

June-July 2026



Newsletter



URC 2026

We arrived at this year's Ukraine Recovery Conference with big plans and a significantly extended portfolio to share real, hard-earned experience and leverage it to scale support for Ukraine.

At the same time during the URC 2026 Lithuania made number of announcements and launched new commitments, that will be administered by the Lithuanian International Partnerships Center:



Ukraine Transport Fund

Lithuania has become a co-founder of the Ukraine Transport Support Fund, alongside Sweden and Estonia. The Fund has secured initial contributions of over EUR 2 million to launch its first projects, including a EUR 1 million contribution from Lithuania.

The Fund will facilitate donations for transport sector restoration and expansion. Because transport represents Ukraine's largest recovery need, the country has already identified priority projects across all four modes of transport. Fund's focus will be on rapid-impact areas, including the restoration of roads, railways, ports, and urban mobility solutions.

The Fund will be administered by the Lithuanian International Partnerships Center and International Transport Forum. Our team will oversee all procurement and project execution on behalf of donors, ensuring support is delivered quickly, transparently, and with maximum impact on the ground.



Municipal Partnership

Lithuania and Ukraine expand partnerships between municipalities.

Local authorities are where recovery becomes visible first. Backed by a €1 million investment from Lithuania, this program will focus on four key areas:

- Local recovery planning
- EU project management
- Public services
- Community endurance

Ukrainian municipalities will also share with Lithuanian colleagues their experience of keeping services running and protecting communities under extreme war conditions, making this partnership even more unique.

An open call for Lithuanian municipalities willing to work with Ukraine will be announced at the beginning of the autumn.



Business Partnership

With a €1 million investment from Lithuania, the newly announced Business Partnerships Programme aims to drive long-term economic growth and strengthen ties between Lithuanian and Ukrainian businesses. By promoting strategic cooperation, the initiative will encourage new investments, facilitate technology transfers, and stimulate job creation across both nations. The official Call for Applications is now open, with a submission deadline set for mid-September.

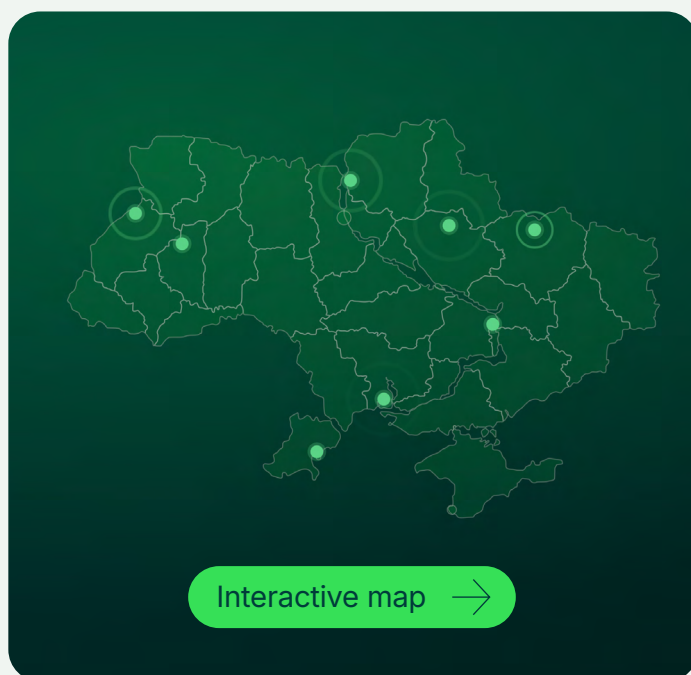
Energy Sector Cooperation

Following the successful implementation of the Solar Power Plants project for schools and hospitals, we will continue to provide energy generation and storage for critical facilities and strengthen Ukraine's energy sector with a €4M investment from Ignitis and €3M from the EU.

STEP IN 2 EU

Lithuanian International Partnerships Center became the co-funding partner of the programme and will contribute to its implementation, further strengthening the European partnership in support of Ukraine.

This interactive map we present collected everything what has already been achieved by our team. We hope these results inspire our partners, friends, and future teams to move forward and stand with Ukraine – as long as it takes.



Last bell rings in schools rebuilt with Lithuanian support



The last school bell marked the end of another school year in educational institutions restored or supported by Lithuania across Ukraine. Alongside graduation traditions, joyful celebrations, and hopeful farewells, one photograph captures a particularly touching moment:

the Lithuanian flag in the ceremony — a symbol of the warm bond between our countries and of the support that continues to stand behind Ukrainian children and their basic right for education.

Future School for Ukraine



For the second time, Future School for Ukraine was showcased at the New European Bauhaus Festival. This year's participation marked an important milestone: instead of presenting a concept, Lithuania introduced a fully developed school design that has already entered the implementation phase and will be built on the site of one of the schools destroyed in Ukraine.

