## **EU4Business**

## Country Report

**UKRAINE** 





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#### **EU4Business Initiative:**

## How the EU supports **SMEs in Ukraine**

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the Eastern Partnership region have the potential to create jobs and drive economic growth. Obstacles such as limited access to finance, burdensome legislation and difficulties entering new markets are hindering their progress.

The European Union's EU4Business Initiative ultimately serves SMEs as the beneficiaries of EU support in the Eastern Partnership countries -





EU4Business supports SMEs by

Improving access to finance

**Upgrading services to business** 

Promoting better business regulations

#### **Access to Finance** (A2F):

- concessionary loans via national banks
- micro financing for household businesses
- → small grants to SMEs
- training staff at national banks to better serve SMEs
- → training SMEs in financial literacy

#### **Business Development** Services (BDS):

- providing direct advice and training to SMEs
- training and capacity-building among national business support organisations (BSOs)
- establishing business incubators for start-ups
- developing business clusters for mutual support and development
- supporting governments in identifying new markets
- building capacities at export support organisations

#### **Business Enabling Environment (BEE):**

- promoting regulatory reform and best practice
- → building capacity amongst policy makers and regulators
- encouraging public-private dialogue
- informing business about reform processes and rules/ procedures



Small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) continue to form the backbone of the Ukrainian economy. SMEs are widespread across all sectors in Ukraine, including agriculture, machinery, construction, and technology, and they will play a vital role in reconstruction efforts. However, the Russian invasion in 2022 prompted a sharp decline in economic activity, with GDP falling by as much as 30 percent. Small businesses in Ukraine have suffered immensely: a survey by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) showed that the average SME earned 43 percent less and employed 22 percent fewer people between February and December 2022.

Almost two-and-a-half years after the full-scale Russian invasion, business has begun to slowly stabilize. SMEs continue to show astonishing resilience despite facing severe challenges. Remarkably, only small percentage of SMEs have suspended all activity, while over half have managed to maintain operations at pre-war levels. To do so, these businesses have started using short-term forecasting on a month-to-month basis to help them adapt and reallocate resources quickly in response to uncertainty. Their strategies also include vigorous expansion into new markets, relocating to safer areas (including abroad), diversifying their traditional business activities, and finding new funding sources such as grants to continue operations.

#### **SME Support Framework**

In April 2024, the government completed consultations with businesses regarding the "Strategy for Recovery, Sustainable Development, and Digital Transformation of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises for the period up to 2027<sup>1</sup>." The Strategy aims to improve the business environment in Ukraine. The document is being jointly developed by the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine, and the Office for Entrepreneurship and Export Development.

The strategy is being drafted with the support of the Good Governance Fund project "Revitalizing the Business Climate in Ukraine."

The adoption of the document is one of the requirements of the European Commission, as outlined in the European Commission's Report on Ukraine within the framework of EU enlargement. The next step in the development of the Strategy will be interagency coordination of the document.

#### **SME Support Policies**

The newly centralized Entrepreneurship and Export Promotion Office (EEPO) is now effectively in charge of implementing SME policy as well as export promotion. At present, the EEPO acts as the sole SME implementation agency and serves as an effective bridge between the central government and the SME community. The EEPO is governed by a supervisory board which includes both the Ministry of Digital Transformation and the Ministry of Economy, providing a valuable channel for communication and assistance with the enterprise sector. It also manages Diia.Business, the main business portal.

In January 2024, a new initiative "Made in Ukraine" was launched. In past months, first two "Made in Ukraine"

offices have opened in Chernihiv and Sumy to support micro and small businesses in the regions. Hosted by regional employment centres, these offices will provide small- and micro-sized businesses with access to consultations, assistance in preparing documents for grants, and the opportunity to participate in other support programmes. This approach is planned to be scaled up all over Ukraine.

The "Made in Ukraine" platform, aimed at supporting local producers has also become fully operational<sup>3</sup>. As the initiative has just launched, we must await further evaluative analysis regarding its service provision efficiency and its long-term effectiveness.

- https://www.me.gov.ua/News/Detail?lang=uk-UA&id=42d76c41-84d3-493e-aeb1-b584f4b37d59&title=StrategiiMsp
- https://www.president.gov.ua/documents/312024-49569
- https://madeinukraine.gov.ua/en/#manifest

#### **SME Support Programmes**

For 2024, the Ukrainian Government has budgeted over UAH 45 billion (EUR 986 million) for business support programmes, including "Affordable Loans 5-7-9," which includes improved conditions for businesses from reoccupied territories, processing enterprises, microgrants, and grants for veterans and their families<sup>4</sup>. This is a record amount in recent years, which includes UAH 1 billion (EUR 22 million) allocated to compensate for the purchase of Ukrainian-made agricultural machinery. In the second half of 2024, this mechanism is expected to be extended to other types of equipment.

