

Programme

Study presentation and panel discussion

Getting Ukraine ready for the European Union: How public administration reform and institutional mainstreaming can drive Ukraine's EU Accession

Tuesday, 27th January 2026 from 10h to 13h
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Europe Office
11, Avenue de l' Yser, B-1040 Brussels

Despite the unprecedented challenge of advancing EU integration while resisting Russia's full-scale aggression, Ukraine has demonstrated remarkable progress on its path toward EU accession. Accession negotiations began formally in June 2024, and by September 2025, Ukraine and the EU completed the bilateral screening process. This progress reflects strong political commitment in both Brussels and Kyiv, as well as a growing recognition that Ukraine's EU accession is a central pillar of Europe's long-term security. Yet, the speed of negotiations alone will not determine success, and the screening is one of the easiest parts of the negotiation process. Once the first negotiation cluster has officially been opened, Ukraine will have to move to the most challenging part of the negotiations: the implementation phase. Its success will largely depend on the institutional capacity of Ukraine's system of governance and in particular the success of the public administration reform (PAR).

Against this backdrop, the Ukrainian Centre for European Policy (UCEP) conducted a study at the initiative of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung's Kyiv Office. The study assessed progress and remaining challenges in Ukraine's public administration reform, exploring how EU accession instruments could address these challenges. The study explores how institutional mainstreaming—the systematic integration of administrative capacity-building across all negotiation areas—can strengthen the effectiveness, sustainability and irreversibility of Ukraine's EU accession reforms. It furthermore focuses on how to assess and reinforce the institutional capacity of public authorities to ensure not only the adoption of EU-compliant legislation, but also its effective implementation with adequate human and financial resources.

To present the key findings of this study, we invite you to join us for a **study presentation and panel discussion followed by a networking lunch** at the Europe Office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation. Why is the public administration central to Ukraine's EU accession process? How far has Ukraine's PAR come? And how can the EU mainstream Ukraine's PAR to accelerate EU accession ?

These and other timely questions will be addressed during our roundtable discussion "Getting Ukraine ready for the European Union: How public administration reform and institutional mainstreaming can drive Ukraine's EU accession". For the presentation of the study's findings, we are pleased to welcome **Liubov Akulenko**, Executive Director of UCEP, and **Viktoriya Melnyk**, Head of international relations and European integration at the Centre of Policy and Legal Reforms. For the panel reflection, we will be joined by **H.E. Vsevolod Chentsov**, Ambassador of Ukraine to the European Union (tbc), **Helena Marrez**, Deputy Head of Unit "Governance, Rule of Law, Financial Assistance" at DG ENEST and **Andriy Zayats**, Head of the Council of Europe's Liaison to the EU and Ambassador. The discussion will be moderated by **Igor Bryzhatyi** and will be held under Chatham House Rules.

Agenda

- 10:00 — 10:15** **Registration and welcome coffee**
- 10:15 — 10:20** **Welcoming remarks**
Dr. Beatrice Gorawantschy, Director
Europe Office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
- 10:20 — 10:50** **Study presentation**
“Ukraine gets ready for Europe. EU accession instruments can advance the country’s public administration reform”

Liubov Akulenko, Executive Director of the Ukrainian Centre for European Policy
Viktoriya Melnyk, Head of international relations and European integration, Centre of Policy and Legal reforms

Moderator: **Igor Bryzhatyi**, Programme manager, Multinational Development Policy Dialogue Brussels
- 10:50 — 12:00** **Panel Discussion**
Strengthening Ukraine’s Public Administration in the light of EU Accession: Present Challenges and Future Reforms

H.E. Vsevolod Chentsov, Ambassador of Ukraine to the European Union (tbc)
Helena Marrez, Deputy Head of Unit “Governance, Rule of Law, Financial Assistance”, DG ENEST
Andriy Zayats, Head of the Council of Europe’s Liaison to the EU, Ambassador

Moderator: **Igor Bryzhatyi**, Programme manager, Multinational Development Policy Dialogue Brussels
- 12:00-13:00** **Networking lunch**

Photography will be conducted during the event. By registering, participants give their consent for the Ukrainian Centre for European Policy to use photographic materials taken before, during, or after the event.

Information is subject to change.