

August-September 2026

Newsletter



LT Partnerships



Central project
management
agency

New Underground Shelters for Ukrainian Schools

New underground school opens in the frontline Sumy region

Spanning more than 1,350 square metres, a new dual-use underground school-shelter has opened in Sumy region.

Funded by the EU, Lithuania and Ireland, the underground school will bring children back to the classroom after years of remote learning forced by constant russian shelling, air strikes and power outages.

Featuring 12 fully equipped classrooms, labs and sports zones, the shelter has a capacity of 500 people. Operating in shifts, it will let children safely return to in-person lessons and activities, see their friends and get direct support from their teachers.

The opening brought together EU Ambassador to Ukraine Katarina Mathernova, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania Kristupas Vaitiekūnas, Lithuanian Ambassador to Ukraine Inga Stanytė-Toločkienė, Deputy Minister of

Education and Science Dmytro Zavorodnii, and local Sumy leaders.

Implemented by the Lithuanian International Partnerships Center in less than a year, the project is part of the "New Underground Shelters for Ukrainian Schools" initiative. It also laid the foundation for the Civil Protection Shelter Coalition for Ukraine - co-led by Ukraine and Finland alongside Team Europe partners to safeguard civilians nationwide.



Children First. Protection of Ukraine's Future



First Lady of Lithuania honors "Children First" grant winners in Kyiv

On the eve of Ukraine's Independence Day, First Lady of Lithuania Diana Nausėdienė attended a recognition ceremony in Kyiv honoring Lithuania's vital role in child protection and justice.

Seven Ukrainian NGOs selected through the open call of "Children First. Protection of Ukraine's Future" initiative received €600,000 in funding from Lithuania. Over the next 6 to 12 months, these organisations will build return pathways for children and families who have been deported or held in occupied territories, while strengthening russian accountability for war crimes. Individual grants ranging from €30,000 to €100,000 will empower local partners to protect Ukraine's young generation.

This initiative is part of Lithuania's broader €10 million commitment across four interconnected areas



The return of Ukrainian children



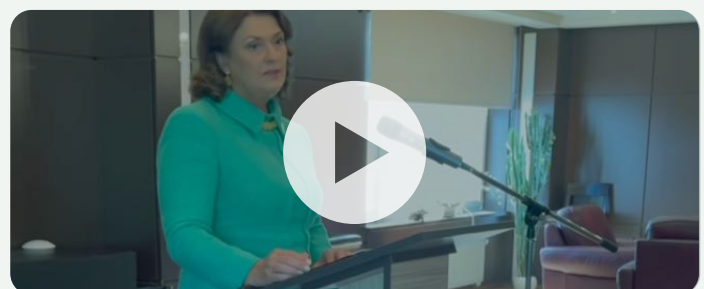
Accountability for Russia and those responsible for war crimes



Rehabilitation of Ukrainian children and their families



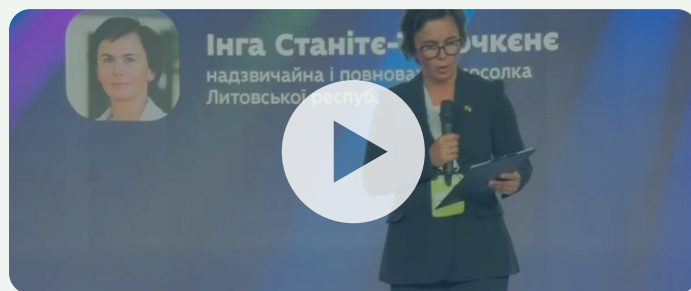
Reintegration of Ukrainian children



Major annual education conference in Ukraine SERPEVA 2026

The Lithuanian International Partnerships Center became a partner of Ukraine's major annual education conference, organised by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine. The central theme of this year's conference was a national dialogue on why education is a shared responsibility.

Ambassador of Lithuania H.E. Inga Stanytė-Toločkienė presented Lithuania's comprehensive approach to education recovery in Ukraine, opening the panel dedicated to Ukraine's education transformation and the role of everyone driving this change.



Implemented by the Lithuanian International Partnerships Center, Lithuania's education recovery initiatives extend beyond physical reconstruction – ensuring schools can operate safely during the ongoing war and bringing education back to Ukrainian children.

