



Fostering digital infrastructure recovery & development in Ukraine:

Call for support to
eight impact initiatives



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Executive Summary

According to the Fifth Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA5), released in February 2026, the telecommunications, digital, and media sector has sustained an estimated USD 2.48 billion in direct damage and USD 2.69 billion in losses since the start of the full-scale invasion. Fixed and mobile broadband infrastructure account for approximately 85 per cent of total damage, while overall recovery and reconstruction needs are estimated at USD 7.1 billion over the period 2026–2036. The continued functioning and modernization of telecommunications infrastructure remains essential for Ukraine's economic recovery, public service delivery, national security, and long-term digital transformation.

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), in accordance with ITU Council Resolution 1408 (Mod. 2023) on Assistance and support to Ukraine for rebuilding its telecommunication sector, continues to support Ukraine in strengthening the resilience, recovery, and modernization of its telecommunications sector. Since the adoption of Resolution 1408, ITU has undertaken a broad range of activities in support of Ukraine, focusing on monitoring and reporting, coordination mechanisms, technical assistance, resource mobilization, and capacity-building. ITU has maintained close coordination with the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine, other national authorities, the United Nations system, the European Commission, international financial institutions, and development partners. Support has included contributions to successive Rapid Damage and Needs Assessments (RDNA), the development of Ukraine's Digital Development Profiles, and the delivery of capacity-building activities on topics including 5G implementation. ITU has also facilitated Ukraine's participation in regional and international policy dialogues, workshops, and training programmes, advanced academic and technical cooperation through international conferences and knowledge-sharing platforms, contributed to the Ukraine Recovery Conference process, and continued resource mobilization efforts through the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition and the ITU Special Fund in Trust.¹

Building upon these efforts and based on continuous coordination with the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine set of priority initiatives requiring international support has been jointly identified. The initiatives respond to needs identified through ongoing assessments, policy dialogue, and recovery planning processes and are designed to strengthen the resilience, recovery, and long-term modernization of Ukraine's telecommunications sector.

The proposed initiatives include:

1. **Increasing Internet Access and Modernization of Connectivity in Ukraine** (USD 20 million) – expanding broadband connectivity to underserved communities and social institutions, including schools and healthcare facilities, while modernizing legacy infrastructure and improving network resilience.
2. **Grant Support Programme for Small and Medium Telecom Operators** (USD 10 million) – providing targeted support to operators maintaining and restoring connectivity in frontline and conflict-affected communities.
3. **Support Programme for Small and Medium Telecom Operators** (USD 5–20 million) – facilitating access to finance for infrastructure recovery, modernization, and deployment of energy-efficient and resilient telecommunications technologies.

¹ More details about ITU support to Ukraine are available at the web-site: [ITU support to Ukraine](#)

4. **Attracting Telecom R&D and Manufacturing Investment for Resilient Network Technologies** (budget subject to further feasibility assessment) – supporting the development of innovation, research, and manufacturing partnerships for resilient and secure telecommunications technologies.
5. **Strengthening International Transit Connectivity and Tier-1 Operator Engagement** (budget subject to further feasibility assessment) – increasing backbone resilience, diversifying international connectivity routes, and enhancing Ukraine's role in regional and global telecommunications networks.
6. **Institutional Capacity Building of the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine** (USD 1 million) – strengthening regulatory, technical, project management, and donor coordination capacities to support telecommunications recovery, reform implementation, and EU integration.
7. **International Communication and Strategic Narrative Programme for Ukraine's Telecom Sector Recovery and Resilience** (USD 450,000) – enhancing international awareness, visibility, and engagement around Ukraine's telecommunications recovery and digital transformation efforts.
8. **Reducing Radiophobia and Public Resistance to Mobile Network Infrastructure** (USD 500,000) – promoting public awareness, stakeholder engagement, and evidence-based communication to support the deployment of telecommunications infrastructure.

The estimated financing requirements for the identified initiatives amount to approximately USD 37–52 million, excluding activities currently subject to further feasibility assessments and partner consultations. Together, these initiatives provide a practical framework for strengthening telecommunications resilience, accelerating infrastructure recovery, advancing digital transformation, and supporting Ukraine's integration into the European digital ecosystem.

The International Telecommunication Union and the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine invite governments, development partners, international financial institutions, industry stakeholders, academia, and donors to contribute expertise, technology, financing, and partnerships towards the implementation of these initiatives.

