



EVALUATION OF EU SUPPORT TO CSO CAPACITY BUILDING IN UKRAINE

Between **2019** and **2024**:

€200 million invested by the EU

142 projects supporting civil society organizations across Ukraine

This evaluation focused on a **targeted segment** of EU support Ukrainian civil society:

16 major grant projects were assessed — focusing on **capacity building, rule of law, and anti-corruption.**

€30 million in total funding examined

- € 20 million dedicated to sub-granting → ~1,000 small projects
- Average grant: €15,000 (range: €600 – €200,000)

Timeline of the evaluation:
January - August 2025

4 phases: Inception, Desk work, Field work, and Reporting.

10 key questions

397 individuals contributed

The evaluation of EU support to CSO capacity building in Ukraine represents a **comprehensive assessment** of the EU's strategic engagement with civil society in the country.

The evaluation found that **EU support** helped Ukrainian civil society **not only survive** but, in many cases, **emerge stronger.**

Focus Areas:

- Relevance & effectiveness of support.
- Responsiveness to community needs.
- Strengthening CSOs as governance & policy actors.

Scope:

- 16 grant projects.
- 10 Ukrainian & international CSOs.
- Multiple EU funding decisions.



THE EVALUATION



Number of documents consulted > 150



In-person 2 weeks field missions in Kyiv, Khmelnytskyi, Chernivtsi, Ivano-Frankivsk, Zhytomyr, Rivne, Lutsk, and Lviv.



Consultations with 72 KIIs and FGDs involving 73 participants, online and offline

OVERALL ASSESSMENT



Exceptional Crisis Adaptability with Sustained Focus on Long-Term Capacity Building.

Strong **Operational Improvements** Alongside Persistent Governance Development Gaps.



Strategic Partnerships with Coordination Gaps at the Portfolio Level.

High Economic Efficiency with Timeline and Financial Sustainability Challenges.



Clear EU Added Value with Limited Public Recognition and Strategic Communication.

"The EU has provided incredible and urgent support to Ukrainians. The decision to reformat the EU4CSOs project and the interests of people's urgent needs during the war were extremely important for us. We felt the trust and support from the donor, which gave us strength and confidence. The EU4CSOs Emergency Actions project allowed us to continue evacuating people, supplying food to frontline regions and displaced persons, and supporting people in penitentiary institutions. The EU has not only provided financial assistance but is also actively cooperating with local organizations to ensure its maximum effectiveness".

- Interview participant

Enhancing **Strategic Communication** and EU Visibility

Building Authentic Constituency Engagement and **Democratic Accountability**

Extending Programming Timelines and Developing Sustainability Strategies

Deepening Governance Development Through Structured Long-term Programming

Building **Crisis-Responsive Capacity** into Development Programming

RECOMMENDATIONS

Strengthening Coordination Through Existing Structures

Strengthening Regional Capacity and Addressing Geographic Disparities

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