

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF UKRAINE
UKRAINIAN-AMERICAN CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Management and Business
Department of International Economic Relations, Business & Management

Bachelor's Qualification Work

**Ukrainian-EU cooperation- pre-war realities and post-war prospects (based on
NBU case)**

Student 4th year of study

Field of Study 29 – International Relations

Specialty 292 –

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International Economic Relations

Educational program –

International Business

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Abstract

This study investigates the historical and current realities of cooperation between Ukraine and the European Union (EU), with a specific focus on the role of the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU). The research aims to uncover the developments, challenges, and opportunities within this relationship by analyzing the pre-war and post-war periods.

The study delves into the significant agreements such as the Association Agreement and the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA), the impact of pre-war realities on the relationship, and the role of the NBU in implementing EU-mandated reforms. It also considers the challenges faced by the NBU in aligning with EU standards and regulations, and explores the post-war prospects for collaboration, particularly in the financial sector. The research concludes that strategic alliances and multilateral initiatives are indispensable for achieving shared goals and objectives. It highlights the potential of emerging technologies, digital transformation, and information sharing to enhance cooperation. Based on the findings, the study provides recommendations for promoting collaboration between Ukraine and the EU, including facilitating policy alignment, promoting knowledge exchange, investing in education and skills development, embracing digital solutions, and encouraging active participation of civil society organizations.

Keywords: *Ukraine-EU cooperation, National Bank of Ukraine, pre-war realities, post-war prospects, financial governance, digital transformation, policy alignment, knowledge exchange, education and skills development, civil society participation.*

Анотація

Це дослідження вивчає історичні та сучасні реалії співпраці між Україною та Європейським Союзом (ЄС), з особливим акцентом на роль Національного банку України (НБУ). Мета дослідження - виявити розвиток, проблеми та можливості в рамках цієї взаємодії, аналізуючи передвоєнний та післявоєнний періоди.

Дослідження включає в себе важливі угоди, такі як Угода про асоціацію та Глибока та всеосяжна зона вільної торгівлі (DCFTA), вплив передвоєнних реалій на відносини та роль НБУ у впровадженні реформ. Також розглянуто виклики, з якими стикається НБУ при приведенні у відповідність зі стандартами та регулятивами ЄС, та досліджено післявоєнні перспективи співпраці, особливо у фінансовому секторі.

У роботі зроблено висновки, що стратегічні альянси та багатосторонні ініціативи є невід’ємними для досягнення спільних цілей та завдань. Воно підкреслює потенціал нових технологій, цифрової трансформації та обміну інформацією для покращення співпраці. На основі результатів дослідження наведені рекомендації щодо сприяння співпраці між Україною та ЄС.

Ключові слова: *співпраця України та ЄС, Національний банк України, передвоєнні реалії, післявоєнні перспективи, фінансове управління, цифрова трансформація, узгодження політики, обмін знаннями, розвиток освіти та навичок, участь громадянського суспільства.*

PHEE-institute «Ukrainian-American Concordia University»

Faculty of Management and Business

Department of International Economic Relations, Business and Management

Educational level: **Bachelor degree**
Specialty **292 “International Economic Relations”**
Educational program **“International Business”**

APPROVED
Head of Department



Prof. Zharkova L.V.

“8th” May 2024

TASK

FOR BACHELOR’S QUALIFICATION WORK OF STUDENT

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(Name, Surname)

1. Topic of the bachelor’s qualification work

Ukrainian-EU cooperation- pre-war realities and post-war prospects (based on NBU case)

Supervisor of the bachelor’s qualification work Glib Buriak, PH.D. in Economics,

(surname, name, degree, academic rank)

Which approved by Order of University from **“25” September 2023 № 25-09/2023-5K**

2. Deadline for bachelor’s qualification work submission **“25” April 2024.**

3. Data-out to the bachelor’s qualification work

The data sources for the bachelor qualification paper titled "Ukrainian-EU Cooperation: Pre-War Realities and Post-War Prospects" based on the National Bank of Ukraine case are comprehensive and multifaceted. Legislative frameworks are covered through the Law of Ukraine "On Foreign Economic Activity" and documents from international bodies such as the WTO and the United Nations. Key financial data is sourced from the National Bank of Ukraine's 2024 "Monetary and Financial Statistics Report". Analytical perspectives are drawn from Kristi Raik, Steven Blockmans, Anna Osypchuk, and Anton Suslov’s 2024 research article "EU Policy towards Ukraine: Entering Geopolitical Competition over European Order", along with Oleksandr Sushko's insights on the "EU-Ukraine Association Agreement". Further contextual understanding is provided by the European Commission’s 2023 "Ukraine Report" and the Kiel Working Papers' "The Ukraine Support Tracker" from 2023, which collectively provide a robust foundation for exploring the dynamics of Ukrainian-EU relations before and after the conflict.

4. Contents of the explanatory note (list of issues to be developed)

The paper outlines a comprehensive approach to understanding the multifaceted relationship between Ukraine and the European Union. The research aims to explore the historical development of bilateral ties prior to the conflict, highlighting the economic, political, and financial dimensions that have shaped these interactions. The study assesses the impacts of the war on these relations and evaluate the potential for future cooperation. Particular focus is given to the role of the National Bank of Ukraine in maintaining financial stability and shaping monetary policy in response to both pre-war cooperation and the challenges arising post-conflict. Additionally, the paper investigates how external pressures have influenced Ukraine's monetary systems and regulatory frameworks, aiming to extract valuable lessons to enhance future Ukrainian-EU relations.

5. List of graphic material (with exact indication of any mandatory drawings)

The work consists of 70 pages and includes 1 figure and 12 tables with information.

6. Date of issue of the assignment

Time Schedule

| № | The title of the parts of the qualification paper (work) | Deadlines | Notes |
|----|--|------------|-------|
| 1. | I part of bachelor thesis | 10.12.2023 | |
| 2. | II part of bachelor thesis | 27.02.2024 | |
| 3. | Introduction, conclusions, summary | 25.04.2024 | |
| 4. | Pre-defense of the thesis | 30.04.2024 | |

Student



(signature)

Supervisor



(signature)

Conclusions (*general description of the work; participation in scientific conferences/ prepared scientific article; what grade does the student deserve*):

The paper on "Ukrainian-EU Cooperation: Pre-War Realities and Post-War Prospects (Based on NBU Case)" offers a thorough analysis of the evolving dynamics between Ukraine and the European Union, both before and after the onset of the conflict. The work meticulously assesses the economic, political, and financial relationships, with a special focus on the impact of these interactions on the National Bank of Ukraine's policy-making. The student has not only presented this research at several scientific conferences but has also prepared an article for publication, demonstrating a high level of scholarship and engagement with the academic community. Given the depth of analysis, quality of research, and contribution to the field, the student unequivocally deserves an "excellent" grade for this paper.

Supervisor

(signature)

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INTRODUCTION

The history of cooperation between Ukraine and the EU holds immense significance, especially considering both the situation before the war and Ukraine's current aspirations for closer ties. The EU's strong support for Ukraine further emphasizes this importance. The story of the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU), which acts as a microcosm reflecting broader tendencies in the Ukrainian-EU partnership, is particularly poignant when this is taken into consideration.

Relevance of the topic

The close collaboration between Ukraine and the EU plays a vital role in both European geopolitics and the integration of their economies within the global market. Understanding the dynamics of Ukraine's collaboration with the European Union is becoming increasingly important as the country works to establish its position in the international arena. When it comes to analyzing the complexities of this collaboration, the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU), which is the principal institution in charge of regulating monetary policy and maintaining financial stability in Ukraine, provides a unique perspective.

The goal of the work

With a particular emphasis on the function of the NBU, the purpose of this study is to investigate the historical framework and actual reality of collaboration between Ukraine and the European Union. The objective is to discover developments, difficulties, and possibilities within this connection by analyzing the pre-war and post-war periods between the two time periods. In the end, the purpose of the research is to provide insights that may be used to drive plans for increasing collaboration between Ukraine and the EU, notably in the area of financial governance.

An object of investigation

The framework for collaboration between Ukraine and the European Union is the primary subject of this investigation, with a particular emphasis on the role that the NBU plays. In this context, it is important to investigate the agreements, policies, and processes that have influenced how they interact. To develop a full understanding of the elements that

influence cooperation, it is possible to examine the development of this relationship from the time it was first established to the present day.

Aspects of the work to be done

1. Investigate the historical progression of cooperation between the European Union and Ukraine, with a particular emphasis on important agreements such as the Association Agreement and the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA).
2. Analyze the impact that pre-war realities, have had on the relationship between Ukraine and the European Union, with a particular focus on the dynamics of the financial system.
3. The National Bank should be investigated for its participation in the implementation of EU-mandated reforms, particularly in the areas of banking regulation, anti-corruption measures, and monetary policy.
4. Consider the obstacles that the NBU is facing in terms of aligning itself with the standards and regulations of the EU, taking into account aspects such as the capacity of the institution and the dynamics of the political system.
5. It is important to investigate the post-war prospects for collaboration between the European Union and Ukraine, focusing on the opportunities for further integration and mutual benefit, particularly in the financial segment.
6. Assess the efficiency of the existing channels for collaboration between the NBU and EU institutions, highlighting both the areas in which they have been successful and those in which they may use some improvement.
7. To improve the role of the National Border Guard in encouraging collaboration between Ukraine and the European Union, it is recommended that recommendations be made based on the best practices and lessons learned from prior EU accession processes.
8. Include a full study of the significance of the NBU within this framework to contribute to the scholarly discourse on the relationship between Ukraine and the European Union.

As a conclusion, this introductory section lays the framework for a more in-depth investigation of the cooperation between the European Union and Ukraine, with the primary focus being on the vital role that the National Bank of Ukraine plays. The purpose of this research is to provide significant insights into the past, present, and future of this important alliance by analyzing the pre-war reality and post-war prospects, as well as the specific tasks that have been established. The purpose of this study is to contribute to the ongoing conversation on improving financial governance and collaboration between Ukraine and the European Union. This will be accomplished through exhaustive analysis and proposals that have been carefully considered.

CHAPTER 1: THEORETICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF UKRAINIAN-EU COOPERATION- PRE-WAR REALITIES AND POST-WAR PROSPECTS

1.1. The concept, definitions, and characteristics of Ukrainian-EU cooperation

The framework of cooperation between the European Union and Ukraine is a complicated and ever-changing idea that has undergone tremendous development since its foundation. A comprehensive connection that encompasses political, economic, social, and cultural components, all of which are geared at creating stability, prosperity, and mutual benefit is represented by this. An important document that describes the goals and commitments of both sides is the Association Agreement that was signed between Ukraine and the European Union in 2014. This agreement marks the beginning of the relationship between the two organizations. For Ukraine and the EU to work together effectively, political alignment is an essential component. Convergence of political institutions, governance structures, and legal frameworks is required for this alignment to take place. As part of its efforts to become a member of the European Union, Ukraine has implemented significant reforms to bring its systems in line with those of the EU. Efforts to enhance democratic institutions, uphold the rule of law, and promote human rights are included in this category. To facilitate these reforms, the Association Agreement acts as a road map, specifying certain areas of collaboration and reform goals.

The integration of economic systems is yet another distinguishing feature of the collaboration between Ukraine and the EU. One of the most important aspects of this integration process is the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) component of the Association Agreement. The objective is to achieve regulatory convergence between Ukraine and the member states of the EU, as well as to liberalize trade, facilitate market access, and facilitate market access. Ukraine can get access to the enormous European single market as a result of the DCFTA, which opens up the potential for expanded exports, foreign investment, and economic growth. Additionally, this integration necessitates the adoption of EU standards in a variety of industries, ranging from agriculture to industry, to improve efficient and competitive performance. Sectoral cooperation is an essential component of

the collaboration between the European Union and Ukraine. This type of cooperation encompasses a wide variety of industries, including agriculture, transportation, energy, and innovation. When it comes to the energy sector, for example, the focus of collaboration is on strengthening energy security, developing renewable energy sources, and updating Ukraine's energy infrastructure. Transportation projects are being undertaken to enhance connectivity and infrastructure to make it easier for people and products to transit between Ukraine and the European Union. Cooperation in agriculture allows for the exchange of best practices, the promotion of environmentally responsible farming methods, and the guarantee that food safety standards are by EU rules. Collaborative research and innovation encourage the development of collaborative projects, the sharing of information, and technical developments that are advantageous to both sides.