Agribusiness is also actively participating in the support programmes, with over 6,000 agro-enterprises receiving bank loans; of these almost 4,000 were financed under the "Affordable Loans 5-7-9" initiative. The largest amount of loans under various programmes was received by agricultural producers in Kirovohrad, Kyiv, Vinnytsia and Odesa oblasts.

Under another successful initiative, E-Robota, which enhances digital support for SMEs, the government is providing grants for starting a business, developing entrepreneurship, and training. It aims to boost entrepreneurship and stimulate job creation. The programme offers micro-grants for creating a business, grants for starting a processing enterprise, and greenhouse farming, among others.

The government continues to support businesses employing internally displaced persons (IDPs.) Since the beginning of 2024, the state has paid over 2,000 employers a total of UAH 45 million (EUR 986,000) under a compensation programme for employing 3,300 internally displaced persons, some of whom have disabilities. This financial incentive helps IDPs find jobs and better adapt to new locations, allowing them to support themselves and their families.

#### **Digital Ecosystem Transformation**

Diia.Business, a platform launched by the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine in 2020, provides comprehensive online and offline support for entrepreneurs. The online portal offers more than 150 business ideas, legal document templates, and other resources, and has received over 6 million visits and 60,000 registered users since its launch. It maintains 13 offline centres across Ukraine and one abroad in Warsaw, Poland.

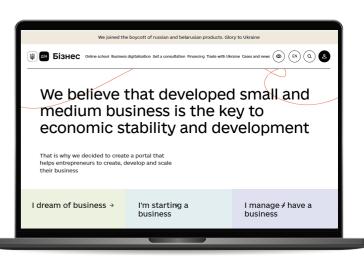
The portal provides information to SMEs on the availability of digital government services and instructions for using them. Ukraine continues to expand the list of services available online for SMEs. Some noteworthy services include filing taxes or social security returns, pension applications, cadastre reporting, submitting enterprise statistics, and the unified state register of court decisions.

As part of its successful interaction with the SME community, since its launch, Diia.Business has provided more than 5,650 free consultations and held numerous events attended by over 89,000 entrepreneurs. This award-winning digitalisation initiative, combines free and paid services, with 70% of its services being free. Thanks to its ease of use and wide range of services, Diia.Business significantly contributes to business development and improves the working environment for SMEs.

The government also promotes the use of other digital platforms developed under the Diia project. In 2021, the government introduced the Vzaemo.Diia sub-project, designed to become an e-democracy instrument. The website includes services, such as e-consultations, e-surveys, e-petitions, and other e-democracy tools that greatly assist SMEs in directly communicating with regional and central administrative institutions. At the

same time, the Ministry of Digital Transformation is transforming the Diia mobile app into a state "super app," constantly expanding its range of services, including participation in polls and the possibility of executing tax payments.

Simultaneously with its expansion of Diia platform, the government initiated the development of an e-Entrepreneur initiative – a comprehensive service that will consolidate 12 services for businesses, including state registration of individual entrepreneurship (FOP), registration as a single taxpayer, the submission of vacancy information, opening a bank account, and the registration of a fire safety declaration. The comprehensive e-Entrepreneur service will be developed as part of the EU4DigitalUA project, which is funded by the European Union and implemented by the e-Governance Academy of Estonia.



<sup>4 &</sup>lt;u>https://www.kmu.gov.ua/en/news/v-chernihovi-vidkryly-ofis-zrobleno-v-ukraini-dlia-pidtrymky-mikro-ta-maloho-biznesu</u>

#### **Women in Business**

Widely successful, Diia.Business has also become a one-stop shop, featuring a specific section on women's entrepreneurship that offers a consolidated view of available support measures. In addition, its territorial coverage has been broadened, with the establishment of several regional initiatives and support centres to assist women entrepreneurs. It is also a source of information on ideas to inspire women to start their own business, along with various educational programmes – ranging from generic courses for entrepreneurs (an online school, such as "Ten Steps to Launching Your Business,") to women-specific ones such as the Visa-sponsored "She's Next" programme, which provides information on finance and accounting, implementing digital technologies, and marketing.

Concurrently, initiatives such as the "Business Resilience Platform" offer online seminars to support women-owned and managed businesses in navigating the challenges of war, providing psychological and entrepreneurial adaptation, and equipping them with knowledge for business scaling. Currently, various projects are also focusing on assisting women entrepreneurs in waraffected regions with relocation to safer areas, ensuring continuity in their business operations. The Ukrainian Women Entrepreneurs Hub is yet another successful programme that provides consulting and expert services to strengthen business activities run by women entrepreneurs.

