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Department for Russia,
Eastern Europe and
Central Asia



Finland's country strategy for Ukraine

2021–2024

Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

International law, rules-based international order and territorial integrity and sovereignty have been severely violated in Ukraine by Russia since 2014. Events in Ukraine have endangered security in Europe and threatened the basis for multilateral cooperation. Solving the conflict and returning Crimea to Ukraine's control will not only strengthen Ukraine's security, but will also contribute to the security of Europe as a whole and strengthen respect for international law and the rules-based international order. It is crucial for Finland, the European Union and other international partners to stand side-by-side with Ukraine in these efforts.

Ukraine is Finland's next-door neighbour, a close partner in bilateral, EU and multilateral cooperation with the same democratic values and principles. Ukraine's democracy has been strengthened further by fair, free and well-managed presidential and parliamentary elections in 2014 and 2019. The peaceful and smooth transition of power provides an example to many countries in the region.

Despite the challenging circumstances, Ukraine has been able to implement an ambitious reform programme with the potential to permanently transform the country. Reforms have brought concrete benefits for ordinary Ukrainians and enhanced the resilience of the society and capabilities to tackle various threats and challenges. However, these reforms are still unfinished and Ukraine needs further international support and assistance. It also requires constant commitment and ownership by Ukraine to continue the implementation of the reforms and to preserve the achieved results.

The COVID-19 pandemic has underlined the vulnerabilities of Ukraine's society and economy and the need for overall structural reforms. However, it is likely that it will take several years for the economy to recover from the negative effects of the pandemic.

Finland will continue its support to Ukraine bilaterally as well as through the European Union and other multilateral organisations and channels. Finland's goals are manifold: to restore and preserve the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine and thus, guarantee the respect for international law; to support efforts to end the conflict in eastern Ukraine; to strengthen bilateral relations and widen the scope of cooperation; to enhance the resilience of the society and improve the living conditions of the people; and to strengthen the EU–Ukraine relations. The primary instruments for cooperation will be enhancing and widening political and sectoral dialogue, intensifying trade and economic relations, continuing and, if possible, increasing

development cooperation, participating in civilian crisis management, providing further humanitarian aid, supporting humanitarian mine action and supporting Ukraine within international organisations.

EU–Ukraine cooperation is based on the ambitious and comprehensive Association Agreement, including the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement that fully entered into force in 2017. Finland supports Ukraine's European aspirations and European choice as stated in the Association Agreement. Visa-free travel will boost people-to-people contacts. The European Union adopted five guiding principles for its Russia policy in 2016 after the illegal annexation of Crimea and the outbreak of the conflict in eastern Ukraine. One of the principles is to increase support and to have closer relations with the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood. The European Union and its Member States have enhanced their political and economic support to Ukraine accordingly.

1 COUNTRY CONTEXT

Since the restoration of independence in 1991, Ukraine has been experiencing the most difficult times in its history. Seven per cent of its area is not under its control because of the illegal annexation of Crimea by Russia and because of the military conflict in eastern Ukraine that Russia is supporting politically, militarily and economically. The international community's position is clear: Russia's actions in Ukraine constitute a gross violation of international law, the UN Charter, Helsinki Final Act and Paris Charter. Respect for Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty within its internationally recognised borders is clearly stated in UN General Assembly resolution 68/262 (2014) and UN Security Council resolution 2202 (2015). Many other declarations and statements state the same.

Almost 14,000 people have died and over 30,000 have been wounded as a result of the conflict in eastern Ukraine. The conflict affects the lives of over 5 million Ukrainians living on both sides of the contact line, 1.5 million Ukrainians are internally displaced and over 3 million people require humanitarian assistance and protection.

Efforts to solve the conflict are guided by the Minsk Agreements that were adopted between September 2014 and February 2015. Russia has a key role in solving the conflict. Negotiations for a sustainable political solution are facilitated by the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Trilateral Contact Group (TCG) and the Normandy Format. The TCG consists of representatives from the OSCE, Ukraine and Russia. Russia-backed armed formations from certain areas in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions in eastern Ukraine are unofficial representatives of the TCG. The Normandy Format is formed by France, Germany, Ukraine and Russia. The OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (SMM) observes and reports on the situation on the ground and facilitates dialogue among all parties to the conflict.