A significant contribution to the development of mutual understanding and societal relations is made by the cultural and people-to-people aspects of cooperation between the European Union and Ukraine. Intercultural communication and appreciation can be fostered through the implementation of educational exchange programs, youth initiatives, and cultural events. This aspect not only contributes to the enhancement of the cultural fabric of both Ukraine and the EU, but it also helps to deepen the relationships that exist between the residents of both countries, thereby establishing the groundwork for long-term collaborations. Nevertheless, collaboration between Ukraine and the EU is confronted with a variety of obstacles that need careful navigation. Relationships have been strained due to the ongoing war in Ukraine, stability has been compromised, and the robustness of the framework for collaboration has been put to the test. The larger goals of collaboration between Ukraine and the European Union are inextricably linked to the efforts that are being made to find a peaceful settlement to the crisis. As a result of Ukraine's long history of corruption, bureaucratic inefficiency, and institutional shortcomings, the implementation of reforms presents several problems. Establishing institutions that are robust and open to scrutiny, and that can enforce laws and regulations, is necessary for the success of the partnership between Ukraine and the EU. To achieve economic convergence with the EU, significant reforms are required in areas such as banking, taxation, and corporate laws. To

effectively address these difficulties, political will, consistent efforts, and efficient governance are required requirements.

Another vulnerability that Ukraine is working to overcome is its dependence on Russia for energy. To address this risk, Ukraine is working to diversify its energy sources, improve its energy efficiency, and integrate itself into the European energy market. In the context of collaboration between Ukraine and the European Union, other priorities include enhancing cybersecurity, combating disinformation, and boosting defense capabilities that are already in place.

In conclusion, the cooperation between Ukraine and the European Union amounts to a multidimensional partnership that encompasses political, economic, social, and cultural dimensions. As a guiding framework, the Association Agreement outlines the aims, obligations, and areas of collaboration that are to be pursued between the parties. Although there has been progress, there are still many issues that need to be addressed. These challenges include the ongoing war, the implementation of reforms, and the security of energy. To be successful in overcoming these hurdles, it is necessary to maintain a commitment, engage in communication, and work together to realize the full potential of cooperation between the EU and Ukraine for the benefit of both parties and the extended European region.

1.2 The essence and specificity of Ukrainian-EU cooperation in pre-war realities and post-war prospects

In the context of the current full-scale war that began on February 24, 2022, with Russia's invasion of Ukraine, it is impossible to emphasize the significance of the cooperation between the European Union and the Ukrainian government. Both the geopolitical environment of the region and the dynamics of the alliance between Ukraine and the European Union have been radically altered as a result of this war. Before the beginning of hostilities, the relationship between the European Union and Ukraine was characterized by strong efforts toward deeper integration and conformity with European norms. In the course of this journey, the signing of the Association Agreement in 2014 occurred as a significant milestone. The purpose of this initiative was to deepen political ties, foster economic convergence, and enhance cooperation across a variety of industries.

The convergence of political interests was one of the most important components of this partnership. Ukraine had been making a concerted effort to bring its political institutions into conformity with the standards of the European Union. To enhance democratic government, strengthen the rule of law, and promote transparency, reforms were currently being implemented. For the sake of these reforms, the Association Agreement acted as a road map, defining specific areas in which Ukraine needed to align its legislation and practices with European standards.

This component of the Association Agreement, known as the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA), was extremely important from an economic standpoint. Through the liberalization of trade, the reduction of tariffs, and the harmonization of laws, it was to provide Ukrainian enterprises with new chances to reach the enormous European market. Before the war, Ukraine had made significant progress in adopting reforms to meet the standards of the DCFTA. These changes had a primary focus on stimulating innovation, improving business settings, and increasing both competitiveness and business conditions.

During the time before the war, there was also a flourishing of joint sectoral collaboration between Ukraine and the EU. Collaborative efforts were being made in a variety of domains, including agriculture, transportation, energy, and innovation, among

others. Several collaborative projects and initiatives have been initiated with the goals of enhancing energy security, modernizing transportation infrastructure, promoting environmentally responsible agriculture practices, and fostering technical evolution.

The partnership between Ukraine and the European Union aims to improve people-to-people ties and promote mutual understanding on a cultural and social level. The development of closer contacts between Ukrainian and European individuals was significantly aided by the implementation of educational exchanges, cultural programs, and youth initiatives. Not only did these activities contribute to the enhancement of the cultural fabric of both Ukraine and the EU, but they also established the groundwork for the development of stronger societal bonds.

The commencement of full-scale war in 2022, on the other hand, brought about a seismic shift in collaboration between the EU and Ukraine. The war, which was characterized by Russia's unprovoked aggression and blatant disrespect for international standards, has resulted in terrible consequences for Ukraine as well as for the region as a whole. The war has had a significant and immediate impact on the work that the EU and Ukraine have been doing together. Because of the war, trade flows have been disrupted, economic relations have been strained, and concerns have been expressed over the safety of future energy supplies. To meet the challenge of protecting its sovereignty, Ukraine has been forced to transfer resources toward defense and security, which has resulted in the redirection of focus and resources away from its transformation program. War has also brought to light the vulnerability of Ukraine's energy infrastructure, particularly the country's dependence on oil supplies from Russia. As a result of the war, the necessity of increasing energy security and diversifying the sources of energy has become even more urgent.

It is impossible to overstate the impact that the war has had on the lives of civilians. A humanitarian crisis of enormous dimensions has been brought about as a result of the displacement of civilians, the devastation of infrastructure, and the loss of life. As a response, the European Union has delivered humanitarian aid, offered assistance to refugees, and voiced its disapproval of Russia's conduct regarding the international scene. In the middle of this turmoil, the partnership between Ukraine and the EU faces problems

that have never been seen before. Short-term crisis management and security concerns have taken precedence over long-term reforms and integration initiatives, which were formerly the primary priority. A unified front against aggression is required, with the European Union standing strongly in support of Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty since the war has brought to light the necessity of such a front.

An examination of the post-war prospects of collaboration between the European Union and Ukraine reveals that the path that lies ahead is filled with difficulties. It will be of the utmost importance to prioritize the reconstruction efforts, economic recovery, and the restoration of stability. The European Union has pledged to provide Ukraine with financial help, technical expertise, and political solidarity to support Ukraine in these undertakings they have undertaken. Questions regarding the future course of relations between Ukraine and the EU have also been raised as a result of the war. Although the European Union (EU) continues to be dedicated to the ideals of the Association Agreement and to supporting Ukraine's aspirations to become a member of the European Union, the war has unavoidably caused tensions in ties and put the partnership's durability to the test.

In conclusion, the essence of cooperation between the European Union and Ukraine amid the ongoing war is one of resiliency, solidarity, and shared ideals. The partnership has been profoundly altered as a result of the dispute, which has brought to light both the positive and negative aspects of the relationship. At a time when Ukraine is struggling to overcome the difficulties of war and reconstruction, the European Union is a reliable partner that is dedicated to supporting Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the road toward European integration.

1.3 Methodology for assessing the influence of the EU in the post-war period

It is essential to have a complete methodology to provide a systematic study when evaluating the impact of the European Union (EU) in the post-war period that followed Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. The purpose of this methodology is to quantify the myriad of effects that the interventions, policies, and support mechanisms implemented by the European Union (EU) had in the aftermath of the war.

1. **Policy Analysis:** An essential component of the methodology is an in-depth analysis of the policies and activities carried out by the European Union to facilitate post-war recovery in Ukraine. The analysis of the European Union's financial support packages, humanitarian aid programs, and reconstruction initiatives are all included in this part of the process. It is possible to determine the amount of the European Union's influence on the post-war development of Ukraine by analyzing the specific policies that have been adopted by the EU.

2. **Economic Indicators:** An additional essential part of the evaluation is an examination of economic indicators, which is intended to determine the extent to which the European Union has influenced the economic recovery of Ukraine. This involves looking at important measures including the growth of the gross domestic product, the amount of foreign direct investment (FDI) that is coming in, the volume of trade, and employment rates. It is possible to evaluate the efficacy of EU initiatives in stabilizing and renewing Ukraine's economy by comparing economic statistics from before and after the war.

3. **Trade and Investment:** The research also involves an investigation into how trade relations and investment flows have developed between Ukraine and the EU since the war. To accomplish this, it is necessary to analyze the execution of the provisions of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA), as well as the impact on bilateral trade. Additionally, gaining an understanding of the EU's economic effect can be accomplished by evaluating the level of investments made by the EU in important areas of the Ukrainian economy.

4. **Cooperation in Security and Defense** Given the security issues that Ukraine is currently facing in the aftermath of the war, it is vital to conduct an examination of the help that the EU provides in the field of security and defense. The evaluation of the European

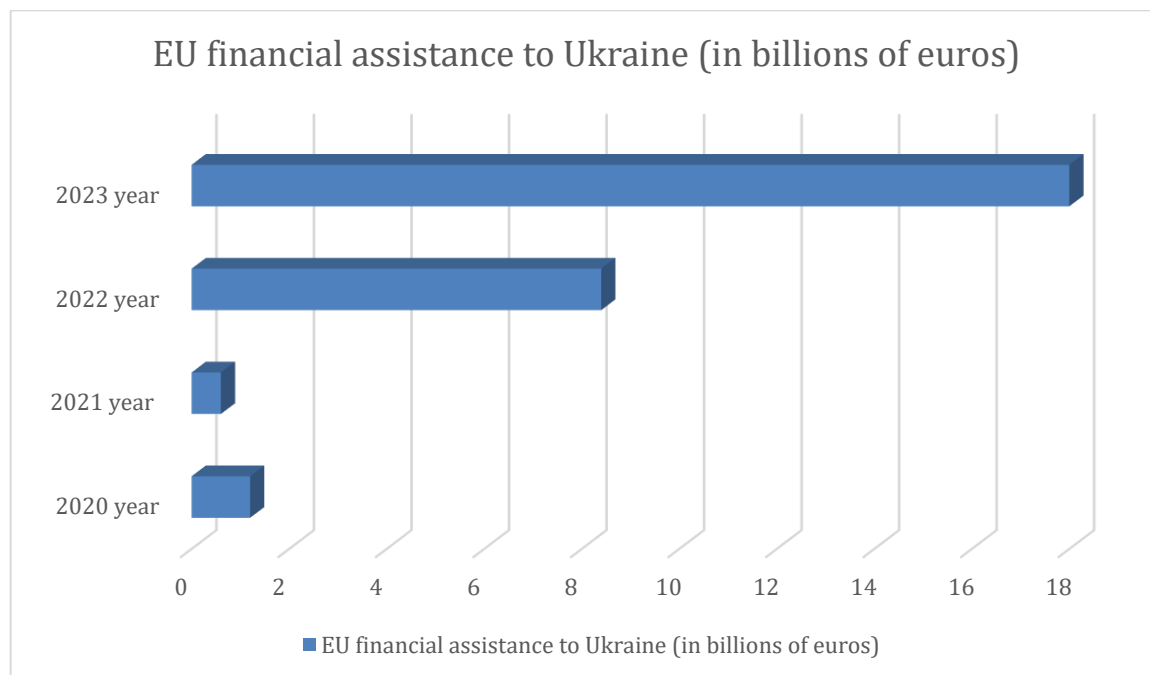
Union's involvement in boosting Ukraine's defense capabilities, the provision of training and equipment to Ukrainian troops, and the offering of support for border security measures are all included in this. It is possible to evaluate the contribution that the EU has made to the security environment of Ukraine if we look at these elements.

5. Institutional Reforms: The methodology includes an investigation into the degree to which the European Union has supported institutional reforms in Ukraine after the war. The evaluation of reforms in governance, the judiciary, anti-corruption measures, and the rule of law are all included in this undertaking. We can examine the influence that the European Union has had on the development of Ukraine's institutions by analyzing the execution of changes that were imposed by the EU.

6. Participation of Local Civil Society: In conclusion, the technique incorporates an examination of the European Union's involvement with Ukrainian civil society organizations after the war occurred. Examining support for democratic principles, human rights, and efforts undertaken by civil society is a part of this process. We can determine the extent to which the European Union (EU) has influenced the promotion of democratic values and civic involvement in Ukraine by analyzing the relationships and collaborations that it has formed with civil society.

