

International Economic Forum

Lviv · Ukraine

26–27 June 2026

+ Lviv Summer Jazz Fest

Official Programme

Ukraine stands at a historic inflection point. As the country continues to defend its sovereignty while simultaneously pursuing EU accession and designing one of the largest reconstruction programmes in modern European history, the International Economic Forum Lviv brings together the decision-makers, investors, and thinkers who will shape its economic future.

FORUM THEME "Building Tomorrow's Economy Today"

Day One · Friday, 26 June 2026

Geopolitical Positioning · Capital & Investment ·
Reconstruction Strategy

10:00 - 11:00

PANEL DISCUSSION

Ukraine's European Integration: Economic Transformation on the Path to EU Membership

Євроінтеграційний вектор: економічна трансформація на шляху до членства в ЄС

Ukraine's EU accession process represents one of the most consequential structural reforms in the country's modern history — touching trade architecture, regulatory alignment, fiscal governance, and the foundations of the rule of law. This session examines the economic implications of harmonising Ukrainian legislation with the EU acquis across key sectors: agriculture, financial services, digital infrastructure, and industrial standards. Panellists will assess the pace of negotiations across open chapters, evaluate the absorption capacity of Ukrainian institutions, and identify where reform momentum is gaining traction — and where structural bottlenecks persist.

KEY QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- Which EU accession chapters carry the highest economic transformation cost — and who bears it?
- How can Ukraine sustain reform momentum under wartime fiscal constraints?
- What does full Single Market access mean for Ukrainian exporters and investors?

EU Accession · Structural Reform · Trade Policy · Regulatory Alignment

11:05 - 12:05

TITLE SESSION

Logistics Reimagined: Building Resilient Trade Corridors for a Post-War Economy

Нова логістика: будівництво стійких торговельних коридорів для повоєнної економіки

The reconfiguration of Ukraine's trade routes since 2022 has been one of the most consequential shifts in European logistics in decades. With traditional Black Sea access constrained, the country has pioneered alternative overland and Danube-based corridors, exposing both the resilience and fragility of continental supply chains. This session examines what a permanent, scalable logistics architecture for Ukraine should look like — and what public-private investment is required to build it. Participants will address multimodal integration, customs digitalisation, cross-border interoperability with EU networks, and the role of logistics in de-risking FDI.

KEY QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- *What is the true cost of logistics fragmentation on Ukraine's export competitiveness?*
- *How can rail, road, and river corridors be integrated into a coherent national system?*
- *Which logistics investments deliver the highest multiplier effect for economic recovery?*

Trade Corridors · Infrastructure Finance · Supply Chain · Export Competitiveness

12:10 - 12:55

PANEL DISCUSSION

Keynote Dialogue: Leadership in Crisis — Lessons from Ukraine's Economic Resilience

Ключовий діалог: лідерство в кризі — уроки економічної стійкості України

A high-level interview with a global leader on the intersection of wartime governance, macroeconomic stabilisation, and the political economy of reconstruction. This session offers a rare opportunity to engage with first-hand strategic thinking on how institutions maintain credibility, attract external financing, and preserve social cohesion under existential pressure. The conversation explores the role of international partnerships in sustaining fiscal stability, the evolution of Ukraine's reform agenda under wartime conditions, and what the global community can learn from Ukraine's experience of building state capacity while under attack.

KEY QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- *What defines effective economic leadership in a state of active conflict?*
- *How do you maintain reform momentum when survival competes with transformation?*
- *What obligations does the international community have toward Ukraine's reconstruction?*

Keynote · Geopolitics · Macroeconomic Stability · International Partnerships

14:45 - 15:45

PANEL DISCUSSION

Real Estate and Urban Reconstruction: Capital, Design, and the Future of Ukrainian Cities

Нерухомість та міська відбудова: капітал, архітектура і майбутнє українських міст

Ukraine faces one of the most complex urban reconstruction challenges of the 21st century. Estimates of damage to residential and commercial real estate exceed \$150 billion, yet the reconstruction agenda is not merely about rebuilding — it is an opportunity to redesign cities for resilience, energy efficiency, and fundamentally altered demographic realities. This panel examines the financing architecture: state mortgage programmes, development bank lending, private developers, and green reconstruction bonds. Panellists address land ownership complexities, municipal planning capacity, and how to attract long-term institutional capital into a market perceived as high-risk.