Since 2014, Ukraine has been governed by pro-reform administrations elected in free, fair and democratic elections. Ukraine has intensified its cooperation both with the European Union and NATO. In June 2020, NATO recognised Ukraine as an Enhanced Opportunities Partner (EOP). As per its constitution, Ukraine's aim is to become a member of both organisations. Implementation of the EU–Ukraine Association Agreement and the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA) has brought Ukraine's legislation closer to the EU legislation and has made the European Union the biggest trading partner of Ukraine. Ukraine has also joined the EU's Eastern Partnership (EaP) cooperation together with five other partner countries, namely Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia and Moldova. At the same

time, Ukraine has terminated several treaties with Russia since 2014 and Russia's share in Ukraine's trade is decreasing annually.

Despite the ongoing military conflict, Ukraine has been able to undertake significant reforms with the aim of improving the living conditions of the people and the resilience of the society. The international community supports the reforms guided by Ukraine's national reform strategies, the above-mentioned EU agreements and the requirements of international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank (WB) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

Despite the progress in reforms, more is needed in many areas and the achievements have not been steady. Challenges remain, for example, in the political and judicial sectors, including the rule of law and anti-corruption, the uneven distribution of prosperity, and risks related to the business environment, gender equality and the protection of different minorities. Ukraine is a state party to most major international and regional human rights instruments, and it has created solid institutional frameworks for the implementation of its international obligations. However, the national implementation of these at all levels, including by local administrations, still needs attention.

Ukraine's economy was already fragile due to the economic crisis in the mid-2010s. Because of the conflict and Ukraine's need to strengthen its defence capabilities, military expenditure has increased since 2014 up to 5% of the gross domestic product (GDP). Implementation of the reforms and international financial assistance managed to stabilise the macroeconomic situation and enable economic growth, albeit modest. GDP growth was at 3.3% in 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic will have drastic effects on Ukraine's economy.

The public debt remains at a relatively high level, 61% of GDP in 2019, though moderate compared to 80% of GDP in the crises years from 2014 to 2018. Cooperation with international financial institutions, in particular with the IMF, remains necessary for Ukraine, in order to strengthen macroeconomic stability further.

The Ukrainian industrial and trade sectors are dominated by metallurgy and chemical industries as well as by agricultural production. Eighty per cent of Ukrainian exports consist of black metals, crops, sunflower oil, machinery and fertilisers. The service sector, especially outsourced ICT services, is developing fast, while manufacturing and investments are growing relatively slowly. Because of a large dependency on raw material exports, Ukraine is vulnerable to external market shocks. Despite decent economic growth, Ukraine remains the second poorest country in Europe after

Moldova. Many Ukrainians have moved abroad for work and remittances by migrant and seasonal workers formed approximately 11% of Ukraine's GDP in 2019.

Ukraine has a vast potential and resources to diversify its economy, attract foreign investments and increase foreign trade. Owing to the free trade agreement, trade exchange with the EU Member States has grown significantly and in 2019 it accounted for 45% of Ukraine's total exports. Other central trade partners for Ukraine are China, Russia and Turkey.

The fundamental base of the economy is easily shaken by shocks in the global economy. The COVID-19 pandemic has underlined the vulnerabilities of Ukraine's society and economy and the need for overall structural reforms. However, it is likely that it will take several years for the economy to fully recover from the negative effects of the pandemic, such as increased unemployment and social inequality, uncertainty in the field of foreign investments and reduced tax revenues, combined with increasing costs in the health sector. Thus, Ukraine continues to be a beneficiary of international financial assistance. The need for strong conditionality and Ukraine's own commitment to intensify structural reforms remains high. It also needs to be noted that even before the pandemic, the level of absolute poverty was high. Concern has also been raised over growing income disparities and the decline in the share of public funds allocated to social services.

