

International Conference – Decentralised Support for Ukrainian Communities

23 - 24 November, 2023, Vicenza
Municipality of Vicenza

We, representatives of Ukrainian and European Union cities and regions, gathered in Vicenza for the **International Conference – Decentralised Support for Ukrainian Communities**

- I. Strongly condemn **Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine**, reaffirming our unwavering support for **Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity**, and adherence to **international law**, including humanitarian law.
- II. Acknowledge the **devastating impact** of Russia's military aggression, including the deliberate targeting of civilians, leading to significant loss of life, infrastructure damage, humanitarian crisis, economic loss, and global supply chain disruptions.
- III. Applaud the European Council's decision in June 2022 to grant **Ukraine European Union candidate** country status.
- IV. Affirm the "[Lugano Principles](#)" as the foundation for Ukraine's recovery process, emphasising partnership, reform, transparency, accountability, democratic participation, multi-stakeholder engagement, gender equality, inclusion, and sustainability.
- V. Endorse the [Declaration of Solidarity with Ukraine by the European Union's Regions and Cities](#), as well as the [European Alliance of Cities and Regions for the Reconstruction of Ukraine Declaration](#).
- VI. Call for a **sustainable reconstruction of Ukraine**, guided by principles that support its territorial integrity, sovereignty, and unity, employ a bottom-up approach, empower local self-government, support Ukraine's EU accession, promote sustainability, encourage good local and regional governance, and foster business development and innovation.

- VII. Advocate for **supporting Ukraine throughout its recovery and reconstruction journey**, strengthening the **role of local and regional governments**, and leveraging **decentralized cooperation** with European partners, including **twinning** and partnership development initiatives to mutually enhance the expertise and capacity of local authorities.
- VIII. Commit to linking Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction with **decentralization reform** and involving local authorities in the process.
- IX. Affirm the importance of **democratic governance** and **increased citizen and local stakeholder participation** in territorial development planning and project selection.
- X. Endorse the **active participation of citizens** in the recovery and reconstruction efforts and support the approach of **Local Democracy Agencies** for sustainable recovery and reconstruction
- XI. Call for improved coordination mechanisms to facilitate **dialogue among levels of government** on recovery and reconstruction.
- XII. Recognize the **value of partnerships** with the private sector, academia, civil society, and different levels of governance in Ukraine and the European Union.
- XIII. Urge for the continuation and **expansion of European Union funding**, alongside international grants, aid, and private investments, to support Ukraine's rebuilding and European integration process.

Through the endorsement of this Declaration, we put forth a proposal for an annual assembly to be held in Vicenza, Italy, with the purpose of reviewing our steadfast commitment and advancing the notion of Decentralised cooperation as an instrumental means for addressing the outcomes of conflicts, the fortification of peace-building endeavours, and the establishment of the foundation for sustainable and inclusive communities.



Città di
Vicenza



24/11/2023 in Vicenza, Italy

Oriano Otočan,

President of ALDA - European Association for Local Democracy



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