



LIBERTE,
EGALITE,
SOLIDARITE!



ABOUT

The platform LIBERTE, EGALITE, SOLIDARITE reflects the organic need for cooperation between CSOs in Serbia and in Ukraine that has been detected by the results of the research conducted and published by Krokodil Associatiob during the 2023:

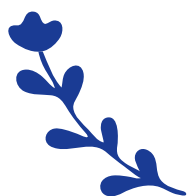
LIBERTE, EGALITE, SOLIDARITE! Research with proposals and recommendations for the involvement and cooperation of civil society organisations regarding activities in response to the aggression against Ukraine | KROKODIL <https://share.google/XUBHx0ycoAxHJSjiR>

emphasizing a practical bottom-up approach to strengthening civil sector capacity and the need to share experience and methodologies that have proven to be effective in the field, successfully raising awareness of the importance of active, timely and coordinated action.

The platform facilitates the cooperation in the long term and in that way not only strengthen the civil sectors of both nations but also enhance their ability to manage complex socio-political challenges collectively while promoting shared values and mutual understanding.

The platform also responds to the urgent need for strengthened cooperation between Serbian and Ukrainian women's grassroots organizations, initiatives, NGOs, and activists in the face of the social challenges produced by the ongoing war. By facilitating cross-border exchange, feminist solidarity, and practical collaboration, the initiative aims to empower those working on the frontlines of social justice, peacebuilding, and community resilience.

The project is implemented with the support of the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI).





RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE ACTION AND COOPERATION

The following recommendations for future activities for both Ukrainian and Serbian organisations and individuals are based on the knowledge collected on the basis of a two year long project of facilitating online meetings and cooperation between these two groups, extensive research and one in-person gathering. They reflect shared experiences, lessons learned, and practical strategies for advancing cross-border solidarity, transitional justice, cultural and academic exchanges, and policy advocacy. These recommendations serve as a roadmap to empower civil society, enhance regional cooperation, and foster resilient communities committed to human rights, peace, and sustainable development.

The project addresses the urgent need to strengthen cooperation between Serbian and Ukrainian civil society organizations (CSOs) to effectively respond to social challenges stemming from the ongoing conflict. Research in 2023 highlighted gaps in cross-border collaboration, especially among women-led and feminist organizations, emphasizing their vital role in advocating for peace, human rights, and social justice.

Building on the legacy of 1990s women’s activism during the Yugoslav Wars - challenging nationalist narratives and documenting war crimes - the project aims to foster partnerships that enhance initiatives on gender equality, protection of GBV victims, anti-trafficking, and democratic governance. It also seeks to counter external influences that threaten civic values, promoting active, coordinated responses through online and offline networking, capacity building, and shared methodologies.

Ultimately, the project aims to strengthen civil society’s capacity to promote social cohesion, resilience, and gender equality, fostering sustainable cross-border solidarity and impactful advocacy in both countries.

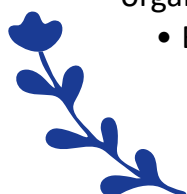
I. CROSS-BORDER SUPPORT & SOLIDARITY

Peer-to-Peer Exchange

- Match Ukrainian and Serbian groups to share practical know-how (e.g., setting up safe houses, navigating wartime media, trauma care, and evidence preservation).
- Develop “buddy” relationships for rapid support during crises and for sharing lessons on local community organization.

Unified Digital Resources

- Create a trilingual digital toolbox that includes legal aid forms, trauma protocols, grant budgets, and crisis response guidelines, regularly updated and accessible to every partner organization.
- Build a shared resource hub with best practices, case studies, and funding guides for





both emergency response and long-term peacebuilding.

Collaborative Advocacy & Storytelling

- Co-develop joint policy briefs or “Feminist Agendas” that call for transitional justice, fact-based reconciliation, and the inclusion of marginalized voices.
- Launch storytelling initiatives (via podcasts, video testimonies, or online narratives) to document experiences of war, resistance, and recovery, aiming for releases on significant dates (e.g., International Women’s Day, UN Security Council 1325 anniversary).

II. CAPACITY BUILDING & NETWORKING

Skill-Sharing & Mentorship

- Organize regular webinars and capacity-building workshops on topics such as digital storytelling, gender audits, evidence collection, crisis management, and humanitarian response.
- Establish mentoring links by pairing experienced activists with emerging leaders to build long-term sustainable networks.