Partners are encouraged to engage through the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition, the ITU Special Fund in Trust, and other bilateral and multilateral cooperation mechanisms. Collective action will be essential to support the recovery, modernization, and long-term resilience of Ukraine's telecommunications sector and to contribute to the country's broader economic recovery and digital future.

Stakeholders interested in supporting the initiatives outlined in this document, or in obtaining further information, are invited to contact the ITU Office for Europe at eurregion@itu.int.

Initiative 1: Increasing Internet Access and Modernisation of Connectivity in Ukraine

Implementation Period: 36 months

Estimated Budget: USD 20 million

1. Problem Context

The ongoing war and repeated attacks on critical infrastructure have rendered reliable digital connectivity essential to Ukraine's resilience, public service delivery, and recovery. Notwithstanding considerable progress in broadband expansion, significant connectivity gaps persist, particularly in front-line, de-occupied, and remote communities where telecommunications infrastructure has been damaged, destroyed, or remains underdeveloped. Approximately **1,172 settlements still lack adequate broadband coverage**.

The challenges are especially acute in the healthcare and education sectors: of 1,947 healthcare facilities assessed, 174 face connectivity limitations or lack reliable connectivity data, while 25 schools remain unconnected, the majority located in war-affected areas. Many connected institutions continue to rely on obsolete technologies incapable of supporting modern digital services, thereby limiting access to telemedicine, distance learning, digital government services, and humanitarian assistance. Frequent power disruptions further underscore the need for resilient and energy-efficient solutions. Given the substantial fiscal constraints imposed by the war, international support is required to accelerate the deployment of secure, resilient, and future-proof broadband infrastructure.

2. Project Objective and Implementation Approach

The project aims to provide universal access to high-speed, resilient, and energy-efficient broadband connectivity for schools and healthcare facilities across Ukraine, with particular focus on underserved and conflict-affected areas. In line with Ukraine's digital transformation agenda and the ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe (2026–2029), the initiative will strengthen digital infrastructure so as to support uninterrupted access to essential services, promote digital inclusion, and contribute to Ukraine's long-term recovery and socio-economic resilience. It will be implemented through two complementary components:

- **Broadband Expansion for Social Infrastructure:** Deployment of fibre-optic and last-mile broadband connectivity to schools and healthcare facilities in underserved, rural, front-line, and de-occupied territories, including cooperation mechanisms with telecommunications operators to support deployment in high-risk and commercially unviable areas.
- **Connectivity Modernisation and Resilience:** Upgrading existing connectivity infrastructure in schools and healthcare facilities through the replacement of obsolete technologies with modern fibre-optic solutions and the enhancement of internal connectivity networks to improve reliability, performance, and resilience.

Implementation will follow a four-phase approach:

- **Phase 1: Assessment and Planning**
Comprehensive mapping and technical verification of all target institutions; identification of infrastructure gaps; budget planning and operator engagement preparation.
- **Phase 2: Broadband Infrastructure Deployment**
Procurement and operator selection; deployment of last-mile fibre-optic infrastructure to schools and healthcare facilities in underserved, rural, frontline, and de-occupied territories. Subsidy-based cooperation mechanisms will be used to incentivise operators in low-density and high-risk areas.
- **Phase 3: Connectivity Modernisation and Resilience Integration**
Replacement of legacy copper infrastructure with modern fibre; integration of energy-resilient connectivity solutions; modernisation of internal institutional network infrastructure including local wireless systems.
- **Phase 4: Testing, Optimisation, and Operational Validation**
Connectivity and service quality verification against minimum speed and reliability standards; institutional acceptance confirmation; handover to long-term operations and maintenance.

3. Expected Results and Impact

Expected Results

- Deploy fibre-optic broadband infrastructure to **1,172 underserved settlements**, benefiting approximately **230,000 citizens**.
- Connect **53 previously unconnected healthcare facilities** and modernise connectivity in **121 healthcare facilities** with limited or outdated infrastructure.
- Provide high-speed broadband connectivity to **25 previously unconnected schools**.
- Upgrade other **educational institutions** from obsolete copper-based networks to modern fibre-optic connectivity solutions.
- Strengthen the resilience of education and healthcare services through energy-efficient and reliable connectivity capable of operating during power disruptions and emergency situations.