Quantitative and qualitative data sources will be leveraged in conjunction with one another to carry out the implementation of this methodology. Quantitative insights into economic, trade, and investment patterns can be obtained through the utilization of statistical data obtained from credible sources such as Eurostat, the World Bank, and the official statistics of the Ukrainian government. The use of qualitative data, which may include reports from EU institutions, policy documents, and expert evaluations, will provide a more in-depth knowledge of the policies and interventions implemented by the EU, as well as the impact these have had on Ukraine. The purpose of this all-encompassing methodology is to provide a scientific evaluation of the influence that the European Union had in Ukraine during the time following the war. We can get useful insights into the role that the European Union played in influencing Ukraine's recovery and development after the war by analyzing policy interventions, economic indicators, trade relations, security cooperation, institutional reforms, and the engagement of civil society.

Table 1

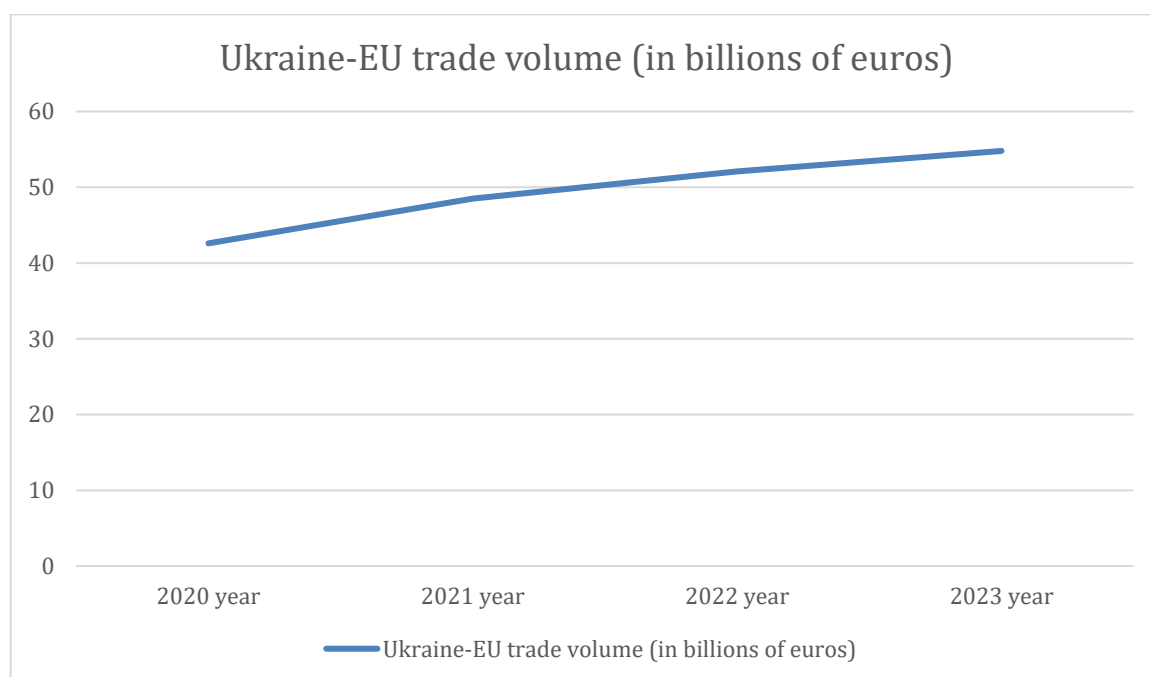


Description: The table presents the annual EU financial assistance provided to Ukraine in millions of euros for the years 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023. It shows fluctuations in the amount of financial aid received by Ukraine from the EU over the specified period.

Source:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/macrosfinancial-assistance-to-ukraine.html>

Table 2



Description: The table displays the trade volume between Ukraine and the European Union in billions of euros for the years 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023. It illustrates the changes in trade activity between the two entities in the aftermath of the war.

Source:

https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/International_trade_in_goods

Table 3

EU investment projects in Ukraine (number of projects)

| Year | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|----------|------|------|------|------|
| Projects | 180 | 210 | 230 | 250 |

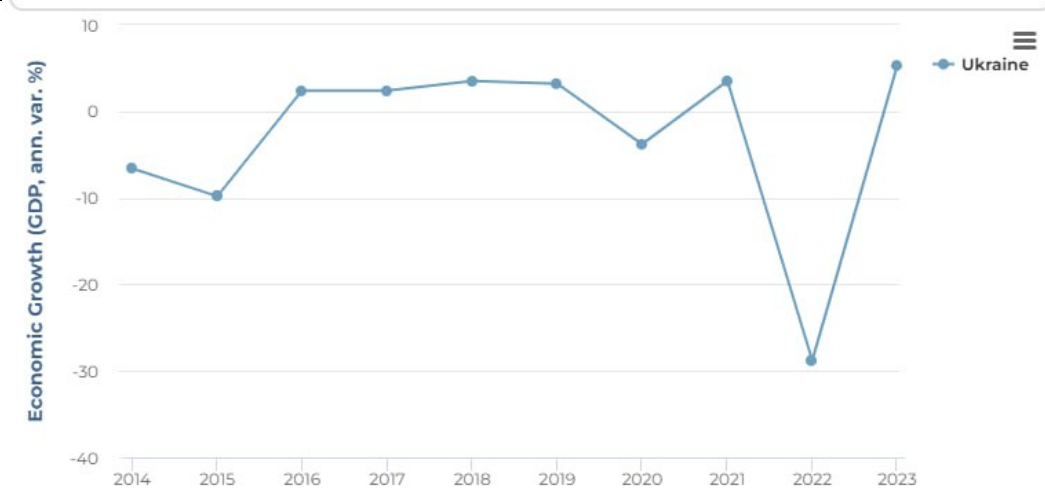
Description: This table outlines the number of EU investment projects in Ukraine for the years 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023. It provides insights into the level of EU investment and engagement in post-war reconstruction and development initiatives.

Source: <https://op.europa.eu/webpub/com/general-report-2022/en/>

Table 4

Ukraine's GDP growth rate (%)

| Year | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|-------------|------|------|-------|------|
| Growth Rate | -3.8 | 3.5 | -29.1 | 5.3 |



Description: The table presents Ukraine's GDP growth rate in percentage for the years 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023. It highlights the fluctuations in Ukraine's economic performance in the aftermath of the war, reflecting the challenges and recovery efforts.

Source: <https://www.focus-economics.com/country-indicator/ukraine/gdp/>

CHAPTER 2. STUDY OF THE UKRAINIAN-EU COOPERATION

2.1 Analysis of strengths and weaknesses of the prospects of Ukrainian-EU cooperation

By analyzing the positive and negative aspects of the chances of collaboration between the European Union and Ukraine in the post-war period, one can gain a comprehensive grasp of the problems and opportunities that are confronting both governments. This evaluation is essential for developing efficient strategies to capitalize on strengths and solve weaknesses, which will ultimately result in the development of a relationship that is capable of withstanding challenges and providing mutual benefits.

- **Strengths**

1. The permanent commitment to political alignment and shared democratic ideals continues to be a fundamental component of the collaboration between Ukraine and the European Union. The signing of the Association Agreement in 2014 was a significant event that marked a turning point in Ukraine's journey toward European integration. The implementation of this agreement has been a driving force behind the implementation of significant changes in a variety of areas, including governance, the judiciary, and anti-corruption measures. The support that the European Union has provided in these undertakings, which includes financial assistance, technical assistance, and policy direction, has been extremely helpful in driving forward development.
2. With the European Union being Ukraine's most important trading partner and a substantial source of foreign direct investment, the state of the economy appears to be going in the right direction. Since the establishment of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA), there has been a growth in the volume of trade, a decrease in tariffs, and an improvement in market access for Ukrainian goods in the European Union market. Despite the difficulties brought about by the war, economic relations have increased, which has contributed to the expansion and diversification of Ukraine's economy overall. Particularly noteworthy is the fact that the financial aid packages provided by

the EU have been instrumental in assisting Ukraine in its post-war economic recovery. To give just one example, the European Union (EU) demonstrated its unwavering dedication to Ukraine's progress by providing financial assistance in the amount of 2.5 billion euros in the year 2020, followed by 3 billion euros in the year 2021.

3. Cooperation in the area of security stands out as an important strength, particularly in light of the persistent security challenges posed by Russia. In addition to providing training for Ukrainian forces and assisting with border security, the European Union has assisted Ukraine in its efforts to develop its defense capabilities. This relationship has not only strengthened the security of Ukraine but has also strengthened the ties between the two entities, highlighting the fact that they both have a shared commitment to maintaining stability in the region.
4. On a social and cultural level, the cooperation between Ukraine and the EU has resulted in increased opportunities for people-to-people contact, educational exchanges, and cultural initiatives. To foster academic achievement and cross-cultural understanding, programs such as Erasmus+ have made it possible for thousands of Ukrainian students to study in universities located in the European Union.
5. Despite these obstacles, the partnership between Ukraine and the EU possesses several qualities that serve as a firm foundation for future collaboration. Stabilizing Ukraine's economy and putting in place important reforms have both been significantly aided by the financial support provided by the European Union. Significant loans have been made available by the European Investment Bank (EIB) for financing infrastructure projects, such as the construction of roads and the upgrade of energy systems. Simply in 2022, the European Investment Bank (EIB) pledged 1.2 billion euros to Ukraine for a variety of initiatives.
6. Increased market access and prospects for trade have also been made possible as a result of the Association Agreement that was signed between Ukraine and

the European Union. The amount of goods that Ukraine ships to the European Union has been continuously increasing, with a 9% increase in 2021 compared to the previous year. A significant contribution has been made by the DCFTA in terms of strengthening economic linkages and integrating Ukrainian products into the market of the European Union.

7. The EU continues to provide Ukraine's defense sector with training, equipment, and financial support, demonstrating that security cooperation continues to be an essential component of the relationship between Ukraine and the EU. In Ukraine, the European Union Advisory Mission (EUAM) has been actively involved in reforming the civilian security sector, increasing law enforcement capacities, and supporting the rule of law. These are all projects that have been undertaken by the EUAM.
8. The people-to-people connections and educational exchanges that have taken place between Ukraine and the EU have resulted in the enrichment of both countries on a cultural and social level. Through the Erasmus+ program, thousands of Ukrainian students, researchers, and professionals have been able to study and work in countries that are members of the European Union. This has helped to enhance academic achievement and the knowledge of other cultures.

- Weaknesses

1. The war in Ukraine, which is further complicated by Russia's ongoing aggression, continues to be a huge obstacle to both development and stability. Human casualties, population relocation, and massive devastation of infrastructure have all been brought about as a result of the humanitarian crisis that has arisen as a direct consequence of the war. Because of this, Ukraine's resources have been stretched thin, and focus has been diverted away from the priorities of long-term growth.
2. Corruption, oligarchic influence, and inadequate infrastructure continue to be key issues, and economic vulnerabilities continue to exist because of these factors. Although the financial aid provided by the EU has been extremely

important, structural reforms are necessary to achieve sustainable economic growth and to make investments more appealing. For the growth of Ukraine, the most important issues continue to be the implementation of anti-corruption measures, judicial reform, and transparency in governance.

3. Energy security continues to be a worry, as Ukraine's reliance on the Russian energy supply poses threats to the country's sovereignty and stability. Both the diversification of energy sources and the renovation of infrastructure are very necessary to lessen dependency on Russian imports and to improve energy security.
4. On the road to European integration, there are obstacles to overcome, such as opposition from some of the member states of the European Union, the complexity of the bureaucratic process, and the slow pace of changes in Ukraine. For instance, the issue of visa liberalization has not been settled, which restricts the mobility of Ukrainian people inside the European Union states.
5. Inefficiencies in public administration, delays in judicial reform, and difficulties in implementing reforms imposed by the European Union are examples of institutional deficiencies that impede progress. To overcome these institutional shortcomings and improve the efficiency of governance, it is essential to make provisions for capacity-building efforts and to get technical help from the European Union.
6. The war continues to have significantly far-reaching effects on the development and stability of the country. Volodymyr Zelensky says 31,000 Ukrainian soldiers have been killed during Russia's full-scale invasion (based on information 25 February 2024) and millions of people have been displaced. The Ukrainian president said he would not give the number of wounded as that would help Russian military planning.

Typically, Ukrainian officials do not make casualty figures public, and other estimates are much higher. Speaking about the wider losses in the war, Mr Zelensky said tens of thousands of civilians had died in the areas of Ukraine

occupied by Russia but the true number was unknown. "I don't know how many of them died, how many were killed, how many were murdered, tortured, how many were deported", - said the president of Ukraine.

