

February – May 2022

EU ADVOCACY



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MEETINGS WITH DECISION MAKERS

Over the last three months our advocacy team focused on advocating Ukraine's interests in the EU institutions, namely Council of the European Union, European Parliament and European Commission. Specific attention was paid to the Council of the European Union and EU Member states. About 30 meetings with various decision-makers and diplomats were organised. Among those is the cabinet of the European Commission's President, Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola, Deputy Ambassador of Germany to the EU, Ambassador of Hungary to the EU, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea in Belgium, Representative of the International Committee of Red Cross in the European Union and many others. During those meetings our team and Ukrainian refugees shared information and personal stories about the ongoing situation in Ukraine and needs on the ground. We called for immediate delivery of heavy weapons, oil and gas embargo, recognition of genocide in Ukraine and Russia's status as a terrorist state as well as EU candidacy status for Ukraine.



Meeting with Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament, March 2022

MANIFESTATIONS



Over the last three months our team joined forces with the NGO Promote Ukraine and environmental movement Youth for Climate and Fridays for Future and organised 42 manifestations in Brussels. The largest ones were Solidarity With Ukraine marches attended by 8000 and 3000 people in March and May respectively. Most of our manifestations were connected to our advocacy work. We were present at all EU and NATO Summits in Brussels, as well as Foreign Ministers and EU Ambassadors meetings. Each of our manifestations was attended by at least 50 people. We used creative ways to manifest: sounds of sirens and bombings, lying on the ground with hands tied (symbolising Bucha massacre), dropping red paint on our bodies etc.

***Our team was
interviewed by
Reuters, CNN,
Bloomberg, Al
Jazeera,
Associate Press
and others***

MEDIA COVERAGE

These are some of the highlights of our work's media coverage:

- Meeting **President Metsola**: <https://audiovisual.ec.europa.eu/en/video/I-219505?fbclid=IwAR3M-XYr29uMJamusFDE0coorAbherkMKLn2Z9iv3PrACOh6zgXMMCaJr60>
- Question from our protest to Ms. von der Leyen voiced by **Euronews** journalist Meabh Macmanon and her famous answer that Ukraine belongs to the EU family:
<https://www.euronews.com/2022/02/27/ukraine-is-one-of-us-and-we-want-them-in-eu-ursula-von-der-leyen-tells-euronews>
- **Voice of America** on our protest during Biden's visit to Brussels:
<https://www.voanews.com/a/in-brussels-streets-ukraine-protesters-demand-nato-and-eu-intervention-/6501009.html>
- **Euronews** about EU Council protest: <https://www.euronews.com/2022/04/29/ukrainians-urge-eu-to-stop-buying-russian-oil-gas>
- **Reuters**: <https://yhoo.it/3KA4ho6>
- **Africa News**: <https://bit.ly/3ksQZze>
- **Brussels Times** about our protest at Antwerp port against Russian oil tankers:
<https://www.news-ytoday.com/putin-laughs-because-youre-so-addicted-belgium/>
- **Associated Press** about our protest at German Mission to the EU:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZSzs53xmSY&ab_channel=APArchive
- **Al Jazeera** about our protest during EU Foreign Ministers meeting in Brussels on the 6th package of sanctions:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZIS6xnwPFX8&ab_channel=AlJazeeraEnglish
- **Euractiv** about protest against Lukoil: https://www.euractiv.com/section/global-europe/news/eu-oil-embargo-in-days-as-ukraine-isolation-drives-russia-closer-to-china/?fbclid=IwAR2L8_I0HGlqf1rMtsxjmGfvHPwQgLL-rGaS7pnaolnH4AjMzPsY_JhUQvY
- **VRT** about our march in Brussels: <https://www.vrt.be/vrtnws/en/2022/03/06/3-500-people-at-brussels-demonstration-against-the-war-in-ukrain/>
- We made a cover of Belgian Pride attended by 120,000 people in Brussels:
<https://www.vrt.be/vrtnws/nl/2022/05/21/pride/?fbclid=IwAR2DrvDtgUNjix3pjOHkaWSvci9JWgcy0befRZoCcXZFmVh4cS6zMQQAxc>

POLICY & ADVOCAY

Our team wrote letters, policy papers and briefings about current Ukraine's needs. Relying on messages from the Ukrainian government and civil society we focused our attention on three key priorities for Ukraine. These three priorities were proactively communicated to EU Member States, European Commission, NATO Policy Unit, Brussels Mission of the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) and others.



