

POLICY BRIEF · APRIL 2026

Digital Services in Ukraine's Reconstruction

Österreichische Computer Gesellschaft (OCG) & IFIP

BASED ON

Symposium: The Role of Digital Services in Ukraine's Reconstruction

15 April 2026 · OCG, Vienna (hybrid)

Organisers: Ronald Bieber (OCG), Kai Ranneberg (IFIP President), with opening remarks by Volodymyr Koval, Embassy of Ukraine in Austria

Despite a devastating war, Ukraine has maintained and expanded one of Europe's most advanced digital ecosystems. Reconstruction is not merely physical — it is a strategic opportunity to build a digitally sovereign, EU-aligned nation. International partners and governments must act now to support this trajectory.

UKRAINE AT A GLANCE — SPRING 2026

\$7.85 bn

IT market volume (2025) \$6.6 bn in exports

305,000

IT professionals in 2,200+ companies

\$588 bn

Reconstruction needs 2026–35 (RDNAS)

80,000+

Open datasets on national data portal

Alfred F. Praus · Ukrainian-Austrian Association

Anatolii Marushchak · IFIP General Secretary

Natalia Datsiv · Drohobych City Council

A Resilient IT Sector Under Fire

Ukraine's IT industry has shown extraordinary resilience. Despite a full-scale war, the sector maintains output comparable to pre-war levels, contributing 3.2% of GDP and 42% of all service exports.

- US (40%), EU (30%), UK (10%) export markets
- Sector supports ~800,000 indirect jobs
- R&D centres for Microsoft, Google, Amazon and other tech leaders operate in Ukraine
- 70% work remotely; 20% based abroad
- Clusters: Kyiv, Kharkiv, Lviv, Dnipro, Odessa
- Strengths: AI, DefenceTech, cybersecurity, IoT, blockchain

Ukraine has evolved from an outsourcing executor to a strategic technology partner — a shift that must be recognised in bilateral agreements and EU accession frameworks.

EU Digital Accession: Progress & Gaps

Ukraine is actively aligning with the EU digital acquis. Key achievements:

- Diia platform (2023) meets or exceeds e-IDAS Regulation requirements
- e-IDAS Node operator obtained ISO/IEC 27001 certification (June 2025)
- Digital services account for 12% of total Ukrainian exports
- WINWIN Strategy for Digital Development until 2030 adopted
- Comprehensive Cybersecurity Strategy and unified incident-response system in place
- SSSCIP leads coordination; CERT-UA active; cooperation with ENISA advanced

Remaining tasks:

- Full NIS2 alignment and designation of a competent DSA authority
- Certification of qualified signature creation devices via EU bodies
- Alignment with GIA, EIF, Open Data Directive, Data Governance Act, DMA
- Resolve Lviv 5G high-risk supplier issue swiftly

Smart City Innovation: Drohobych Model

Drohobych (pop. 124,000; 2 cities, 32 villages) demonstrates digital transformation succeeds even at the community level under wartime conditions.

- Smart City platform integrating e-government and e-democracy tools
- 24/7 digital portal for public services
- Real-time public transport, parking maps, utility reporting
- E-petition, e-consultation, public budget e-voting
- Data-driven governance and community strategic planning

Bottom-up digitisation at the municipal level — even during armed conflict — builds citizen trust and delivers transparent, efficient governance. This model is replicable across Ukrainian communities with modest international support.

Lidiya Lisovska · Lviv Polytechnic National University

Digital Resilience as the Foundation for Reconstruction

Ukraine's reconstruction must be understood as a dual mandate: rebuilding physical infrastructure while constructing a digitally sovereign state aligned with EU standards. Digital services are not an add-on — they are the connective tissue of effective governance, transparent public spending, and citizen engagement.

Platforms like Diia and the GovTech ecosystem have proven that citizen-facing digital services can operate reliably under extreme conditions. Investment in this layer is investment in democratic resilience itself.

Ukraine's digitisation paradox: a country enduring one of the largest conflicts in recent European history leads the continent in several dimensions of e-government maturity. International donors must channel reconstruction funds through digital-first frameworks — ensuring every rebuilt road, school, or hospital is managed through transparent, interoperable digital infrastructure.

Civil society, tech platforms, and public institutions must collaborate through a unified digital governance architecture aligned with the EU acquis from the outset.

Alexander Prosser · University of Economics and Business, Vienna

Digital Services Integrating Ukrainian Manufacturing into EU Supply Chains

Digital services play a central role in the reconstruction of Ukraine by enabling its manufacturing sector to reconnect with European supply chains. As Ukrainian industry rebuilds, modern IT systems are essential to ensure compatibility with the EU partners' requirements for logistic coordination, quality control, and regulatory compliance.

By modernizing supply chain-related IT infrastructure — such as ERP systems, manufacturing execution systems, supply chain analytics and transportation management — Ukrainian manufacturers can seamlessly integrate into EU-based supply chains and at the same time leverage their specific advantages.

This digital integration strengthens trust and efficiency with EU partners and positions Ukrainian manufacturing not only as a recipient of reconstruction efforts, but as a prime contributor to European value chains.

However, this needs modernisation of the Ukrainian manufacturing sector, vocational training and education on all levels. Ukraine generally has a well-trained and digitally-skilled workforce. Hence, it is realistic to assume a rapid transition process, providing the necessary educational and adaptation steps are made in the manufacturing sector. This will not only be beneficial to Ukraine, but also to suppliers of relevant systems in the EU — from CNC machine tools to ERP systems. It is hence a win-win scenario for all parties concerned.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

For Governments & EU Institutions - Recognise Ukrainian IT exports as a strategic EU asset; accelerate bilateral tech agreements - Fund DSA/NIS2 alignment — including designation of competent authorities - Include digital governance benchmarks in all reconstruction financing conditions - Support Ukraine's rapid resolution of the Lviv 5G high-risk supplier issue	For International Tech Community - Scale Smart City replication funding to additional Ukrainian municipalities - Support open data infrastructure and interoperability with EU data spaces - Invest in cybersecurity capacity — ENISA partnerships, CERT-UA strengthening - Integrate Ukraine into European digital certification frameworks without delay
For Reconstruction Donors - Mandate digital-first project delivery across all funded reconstruction sectors - Leverage Diia and e-government platforms for aid transparency and tracking - Prioritise energy (\$91 bn), housing (\$90 bn), transport (\$96 bn) with embedded digital monitoring - Support local government digitisation beyond Kyiv — the Drohobych model scales	For Cybersecurity & Rule of Law - Accelerate disinformation countermeasures, especially in rural regions - Strengthen FIMI (Foreign Information Manipulation & Interference) response frameworks - Align online platform regulation with the DSA; address minimal current platform regulation - Expand collaboration on the EU Cyber Solidarity Act and Emergency Mechanism

SYMPOSIUM SPEAKERS

Alfred F. Praus (Ukrainian-Austrian Association) · **Lidiya Lisovska** (Lviv Polytechnic National University) · **Natalia Datsiv** (Drohobych City Council) · **Anatolii Marushchak** (IFIP General Secretary) · **Karyna Radchenko** (Paris Lodron Universität Salzburg) · **Alexander Prosser** (WU Vienna) · **Jakub Christoph** (CEPIS Secretary General)