



# EUROPEAN HUMANITARIAN FORUM 2023

Brussels, 20-21 March

#EHF2023

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EHF 2023

HQ SESSION ON UKRAINE

## **Looking back: One year into the Ukraine conflict**

Tuesday 28 February 2023

14:00-15:30 CET (Brussels time)

Venue: DG ECHO – European Commission & Online

In the run-up to the European Humanitarian Forum (EHF) 2023, DG ECHO is hosting a public warm-up session on lessons that can be drawn one year into the Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and the ongoing humanitarian crisis. The event will be organized jointly with the Egmont Royal Institute for International Relations.

A combination of experts, humanitarian actors, and donor representatives will be invited to share their analyses and discuss the key challenges experienced during the first year of this major humanitarian crisis taking place on European soil.

In particular, the panellists will discuss the challenges of maintaining a strict principled humanitarian approach in such type of conflict, and what are the main barriers to localisation, with a particular emphasis on access to funding. The discussion will focus on the articulation between international and local actors and how coordination and funding structures can improve a principled and locally led response.

The objective of the session is to bring together insights from experts and humanitarian stakeholders ahead of the EHF 2023 and to better inform the Ukraine response as it moves forward. An outcome paper will be produced following the session to build upon analyses and provide targeted recommendations.

## PROGRAMME

### 14:00-14:10 Introduction

Jean-Louis De Brouwer, Egmont Institute

Niklas Nordstrom, Programme Specialist, Humanitarian Division (SIDA).

### 14:10-14:20 Contextual overview and pillars

Denise Brown, UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator for Ukraine

*What are the key barriers that local and international actors have faced in the Ukraine humanitarian response over the last year?*

### 14:20-15:00 Expert panel discussion on principles, access and localisation

Principles: Olga Olikier – Program Director / Europe and Central Asia (ICG)

- *How can neutrality be maintained in this context and what can be said of the “solidarity approach” adopted by many local CSOs?*
- *How is it possible, when considering the geopolitical context, to better advocate, make a clear distinction between the different forms of aid, and raise awareness of humanitarian principles while taking side in a war?*

Access: Christopher Stokes – Country Director / Ukraine (MSF)

- *Building on the necessity to uphold humanitarian principles, how can we improve humanitarian access and how can we better advocate for access in hard-to-reach areas? What are concrete measures and initiatives by neutral actors (UN, ICRC) that donors can support to facilitate safe passage and humanitarian access?*
- *What lessons have been learned from NGOs in terms of barriers faced when implementing humanitarian programming in the Ukraine context? Are broader best practices applicable in this context characterised by insecurity and warfare?*

Localisation: Tetiana Stawnychy – Country Director (Caritas Ukraine)

- *In addition to the issues of neutrality and access, what are the main barriers to efficient collaboration between the humanitarian architecture and local volunteers and CSOs? How can the broader humanitarian architecture support scaled up leadership and participation of CSOs?*
- *What steps have been taken thus far one year on within humanitarian coordination bodies and INGOs? How can local organizations be more involved in the humanitarian clusters?*

### 15:00-15:20 Q&A

### 15:20-15:30 Conclusions

- Final remarks: Juha Auvinen – Head of Unit (ECHO)
- Conclusion