. Democratic and market approaches remain just absent and this fact put in question effectiveness of the next economic development and deployment of international resources. Only digital tool based on appropriate strategy, pure and widely acceptable principles enabling direct and fair participation of all interested parties as in Ukraine as well as abroad can guarantee effective usage of international resources and successful post-war development in Ukraine.