

Recommendations to Denmark's Strategic Framework on Ukraine

In DUF - the Danish Youth Council, we commend the focus on supporting and working with Ukrainian youth and with civil society.

To further strengthen the strategic framework on Ukraine, we recommend:

- 1. That the importance of working with democratic and member-based youth-led civil society organizations is emphasized.** While the need to strengthen and consolidate the active role of civil society “with a special focus on organizing and involving young people” (p. 22) is recognized, the strategic importance of supporting the existing *youth-led civil society organizations* in Ukraine is less explicit. Highlighting the changemaking and sustainable prospects of supporting and working with existing youth-led civil society organizations would be in accordance with the focus on promoting “the growth of democratic and member-based Ukrainian civil society organizations, where voluntary work and membership quotas contribute to the sustainability of the organizations, including financial sustainability” (p. 46). Moreover, strong and diverse democratic youth-led civil society organizations will be key in the democratic rebuilding of Ukraine.
- 2. That the paragraph on the Ukrainian Danish Youth House (UDYH) is rephrased accordingly, emphasizing democratic and member-based Ukrainian youth-led civil society organizations as the focus:** In line with the dialogue between the Danish MFA and the UDYH consortium, the UDYH should not only function as a safe meeting place and inspire young people to organize and get involved. Rather, the purpose should be to support the Ukrainian youth-led civil society, primarily youth organizations, in their work to engage youth democratically in civil society across Ukraine. The paragraph on the UDYH could read:

“The Danish support will include a specific focus and involvement of youth-led civil society organizations in Danish funded programmes, where possible and relevant, and will also include continued support for the Ukrainian-Danish Youth House in Kyiv. With the strategic aim of strengthening youth-led civil society in Ukraine, the Youth House will function as a safe meeting place for youth engaged in civil society and work to support and enable democratic youth-led organizations and communities of youth in their efforts to contribute to the democratic rebuilding of Ukraine. As relevant, the house must also support and strengthen the 'youth infrastructure' created by the Ukrainian Ministry of Youth and Sports.”

Thanks for your consideration.