The Festival took place in Brussels on 9–13 June. During the panel discussion, "Strategic reconstruction in times of emergency: lessons from Ukraine," Darius Skusevičius presented Lithuania's broader portfolio of recovery projects in Ukraine, tracing the journey from

the first reconstruction efforts in Avdiivka to today's comprehensive recovery programmes. Highlighting the principles behind the initiative, he noted:



In an emergency, sustainability, inclusion and beauty look like luxuries – but they are not. This winter, a self-powered school was simply survival.

Darius Skusevičius,
Ambassador-at-Large for the Coordination of Recovery and Reconstruction of Ukraine

Vilnius inspired bridge in Kyiv

A pedestrian bridge inspired by the historic King Mindaugas Bridge in Vilnius and green area opened in Kyiv.

The opening was held alongside Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko, Vilnius Mayor Valdas Benkunskas, and Lithuanian Ambassador Inga Stanytė-Tolockienė. Completed in record time - one year ahead of plan, this beautiful new public area of the city was funded by the Vilnius City Municipality and administered by our Lithuanian International Partnerships Center team.

As Kyiv residents face constant Russian attacks and spend countless hours in shelters, this space is created to offer citizens a vital corner of calm and relief. The core idea behind the project was to create a dedicated

space for finding peace and restoring both physical and mental well-being. Now it stands as a powerful testament to the unwavering sister-city partnership and enduring bond between Kyiv and Vilnius.

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And this is not only, you know, another new place, another new park, but it's much more. It shows that Ukraine and Kyiv especially has a future, has people who believes in the future. And it's very important to keep going

Valdas Benkunskas,
Mayor of Vilnius

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This is a psychological rehabilitation zone for everyone, even in these difficult times that we are going through. I want to thank our friends from Lithuania, our sister city Vilnius, for such a wonderful contribution to making the city of Kyiv even better.

Vitali Klitschko,
Mayor of Kyiv



Catch-Up and STEAM programme

Helping Ukrainian students recover learning lost to war ensures that Ukraine's future is secured by an educated, open-minded generation ready to drive change and reshape the country for the better.

The successful completion of the second wave of the Catch-Up programme and the first wave of the STEAM programme has brought inspiring results:

- Overall, 266 students in this wave gained crucial additional learning opportunities and essential life competencies.
- Catch-up results showed a 12.5% average improvement in knowledge across covered subjects; overall, 91.9% of students with at least 50% attendance demonstrated measurable progress.
- STEAM results: interactive, hands-on engineering projects drove measurable academic growth, with average scores rising from 52.6% to 81.3% in art groups and from 58.6% to 71.8% in engineering groups.

In close cooperation with Ukrainian educators, we prioritise key areas for our educational initiatives to help children overcome academic challenges. We achieve this by replacing disrupted online classes with empowered, in-person learning and engaging students in practical, project-based STEAM activities building the confidence, creativity, and problem-solving skills needed to foster the fortitude of the next generation.

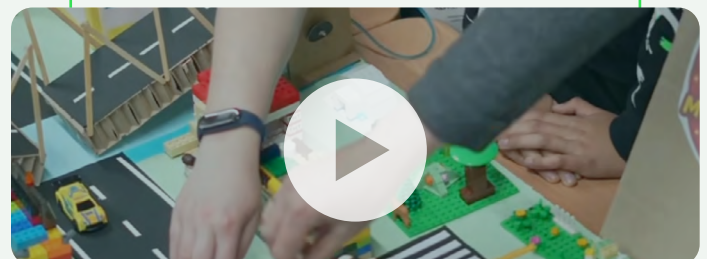
Programme's key psychological results:

Boosted academic performance and confidence: proportion of students rating their performance as below average decreased from 24% to 17%, while those expressing confidence in their abilities during lessons rose from 50% to 59%.

Emotional well-being and safety: the share of students feeling completely unsafe at school dropped from 15% to 10%.

Stimulated personal and social growth: youth leisure reading increased from 15% to 19%, and the proportion of students spending time outdoors with friends jumped from 44% to 56%.

STEAM Festival 2026:



Ukrainian educators explore Lithuania's STEAM ecosystem to bring innovation home



Lithuanian International Partnerships Center welcomed 27 teachers and educational professionals from Ukraine's Odesa region – the visit was a part of the ongoing Catch-Up and STEAM programme.

Along with gaining practical ideas to bring home to use in their own classrooms, the educators had the opportunity to recharge and draw inspiration from the peaceful atmosphere of Vilnius.

During this intensive, week-long study visit, the participants:

- Explored strategic insights with the National Agency for Education (NŠA), Mokslo Sala, and EDU Vilnius.
- Observed STEAM applications integrated at different levels of education.
- Participated in collaborative theoretical sessions, practical workshops, and dynamic peer-to-peer exchanges.



