

## Declaration of Support of the Local and Regional Dimension in the Recovery and Reconstruction of Ukraine

1. We, the political leaders of the members of the European Alliance of Cities and Regions for the Reconstruction of Ukraine, stand united in our unwavering support for the communities of Ukraine in the face of the fully-fledged Russian Federation's war of aggression against their country that is ongoing for more than 1 000 days now. Our commitment is rooted in the values of solidarity, resilience and shared European ideals. Our Alliance is guided by the principles of cooperation, mutual support and the sharing of best practices among European cities and regions. We pledge to uphold these principles as we work together to support Ukraine's recovery, reconstruction and integration into the European family.
2. We are proud of the Alliance's achievements since its creation in July 2022, not least in strengthening the bonds between EU and Ukrainian local and regional authorities, and we commit to continue working together in order to **reinforce partnerships, exchange know-how and empower Ukrainian local and regional authorities on Ukraine's path to EU membership.**
3. We reaffirm the recommendations for a decentralised recovery and reconstruction of Ukraine made in Mons and delivered to the Ukraine Recovery Conference 2024 in Berlin; we also highlight the importance of integrated planning, capitalising on systemic approaches for sustainable regional development, and stress the need for good multilevel governance.
4. In view of the Ukraine Recovery Conference 2025 in Rome, we stand ready to engage with the Italian and Ukrainian co-organisers in order to **reinforce the local and regional dimension in the recovery and reconstruction efforts of Ukraine**, and to jointly identify deliverables that meet the needs of local communities.
5. We **emphasise the need for capacity-building, diversified funding sources and tailored financial support for local and regional authorities** to aid Ukraine's reconstruction. We seek support through programmes like TIPS4UA, starting in 2025 with U-LEAD and Alliance members. Additionally, we call for funding to develop partnerships, peer-to-peer activities and cooperation projects between European and Ukrainian authorities. This approach should be applied to the Ukraine Facility, empowering local governments to deliver community-focused projects.
6. We stress the importance of any timely initiatives, in **support of the effort for more international regional and municipal partnerships** in line with the related Berlin call.
7. We firmly believe that **local and regional authorities, including their associations, must play a pivotal role in the governance and decision-making processes** related to the recovery and reconstruction of Ukraine. The unique needs and strengths of each community and its population should guide the rebuilding efforts to ensure sustainable and inclusive development. By actively involving these authorities, we ensure that the reconstruction efforts are not only effective but also inclusive, sustainable and reflective of the aspirations of the Ukrainian people.

8. We reaffirm our **support for Ukraine's accession to the European Union**. The path to EU membership is intertwined with the reform agenda of regional and local administration in Ukraine. We endorse the ongoing efforts to promote good multilevel governance, transparency, active subsidiarity and accountability at all levels of government, and encourage the continuation of these activities.
9. In solidarity with the people of Ukraine, we commit to a recovery and reconstruction process that is inclusive, locally driven and founded on our common European values. Together, we will rebuild a stronger, more resilient Ukraine, paving the way for a stronger European Union.