During media day at SERPNEVA 2026, Artūras Žarnovskis, Ukraine Recovery and Peace Programmes Coordinator, highlighted the long-term impact of Lithuania's education recovery initiatives in Ukraine. Lithuania's commitment began back in 2019 with the reconstruction of a school in Avdiivka, later destroyed by Russian forces in 2022.

What has been achieved and what's underway:

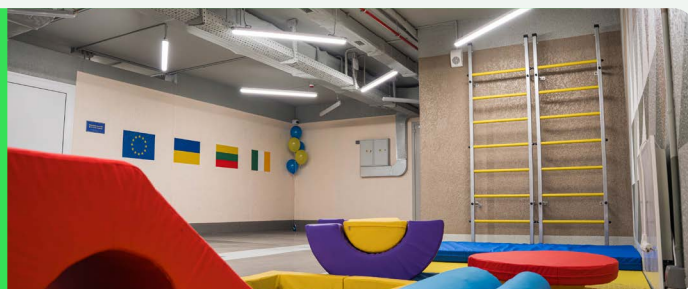
Completed

6 educational infrastructure projects featuring modern bomb shelters, alongside 17 solar power plants and energy storage systems to ensure energy supply and warmth during power outages caused by Russian attacks.



Dual-use shelters

Active facilities in 2 frontline regions, with 4 more set for completion in 2026, our shelters function as underground schools and community hubs, enabling in-person learning during air alerts and offering psychological recovery to local communities.



Catch Up & STEAM

A Lithuanian initiative co-funded by Taiwan aimed at bridging learning losses and providing Ukrainian children with broader development opportunities. It is realised in the underground school-shelter built by the LTPC in the Odesa region.



"Future School for Ukraine"

This initiative provides local communities with adaptive, modern, and ready-to-implement school architectural design to build back better, rather than just repair outdated structures. The pilot project is underway in the Zhytomyr region.



Catch Up & STEAM Programme



A new wave of the Catch-Up and STEAM program is officially underway.

In total, 482 students who have never attended our courses before were selected to join the new cohort of the "Improving the level of education of students in Ukraine" project. Combined with the returning participants, the new wave reaches nearly 700 children.

Targeted Support: 289 students with identified learning gaps were selected for catch-up groups, with mathematics and English once again emerging as the most popular subject.

Exceeding Expectations: STEAM activities sparked

exceptional interest, with 193 students selected to participate - officially surpassing the initial target of 110 students.

Safe Summer Learning: Throughout the summer break, dedicated summer camps offered students engaging activities in safe shelter spaces, supporting holistic development and boosting psychological well-being through in-person connection and soft-skills learning. From July through late August, **40 sessions** covered 3D modeling, drawing, reading, and social skills development. **The camp recorded 582 total visits**, with students sharing what this experience meant to them.

The new wave of the programme will run until Christmas 2026.

Create Ukraine



Returning talent to strengthen Ukraine's public sector

Selection process for the 3rd Create Ukraine cohort has begun. Applications for the third cohort of Create Ukraine have officially closed, drawing a record **378 applicants** – a nearly **50% surge compared to last year**.

Lithuania's flagship human capital initiative is now preparing to select 26 high-caliber professionals eager to bring their international expertise into Ukraine's public sector.

Rehabilitation and Reintegration for Ukrainian Defenders and War Victims



Equipping Ukrainian rehabilitation specialists with the world's leading Maitland® Concept

A new cohort of 18 Ukrainian physical therapists and rehabilitation doctors has advanced their skills in the Maitland® Concept – one of the world's leading evidence-based manual therapy frameworks. Joining their colleagues who completed the program in May, they are now among the first specialists in Ukraine to hold this prestigious certification.

Under the guidance of Robert Valentiny, International Senior Maitland® Instructor, participants worked directly with patients to master vital clinical skills. They deepened their expertise in evaluating and treating the neck, upper back, and shoulder complex to tackle complex pain and mobility issues.

In parallel military doctors took part in a five-day training programme on pain management for patients with combat injuries at one of Kyiv hospitals. The trainings also served as an exchange on practical approaches in addressing the complex needs of patients with combat injuries between civil and military health institutions covering acute and chronic pain

management, phantom limb and residual limb pain, regional anaesthesia, rehabilitation and psychological support.

The trainings are part of Lithuania's ongoing commitment to strengthening Ukraine's rehabilitation system. To date, the program has engaged over 150 physical and mental health professionals. Beyond empowering multidisciplinary care teams, the Lithuanian programme is also delivering critical infrastructure upgrades to modern medical centers in the Lviv, Dnipro, and Zhytomyr regions.



