



MANIFESTO

of the Ukrainian participants of the Conference “Local Self-Government – the Basis for the European Integration and Restoration of Ukraine”

7 July 2023

Kyiv

Strong local self-government ensures the participation of citizens in the processes of governance and defence of the country – this is what Ukrainian municipalities have demonstrated to the world, uniting people to fight the aggressor through the decentralisation reform launched in Ukraine in 2014 at the initiative of the Association of Ukrainian Cities and with the significant assistance of international partners.

The success of the decentralisation reform has brought Ukraine closer to the European Union, its values of freedom, democracy and the rule of law.

The reform of local self-government and decentralisation of power in Ukraine are among the priorities under the Association Agreement with the European Union and Ukraine’s progress towards EU membership, which requires the completion of relevant reforms.

The support of the European Union by granting Ukraine the status of an EU candidate has become another step towards a new security system in the world based on democratic rights and freedoms that are currently being fought for in Ukraine.

Resolution on the sustainable recovery and integration of Ukraine into the Euro-Atlantic community (2023/2739(RSP)), adopted on 15 June 2023 by the European Parliament, which **proposed “to embed the success of the decentralisation reform in the overall architecture** of Ukraine’s repair, recovery and reconstruction processes by, inter alia, giving local authorities a prominent role in decision-making” and **drew attention to the Association of Ukrainian Cities and the European Alliance of Cities and Regions for the Recovery of Ukraine**, defined the steps and mechanisms on the part of the public authorities necessary for Ukraine’s further Euro-Atlantic integration.

On 20 June 2023, **the European Commission published a draft regulation proposing the creation of a new mechanism for Ukraine, the Ukraine Facility**. This instrument will play a key role in assisting Ukraine in 2024-2027 in three areas, including financial support for the implementation of the Ukraine Plan, which includes **continuing decentralisation reform, meeting the recovery and development needs of municipalities, and the participation of municipalities in consultations on the preparation and implementation of the Ukraine Plan**.

The application of the principle of multi-level governance and the bottom-up approach, which our European partners emphasise, will ensure the coordinated, comprehensive, and balanced economic and social development of each municipality and the whole of Ukraine.

We are grateful to everyone who stands with Ukraine in defence of democracy and freedom, who sees the final Victory of the civilised world in building successful Ukraine!