Cross-Border Working Groups

- Form thematic groups (e.g., gender equality, peace activism, safe dialogue, cultural exchange) that connect organizations and individuals from both countries to share challenges and strategies.
- Promote intergenerational exchange by involving youth initiatives and celebrating the contributions of both seasoned and new voices.

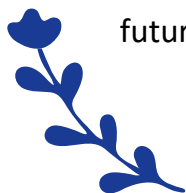
III. TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE & POST-CONFLICT RECOVERY

Evidence Collection & Documentation

- Develop a joint framework and shared protocol for collecting victim testimonies and evidence of war crimes, using secure, encrypted storage systems.
- Organize training sessions on interviewing displaced persons and documenting atrocities, ensuring gender-sensitive practices are adopted.

Multi-Stakeholder Seminars

- Hold seminars and workshops with experts to discuss challenges in criminal prosecutions at national and international levels, and share strategies for building inclusive cultures of remembrance.
- Include sessions on balancing material and symbolic reparations while preventing future conflicts through educational reforms.





International Networking

- Facilitate reciprocal visits between Ukrainian and Serbian organizations to sites of past atrocities for mutual learning and narrative consolidation.
- Connect with global transitional justice platforms to share local experiences and advocate for broader international support.

Community-Based Recovery Projects

- Develop joint proposals for women-led initiatives focused on community resilience, such as establishing psychosocial centers, community kitchens, and resilience hubs for children.
- Leverage lessons from past conflicts (e.g., Yugoslav wars) to design projects that prioritize sustainable peace and reconciliation through education and independent justice.

IV. CULTURAL & ACADEMIC EXPANSION

Reinforcing Cultural Exchange

- Expand literary translation projects, academic exchanges, and digital cultural platforms that highlight historical ties - such as the influence of Ukrainian Baroque on Serbian literature - and celebrate shared heritage.
- Organize annual or biannual cultural festivals, art residencies, and creative workshops that foster dialogue and resilience, even amid wartime challenges.

Strengthening Academic Collaboration

- Support joint research projects and grants on Ukrainian–Serbian historical and cultural connections, with a focus on empowering women scholars.
- Revitalize student exchange programs using online modules and responsiveness to current geopolitical challenges to boost interest in Ukrainian studies at Serbian universities.

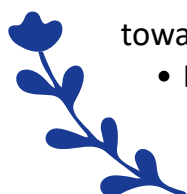
Enhanced Communication & Visibility

- Establish a regular newsletter or online forum to share updates on cultural events, joint research, and successful collaborative projects.
- Utilize local events (e.g., readings, street art, workshops) to generate media coverage that promotes cross-border solidarity and mutual learning.

V. POLICY ADVOCACY & EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

Coordinated EU Integration Advocacy

- Co-create joint policy papers that articulate the shared challenges and aspirations toward faster European integration for both Ukraine and Serbia.
- Engage with EU institutions - such as the European Commission - to present unified





proposals for pre-accession assistance and accelerated integration mechanisms.

Platforms for Integration and Dialogue

- Develop a digital hub to share best practices and strategic frameworks from successful integration processes across the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries.
- Organize targeted roundtables with civil society organizations from Ukraine, Serbia, and neighboring countries to discuss reforms and strategies for EU integration.

Institutional Dialogue for Reforms

- Initiate dialogue series that include academia, civil society, and government bodies to strategize on adopting and implementing the *acquis communautaire* and rule-of-law reforms.
- Provide capacity-building resources for local institutions to better navigate EU regulatory frameworks and advocate for transparency, good governance, and human rights protections.

VI. HUMAN RIGHTS, GOOD GOVERNANCE & INCLUSIVITY

Strengthening Minority, LGBTQ+ & Marginalized Voices

- Launch joint initiatives to advance rights for ethnic minorities, LGBTQ+ communities, and other marginalized groups through public forums and collaborative projects.
- Organize multi-stakeholder dialogues including government, civil society, and advocacy groups to monitor and promote the implementation of human rights standards.

Transparency & Accountability Mechanisms

- Develop a collaborative digital platform for monitoring state transparency, free expression, and institutional accountability, supported by regular public reporting and case studies.
- Encourage cross-sector partnerships between civil society, academia, and cultural institutions to generate research and public debates on systemic reforms needed for robust human rights protection.