#### **Digital Skills**

At present, Ukraine is at the forefront of digital literacy measures: the country has implemented a wide range of initiatives and tools, including a self-assessment test for individuals to evaluate their digital skills, and a digital competence framework based on the EU's Digital Competence Framework for Citizens (DigComp), which serves as a common reference

#### Internationalisation of Ukrainian SMEs

In view of the increased need for enhanced integration of Ukrainian SMEs into the European Single Market and to further stimulate competitiveness, economic growth, and innovation, the EU-funded "Ukraine-Ready4EU" project has begun to offer financial support combined with additional advice and assistance (e.g., EEN, EECP, EYE etc.) to up to 1,500 Ukrainian SMEs planning specific activities to become more active on the EU Single Market and to cooperate successfully with EU business partners. The initiative will assist local SMEs with product certification, compliance with customs export/import for the EU Single Market, and meeting the EU's digital and sustainability requirements.

To further Ukraine's exporting capacity, the EU Council has approved the extension of the duty-free trade regime for Ukraine for another 12 months. The regime, which began in June 2022, will now apply until June 2025.

Support for export capacity plays an extremely important role in providing economic and political support for Ukraine, despite the sensitivity of the issue of the trade in agricultural products. This "duty-free trade" regime, based on the Association Agreement, allows the majority of Ukrainian goods to be exported to the EU without

restrictions. In particular, all industrial goods are no longer subject to customs duties. The EU's autonomous trade preferences apply to agricultural goods that have not been fully liberalized in the Agreement. These encompass 36 categories of goods for which tariff quotas have been set, as well as goods that fall under the input price system. Since June 2022, these restrictions have been lifted, and full freedom of trade will be in effect until June 2025. Furthermore, the EU's autonomous trade preferences stipulate that anti-dumping and protective measures will not apply to metallurgical products. Currently, the EU accounts for 65% of exports and 51% of imports to Ukraine and serves as a key trade partner for the country.

The newly introduced international version of the Diia. Business Export platform also provides support to foreign companies interested in Ukrainian goods and services or looking for partners in Ukraine. In particular, stakeholders have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the country's economic situation, market potential, specific features of the country, investment policy, and obtain information on free trade agreements between Ukraine and other states.

# EU4Business Portfolio in 2023 in Ukraine



€241.2

total budget of EU support to SMEs in Ukraine in 2023

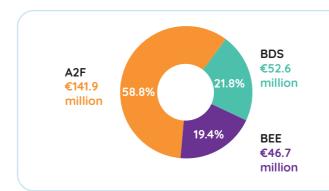
As opposed to €245.8 million in 2022

provided support to SMEs in Ukraine in 2023

As opposed to 42 in 2022

projects

#### **Breakdown by Intervention**

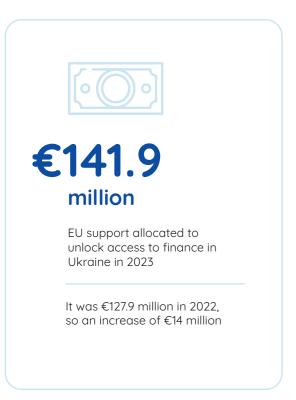


**→** 

Access to finance had a higher share of the breakdown than in 2022, when it was 52%, BDS fell from 29% in the previous year, but BEE remained broadly the same.

