

France-Ukraine Local Solidarity Forum

online

19 October, 10:00-12:15 CET / 11:00-13:15 Ukrainian time,

Registration: [LINK](#)

Context and relevance

Since the start of the Russian aggression on 24 February 2022, Ukrainian municipalities have been in the frontline trying to mitigate the damages caused by the war. They are assuring continuation of services, organising shelters and evacuations, providing food and basic necessities to the local residents and the internally displaced people.

France was one of the first European countries to support Ukraine in these difficult times. French municipalities also have been welcoming people fleeing the war and trying to offer the best residence conditions possible. Cooperation of local and regional authorities, volunteers, non-governmental organisations and business is an important contributing factor of the French actions in support of Ukraine.

As the war against Ukraine is now likely to last an unknown period of time, it is important to ask ourselves how to keep the momentum and to continue to help Ukrainian municipalities which are a backbone of the national resistance.

The Solidarity forum is organized in cooperation between the Association of the Mayors of France (AMF), Council of European Municipalities and Regions and PLATFORMA, as well as U-LEAD with Europe. The Solidarity forum is part of the work of these organisations on establishing the partnerships between the French and Ukrainian municipalities.

The aim of this local solidarity forum between France and Ukraine will be to:

1. Highlight specific challenges of war time local governance from the ground in Ukraine;
2. Present best examples of local support by France, the challenges that were encountered and addressed;
3. Encourage creation of new municipal partnerships between France and Ukraine.

The structure of the online forum will be as follows:

- ✓ Presentation of U-LEAD initiative “Bridges of Trust” as implemented by CEMR and opportunities for French municipalities to help Ukrainian partners;
- ✓ Resilience of local government and people under war-time conditions: testimonies from the ground in Ukraine;
- ✓ Potential of peer-to-peer cooperation between Ukraine and France at times of war and future perspectives.

Language: The language of the Forum will be Ukrainian and French. A simultaneous interpretation will be organised.

Participants

The following participants will be invited to the event: Ukrainian and French municipalities, local self-governance associations, representatives of MinRegion, representatives of French Embassy to Ukraine, EU Delegation to Ukraine.

AGENDA

Moderation (online from Brussels): **Durmish Guri**, Director - External Resources and Knowledge Strategy, Council of European Municipalities and Regions

Moderation (offline in Paris): **Christophe Rouillon** and **Thibaut Guignard**, Co-Presidents of the “Europe” Commission, Association of Mayors of France (AMF)

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| 10.00-10.30 CET 11.00-11.30 EEST | <p>Opening speeches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viacheslav Nehoda, Deputy Minister of Ministry of Communities and territories of Ukraine • H.E. Etienne de Poncins, Ambassador of France to Ukraine • Xavier Camus, Head of Co-operation Section 1 — Good Governance and Rule of Law of the EU Delegation to Ukraine • Fabrizio Rossi, Secretary General of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions • Christophe Rouillon and Thibaut Guignard, Co-Presidents of the Commission “Europe”, Association of Mayors of France (AMF) • Oleksandr Slobozhan, Secretary General of the Association of Ukrainian Cities |
| 10.30 - 10.50 CET 11.30 - 11.50 EEST | <p>Resilience of local government and people under war-time conditions: testimonies from the ground in Ukraine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ivan Dyriv, Mayor of Dolyna municipality, Ivano-Frankivsk region, Ukraine • Halyna Mynayeva, Mayor of Chuhuiv municipality, Kharkiv region, Ukraine |
| 10.50 – 11.20 CET 11.50 – 12.20 EEST | <p>Solidarity through joint action: best practice from France</p> <p>Reims (France) / Chernihiv (Ukraine):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arnaud Robinet, Mayor of Reims City |
| 11.20 - 11.40 CET 12.20 - 12.40. EEST | <p>Rebuilding Ukraine: Case of Dobrobat NGO, Ukrainian volunteer movement aimed at rebuilding cities destroyed by the russian occupiers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anastasia Moiseenko, Head of International Affairs and Fundraising, Dobrobat |
| 11.40- 12.00 CEST 12.40 - 13.00 EEST | <p>Questions and Answers, open discussion</p> |
| 12.00 - 12.15 CEST 13.00 - 13.15 EEST | <p>Closing remarks</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christophe Chaillou, Director-General of the French Association of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions • Bastian Veigel, GIZ Programme Director of U-LEAD with Europe |
| <p>12.15 CEST 13.15 EEST</p> | <p>Closing of the <i>offline meeting</i> of the Commission “Europe” of the AMF in Paris</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christophe Rouillon and Thibaut Guignard, Co-Presidents of the Commission “Europe”, Association of Mayors of France (AMF) |