Expected Long-Term Impact

- Reduced digital divide between urban and underserved communities.
- Improved access to digital public services, telemedicine, and distance learning.
- Enhanced resilience and continuity of critical public services during crises and emergencies.
- Stronger foundations for Ukraine's digital transformation, regional development, and socio-economic recovery.

Initiative 2: Grant Support Program for Small and Medium Telecom Operators

Implementation period: 36 months

Budget: USD 10 million

1. Problem Context

Electronic communications infrastructure has become one of the most critical components of Ukraine's national resilience during wartime, enabling emergency coordination, humanitarian response, public administration, distance learning, telemedicine, and communication between civilians and emergency services. Since the start of the full-scale invasion, the sector has sustained severe damage from direct attacks, occupation of territories, electricity disruptions, and the destruction of transport and energy networks. According to the 2025 Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA5), it has incurred approximately USD 2.5 billion in direct infrastructure damage and USD 2.7 billion in economic losses, with recovery needs of around USD 7.1 billion.

Of the roughly **720 service providers** affected by the war, small and regional operators in frontline areas are the most vulnerable: some **100 continue to serve around 160 territorial communities in active combat zones**, yet face critical financial constraints on their ability to restore equipment and sustain operations. Ongoing hostilities regularly damage or destroy fibre-optic lines, access nodes, power supply systems, and network equipment, forcing repeated repairs under unstable conditions, while restricted site access, damaged transport routes, personnel shortages, and persistent energy disruptions raise the cost and complexity of maintaining services. As most frontline providers are small and medium-sized enterprises weakened by rising costs, population displacement, and declining revenues, they cannot independently finance restoration, and commercial financing remains largely unavailable owing to high military risk and uncertainty over asset protection.

Consistent with Ukraine's national digital resilience priorities, the project aims to preserve and restore connectivity in frontline territories through a dedicated grant support mechanism for small and medium telecommunications providers, thereby contributing to the continuity of critical public infrastructure and essential digital services during wartime and recovery.

2. Project Objective and Implementation Approach

The project will establish a targeted grant support mechanism for telecommunications providers in active combat territories, organised in two complementary components.

- **Component 1: Grant support for frontline telecommunications providers** – direct financial support to operators maintaining or restoring connectivity in active combat zones, through a transparent grant allocation mechanism for eligible providers; financing for the restoration and replacement of damaged fibre-optic lines, equipment, access nodes, and switching systems; support for rapid emergency repairs following military damage; and procurement of critical equipment, backup power systems, optical components, and emergency network materials.

- **Component 2: Operational resilience and continuity support** – deployment of backup power and energy-resilient equipment to maintain service during electricity disruptions; coordination with local authorities, emergency services, and telecommunications stakeholders to facilitate restoration in high-risk areas; and a monitoring and verification mechanism to confirm infrastructure restoration and service continuity in supported communities.

The specific objectives are to:

- provide financial assistance to telecommunications providers operating in active combat zones, enabling the rapid restoration and replacement of damaged infrastructure;
- maintain stable internet access for approximately 160 territorial communities in frontline areas;
- strengthen providers' ability to sustain operations amid ongoing hostilities and energy disruptions;
- support uninterrupted access to emergency communications, digital public services, education, healthcare, and humanitarian coordination.

The programme will be implemented by the Ukrainian side, which will establish eligibility criteria, oversee grant allocation, and coordinate with telecommunications operators, local authorities, and relevant stakeholders. Participating providers will submit infrastructure recovery and continuity proposals focused on restoring damaged networks and preserving connectivity in frontline communities, with priority given to rapid-response restoration and critical connectivity needs in territories exposed to ongoing hostilities, supported throughout by continuous monitoring and verification of restoration activities and service continuity.

3. Expected Results and Impact

Expected Results

- Grant support provided to more than 100 telecommunications providers operating in active combat zones.
- Damaged internet infrastructure restored and connectivity preserved across approximately 160 territorial communities.
- Improved operational continuity of telecommunications services during wartime disruptions and power outages.
- Increased availability of emergency and digital public services in frontline communities.

Expected Long-Term Impact

- Reduced risk of digital isolation in frontline and conflict-affected territories.
- Strengthened resilience of local telecommunications infrastructure under wartime conditions.
- Enhanced capacity of Ukrainian providers to sustain operations, thereby reinforcing the continuity of emergency communications, telemedicine, online education, and humanitarian coordination under prolonged crisis.