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Some journeys teach us new methods. Others remind us why we became educators in the first place. Our visit to Lithuania did both. The educational programme was exceptional. We discovered how STEAM becomes a natural part of education. But what made the biggest difference was that you didn't simply tell us about it – you allowed us to experience it ourselves.

Anna Kynal,
the Programme's STEM direction coordinator, savED

New school for the community in Mykolaiv region



The technical design for the new school was completed and received positive expert approval. Following this milestone, the procurement tender for construction works officially launched in June 2026.

The new facility is designed as a single, unified building optimised for 150 students and 50 educators, featuring a clear and functional layout:

- Junior School Block: designed for 60 pupils across 4 modern classrooms.
- Middle & Senior School Block: set to accommodate 90 pupils.

The main entrance will open into a welcoming lobby where students and visitors can relax, see displays, and use the built-in tiered seating. The school will also feature a multi-purpose hall for everything from physical education and training to school celebrations, sporting events, and community gatherings.

The new school grounds will use materials saved from the old, destroyed building, for the new landscape design.

Civil Protection Shelter Coalition

Construction is now underway at all three educational sites where Lithuania is supporting the development of dual-purpose shelters next to kindergartens. Once completed, these shelters will provide children and educators with safe learning spaces during air raids.



Civil Protection
Shelter Coalition
For Ukraine 

Support for Ukraine's energy sector with solar power plants

At URC2026, Lithuania reinforced its strategic commitment to Ukraine's energy sector. €4 million are dedicated to scale up its solar power plant program. It will equip Ukrainian schools and hospitals with vital energy storage systems to keep essential services running and support Ukraine's grid amid ongoing Russian attacks. The funds are allocated by the Ignitis Group through Lithuania's Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Fund.

This initiative is built on a true two-way partnership. While Lithuania offers deep technical expertise, Europe

has immense amounts to learn from Ukraine. The Ukrainian energy sector is constantly adjusting under unprecedented war conditions – keeping the economy going, protecting communities, and making critical decisions at remarkable speed.

In addition, Lithuania continues to strengthen Ukraine's energy resilience by expanding its Solar Power Plants programme and announces new procurements.

4 schools – procurement launched on 18 June. Proposals accepted until 3 August: →

5 hospitals – procurement launched on 25 June. Proposals accepted until 5 August: →

5 more schools – procurement launched on 8 July. Proposals accepted until 13 August: →

Twenty plants are already operating at schools and hospitals, with six more to be finished in the near future. Building on the successful programme implementation, we've launched three new public procurements for the installation of solar power plants at 9 Ukrainian schools and 5 hospitals.



Children First



Lithuania is stepping up with up to €1 million to support Ukrainian children dealing with the trauma of war through the "Children First: Protecting the Future of Ukraine" programme. These are children abducted by Russia, children who have gone through experiences that are difficult to imagine. This is an unprecedented challenge, and traditional psychiatry does not yet have all the answers on how to help.

Our memorandum with the Lviv City Council and the UNBROKEN University School of Medicine signed ahead of URC 2026 is about creating a new methodology for mental health support and recovery and boosting the existing system.

Together, we will develop new and effective approaches to help Ukrainian children process their pain, recover, and begin a new path toward the future.

Importantly, Lithuania's contribution through the programme will also help upgrade inpatient psychiatric care at St. Nicholas Children's Hospital in Lviv, ensuring that children and families have access to specialised support when they need it most.

Create Ukraine



The third call for applications to Create Ukraine was officially announced at URC 2026.

During the press briefing, Darius Skusevicius, Ambassador-at-Large for the Coordination of Recovery and Reconstruction of Ukraine, and Artūras Žarnovskis, Ukraine Recovery and Peace Programmes Coordinator, Lithuanian International Partnerships Center (CPVA), announced the new call for applications and shared the programme's results to date. Programme's ambassador Myroslava Gongadze focused the briefing on the main message – qualified Ukrainians return to Ukraine with the programme not because it's the most comfortable or safe choice. They come back because they see how their input can become a gamechanger for the country in it's most challenging period.

Ukrainians who want to be a part of the big change, application is now available [via the link](#).

With around 6 million Ukrainians living abroad as of June 2026 due to the full-scale war, Create Ukraine offers to realise their potential at home. The programme is inspired by the successful Lithuanian model Kurk Lietuvai (Create Lithuania).

The first two cohorts of the programme, returned 34 talented young Ukrainians from all over the globe — from New Zealand to Japan, Morocco and the United States.

On July 13 the second Create Ukraine presented the first results of their work after six months in government institutions. Their achievements already include contributing to the launch of the US–Ukraine Reconstruction Investment Fund with an initial capital of \$150 million, preparing the first Japan–Ukraine Technology Business Forum, advancing Ukraine's EU integration by analysing over 200 provisions of EU legislation, and supporting reforms in culture, energy, education, and public administration.

