



British Embassy
Kyiv

CONFLICT PREVENTION POOL IN UKRAINE

PEACEBUILDING PROJECTS

2014-15

Conflict Prevention Pool Work in Ukraine

The UK Conflict Pool provides programmatic funding for conflict prevention activities that support the Building Stability Overseas priorities. It is managed by the FCO, MOD and DFID, and brings together their expertise in development, diplomacy and defence to take an integrated approach to working in conflict-affected and fragile states.

This year (2014-2015) the UK Conflict Pool is funding four peacebuilding projects in Ukraine aimed at:

- reducing tensions and improving understanding between different groups of Ukrainian society,
- strengthening Government of Ukraine capacity to communicate effectively with its citizens, particularly on security, economic and political reforms, including European integration, particularly where reforms may be likely to generate tension if not well-explained,
- improving dialogue and communication between citizens and the state in both directions; and
- ensuring sensitive and neutral reporting around flashpoint incidents and contentious issues.

The four projects that we are supporting are:

1. **'Ukrainian borderlands conflicts resolution and prevention strategies'** implemented by the Association of Middle East Studies
2. **'Ukraine National Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue'** implemented by Crisis Management Initiative (Brussels) with Ukrainian Center for Independent Political Research NGO, Ukraine
3. **'Countering polarisation and conflict in Ukraine'** implemented by HD Centre (Switzerland), with the Institute for Peace and Common Ground NGO, Ukraine
4. **'Ukraine – out of the crisis through dialogue'** implemented by Centre for Cultural Relations – Caucasian House NGO, Georgia

Further details can be found overleaf, including key contact within the British Embassy in Kyiv.

Projects in 2014-15

Ukrainian borderlands conflicts resolution and prevention strategies

Duration: September 2014 – March 2015

Funding: £316,000

Purpose: Development and implementation of long-term strategies of transforming local conflicts in borderland Ukrainian regions into the mediation process with participation of local activists, journalists and authorities.

- The project will be implemented in all problematic borderland regions of Ukraine: Donbas (Luhansk and Donetsk oblast with focus on borderlands with Russian Federation and adjacent oblasts of Ukraine); Kherson – border with Crimea and territories where IDPs from Crimea are hosted, waterline borders; all borders with Transnistria, as sleeping conflict potential which could be induced artificially; Volyn – issue of historical Polish-Ukrainian inter-ethnic hatred, which could be induced artificially
- Activities will target both hot and lingering conflicts and develop strategies of both conflict transformation and prevention
- The project plans to train 60 peacemakers who will share the knowledge and skills with others, and to obtain success stories of local conflicts transformations to be shared with local and central government bodies, media and EU decision makers
- 4 resource centres will be created to serve as framework of permanent peacemaking efforts and training in the future (Kyiv, Kharkiv, Odesa and Berezhan)
- The project will target identity conflicts, illegal trafficking and emerging conflicts related to creation of non-transparent guarded borders with Russian Federation and Moldova.

Implementing organisation: Association of Middle East Studies

Ukraine National Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue

Duration: September 2014 – March 2015

Funding: £ 238.340

Purpose: support a multi-stakeholder dialogue among members of political parties and intellectual leaders in Ukraine which will help to prevent future escalations of violent conflict and constructively address existing divisions between key socio-political groups in the country.

Implementing organisation: Crisis Management Initiative (Brussels) with Ukrainian Center for Independent Political Research NGO, Ukraine

Countering polarisation and conflict in Ukraine

Duration: September 2014 – March 2015

Funding: £ 300,438

Purpose: To prevent escalation and to reduce conflict through the facilitation of nationwide dialogue initiatives. This project seeks to prevent further polarization in Ukraine and to help overcome divisions within society through bottom up civil society peacebuilding initiatives and through creating linkages with and advising on top down government devolution packages to ensure they are more inclusively designed and implemented. The initiative plans a range of activities in the East, West and South working through Government bodies, national and regional civil society groups and engaged individuals at two levels:

- At the community level, it will build the capacity of regionally based groups and individuals throughout the country to help them develop and implement community dialogues. The project will assist in facilitating these dialogues and mobilise comparative experiences as well as strategic advice through international and national experts. This will help bridge existing divides and make the community level initiatives more effective at preventing and resolving conflict.
- In Kyiv, a consultative group composed of representatives from key Ministries, members of Parliament as well as a cross section of regional leaders will be convened monthly to strategize, initiate and identify activities, to share ideas among the community level groups and to work with the Government particularly through the dialogue process envisioned in their decentralization plans. This consultative group will be a strategic link to ensure relevance, to target initiatives and to feed insights from the community initiatives to the political level and vice versa. This will create a more sustainable process of public engagement which has high level support and impact.

Implementing organisation: HD Centre (Switzerland), with the Institute for Peace and Common Ground NGO, Ukraine

Ukraine – out of the crisis through dialogue

Duration: September 2014 – March 2015

Funding: £ 161,866

Purpose: To promote transformation of the conflict between Ukraine and Russia through organizing face-to-face meetings among Russian and Ukrainian experts, civil society representatives and mid-career officials in Georgia and support Ukraine's political and economic transformation by sharing Georgia's experience

The project consists of two major components:

- Face-to-face meetings of Ukrainian mid-career officials, representatives of academia, civil society and media with Russian experts, including their Russian counterparts. The major objectives of this component are to decrease confrontation and promote an increase of rational attitudes among Russian and Ukrainian experts through constructive discussions and by promoting joint initiatives; and to encourage Russian and Ukrainian experts to produce joint policy documents, which will encompass thorough and relevant solutions to the problems existing between Ukraine and Russia
- Study trips in Georgia, including meetings of Ukrainian mid-career officials, representatives of academia, civil society and the media with their Georgian counterparts - at both governmental and civil society levels. The study trips will cover two major dimensions: a) sharing Georgia's experience with regard to transformation of the Georgian/Abkhaz/Georgian-South Ossetian conflicts and normalisation process with Russia; b) introducing reforms in Georgia in the following spheres: reforms of public administration, police and army, judiciary, education and healthcare, and anti-corruption measures.

Implementing organisation: Centre for Cultural Relations – Caucasian House NGO, Georgia

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