# Overview by type of intervention

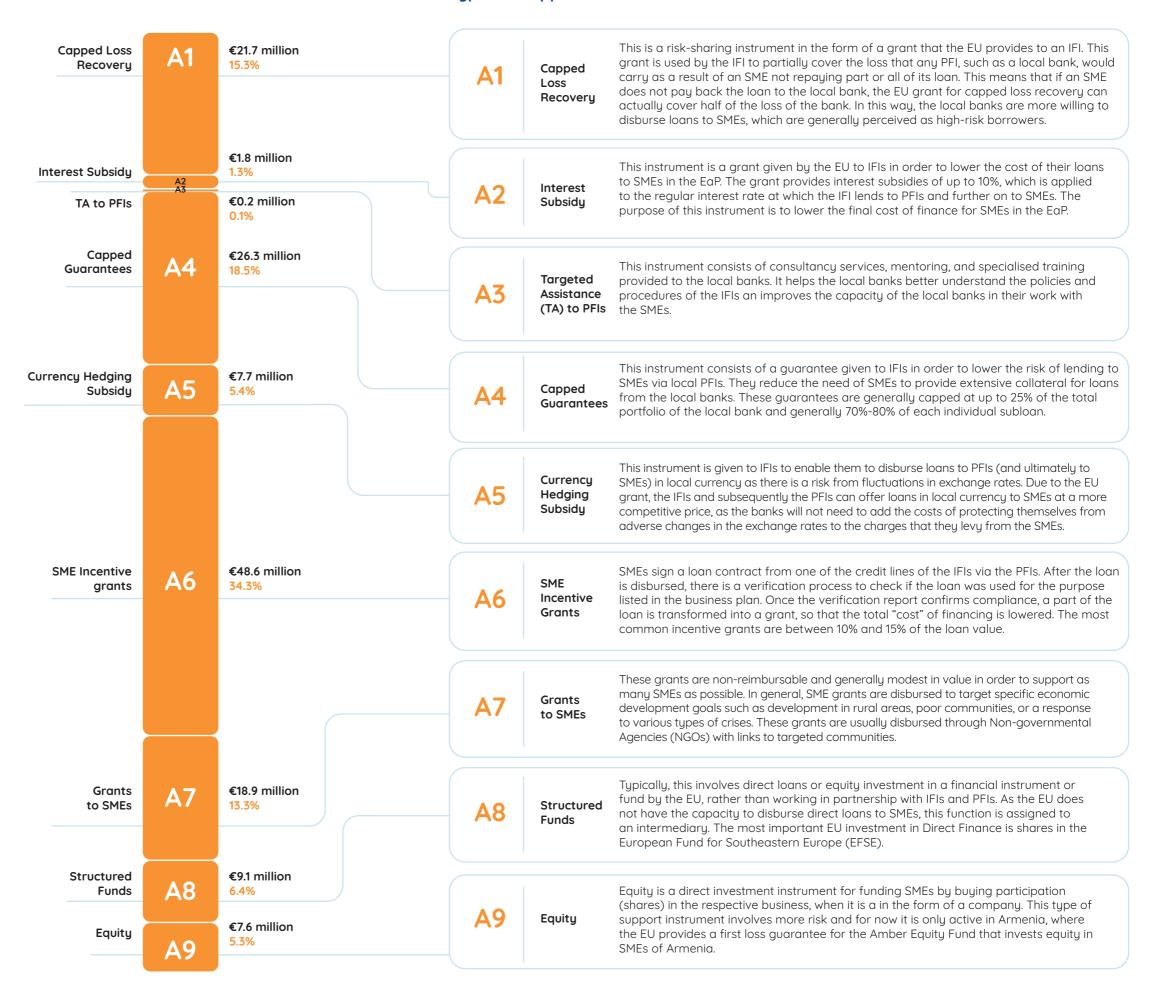
#### **Access to Finance**





Compared to 2022, there was a large increase in capped loss recovery, which had been 1.7% in the previous year. This was reflected in falls in the shares for SME incentive grants, grants to SMEs and other instruments, as the increase in finance was directed primarily to capped loss recovery.

#### Types of Support Included in Access To Finance



#### **Business Development** Services



€52.6 million

> EU support allocated to improving business development services in Ukraine in 2023



A fall from €71.7 million in 2022



The fall in 2023 over 2022 basically returned BDS to the historic levels of 2021. Within BDS, however, there was an increase in the share of general consultancy services (32% in 2022), whilst much of the overall reduction was caused by a cut in resources devoted to work with incubators and clusters.

#### Types of Support Included in Business Development Services

Services

**B1** 

for SMEs

The EU4Business Initiative aims to increase directly the knowledge and skills of SMEs in the **Consultancy** EaP countries through the direct provision (fully or partly paid) of non-financial business services. These can range from basic start-up and registration, accounting, marketing, input supply to technology and product development, training and technical assistance, infrastructure support, and advocacy. These services can be delivered through both international and/or local consultants, in both private firms/individuals, and/or business support organisations.

Capacity **B2** Building of BSOs

This instrument aims at increasing the capacity of Business Support Organisations (such as chambers of commerces, SME associations, professional bodies, sector trade associations, training institutes, etc.) to deliver BDS services to SMEs. The capacity building is achieved though mentoring, training trainers, advisory services, and study tours that enhance existing services, create new ones, or improve organisational structures.

Incubators **B3** 

A business incubator is an organisation designed to accelerate the growth and success of entrepreneurial companies through an array of business support resources and services that could include physical space, capital, coaching, common services, and networking connections.

**B4** Clusters

This instrument involves group support to SMEs involved in the same field of activity but at different positions in the value chain or with common interests. The basis of the cluster approach is the synergy of creating a more effective value chain within

Trade **B5** Information

This instrument provides SMEs already exporting, exporting infrequently, or those interested in exporting with the range of information needed to move closer to exports. This instrument can include producing brochures, guides, market report or developing tools for accessing online resources and intelligent searches. It covers market information, marketing guides, and market access requirements.

