



Catalyst 2030: Rebuilding the Social Economy Ecosystem in Ukraine

Catalyst 2030

Catalyst 2030 is a global movement uniting over 1,600 social innovators, funders, and other actors to catalyse impact and achieve the SDGs by 2030. Current predictions estimate that the SDGs will not be achieved until 2092 – more than 60 years beyond the 2030 target date. Our members are committed to radically changing the systems that are delaying this progress and paving the way to a safer world for people and the planet.

Catalyst 2030 Chapters are driving systemic change across the globe. Operating as national and regional collectives of social innovators, they provide the infrastructure and ecosystem to identify needs, create strategies, and drive change from the bottom-up. Their reach is far ranging and context specific. Each chapter is a localized version of the global Catalyst 2030 community, taking responsibility for part of the organization's mission in a specific region or country. Chapter members range from grassroots organizations operating at the village level, all the way up to large organizations working across the country.

While the chapters take their form and overall mission from the global movement, each one has specific issues they focus on, based upon the needs identified by its members and country context. By being connected to the global movement, chapters are able to leverage the expertise from the global ecosystem and apply as relevant at the local level. Being a part of the global movement also ensures that chapters speak with a greater collective voice. This symbiotic relationship allows for greater participation and learning across the whole community, sharing ideas, learning, insights, successes, and failures.

Context

The ongoing Russian invasion in Ukraine continues to inflict substantial economic and social losses due to extensive damages to productive assets and infrastructure, limited market access, and labor force dislocations. Ukraine's GDP is expected to contract by 35 percent in 2022 if the status quo continues until the end of the year without additional economic shocks¹.

¹ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/ukraine/overview>



Urban areas across Ukraine have been repeatedly shelled, reducing complete streets to rubble. At least 464 schools and 43 hospitals have been damaged. The relentless bombardment has forced at least one in five children in Ukraine – or more than 1.5 million – to flee the country. Nearly six million children remain in Ukraine, with many believed to be sheltering inside buildings that are coming under attack, leaving children vulnerable to injury or death, as well as to deprivation of food, clean water and health care.

Even before recent events, Ukraine had been impacted by years of conflict and uncertainty. At the end of 2021, almost three million people in Ukraine needed humanitarian support, including more than 850,000 people displaced by conflict. They are in urgent need of protection and support, and proximate leaders in Ukraine are best placed to provide this support.

There is a wide range of benefits that can arise from providing more funding directly to local actors, including improved inclusion and equity, trust, access, speed of response, responsiveness to community needs, community advocacy and sustainability. There is a clear need to shift the international aid architecture to new ways of working and reconceptualise intermediary structures.

93% of ODA sits with bilateral funders, who are unable to provide thousands of small grants to thousands of individual local actors. Shifting resources from international intermediary structures with expensive overheads and salaries, to local intermediary structures, who can represent the myriad of local actors operating on the ground, is therefore key to unlocking this funding.

- Courtenay Cabot Venton. Share Trust in [Passing the Buck Report](#)

We know that philanthropy is moving in this direction too and that leadership in giving can chart the course for others to follow.

“In the Foundation’s approach to philanthropy, we are prepared to be early and even first funders of innovative models. We are prepared to take informed risks that government or business might not take if a new solution has real potential...We are keen for others to come in with us or behind us, providing scaling-up funding..., Providing risk capital to for-purpose organizations tackling our big challenges is an important role for us.”

- Dr. Catherine Brown, CEO, [Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation](#) & Catalyst 2030 Member



Eastern European Chapter

The emergence of social enterprise in Central and Eastern Europe has been more acutely driven by EU policies and international donors' programmes than by national policy reform strategies, however there are more and more emerging pockets of SE activity. In these cases, it has been evidenced that local networking needs to be supported and advocacy continued in order to empower collective identity and solidarity culture in the field of social enterprises². In response to our growing membership in the region Catalyst 2030 launched our Eastern European Chapter in 2022 anchored in Ukraine. The Chapter is committed to championing the social economy and supporting entrepreneurs and social innovators during the war and in post-war development in Ukraine. Catalyst 2030 has an on-the-ground Chapter coordinator working directly with proximate leaders who are responding to the current crisis and unique challenges. The Chapter and its members have ambitious plans to both respond to emergencies with humanitarian assistance, as well as lay the foundations for a thriving social economy. We are urgently seeking partners who are looking to invest directly into rebuilding Ukraine and facilitate long term social development. We have ambitious plans for the next three years to expand the scope and network from Ukraine into Central and Eastern Europe, with an initial focus on: Bulgaria, Croatia and the Czech Republic.

