Bridges of Trust
Annual Gathering

Empowering Municipalities for Reconstruction of Ukraine
Date
8 November 2023

Time
09:15-17:00 hours, CET

Location
CEMR, Square de Meeûs 1, Brussels, Belgium
PARTICIPANTS

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

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

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.
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<tr>
<td>09:15-09:25</td>
<td>Welcome words</td>
<td>Fabrizio Rossi&lt;br&gt;Secretary General of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions</td>
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<td>09:15-09:20</td>
<td>Council of the European Municipalities and Regions, CEMR</td>
<td>Fabrizio Rossi&lt;br&gt;Secretary General of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions</td>
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<td>09:20-09:25</td>
<td>Association of Ukrainian Cities, AUC</td>
<td>*Oleksandr Slobozhan&lt;br&gt;Executive Director of the Association of Ukrainian Cities</td>
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<td>09:25-09:35</td>
<td>Guiding through the Day “Bridges of Trust” – Video presentation</td>
<td>Durmish Guri&lt;br&gt;Director of External Resources and Knowledge Strategy of CEMR</td>
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<td>09:35-09:50</td>
<td>“Bridges of Trust”: an effective and sustainable support to Ukraine!</td>
<td>Andrej Horvat&lt;br&gt;Programme Director of U-LEAD with Europe</td>
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<td>09:50-10:30</td>
<td>Project(s): CEMR and AUC Rebuilding Ukraine through municipal cooperation: EU-UA Municipal Partnerships in Action</td>
<td>Durmish Guri&lt;br&gt;Director of External Resources and Knowledge Strategy of CEMR&lt;br&gt;Liudmyla Damentsova&lt;br&gt;Project Director of the Association of Ukrainian Cities</td>
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<td>10:30-10:45</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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<td>10:45-11:00</td>
<td>Project: “Post-conflict reconstruction in Ukraine”</td>
<td>Jelka Klemenc&lt;br&gt;Team Leader, Center for European Perspectives, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Slovenia</td>
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<td>11:00-11:15</td>
<td>Project: “Bridges of Cooperation”</td>
<td>Kelmend Zajazi&lt;br&gt;Executive Director of Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe, NALAS</td>
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| 11:15-11:30 | Project: “Good Governance Internship Programme”                       | Paweł Aleksandrowicz  
Project Manager, Solidarity Fund Poland                                    |
| 11:30-11:50 | Project: “Twinning cooperation between Nine Ukrainian municipalities and Guldborgsund municipality” | Simon Hansen  
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? | *Phillipe Laurent  
Mayor of Sceaux, France, President of AFCCRE, Vice President of CEMR  
*Renata Kosec  
Deputy President of the Association of Towns and Municipalities of Slovenia  
Halyna Minaieva  
Head of Chuhuiv City Council, Ukraine  
Ivan Dyriv  
Head of Dolyna City Council, Ukraine  
Katarzyna Paczyńska  
Head of the International Relations Department of the Association of Polish Cities |
| 13:15-14:00 | Lunch break                                                           |                                                                        |
| 14:00-14:20 | What can we learn from: Cooperation of municipalities with ports/access to Atlantic and Black Sea | Vasyl Huliayev  
Mayor of Chornomorsk, Ukraine  
*Fabrice Loher  
Mayor of Lorient, France                                                   |
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| 14:20-14:40  | What can we learn from: Cooperation in the field of Water Management | Serhii Rieznik  
Mayor of Novomoskovsk, Ukraine  
*Juan María Aburto  
Mayor of Bilbao, Spain |
| 14:40-15:00  | What can we learn from: Cooperation in the field of Business Promotion | Serhii Zelenskiy  
Mayor of Lozova, Ukraine  
Roberto Di Stefano  
Mayor of Sesto San Giovannini Municipality, Italy  
Gianmaria Vincelli  
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  
*Gabriel Blanc  
Team Leader on Reconstruction of Ukraine, European Commission, DG NEAR  
*Gudrun Niedorf  
Deputy Head of Unit, B.3 CIVEX, Committee of the Regions  
*Mathieu Mori  
Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe  
Henri Malosse  
Bridges of Trust CEMR expert  
*Phillipe Laurent  
Mayor of Sceaux, France, President of AFWCRE, Vice President of CEMR |
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<td>16:15</td>
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<td>16:15-17:00</td>
<td>Twinning Cooperation (TC) Steering Group Meeting</td>
<td>TC participants, only</td>
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<td><strong>Personal time</strong></td>
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<td>19:00</td>
<td>ACT NOW Mayor’s Conference Reception</td>
<td>All participants invited (registration)</td>
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Confirm your presence by October 24

Click here to register