



Policy Brief:
**EU'S LEVERS TO
END HIV/AIDS
IN UKRAINE.**
Recommendations





Our starting point: the EU's consistent support to Ukraine

- Participation in health and R&I
- Creation of the Ukraine facility
- Accession status
- Funding to the Global Fund

This support presents an opportunity to strengthen health systems, enhance health security, and sustain aid to individuals affected by HIV in Ukraine and neighbouring countries





Recommendations

Accession process

- Drug policy reform
- Drug treatment regulation
- Sex work
- LGBTIQ+ rights
- Penitentiary health care reform
- Decriminalization of HIV exposure and treatment

EU instruments

- EU4Health
- R&I
- Global Europe
- Ukraine Facility





Accession process

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1) Drug policy reform:

- Repealing laws that threat drug possession without intent to distribute as criminal offence
- Adopt new evidence-based strategy informed by CS and human rights perspectives

2) Drug treatment regulation:

- Remove all obstacles to make opioid agonist therapy widely available in primary care facilities
- Regularise take-home doses of methadone for stable patients
- Introduce methadone into custodial settings





3) Decriminalisation of sex work:

- Decriminalise sex work
- Recognise it as legitimate work to enable better health and social protections

4) Acceleration of reforms to ensure and protect LGBTIQ+ rights:

- Better protection against hate crimes, incl. including sexual orientation and gender identity as protected grounds
- Expand anti-discrimination laws to include explicit protections for LGBTIQ+ individuals in various areas of life
- Depathologise transgender identities and update legislation to enable legal gender recognition based on self-determination





5) Penitentiary healthcare reform:

- Healthcare responsibilities should be transferred from the Ministry of Justice to the Ministry of Health

6) The decriminalisation of HIV exposure and transmission

- Repeal Article 130 of the Criminal Code and the criminalisation of HIV transmission.





EU Instruments

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EU 4Health

- Programming of the current instrument: inclusion of operating grants in remaining WP; targeted calls on communicable diseases with funding for community-led organizations; mainstreaming of the health needs of migrants from Ukraine; further support to cross-border collaboration
- Future programme: new self-standing programme, with sufficient budget; facilitate involvement of Ukrainian stakeholders in consultations; specific funding for communicable diseases and community-led services

Horizon/FP10

- Participation of Ukrainian researchers, collaboration with EU research institutions and integration in EU research ecosystem; calls for proposals targeting infectious diseases; support to digital innovations
- FP10: €200 billion for R&I, with 10% for a dedicated health cluster; assess Ukrainian researchers' participation and design strategies to improve participation





Global Europe

- Scale up EU ODA to at least €200 billion, with 20% for human development
- Ensure sufficient funding for Global Challenges
- Pledge at least €715 million in the Global Fund's next replenishment round

Ukraine Facility

- Transparency and information sharing
- Financial support to the health sector
- Mobilize additional funding incl. from external stakeholders now and beyond 2027



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