

DECENTRALIZED DEMOCRACY AND LOCAL RESILIENCE

19TH KYIV DIALOGUE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Thursday, 14 November 2024

GLS Campus
Kastanienallee 82
10435 Berlin

Program (Preliminary, as of 31 October 2024)

The decentralization reform initiated in the 2010s has created the basic conditions for resilient municipalities in Ukraine. Local tax revenues have led to a surge in the professionalization of communities and increased self-confidence among citizens. Today, the capabilities of Ukrainian municipalities are being pushed to their limits by war and reconstruction.

In the follow-up of the EURC with 3400 stakeholders present, the presented reform Matrix of the Ukrainian government the EU Commission / DG Near is now implementing and operationalizing the Ukraine Facility, including considerable financial support to Ukrainian communities and municipalities.

How can the international donor community and Ukrainian civil society ensure that aid for reconstruction reaches the local actors in administrations, councils, and the citizenry? How can civil society and local self-governance be systematically strengthened as complementary political forces vis-a-vis a weakened Verkhovna Rada and a presidential system empowered by martial law?

11:30 – 12:00 REGISTRATION

12:00 – 12:15 WELCOME

Anne Brasseur, Board member Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom
Stefanie Schiffer, Director European Exchange, Board member Kyiv Dialogue

12:15 – 13:15 PANEL I

CHALLENGES FOR LOCAL DEMOCRACY IN UKRAINE

Oleksandr Slobozhan, Association of Ukrainian Cities
Prof. Dr. Georg Milbradt, Special Envoy of the Federal Government for Administrative Modernization in Ukraine
Olexiy Kuleba, Minister for Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development of Ukraine (tbc)

Moderator: **Wilfried Jilge**, Senior Fellow German Association on Foreign Policy DGAP

13:15 – 14:45 PANEL II

RESILIENCE AND GOVERNANCE - THE NEEDS AND CAPACITIES OF LOCAL STRUCTURES

Building upon and developing the previous panel.

Mykhaylina Skoryk, Member of the Irpin City Council

Clara Volintiru, Regional Director, Black Sea Trust of the German Marshall Fund of the United States

Svyatoslav Pavlyuk, Association of Energy Efficient Cities of Ukraine

N.N. EU Commission / DG NEAR (tbc)

Yuliia Svrydenko, Minister of Economy of Ukraine (tbc)

Moderator: **Miriam Kosmehl**, Bertelsmann Foundation

14:45 – 15:45 LATE LUNCH / COFFEE BREAK

15:45 – 17:15 PANEL III

THE ROLE AND TASKS OF MUNICIPALITIES IN EU INTEGRATION

The last major EU enlargement process 20 years ago showed that well-developed local self-governance is one of the key prerequisites for successful EU integration. Poland established partnerships with Ukrainian municipalities early on and promoted them. What role have municipalities played in Poland's democratic development since 1991? What experiences can be transferred to Ukraine? How are Poland and Germany currently engaged in Ukraine at municipal level?

Laurynas Vaičiūnas, Director, KEW Foundation

Krzysztof Stanowski, Director of International Cooperation Center at Lublin City Office

Halyna Minaeva, Mayor of the city of Chuhuiv, Kharkiv region

Dr. Ulrike Hopp-Nishanka, Task Force Ukraine, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

Moderator: **Cornelius Ochmann**, Foundation for German-Polish Cooperation

17:15 – 18:45 HIGH-LEVEL DISCUSSION

NO REFORMS WITHOUT SECURITY – EU'S DEMANDS AND UKRAINE'S NEEDS

In June 2024, the EU started membership negotiations with Ukraine. The full implementation of the EU acquis demands a comprehensive and burdensome reform process that requires resources and capacities. In parallel Ukraine counters the ongoing Russian aggression on its territory which absorbs huge capacities. How can the EU and its member states help better to achieve Ukraine's goals and meet the security needs and adequate support of the country?

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Solomiia Bobrovska, Member of the Verkhovna Rada
Marcus Welsch, Documentary filmmaker and publicist
Alexander Müller, Member of the German Bundestag
Roderich Kieseewetter, Member of the German Bundestag
Oleksii Makeiev, Ambassador of Ukraine to Germany

Moderator: **Anna Kravtšenko**, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom Kyiv

19:00 RECEPTION / NETWORKING

19:30-21:00



More info

Art as a Target of War: Experience the Museum of Stolen Art through an immersive VR headset, offering a unique opportunity to explore Mariupol's lost heritage in virtual reality. The presentation will showcase key artifacts from the museum, each with its own historical significance and story of resilience.

Contact: Anna A. Lysiak, East and Southeast Europe Department, Boell Foundation

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