

Ukraine Civil Society Forum

Recommendations on Civil Society's Role in National Reconstruction

Fellows of Salzburg Global Seminar gathered in Schloss Leopoldskron in Salzburg, Austria, on 4-8 June 2023 for a program held as part of Salzburg Global's [Ukraine Civil Society Forum](#).

At the meeting, several working groups set out priorities for the country, including concrete recommendations for stakeholders to support the rights, return, and reintegration of displaced persons and refugees, addressing both immediate humanitarian needs and long-term perspectives, including the ultimate physical reconstruction and social integration of liberated territories as part of a Ukraine-wide project of national identity.

Civil society plays a critical role in supporting the state and its citizens not only during wartime but also in planning for the physical and political reconstruction after the end of hostilities. In the context of Ukraine, in which 5.9 million people are internally displaced and another eight million have fled to neighboring countries, civil society will have a significant role to play in supporting displaced persons and refugees, as well as the reintegration and rebuilding of de-occupied territories after the war. Over the longer-term, civil society will also need to play a crucial role in any and all peace and reconciliation efforts, including in the development of a post-war and Ukraine-wide national dialogue project.

With so many people displaced inside and outside Ukraine and the economy on a wartime footing, it remains essential to keep civil society leaders supported and connected to one another and with other strategic actors in the international donor, development, political, and private sectors. A connected and resilient civil society sector in Ukraine will create opportunities for dialogue on different levels of society to develop a shared vision for post-war reconstruction and national dialogue, including different social and historical narratives that help shape an inclusive identity for Ukraine.

However, international and domestic conferences on Ukraine have shunted civil society to side events or have featured representatives of governments, donor countries, or international organizations speaking at rather than listening to civil society. Salzburg Global Seminar's Ukraine Civil Society Forum intends to ensure that Ukrainians themselves will be equipped with a way to move forward and to elevate the voices of Ukrainian civil society, and in particular women, in discussions on the future of Ukraine.

WORKING GROUP ON CIVIL SOCIETY'S ROLE IN NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION

The working group on national reconstruction established civil society priorities for the development of the national reconstruction strategy of Ukraine and for the de-occupied territories, in recognition that such strategies must be inclusive and transparent to gain legitimacy among Ukraine's diverse citizens.

The Fellows concluded that effective contribution of civil society will be possible only in the case of capacity support, taking into account the conditions in which public organizations work in Ukraine. The group prioritized two problems: lack of care and wellbeing problems in civil society organizations (CSOs); and invisibility of CSOs as economic actors in recovery processes

Care and Wellbeing Programs

IMMEDIATE NEEDS (WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE NOW?)

- Medical insurance
- Special protection equipment
- Protected transport
- Financial support
- Psychological support
- Coaching
- Retreat
- Family-sensitive policies

LONG TERM GOALS (WHAT NEEDS TO BE ACHIEVED AFTER THE WAR, WHICH WILL REQUIRE ACTIONS/POLICIES TO START NOW?)

- Insurance
- Retreat
- Endowment

Recommendations

For Civil Society

- Advocacy change to legislation about possibilities to have Endowment.
- To put care and wellbeing programs as a main part of capacity buildings for civil society organizations
- To build a corporate culture (non-contact in non-work time, non-toxic communication etc)
- To provide award, recognition programs and visibility in different sectors and levels.
- Shaping up the systemic culture of safety and security trainings of staff, volunteers, personnel etc.

For Government

- To engage Civil Society as a model in providing of mental health within the framework of national programs (for example “How are you?”)
- Security and safety measures to civil society activists
- Actively work on merit recognition of civil society organizations (awards, recognitions, acknowledgment)
- To include volunteers and CSO activists as a target group to national rehabilitation programs

For the Private Sector

- To support care and wellbeing programs (to propose and provide own services and resources, share success models and experience)
- To improve their social responsibility, by including CSO as a target group
- To establish grant programs for CSO

For the International Community

- To put care and wellbeing programs as a main part of capacity buildings for CSO
- To spread recovery and rehabilitation programs for CSOs (physical and mental health)
- Indirect and overhead costs for CSOs
- To support establishing endowment in CSOs
- To simplify procedures
- To allocate course of supporting care and wellbeing program for CSOs, including medical insurance for personnel

STRATEGIC ACTIONS (WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?)

- To develop a template of internal self care and wellbeing program
- To distribute a template to CSO
- To make research of mental health and needs of CSO activists
- To initiate a dialogue with International communities (statements, appeals, public events)
- To initiate a dialogue with national and local governments

CSO as a proactive actor of economic resilience and recovery of Ukraine

Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion, CSOs have performed many functions of the state and continue to support Ukraine's reputation as a state that, despite many internal problems, can be trusted and invested in - both at the state and private levels.

CSOs are actively working both to attract finance for their projects and to restore certain industries or objects.

IMMEDIATE NEEDS (WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE NOW?)

- To develop skills of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in engaging grant funds
- To develop skills of big businesses in engaging grants and CSOs
- To map donors which are working in Ukraine
- Public campaign for CSO and Society about CSO roles in society
- To react on unscrupulous practices in spending public funds on reconstruction
- To actively take part in international networking and advocacy, including in raising funds events with foreign business

LONG TERM GOALS (WHAT NEEDS TO BE ACHIEVED AFTER THE WAR, WHICH WILL REQUIRE ACTIONS/POLICIES TO START NOW?)

- To develop CSOs, which can consult SMEs
- To cooperate with government to make sure reconstruction strategy corresponds to requirements of international partners and domestic needs

Recommendations

For Civil Society

- To develop capacities to provide services to Ukrainian business
- To implement programs on raising financial literacy of society
- To improve own communicational strategy about influencing on economic impact
- To make sure of implementation gender sensitive, inclusive and sustainable approaches in reconstruction strategy

For Government

- To maintain communication with CSOs to national reconstruction strategy
- To make sure of participation of CSOs (who have special gender sensitive, inclusive and gender-sensitive approaches) in every working group or subgroup on national, regional and local level (including quotes for women and different vulnerable group) (at least 30% of all participants)

For the Private Sector

- Ukrainian business have to create and update policies
- To assign responsible people in entrepreneurship in working with grants and funds involving.
- To make a communicational campaign about existing opportunities

For the International Community

- To make precondition of participating CSO in developing of reconstruction programs