Initiative 3: Support Program for Small and Medium Telecom Operators in Ukraine

Implementation Period: 24 months

Estimated Budget: USD 5-20 million

1. Problem Context

Telecommunications is a critical enabler of Ukraine's national resilience, economic activity and public service delivery. The sector is highly fragmented, comprising **some 1,950 registered operators**, most of them **small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)** operating at regional or local level. According to World Bank and United Nations estimates in the fifth Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA5), it has suffered cumulative damage exceeding USD 2.5 billion, arising from the destruction of physical infrastructure, disrupted supply chains, rising operating costs and declining investment capacity. Frequent power outages and unstable grid conditions have further intensified operational risk, making network reliability increasingly dependent on energy-efficient technologies such as passive optical networks (xPON), backup power systems and modernised distribution networks.

Small and medium operators face three structural barriers: restricted access to capital, infrastructure destruction and depreciation, and a technological-transition gap. They struggle to secure affordable financing owing to heightened risk perceptions, high borrowing costs and limited collateral, and commercial banks are generally reluctant to extend long-term lending in conflict-affected regions, while the transition to energy-efficient xPON networks remains financially out of reach for many. Absent targeted intervention, these pressures risk accelerating market consolidation, weakening competition and slowing the restoration of connectivity in rural, frontline and de-occupied territories, thereby undermining Ukraine's broader digital resilience and recovery objectives.

Consistent with Ukraine's national digital development priorities, the programme's goal is to ensure financial sustainability, infrastructure recovery and technological modernisation for small and medium telecom operators through a dedicated, accessible credit programme, delivered with Ukrainian partner banks, that enables resilient, energy-efficient network development and supports the transition towards an EU-compatible electronic communications ecosystem.

2. Project Objectives and Implementation Approach

The specific objectives are to:

- establish a structured credit facility through Ukrainian partner banks for telecom SMEs;
- enable the restoration of damaged infrastructure, including fibre-optic lines, access nodes and distribution networks;
- facilitate the transition to energy-efficient xPON-based technologies and modern network architectures;
- promote the deployment of backup power and energy-efficient solutions to ensure continuity during blackouts; and

- prevent the exit of small and medium operators, maintaining competitive, decentralised service provision.

The programme will be structured as an integrated financial and operational mechanism implemented by Ukrainian banking institutions together with participating operators, organised in three components.

Component 1. Dedicated telecom SME credit facility. Establishment of a dedicated credit line through selected commercial banks for long-term lending on preferential terms; loans for the restoration of destroyed or damaged infrastructure; financing for network modernisation, including the transition from legacy systems to xPON; and financing for energy-resilience investments such as battery systems, generators and hybrid solutions.

Component 2. Technical assistance and financial risk mitigation. Technical advisory support to operators for infrastructure planning, modernisation roadmaps and the transition to energy-efficient technologies, with transparent eligibility criteria, monitoring systems and compliance requirements that also reduce financial risk for participating institutions.

Component 3. Monitoring, evaluation and sector coordination. A centralised monitoring system tracking loan allocation, infrastructure restoration and modernisation outcomes, complemented by periodic evaluation of programme effectiveness, including financial performance, network restoration rates and resilience improvements.

Implementation will proceed in four phases:

- **Phase 1: Programme design and financial structuring:** establishment of the credit-facility framework, selection of partner banks, definition of eligibility and lending criteria, and design of the risk-sharing mechanism.
- **Phase 2: Operational set-up:** signing of agreements with partner banks and development of loan-application, approval, monitoring and reporting procedures.
- **Phase 3: Loan implementation:** allocation of credit lines, financing of infrastructure recovery and modernisation projects, and deployment of xPON and energy-resilient solutions.
- **Phase 4: Monitoring and evaluation:** continuous tracking of loan utilisation, assessment of recovery progress and evaluation of sector-wide impact.

3. Expected Results and Impact

Expected Results

- A dedicated credit facility for telecom SMEs established and operational.
- Improved access to financing for small and medium telecom operators.
- Damaged telecom infrastructure restored and modernised across multiple regions.
- Increased adoption of energy-efficient xPON-based networks, with backup power and resilience systems deployed.