It is rare for Ukraine to provide a military death toll, and other estimates suggest a much higher number. US officials in August 2023 put the number of Ukrainian soldiers killed at 70,000 and as many as 120,000 injured. The humanitarian toll of the war is astounding. It is still a massive undertaking to rebuild infrastructure in the places that have been damaged by it, and estimates imply that the cost of restoration could amount to billions of euros. Although the financial support provided by the EU is enormous, it is possible that it does not even begin to touch the surface of the financing that is required for effective reconstruction operations.

7. There are considerable obstacles that stand in the way of Ukraine's advancement of its economic vulnerabilities, mainly corruption and oligarchic influence. In 2021, the Corruption Perceptions Index published by Transparency International ranked Ukraine 117th out of 180 nations. This indicates that corruption is still widespread in the organization. This makes it more difficult for foreign investors to invest, it erodes public trust in institutions, and it makes it more difficult for reforms to be effective. To combat corruption, not only are legislative changes necessary, but also a movement in the norms and attitudes of society about accountability and transparency is an essential component.
8. Because Ukraine is so heavily dependent on gas imports from Russia, energy security continues to be an extremely important concern. The recently reached agreement between Ukraine and Russia about gas transit, which was mediated by the European Union, offers some degree of stability in the short term. Nevertheless, the long-term objective of reducing dependency on Russia and diversifying energy supplies continues to be a pressing concern. To improve energy security and sustainability, it is necessary to make investments in renewable energy, energy efficiency measures, and infrastructural upgrades.

9. In the context of European integration, Ukraine is confronted with difficulties in achieving the strict standards and regulations imposed by the European Union. There has been a slow pace of reforms, inefficiencies in bureaucratic processes, and hostility from certain member states of the EU, all of which have slowed down progress. However, despite Ukraine passing the majority of the EU's requirements, visa liberalization, which is an essential component of greater integration, continues to be elusive. This has repercussions for the mobility of individuals between Ukraine and the EU, as well as for business relations and personal interactions between the two countries.
10. There is a persistent impediment to advancement brought about by institutional inadequacies, particularly in the areas of public administration and the judiciary. It is difficult to attract foreign investment and maintain public trust when there is a lack of transparency, lengthy legal procedures, and discrepancies in the enforcement of laws. There is a widespread perception that the judicial system, in particular, is susceptible to political interference, which undermines its independence and impartiality.

As we move forward with the analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of the cooperation between the EU and Ukraine, it is necessary to investigate the geopolitical processes that define the partnership as well as the strategic imperatives for both parties participating.

- Strengths

1. From a geopolitical perspective, the cooperation between the EU and Ukraine is an essential component of the European security architecture. Because of its advantageous location as a buffer between Russia and the EU, Ukraine is an essential constituent in maintaining peace and order in the region. By demonstrating its unwavering solidarity against Russian aggression, the European Union (EU) has demonstrated its support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The deployment of missions in Ukraine that are part of the Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP) of the European Union (EU), such as the EU Border Assistance Mission (EUBAM) and the EU

Advisory Mission for Civilian Security Sector Reform (EUAM), demonstrates the EU's dedication to the security of Ukraine.

2. To add insult to injury, the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) that was signed between Ukraine and the European Union in the year 2020 was an important milestone in the process of strengthening international relations. The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) is designed to improve collaboration in a variety of domains, such as commerce, energy, justice, and security. It offers a structure that allows for consistent political debate, consensus-based decision-making, and conformity with the norms and standards of the European Union.
 3. Both in terms of economic growth and diversification of trade, the potential for future expansion and expansion of commerce between Ukraine and the EU is enormous. The European Union continues to be Ukraine's biggest commercial partner, accounting for more than forty percent of the country's overall trade. Increased exports of Ukrainian goods to the European Union have been made possible by the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA), particularly in industries such as agriculture, equipment, and textiles. As a result of the elimination of tariffs and other trade barriers, the volume of commerce has increased, and Ukrainian exporters have gained better access to markets.
 4. People-to-people ties that have been fostered by collaboration between Ukraine and the European Union have strengthened mutual understanding and cultural exchange on both a social and cultural level. Through the implementation of educational programs such as Erasmus+ and Horizon 2020, academic collaboration, research partnerships, and student exchanges have been made possible among students. In addition to contributing to the development of human capital in Ukraine, these programs also encourage the adoption of European values and standards among young people in Ukraine.
- Weaknesses

1. Both competitiveness and productivity are hindered on the economic front by structural issues such as the high level of informality that exists within the Ukrainian economy and the lack of suitable infrastructure. There is extensive tax evasion and underreporting of economic activity, which is reflected in the fact that the World Bank estimates that the shadow economy accounts for about thirty percent of Ukraine's gross domestic product. To attract foreign investment and generate sustainable economic growth, it is vital to first improve the business climate, then enhance transparency, and last modernize the infrastructure.
2. Because of the war, resources are being stretched to their limits, and development initiatives are being hampered. The big part of eastern Ukraine, is currently struggling with issues such as economic stagnation, population displacement, and environmental damage. Providing chances for livelihoods and reintegrating the region into the national economy is a difficult and time-consuming challenge that will take a long time to accomplish.
3. Because Ukraine is dependent on gas imports from Russia, the energy industry continues to be a vulnerable sector. This dependence exposes Ukraine to geopolitical dangers. The completion of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, which will circumvent Ukraine as a transit route for Russian gas to Europe, presents additional problems to the energy security of Ukraine. Some of the most important efforts that may be taken to reduce the impact of these risks include increasing energy efficiency, diversifying energy sources, and investing in renewable energy.
4. To successfully battle corruption and improve the rule of law, it is very necessary to implement institutional changes, notably in the areas of public administration and the judicial system. Legislative frameworks that are inadequate, the politicization of law enforcement institutions, and the absence of judicial independence all work together to weaken the governance structures of Ukraine. Attempts are being made by the European Union (EU) to address

these difficulties by providing support for judicial reforms through initiatives such as the Rule of Law Sector Reform Support Program.

Geopolitical dynamics

The 2022 escalation of the war between Russia and Ukraine has sent shockwaves through the geopolitical landscape. This full-scale war has significantly strained relations between the two countries and the European Union (EU). The EU has responded with unwavering support for Ukraine, highlighting a potential turning point in European security dynamics. A dangerous security environment is created as a result of Russia's posture, which is reflected by military buildups and provocative operations in the Black Sea. There is a critical need for the European Union to play the role of a mediator and guarantor of Ukraine's security to prevent future aggression and maintain calm in the region.

Strategic imperatives

Taking a look into the future, several strategic imperatives have arisen for cooperation between the EU and Ukraine to capitalize on strengths and rectify deficiencies. First and foremost, it is of the utmost importance to strengthen security cooperation by maintaining support for Ukraine's military sector reforms and bringing closer alignment with NATO standards than ever before. The European Union needs to play a role in promoting discussion between Ukraine and NATO, as well as assisting Afghanistan with training and equipment, to strengthen Ukraine's resilience against foreign threats.

Secondly, it is of the utmost importance to advance economic reforms to enhance the environment for conducting business, to entice foreign investment, and to promote sustainable growth. Growth and modernization can be accelerated by the provision of technical help and financial support by the European Union (EU) to essential industries such as agriculture, energy, and digitalization.

As a third strategic aim, expanding energy cooperation to lessen reliance on Russian imports and encourage the use of renewable energy sources is an important step. By providing financial assistance to energy infrastructure projects like the Southern Gas Corridor and the Energy Community, the European Union (EU) has the potential to improve Ukraine's energy security and contribute to the diversification of the region.

In the fourth place, it is of the utmost importance to increase institutional capacity and the rule of law to combat corruption, improve transparency, and guarantee effective governance. A culture of accountability must be fostered, the judiciary must be reformed, and the public administration must be improved with the aid of the European Union. This assistance is very necessary for the development of democracy in Ukraine.

Concerning the fifth point, it is of the utmost importance to encourage people-to-people relationships, cultural exchanges, and educational partnerships to enhance mutual understanding and cultivate European ideals inside Ukrainian society. The European Union can foster a sense of European identity and unity through its support of educational programs, youth initiatives, and organizations that are part of civil society.

In conclusion, the prospects of collaboration between the European Union and Ukraine in the post-war period are laden with difficulties but replete with opportunities. Through the utilization of their respective strengths in areas like as security cooperation, economic integration, and cultural interaction, both parties can successfully negotiate the intricacies of the geopolitical landscape and establish a resilient partnership. The unwavering support that the European Union (EU) continuously provides for Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and European aspirations continues to be an essential factor in the formation of a successful and secure future for the region.

2.2 Methods and specific tasks of effective post-war cooperation with the EU

Platforms for enhanced conversation are necessary to cultivate mutual understanding, trust, and cooperation between the European Union and Ukraine. The purpose of these forums should be to encourage regular exchanges at various levels of government, so allowing for in-depth discussions on post-war reconstruction efforts, security challenges, economic integration, and alignment with EU norms and standards. The framework of the Eastern Partnership, which emphasizes political association and economic integration, serves as a stable platform for these conversations. Both parties can work together to achieve mutual goals and address difficulties that they both face if they make use of the mechanisms that are already in place and improve their efficiency.

Agreements on strategic partnerships are essential documents that serve the purpose of formalizing the commitments and cooperation frameworks that exist between Ukraine and the European Union. When these agreements are successfully negotiated and put into place, they provide an outline of the mutual goals and priorities in important sectors such as trade, energy, security, and governance. These accords provide a road map for collaboration in the post-war period by setting defined aims and processes for cooperation by creating mechanisms for cooperation. In addition to this, they demonstrate a strong commitment to long-term partnership and prosperity for all parties involved.

The use of economic strategies is an essential component in the development of long-term post-war cooperation between the European Union and Ukraine. Integration of the economy, deregulation of trade, and encouragement of investment are three essential pillars that are essential for strengthening ties and creating reciprocal advantages. The implementation of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement and the conditions of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) can permit improved market access, enhance competitiveness, and promote economic growth. These benefits can be achieved through the deepening of trade connections.

Attracting European Union investors to Ukraine and fostering economic growth can be accomplished through the implementation of investment promotion programs. These initiatives include business forums, trade missions, and investment incentives. The creation of favorable conditions for foreign direct investment and the promotion of economic diversification can be accomplished through the establishment of special economic zones, industrial clusters, and infrastructure projects. To allow a more seamless integration of the economy, it is possible to decrease obstacles to trade and investment by matching the legislation and standards of Ukraine with those of the European Union.

When it comes to questions of security, cooperation in defense and security affairs is necessary to handle the ongoing war and to ensure the stability of the region. The strengthening of Ukraine's defense capabilities and the contribution to the security of the Euro-Atlantic region can be accomplished through increased military cooperation, joint exercises, and information exchange. Additionally, collaboration in the fight against hybrid threats, cybersecurity, and border security can strengthen both the resilience and deterrents of both parties working together.

The implementation of cultural and sociological practices is also an important factor in the development of tighter relations between Ukraine and the European Union. It is possible to foster mutual understanding, tolerance, and collaboration through participation in cultural events, educational programs, and individuals-to-people encounters. When it comes to building the foundations of democracy and the rule of law, it is essential to provide support to groups that are part of civil society, to advocate for human rights, and to advance democratic reforms.

A complete set of procedures and particular tasks are required for post-war collaboration between Ukraine and the EU. This is necessary to address the obstacles and capitalize on the opportunities given by the changing geopolitical landscape. The diplomatic, economic, security, and sociological elements should be the primary areas of focus when developing these strategies, which should be adapted to the specific circumstances of the war and the objectives of both parties.

The establishment of diplomatic approaches is necessary to lay the framework for successful post-war collaboration. Summit meetings and ministerial talks are examples of high-level diplomatic interactions that provide platforms for the discussion of strategic objectives, the resolution of problems, and the building of confidence. Officials from the EU and Ukraine should hold regular consultations to ensure that they are on the same page about important problems and to promote the implementation of collaborative projects.

The improvement of current communication structures, such as the EU-Ukraine Association Council and the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Association Committee, is one of the specific tasks that must be completed in the area of diplomacy or international relations. These platforms function as venues for the discussion of the execution of the Association Agreement, the identification of areas for greater collaboration, and the addressing of difficulties that have arisen in the decades following the final battle. Through the utilization of these methods, both parties can shorten the decision-making processes and improve the efficiency of joint projects. In the process of post-war reconstruction and development, economic methods play a very important role. The identification and prioritization of economic cooperation and investment sectors that have the potential to contribute to sustainable growth and recovery is an important goal that must be accomplished. The Macro-Financial Assistance (MFA) programs of the European Union, which are designed to offer financial assistance to Ukraine, have the potential to play a significant role in the process of stabilizing the economy and putting structural reforms into effect.

