

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

May 22, 2025 Lviv, Ukraine

On behalf of the participants of the Second Ministerial Social Policy Summit, we reaffirm our shared commitment to supporting Ukraine and Moldova on their path towards joining the European Union.

We firmly condemn Russia's illegal, unprovoked, and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine, which constitutes a blatant violation of the UN Charter and international law. We reaffirm our unwavering support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, including its territorial waters, as well as Ukraine's inherent right to self-defense and its efforts to achieve a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace.

We acknowledge the progress made by Ukraine and Moldova in reforming their social policy systems in line with European standards on their path toward full membership in the European Union.

We emphasize the importance of exchanging experiences and good practices in the field of social policy, as well as active cooperation in the implementation of initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life of citizens — with particular attention to the needs and challenges posed by the worsening demographic situation and the consequences of Russia's full-scale armed invasion of Ukraine.

At this crucial moment, we speak with one voice — learning from each other and uniting our efforts to provide a strategic response to the demographic challenges facing the countries of our region. We commit to providing the necessary preconditions for ensuring the sustainable well-being of current and future generations within the framework of our shared European future.

We intend to continue developing innovative approaches to addressing social issues and implementing effective strategies to promote social inclusion and strengthen social justice.

We agree to:

- 1 exchange experience in implementing relevant initiatives highlighted in the Commission's 2023 Demography Toolbox, including the EU Child Guarantee.
- 2 foster deeper understanding and broader awareness of current demographic challenges
- 3 strengthen legal, institutional, and strategic frameworks for effectively addressing demographic changes

We strongly believe that an inclusive approach to demographic policy is key to ensuring that the interests of all ages and all social groups are taken into account and to fostering a culture of diversity, equality, and unity.

The Summit has already established itself as an effective platform for intergovernmental coordination at the ministerial level. As part of continued cooperation, we aim to systematically synthesize and adapt leading European approaches to social policy, taking into account the national context of Ukraine and Moldova, in preparation for their full membership in the European Union. EU-mechanisms such as Twinning and TAIEX may be useful tools to facilitate the development of joint projects to address demographic challenges, tailored to the specific needs of Ukraine and Moldova.

This communiqué reaffirms our political resolve to deepen cooperation and reflects our shared vision of a European future based on the principles of solidarity, sustainable development, and social justice.