WEAPONS FOR UKRAINE

Our team wrote explanatory letters and briefings to NATO, European Union and key countries about Ukraine's needs in heavy weapons needed to deoccupy Ukraine



SANCTIONS FOR RUSSIA

We advocate for oil and gas embargo on Russia as well as cutting any business with Ukraine. Moreover, we called EU member states to recognise Russia as a terrorist country that conducts war crimes and genocide in Ukraine.



EU candidacy status and Reconstruction of Ukraine

In all of our advocacy meeting and policy work we presented arguments why it is important for Ukraine to receive a candidacy status and join the EU as soon as possible. Ukraine should receive pre-accession funds to continue with reforms and reconstruction of the country.



COOPERATION WITH MFA UKRAINE AND PARTNERS

Our advocacy and policy work is closely coordinated with Ukraine's Mission to the EU, Mission of Ukraine to NATO and the Department of international organisations in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ukraine. We also closely cooperate with Ukrainian NGO Promote Ukraine and environmental movements in Brussels, including Rise for Climate and Fridays for Future.



UKRAINIAN CIVIL SOCIETY HUB IN BRUSSELS

Brussels team of the Institute of Innovative Governance is based in Ukrainian Civil Society Hub. Civil Society Hub was inaugurated by European Parliament's President Roberta Metsola in the Station Europe building. This building was given to Ukrainian civil society in Brussels to coordinate its work.

Our advocacy and policy work is closely coordinated with Ukraine's Mission to the EU, Mission of Ukraine to NATO and the Department of international organisations in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ukraine. We also closely cooperate with Ukrainian NGO Promote Ukraine and environmental movements in Brussels, including Rise for Climate and Fridays for Future.



CAMPAIGN AGAINST LUKOIL

For two month already, our team, with photos of killed Ukrainian civilians, have called on the public to boycott Lukoil gas stations around Brussels. Every Sunday we stand at 18 Lukoil petrol stations in Brussels informing people that Lukoil is a Russian company. Every euro paid for Lukoil petrol is used by Russia to kill Ukrainians. Over two months we convinced at least 1400 people not to fuel their cars at Lukoil. We also organised a large manifestation in front of Lukoil HQ in Belgium. We appeared in Belgian media at least 21 times explaining to Belgians the link between Lukoil and Russian regime.

Due to our advocacy work, one petrol station in Gent was closed and others faced consequences. Recently, Lukoil hired a Media Manager to counteract our work.



SUPPORT OF PRIDE BELGIUM

We took the streets of Brussels in a 120, 000 Pride rally and organised a Ukrainian column there. Our message was in support for human rights, gender equality and freedom. While Ukraine stands for European values, Russia keeps prosecuting and killing LGBTI people including on Ukraine's occupied territories.



EU-UKRAINE DIALOGUES ON RECONSTRUCTION

The objective of EU-Ukraine Dialogues on Reconstruction is to exchange knowledge with EU Member States and EU Institutions, discuss good practices and promising solutions to efficient, green and sustainable reconstruction of Ukraine.

The dialogues will take the form of panel discussions organised in person and online in Brussels, Kyiv and major EU capitals. Each dialogue will last for about 2,5 hours featuring speakers from various sectors, institutions and organisations. Speakers will be invited with the support from the European Parliament and by tapping into large network of experts and contacts of the Institute of Innovative Governance, Brussels-based Promote Ukraine and Professional Government Association of Ukraine.

Dialogues will feed into policy making of Ukraine by suggesting possible solutions to reconstruction in various sectors.



CONTACT US IN BRUSSELS

In Brussels, Institute of Innovative Governance's team is based at Ukrainian Civil Society Hub, at European Parliament, place Luxembourg, Station Europe building.

Our Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/instinovgov>

Our Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/iig_innovations/

*We thank you for your attention and
support!*



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