A key concern relating to the rule of law is the structural use of violence and ill-treatment by law enforcement agencies and the Security Service of Ukraine, as well as the widespread impunity. In addition, there is still a high level of public dissatisfaction, especially with the pace and depth of anti-corruption measures and with oligarchic structures, and concern about the vested interests among the political decision-makers. While Ukraine has taken steps to combat corruption, including the establishment of the National Anti-Corruption Bureau and the High Anti-Corruption Court, corruption remains high. There is a need for greater judicial efficiency, integrity, and independence of anti-corruption authorities in addressing corruption cases. There have been reports of political interference in corruption prosecutions. There have also been attacks on and threats against anti-corruption activists and journalists. These have led to concerns whether the legacy of the Maidan demonstrations in 2013–2014 will live on and whether the decisions are too much driven by politics and extra-parliamentary forces. Hence, especially Ukraine's civil society is actively keeping the pressure on decision-makers, highlighting irregularities and demanding more accountability and transparency of the public administration.

Finland, together with the European Union, follows closely the implementation of Ukraine's reforms and is ready to support and keep the pressure on Ukraine. Financial support is linked to the conditionality on continued progress in all

circumstances. Continuing to carry out political and judicial reforms is key to enhancing public trust in authorities and increasing their transparency and accountability. These reforms will also strengthen the rule of law and independence of the judiciary, and as a consequence, the democratic basis of the society.

Improving the business environment, implementing land reform and redoubling efforts to tackle deeply-rooted corruption contribute to the diversification of the economy, more foreign investment and job opportunities. Education reform is based on an understanding that education is a central factor to eradicate social inequalities, enhance new opportunities and increase resilience.

Enhancing gender equality and empowering women enable the whole society to engage in efforts for the benefit of the country. Promoting human rights and the rights of all minorities, including LGBTI people, strengthens the cohesion of the society further and reduces discrimination. Promoting sustainable forestry and decarbonising the energy system through improved energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy will strengthen energy security, promote the implementation of the sustainable development goals and contribute to the achievement of the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement.

2 FINLAND'S RELATIONS WITH UKRAINE

Finland and Ukraine enjoyed diplomatic relations for a short period already in 1918 and Finland recognised the independence of Ukraine for the second time in 1991. Diplomatic relations were established again in 1992. Both countries have an embassy in their respective capitals. Bilateral relations have intensified and diversified since 2014 with regular high-level political contacts and visits. There are also friendship groups in both parliaments. In addition to bilateral and EU cooperation, Finland actively engages with Ukraine-related questions within multilateral organisations such as the United Nations, the OSCE and the Council of Europe (CoE).

Finland is a staunch supporter of Ukraine. In addition to political support, Finland has provided over EUR 56 million of financial assistance to Ukraine since 2014 (amount as of December 2020). The main elements of the assistance have been development cooperation, civilian crisis management and expert secondments, humanitarian aid, humanitarian mine action, and support through non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the Council of Europe and NATO–Ukraine Trust Funds. Finland renewed its development cooperation with Ukraine in 2016, focusing on education and energy efficiency, including renewable energy. Through the Council of Europe's Action Plan for Ukraine, Finland also supports rule-of-law reforms, such as enhancing the independence of the judiciary, the application of European human rights standards, the improvement of governance, and the protection of the rights of minorities and internally displaced persons.

There is a vast potential for bilateral trade and economic cooperation due to the geographical proximity, the size of Ukraine's market and interest in Finnish know-how in Ukraine. Bilateral trade has increased since 2016, but has not yet reached the peak years of the early 2010s. In 2019, Finnish exports to Ukraine amounted to EUR 218 million and imports from Ukraine were EUR 83 million. At present, about 80 Finnish companies operate in the Ukrainian market, of which some 20 permanently. Finnish companies have been rather cautious to establish themselves in Ukraine, mainly because of the uncertainties in the business environment, the shortcomings in the rule of law and the level of corruption. There are, however, continuous efforts to attract more Finnish companies to do business in Ukraine.

Finland participates actively in the OSCE and EU civilian crisis management missions in Ukraine. Finland has also seconded a gender specialist to the Council of Europe's office in Kyiv. Additionally, Finland has had a strong role in preparing the EU's common approach on Ukraine and the EU's financial assistance. The European Union

is by far the largest financial supporter of Ukraine with over EUR 15 billion in assistance consisting of loans and grants (amount as of May 2020). The EU's support is coordinated by the Support Group for Ukraine (SGUA), to which Finland has seconded a team leader for science, education and social matters.

Finland engages actively in Ukraine-related dialogue at the United Nations and has been co-sponsoring annual UN General Assembly resolutions on the human rights situation in Crimea and the militarisation of Crimea. Nordic–Baltic cooperation on Ukraine-related questions is also active within the UN.

