

Recommendations to the German Government on Meaningful Youth Participation in Ukraine's Recovery

from the National Youth Council of Ukraine, Voice of Romni, savED, and Kindernothilfe



1. Ensure the **formal inclusion of young Ukrainian experts in all German-supported recovery and reconstruction programmes** at national, regional, and local levels. Consultations should engage young professionals with expertise in youth participation and community recovery to provide practical, ground-level insight into the real needs of war-affected communities.
2. Increase **investment in youth employment pathways linked to Ukraine's green and digital reconstruction**. This should include support for vocational training, dual education, youth entrepreneurship, and partnerships with the private sector to create internships and first-job opportunities, especially in regions affected by displacement and economic disruption.
3. Allocate funding for the **restoration and creation of youth spaces** such as community centres, informal education hubs, and co-working environments. These spaces play a vital role in fostering social cohesion, supporting mental well-being, and enabling young people to actively contribute to local recovery processes.
4. Expand **bilateral youth cooperation between Ukraine and Germany** through dedicated funding for joint programmes, exchanges, and peer-learning initiatives including the Ukrainian diaspora. This will support the transfer of practical knowledge in democratic governance, vocational training, and community-led reconstruction.
5. Invest in **youth leadership** in Ukraine with a **focus on diversity and inclusion** — including scholarships, educational exchanges, grants for youth organizations, internships within central executive authorities, leadership schools, and similar initiatives.
6. Integrate a **gender lens across all recovery and reconstruction efforts in Ukraine** supported by Germany, ensuring gender equality is treated as a cross-cutting priority. This includes supporting Ukrainian women's movements and providing platforms for women's rights advocacy to guarantee an inclusive and equitable recovery process.
7. Support **vulnerable young people affected by the war** — such as internally displaced persons, those from ethnic minorities, the LGBTIQ community, and persons with disabilities — by combining humanitarian aid, long-term development, and leadership support, while actively addressing structural discrimination that limits equal participation in Ukraine's recovery.
8. Support the creation and expansion of **safe extracurricular learning centers** in war-affected communities. These centres provide structured activities, psychosocial support, and a stable environment where children can learn and connect despite ongoing instability.
9. Invest in **safe in-person education infrastructure in frontline regions**: prioritize and expand support for the construction, repair, and equipment of safe school bomb shelters in frontline and border regions of Ukraine.
10. Support youth, especially from frontline regions, **to stay in Ukraine** by providing leadership, civic engagement, and mentorship opportunities, giving them the **resources to develop and lead their own reconstruction and recovery projects** in their communities.