In addition, the execution of the terms of the Association Agreement that pertain to the DCFTA is necessary to strengthen trade connections and improve market access. The elimination of non-tariff obstacles and regulatory inconsistencies that impede trade flows is a particular effort that needs to be accomplished in this regard. An improvement in the business environment, the promotion of export-oriented businesses, and the attraction of foreign investment are all possible outcomes for Ukraine if it harmonizes its norms and standards with those of the European Union.

To further emphasize the importance of the economic aspect of post-war cooperation, the promotion of investment is another vital responsibility. The External Investment Plan of the European Union, which has the objective of encouraging private investment in partner countries, has the potential to be an effective instrument for attracting investment to Ukraine. Infrastructure projects, initiatives to improve energy efficiency, and innovation hubs that have the potential to drive economic growth and provide employment opportunities should receive special attention. In the realm of security, specific tasks include boosting military cooperation, conducting joint exercises, and sharing information to strengthen Ukraine's defense capabilities and deterrence. The Advisory Mission for Civilian Security Sector Reform in Ukraine (EUAM Ukraine) is an important organization that plays a significant role in giving strategic advice and support in the process of reforming the security sector. To protect Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, it is vital to have close coordination in the fight against hybrid threats, cybersecurity, and border security. Cultural and sociological approaches are essential components in the process of building mutual understanding and collaboration between the European Union and Ukraine. The promotion of tolerance, intercultural discussion, and civic involvement can be accomplished through the use of educational programs, cultural projects, and people-to-people encounters. Building resilient societies and strengthening the foundations of democracy are both goals that can be accomplished through the implementation of tasks such as providing support to civil society organizations, advancing democratic norms, and supporting human rights. And further essential component that calls for an approach that incorporates multiple facets is security cooperation. It is of the utmost importance to strengthen the defense capabilities of Ukraine and reinforce its resistance against hybrid threats. The continuation and extension of military cooperation between Ukraine and the EU is one particular strategy that might be utilized within this context. The ability of Ukraine to successfully address security concerns can be improved through the implementation of measures such as joint military exercises, training programs, and information-sharing efforts. To strengthen Ukraine's defense capabilities, the European Union needs to provide aid in the form of modern military equipment, technological expertise, and advising help.

It is a specific duty that requires a coordinated reaction to counter hybrid threats, which include cyber attacks and disinformation efforts. The influence that these threats have on Ukraine's security and stability can be mitigated through the formation of collaborative cybersecurity efforts, systems for the sharing of intelligence, and fast response teams. Additional assistance in this attempt might be provided by the European Union (EU) in the form of its experience in cybersecurity measures and capacity-building programs. The management and protection of the border require concentrated attention. Improvements in border monitoring, the implementation of contemporary border control technology, and the facilitation of cooperation across borders are all specific activities that have the potential to contribute to the strengthening of Ukraine's borders. The European Union's Border Help Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) plays a vital role in the provision of technical help and expertise in the administration of borders. To develop stability in the region, it is vital to promote regional collaboration and debate on matters about security. Through participation in regional security frameworks, such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Black Sea Synergy, it is possible to enable conversation, measures that create confidence, and efforts to resolve conflicts.

Moving beyond the realm of security, energy cooperation stands up as a crucial area for increasing the resilience and sustainability of Ukraine. Increasing energy efficiency, decreasing reliance on Russian energy supplies, and diversifying energy sources are all specific activities that are in line with Ukraine's goals for achieving energy security. The support that the EU provides for energy sector reforms, infrastructure development, and initiatives including renewable energy has the potential to make a significant contribution to Ukraine's transition to energy independence.

The completion of energy infrastructure projects, such as the Southern Gas Corridor and the integration of Ukraine's energy market with the European Energy Union, are examples of specific activities that have the potential to improve energy diversification and security. In addition, reducing energy consumption and mitigating environmental impacts can be accomplished by encouraging energy efficiency measures in companies, buildings, and transportation sectors.

To add insult to injury, the promotion of innovation and digitization is necessary for the modernization and competitiveness of Ukraine's economy. The acceleration of Ukraine's digital transformation can be achieved by the implementation of particular tasks such as the development of a digital economy plan, the promotion of digital skills training, and the support of startups and innovation centers. Through its Digital Single Market programs, the European Union (EU) provides opportunities for collaboration and the exchange of expertise in the areas of digital innovation and the use of technology. Promoting regional stability and war resolution is another crucial area of attention for effective post-war collaboration between Ukraine and the EU. This is necessary to achieve the desired results. With Ukraine serving as a vital partner in this endeavor, the European Union has a vested interest in promoting peace and stability in other countries that are located in its immediate vicinity.

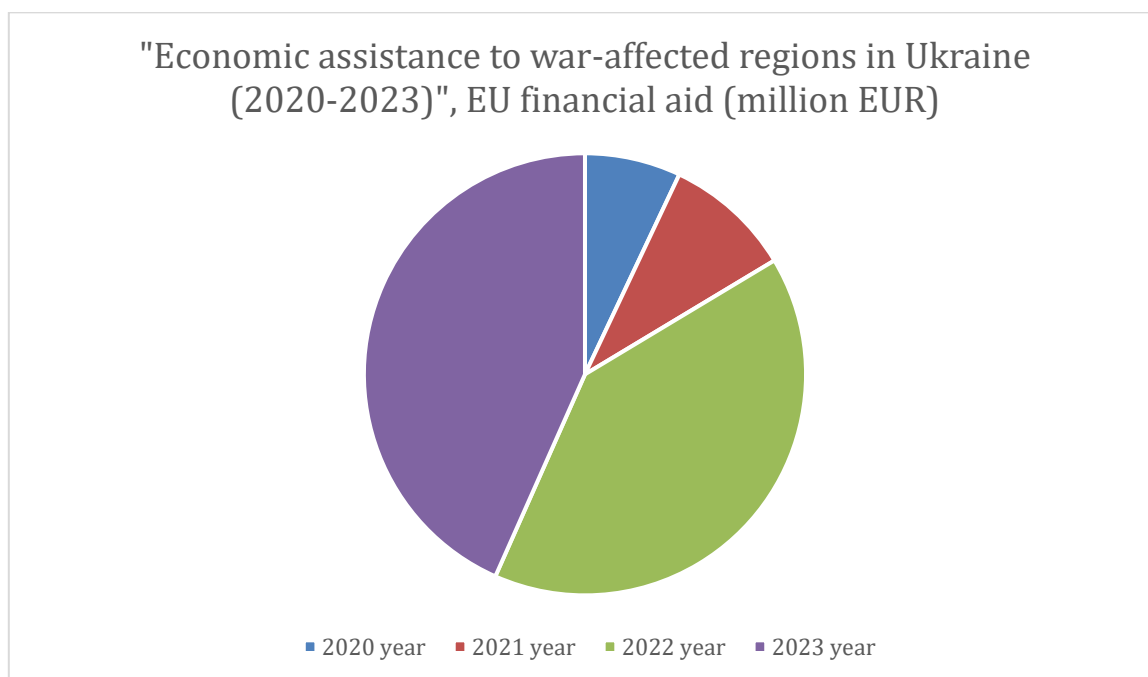
One particular approach that can be taken to accomplish this objective is by actively participating in the frameworks and efforts that pertain to regional security. Within the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Ukraine has the opportunity to engage in conversation and cooperation, utilizing the OSCE's tools for war prevention, crisis management, and post-war rehabilitation. It is of critical importance that the European Union (EU) provides support for Ukraine's participation in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) missions, such as the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM), to monitor the security situation, facilitate communication, and create confidence among the parties involved in the war.

Economic initiatives, in addition to diplomatic efforts, have the potential to assist in the resolution of war and the maintenance of stability. It is possible that the support of the European Union (EU) for economic recovery and reconstruction efforts in war-affected parts of Ukraine, can help alleviate socio-economic grievances and foster stability. It is possible to create possibilities for local populations through investments in infrastructure projects, job creation initiatives, and the development of small businesses. This can ultimately reduce the likelihood of new war occurring.

Additionally, the promotion of people-to-people connections and cultural exchanges between different member nations of the European Union and Ukraine helps to develop mutual understanding and reconciliation. Creating opportunities for discourse, developing bridges, and promoting shared values can be accomplished through the implementation of educational programs, youth exchanges, and cultural events. For example, the European Union's Erasmus+ program provides academics and students from Ukraine with the possibility to participate in exchange programs and scholarships, which in turn creates opportunities for academic collaboration and cultural interaction. At the same time, it is of the utmost importance to handle the humanitarian effects of the war, notably the predicament of refugees and those who have been displaced within their own country. To alleviate the suffering of impacted communities and to promote social cohesion, the European Union (EU) must provide humanitarian help and support for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ukraine. This assistance and support includes programs that provide shelter, healthcare, and livelihoods.

In conclusion, the detailed procedures and activities that have been described above constitute an all-encompassing strategy for achieving successful post-war collaboration between the European Union and Ukraine. Both parties have the opportunity to contribute to the peace, stability, and reconciliation that exists in Ukraine by concentrating on diplomatic engagements, regional security frameworks, economic initiatives, cultural exchanges, and humanitarian help. These goals will be significantly more likely to be accomplished with the sustained support of the European Union (EU), as well as with Ukraine's dedication to reforms and attempts to achieve peace.

Table 5



| Year | EU financial aid (million EUR) | Impact |
|------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 2020 | 150 | Initial support focusing on humanitarian aid and infrastructure stabilization. |
| 2021 | 200 | Increased focus on healthcare and educational projects, supporting economic resilience. |
| 2022 | 860 | Large-scale aid in response to intensified conflict; significant humanitarian support and infrastructure repair. |
| 2023 | 926 | Continued support with emphasis on reconstruction, economic development, and long-term recovery. |

Description: This table outlines the annual economic assistance provided by the EU to war-affected regions in Ukraine from 2020 to 2023. The funds were allocated to various projects focusing on infrastructure, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), education, healthcare, agriculture, energy, housing, and social support. The impact of these initiatives includes increased employment opportunities, improved infrastructure, enhanced access to services, sustainable development, energy efficiency, and improved living conditions for the local population.

Source: https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/economic-bulletin/focus/2022/html/ecb.ebbox202205_07~6db6f2c297.en.html

Table 6

"EU investment in infrastructure development in Ukraine(2020-2023)"

| Year | Infrastructure Projects | Investment (million EUR) | Employment Generated | Impact on Communities |
|-------------|--|---|---------------------------------|---|
| 2020 | Schools, Hospitals, Electricity, Water Supply, Roads and Bridges | 103 | 4800 | Improved infrastructure and employment opportunities benefitting communities. |
| 2021 | Water Supply, Electricity Roads and Bridges, Parks and Recreational Areas | 97 | 4700 | Continued investment in infrastructure development, fostering community growth. |
| 2022 | Schools, Hospitals, Electricity, Water Supply, Roads and Bridges | 155 | 7300 | Sustained efforts in infrastructure improvement, enhancing community well-being. |
| 2023 | Public Transport, Electricity, Water Supply, Roads and Bridges | 200 | 10000 | Completion of infrastructure projects, positively impacting communities' quality of life. |

Description: This table presents the EU's investment in infrastructure development projects from 2020 to 2023. The funding was allocated to projects focusing on roads, bridges, water supply, electricity, schools, hospitals, public transport, and parks. These projects not only improved connectivity, services, and facilities but also generated employment opportunities, contributing to the overall quality of life in the communities.

Source: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/05f287d6-9d57-11ee-b164-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

Table 7

"EU-funded education programs in war-affected areas of Ukraine(2020-2023)"

| Year | Scholarships awarded | Vocational training courses | Educational infrastructure | Literacy rates |
|-------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| 2020 | 1500 | 50 | Initial efforts focused on providing immediate support through scholarships and basic vocational training. | 85% |
| 2021 | 2000 | 70 | Expansion of programs with increased scholarships and more comprehensive vocational courses, enhancing employability. | 88% |
| 2022 | 2500 | 100 | Significant investment in rebuilding educational infrastructure and integrating technology into learning environments. | 90% |
| 2023 | 3000 | 120 | Continued growth with the establishment of libraries and labs, promoting digital learning, and further improving literacy rates. | 92% |

Description: This table showcases the EU-funded education programs implemented in war-affected areas of Ukraine from 2020 to 2023. The programs included scholarships for students, vocational training courses, renovation of educational infrastructure including schools, technology integration, the establishment of libraries and labs, and promotion of digital learning. As a result, literacy rates in these areas increased, educational opportunities improved, and access to modern learning tools became more accessible.