3 FINLAND'S STRATEGIC GOALS IN UKRAINE

3.1 Restore and preserve the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine and thus, guarantee the respect for international law

Guaranteeing the functioning of the rules-based international order and respecting international law are of utmost importance for Finland. Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and military actions in eastern Ukraine have severely violated Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty and, hence, international law, the United Nations' Charter, Helsinki Final Act and Paris Charter. Respect for Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty within its internationally recognised borders is clearly stated in the following UN resolutions: UN General Assembly resolution 68/262 (2014) and UN Security Council resolution 2202 (2015).

Violations of key elements of the international rules-based international order cannot be ignored without consequences. Finland implements the EU's non-recognition policy of the illegal annexation of Crimea by Russia and does not recognise Crimea as part of Russia. Finland supports the sanctions imposed on Russia in response to the conflict in Ukraine. Finland's position on sanctions is firm: they can be lifted only if the conditions are fulfilled. This means that economic sanctions can be lifted only when the Minsk Agreements are fully implemented and the Crimea-related sanctions only when Crimea is returned back to the control of Ukraine.

Key instruments to achieve this goal are:

- Support Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty via bilateral, EU and multilateral channels such as the UN, OSCE and Council of Europe.
- Implement the EU's non-recognition policy of the illegal annexation of Crimea and sanctions policy on Russia.
- Engage actively in supporting Ukraine by way of national, Nordic, Nordic–Baltic, EU, UN, OSCE and CoE statements, and by co-sponsoring resolutions and statements and participating in the drafting of these.

3.2 Support the efforts to end the conflict in eastern Ukraine

There is no military solution to the conflict in eastern Ukraine that has caused immense humanitarian suffering through loss of lives, casualties, deterioration in humanitarian conditions and the need for people to evacuate their homes and abandon their livelihoods. In order to solve the conflict and to reach a sustainable political solution, political dialogue and implementation of the Minsk Agreements are needed. Key actors in conflict resolution are the OSCE, the Trilateral Contact Group and the Normandy Format. Finland supports all the efforts that pave the way towards ending the conflict.

The OSCE's Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) was deployed to Ukraine in 2014. Its main tasks are to observe and report on the situation on the ground and to facilitate dialogue among all parties to the conflict. Finland has been participating in the SMM from the beginning and is among the major contributors to the Mission.

According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), eastern Ukraine is one of the areas most contaminated by landmines in the world. It has been estimated that, currently, 40% of the civilian casualties are caused by landmines. Humanitarian mine action needs to be continued to ease civilian suffering, to secure crossings of the contact line, to promote the disengagement of the forces and to enable the SMM to better fulfill its mandate. It also plays an important role in facilitating suitable conditions for reconstruction and development in the area.

The humanitarian conditions in eastern Ukraine are severe. The elderly and children are the most vulnerable groups. The situation is even more severe in the non-government controlled areas. International organisations are not able to function in those areas freely due to the restrictions imposed by the Russia-backed armed formations. Moreover, the crossing of the contact line is both life-threatening and time-consuming.

Key instruments to achieve this goal are:

- Support all efforts to solve the conflict in eastern Ukraine. Key actors at the moment are the OSCE, the Trilateral Contact Group and the Normandy Format.
- Continue the participation in the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission by contributing observers and experts to the Mission. Allocate, when possible, additional voluntary funding for the Mission.
- Continue support for humanitarian mine action.

- Allocate humanitarian assistance to Ukraine through appropriate Finnish and international humanitarian organisations and multilateral channels.
- Support NGO efforts to enhance the political dialogue between parties of the conflict and representatives of the civil society.
- Allocate support to the Nato–Ukraine Trust Funds.

3.3 Strengthen bilateral relations and widen the scope of cooperation

Ukraine is Finland's close partner and a next-door neighbour with only a two-hour direct flight from Helsinki to Kyiv and with a market of almost 40 million people. Finland has a positive country image in Ukraine and there are many historical links between the countries. Since 2014, political dialogue and contacts between Finland and Ukraine have significantly intensified and become more regular. This has demonstrated, from its part, Finland's strong political support of and commitment to Ukraine. Active bilateral cooperation and greater people-to-people contacts benefit both countries. Finland believes that it is important to strengthen and widen this cooperation even further and encourages the sectoral ministries and authorities to activate dialogue with their Ukrainian counterparts. This cooperation provides opportunities to share best practices and lessons learnt.

