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The project launch event was held in Berlin in early December 2024

GERMAN GOVERNMENT AND FEDERAL STATES PROGRAMME
BUND-LÄNDER-PROGRAMM (BLP)

Federal state - partner country

Berlin - Ukraine



Title

Promoting innovation networks between start-up ecosystems in Berlin and Ukraine

In cooperation with the GIZ programme

ReACT4Ukraine – Resilience Recovery Accession Competitiveness Trade | Utilisation and implementation of the Association Agreement between the EU and Ukraine on trade

Financing arrangements

BMZ contribution	290.140 EUR
Berlin contribution	228.782 EUR

Duration

15.07.2024 - 31.12.2025

Responsible ministry

Berlin Senate Department for Economic Affairs, Energy and Public Enterprises

This project helps to achieve the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



Connecting dynamic start-up ecosystems: Ecosystem Connectors Berlin, Kyiv

Local situation

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has had devastating consequences, including for the Kyiv region, which is still home to Ukraine's leading start-up ecosystem. With a skilled and innovative workforce, this ecosystem is dominated by tech start-ups that specialise in particular in software development and digital technical innovations in finance, health, education and administration (FinTech, HealthTech, EdTech and GovTech). At the same time, it faces challenges such as limited access to capital and the potential long-term effects of the war, including infrastructural damage and the exodus of talent.

Cooperation arrangements

The project builds on the twinning agreement signed by Berlin and Kyiv in September 2023. Berlin's cooperation partner is the Senate Department for Economic Affairs, Energy and Public Enterprises. The project's implementation partner is enact e.V. (Berlin), an organisation committed to connecting start-up ecosystems across borders. The project cooperates at the local level with the TC project ReACT4Ukraine and its project partners, Kyiv City Council and the Entrepreneurship and Export Promotion Office. Other partner institutions that promote innovation include the Ukrainian Startup Fund and TechUkraine.

“Kyiv has established itself in recent years as an emerging tech hub in Eastern Europe. It is home to an exciting mix of highly qualified IT specialists and creative talents within an innovative ecosystem. At the same time, the people in this war-torn country have shown impressive resilience. We stand shoulder-to-shoulder with Ukraine and our twin city Kyiv. By working together, we strengthen each other and open up new markets and opportunities – despite the war, but above all looking beyond the war.”

Franziska Giffey

Mayor of Berlin and Berlin State Senator for Economic Affairs, Energy and Public Enterprises



Participating entrepreneurs in conversation with Franziska Giffey

What we are doing - and how

Berlin is recognised as being the thriving start-up hub of Europe. The BLP project builds bridges and strengthens the mutually beneficial relationship between the dynamic start-up ecosystems in Kyiv and Berlin. It promotes cooperation and an exchange of knowledge and resources between entrepreneurs and interest groups, with the aim also of facilitating market access.

Initially, in cooperation with the GIZ programme in Kyiv, it will decide the relevant sectors and identify key players in the network. These individuals will ensure continuation of the network after the project term.

A targeted communication campaign (including press reports and website development) will address the relevant stakeholders in the two cities and provide information about the project.

Stakeholders from the ecosystems in Berlin and Kyiv are specifically interlinked via digital dialogue series and regular networking events, with the aim of promoting independent, self-organised dialogue. A study trip to Berlin will further strengthen this cooperation and promote potential business deals. Specialist training courses and workshops provide support to participants

in developing their companies, thereby contributing to their (international) growth potential.

The project aims to strengthen Ukrainian start-ups, especially in the Kyiv region, and empower them to contribute to economic reconstruction in line with the findings of the Ukraine Recovery Conference 2024 agreed internationally with Ukraine.

Useful links

- Further information on the BLP:
<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/132983.html>
<https://bund-laender-programm.de/en>
- Website of the cooperating GIZ programme ReACT4Ukraine:
<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/138491.html>
- Implementing partner enpact e.V.
<https://enpact.org/ecosystem-connectors-berlin-kyiv/7>
- Senate Department for Economic Affairs, Energy and Public Enterprises:
<https://www.berlin.de/sen/web/en/startups>

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