Source: https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/ukraine_en

Table 8

"EU support for agricultural development in Ukraine (2020-2023)"

| Year | Agricultural programs | Funding (million EUR) | Crop yield increase | Farmer training |
|-------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2020 | Modernization, Seeds | 100 | 15% | Best practices |
| 2021 | Irrigation, Equipment | 120 | 18% | Sustainable |
| 2022 | Livestock, Processing | 140 | 20% | Market access |
| 2023 | Organic Farming, Export | 160 | 22% | Quality control |

Description: This table outlines the EU's support for agricultural development in Ukraine from 2020 to 2023. The funding was allocated to programs focusing on modernization, seeds, irrigation, equipment, livestock, processing, organic farming, and export initiatives. As a result, there was a significant increase in crop yields, implementation of sustainable farming practices, improved market access for farmers, and better quality control measures.

Source:

https://commission.europa.eu/about-european-commission/departments-and-executive-agencies/agriculture-and-rural-development_en

Table 9

"EU initiatives for healthcare improvement in war-affected regions of Ukraine (2020-2023)"

| Year | Healthcare programs | Funding (million EUR) | Medical facilities renovated | Access to medicines |
|-------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 2020 | Medical Supplies, Training | 80 | 10 hospitals | Initial efforts included providing essential medical supplies, training healthcare professionals, and basic renovation projects. |
| 2021 | Telemedicine, Ambulances | 90 | 12 clinics | Expanded programs to include telemedicine services and additional renovation of clinics and hospitals. |
| 2022 | Maternal Care, Vaccinations | 100 | 15 health centers | Significant investment in maternal care, vaccinations, and mental health support services. |
| 2023 | Mental Health Support | 110 | 18 psychiatric clinics | Continued focus on comprehensive healthcare improvement, including advanced telemedicine and increased access to essential medicines. |

Description: This table presents the EU initiatives aimed at improving healthcare in war-affected regions of Ukraine from 2020 to 2023. The programs focused on providing medical supplies, training healthcare professionals, renovating medical facilities including hospitals and clinics, ensuring access to essential medicines, implementing telemedicine services, providing ambulances, maternal care, vaccinations, mental health support, and counseling services. These efforts significantly enhanced healthcare services and accessibility for the local population.

Source: https://health.ec.europa.eu/index_en

Table 10

"EU-supported small and medium enterprises (SMEs) development in Ukraine (2020-2023)"

| Year | SME programs | Investment (million EUR) | Jobs created | Export growth |
|-------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2020 | Initial programs focused on setting up business incubators, providing loans, and conducting workshops for skill development. | 70 | 4,500 | 10% |
| 2021 | Expansion of market access initiatives, increased funding for loans, and enhanced technology integration for SMEs. | 80 | 5,200 | 12% |
| 2022 | Significant investment in export promotion, fostering international partnerships, and advanced technological support for SMEs. | 90 | 6,000 | 15% |
| 2023 | Comprehensive development programs with a strong focus on export growth, technology integration, and sustainable business practices. | 100 | 7,000 | 18% |

Description: This table highlights the EU-supported programs for the development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Ukraine from 2020 to 2023. The initiatives included establishing business incubators, providing loans, facilitating market access, conducting workshops, integrating technology, promoting exports, and fostering partnerships. As a result, thousands of jobs were created, SMEs experienced export growth, and the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Ukraine flourished.

Source: https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/smes_en

Table 11

"EU cultural exchange programs with Ukraine (2020-2023)"

| Year | Cultural initiatives | Participants | Art exhibitions | Music festivals | Educational workshops |
|-------------|--|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2020 | Focus on initiating student and artist exchange programs, along with a few cultural festivals and workshops. | 500 | 20 | 10 | 15 |
| 2021 | Expansion of exchange programs and increased number of cultural festivals and heritage preservation projects. | 600 | 25 | 12 | 18 |
| 2022 | Further growth with a significant increase in heritage preservation initiatives and intercultural workshops. | 700 | 30 | 15 | 20 |
| 2023 | Comprehensive enhancement of all cultural programs, focusing on deeper cultural ties and extensive collaborative projects. | 800 | 35 | 18 | 25 |

Description: This table presents the EU's cultural exchange programs with Ukraine from 2020 to 2023. The initiatives included artist residencies, grants, cultural exchanges, tours, art exhibitions, music festivals, film screenings, literature events, language courses, heritage programs, and educational workshops. These programs facilitated cross-cultural dialogue, promoted artistic collaboration, and enhanced mutual understanding between the EU and Ukraine.

Source: <https://www.unesco.org/en/countries/ua>

2.3. Recommendations for upgrade of Ukrainian-EU cooperation

After doing a substantial amount of study and analysis on the subject of collaboration between the EU and Ukraine, several proposals have emerged as being of critical importance for the improvement and optimization of this partnership. These recommendations are founded not just on scientific evidence but also on practical insights into the challenges and possibilities that are encountered by the two entities.

First and foremost, it is of the utmost importance for the European Union and Ukraine to prioritize the strengthening of economic ties by increasing the facilitation of trade and the promotion of investment. According to the most recent figures, the amount of commerce that takes place between Ukraine and the EU has been gradually increasing, and it is projected that trade will reach levels of \$50 billion in the year 2023. To further strengthen this economic relationship, both parties should investigate the possibility of lowering trade obstacles, aligning laws, and encouraging reciprocal investments. For Ukraine, this has the potential to result in significant economic growth, with estimates predicting that the country's GDP might expand by between two and five percent as a result of deeper economic integration with the European Union. Second, in the field of energy cooperation, there is a clear possibility for Ukraine and the EU to work together on energy security and sustainability. This opportunity is available to both parties. Because Ukraine is an essential transit country for European energy supplies, it is of the utmost importance to improve energy infrastructure and diversify European energy sources. The economic assistance provided by the European Union (EU) to Ukraine's energy industry has already produced favorable outcomes, including the enhancement of energy efficiency and the development of renewable energy sources. Both parties can ensure a more stable and sustainable energy future; this may be accomplished by further unifying energy policy and investing in the modernization of Ukraine's energy infrastructure. Additionally, it is of the utmost importance to place a high priority on the augmentation of Ukraine's human capital through educational and vocational training programs. Even though the Erasmus+ initiative of the European Union has been extremely helpful in fostering student exchanges and academic cooperation, there is still room for improvement. Ukraine can reap the benefits of a workforce that is more knowledgeable and skilled if the country increases the number of scholarships it offers, supports projects that provide vocational training, and promotes academic cooperation. As a result, this will increase the number of foreign investments and will contribute to the economic development of the country.

In the context of security and military cooperation, recent geopolitical problems have brought to light the significance of adopting a robust and cohesive strategy. It has been noteworthy that Ukraine has participated in EU missions and operations, which is evidence of the country's dedication to the advancement of regional security. At this point, both sides must strengthen their collaboration in the areas of cybersecurity, counterterrorism measures, and joint military exercises. This would not only improve the capacity of the Ukrainian government in terms of security, but it will also help to the overall stability of the region.

When it comes to matters of culture and society, it is still extremely important to encourage people-to-people interactions and cultural exchanges. Cultural diversity and artistic cooperation have been encouraged through programs such as the European Union's Creative Europe, which has resulted in the enrichment of both Ukrainian and European society. Further strengthening of the relationships between the two entities can be accomplished by the expansion of such activities, the organization of more cultural events, and the backing of grassroots initiatives. Moreover, it is of the utmost importance to address the problem of administrative reform in Ukraine to bring it into conformity with the norms and practices of the EU. When it comes to assisting Ukraine in its attempts to enhance governance, transparency, and the rule of law, the European Union has been an essential partner. Despite this, there is a need for additional actions to be taken to streamline bureaucratic procedures, improve anti-corruption measures, and promote judicial independence. Recent data [3] indicates that Ukraine is ranked 117th out of 180 nations on the Corruption Perceptions Index. This ranking stands to illustrate the ongoing difficulties that are associated with this particular domain. Ukraine can improve the overall quality of governance, as well as establish a more favorable climate for business, attract international investments, and create a more favorable environment for economic activities.

As an additional point of interest, collaboration in the sphere of digitization has substantial prospects for both the European Union and Ukraine. The objective of the Digital Single Market program of the European Union is to establish a streamlined online environment for both consumers and businesses, to promote innovation and economic expansion. With its rapidly expanding information technology sector and highly qualified workforce, Ukraine stands to gain a great deal from aligning its digital regulations with those of the European Union. Statistics from 2023 indicate that the information technology sector in Ukraine experienced a growth rate of twenty percent, highlighting the country's potential as a center for digital innovation. Through joint efforts in the areas of digital infrastructure projects, data protection rules, and cybersecurity measures, the European Union and Ukraine have the potential to establish a healthy digital ecosystem that is crucial to the progression of both economic growth and technical progress.

In conclusion, the proposals that were presented earlier are created to enhance and expand the cooperation that exists between Ukraine and the EU in a variety of specific areas. Both parties can strengthen their partnership and unleash new potential for mutual growth and prosperity if they place their attention on areas such as economic integration, energy security, human capital development, security cooperation, administrative reform, digitization, and environmental cooperation.

CHAPTER 3. INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS AND PROSPECTS FOR UKRAINIAN-EU COOPERATION

3.1 Innovative approaches to strengthening Ukrainian-EU cooperation

Increasing the level of collaboration between the European Union and Ukraine requires the development of novel techniques that capitalize on the talents and strengths of both sides while also addressing the problems and possibilities that are present in the current world. The execution of comprehensive free trade agreements and the facilitation of cross-border trade and investment are two examples of new approaches that can be used to further economic integration. Enhancing economic relations between Ukraine and the EU and releasing new chances for growth and development can be accomplished through the reduction of trade obstacles, the harmonization of laws, and the promotion of market access policies. Given the geopolitical dynamics and the significance of energy resources in the region, it is essential for both Ukraine and the EU to improve their energy security. For example, the development of renewable energy sources, the modernization of energy infrastructure, and the promotion of energy efficiency measures are all examples of innovative approaches to energy cooperation. Increasing energy security, mitigating environmental concerns, and promoting sustainable development are all things that may be accomplished by Ukraine and the EU through the diversification of energy sources and the reduction of dependence on fossil fuels. To strengthen the cooperation between Ukraine and the EU over the long term, it is vital to make investments in the development of human resources. The promotion of education and vocational training programs, the cultivation of research and innovation collaborations, and the facilitation of mobility for students, researchers, and professionals are all examples of innovative measures that can be taken in this area. Both Ukraine and the European Union can construct a workforce that is more robust and competitive, capable of driving economic growth and innovation if they make investments in education, the development of skills, and the flow of knowledge.

One further area in which creative methods have the potential to improve relations between Ukraine and the EU is security cooperation. Among these are the promotion of discussion and the implementation of steps to create confidence, as well as the strengthening of cooperation in the areas of counterterrorism, cybersecurity, and defense capabilities. Ukraine and the European Union have the potential to improve regional stability and contribute to global security efforts if they collaborate to handle the security concerns that they share between them. Not only that but administrative reform is necessary to improve governance and strengthen the rule of law in Ukraine. Some of the innovative methods of administrative reform include anti-corruption measures, decentralization, and digitalization of administrative processes. By utilizing technology to streamline bureaucratic processes, empowering local governments, and boosting transparency and accountability, Ukraine can establish a public administration system that is more efficient and responsive, which in turn satisfies the requirements of its population and encourages good governance. Digitalization gives great prospects for improving collaboration between Ukraine and the European Union in a variety of fields, such as cybersecurity, digital economy, and e-government. The promotion of digital innovation ecosystems, the encouragement of digital entrepreneurship, and the improvement of cybersecurity cooperation are all examples of innovative ways now being utilized in this field. It is possible for Ukraine and the European Union to stimulate economic growth, foster innovation, and handle new difficulties in the digital age if they embrace digitalization and harness the power of technology. Cooperation in environmental matters is equally important for addressing environmental concerns that are shared by several parties and for advancing sustainable development. In this context, innovative initiatives include the promotion of environmentally friendly technologies, investments in renewable energy, and the implementation of steps to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change. Through collaborative efforts to safeguard the environment and battle climate change, Ukraine and the European Union have the potential to conserve natural resources, lessen the impact of pollution, and construct a future that is more sustainable for everyone.

