



Concept Note

BUSINESS DIMENSION PREPARATORY EVENT “ON THE ROAD TO URC 2025”

Milan, 5 March 2025

The Ukraine Recovery Conference (URC 2025) will bring together leaders from governments, parliaments, international organizations, businesses, local communities and civil society. It will be co-hosted by Italy and Ukraine in **Rome on 10-11 July 2025**.

The Conference is in line with the annual series of high-level political events dedicated to the swift recovery and long-term reconstruction of Ukraine since the beginning of Russia’s full-scale war of aggression.

The **key goal** of the URC 2025 is to raise awareness and mobilize continued international **support for the recovery, reconstruction, and modernization** of Ukraine, including from the private sector. Foreign investments are key for rebuilding Ukraine and the participation of business in the reconstruction of Ukraine will take place in the context of the EU accession process.

The URC 2025 will be based on the “**Four Berlin Dimensions**” – Business; Human Capital; Local and Regional Authorities; EU Accession and Reforms – as key pillars for the recovery of Ukraine. A **Recovery Forum** with sectorial workshops and a **Business Fair** for matchmaking will take place at the same time.

The Business Dimension will aim at mobilizing the private sector for reconstruction and sustainable economic development. Attracting private capital is key in order to achieve economic growth and a successful reconstruction, based on the building-back-better approach. To facilitate investments in Ukraine, it is crucial to address business concerns regarding security and stability, finance and insurance instruments, local capabilities and economic context. At the same time, it will be critical to strengthen confidence in the Ukrainian business environment and flag long-term political commitment, including towards a green and digital transition. SMEs, which are a large part of Ukraine and partners’ economic fabric, should fully participate in the reconstruction process.



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On the road to URC 2025, Italy and Ukraine, together with Lombardy Region, will host a preparatory event dedicated to the **Business Dimension** on **5 March, in Milan at Palazzo Lombardia**, with the participation of approximately 350 among Italian, Ukrainian and international companies. The **objective of the event** will be to **explore policies** and **discuss operational tools** which can be translated into concrete **deliverables** in view of the Rome Conference.

The event will be opened by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy, **Antonio Tajani**, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy of Ukraine, **Yulia Svyrydenko**, EU Commissioner for Enlargement, **Marta Kos** (tbc), and President of the Lombardy Region, **Attilio Fontana**.

After the opening, a number of consecutive sessions will follow. The first one will be dedicated to **key instruments and enablers for investing in Ukraine**, such as public finance, including within the provisions of the *Ukraine Facility* of the European Union, equity funds and war insurances. This will be followed by sessions dedicated to **Energy and green transition, Manufacturing and processing industries, Infrastructures-Housing, Critical Raw Materials (CRM) and SMEs**. The event will aim at bringing together governments, local authorities, International Financial Institutions, development banks, Italian, Ukrainian and international companies to discuss how to support the participation of business - including SMEs - in the process of reconstruction. **A working lunch will provide time for presenting Ukrainian creative industries and networking**. A final session will be dedicated to the introducing the project for a **Concept Masterplan of the City of Mykolaiv** within the Program UN4 Ukrainian Cities and the collaboration between Lombardy Region and Zaporizhzhia Oblast'.



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Program of the event

Milan - Palazzo Lombardia - 5 March 2025

h. 10:00-10:30	Opening session
h. 10:30-11:30	Investment enablers panel: access to finance, insurance, incentives
h. 11:30-12:30	Energy and green transition (incl. green finance) working session
h. 12:30-13:30	Manufacturing and processing industries working session
h. 13:30-15:00	Networking lunch: presentation of Ukrainian creative industries (fashion, craft wine, etc)
h. 15:00-16:00	Infrastructure-Housing working session
h. 16:00-17:00	Critical raw materials (CRM) working session
h. 17:00-18:00	SMEs working session
h. 18:00-19:00	The Concept Masterplan of the City of Mykolaiv and the collaboration between Lombardy Region and Zaporizhzhia Oblast'

The following workshops will be held on the margins of the main program:

- **NECP presentation:** Presentation of 4-5 potential investment projects followed by the networking round.
- **UNIDO green industrial recovery:** Workshop on establishing joint ventures by Ukrainian and Japanese companies as a reference and a good practice to follow.
- **UIF and other investment instruments for international businesses:** Workshop delivered by the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine and Kyiv School of Economics (KSE).

Background on the sectorial sessions:

Energy and green transition (incl. green finance): the session will promote discussions on how to respond to Ukraine’s short-term recovery needs, as well as on mobilizing the private sector to build a sustainable, green, and resilient energy system as part of post-war recovery in Ukraine, with a focus on investments in renewable energy and decentralized technological solutions for the energy system and decarbonization. The session will also introduce Energy-Climate policy and the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) of Ukraine as guidelines for investments into the country’s energy, climate and related sectors.

Manufacturing and processing industries: the session will cover issues related to stimulating domestic Ukrainian production in different sectors (incl. agro-processing), facilitating investments in the real economy, boosting value-added export, approaches for localization of technology transfer and co-creation of business; access to EU decarbonization funding for Ukrainian industry and production of low-emission manufactured goods; and ways for increasing the production capacities of Ukrainian SMEs, including through the redesign of the support programs from GoU, IFIs, DFIs, banks.

Infrastructures-Housing: participants will discuss Ukrainian needs in the field of infrastructures and transport with regard to port & maritime industry; modernization of road & rail networks, including key cross-border points; restructuring of airports in view of a possible resumption of air traffic; provision of public transports/civil infrastructures. The session will outline Ukrainian needs in the field of social infrastructures, including ensuring access to housing for affected populations.

Critical Raw Materials (CRM): participants will discuss how Ukraine's mineral endowment can be utilized for driving economic growth and help in the integration into global value chains. This includes review of the progress on developing a comprehensive strategy in this area, as well as the pipeline of investment projects and most promising fields proposed as ‘quick wins’. Tasks to ensure availability of geological information and its digitization, verification of reserves using international standards, and other project acceleration steps would be also subject of discussion.

SMEs: the discussion will take place around the opportunity to fully empower small-and-medium-sized businesses to play a role in the process of green recovery and reconstruction and participate -



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through the establishment of a suitable ecosystem - in the vast programs and projects procured by the Government of Ukraine and IFIs. A specific focus will be dedicated to the role of multilateral development banks and the private banking system in financing the participation of SMEs in the reconstruction process. The preliminary results of the SMEs Resiliency Alliance will be presented.

The Concept Masterplan of the City of Mykolaiv: within the UNECE Program UN4 Ukrainian Cities for supporting the reconstruction and development of Ukrainian cities based on the Build Back Better approach, One Works Foundation, partnering with LIUC University, Polytechnic of Milan, COWI and other institutions, completed the Master Plan of the City of Mykolaiv and is now finalizing three pilot projects, the Innovation District, the Industrial Park and the Shipyard to start the re-development of the city economy and ensure a sustainable future to the city and its population. **The collaboration between Lombardy region and Zaporizhzhia** will be outlined.



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