Activities:

- Create an overview of the current social impact sector in Ukraine (size, maturity, active sectors, key successes, enablers and barriers). Identify attitudes among Ukrainian businesses towards social entrepreneurship. Map out key barriers to widespread adoption.
- Develop a roadmap on how a social enterprise could look like and various business strategies available for participants of this sector supported by key international examples.
- Pilot for social entrepreneur's accelerator with a focus on Ukraine Recovery (in partnership with Phineo, MovingWorlds, SiLab and the Ministry of Digitalisation of Ukraine)
- Provide funding to key proximate leaders on the ground actively working to support Ukrainian people in the wake of the Russian invasion including:
 - Facilitating humanitarian aid to socially vulnerable areas throughout Ukraine.
 - Responding to the 1000+ educational institutions damaged or destroyed since the beginning of the war by facilitating freedom of information between international journalists, educators, and NGOs.
 - Building green infrastructure, energy, and agriculture projects
 - Relocation services to existing enterprises impacted by war
- Convene cross-sector partnerships that work together to design and scale interventions that respond to the needs of people in crisis, and support prevention.

² Defourny, J., & Nyssens, M. (2021). Social Enterprise in Central and Eastern Europe: Theory, models and Practice. Routledge.



Goals:

- Identify and build a cohort of industry-diverse Ukrainian social entrepreneurs/businesses with impact that could benefit from the acceleration and network/community building programmes to maintain & possibly scale their operations and impact
- Through technology platform connect the identified cohort of social entrepreneurs/businesses with impact with the resources/mentors/programmes to ensure they can maintain & possible scale their operation and impact
- Draw and document the lessons and feedback on the fit and efficiency of programmes, as well on the mechanisms of community building in the context of Ukrainian social entrepreneurship ecosystem, and also generally in context of crisis-affected social support ecosystems
- Incorporate the lessons from the pilot in the framework and design of the Impact Force/WEF Global Alliance for Social Entrepreneurship initiative to design a technology solution fostering social economy in post-war Ukraine.

Partners:

Coordinated by Ukraine membership and chapter coordinator, Catalyst 2030 is working directly with a number of proximate leaders. Some of our partners include:

- Silab Ukraine (Academy Coordinator)
 - Impact Force (Academy Coordinator)
 - Vox Ukraine (Research Partner)
- NGO Parents SOS (ГО Батьки SOS) (Education & Freedom of Information)
- Global Ecovillage Network Ukraine (Infrastructure and Humanitarian Support)
- Laksa Project /ЛАСКА — соціальний та благодійний проєкт (Humanitarian)
- School of Me / Школа усвідомл (Expert advice to youth and children focused SE)

Ask

Catalyst 2030 has three levels for investment with Ukraine and Eastern Europe.

Catalytic Systems Change Partner:

Provide funding for an on the ground coordinator to bring together and liaise with actors in Ukraine (year one) and to further expand into Eastern Europe (year two - three).

\$177,000 over three years

Ecosystem Builder Partner:



Support the research to form the core of the Capacity Building Pilot strategy and execution roadmap as we pursue our mission of contribution to rebuilding a stronger, modern Ukraine and creating a more equitable economy in Ukraine.

\$47,800 one off investment

Join Catalyst 2030, Moving Worlds, Schwab Foundation, Silab and Ministry of Digitalisation by investing in the Capacity Building pilot directly, which is working towards building the capacity and capability of the social enterprise ecosystem in Ukraine.

\$250,000 budget (\$60, 000 already secured)

Proximate Leader Support

Fund a Catalyst 2030 member directly who is working in Ukraine.

Suggested minimal investment \$10,000



Annex Ukraine Chapter Members and needs:

Organisation	About	Focus	Need
NGO Parents SOS (ГО Батьки SOS)	<p>"Parents SOS" was created with the support of the Charity Foundation "Institute of Development of Education" and the secondary education support program of the Open Society Foundations (ESP OSF, Budapest), Education Support Program, Open Society Foundations. Parents SOS unites more than 21.5 thousand parents, and tackle issues such as bullying, access to education, and equity within the education system</p>	<p>Today "Parents SOS" are focused on access to education. Education institutions are being destroyed and under the constant threat of shelling which has resulted in the impossibility of opening full-time education (organisation bomb shelters). There are also issues related to organising distance education, due to a lack of material and technical base, and the ceasing of NUS reform (new Ukrainian School), means there is an inability to print new textbooks). "Parents SOS" are mobilising their network to fundraise for individual educational institutions, while still working on changing the regulatory and legal framework under martial law. They are continuing to monitor the situation in the regions and bringing attention to the dire situation through reporting to the world community via writing articles, helping international journalists to communicate with teachers.</p>	<p>"Parents SOS" require funds to launch a project working on the provision of legal assistance to parents within their network to deal with issues they faced due to the war.</p>
ЛАСКА — соціальний та благодійний проєкт	<p>"Laska" is a social and charitable project founded to change the cultural landscape and beautify Kyiv. Their goal is to form a community of people united by the idea of conscious consumption, and to contribute to the solution of a local environmental problem, giving things</p>	<p>As a social enterprise, Laska has been significantly financially impacted by the war in Ukraine but is still actively working to support humanitarian efforts by providing humanitarian assistance to internally displaced people. They are delivering bed linen and towels to the East of the country and working with "Kosatka" café to prepare dinners for the residents of Kyiv.</p>	<p>Laksa require financial support to continue both their humanitarian efforts, and to continue to run their store as the war progresses</p>

	a new life.		
Global Ecovillage Network Ukraine	Global Eco-Village Ukraine is a unified friendly community consisting of over 60 ecovillages around Ukraine. They have succeeded in bringing environmental lifestyle and the latest innovations together. Now they are working to advance sustainable development to meet the wonderful future of our country.	On February 24, Russia attacked Ukraine. The next day, February 25, GEN Ukraine and the NGO 'Permaculture in Ukraine' joined forces, mobilised their networks, and created a map of locations ready to accommodate people seeking short-term or long-term shelter. As of the end of October they had around 70 locations in Ukraine and 300 in Western Europe, and Ukrainian locations hosted about 3,000 people. Around 600 refugees are staying in our locations for winter. Eco-communities and rural communities that host Internally displaced people currently face the pressing issue of preparing places for winter. Insulation, heating, fodder for animals. Farms and producers of organic products do not have enough funds to upgrade their equipment to pass certification for exporting their products. As a central organisation GEN Ukraine, lacks technical and IT support to create a database and tools for effective coordination of people to redirect them to the shelters.	GEN Ukraine is seeking funding to prepare the rural infrastructure for the winter. The need to upgrade/renovate equipment in production to obtain certificates for the export of organic products. They are also seeking funds for technical experts, consulting for the organisation structure and cooperation with the government Technical and IT support for the management and branding.
School of Me / Школа усвідомленого підприємництва	School of ME: School of Mindful Entrepreneurship is an NGO slash startup that develops and implements social, school, and youth entrepreneurial projects to achieve change of values in the business ecosystem. We work towards the	The main problems of their communities are related to the adaptation of enterprises to the consequences of war. School of Me supports enterprises to relocate from the war zone; and provides advice on reorienting sales markets, supply chains; developing adaptive strategies, accessing financial instruments (grants, loans,	School of Me have the goal to double the number of enterprises they can work with in 2023 (100 up from 50 in 2022). They want to be able to provide expert and financial support to social entrepreneurs. Additional funding would enable



	development of social entrepreneurship with different categories: schoolchildren; youth; social entrepreneurs.	investments).	them to provide targeted support to enterprises for the purchase of equipment, and the fees of experts working with enterprises.
Silab Ukraine	Silab's mission is to build an ecosystem of social entrepreneurship and social innovations development as tools for the formation of social responsibility culture in society.	Silab, Catalyst 2030 and Impact Force are aiming to build a cohort of industry-diverse Ukrainian social entrepreneurs and businesses with impact that could benefit from the acceleration and network building programmes to maintain & possibly scale their operations and impact. Through a technology platform they are aiming to connect the identified cohort of social entrepreneurs and businesses to each other, resources, mentors, and additional programmes to ensure they can maintain & possible scale their operation and impact. One area that has been identified is a partnership between the agriculture and energy entrepreneurs through biomass collection to make butane, allowing communities to be connected directly rather than to the grid, therefore being more resilient to Russian attacks. They are also able to harness the butane to ripen corn over winter. This is one of many possible rebuilding projects to be facilitated by the accelerator.	Silab is looking for early-stage partners to support the launch of a capacity building pilot in Ukraine. In the initial pilot projects and enterprises will be priorities by the following criteria 1. focusing on rebuilding Ukraine sustainably, 2. that can also be launched quickly so that learnings can be shared quickly and 3. sets the foundations for a more scalable program