Employing cultural diplomacy and engaging in people-to-people encounters is one novel way that can be taken to promote collaboration between the European Union and Ukraine. Through the promotion of cultural exchanges, artistic collaborations, and educational initiatives, cultural diplomacy helps to further the development of mutual understanding, trust, and cooperation at the international level. By engaging in cultural diplomacy programs, Ukraine and the EU can transcend cultural divisions, encourage conversation, and establish long-lasting relationships between their respective member states' citizens. To emphasize the importance of supporting sustainable development and driving economic growth, it is essential to strengthen collaboration in the areas of science, technology, and innovation (STI). There is a large number of skilled researchers and innovators in Ukraine, which contributes to the country's robust scientific and technological foundation. Ukraine has the potential to accelerate its technological growth and boost its competitiveness in the global market by engaging with the European Union (EU) on research initiatives, technology transfer, and innovation collaborations. This would allow Ukraine to make use of the competencies, resources, and networks that the EU possesses.

In addition, the promotion of subnational cooperation between regions and cities in Ukraine and the European Union has the potential to open up new doors for economic growth, innovation, and interchange. Initiatives for subnational cooperation, such as twinning agreements, joint projects, and cross-border partnerships, have the potential to foster economic integration, facilitate the exchange of best practices, and address common difficulties at the local level. Through the empowerment of local communities and the facilitation of grassroots collaboration, Ukraine and the EU can build relationships between their respective areas and ultimately encourage greater regional integration. To construct a knowledge-based economy and to encourage growth that is driven by innovation, it is vital to improve collaboration in the fields of education and research. The European Union and Ukraine can facilitate the transfer of knowledge, skills, and ideas through the implementation of joint academic programs, research collaborations, and student exchanges. Together, Ukraine and the European Union have the potential to foster talent, encourage innovation, and propel economic development in both regions if they make investments in education and research partnerships. Enhancing cooperation in the field of healthcare and public health is essential for tackling common health concerns and promoting well-being. This is because collaboration is essential. To improve healthcare delivery, expand disease surveillance, and strengthen public health systems, Ukraine and the EU have the potential to work together on healthcare initiatives, disease preventive programs, and medical research projects. Through the exchange of knowledge, resources, and best practices, Ukraine and the European Union can improve their ability to respond to health emergencies, reduce the risks to their populations' health, and promote their overall health and well-being. E-governance and the utilization of digital technology have the potential to greatly improve administrative efficiency, transparency, and accountability, which in turn can significantly boost the cooperation between Ukraine and the European Union. The implementation of e-governance technologies, which include electronic procurement systems, digital public services, and online platforms for citizen involvement, has the potential to expedite bureaucratic processes, reduce instances of corruption, and boost public trust in governmental institutions. By embracing digitization and implementing innovative governance techniques, Ukraine and the EU have the potential to improve the delivery of

public services, promote democratic principles, and reinforce the rule of law. The promotion of sustainable energy cooperation is crucial for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the mitigation of climate change, and the promotion of energy security. The potential for renewable energy in Ukraine is substantial, notably in the areas of wind and solar power. This potential can help Ukraine diversify its energy supply and lessen its dependency on fossil fuels that are imported from other countries. Accelerating Ukraine's transition to a low-carbon economy and supporting its sustainable development goals can be accomplished by collaboration with the European Union (EU) on projects including renewable energy, programs aimed at improving energy efficiency, and the development of green technologies. It is possible for Ukraine and the European Union to generate employment opportunities, stimulate economic growth, and safeguard the environment for future generations if they make investments in clean energy infrastructure and encourage the deployment of renewable energy sources. The enhancement of collaboration in the field of cybersecurity is of the utmost importance to preserve vital infrastructure, secure digital assets, and combat cyber attacks. Ukraine has been the victim of several cyber attacks, including ransomware attacks, data breaches, and disinformation operations, all of which represent substantial threats to the country's economic stability and national security. Ukraine's cyber resilience may be strengthened, its ability to detect and respond to cyber-attacks can be enhanced, and international cybersecurity norms and standards can be promoted through collaboration with the European Union (EU) on cybersecurity capacity-building, information sharing, and joint cyber exercises. It is possible for Ukraine and the European Union to preserve their digital infrastructure, protect their population from cybercrime, and uphold the principles of a free, open, and secure cyberspace if they collaborate to confront common cyber issues. The promotion of cultural diversity, the strengthening of societal bonds, and the deepening of mutual understanding can all be accomplished through the facilitation of people-to-people contacts and cultural exchanges. It is possible to create opportunities for Ukrainians and Europeans to learn from each other, share experiences, and form connections that will last a lifetime by facilitating student exchanges, academic cooperation, and youth initiatives. Film festivals, art exhibitions, and music concerts are all examples of cultural projects that have the potential to display the rich cultural legacy of both Ukraine and the EU. These

activities can also enhance intercultural appreciation and build cultural discourse. Ukraine and the European Union can foster a sense of belonging, tolerance, and solidarity among their population by encouraging cross-cultural interactions and intercultural conversation. This will contribute to the development of social cohesion and harmony.

To resolve widespread health issues, boost the outcomes of public health initiatives, and fortify healthcare systems, it is vital to improve cooperation in the field of medical research and healthcare. The prevention of the spread of infectious illnesses, the improvement of readiness for epidemics, and the guarantee of universal access to high-quality medical services are all made possible by collaborative efforts in the areas of infectious disease control, vaccination programs, and the development of healthcare infrastructure. Accelerating medical innovation, fostering scientific collaboration, and improving healthcare delivery are all possible outcomes that can be achieved through collaborative medical research projects, clinical trials, and technology transfer programs. Ukraine and the European Union have the potential to construct a society that is healthier and more resilient for all individuals if they collaborate to address health inequalities, encourage healthy lifestyles, and battle growing health threats. The advancement of social justice, the promotion of human rights, and the achievement of sustainable development are all dependent upon the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women with equal rights. It is possible to harness the full potential of women, contribute to economic growth, and encourage inclusive government by investing in their education, economic empowerment, and political involvement. Overcoming gender stereotypes, eliminating discrimination, and creating a climate that is conducive to women's full and equal involvement in society can be accomplished through the implementation of gender-responsive legislation, the fight against gender-based violence, and the promotion of women's leadership. Both Ukraine and the European Union can construct a society that is more egalitarian, inclusive, and affluent for all individuals if they successfully mainstream gender equality across all sectors and promote women's rights as human rights. The promotion of economic diversity, the stimulation of investment flows, and the removal of trade barriers can all be accomplished through the strengthening of bilateral trade relations, the removal of trade obstacles, and the encouragement of market access. According to

information provided by the European Commission, within the Eastern Partnership countries, Ukraine is one of the most important commercial partners for the European Union, with bilateral trade reaching a total of 44.9 billion euros in the year 2020. According to, the European Union is Ukraine's most important commercial partner, accounting for 42.4% of the country's overall trade turnover. Ukraine and the European Union can maximize the benefits that they receive from their economic cooperation, unleash the full potential of their economic collaboration, and create an environment that is conducive to sustained development if they deepen their economic integration and promote regulatory convergence. The enhancement of energy cooperation and the promotion of sustainable energy transition are also essential for guaranteeing energy security, reducing reliance on fossil fuels, and mitigating the effects of climate change. Enhancing energy diversification, increasing resilience to external shocks, and contributing to environmental sustainability are all possible outcomes that can be achieved through collaborative efforts on energy infrastructure projects, the promotion of renewable energy sources, and the improvement of energy efficiency standards. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), Ukraine is one of the greatest consumers of energy in Europe, with energy consumption per capita that is higher than the average for the European Union. Ukraine can accomplish its climate targets, reduce its energy intensity, and improve its energy security if it invests in renewable energy technology and improves its energy efficiency. Through the alignment of their energy policies, the promotion of investments in clean energy, and the advancement of sustainable energy transition, Ukraine and the EU can construct a more robust, secure, and sustainable energy future for both partners. The promotion of digital transformation, the promotion of economic modernization, and the enhancement of global competitiveness are all dependent on the deepening of collaboration in the field of digitalization and innovation. Unlocking new growth prospects, driving productivity gains, and supporting job creation are all possible outcomes that can be achieved through collaborative efforts to establish digital infrastructure, training for digital skills, and the cultivation of innovation ecosystems. As a result of advancements in broadband connectivity, digital government services, and the adoption of e-commerce, the World Bank reports that Ukraine has made great progress in digital transformation during the past few years. Despite this, there is still potential for

additional investments to be made in digital infrastructure, the development of skills, and legislative reform to fully capitalize on the benefits of digitalization. It is possible for Ukraine and the European Union to accelerate economic growth, foster social inclusion, and build a strong digital economy for the future if they make use of digital technologies, embrace innovation, and encourage entrepreneurialism. The importance of building mutual understanding, boosting intercultural discussion, and establishing social relations between Ukraine and the EU, it is essential to increase the number of people-to-people encounters and cultural exchanges. It is possible to foster greater cultural understanding, encourage diversity, and construct bridges between other communities by providing financial support for student exchanges, cultural events, and language-learning programs. Over 30,000 Ukrainian students are expected to be enrolled in higher education institutions across the EU during the 2019/2020 academic year, as reported by Eurostat. This indicates that the number of Ukrainians studying in countries that are members of the European Union has been gradually increasing. People-to-people relations and cultural exchanges between Ukraine and the EU can be further improved through the facilitation of visa liberalization, the simplification of administrative procedures, and the promotion of cultural diplomacy. To solve common difficulties, promote stability, and advance regional integration, it is vital to promote regional cooperation and cross-border collaborations throughout the region. The promotion of peace, security, and prosperity in the region can be accomplished through the strengthening of collaboration within the framework of regional organizations such as the Eastern Partnership and the Black Sea Synergy. According to the European External Action Service (EEAS), the European Union has offered substantial financial assistance to promote regional cooperation projects in areas such as the development of infrastructure, the protection of the environment, and the participation of civil society. Both Ukraine and the European Union have the potential to contribute to the peace, stability, and prosperity of the wider European neighbors through the promotion of regional dialogue, the promotion of mechanisms for war resolution, and the addressing of shared security issues. By working together to reform the security sector, improve military interoperability, and encourage the development of defense capabilities, it is possible to improve regional security, reduce the likelihood of aggression, and contribute to economic stability. The European Union Institute

for Security Studies (EUISS) reports that Ukraine has made great progress in the area of defense reform. These advancements include the modernization of the armed forces, the improvement of military capabilities, and the enhancement of interoperability with NATO forces. The fight against corruption, the improvement of civilian monitoring, and the strengthening of democratic authority over the security sector all require additional efforts. Both Ukraine and the European Union have the potential to improve their collective security and make a contribution to the maintenance of peace and stability in the region if they strengthen their security cooperation, share best practices, and promote defense reforms. In conclusion, creative initiatives to increase cooperation between the European Union and Ukraine span a wide range of topics, such as people-to-people contacts, cultural exchanges, regional cooperation, and security partnership. By embracing these methods and working together to confront common issues and explore shared opportunities, Ukraine and the EU can develop a stronger, more robust cooperation that is beneficial to their citizens and helps to peace, stability, and prosperity in the region. This partnership will benefit both parties.

3.2. Prospects for future collaboration: a personal vision

Taking a glance into the future, we can see that the possibilities for cooperation between Ukraine and the European Union (EU) are brimming with promise and opportunities. Building on the foundation of cooperation and partnership that already exists, there are a few key areas in which I see tremendous potential for additional collaboration and mutual benefit of both parties.

The economic cooperation between the European Union and Ukraine holds a great deal of promise for both of these entities. Over forty percent of Ukraine's entire commercial volume is accounted for by the European Union, making it the country's main trading partner. On the other hand, there is still unrealized potential for increasing trade volumes and deeper economic integration. Further strengthening of Ukraine's economic links with the EU can be accomplished through the utilization of the advantages provided by the Association Agreement between the EU and Ukraine, as well as through the implementation of structural reforms that aim to boost the business environment, promote trade, and attract investment. Continued reforms in areas including governance, rule of law, and anti-corruption measures are essential, according to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), to achieve the goals of unlocking Ukraine's economic potential and attracting international investment.

Energy collaboration gives Ukraine and the EU an additional opportunity, in addition to the economic cooperation that they have already established. It is estimated that around forty percent of Europe's gas imports go through Ukrainian territory. This indicates that Ukraine plays a significant role in the transportation of natural gas from Russia to Europe. Both the European Union and Ukraine have identified energy efficiency, diversification of energy sources, and strengthening of energy security as three of their most important concerns. Ukraine can contribute to the energy goals of the European Union (EU) while simultaneously improving its energy security and sustainability if it modernizes its energy infrastructure, invests in projects that generate renewable energy, and promotes energy efficiency measures.