Expected Long-Term Impact

- Strengthened financial sustainability of Ukraine's telecom SME sector, preserving operators and preventing market collapse and consolidation.
- Accelerated restoration of connectivity in frontline, rural and de-occupied territories.

- Increased resilience of national telecom infrastructure to energy crises and blackouts.
- Transition towards a modern, energy-efficient and competitive telecommunications ecosystem aligned with EU standard.

Initiative 4: Attracting Telecom R&D and Manufacturing Investment for Resilient Network Technologies in Ukraine

Implementation Period: 36 months

Budget: Subject to feasibility assessment and investor negotiations

1. Problem Context

The full-scale invasion has fundamentally reshaped Ukraine's telecommunications environment, exposing the sector to sustained physical damage, cyber threats, and energy instability, and demonstrating that traditional infrastructure models must evolve towards greater resilience, decentralisation, and energy efficiency. In meeting these conditions, the sector has developed unique operational experience in maintaining connectivity through large-scale blackouts, infrastructure destruction, and continuous cyberattacks, positioning the country as a real-world environment for validating and co-developing critical infrastructure resilience solutions.

Despite this operational experience, Ukraine lacks the domestic research and development base of leading global vendors needed to develop and produce next-generation equipment. This dependence on external supply chains slows the deployment of advanced technologies in critical infrastructure, limits the capacity to design solutions tailored to wartime resilience requirements such as energy instability and physical network disruption, and leaves the country only partially integrated into European telecommunications innovation and manufacturing ecosystems. Absent targeted action, Ukraine risks remaining a deployment market rather than a co-development hub.

Identified as a distinct priority of the Strategy for the Development of the Electronic Communications Sector of Ukraine until 2030, adopted by the Government in 2025, the project aims to attract leading international telecommunications companies to establish a research, development, and manufacturing presence in Ukraine focused on resilient, secure, and energy-efficient technologies, drawing on the country's practical experience in crisis network management.

2. Project Objective and Implementation Approach

The specific objectives are to:

- create enabling conditions for the localisation of research, development, and telecommunications equipment production in Ukraine;
- improve the technological capacity of national infrastructure and integrate Ukraine into European telecommunications innovation and supply chains;
- support long-term investment attraction, high-skilled job creation, and sustainable industrial partnerships with global vendors.

The project will be implemented through structured engagement with leading global telecommunications companies, technology providers, and industrial stakeholders, comprising three mutually reinforcing components.

- **Component 1. Targeted international outreach and partnership development with European Union and other relevant vendors.** This would be implemented through high-level consultations and investment-feasibility dialogues on potential research and development localisation;
- **Component 2. The development of an investment and regulatory framework.** By addressing legal certainty, infrastructure access, industrial cooperation models, and alignment with European Union standards;
- **Component 3: The positioning of Ukraine as a real-world testing and validation environment.** By leveraging field-based operational experience to support the co-development of solutions in network redundancy, energy-efficient architectures, secure communications, and rapid infrastructure restoration.

Implementation will follow a phased investment-attraction and industrial-cooperation framework involving international vendors, government institutions, and potential financial partners, combining high-level diplomatic engagement with technical and regulatory facilitation and the joint exploration of pilot projects. Regulatory alignment with European Union standards will be central, ensuring that any future research, development, or manufacturing presence operates within a framework compatible with European markets, with cooperation progressing from exploratory engagement towards formalised investment agreements, pilot facilities, and long-term partnerships.

3. Expected Results and Impact

Expected Results

- Enabling conditions established for leading international vendors to localise telecommunications research, development, and manufacturing in Ukraine.
- Improved technological level of national infrastructure through access to advanced solutions in resilience, energy efficiency, and secure network design.

Expected Long-Term Impact

- A sustainable foundation created for foreign direct investment and high-skilled job creation in the telecommunications sector.
- Deeper integration of Ukraine into European and global telecommunications supply chains.
- Ukraine positioned as a strategic innovation environment for resilient telecommunications developed under real-world crisis conditions.

