



## **CEMR Statement on Ukraine**

### **European municipalities and regions stand by Ukrainian local governments**

The Council of European Municipalities and Regions condemns unprovoked Russian military build-up on the Ukrainian border towns and regions and continued threats against Ukraine in recent months.

We express our **deep concern** over the current developments around Ukraine, which pose new threats to Ukraine and regional peace, security, and democracy.

Indeed, faced with the tense security situation, Ukrainian local governments are affected and obstructed from creating democratic development of their cities and regions, from proper functioning of local public services, and from taking care of their citizens. Furthermore, due to the tense security situation, implementation of decentralisation and public administration reforms could be restricted, which is categorically unacceptable.

We express our **solidarity with the people of Ukraine, local and regional governments**, especially in the East of the country, who have suffered greatly since 2014 as a result of the war, and are now living under daily threats of the military offensive against Ukraine while simultaneously continuing to innovate and reform the country.

We reaffirm our **full and unwavering support** for the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Ukraine and all Eastern neighbourhood countries within their internationally recognized borders. These principles are enshrined in international agreements of which Russia is a signatory, form the basis of European security, and cannot be revised. We welcome the European Commission's recent emergency macro-financial assistance package to Ukraine. We urge the EU institutions and national governments to be united, speak with one voice, and strengthen assistance to the Ukrainian local governments. They are in direct contact with the citizens and continue to provide all public services under the threat of conflict and energy blackmail.

CEMR, with Europe's municipalities and regions, will continue to support Ukrainian local and regional governments and their associations. We will continue supporting the development of Ukraine through its contribution to decentralised cooperation, the growth of city-to-city and region-to-region ties.



### **Information corner - local government in Ukraine, discover how it works**

Ukraine is a unitary state composed of territorial communities (*hromady*), cities (*mista*), districts (*rayony*), and regions (*oblasti*).

The **municipal council** (*rada*) is the local authority's deliberative assembly and is composed of members elected by direct universal suffrage for a five-year term. Council members exercise their power through council sessions or standing commissions.

The **executive committee** (*vykonavchyy komitet*) is the executive body, it implements council decisions and is responsible for development programmes, the municipal budget, and the coordination of departments and services within the committee. The mayor puts forward a list of potential executive committee members, which is in turn approved by the municipal council.

The **mayor** (*sil'skyy golova* in villages, *selychshnyy golova* in towns, and *miskyy golova* in cities) constitutes the main executive body of the municipality and is elected by direct universal suffrage for five years. He/she chairs municipal council meetings and represents the municipality towards third parties.

Read more about competencies in the country profile of the CEMR **TERRI Report**.

### **Links to sources of additional information and statements**

- [European Parliament Resolution on the situation at the Ukrainian border and in Russian-occupied territories of Ukraine](#) (16 December 2021)
- [Council of the European Union Council conclusions on the European security situation](#) (24 January 2022)
- [Statement by the Nordic Ministers of Defence regarding the situation in and near Ukraine](#) (21 January 2022)
- [Statement by the North Atlantic Council on the situation in and around Ukraine](#) (16 December 2021)