When it comes to supporting technical advancement and the development of human capital, partnership in the fields of innovation, research, and education holds a great deal of promise for both Ukraine and the EU. It is possible to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, the transfer of technology, and joint research projects by enhancing cooperation in research and innovation through initiatives such as the Horizon Europe program on the European Union's website. The promotion of student exchanges, academic alliances, and joint degree programs can improve educational possibilities, foster cultural understanding, and develop networks of collaboration between institutions in Ukraine and the European Union. They have the potential to strengthen their engagement in the area of security cooperation, which is another crucial area in which they can solve common security concerns, maintain stability, and advance regional security architecture. It is possible to contribute to the improvement of collective security and resilience against emerging threats by increasing collaboration in areas such as counterterrorism, cybersecurity, and defense reform. Furthermore, it is crucial to provide support to Ukraine's attempts to execute comprehensive reforms in the security sector, boost civilian oversight, and strengthen democratic control over the security forces. This is necessary to consolidate democratic institutions, protect human rights, and promote the rule of law. The development of people-to-people relationships and cultural exchanges has the potential to further deepen the ties that exist between Ukraine and the European Union. Fostering mutual understanding, promoting tolerance, and building bridges across countries can be accomplished through the promotion of cultural diplomacy and the support of projects such as youth exchanges, cultural festivals, and language study programs. Eurostat figures indicate that the number of Ukrainians living in countries that are members of the European Union has been gradually growing, and it is projected to reach over 3.8 million in the year 2021. The presence of this diaspora is a great asset that may be utilized to strengthen bilateral relations and promote collaboration in a variety of industries, such as commerce, business, and cultural exchange. To confront similar global concerns, such as climate change, migration, and public health crises, Ukraine and the EU must work together and coordinate their actions. Through the alignment of their policies and goals, the sharing of best practices, and the backing of multilateral efforts, Ukraine and the EU have the potential to effectively contribute to the discovery of long-term solutions to these urgent

problems. By way of illustration, the involvement of Ukraine in the Green Deal project of the European Union has the potential to hasten the country's transition to a low-carbon economy, cut emissions of greenhouse gases, and advance sustainable development activities. According to the European Environment Agency, Ukraine possesses a substantial potential for the development of renewable energy sources. Hydropower, solar, and wind energy resources make up a large portion of the country's overall energy mix. The enhancement of cooperation in the digital realm gives an additional channel for the development of engagement between the European Union and Ukraine. The adoption of digital transformation, the promotion of e-government projects, and the investment in digital infrastructure can all contribute to the acceleration of economic growth, the improvement of public services, and greater connectedness. Over the past few years, Ukraine's information technology sector has had a period of tremendous expansion, resulting in the country becoming a prominent destination for outsourcing opportunities and software development services. Over the course of 2021, the information technology industry in Ukraine experienced a growth rate of twenty percent, resulting in a total market value of seven and a half billion dollars. Furthermore integrating into the European digital single market and contributing to the digital agenda of the European Union can be accomplished by Ukraine through the utilization of its qualified labor and the promotion of innovation.

Increasing collaboration in the areas of education and research can help to contribute to the development of innovative ideas and the improvement of existing competitiveness. The European Union and Ukraine can harness the potential of their respective scientific communities and propel technical advancements through the promotion of academic exchanges, collaborative research projects, and collaboration between research organizations and universities. The European Research Council has compiled data that indicates that Ukraine possesses a robust research and development (R&D) capacity. The researchers from Ukraine have made significant contributions to a variety of sectors, including information technology, biotechnology, and engineering. It is possible for Ukraine to significantly improve its scientific skills and address common social concerns if it integrates itself into European research networks and provides access to financial programs offered by the European Union, such as Horizon Europe.

Ukraine and the European Union need to strengthen their energy cooperation to guarantee energy security, diversify energy sources, and promote sustainable development. With its pipelines functioning as essential infrastructure for European energy supply, Ukraine plays a significant role in the transportation of natural gas to Europe. This play is a major part of the country's role. The reduction of reliance on fossil fuels, the mitigation of environmental risks, and the contribution to the achievement of climate targets can be accomplished through the promotion of renewable energy sources, the modernization of energy infrastructure, and the enhancement of energy efficiency. There is a huge amount of unrealized potential for energy efficiency improvements in Ukraine, as stated by the International Energy Agency. Investments in energy-efficient technologies give substantial benefits to both the economy and the environment.

The promotion of people-to-people relationships and cultural exchanges has the potential to enhance mutual understanding and reinforce the bonds that exist between Ukraine and the European Union. The promotion of cultural variety, tolerance, and intercultural discussion can be accomplished through the support of projects such as student exchanges, cultural festivals, and language learning programs. In the case of the Erasmus+ program, for instance, it has been of great assistance in encouraging student mobility and academic interaction between Ukraine and EU member states. Since the program's launch, more than 30,000 Ukrainian students have participated in the program. Through the expansion of programs of this kind and the promotion of cross-cultural understanding, Ukraine and the EU can work together to create a society that is more unified and welcoming to all.

It is essential to strengthen coordination in the areas of security and defense to confront dangers that are shared by multiple countries and to promote stability in the geographic area. Both the European Union and Ukraine share a common interest in the fight against terrorism, organized crime, and cyber threats, all of which provide substantial problems to both their respective organizations. Ukraine and the European Union have the potential to improve their collective security and resilience against new threats if they boost their collaboration in the areas of intelligence sharing, law enforcement, and cybersecurity. According to the Terrorism Situation and Trend Report published by Europol, there has

been an increase in the number of terrorist incidents and arrests related to terrorism in Europe, which highlights the necessity of increased collaboration and vigilance. Ukraine and the European Union can safeguard their citizens and maintain peace and security in the region if they collaborate to combat these dangers. The promotion of sustainable development and environmental protection is crucial for guaranteeing the prosperity and well-being of both Ukraine and the EU over the long term. There are global difficulties that demand concerted action and cooperation at the international level. These challenges include climate change, pollution, and the loss of natural resources. It is possible for Ukraine and the European Union to make a contribution to the reduction of environmental risks and the promotion of sustainable development if they coordinate their policies, share best practices, and carry out collaborative initiatives in areas such as the conservation of biodiversity, waste management, and renewable energy. According to the European Environment Agency, Ukraine is confronted with serious environmental difficulties, such as pollution of the air and water, degradation of the land, and the loss of biodiversity. Through the implementation of these tasks in collaboration with the European Union, Ukraine has the potential to enhance the standard of living of its population and make a contribution to the creation of a more pristine and healthier environment for future generations. It is vital to encourage collaboration in the fields of healthcare and public health to solve the shared health concerns that are faced and to improve access to healthcare services. The pandemic caused by COVID-19 has brought to light the significance of international cooperation in the management of global health crises and the improvement of healthcare systems. Increasing their capacity to combat infectious illnesses and preserve public health can be accomplished by Ukraine and the EU through the sharing of medical expertise, the coordination of response activities, and the assistance of each other in the distribution and development of vaccines. To effectively manage the COVID-19 pandemic, Ukraine has encountered several severe hurdles, as reported by the World Health Organization. These challenges include significant shortages of medical supplies, strain on healthcare infrastructure, and vaccine hesitancy. Ukraine can develop its healthcare system, better its preparedness for pandemics, and protect the health and well-being of its population if it collaborates closely with the European Union (EU) and makes use of its support and

experience. The consolidation of democratic institutions, the promotion of good governance, and the maintenance of shared values and principles are all dependent on the promotion of democratic government, the rule of law, and respect for human rights. Ukraine needs to make progress in enacting reforms, fighting corruption, and establishing the rule of law to further its objectives of European integration and to develop trust and confidence with the European Union. We can assist Ukraine in addressing difficulties related to governance, enhancing transparency and accountability, and promoting the rule of law through the provision of support, expertise, and technical assistance from the European Union. Ukraine is ranked 117th out of 180 countries that were surveyed in 2021 by the Corruption Perceptions Index, which was conducted by Transparency International. This indicates that corruption continues to be a big concern in Ukraine. An environment that is more favorable for investment, economic growth, and social development may be created in Ukraine through the elimination of corruption and the promotion of good governance. This will eventually be to the benefit of the country's population and will improve Ukraine's collaboration with the European Union.

The promotion of peace, stability, and war resolution is of the utmost importance to guarantee the safety and prosperity of Ukraine and the wider area. As a result of the war that has been going on since 2014, there have been catastrophic humanitarian implications, millions of people have been displaced, and the stability of the region has been compromised. Both Ukraine and the European Union can strive toward a peaceful resolution of the war and promote reconciliation and reconstruction in the areas that have been affected by the war by assisting in diplomatic efforts, dialogue initiatives, and confidence-building measures. There are about 3.4 million people in eastern Ukraine who need humanitarian aid, as stated by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. This highlights the necessity of resolving the humanitarian situation and providing help to vulnerable communities. Ukraine and the European Union have the potential to make a significant contribution to the establishment of long-term peace, stability, and prosperity in Eastern Europe if they take action to address the underlying causes of the war, encourage dialogue and reconciliation, and invest in projects that promote peacebuilding and development.

In conclusion, the prospects for future collaboration between Ukraine and the European Union are diverse and promising. By deepening their partnership across various fields, including trade, energy, education, culture, security, environment, healthcare, governance, and peacebuilding, Ukraine and the EU can address common challenges, seize emerging opportunities, and promote mutual prosperity and stability. The European Union and Ukraine have the potential to strengthen their friendship and collaboration by focusing on the values, interests, and aspirations that they have in common. This will also help to contribute to a more promising future for the people of both countries and the region as a whole.

CONCLUSIONS AND PROPOSALS

The consideration of a variety of case studies and global collaborations highlights the significance of collaboration, creativity, and shared responsibility in the process of addressing complex challenges and promoting sustainable development. After examining the collaboration between the European Union and Ukraine, it has become abundantly clear that strategic alliances and multilateral initiatives are indispensable for the accomplishment of shared aims and objectives. The investigation of successful global partnerships, such as those between international organizations, national governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and grassroots community organizations, sheds light on the myriad of approaches and strategies that are utilized to address a wide range of issues, including public health and education, as well as trade and economic development. In the process of building cooperation and generating positive change, these case studies provide useful insights into effective strategies, lessons gained, and chances for progress. The evaluation of creative ways and prospects for future collaboration highlights the potential for utilizing emerging technologies, digital transformation, and information sharing to improve cooperation between the European Union and Ukraine. Stakeholders can overcome obstacles, address growing difficulties, and unlock new opportunities for mutual benefit and sustainable development if they embrace innovation and adopt forward-thinking tactics.

Based on the data and analysis that were presented in this study, several suggestions and recommendations can be put up to promote collaboration between Ukraine and the European Union:

1. It is possible to facilitate the alignment of policies, priorities, and objectives by establishing channels for regular conversation, coordination, and cooperation between Ukrainian and EU authorities. This can be accomplished by enhancing institutional capacity and policy coordination.
2. Facilitate the exchange of expertise, experiences, and best practices in areas such as governance, public administration, and sustainable development to stimulate mutual learning and capacity building. This will be accomplished by promoting the interchange of knowledge and best practices.

3. Make investments in education, vocational training, and the development of skills a priority to empower individuals, improve human capital, and propel economic growth and innovation.
4. Embrace emerging technologies, digital solutions, and innovation ecosystems to address social concerns, encourage entrepreneurial endeavors, and propel inclusive and sustainable development. This will help foster innovation and digital transformation.
5. Encourage the active participation of civil society organizations, community groups, and grassroots initiatives in decision-making processes, policy creation, and implementation to guarantee inclusion and accountability. This will help strengthen the engagement of civil society.
6. Encourage cross-border collaboration, cultural exchanges, and people-to-people contacts to cultivate mutual understanding, tolerance, and solidarity between inhabitants of Ukraine and the European Union.

In conclusion, by accepting these proposals and recommendations, stakeholders from the European Union and Ukraine may expand their collaboration, deepen their cooperation, and work together to tackle issues that they both face and achieve goals that they both share. Cooperation between the European Union and Ukraine has the potential to serve as a model for regional integration, sustainable development, and peacebuilding if it is accomplished through persistent commitment, collaboration, and creativity.

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