**Business** to Business **B6** (B2B) **Activities** 

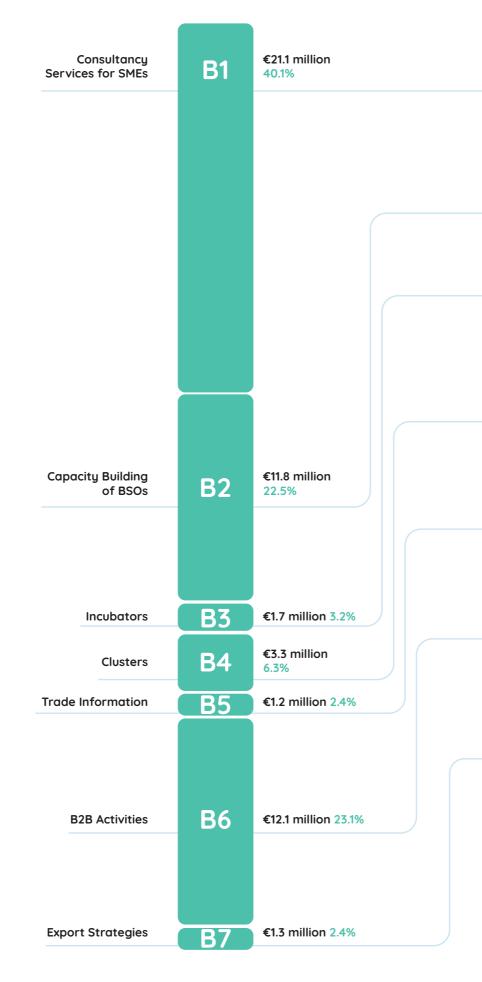
The instrument helps SMEs to make specific contact with nominally interested buyers in the target export markets. This can include participation in online buyer auctions, trade fairs, inward and outward trade missions, buyer meetings, etc. EU support can range from organisation, logistics, preparation and advice, as well as covering the costs of travel and/or stand and event costs.

**B7** 

Export Strategies

This instrument is typically based on studies, analysis, and stakeholder consultation that assesses national production, market requirements, and export constraints. Working with government and stakeholders, it builds a common sector or national approach to develop the exports of competitive products in the target markets. In addition, this instrument can also include support in coordination with implementation of the strategy itself as well as national visibility and branding, support programmes, and stakeholder dialogue.





#### Business Enabling Environment



€46.7



It was €46 million in 2022

#### million

EU support allocated to improving the business enabling environment in Ukraine in 2023



For 2023, capacity building saw an increase over 2022, as did the regulatory reform. This was more substantial for information and communication, but there was a drop for public-private dialogue from 25.2% in 2022 to 17.8% in 2023.

## **C1**

#### **Types of Support Included in Business Enabling Environment**

#### €15.2million

#### Capacity Building of Policymakers and Regulators

EU4Business interventions aim at strengthening the capacity of staff of various government agencies to ensure better, more transparent, and open policies and regulations that affect business, whilst ensuring appropriate controls in the five EaP countries. This can include making and amending policies, laws, and administrative procedures based on need and risk assessment. EU4Business interventions deliver direct advisory, mentoring services, and study tours to the relevant staff involved in policymaking.

**C2** 

#### €8.3 million

#### Public Private Dialogue (PPD)

PPD is an instrument for more inclusive and targeted policymaking. Specifically, it involves effective consultation and collaboration between government and the private sector and/or its representatives, in order to achieve effective reform and administration of regulations that affect SMEs.

**C3** 

#### €17.8 million

#### Regulatory Reform

Through this instrument, EU4Business interventions support the EaP countries to improve the regulatory environment based on the best practices and to align their SME related legislations, rules, and regulations with those of the EU. Approximation occurs in all five EaP countries, but it is more intensely applied in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, as they are future member states of the EU.

**C4** 

#### €5.4 million

#### Information and Communication to SMEs

EU4Business interventions support governments to inform SMEs on reforms and implications for their business and steps to compliance with regulatory reform.

## EU4Business Results in Ukraine in 2023



#### **Disbursed budget**

**€47.0** million

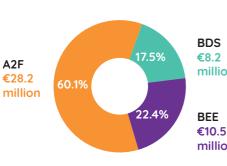


36.0%

disbursed to support SME arowth in Ukraine in 2023

For 2022, spending in Ukraine had been €34.1 million, or 27% of the total for EaP.

Disbursed budget per pillar in 2023



**BDS** €8.2 million

out of total budget disbursed in the EaP

The major beneficiary of the increase in disbursement was A2F, which received €12.7 million additional resources.

#### **Number of SMEs supported**

A2F

17,207 SMEs supported by the EU

in Ukraine in 2023



out of total EU-supported SMEs in the EaP

million

**Supported SMEs** by pillar:



7,845 SMEs **24.2%** of the EaP total



BDS 9,362 SMEs

26.9% of the EaP total

There was a decline in the number of SMEs supported, which had been 25,522 in 2022, a reflection of the general economic downturn caused by the war. However, the number supported SMEs was still slightly higher than the pre-war 2021 level of 16,602.



#### Women in business

Share of women-owned/ managed enterprises in Ukraine in 2023

It was 49% in 2022



Ukraine has a high level of women participation in business, and there is likely an ongoing trend for those who remain in Ukraine due to male mobilisation, although it must be remembered that women also serve in the armed forces.

#### **SME** turnover



Turnover of EU-supported SMEs in Ukraine in 2023

out of total income generated by EU-supported SMEs in the EaP



In 2022, the combined turnover was €11.3 million: the drop in 2023 was due to overall contraction in the economy caused by the war.

