EUROPEAN INVESTMENT PROGRAMMES
AND THEIR ROLE IN THE RESTORATION
OF DE-OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

The de-occupied territories face numerous challenges, including significant economic losses, destruction of infrastructure, rising unemployment, social problems and instability. The recovery of these regions requires a comprehensive approach covering all aspects of economic and social life. In this context, the role of European investment programmes is critical, as they can provide the necessary resources, technology and expertise for effective recovery and sustainable development.

European investment programmes have many years of experience in successfully implementing recovery and development projects in different countries. Their involvement can provide the necessary financial resources, innovative technologies and expertise to facilitate faster and better recovery of the de-occupied territories. In addition, European investment programmes can act as a catalyst for attracting other foreign investors, which will increase the total amount of investment and accelerate the process of regional recovery and development [1].

Successful regional recovery with the support of European programmes can increase public trust in local and central authorities, which is important for political stability and further development. The European Union has a strategic interest in the stability and prosperity of its neighbours. Investing in the economic recovery of the de-occupied territories is in line with the EU’s strategic objectives to ensure stability, security and development in its region. These programmes are aimed at rebuilding infrastructure, supporting entrepreneurship and creating jobs, which contributes to the overall stability and prosperity of the regions [2].

The European Union (EU) provides significant financial support to Ukraine for the reconstruction and development of the de-occupied territories. This support is provided through various investment programmes aimed at stimulating economic growth, creating jobs and improving people’s lives.

1. The EU4Business programme focuses on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), offering grants, advice and training, as well as facilitating access to finance. The programme aims to help SMEs become more resilient and competitive, and create new jobs.

2. The InvestEU programme invests in infrastructure, energy, digital technologies and other priority sectors in the de-occupied territories. The programme provides guarantees and investments for projects that meet the programme's objectives and supports the development of the investment potential of these territories.
3. The Eastern Partnership programme covers democratic reforms, civil society development and economic growth more broadly. It provides funding for various projects aimed at developing the de-occupied territories and supports cooperation between Ukraine and the EU.

4. The Horizon Europe programme focuses on research and innovation, offering grants for research projects and facilitating cooperation between research teams from Ukraine and the EU. The programme aims to stimulate the innovative development of the de-occupied territories and strengthen their scientific potential.

5. The Erasmus+ programme supports education, youth and sports by providing grants for education, internships and research, as well as facilitating cooperation between educational institutions from Ukraine and the EU. The programme aims to develop human capital in the de-occupied territories and prepare young people for the future [3].

According to the data for the period 2022-2024 in the table below, investments in Ukraine have increased significantly since the full-scale invasion, which is indicative of the EU's strategic approach to supporting stability, development and improving the quality of life. The data reflects the amount of funds raised, the main programmes and projects, as well as the impact of investments on job creation and infrastructure development.

**Table 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total amount of funds raised, EUR million</th>
<th>Total amount of funds raised in the de-occupied territories, EUR million</th>
<th>Jobs created as a result of investments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>15000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2024 (I quarter)</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>20000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

_data compiled from [4]._

In 2022-2024, there was a steady increase in the amount of funds raised through European investment programmes in the de-occupied territories. This demonstrates the effectiveness of the programmes and their ability to attract additional resources for the restoration and development of the regions. Important results include not only the restoration of infrastructure but also the creation of new jobs, which contributes to economic stability and improved social conditions.

**Conclusions.** European investment programmes play an important role in the restoration of the de-occupied territories, providing the necessary resources, technologies and expertise for effective economic and social development. Their involvement contributes to economic growth, infrastructure restoration, social stability, and increased public trust in the government. Investments in the economic recovery of the de-occupied territories are in line with the EU's strategic goals of ensuring stability, security and development in its region, making this topic extremely relevant for further research and practical implementation.

**References:**