Bilateral trade and economic relations have suffered especially from the conflict in eastern Ukraine, from the economic downturn in Ukraine and from the limited interest shown by the Finnish business community. However, during the past few years, trade and economic cooperation has intensified. More Finnish companies have shown an interest in becoming established in Ukraine and have been looking for new market opportunities. Ukraine offers many opportunities for Finnish businesses; for example, in agriculture, ICT, forestry and waste management. The EU–Ukraine free trade agreement has also benefited Finland's bilateral trade with Ukraine. However, a lot of untapped potential still exists and more efforts are needed to activate and widen the trade relations. But, there is still a lack of familiarity with Ukraine's markets and the country is too often portrayed in terms of the conflict. Uncertainties in Ukraine's business environment and the high rate of corruption raise further concerns. Businesses are thus cautious about the possible risks.

In 2019, the value of Finnish exports to Ukraine amounted to EUR 268 million (0.3% of total Finnish exports), consisting mainly of paper products, electric machinery, boilers and reactors, minerals and fuel, metals and pharmaceutical products. There is a lot of potential to change the trade profile from raw material-type products to higher value-added products.

Finland has benefited from the EU–Ukraine visa-free travel, which has led to more contacts between people and increased tourism from Ukraine to Finland. Labour migration from Ukraine has become an important sector of cooperation as Ukrainians form the largest group of seasonal workers in Finland. Their role especially in agriculture and construction is significant. Finland is also planning to strengthen efforts to attract a larger foreign labour force to Finland, and Ukraine is one of the pilot countries. Both higher-educated experts and vocationally trained professionals are needed.

Key instruments to achieve this goal are:

- Schedule regular high-level visits and meetings as well as political consultations between foreign ministries. Widen the cooperation between sectoral ministries and authorities. Strengthen bilateral cooperation also within international organisations.
- Arrange meetings of intergovernmental commissions on trade and economic cooperation once every two years and schedule regular meetings of the co-chairs.
- Provide services and assistance to Finnish companies on market access, trade barriers and international finance. Arrange Team Finland visits, business seminars and investment promotion events in cooperation with Business Finland and other Team Finland actors.
- Engage in parliamentary cooperation, including friendship groups and committees.
- Promote public diplomacy efforts and activities on social media in Ukraine.
- Explore the possibility to appoint honorary consuls of Finland in Ukraine.

3.4 Enhance the resilience of the society and improve the living conditions of the people

It is in the interests of Finland to support Ukraine's reform process that strengthens Ukraine's democracy and its political, economic and judicial institutions, and that increases its prosperity and improves its capabilities to tackle external threats such as hybrid or cyber threats or disinformation. This contributes also to Finland's security and wellbeing.

Finland's main instruments for supporting Ukraine's reforms are development cooperation and civilian crisis management. In development cooperation, Finland focuses on the following sectors: education, energy and the rule of law. Education is a corner stone for inclusive, peaceful and democratic societies. Improvements in the

quality of education thus contribute to the cohesion and sustainable development of the society. Quality education also develop media literacy skills as well as critical and innovative thinking. Finland's support to the New Ukrainian School reform enhance modernisation of vocational education and training as well as upgrading teaching practices of primary and secondary school teachers. Modern, quality education is key to produce skilled work force and to increase employment opportunities especially for youth.

In order to promote cooperation in the fields of energy efficiency, renewable energy and alternative types of energy sources, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the State Agency on Energy Efficiency and Energy Saving of Ukraine (SAEE) in 2017. The Finland–Ukraine Trust Fund, managed by the Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO), was established to finance capacity building, institutional strengthening and demonstration projects in the fields of energy efficiency, renewable energy, waste-to-energy and smart energy systems between 2018 and 2021. These efforts will contribute to energy security and self-sufficiency and, hence, enhance the energy independence of Ukraine. Improvements in energy efficiency, an increase in the use of renewable energy and the decarbonisation of the energy system will help Ukraine in part to promote sustainable development and take actions to mitigate climate change, which in turn will contribute to achieving the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement. This work should also be linked to the European Green Deal policies.