Increase in SMEs' turnover

of EU-supported SMEs



as opposed to 18% in 2022, due to economic slowdown caused by the war.

Increase in turnover by pillar

€241,919



This declined from €375,041 in 2022

€24,803

Average income per SME supported employee was broadly stable



This was broadly stable compared to 2022

All results were adversely affected by the continuing conflict, but A2F more than most.

EU4Business Results in Ukraine in 2023 EU4Business Results in Ukraine in 2023

#### **Exports**

Value of exports for supported SMEs

€577.5 million

51.7%

out of total EU exports in the EaP

Decrease in volume of export

-1.3%



This decline was sharp reminder of the impact of the war: even in 2022, there had been an overall increase of 5%.

Decrease in volume of exports by pillar

The major change here was the drop for BDS, which had been +7% in 2022.

#### Number of new exporters

**EU-supported SMEs** that started exporting activities in Ukraine



24.3%

out of total EU new exporters in the EaP

Increase in new exporters by pillar



Exports and exporters were hard hit by the war, with disruptions to ports and communication being significant factors. 2023 was generally worse than 2022.

#### **Employment and job creation**

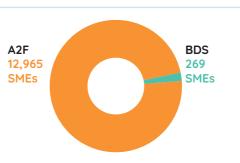
13,234



New jobs created by EU-supported SMEs in Ukraine out of total new jobs created in the EaP

Increase in staff  $7.9_{\%}$ 

Breakdown of job creation by pillar



Job creation in 2023 was roughly half of the 2022 level due to contraction in the civilian economy. Both pillars saw a decline over 2022, but that for BDS was most marked. There was a fall from 8,488 in 2022 to 269 in 2023, a drop of 97%.

Number of sustained jobs

181,067

Proxy number of employees in EU-supported SMEs in Ukraine

33.3%

out of total sustained jobs in the EaP

Average jobs per **SME** supported



This was a fall from 13.7 in 2022 and may be a sign of the contraction of the economy

Number of employees per €100 000 of income



This was 3.7 in 2022 and suggests a fall in earnings, but the data is too limited to draw direct conclusions



The picture of employment levels is confused by work in the black/grey economy, the loss of workers due to mobilisation, evacuation and a host of other factors. But some SMEs may have engaged in rationalisation, with slimming down of workforces through non-replacement of losses.

16 EU4Business Results in Ukraine in 2023 17 EU4Business Results in Ukraine in 2023

#### Success stories



Lifesaving Repairs: EU4Business helps re-launch diagnostic centre for cancer patients in Zaporizhzhiamaker loses nearly everything, but recovers

Premium is a CT scanning centre in the south-eastern Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia. Voltage swings in the power supply because of Russian mass attacks on Ukrainian civilian energy infrastructure ruined sensitive and expensive equipment – specifically the CT scanner's X-ray tube. Replacing the part would cost tens of thousands of euros. Vital assistance for the company came in the form of the EU4Business grant – Premium used the money to both purchase the equipment it needed and pay off debts, which in turn helped the centre retain its most valuable asset – its highly qualified staff.



Every now and then, we find ourselves on the verge of giving up. However, having a 'shoulder' we can lean on and get support from is a huge motivation booster, and we want to aim even higher. For us, the EU4Business initiative is that 'shoulder'."

**Oleksandr Syrotkin,** founder and director of Premium



# Results by Key Instruments



### Results in Access to Finance

Disbursed budget in A2F

**€28.2** million

EU funds disbursed for improving access to finance for SMEs in Ukraine

39.89

of the total disbursed A2F budget in 2023



Ukraine continued to benefit from large disbursements to A2F. Ukraine and Georgia continue to be the leaders in this field, due to the scale of regional programmes with other donors and IFIs.

18 EU4Business Results in Ukraine in 2023 Results by Key Instruments

#### Overall results in A2F

out of total A2F supported in the EaP

7,845

SMEs supported with A2F interventions



Up from 4.880 in 2022. And of these, 34.9% were owned or managed by women. However, this was a drop from the 54% of 2022

16

24.2%

local financial institutions supported

Up from 13 in 2022 12,965

A2F-supported SMEs

but this was lower than the 2022 result of 15,262

increase in income of A2F-supported SMEs

with this being on a par with 2022, when income fell for some types of A2F instruments

#### **Grants received**

€5.2 million

total value of grants triggered in Ukraine

39.9%

of the EaP total

basically the same level as 2022

964 SMEs received grants



as compared to 1,405 in the previous year

€5,442

average per grant

the average values of grants increased from €3,633 in 2022

#### Loans received

**€426.2**million

total value of loans triggered in Ukraine

29.5%

of the EaP total

as opposed €152.2 million in 2022

6,881

SMEs received loans



€97,522

average size of loan

This was more than double as opposed to 3,475 the 2022 figure (€42,931)



in 2022

Access to Finance remained a key issue for SMEs throughout this period, as evidenced by the number of borrowers and the demand for funds. The number of sources outside the EU4Business Initiative also grew rapidly, with state expansion of the 5-7-9 programme and large numbers of donor-funded grant programmes that will now form part of the coordination mechanism of the new SME Alliance.

