



# Bridges of Trust Annual Gathering

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Empowering Municipalities for Reconstruction of Ukraine





**U LEAD**  
WITH EUROPE



## Date

8 November 2023



## Time

09:15-17:00 hours, CET



## Location

CEMR, Square de Meeûs 1,  
Brussels, Belgium

# PARTICIPANTS

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Representatives of Ukrainian and European municipalities; Ukrainian and European Local Self-Government Associations; other organisations involved in the “Bridges of Trust” initiative of U-LEAD with Europe, such as Solidarity Fund Poland, Slovenian Center for European Perspective (CEP), NALAS – Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe, European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA).

# BACKGROUND

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Since March 2021, CEMR and PLATFORMA, the pan-European coalition of towns, regions, and their associations active in the international development cooperation, led by CEMR, have been contributing to Bridges of Trust initiative of U-LEAD with Europe to create new partnerships between municipalities in Ukraine and the EU member states. To complement municipalities as a driving force of the recovery, reconstruction and reform efforts in Ukraine, BoT initiative consists of more than 150 municipalities from Ukraine and 17 EU Member states.

CEMR and the Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC) joined forces and, together with other local self-government associations, supported this goal. There were two main streams followed within the Bridges of Trust community: (1) Rebuilding Ukraine through partnerships with the EU municipalities and (2) Promoting comprehensive development of municipalities through analytics, dialogue and international cooperation.

# OBJECTIVES

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This annual gathering at the House of Cities, municipalities and Regions is very significant for cooperation between Ukrainian and European municipalities. The objective of such gathering is to present good practices, exchange about successful factors for cooperation, especially between small and medium sized municipalities, and discuss potential sources of funding available for EU municipalities when cooperating with their partners from Ukraine. At this occasion, those municipalities with the most advanced cooperations will present their reconstruction and modernization-related projects and share recommendations for successful cooperation with participants.



# AGENDA

Time	Topic	Speaker
<b>09:15-09:25</b>	<b>Welcome words</b>	
09:15-09:20	Council of the European Municipalities and Regions, CEMR	<b>Fabrizio Rossi</b> Secretary General of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions
09:20-09:25	Association of Ukrainian Cities, AUC	<b>*Oleksandr Slobozhan</b> Executive Director of the Association of Ukrainian Cities
09:25-09:35	Guiding through the Day “Bridges of Trust” – Video presentation	<b>Durmish Guri</b> Director of External Resources and Knowledge Strategy of CEMR
09:35-09:50	“Bridges of Trust”: an effective and sustainable support to Ukraine!	<b>Andrej Horvat</b> Programme Director of U-LEAD with Europe
09:50-10:30	Project(s): CEMR and AUC Rebuilding Ukraine through municipal cooperation: EU-UA Municipal Partnerships in Action	<b>Durmish Guri</b> Director of External Resources and Knowledge Strategy of CEMR <b>Liudmyla Damentsova</b> Project Director of the Association of Ukrainian Cities
<b>10:30-10:45</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>	
10:45-11:00	Project: “Post-conflict reconstruction in Ukraine”	<b>Jelka Klemenc</b> Team Leader, Center for European Perspectives, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Slovenia
11:00-11:15	Project: “Bridges of Cooperation”	<b>Kelmend Zajazi</b> Executive Director of Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe, NALAS



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Time	Topic	Speaker
11:15-11:30	Project: “Good Governance Internship Programme”	<b>Paweł Aleksandrowicz</b> Project Manager, Solidarity Fund Poland
11:30-11:50	Project: “Twinning cooperation between Nine Ukrainian municipalities and Guldborgsund municipality”	<b>Simon Hansen</b> Mayor of Guldborgsund municipality, Denmark
11:50-13:15	Panel discussion:  Building bridges between Ukrainian and EU municipalities – How to make cooperation between smaller municipalities sustainable?  Moderation: Liudmyla Damentsova	<b>*Phillipe Laurent</b> Mayor of Sceaux, France, President of AFCCRE, Vice President of CEMR <b>*Renata Kosec</b> Deputy President of the Association of Towns and Municipalities of Slovenia <b>Halyna Minaieva</b> Head of Chuhuiv City Council, Ukraine <b>Ivan Dyriv</b> Head of Dolyna City Council, Ukraine <b>Katarzyna Paczyńska</b> Head of the International Relations Department of the Association of Polish Cities
13:15-14:00	<b>Lunch break</b>	
14:00-14:20	What can we learn from: Cooperation of municipalities with ports/access to Atlantic and Black Sea	<b>Vasyl Huliayev</b> Mayor of Chornomorsk, Ukraine <b>*Fabrice Loher</b> Mayor of Lorient, France



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Time	Topic	Speaker
14:20-14:40	What can we learn from: Cooperation in the field of Water Management	<b>Serhii Rieznik</b> Mayor of Novomoskovsk, Ukraine <b>*Juan María Aburto</b> Mayor of Bilbao, Spain
14:40-15:00	What can we learn from: Cooperation in the field of Business Promotion	<b>Serhii Zelenskiy</b> Mayor of Lozova, Ukraine <b>Roberto Di Stefano</b> Mayor of Sesto San Giovanni Municipality, Italy <b>Gianmaria Vincelli</b> Municipal Councilor of Sesto San Giovanni, President of Business Advisory Board
15:00-16:15	Discussion with participants: Design the future of “Bridges of Trust” initiative with a bottom-up and people-to-people approach  Moderation: Guri Durmish, Director of External Resources and Knowledge Strategy of the CEMR	<b>*Gabriel Blanc</b> Team Leader on Reconstruction of Ukraine, European Commission, DG NEAR <b>*Gudrun Niedorf</b> Deputy Head of Unit, B.3 CIVEX, Committee of the Regions <b>*Mathieu Mori</b> Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe <b>Henri Malosse</b> Bridges of Trust CEMR expert <b>*Phillipe Laurent</b> Mayor of Sceaux, France, President of AFCCRE, Vice President of CEMR



# AGENDA

16:15	Coffee break	
16:15-17:00	Twinning Cooperation (TC) Steering Group Meeting	TC participants, only
	Personal time	
19:00	ACT NOW Mayor's Conference Reception	All participants invited ( <a href="#">registration</a> )

Confirm your presence by October 24

→ [Click here to register](#)