Lithuania helps Ukraine enhance its DNA lab for faster identification of war victims



Lithuania has implemented a vital modernisation project to enhance the capacity of Ukraine's DNA testing laboratory. Now, Ukrainian specialists can conduct up to 1,000 examinations monthly.

The project delivered essential high-tech equipment, including automated machines that process DNA more quickly, specialised lab tools to analyse samples accurately, and modern computer systems to manage test data.

Since 2022, Ukrainian forensic teams have been working around the clock under tough wartime conditions to identify the deceased and ensure dignified handling of the remains of fallen soldiers and civilians killed in Russian attacks. The value of this work is immeasurable – it helps return victims to their families so loved ones can lay them to rest with dignity and say a final farewell.

The project was funded by the Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Fund alongside a contribution from the Taiwanese Representative Office in Lithuania.

Taiwan provides \$5 million in support for Ukraine reconstruction projects implemented by Lithuania

On August 18, the Lithuanian International Partnerships Center and the Taiwanese Representative Office signed the third joint memorandum, contributing \$5 million to Ukraine's reconstruction. This new funding will support rebuilding schools, kindergartens, and critical infrastructure, while providing aid to war-affected children and strengthening Ukrainian business partnerships.

Previous joint efforts have already funded 12 projects, including a school, kindergarten, and anti-radiation shelter in the Kyiv region, enabling over 1,000 children to return to in-person learning.



Reconstruction isn't just about buildings — it's about restoring everyday life, and giving families the confidence to return home.

Indrė Šuolienė,
CPVA Director

Lithuania's major public debate festival BŪTENT! 2026



At BŪTENT! 2026, Artūras Žarnovskis, Ukraine Recovery and Peace Programmes Coordinator, joined a discussion about the hidden challenges Ukraine faces away from the battlefield.

The discussion focused on the pressure hitting Ukraine daily in the rear while the Ukrainian Armed Forces hold the front line. Relentless attacks are damaging the economy, breaking daily routines, and shutting down factories, ports, and storage facilities. For everyday

Ukrainians, being “resilient” is no longer a choice—it is the only way to survive.

Artūras Žarnovskis stresses that Ukraine is currently buying time and peace for the rest of Europe. But the future now depends on whether international partners step up, using rebuilding efforts and steady support to turn this borrowed time into real, lasting safety for everyone.

Demining coalition

Iceland and Belgium made new contributions to the Demining Coalition with EUR 2.3 million and EUR 2 million respectively.

The total amount of the contributions to the Coalition budget now amounts to more than EUR 153 million.



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

-  **335** off-road vehicles
-  **240** mine detectors
-  **11** ambulances
-  **129** trucks
-  **370** blasting machines
-  **1780** Explosive Ordnance Disposal kits
-  **1079** drone mitigation systems
-  **117** armored personal carriers **+54**
-  **140** mine rollers
-  **216** night vision equipment

Ukraine2EU



On 10 September 2026, amid the highly challenging situation and intensified russian attacks on Kyiv, the third meeting of the Ukraine2EU Steering Committee took place. It traditionally brought together heads of partner organisations to summarise the Programme's achievements and define next steps.



The key results of the first half of 2026 are:

Supporting finalisation of the National Programme for the Adaptation of Ukrainian Legislation to EU Law (NPAA) and development of the **Pulse of Accession** (a platform to monitor NPAA implementation)

Establishing the Impact Assessment Coordination Platform together with the Kyiv School of Economics Institute to support the DPMO, GOCEEI and line ministries in coordinating EU accession-related impact assessments (3 sessions took place focusing on dairy and forestry sectors)

Supporting GOCEEI and the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Ukraine's Integration into the EU in reviewing draft legislation for alignment with the EU acquis (445 draft laws screened / 77 compliance assessments of draft laws and draft secondary legislation conducted) and translation of basic treaties in cooperation with DG Translation

Launching, in partnership with the DPMO, regional **Dialogues with Business on EU Accession** designed to get enterprises prepared for the changes caused by EU rules (4 sessions in 3 industries took place covering agriculture, metallurgy and pharmaceuticals)

Financing EU accession-related projects (20 through open call and 4 through direct grants) and facilitating cooperation between government and civil society organisations