

Nature-Positive Recovery: Ukraine's Green Reconstruction and EU Accession

Investing in Nature as a Foundation for Post-War Recovery and European Integration

Format: Public Policy Panel (Brussels, EU Green Week Partner Event)

Organizers: RACSE in partnership with Foreign Policy Council "Ukrainian Prism"

A 90-minute public panel discussion bringing together EU policy-makers, financial institutions, international organizations, civil society leaders, and Ukrainian stakeholders to discuss how Ukraine's reconstruction can operationalise the principles of a nature-positive economy while advancing EU accession.

The discussion will focus on four interconnected dimensions:

1. Integration into the EU Environmental Acquis

Ukraine's reconstruction is taking place in parallel with the implementation of Chapter 27 "Environment and Climate Change". This creates a unique opportunity: instead of retrofitting environmental standards later, Ukraine can embed EU environmental legislation directly into reconstruction planning.

The event will explore:

- how alignment with EU directives (nature restoration, water protection, waste management, industrial emissions, climate policy) can guide investment decisions;
- how reconstruction projects can accelerate compliance rather than create future liabilities;
- how the accession process can function as a structural anchor for sustainable recovery.

2. Mobilising Green and Sustainable Finance

The scale of Ukraine's reconstruction requires unprecedented financial mobilisation. Directing these flows towards nature-positive outcomes is both an environmental necessity and an economic opportunity.

The discussion will address:

- how EU financial instruments, development banks and private investors can support nature-based reconstruction;
- the role of sustainable finance frameworks (ESG, EU taxonomy, green bonds);
- mechanisms to ensure that recovery funding contributes to biodiversity restoration, soil health, water resilience and climate adaptation

3. Showcasing Practical Solutions and Flagship Projects

Beyond policy frameworks, the event will highlight concrete examples of:

- ecosystem restoration in war-affected regions;
- nature-based solutions for flood protection, soil recovery and urban resilience;
- green infrastructure projects embedded in reconstruction strategies.

By presenting tangible initiatives, the event will demonstrate that a nature-positive recovery is not an abstract concept, but a set of implementable solutions already emerging in Ukraine.

4. Mobilising European and Ukrainian Communities

Political support for enlargement increasingly depends on societal engagement across EU Member States. Environmental cooperation offers a powerful bridge between Ukrainian and European civil society, municipalities, businesses and research communities.

The event will explore:

- how environmental partnerships can strengthen cross-border cooperation;
- how European NGOs and institutions can engage in Ukraine's green recovery;
- how joint initiatives can build trust and shared ownership of Ukraine's European future.