Initiative 5: Strengthening International Transit Connectivity and Tier-1 Operator Engagement for Ukraine

Implementation Period: 24 months

Estimated Budget: Subject to further feasibility assessment and negotiation with partners

1. Problem Context

Despite ongoing war and infrastructure disruptions, Ukraine's telecommunications sector has demonstrated strong structural resilience and real growth. **In 2025, total sector revenue exceeded USD 4 billion (16.5 per cent year-on-year growth) and capital investment surpassed USD 800 million (up 35 per cent)**, well above inflation and indicative of genuine network expansion. The fixed-broadband market is highly fragmented, **with over 1,900 operators serving some 8.7 million households, more than 92 per cent of them on fibre**, and Ukraine ranks first globally for fixed internet stability and electronic participation. This domestic strength contrasts with a structurally consolidated and strategically sensitive backbone segment, in which international transit depends on a limited number of cross-border corridors.

This concentration creates a structural resilience gap: the architecture carries systemic vulnerability and insufficient redundancy for regional and global traffic routing, posing risks to uninterrupted international data exchange. As fifth-generation (5G) deployment, cloud services and artificial intelligence (AI) adoption raise international traffic and fibre backhaul requirements, the constraint is becoming binding, while Ukraine's potential role as a strategic transit hub between the European Union (EU) and Asia remains underdeveloped, owing to limited structured engagement with leading global (Tier-1) operators and the absence of investment frameworks for large-scale backbone expansion. Absent coordinated international cooperation, the country risks underutilising its geographic and infrastructural potential.

The project's goal is to strengthen Ukraine's international telecommunications resilience through structured cooperation with leading Tier-1 operators and the development of diversified international transit routes, increasing backbone redundancy, reducing dependence on high-risk corridors and positioning Ukraine as a resilient digital bridge between the EU and Asia.

2. Project Objectives and Implementation Approach

The specific objectives are to:

- identify interested Tier-1 operators and viable cooperation models, including investment, transit agreements and joint infrastructure projects;
- define the regulatory, technical and commercial prerequisites for operator entry or expansion, including interconnection frameworks and infrastructure access conditions; and
- establish the foundation for new or expanded transit routes, strengthening network resilience and Ukraine's integration into European and global connectivity systems.

Implementation will follow a coordinated international engagement framework combining regulatory facilitation, technical dialogue and strategic partnership development, delivered through three strands.

The first is continued high-level engagement with Tier-1 operators, through bilateral consultations, technical discussions and commercial-feasibility dialogues that build on outreach already initiated by the Ukrainian side, with particular attention to operators that have signalled interest.

The second is a comprehensive assessment of Ukraine's regulatory, technical and commercial environment, identifying barriers to entry, simplifying interconnection processes and defining enabling conditions for backbone and transit investment.

The third is the conceptual development of new transit routes and redundancy pathways, mapping corridor-diversification options, assessing cross-border interconnection points and identifying infrastructure investment priorities.

Regulatory and technical analysis will be integrated throughout to ensure cooperation models align with Ukraine's legal framework and EU-oriented telecommunications policy, while commercial models, including transit agreements and investment structures, will be developed in parallel. The approach will prioritise a gradual transition from exploratory consultations towards structured partnership arrangements capable of supporting real infrastructure deployment and the expansion of transit.

3. Expected Results and Impact

Expected Results

- A set of interested Tier-1 operators identified, and viable cooperation models defined, including transit agreements, investment opportunities and joint infrastructure initiatives.
- Regulatory, technical and commercial prerequisites for operator engagement clearly articulated, providing a predictable framework for international cooperation.
- Foundation established for new or expanded transit routes, contributing to increased redundancy and resilience of backbone infrastructure and reduced dependence on high-risk corridors.

Expected Long-Term Impact

- Ukraine's position strengthened as a strategic digital transit hub between the European Union and Asia.
- Enhanced regional network resilience.
- Deeper integration of Ukraine into global telecommunications infrastructure ecosystems.

Initiative 6: Institutional Capacity Building of the Ministry of Digital Transformation

Implementation Period: 18 months

Estimated Budget: USD 1 million

1. Problem Context

Ukraine's telecommunications sector is undergoing a period of unprecedented transformation driven by two parallel priorities: the recovery and resilience of digital infrastructure during wartime and the implementation of telecommunications reforms required for European Union accession. These processes require substantial technical, regulatory, analytical, and coordination capacity, as well as close engagement with national stakeholders, development partners, and European institutions.

The Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine is responsible for leading telecommunications policy, broadband development, spectrum management, infrastructure recovery, and regulatory alignment with the EU acquis. At the same time, the Ministry is facing the limited human resources, analytical capacity, technical expertise, and project coordination mechanisms constrain the Ministry's ability to efficiently implement reforms while simultaneously fulfilling urgent operational and international obligations.

