

ODU Policy Plan 2022

Russia's sudden and unexpected invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 will continue to have terrible consequences. There is no end in sight for the ensuing war, and the scale of human suffering and destruction of public infrastructure will require the collaborative efforts of the international community for years to come.

In light of these developments, the priorities of OpenDoorUkraine.NL (ODU) might shift depending on the situation, in order to optimally allocate resources to the real-time needs of the Ukrainian population. The foundation's main goal remains unchanged: to bring actors and stakeholders from Ukraine and the Netherlands together to promote cooperation, through ODU's three thematic tables (economy, humanitarian affairs, and knowledge, culture & civil society).

The humanitarian table will intensify its efforts to support Ukraine primarily through coordinating and facilitating relief activities of Dutch humanitarian organizations active in Ukraine (for example Sputnik and Breath for Kids). Provision of medical supplies will be prioritized. Transports with relief aid to Ukraine will be coordinated as per usual. ODU also intends to provide logistical and other special support to Ukrainian refugees seeking to find temporary refuge in the Netherlands. The humanitarian table will also consider providing prosthetics, and/or setting up knowledge exchange between medical professionals on the topic of prosthetics.

Where possible ODU intends to encourage and facilitate Dutch involvement in emergency assistance to Ukraine, focusing on rebuilding damaged critical infrastructure and housing in relatively safe areas in Ukraine. Helping to rebuild damaged roofs of flat apartments before the winter sets in and providing clean water will be prioritized. Such emergency assistance projects would directly help the local economy and stimulate the return of Ukrainian refugees to relatively safe areas in Ukraine.

As part of economic activities planned before the start of the war, ODU organized a roundtable debate on the future of European and Ukraine's energy security, and Russia's manipulation of its natural gas export for geopolitical purposes. Depending on how the war will develop, ODU will seek to encourage and facilitate the participation of Dutch companies, preferably in cooperation with Ukrainian counterparts, to start reconstructing Ukraine where possible. In this respect, a first Ukraine reconstruction business forum was organized at Rotterdam on 17 June 2022 in cooperation with Dutch and Ukrainian authorities and a follow-up meeting is planned before the end of the year.

The Knowledge, Culture and Civil Society Table aims to strengthen ODU's position as a knowledge network on Ukraine in the Netherlands, as the need for expert information on Ukraine in the Netherlands has only increased since the outbreak of the war. Contacts in the cultural and social spheres are being developed with the (increasingly visible and vocal) Ukrainian community in the Netherlands, Dutch universities in the Netherlands, etc. ODU has joined the Russia and Eastern Europe Knowledge Alliance (REKA) of Institute Clingendael and looks forward to strengthen knowledge about Ukraine, including on the enormous challenge ahead of reconstruction after the war ends.

ODU's website, and notably the web agenda of Ukraine-related events, is continually updated as a knowledge database of activities and knowledge on Ukraine in the Netherlands.

To aid Ukraine in its extraordinary time of need, ODU will also focus on spreading awareness of the war in the Netherlands. To this end, ODU board members and the Advisors will seek to actively take part in the public debate about the war through interviews on public radio & TV and otherwise. More intensive use of social media will also be pursued.

ODU intends to work closely with both Dutch and Ukrainian authorities to provide assistance where it can in support of the goals outlined above. It hopes to generate sufficient funding for its activities by its own public fundraising activities for specific humanitarian and emergency assistance projects, other private donations inter alia from companies involved in the economic table, as well as from appropriate Dutch, EU and other international humanitarian, early-recovery, and reconstruction programs in support of Ukraine.

Lastly, ODU, a non-profit organization with ANBI status, will seek to professionalize its own structure in order to address the multiple efforts in which ODU is engaged since the war in Ukraine. In order to coordinate our efforts in Ukraine, ODU will set up a local branch office in Kyiv to develop a local network and facilitate easy communication in support of our projects.