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Human capital is the country's greatest asset. Create Ukraine provides opportunities and a practical mechanism for Ukrainians with international experience to return and contribute to the development of the state. The Ministry of Culture has been strengthened by five professionals who are working to support Ukrainian cultural products, preserve cultural heritage, and advance cultural diplomacy. These are important areas that help amplify Ukraine's voice globally and preserve our national identity

Tetiana Berezyna,
Deputy Prime Minister for Humanitarian Policy of Ukraine –
Minister of Culture and Strategic Communications

The initiatives have now moved from planning to implementation, with concrete roadmaps, measurable KPIs, and deliverables expected by the end of the year.

Rehabilitation and Reintegration for Ukrainian Defenders and War Victims



Strengthening capacity to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services in Ukraine

Ukrainian rehabilitation specialists return to Lithuania for advanced Mulligan Certification. Physical therapists and doctors from Lviv, Dnipro, and Zhytomyr returned to Lithuania for a study visit and an advanced training and certification, following Mulligan Concept training in April 2025.

A group of 15 leading Ukrainian rehabilitation professionals has now joined the ranks of Certified Mulligan practitioners. This rare opportunity to work with clinically proven manual therapy techniques is another milestone achieved within the Rehabilitation Program we implement for Ukraine.

Oleg Bilyanskiy, Head of the UNBROKEN National Rehabilitation Center, thanked for continued Lithuania's support and, as a thank you token, brought a flag signed by UNBROKEN patients.

Rehabilitation specialists trained within Lithuania's Rehabilitation Programme spent the past year applying the vital techniques on the ground. Returning to the Vilnius University Medical Science Centre, they reviewed their clinical practice, analysed complex cases, and passed rigorous exams.

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Highlights of the visit:

Advanced Training: three days of Advanced Mulligan Course training at Vilnius University.

Military Rehabilitation: Zhytomyr team visited the Military Rehabilitation Centre in Druskininkai | Lithuanian Armed Forces to study specialised recovery pathways for veterans.

Clinical Management: Dnipro and Lviv teams were at the Kaunas Rehabilitation Clinics to observe complex clinical care management. The visit covered the outpatient rehabilitation and inpatient neurorehabilitation departments, and the children's rehabilitation facilities.

By equipping regional leaders with these insights and internationally recognised certifications, this knowledge exchange ensures that innovative rehabilitation methodologies are integrated directly into the frontline of patient care in Ukraine.



You are making an enormous contribution to their [patients] recovery. Today you trained 15 rehabilitation physicians, and tomorrow they will go on to treat thousands of patients.

Oleg Bilyanskiy,
Head of the UNBROKEN National Rehabilitation Center

Demining coalition



Lithuania made a new EUR 8 million financial contribution to the Demining Coalition.

The total amount of contributions to the Coalition budget now amounts to more than EUR 149 million.

The equipment purchased from financial contributions of the countries and delivered to the beneficiaries in Ukraine as of mid-June:

-  **335** off-road vehicles **+30**
-  **240** mine detectors
-  **11** ambulances
-  **129** trucks **+41**
-  **370** blasting machines
-  **1780** Explosive Ordnance Disposal kits
-  **1079** drone mitigation systems
-  **63** armored personal carriers **+20**
-  **140** mine rollers
-  **216** night vision equipment

Ukraine2EU



The discussion featured EU Ambassador Katarína Mathernová, Deputy Prime Minister Taras Kachka, Verkhovna Rada Deputy Chairman Oleksandr Korniyenko, and EPIK Visiting Policy Fellow Gerald Knaus.

As the Ukraine2EU programme continues to strengthen the country's institutional capacity, the road ahead will demand intense legislative reform and cross-sector coordination. Both Ukrainian and EU representatives closed the event with a sense of shared clarity and unified momentum.

Ukraine Enters a Significant New Phase of EU Accession

A high-level public discussion in Kyiv, co-organised by the Ukraine2EU programme, marked a decisive milestone in Ukraine's European integration. Titled "Ukraine's Accession: How to Deliver Europe's Next Enlargement," the event took place during an official visit by European Commissioner for Enlargement Marta Kos, immediately preceding the formal opening of Cluster 1 ("Fundamentals") in EU-Ukraine negotiations. This shift transitions Ukraine from political aspirations to a demanding phase of strict institutional delivery.



Enlargement is not about setting dates, but about reforms. The coming months will be decisive, and Ukraine needs to deliver reforms consistently. It might not be easy, but one thing is clear: Ukraine belongs to Europe, and a united Ukraine will receive support.

Marta Kos,
European Commissioner for Enlargement