For 2023, we see that the grants have produced generally poorer results than some of the other instruments, for example in leading to a boost in turnover. However, this is an annual result, and the extraordinary circumstances of the war may largely explain the drop in results of instruments, such as incentive grants.

#### **Success stories**



Pulled back up: Ukrainian sock and stocking maker loses nearly everything, but recovers

Rubizhne Hosiery Manufactory is a factory that was badly hit by shellfire right after the start of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. A EU grant in the amount of EUR 50,000 helped the company restore the production of women's cotton tights and increase the capacity of knitting department by 10%. The company bought the special high-speed knitting machines, thanks to which 31 new jobs were created. By now, it has achieved 50% of its pre-war production volumes and resumed deliveries to the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, and Spain.



Read full story

20 21 Results by Key Instruments Results by Key Instruments

## Results in Business Development Services

#### **Disbursed budget in BDS**

€8.2 million

EU support disbursed to improve the skills of SMEs in Ukraine



This was lower than for 2022 (€9.2 million) but no drastically so.

26.29

of the total BDS disbursed budget in 2023

#### **Overall results in BDS**

9,362

SMEs supported with BDS interventions



wome

26.9%

of total BDS supported in the EaP

430

BSOs capacitate

41.6%

of total BDS supported in the EaP

269

new jobs generated at BDS-supported SMEs 7.2%

increase in income of BDS-supported SMEs



The number of supported SMEs fell by more than 50%, new jobs created fell, as noted earlier, by 97%, and the previous increase in income of supported SMEs also dropped. However, support for BSOs continued, although also a reduced rate. Much of the decline may be attributed to a situation where fewer but larger SMEs were benefitting from BDS.

As previously, consultancy services dominated the BDS landscape as they had earlier. However, due to the adverse operating climate, all instruments other than incubators performed poorly in comparison with 2022

#### **Success stories**



Natalia wanted her child to escape the war: how a single mother set up a successful business in Lithuania

The Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs programme helped Natalia Deineko start her life from scratch – far away from the air-raid sirens and explosions. The single mother quickly adapted to a new environment and got to work in Lithuania. And now, she is the owner of a salon in Kaunas, Lithuania.



I'm very happy that I have participated in the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs programme. It taught me discipline. I had to strictly follow my own business plan and implement all its items. I made photo shoots of my work, established contacts with suppliers, and actively managed my social media."

#### Natalia Deineko,

entrepreneur

Read full story





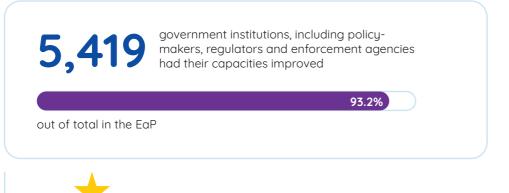
Results by Key Instruments Results by Key Instruments 23

## Results in Business Enabling Environment

Disbursed budget in BEE



Regulators/ governments capacitated



This was double the 2022 level reflecting the emerging accession agenda and also the need for policy change in the light of the war.

# Laws/ regulations changed



reconstruction.

Publicprivate dialogue events held

public-private dialogue events were supported

22.8%

out of total in the EaP



The number of dialogue events fell by over 50% compared to 2022 but was still almost double the "historical" level of 2021. However, dialogue is a term covering many different processes and methods of delivery, and simple numbers do not sufficiently capture the depth or breadth of the issues involved or the benefits conferred by the dialogues undertaken.