KEY QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- *How do you price risk in a real estate market where physical security remains uncertain?*
- *What incentive structures can unlock private capital for large-scale urban reconstruction?*
- *How can reconstruction serve as a catalyst for sustainable city design rather than mere restoration?*

Real Estate · Urban Development · Reconstruction Finance · Green Building

15:50 - 16:50

PANEL DISCUSSION

Entrepreneurship at the Frontier: How Ukrainian Business is Reinventing Itself Under Fire

Підприємництво на передовій: як український бізнес переосмислює себе в умовах війни

Ukrainian entrepreneurship has demonstrated a degree of adaptability that has surprised even its most ardent advocates. Businesses have relocated production, pivoted to wartime demand, adopted digital operations, and entered new export markets — often within weeks of the full-scale invasion. This session examines the structural conditions that enabled this resilience: the depth of Ukraine's IT talent base, the agility of its SME sector, diaspora networks, and the decisive contribution of digital public infrastructure. Panellists explore what policy environment is needed to sustain and scale this entrepreneurial energy into the reconstruction phase.

KEY QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- *What distinguishes Ukrainian entrepreneurial resilience from comparable post-conflict economies?*
- *How can the wartime pivot to digital and export-oriented models be institutionalised?*
- *What does the next generation of Ukrainian business leadership look like — and what does it need?*

Entrepreneurship · SME Policy · Digital Economy · Business Resilience

16:55 - 17:55

TITLE SESSION

Capital Allocation in Recovery: Investment Frameworks, Risk Instruments, and the Role of Development Finance

Розподіл капіталу у відновленні: інвестиційні механізми, ризик-інструменти та роль банків розвитку

Mobilising private capital at scale for Ukraine's reconstruction requires a sophisticated architecture of de-risking instruments, transparent legal frameworks, and credible dispute resolution mechanisms. This session convenes investment professionals, multilateral finance institutions, and policy architects to examine how the international investment community is structuring its exposure to Ukraine — including investment guarantees, blended finance vehicles, and the role of the EBRD and IFC. The session examines the emerging pipeline of bankable projects across energy, infrastructure, and agro-processing.

KEY QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- *At what point does Ukraine's risk profile shift from frontier to emerging market for institutional investors?*
- *Which blended finance structures have proven most effective in comparable post-conflict settings?*
- *What is the minimum legal threshold required to attract long-term private capital?*

Investment · Development Finance · Risk Management · Capital Markets

Day Two · Saturday, 27 June 2026

Governance & Communities · Technology & Innovation · Human Capital

10:00 - 11:00

PANEL DISCUSSION

Decentralisation and Democratic Governance: Empowering Communities as Engines of Reconstruction

Децентралізація та демократичне врядування: громади як рушій відновлення

Ukraine's decentralisation reform — one of the most ambitious in post-Soviet Europe — has proven to be among the country's most important institutional assets during the war. Territorial communities absorbed displaced populations, maintained essential services, and attracted donor resources with speed that centralised systems rarely match. This session examines how to deepen this architecture: how to strengthen municipal fiscal capacity, improve procurement quality, deepen inter-municipal cooperation, and design grant programmes that reward accountability. Participants also address rebuilding governance in de-occupied communities.

KEY QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- *How do you rebuild institutional trust and administrative capacity in de-occupied territories?*
- *What fiscal architecture gives communities genuine reconstruction autonomy without fragmentation?*
- *How can international donors channel resources through local governance structures more effectively?*

Decentralisation · Local Governance · Community Development · Reconstruction Policy

11:05 - 12:05

PANEL DISCUSSION

The Rule of Law as an Economic Asset: Protecting Business Rights in a Wartime and Post-War Environment

Верховенство права як економічний актив: захист прав бізнесу у воєнний та повоєнний час

The relationship between legal security and investment flows is direct and measurable. For Ukraine, the quality of the regulatory environment, reliability of contract enforcement, and credibility of anti-corruption institutions are not governance metrics — they are the primary determinants of whether private capital will enter the reconstruction market at scale. This session examines operational realities facing businesses navigating the Ukrainian legal environment: administrative pressure, asset seizure risks, commercial courts, and mediation mechanisms. Panellists assess the progress and gaps in Ukraine's anti-corruption architecture.