Reforms to the rule of law are crucial in order to strengthen good governance and the independence of the judiciary, increase the accountability of institutions, empower women and enhance the respect for human rights. Finland channels its assistance to these reforms mainly through the Council of Europe's Action Plan for Ukraine (2018–2022) and the European Union Advisory Mission (EUAM) in Ukraine.

Key instruments to achieve this goal are:

- Support Ukraine's school reform, including language education in the minority areas, as well as vocational education and training reform through different projects: Learning Together project and EU4Skills multi-donor action. Consider possibilities to widen cooperation on digital education.
- Allocate support to the Finland–Ukraine Trust Fund within NEFCO to finance eligible energy projects.
- Support the Council of Europe's Action Plan for Ukraine and continue the secondment of a gender specialist to the CoE office in Ukraine.
- Participate in the European Union Advisory Mission (EUAM) in Ukraine by providing experts for the reform of the civilian security sector. Support extending the regional coverage of the Mission in order to strengthen

local and regional administrations and contribute to the desentralisation reform.

- Support the OSCE projects that promote human rights, democratisation, the rule of law and institution building.
- Participate in the EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM).
- Support projects of Finnish non-governmental organisations and the use of local cooperation funds.
- Consider ways to extend development cooperation to new sectors: forestry and meteorology.
- Increase the use of EU instruments such as Twinning and TAIEX.

3.5 Strengthen the EU–Ukraine relations

Ukraine is a priority partner for the European Union. Relations are based on the Association Agreement, the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement, the visa-free regime and cooperation within the Eastern Partnership. These agreements together with Ukraine's national reform strategies and requirements by the international financial institutions form the basis for Ukraine's reform process. Implementation of the comprehensive and ambitious EU agreements provides for Ukraine's accelerating political association with and economic integration into the European Union, brings about rapprochement with the EU legislation and provides for gradual economic integration with the EU internal market. Since 2014, the European Union and the international financial institutions have mobilised more than EUR 15 billion in grants and loans to support the reform process, with strong conditionality on continued progress. As part of its global response to the coronavirus outbreak, the European Commission has mobilised an emergency support package of 190 million euros for Ukraine. In addition, the EU provides up to EUR 1.2 billion of macro-financial assistance to help Ukraine cope with the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a consequence of the DCFTA entering into force, the European Union has become Ukraine's largest trading partner. Over 40% of Ukraine's exports go to the EU markets. Further economic integration with the European Union and the implementation of the agreements will help Ukraine diversify and stabilise its economy further, improve its business environment and thus, attract more foreign investments and businesses to Ukraine. This development will also provide direct benefits to Finland.

Key instruments to achieve this goal are:

- Reaffirm the EU's unity on Ukraine and support Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty. Maintain the commitment to the sanctions policy against Russia as long as the conditions for lifting the sanctions have not been met.
- Engage in regular EU–Ukraine dialogue, including summits, association councils and committees. Promote high-level visits by the EU institutions to Ukraine.
- Implement the Association Agreement and the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement and ensure that the criteria for the visa-free regime are met.
- Support Ukraine's European aspirations and European choice as stated in the Association Agreement.
- Support further EU financial support to Ukraine in the form of grants and loans.
- Support the ambitious Eastern Partnership policy beyond 2020. Participate in the different EaP cooperation formats. Encourage sectoral actors in Finland to participate if resources allow.

4 IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

The Country Team in the Department for Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Finnish Embassy are in charge of implementing the Country Strategy. This is done in close collaboration with departments and units in charge of different instruments and activities identified under each strategic objective. While the Country Team is responsible for coordinating country-level activities, other departments and units keep the Country Team informed and involve the team in discussions and in activities relevant to the strategic goals of the Strategy. The Country Team will hold dialogues with relevant departments and units within the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and with stakeholders outside the Ministry that are active in Ukraine. Other stakeholders outside the Ministry are encouraged to have dialogues with the Country Team on the ways they can contribute to the strategic goals in Ukraine.

The Embassy and the Country Team will provide an analysis of the implementation of this Strategy as part of their regular reporting. The implementation of the Country Strategy will be reviewed in the annual discussions with the Ambassador. Possible updates will be agreed based on the annual discussions by the leadership of the Department for Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.