Results by Key Instruments Results by Key Instruments 25

# Annex 1: List of projects in Ukraine in 2023

Title		Start		Type of the Project	Areas of Intervention		
		date	date		A2F	BDS	BEE
EU Support for Ukrainian MSMEs	€10,000,000	2023	2036	Bilateral	•		
Support to the Partial Credit Guarantee Fund (PCGF) under the land reform	€11,850,000	2023	2026	Bilateral	•		•
Competition and State aid rules and practices alignment with the EU Acquis	€3,300,000	2023	2026	Bilateral			•
EU4Business: Network of Business Support Centres in Ukraine	€40,000,000	2016	2025	Bilateral	•	•	
EU4Business: SME Policies and Institutions Support (SMEPIS) Ukraine	€3,999,200	2023	2025	Bilateral		•	•
Inclusive, competitive and sustainable value chain development in agriculture, fisheries and forestry	€18,750,000	2021	2025	Bilateral	•	•	•
Supporting Ukraine in rebuilding and recovery	€996,965	2022	2025	Bilateral		•	•
EU4Business: SME Recovery Programme Ukraine	€10,000,000	2022	2025	Bilateral	•	•	
New Economy of Ivano-Frankivsk (NEF) – supporting emerging innovative economic activity clusters in Ivano-Frankivsk	€999,900	2022	2025	Bilateral		•	•
Institutional and Policy Reform for Smallholder Agriculture	€7,000,000	2021	2025	Bilateral		•	•
Implementation of EU practices for accounting, financial reporting and audit in Ukraine	€2,000,000	2020	2025	Bilateral		•	•
Pyriatyn community value chains in dairy and berry clusters to support youth and rural residents economic empowerment and enable local green growth	€904,582	2022	2025	Bilateral	•	•	•
Fostering economic growth in Kamyanets-Podilskyi hromada	€137,457	2022	2025	Bilateral		•	•
M4EG II Grant contract with Mamalyha Village Council "Connecting communities – for sustainable economic growth (ConCom4EG)"	€366,390	2021	2024	Bilateral		•	
Improvement of legislation, control and awareness in food safety, animal health and welfare in Ukraine	€6,300,000	2019	2024	Bilateral			•
EU Integration Campaign for Rapid Business Reorientation	€59,960	2023	2024	Bilateral			•
EU4Business: SME Competitiveness and Internationalization	€15,500,000	2020	2024	Bilateral	•	•	•
Strengthening the institutional capacity of the Ministry for Development of Economy, Trade and Agriculture (META) of Ukraine in the field of National Quality Infrastructures (NQI)	€1,200,000	2021	2023	Bilateral			•
Strengthening the regulation and supervision of the non-bank financial market	€4,500,000	2017	2023	Bilateral			•
EFSE – EU4Business: Local Currency Lending to MSEs in the Eastern Partnership	€39,921,000	2020	2041	Regional	•		
Promoting Green Lending in the Eastern Partnership	€32,855,000	2020	2040	Regional	•		

Title	Total Budget	Start date	End date	Type of the Project	Areas of Intervention		
					A2F	BDS	BEE
2018 NIP decision share – Green for Growth – Extension to Neighbourhood East II	€5,162,849	2018	2039	Regional	•		
EU4Business – The EU Local Currency Partnership Initiative: the European Fund for Southeast Europe (EFSE)	€50,320,000	2018	2039	Regional	•		
Green for Growth – Extension to Neighbourhood East II	€6,157,151	2018	2039	Regional	•		
"EU4Business Guarantee Facility" financed from the general budget of the European Union under the Neighbourhood Investment Platform	€41,495,000	2020	2035	Regional	•		
SMEs Competitiveness in Ukraine and Moldova	€20,910,400	2023	2032	Regional	•	•	
Eastern Partnership SME Finance Facility – Phase II KfW	€5,200,000	2017	2030	Regional	•		
EU EBRD Local Currency Initiative	€6,216,000	2021	2030	Regional	•		
DCFTA SME Direct Finance Facility	€10,220,000	2014	2029	Regional	•	•	
Grant for the DCFTA Initiative East – Local Currency Solution Programme	€5,300,000	2018	2029	Regional	•		
Women in Business Phase II	€8,000,000	2023	2029	Regional	•	•	
EU4Business EBRD Credit line (SME Competitiveness Programme in Eastern Partnership – 2019 funds)	€42,675,049	2019	2028	Regional	•		
FINANCE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER CENTRE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE (FINTECC) – EU4CLIMATE window	€15,400,000	2020	2027	Regional	•		
EFSD - IFC guarantee for Ukraine	€3,750,000	2023	2027	Regional	•		
EFD IFC guarantee in Ukraine	€2,500,000	2023	2027	Regional	•		
EU4Business EBRD Credit line (EU Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) Facility, EBRD DCFTA Programme)	€38,900,000	2017	2027	Regional	•	•	
Eastern Partnership SME Finance Facility – Phase II EIB	€5,200,000	2017	2027	Regional	•		
EU4Business EBRD Credit line (SME Competitiveness Programme in Eastern Partnership – 2018 funds)	€52,908,951	2019	2026	Regional	•		
EBRD Advice for Small Businesses, Team Europe EaP window	€14,976,000	2020	2026	Regional		•	
EU4Business EBRD Credit line (EU Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) Facility, EBRD DCFTA Programme)	€19,430,000	2016	2026	Regional		•	•
Mayors for Economic Growth 2 TA	€10,000,000	2021	2024	Regional		•	•
EU4BUSINESS: Connecting Companies	€6,498,205	2019	2024	Regional		•	
EU4Business: From Policies to Action Phase II	€2,900,000	2020	2024	Regional			•
Eastern Partnership Trade Helpdesk	€3,700,000	2019	2024	Regional		•	
EU4Environment – Mainstreaming and Circular Economy – Results 1 and 2	€9,700,000	2018	2024	Regional		•	•
Structural Reform Facility: World Bank component	€1,500,000	2018	2024	Regional			•

Annex 1: List of projects in Ukraine in 2023 Annex 1: List of projects in Ukraine in 2023

## **EU4Business**