Given the scale and complexity of these responsibilities, strengthened institutional and implementation capacity is required to accelerate sector reforms, improve coordination of recovery efforts, support effective engagement with international partners, and advance Ukraine's integration into the European digital ecosystem.

2. Project Objective and Implementation Approach

The objective of the project is to strengthen the institutional, technical, and coordination capacity of the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine to support telecommunications sector reforms, infrastructure resilience and recovery initiatives, and EU integration commitments.

The project will be implemented by the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine with the partners through the establishment and operation of a dedicated **Telecom Project Office**. The Office will serve as a coordination and implementation platform supporting telecommunications policy development, regulatory harmonisation, donor coordination, infrastructure recovery, and stakeholder engagement.

The project will be implemented through three complementary components:

- **Component 1: EU Integration and Regulatory Capacity Strengthening** – supporting legal and regulatory approximation, telecommunications policy development, spectrum management, broadband strategy, and implementation of the EU telecommunications acquis.
- **Component 2: International Cooperation and Donor Coordination** – strengthening coordination with development partners, international financial institutions, European institutions, and telecommunications sector stakeholders.

- **Component 3: Institutional and Operational Capacity Development** – providing technical, analytical, legal, and project management support for telecommunications reforms, infrastructure resilience initiatives, strategic planning, and sector monitoring.

3. Expected Results and Impact

Expected Results

- In depth national review for the regulatory framework in line with EU acquis
- Establishment and operationalisation of a Telecom Project Office supporting telecommunications reform and recovery efforts.
- Strengthened institutional capacity for implementation of telecommunications reforms and EU integration commitments.
- Enhanced technical, analytical, regulatory, and project management capabilities within the telecommunications sector.
- Improved coordination with international partners, donors, financial institutions, and industry stakeholders.
- Increased availability of specialised expertise supporting broadband development, spectrum management, infrastructure resilience, and regulatory modernisation.
- More effective implementation of telecommunications recovery and infrastructure modernisation initiatives.

Expected Long-Term Impact

- Accelerated implementation of telecommunications reforms and alignment with the EU regulatory framework.
- Strengthened governance and coordination of the telecommunications sector.
- Enhanced capacity to attract and coordinate international investment and technical assistance.
- Improved resilience and sustainability of Ukraine's digital infrastructure.
- Stronger foundations for digital transformation, connectivity development, and integration into the European digital ecosystem.

Initiative 7: International Communication and Strategic Narrative Program for Ukraine's Telecom Sector Recovery and Resilience

Implementation Period: 24 months

Estimated Budget: USD 450,000

1. Problem Context

Ukraine's telecommunications sector has demonstrated exceptional resilience during the war, ensuring the continuity of critical services, emergency response, economic activity, education, and healthcare despite repeated attacks on infrastructure. At the same time, Ukraine is advancing ambitious telecommunications reforms, infrastructure modernisation, and alignment with European Union standards.

However, these achievements remain insufficiently visible at the international level. Awareness among donors, investors, policymakers, and the broader public remains fragmented, while the human, technical, and institutional dimensions of telecom resilience are often underrepresented in global discussions. This limits opportunities to mobilise international support, attract investment, strengthen partnerships, and position Ukraine's experience as a valuable global example of digital resilience and infrastructure recovery.

A more strategic and coordinated communication approach is therefore needed to increase international visibility, strengthen engagement with development partners and investors, improve public understanding of digital infrastructure, and showcase Ukraine's experience in maintaining connectivity under crisis conditions.

2. Project Objective and Implementation Approach

The objective of the project is to establish a strategic communication and public engagement platform that promotes Ukraine's telecommunications resilience, infrastructure recovery efforts, and digital transformation achievements to international audiences.

The initiative will be implemented by the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine, with the support of the International Telecommunication Union and relevant partners. Implementation will rely on field-based documentation and operational cooperation across multiple regions of Ukraine, including front-line and war-affected areas where security conditions permit.

The programme will combine the following elements:

- documentary production and visual storytelling;
- strategic public communication and international outreach;
- digital infrastructure mapping and data visualisation;
- public engagement and educational activities;
- donor and investor communication mechanisms;

- integration into European Union and international telecommunications policy dialogues.