KEY QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- *What is the single greatest legal risk facing foreign investors in Ukraine today — and what would resolve it?*
- *How effective are existing non-judicial dispute resolution mechanisms for cross-border conflicts?*
- *What role should civil society play in safeguarding judicial independence?*

Rule of Law · Investor Protection · Anti-Corruption · Business Environment

12:10 - 13:10

TITLE SESSION

The Digital Transformation Imperative: Artificial Intelligence, the Platform Economy, and Ukraine's Tech Advantage

Цифровий імператив: штучний інтелект, платформна економіка та технологічна перевага України

Ukraine has built one of the world's most sophisticated digital government ecosystems, combining the Diia super-app, e-governance infrastructure, and a deep pool of technical talent. As artificial intelligence reshapes every sector of the economy, Ukraine is uniquely positioned to leverage its technology strengths. This session examines how to scale AI adoption across public services and industry, govern emerging technologies within an EU regulatory framework, retain technology talent, and position Ukrainian tech companies as global players. The panel addresses digital infrastructure's role in making reconstruction transparent and resistant to corruption.

KEY QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- *Where does Ukraine's AI and tech advantage lie — and how can it be converted into lasting economic value?*
- *How should Ukraine navigate the tension between rapid AI adoption and responsible governance?*
- *What does the next decade of Ukraine's digital economy look like if the talent stays?*

Artificial Intelligence · Digital Government · Tech Economy · Innovation Policy

14:45 - 15:45

PANEL DISCUSSION

Tourism, Culture, and Soft Power: Rebuilding Ukraine's Identity Economy

Туризм, культура та м'яка сила: відновлення економіки ідентичності України

Ukraine's cultural and touristic assets — its UNESCO heritage sites, gastronomy, music and creative industries, and distinctive regional identities — represent an undervalued economic resource that has gained unprecedented global visibility since 2022. This session explores the economic architecture of Ukraine's cultural and tourism sectors: attracting private investment into hospitality and cultural infrastructure, developing sustainable tourism strategies, supporting the creative economy as urban regeneration, and leveraging festivals and cultural events as instruments of economic recovery and soft power projection.

KEY QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- *What is the minimum security threshold at which inbound tourism becomes viable at scale?*
- *How can cultural events and festivals serve as anchors for broader economic regeneration?*
- *What role does the diaspora play in Ukraine's soft power and cultural economy strategy?*

Tourism · Cultural Economy · Soft Power · Creative Industries

15:50 - 16:50

PANEL DISCUSSION

Human Capital in Crisis: Migration, Demography, and the Battle for Ukraine's Workforce

Людський капітал у кризі: міграція, демографія та боротьба за робочу силу України

Ukraine's most consequential long-term economic challenge may not be physical destruction — it is the displacement of up to eight million citizens abroad and the mobilisation of a significant share of the working-age male population. Reconstruction requires a comprehensive strategy spanning return migration policy, labour market reform, education and retraining, veteran reintegration, and family support infrastructure. This session assesses the scale of the challenge and design of solutions: return migration incentives, skills mismatch in a reconstructing labour market, the needs of the veteran population, and social infrastructure required to retain families.

KEY QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- *What policy interventions have the highest proven efficacy in bringing displaced populations home?*
- *How do you design a labour market for an economy that will look structurally different post-war?*
- *What is the economic cost of failing to reintegrate the veteran population successfully?*

Human Capital · Migration Policy · Labour Market · Veteran Reintegration

Energy Security and the Green Transition: Powering Ukraine's Reconstruction Economy

Енергетична безпека та зелений перехід: як енергетика живить економіку відновлення

Ukraine's energy infrastructure has been among the primary targets of Russian military strikes, creating both a humanitarian crisis and a fundamental constraint on economic recovery. Simultaneously, Ukraine possesses extraordinary renewable energy potential in solar, wind, biomass, and green hydrogen that positions it as a potential major contributor to European energy security. This session examines how to rapidly restore generation capacity, design a reconstruction of the energy system that embeds resilience and decentralisation, attract private capital into renewable projects, and align Ukraine's long-term energy strategy with the EU Green Deal and REPowerEU objectives.

KEY QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- *What is the optimal energy mix for a resilient, decentralised Ukrainian grid?*
- *How do you finance large-scale renewable energy projects in an active conflict zone?*
- *What is Ukraine's realistic contribution to European energy security by 2035?*

Energy Security · Renewable Energy · Green Transition · Infrastructure Resilience