Particular attention will be given to international dissemination through conferences, policy forums, digital platforms, exhibitions, and cooperation with international media and development institutions.

3. Expected Results and Impact

Expected Results

- A coherent international narrative established on Ukraine's telecommunications resilience, recovery, and modernisation.
- Production and dissemination of documentary, multimedia, and communication content showcasing Ukraine's experience in maintaining connectivity under wartime conditions.
- Launch of an interactive digital platform documenting telecommunications recovery, resilience, and infrastructure development.
- Delivery of public awareness campaigns, exhibitions, and international outreach activities promoting telecommunications resilience and digital transformation.
- Increased visibility of Ukraine's telecommunications sector among donors, investors, international organisations, and industry stakeholders.
- Strengthened dialogue with international partners and enhanced public understanding of the role of telecommunications infrastructure in resilience, recovery, and socio-economic development.

Expected Long-Term Impact

- Stronger international recognition of Ukraine as a leading example of telecommunications resilience and digital infrastructure recovery.
- Increased donor engagement and investment interest in telecommunications modernisation and connectivity development.
- Enhanced public trust in digital infrastructure and next-generation connectivity technologies.
- Stronger support for long-term digital transformation, infrastructure resilience, and sustainable connectivity development.

Initiative 8: Reducing Radiophobia and Public Resistance to Mobile Network Infrastructure in Ukraine

Implementation period: 24 months

Budget: USD 500 000

1. Problem Context

The expansion of mobile and fixed electronic communications infrastructure is a critical prerequisite for Ukraine's digital transformation, economic recovery, and wartime resilience. In many rural, remote, and frontline-adjacent communities, however, the deployment of mobile base stations continues to face public resistance driven by misinformation and persistent myths regarding the alleged health impacts of radio-frequency emissions, thereby slowing citizens' access to reliable connectivity.

Pursuant to the Operational Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy for the Development of the Electronic Communications Sector of Ukraine until 2030, which underlines the importance of raising public awareness and countering misinformation, the project aims to reduce public resistance to mobile network infrastructure by improving awareness and understanding of the safety of electronic communications technologies, thereby strengthening trust and enabling faster network deployment across Ukraine.

2. Project Objective and Implementation Approach

The project is structured around four mutually reinforcing components: the development of communication materials, the implementation of awareness activities, structured community engagement, and the measurement of changes in public perception.

The first component will produce clear, accessible materials explaining how mobile networks function and what international safety standards govern their operation.

The second component will deliver public awareness activities through expert-led formats, such as video explanations and interviews with medical professionals, scientists, engineers and regulators, providing trusted voices able to explain technical issues simply and credibly, complemented by online educational materials on the role of mobile infrastructure in emergency communication, healthcare access and everyday connectivity.

The third component will support structured dialogue between telecom operators, local authorities and communities in areas where deployment is planned or ongoing, thereby addressing concerns early and reducing friction during permitting and construction.

The fourth component will provide a dedicated analytical element based on sociological research: a baseline survey before implementation to assess current levels of trust, awareness and perceived risk.

The specific objectives are to:

- raise public awareness of international safety standards for mobile networks and improve understanding of how base stations operate;
- ensure that reliable scientific information is available in formats suitable for non-technical audiences;
- reduce the incidence of deployment delays caused by public opposition; and
- support more predictable and efficient permitting processes for telecom operators.

The project will be implemented by the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine in coordination with telecommunications operators, communication specialists, scientific and medical experts, and local authorities. All messaging will be grounded in internationally recognised International Telecommunication Union and scientific standards and rendered accessible to non-technical audiences. Implementation will be closely aligned with infrastructure deployment plans.

3. Expected Results and Impact**Expected Results**

- A substantial increase in public awareness of the safety and function of mobile network infrastructure.
- Wide dissemination of clear, accessible communication materials and expert-led content informing public debate.
- A reduced number of deployment delays caused by community resistance.
- More predictable and efficient permitting and installation processes for mobile base stations.
- Measurable evidence of changes in public perception through baseline and follow-up sociological surveys.

Expected Long-Term Impact

- Faster expansion of mobile coverage, particularly in rural and underserved regions.
- Stronger public trust in telecommunications infrastructure as a critical component of national resilience.
- Smoother, lower-cost deployment of electronic communications infrastructure across Ukraine.